

3D Radiant LovePeace

Laser-cut corrugated cardboard and Zebra wood

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Like Life Like Life Like Life Like Life **Like Life** Like Life

US raids in Iraq and Syria: How retaliatory airstrikes affect network of Iran-backed militias

Sara Harmouch, *American University* and Nakissa Jahanbani, *United States Military Academy West Point*

The aim is to isolate Iran diplomatically and economically, while squeezing its support for regional proxies. This underscores a commitment by the U.S. to counter Iranian influence that could potentially weaken Tehran's regional engagement strategies, negotiation positions and capacity to form alliances. However, the effectiveness of airstrikes and sanctions in deterring Iranian-backed aggression remains uncertain. Historical trends suggest that similar U.S. actions since the Oct. 7 Hamas assault in Israel, and as far back as 2017, have not completely halted attacks from Iranian-backed groups.



The headquarters of an Iranian-linked group in Anbar, Iraq was among the sites targeted by U.S. bombers.

The wider context here is that the U.S. strikes make it all the more important to get to some cease-fire in Gaza. At least then, these proxy forces would lose that rationale – of Israel’s attacks on Gaza – to justify what they are doing. So, as long as the war continues in Gaza and as long as Palestinians are being killed, these proxy groups see this as their only way to respond.



US launches retaliatory strikes in Iraq and Syria – a national security expert explains the message they send

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

President Joe Biden attends the arrival of the remains of three U.S. service members killed in a drone attack in Jordan.

MIDDLE EAST CRISIS — EXPLAINED

The U.S. targets Iranian proxies for a second day in a row

The new round of U.S. strikes is far more extensive and deadly than those that have been launched since October, when the Israel-Hamas war began and pro-Iranian groups began their attacks.

- **Iraq condemns U.S. airstrikes against Iran-linked groups**



U.S. Central Command

U.S. Central Command released this undated photo as part of its announcement of renewed airstrikes against Houthi targets on Saturday.

The U.S. struck Iranian-linked targets in the Middle East for a second consecutive day Saturday. The U.S. and allies hit 36 Houthi targets at 13 locations in Yemen, the Pentagon said Saturday. On Friday, the U.S. struck facilities in Iraq and Syria, as part of a broader campaign that U.S. officials say is in retaliation for a drone attack that killed three American soldiers. The U.S. says it struck Iran-backed proxies in each country. The Pentagon said the U.K., Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands and New Zealand were involved in Saturday's strikes against Houthi targets, saying they were in response to Houthi attacks targeting international shipping vessels. U.S. Central Command said strikes targeted "multiple underground storage facilities, command and control, missile systems, UAV storage and operations sites, radars, and helicopters" used by the Houthis. The current round of U.S. strikes is more extensive and deadly than those from the previous few months.



Iraq condemns U.S. airstrikes against Iran-linked groups

BAGHDAD — Iraqi government officials on Saturday condemned U.S. airstrikes on Iran-linked targets in Iraq, saying the attacks showed that U.S. forces had become a threat to their host country — a sentiment that will likely hasten demands for the U.S.-led military coalition in Iraq to leave. Militia officials named 16 fighters they said were killed in the strikes late Friday, including five medics they said died when an airstrike hit a base hospital in western al-Anbar province. The Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) — made up of armed groups that are now part of Iraqi government security forces — said seven of the 16 fatalities were killed when the U.S. bombed its al-Anbar province operations headquarters. It said at least 36 more people were injured and searches were ongoing for missing fighters.



LATIN AMERICA

Dozens have been killed in Chile as forest fires move into densely populated areas

VIÑA DEL MAR, Chile — Intense forest fires burning around a densely populated area of central Chile have caused at least 46 deaths, Chile's president said Saturday evening, and officials said at least 1,100 homes had been destroyed.



A resident flees an encroaching forest fire in Vina del Mar, Chile, on Saturday. Officials say intense forest fires burning around a densely populated area of central Chile have left several people dead and destroyed hundreds of homes.

Nearly half of Democrats disapprove of Biden's response to the Israel-Hamas war, AP-NORC poll shows



Nearly half of Democrats disapprove of how President Joe Biden is handling the Israel-Hamas conflict, according to a new Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll that shows a deep divide in the Democratic Party over the war. (Nov. 10)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly half of Democrats disapprove of how President Joe Biden is handling the Israel-Hamas conflict, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research — showing a deep divide within his party over the war. The poll found 50% of Democrats approve of how Biden has navigated the conflict while 46% disapprove — and the two groups diverge substantially in their views of U.S. support for Israel. Biden's support on the issue among Democrats is down slightly from August, as an AP-NORC poll conducted then found that 57% of Democrats approved of his handling of the conflict and 40% disapproved. The war could complicate Biden's reelection effort as he faces having to balance factions of his party with very different views on the conflict and who is ultimately responsible. Nearly 7 in 10 Democrats approving of Biden's management of the conflict think the U.S. provides the right amount of support to Israel currently. Of those who disapprove, 65% say the U.S. is too supportive of Israel. That gap between Democrats who approve and those who disapprove has widened substantially since the poll conducted in August.

Of Democrats who approve of Biden's handling of the conflict, 76% say Hamas has a lot of responsibility for the war and 32% say the same about the Israeli government, according to the AP-NORC poll taken this month. Democrats who disapprove of Biden's handling of the conflict are equally likely to say that the Israeli government (56%) and Hamas (55%) have a lot of responsibility.

Majorities of Democrats younger than 45 (65%) and nonwhite Democrats (58%) say they disapprove of Biden's handling of the conflict. Most Democrats 45 and older (67%) and white Democrats (62%) say they approve.

"Knowing that our tax money could be paying for the weapons that are murdering children by the thousands over there, it's getting harder to be supportive of our president and our country in general," said Brie Williamson, a 34-year-old Illinois resident. Williamson said she "couldn't see voting for a Republican" but would consider other options next year.

The poll's findings are the latest reflection of how the war has split Democrats in Washington and across the country. More than 20 Democrats voted Tuesday to censure Rep. Rashida Tlaib, the only Palestinian American in Congress, for her criticisms of Israel and invocation of a phrase that some Jewish groups say advocates for the destruction of Israel. Tlaib has said she wants a ceasefire in Gaza and called this week for "peaceful coexistence" between Israelis and Palestinians. In South Florida, many Jews have lauded Biden's support of Israel. Trump won Florida in 2020. In Michigan and Minnesota, both states that Biden won, well-known Democrats and members of large Arab and Muslim populations have spoken out against Biden. To be sure, the conflict is intense enough to elicit strong opinions from people across the political spectrum.

"I'm as pro-Israel as anyone. They absolutely have a right to protect their interests," said Florida voter John Montalvo, a 69-year-old who said he "leans" Democratic. Still, Montalvo added, "Palestinians have been living like prisoners since 1947," referring to partitions of Palestinian settlements after World War II.

As Biden navigates war abroad and delicate politics at home, he may be left to hope that his Democratic critics are more like Peter Bennett, a 72-year-old from California who said he disapproved of Biden's handling of the conflict and was distressed by what he called a "knee-jerk Israel-first perception in American politics." But Bennett was also clear about who he would vote for if next year's election is a rematch of 2020. "I want some real leadership here that I don't think we're getting," he said. "But if it were a choice between Donald Trump and a stray dog, I'll vote for the stray dog."

The poll of 1,239 adults was conducted Nov. 2-6, 2023, using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, designed to represent the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.9 percentage points.

Oklahoma's oldest Native American school, Bacone College, is threatened by debts and disrepair

BY GRAHAM LEE BREWER

Updated 9:01 PM PST, February 3, 2024

MUSKOGEE, Okla. (AP) — The hallways of Bacone College are cold and dark. In the main hall, there are no lectures to be heard, only the steady hum of the space heater keeping the administrative offices warm. Students aren't attending classes here this semester, but work still needs to be done. In the college's historic buildings, there are leaks to plug, mold to purge and priceless works of Native American art to save from ruin. Not to mention devising a plan to keep the college from shuttering for good. It's a daunting task for the nine remaining employees. But on this rainy December morning, the college's president is running a DoorDash order. "If we have the money, we can pay," Interim President Nicky Michael said regarding salaries. Even she has to find a way to make ends meet. Founded in 1880 as a Baptist missionary college focused on assimilation, Bacone College transformed into an Indigenous-led institution that provided an intertribal community, as well as a degree. With the permission of the Muskogee Nation Tribal Council, Bacone's founders used a treaty right to establish the college at the confluence of three rivers, where tribal nations had been meeting for generations.

Across the country, there are only a few dozen tribal colleges, according to the American Indian College Fund, a nonprofit that supports Native American access to higher education. Tribal colleges must be sponsored by a federally recognized tribe and have a majority Native student enrollment. But unlike most of those colleges, Bacone was built on its identity as an intertribal school, a quality that former staff and alumni say made it special. Now a private institution, Bacone no longer receives state or federal assistance. Its finances have long relied heavily on student tuition, and now it has no students. Michael said judging from the finances, it's a miracle the college managed to keep its doors open this long. **"Now I'm looking back on this thinking this was set up for failure,"** she said.



Interim President Dr. Nicky Kay Michael poses for a portrait at Bacone College, on Jan. 8 2024, in Muskogee, Okla. Founded in 1880 as a Baptist missionary college focused on assimilation, Bacone College transformed into an Indigenous-led institution that provided an intertribal community, as well as a degree. (AP Photo/Nick Oxford)



https://apnews.com/article/oglala-sioux-reservation-governor-ban-south-dakota-9f811bbd1ffaadf979e4353ad6e961ad

South Dakota tribe bans governor from reservation over US-Mexico border remarks

Many of those arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border are Indigenous people from places like El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico who come "in search of jobs and a better life," Oglala Sioux Tribe President Frank Star Comes Out said. In November, Star Comes Out declared a state of emergency on the Pine Ridge Reservation due to increasing crime. A judge ruled last year that the federal government has a treaty duty to support law enforcement on the reservation, but he declined to rule on the funding level the tribe sought.



2 of 2

FILE - Oglala Sioux Tribe President Frank Star Comes Out stands outside the Andrew W. Bogue Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Rapid City, S.D., Feb. 8, 2023. The South Dakota tribe has banned Republican Gov. Kristi Noem from the Pine Ridge Reservation after she spoke this week about wanting to send razor wire and security personnel to Texas to help deter immigration at the U.S.-Mexico border and also said cartels are infiltrating the state's reservations. (Kalle Benallie/Indian Country Today via AP, File)

Noem has deployed National Guard troops to the Mexican border three times, as have some other Republican governors. In 2021 she drew criticism for accepting a \$1 million donation from a Republican donor to help cover the cost of a two-month deployment of 48 troops there.

Trisha Ahmed

@TrishaAhmed15

@AP statehouse reporter in Minnesota via @Report4America

South Dakota tribe bans governor from reservation over US-Mexico border remarks



1 of 2 | FILE - South Dakota Republican Gov. Kristi Noem listens to Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairwoman Janet Alkire, unseen, during a tribal flags ceremony, Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024, at the state Capitol in Pierre, S.D. A South Dakota tribe has banned Noem from the Pine Ridge Reservation after she spoke this week about wanting to send razor wire and security personnel to Texas to help deter immigration at the U.S.-Mexico border and also said cartels are infiltrating the state's reservations. (AP Photo/Jack Dura, File)

A South Dakota tribe has banned Republican Gov. Kristi Noem from the Pine Ridge Reservation after she spoke this week about wanting to send razor wire and security personnel to Texas to help deter immigration at the U.S.-Mexico border and also said cartels are infiltrating the state's reservations. "Due to the safety of the Oyate, effective immediately, you are hereby Banished from the homelands of the Oglala Sioux Tribe!" Tribe President Frank Star Comes Out said in a Friday statement addressed to Noem. "Oyate" is a word for people or nation. Star Comes Out accused Noem of trying to use the border issue to help get former U.S. President Donald Trump re-elected and boost her chances of becoming his running mate. Many of those arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border are Indigenous people from places like El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico who come "in search of jobs and a better life," the tribal leader added.

"They don't need to be put in cages, separated from their children like during the Trump Administration, or be cut up by razor wire furnished by, of all places, South Dakota," he said.

Star Comes Out also addressed Noem's remarks in the speech to lawmakers Wednesday in which she said a gang calling itself the Ghost Dancers is murdering people on the Pine Ridge Reservation and is affiliated with border-crossing cartels that use South Dakota reservations to spread drugs throughout the Midwest.

Star Comes Out said he took deep offense at her reference, saying the Ghost Dance is one of the Oglala Sioux's "most sacred ceremonies," "was used with blatant disrespect and is insulting to our Oyate."

He added that the tribe is a sovereign nation and does not belong to the state of South Dakota.

Noem responded Saturday in a statement, saying, "It is unfortunate that President (Star) Comes Out chose to bring politics into a discussion regarding the effects of our federal government's failure to enforce federal laws at the southern border and on tribal lands. My focus continues to be on working together to solve those problems."

"As I told bipartisan Native American legislators earlier this week, 'I am not the one with a stiff arm, here. You can't build relationships if you don't spend time together,'" she added. "I stand ready to work with any of our state's Native American tribes to build such a relationship."

In November, Star Comes Out declared a state of emergency on the Pine Ridge Reservation due to increasing crime. A judge ruled last year that the federal government has a treaty duty to support law enforcement on the reservation, but he declined to rule on the funding level the tribe sought.

Noem has deployed National Guard troops to the Mexican border three times, as have some other Republican governors.

In 2021 she drew criticism for accepting a \$1 million donation from a Republican donor to help cover the cost of a two-month deployment of 48 troops there.



<https://www.thedailybeast.com/billionaire-hubert-neumann-and-daughter-in-battle-over-pricey-art-collection>



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.



Billionaire Hubert Neumann, an heir of mail-order cosmetics, is in a monstrous money battle with one of his daughters that previously landed the elderly man in jail. Neumann, 91, is a notorious artwork aficionado, with a collection spanning five decades including pieces from Picasso, Warhol, Matisse, and Basquiat. However, Neumann claimed his daughter, Belinda Donnelly, secretly got his ex-wife to change her will right before she died so that Donnelly could own 80 percent of the estate, leaving the final 20 percent to her two sisters. A spokesperson for Donnelly and her husband, Jeffrey, **accused Neumann of being physically abusive toward his ex-wife as “just one element of his 40-plus years of fraud and criminality.”** In May 2018, shortly before Neumann was set to evict the Donnellys from his house, the couple got a temporary protection order against Neumann. Months later, they alleged that he violated the order because he “shoulder checked” Jeffrey after a heated discussion over the estate—landing Neumann in jail for a night. Then in 2019, Jeffrey withdrew the protection order petition, leaving Neumann no chance to refute their claims in court, the Post reported. The criminal matter was dismissed. Now, Neumann is afraid for the future of his art collection as his daughter and her husband “throw dirt” on his reputation. His youngest daughter, Melissa, said the saga was all too reminiscent of the TV show *Succession*, saying, “I had to stop watching it as it hit too close to home.”

WSJ. MAGAZINE


The \$1 Billion Art Collection That’s Tearing a Family Apart

Hubert Neumann spent his life building a storied art collection to bequeath his three daughters. Then his wife’s will changed everything.

Hubert Neumann with his youngest daughter, Melissa, at the family’s Upper West Side townhouse, where art adorns the space.



Faces of colonialism: the story of an imperialist propaganda | DW Documentary

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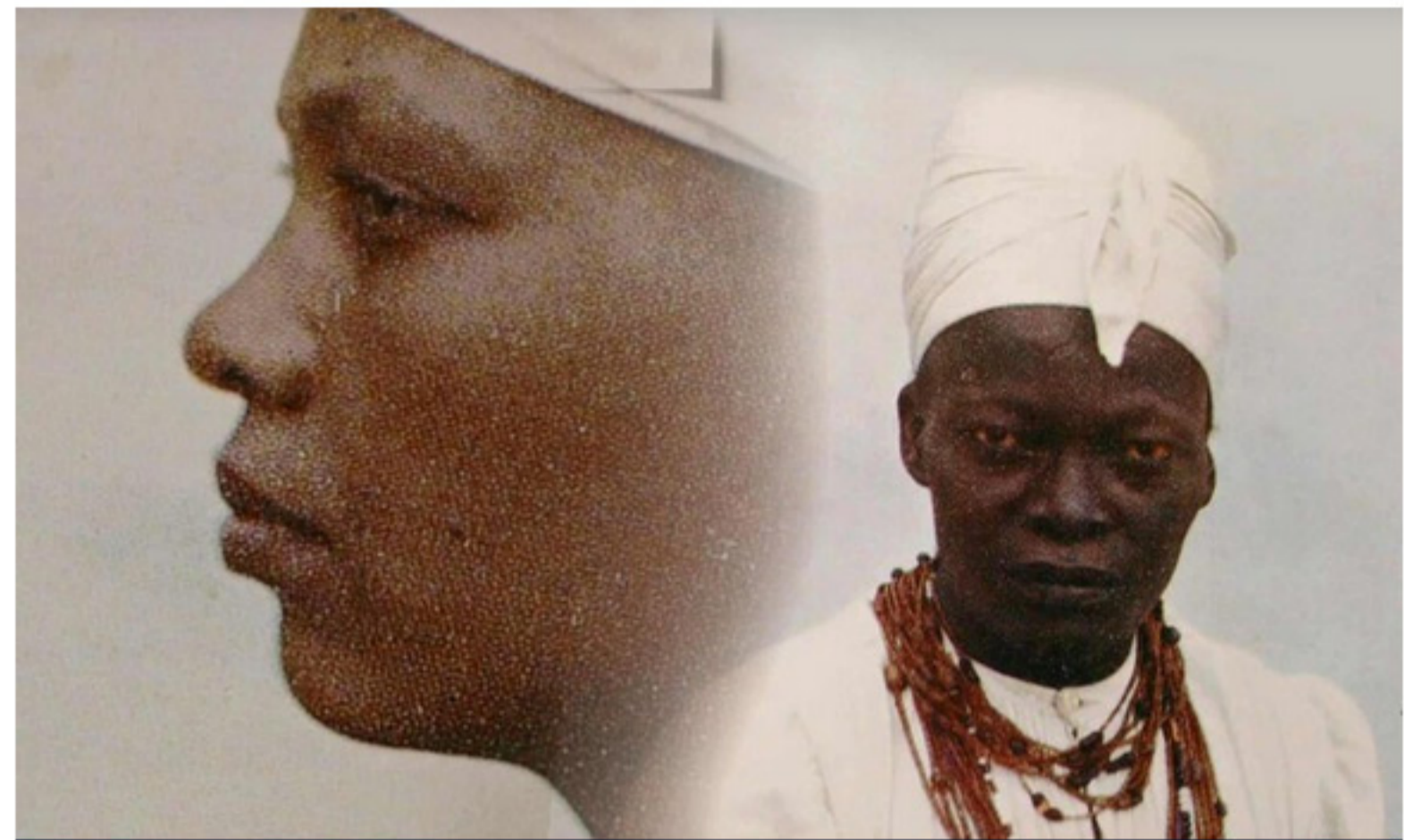
536,372 views Sep 7, 2023 #dwdocumentary #documentary

For a long time, photographer Robert Lohmeyer shaped the European view of Africa. During his travels, from 1907 to 1909, he photographed the German colonies – in color, for the first time. In doing so, he laid the photographic foundations of racism.

The young photographer's trip to the German colonies of Togo, Cameroon, German Southwest Africa (now Namibia) and German East Africa (now Tanzania) was taken at the height of German imperialism. In his photographs of his travels, Robert Lohmeyer generated enthusiasm for these distant lands that Germany considered its possessions. Making use of the most up-to-date photographic equipment at the time, Lohmeyer's project was a meticulously planned PR campaign. Its goal? A celebration of colonialism and empire.

Lohmeyer's resulting photography books were seen by huge numbers of people. Even today, the pictures are still in circulation. Lohmeyer's photos convey the image of a "peaceful savage" in a paradisiacal landscape. A colonial idyll. Because the images are in color, they evoke a feeling of authenticity and truthfulness. War, disease, hunger and death do not appear in Lohmeyer's pictures.

Based on unpublished written sources and photographs, the documentary follows Lohmeyer's journey. It tells the story of a chapter in the history of photography. But it also tells the story of a propaganda coup. Finally, the film explores Lohmeyer's contribution to a new kind of racism – in color - the effects of which can still be felt today.



The invention of racism in color

May 15, 2023 · [ARD History](#) · Das Erste

The journey of photographer Robert Lohmeyer is a pioneering act that shaped the image of Africa for decades and laid the photographic foundations of racism. Between 1907 and 1909 he photographed the German colonies in Africa - for the first time in color. At the height of imperialis...

The Historical Origins and Development of Racism by George M. Fredrickson

Racism exists when one ethnic group or historical collectivity dominates, excludes, or seeks to eliminate another on the basis of differences that it believes are hereditary and unalterable. An ideological basis for explicit racism came to a unique fruition in the West during the modern period. No clear and unequivocal evidence of racism has been found in other cultures or in Europe before the Middle Ages. **The identification of the Jews with the devil and witchcraft in the popular mind of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries was perhaps the first sign of a racist view of the world.** Official sanction for such attitudes came in sixteenth century Spain when Jews who had converted to Christianity and their descendents became the victims of a pattern of discrimination and exclusion. The period of the Renaissance and Reformation was also the time when Europeans were coming into increasing contact with people of darker pigmentation in Africa, Asia, and the Americas and were making judgments about them. The official rationale for enslaving Africans was that they were heathens, but



Life in a matriarchal society - On this island, women are in charge!

wocomoHU... 207K subscribers 29K Share

2,870,024 views Apr 12, 2023 #documentary #women #womenempowerment
You can watch the Spanish version of this documentary here:
 [La vida en una sociedad matriarcal - ...](#)

In southwestern Guinea Bissau there are some islands where a very special people live, the Bissago. What is it that makes them so special? It is not the fact of living in balance and harmony with the spectacular nature that surrounds them, taking from the land or the sea only what they need to survive. Neither is their deep animistic spirituality, which marks their life with rites to acquire the knowledge of their ancestors. What makes them so special is that, in the Bissago society, the woman is the protagonist.

Due to difficulties of communication with mainland Guinea-Bissau that persist to this day, the population has a considerable degree of autonomy and has shielded its ancestral culture from outside influence. The Bijago language is spoken along with Portuguese and creole.

Some authors argue that Bijago culture tends to be matriarchal, with women managing the household, the economy, law, as well as initiating courtship (women choose their husbands and terminate the matrimony). Other sources dispute this and suggest that closer examination has revealed a fundamentally patriarchal society where women, in spite of their substantial participation in material production and important roles in social, political, and religious matter, remain essentially unequal to men. A 2016 study suggested that female status in Bijagos society was diminished during the slave trade era (likely due to European influence) but has become more valued again in more recent times.

In 2012, a study by Bissau-Guinean sociologist Boaventura Santy examined the social representations of the people of the island of Formosa Bijagó about possible threats from climate change. The study concluded that for "the Bijagó the natural and the social are inextricably linked, to the extent that a crisis in the social system would have negative effects" on the natural system. In particular, it was the lack of harmony between the community, ancestors and the super-natural world that was seen as causing environmental dissonance.



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



15,272,368 views Jan 9, 2022 #ENDEVR #FreeDocumentary #USA
 Poverty in the USA: Being Poor in the World's Richest Country | Business
 Documentary from 2019

Watch 'Homeless in Las Vegas: Where Poverty Meets Big Money' here:
[Homeless in Vegas: Where Poverty Meet...](#)

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

San Diego [Music]

In southern california 300 days of sunshine a year beaches as far as the eye can see an idyllic setting a picture postcard california san diego is also one of the most dynamic cities in the country here unemployment is practically non-existent this dream lifestyle was once an everyday reality for eric he was a successful computer engineer earning 7000 euros a month today at 53 years old this man lives alone in his car and to eat for free he's made an agreement with the employees of a pizzeria [Music] hi hello how are you today good i'm here to pick up something for you thank you what do you take here uh these are the slices that they have in their display that they have them for too long then they put them in the fridge for me so that they donate them [Music] eric comes every evening to pick up some pizza well thank you very much very much appreciate it okay bye-bye he's going to share these unsold slices with other victims of poverty because for a year and a half eric has been sleeping in this parking lot the one where maria the cleaner also lives with his pizza he makes his neighbors very happy there's a lot all right like laurella a 55 year old uber driver looks good you're angry yeah we're hungry did you eat today no no no i had to drive all day today [Music] in his former life eric also worked a lot 50 hours a week but four years ago he suffered a burnout as well as a series of health problems including problems with his heart he could not work and received unemployment benefits for six months and then nothing at all i thought i could handle it i thought it would get better but it took a toll and after several years of just dealing with doctors and going burning through my savings i ended up basically burning through everything and and what couldn't afford to to stay in our apartment any longer eric is trying to pick himself up nowadays he's doing temporary work and is saving up to be able to rent an apartment after her long day at work maria is back are you tired yeah yeah it's uh where i work is a little hard because um uh i have to lift a lady she's very heavy back and forth back and forth but um nine hours it's not it's uh it's a lot of hours but i'm okay thirsty my food my bed i'm ready to jump in my bed because very tired at half past nine at night the gates close from this point onward no more cars can enter the parking lot at night there isn't a security guard and even though there hasn't been any attacks this doesn't reassure maria [Music] i close the door put the windows down like this much and put the alarm if somebody's trying to break in i will know i got my pepper spray and my hemai cutter somebody's trying to break in spray yeah because you never know that's it a few meters away eric is getting ready to spend another night in his car even though the passenger compartment is full to the brim the former computer engineer will sleep sitting behind the wheel certainly far from the comforts of his old life um one thing that i've really found out about this is that you know the typical stereotype of you know the homeless person being lazy and not wanting to work or being a drug addict uh that may be the case in some places and some and some but the people i've come to in this program most of them are very hard-working uh people that want to get ahead that either have some some health issues or have some had a streak of bad luck or for whatever reason um they've you know come into this this this situation some people are able to get out of it

Tracy Chapman Delivers Rare 'Fast Car' Performance with Luke Combs at 2024 Grammys.

The two Grammy nominees performed the songwriter's 36-year-old-hit during Sunday's ceremony.



Tracy Chapman, left and Luke Combs, right, at the 66th Grammy Awards held at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, CA, Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024. photo: Robert Gauthier /

Tracy Chapman Delivers Rare 'Fast Car' Performance with Luke Combs at 2024 Grammys.

The two Grammy nominees performed the songwriter's 36-year-old-hit during Sunday's ceremony.



It's a time-tested classic written and originally sung by a cultural legend, Tracy Chapman's 'Fast Car.' 'Fast Car' was the lead single off her 1988 album, 'Tracy Chapman', and received a massive boost after Chapman performed at the Mandela concert at Wembley Stadium in London. Then a relatively unknown artist, she was added to the bill at the last minute after Stevie Wonder dropped out. Tracy Chapman Delivers Rare 'Fast Car' Performance with Luke Combs at 2024 Grammys, reads the People magazine's headline. The genre crossover duet presented a singular blend, not only of a unifying voice, but of mutual personal grace more than three and a half decades after its first release. Last summer, Mr_1990s on Reddit says of 'Fast Car', "It's a great song that doesn't feel dated to its era. If someone records a song like that with support from people within a 4 block radius of downtown Nashville, it's going to be a country hit." His comment is in reply to spankyourkopita, who asks, "Why is Luke Combs' version of 'Fast Car' so popular? Am I the only one that doesn't care for it?" and answers, "I don't hate it but I don't understand why a cover song is off the charts right now. It's not original and I'd rather just hear Tracy Chapman's voice if they're gonna play it on the radio all the time." Combs' twangy cover version of "Fast Car" ascended to the top of the Billboard Country Airplay chart, as well as peaking at No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100. Tracy Chapman, who won a Grammy for "Fast Car" after its 1988 release commented, "I never expected to find myself on the country charts, but I'm honored to be there. I'm happy for Luke and his success and grateful that new fans have found and embraced 'Fast Car.'" Combs said at the time that he hadn't yet heard from Chapman about his take on "Fast Car," explaining that his cover didn't require permission from the songwriter since he adhered to very strict, specific licenses about what he could and couldn't do with the song. And Chapman is receiving royalties for Combs' use of 'Fast Car'. At this year's Grammy Awards, Combs too was nominated for his Country Solo Performance of "Fast Car," but the award went to Chris Stapleton for "White Horse" earlier in the evening.

Why is this such a surprisingly rare moment,
this duet at the award ceremony of the songs revival? More like that!

Like the song says, *"So I remember when we were drivin', drivin' in your car / Speed so fast, I felt like I was drunk / City lights lay out before us / And your arm felt nice wrapped 'round my shoulder / And I had a feeling that I belonged / I had a feelin' I could be someone / Be someone, be someone."*

Tracy Chapman's 'Fast Car' climbs the iTunes charts after her Grammy performance

FEBRUARY 5, 2024 · 5:17 AM ET

By Ayana Archie



Tracy Chapman, left, and Luke Combs perform "Fast Car" during the 66th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024, in Los Angeles.

Chris Pizzello/Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP

"Fast Car," the folk anthem by Tracy Chapman is continuing to have its renaissance moment. Chapman joined country singer Luke Combs for a rare performance of the song at Sunday's Grammys ceremony. Moments after, "Fast Car" shot to No. 1 on the iTunes Top Songs chart. Her 1988 debut album, Tracy Chapman, also sat at No. 1.

Chapman joined country singer Luke Combs for a rare performance of the song at Sunday's Grammys ceremony. Moments after, "Fast Car" shot to No. 1 on the iTunes Top Songs chart. Her 1988 debut album, Tracy Chapman, also sat at No. 1.

Chapman's original song peaked at No. 6 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart following its release. She has performed the song on the Grammy stage before, when she won best female pop vocal performance for it at the 1989 Grammys for the song. Combs' version peaked at No. 2 on the Hot 100 chart after it was released last year, and was nominated for a Grammy this year, though it did not win.

Chapman was not listed as an official performer this year, and the crowd cheered loudly when she appeared onstage, providing one of the most powerful moments at a Grammys show that was packed with memorable moments. Artists Taylor Swift and Jelly Roll were seen standing and singing along, and Chapman herself beamed with a smile. Chapman has not done many public performances in recent years; her last tour was in 2009.

At the end of their performance, Chapman and Combs turned to each other and bowed as they received a standing ovation.

In a video shown on the show that preceded the performance, Combs spoke about what Chapman and her song has meant to him since childhood. "That song, 'Fast Car', it was my favorite song before I even knew what a favorite song was," Combs said. "It can be felt and related to by all kinds of people around the world. "It's just such a cool full circle moment for me," Combs added. "Just to be associated with her in any way is super humbling for me."

In November, Chapman won Song of the Year for "Fast Car," making her the first Black woman to win a Country Music Association award. She also won a lifetime achievement award at the 2024 International Folk Music Awards.

Chapman, a Cleveland native, is additionally behind such hits as "Give Me One Reason," "Baby Can I Hold You" and "Crossroads." She has been nominated for 13 Grammys and won four.



MUSIC

Tracy Chapman becomes the first Black person to win Song of the Year at the CMAs

Hundreds of thousands are without power as atmospheric river churns down California

UPDATED FEBRUARY 5, 2024 · 4:32 AM ET ⓘ

By Joe Hernandez



A man, who declined to give his name, carries a dog after being rescued from a homeless encampment surrounded by Guadalupe River floodwater on Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024, in San Jose, Calif.

Hundreds of thousands of people across California are waking up Monday morning without electricity, as a major rain and wind storm works itself south, just days after a separate storm drenched the area. More than 600,000 customers were without electricity early Monday, according to poweroutage.us, primarily in Northern California. Meteorologists and local officials have warned residents in Los Angeles and beyond to prepare for potentially life-threatening conditions as the storm moved south. "This is one of the most dramatic weather days in recent memory," the National Weather Service said in an online update Sunday night. "The current focus for the most dangerous portion of this system has now shifted to LA County where multiple flash-flood warnings are in effect."

The storm — known as an atmospheric river — could drop as much as 8 inches of rain along the coast and in valley areas and more than a foot in the foothills and mountains, the NWS predicted. Rain could fall at a rate of more than 1 inch per hour in some areas. Heavy showers and thunderstorms combined with "very dangerous" winds also increased the chances of potentially dangerous flash flooding and rough surf, with flood watches in effect across the area. California Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency on Sunday in eight Southern California counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura. "California: this is a serious storm with dangerous and potentially life-threatening impacts. Please pay attention to any emergency orders or alerts from local officials," Newsom said in a statement.



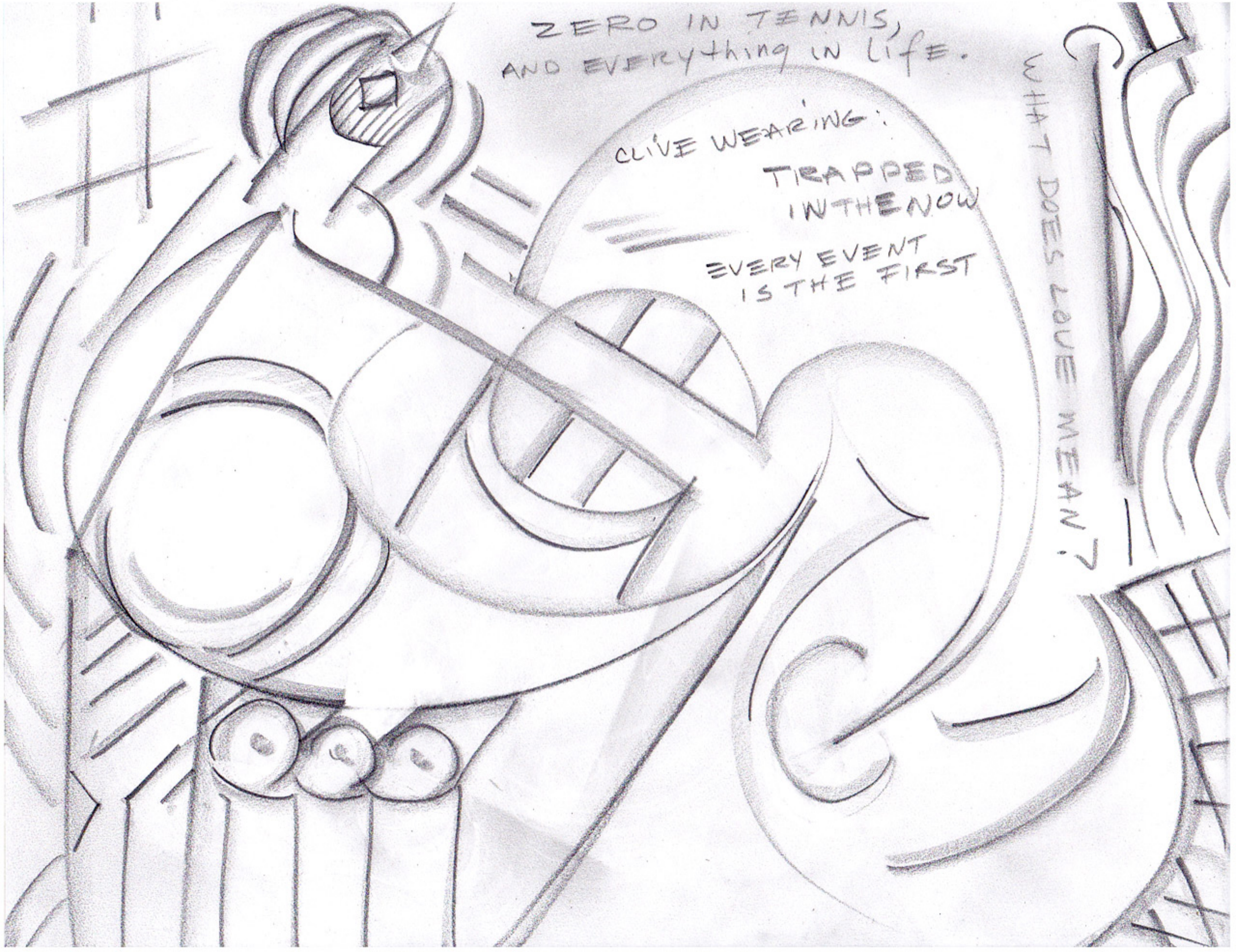
A man carrying an umbrella stands perched above a flooded street in Ventura, Calif., Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024. Eugene Garcia/AP

https://youtu.be/wVt71KG_7VM

Monday, February 5, 2024



you call me out upon the waters



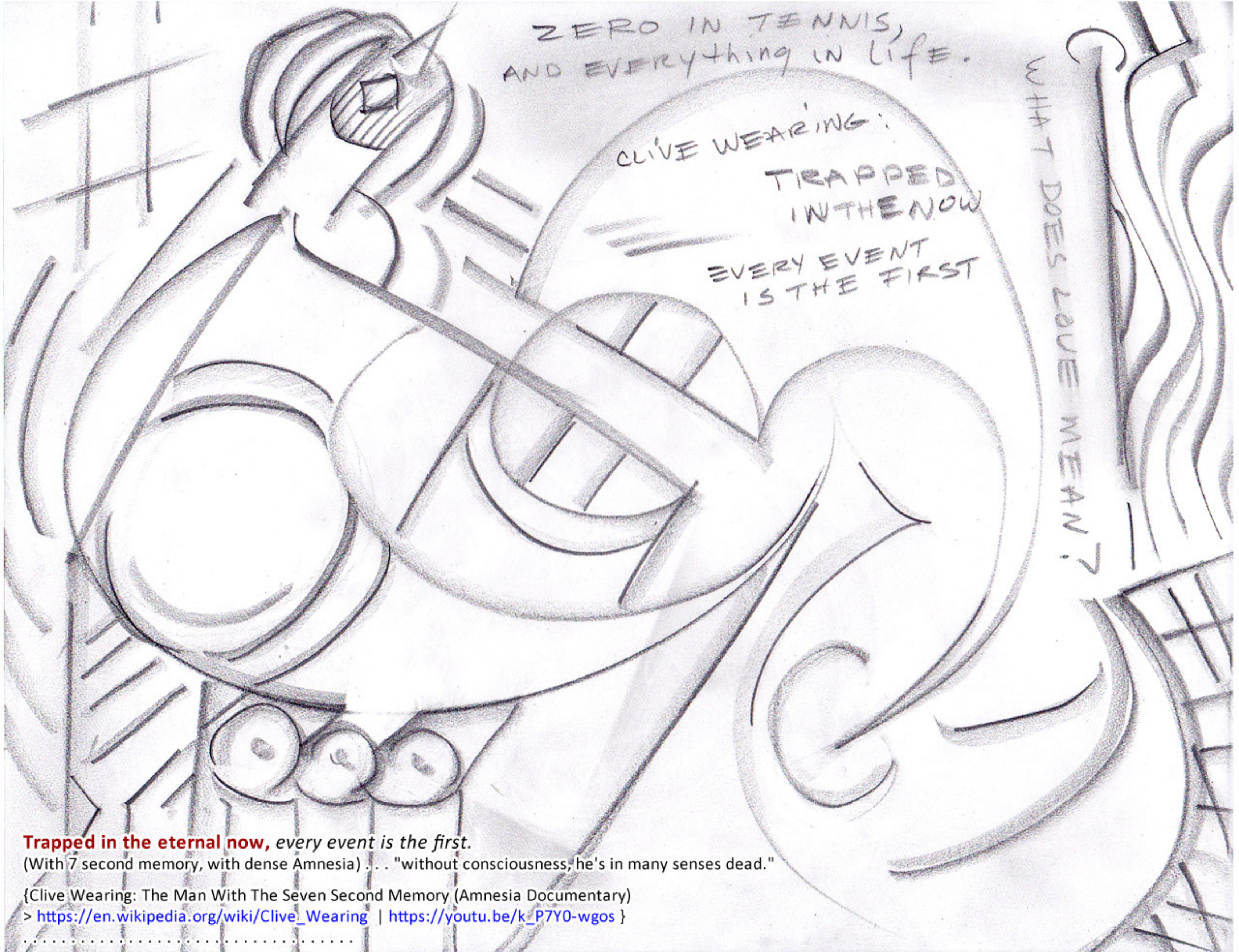
ZERO IN TENNIS,
AND EVERYTHING IN LIFE.

CLIVE WEARING:

TRAPPED
IN THE NOW

EVERY EVENT
IS THE FIRST

WHAT DOES LOVE MEAN?



ZERO IN TENNIS,
AND EVERYTHING IN LIFE.

CLIVE WEARING:

TRAPPED
IN THE NOW

EVERY EVENT
IS THE FIRST

WHAT DOES LOVE MEAN?

Trapped in the eternal now, every event is the first.

(With 7 second memory, with dense Amnesia) ... "without consciousness, he's in many senses dead."

{Clive Wearing: The Man With The Seven Second Memory (Amnesia Documentary)

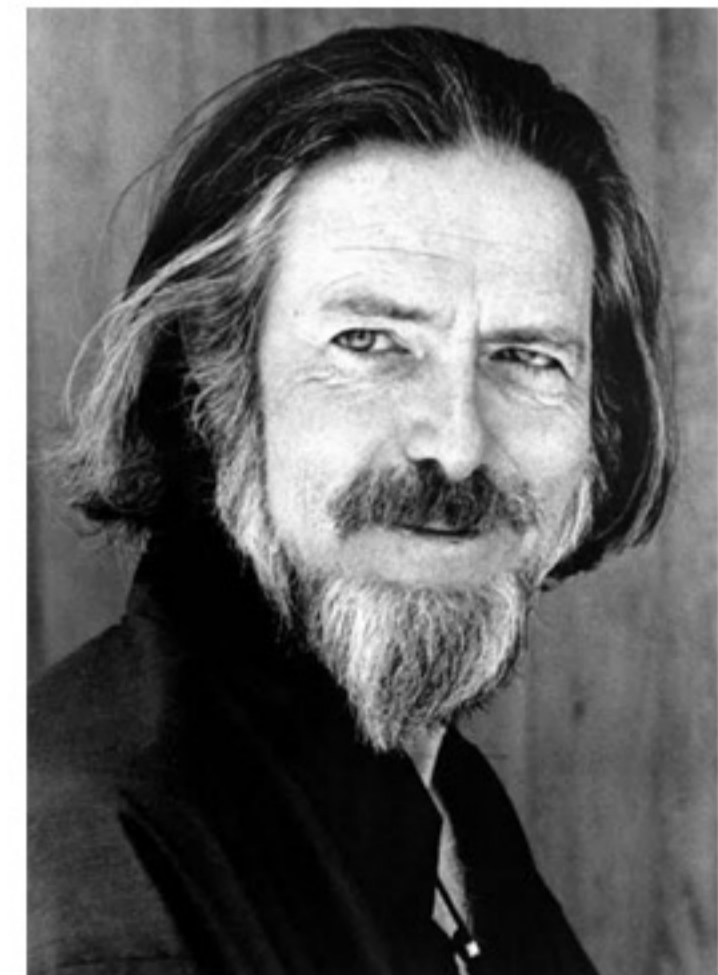
> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clive_Wearing | https://youtu.be/k_P7Y0-wgos }

Alan Watts On The Eternal Now

When we say to ourselves you must go on the reason is you see that we are not living in the eternal now where reality is we are always thinking that the satisfaction of life will be coming later don't kid yourself only suckers put hope in the future there isn't much of a future you're going to die so therefore this hope for the future is a hoax it's a perfect hoax because you're not fully alive now you think maybe someday you will be look supposing i ask you what did you do yesterday most people say well i got up at 7 30 and i brushed my teeth and i read the newspaper over a cup of coffee and then i looked at the clock and dressed and uh got in the car and drove downtown and did this and that in the office and so on and you go on and on and on and you suddenly discover that what you've described has absolutely nothing to do with what happened [Music] you've described a fleshless list of abstractions whereas if you were actually aware of what went on you could never describe it because nature is multi-dimensional language is linear language is scrawny and therefore if you identify the world as it is with the way the world is described it's as if you were trying to eat dollar bills and expect a nutritious diet or eat numbers a lot of people eat numbers people play the stock market and do nothing but eating numbers and they're always unhappy absolutely miserable because they never get anything so therefore they always hope more is coming because they believe that if they eat enough dollar bills eventually something satisfactory will happen so eating the abstractions all the time we want more more more time confucius very wisely said a man who understands the dao in the morning may die with content in the evening because when you understand you don't put your hope in time time won't solve a thing and the christian word for sinning [Music] which means to miss the point and the point is eternal life which is here and now but until there is silence of the mind [Music] it is almost impossible to understand eternal life that is to say eternal now when you are fully aware and not thinking you will notice some amazing absences there is no past can you hear anything past incidentally can you hear anything future [Music] they're just not there to the plain sense of one's ears well i remember in the sermon on the mount that jesus said um [Music] a lot of things about this consider the lilies of the field how they grow they toil not neither do they spin and yet sulaiman in all his glory was not clothed like one of these and if god so clothed the grass of the field which today is and tomorrow is cast into the oven shall he not much more clothe you faithless ones. wow so do not worry about tomorrow saying what should we eat what should we drink or how should we clothe ourselves oh the rabble seeks after these things sufficient to the day is the worry of it nobody ever preaches a sermon on that text never i've heard lots of sermons i never won on that one because people say look that's all very well because jesus was the boss's son and he knew you see that he was really in charge of the universe and he's nothing to worry about but we have to be practical oh what do you suppose the gospel was the good news you know it never got out [Laughter] [Music]

You too are the boss's son that was the gospel lots of people in india know that perfectly well when you get to be a certain age and after you studied long enough with a certain guru then and then only may you realize this if you put in the time they finally let you in here you have to wait until you're dead the only place to begin is now here's where we are so why put it off a lot of people say well i'm not ready you mean you're not ready what do you have to be to be ready i'm i'm i'm not good enough i'm uh perhaps not old enough not mature enough still i'm frightened of pain i'm still uh dependent on material things i have to you know eat a lot and drink a lot and uh i better get all that under control first oh you you want to be able to congratulate yourself for having gone through the discipline which is rewarded with realization [Music] that is trying to quench fire with fire wouldn't it be great to have no fear no attachments no hang-ups to be as free as the air then it'd be crazy to have that courage you look into yourself honestly you find that inside you're actually a quaking mess of sensitivity running away from the quaking mess escaping you never can there's nothing you can actually do to transform your own nature into unattached selflessness because you have a selfish reason for wanting to do it what does it mean that you can't do anything about it it's singing loud and clear the reason you can't do anything about it is that you don't exist you as you conceive yourself to be that is your ego your image of yourself isn't there it doesn't exist it's an abstraction well when you understand that you're liberated there's the happening the suchness yes sure you bet but it's not pushing you around because there's no you to be pushed around so this illusion of the persecuted ego who is pushed around by fate it is altogether disappeared and so in likewise the illusion of the ego who pushes fate around has also disappeared [Music] there's a happening by dying to yourself by having become completely incompetent and found that you don't exist you're reborn you become everything.

*In the words of sir edwin arnold,
"foregoing self the universe grows i."*



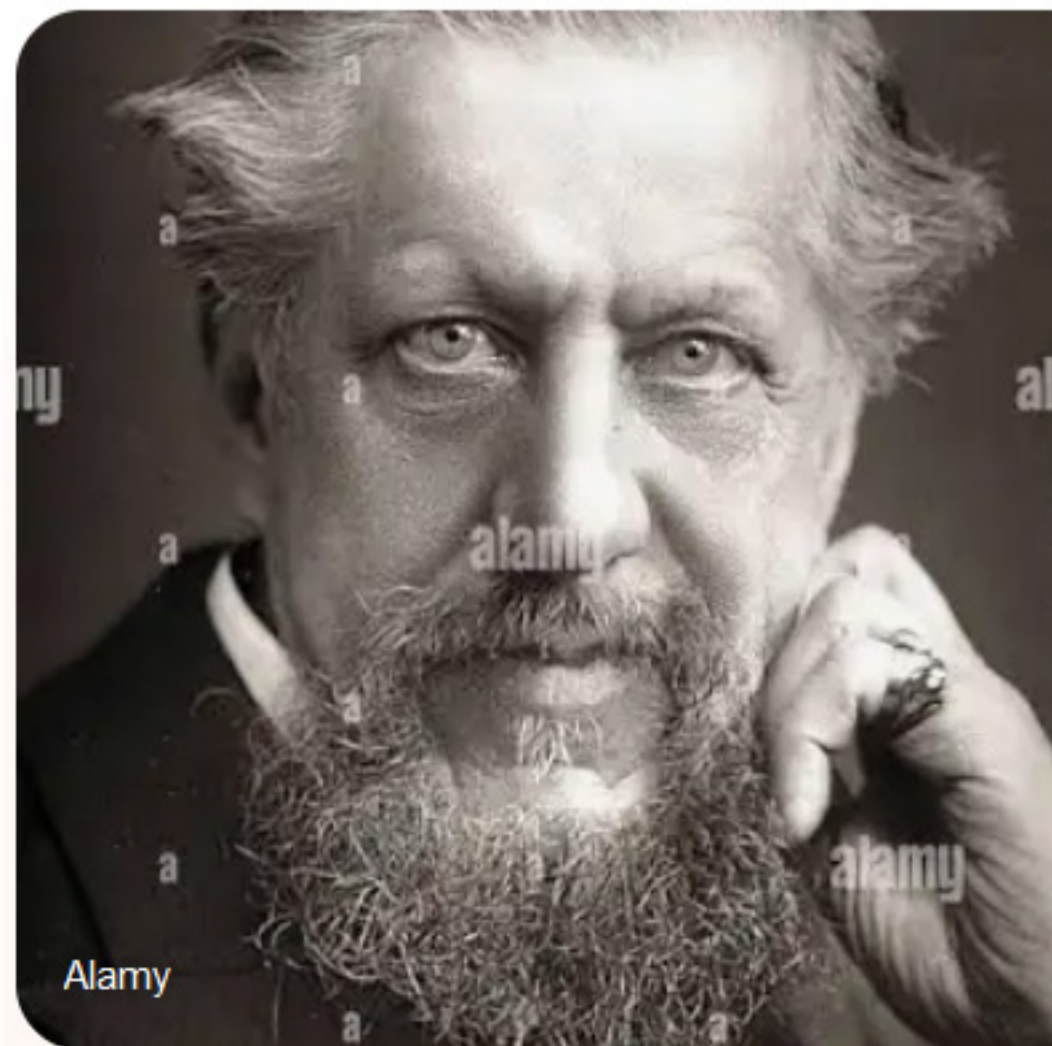
Sir Edwin Arnold was married three times. His first wife was Katherine Elizabeth Biddulph, of London, who died in 1864. Next he married Jennie Channing of Boston, who died in 1889. In his later years Arnold resided for some time in Japan, and his third wife, Tama Kurokawa, was Japanese. In *Seas and Lands* (1891) and *Japonica* (1891) he gives an interesting study of Japanese life. He was appointed CSI on the occasion of the proclamation of Queen Victoria as Empress of India in 1877, and was knighted in 1888 (as KCIE). He was also honoured with decorations by the rulers of Japan, Persia, Turkey and Siam. One of his six children was the novelist Edwin Lester Arnold, born in 1857. He was a founder member, together with Anagarika Dharmapala, of the Mahabodhi Society of India and was a close associate of Weligama Sri Sumangala. A blue plaque unveiled in 1931 commemorates Arnold at 31 Bolton Gardens in South Kensington. Arnold was a vegetarian. He was vice-president of the West London Food Reform Society, a vegetarian group based in Bayswater, founded in 1891, with Josiah Oldfield as president and Mahatma Gandhi as secretary. The Society was short-lived and dissolved as soon as Gandhi left Bayswater.

Tama Kurokawa, Lady Arnold (1869–1962) was the third wife of Sir Edwin Arnold.[1] She was born in Sendai City, Japan on November 21, 1869. At the time of her marriage in 1897[2] she was said to be the only Japanese woman bearing an English title.[3] She and Sir Edwin lived in London where she wore her kimono in the privacy of her home but western clothes in public. She was the only family member present when her husband died in 1904.

TO MY DAUGHTER,
 KATHARINE LILIAN ARNOLD,
 THE DEAR COMPANION OF MY WANDERINGS,

Edwin Arnold

English poet and journalist



Born	10 June 1832 Gravesend, Gravesham, Kent, England
Died	24 March 1904 (aged 71) London, England
Occupation	Journalist, editor, and poet
Nationality	English
Education	University College, Oxford
Notable works	<i>The Light of Asia</i>

Signature


The Light of Asia

OR

THE GREAT RENUNCIATION
(MAHĀBHINISHKRAMANA)

BEING

THE LIFE AND TEACHING OF GAUTAMA
PRINCE OF INDIA AND FOUNDER OF BUDDHISM

(As Told in Verse by an Indian Buddhist)

BY

EDWIN ARNOLD, M.A., F.R.G.S., F.R.A.S.

COMPANION OF THE STAR OF INDIA;

OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF THE WHITE ELEPHANT OF SIAM;

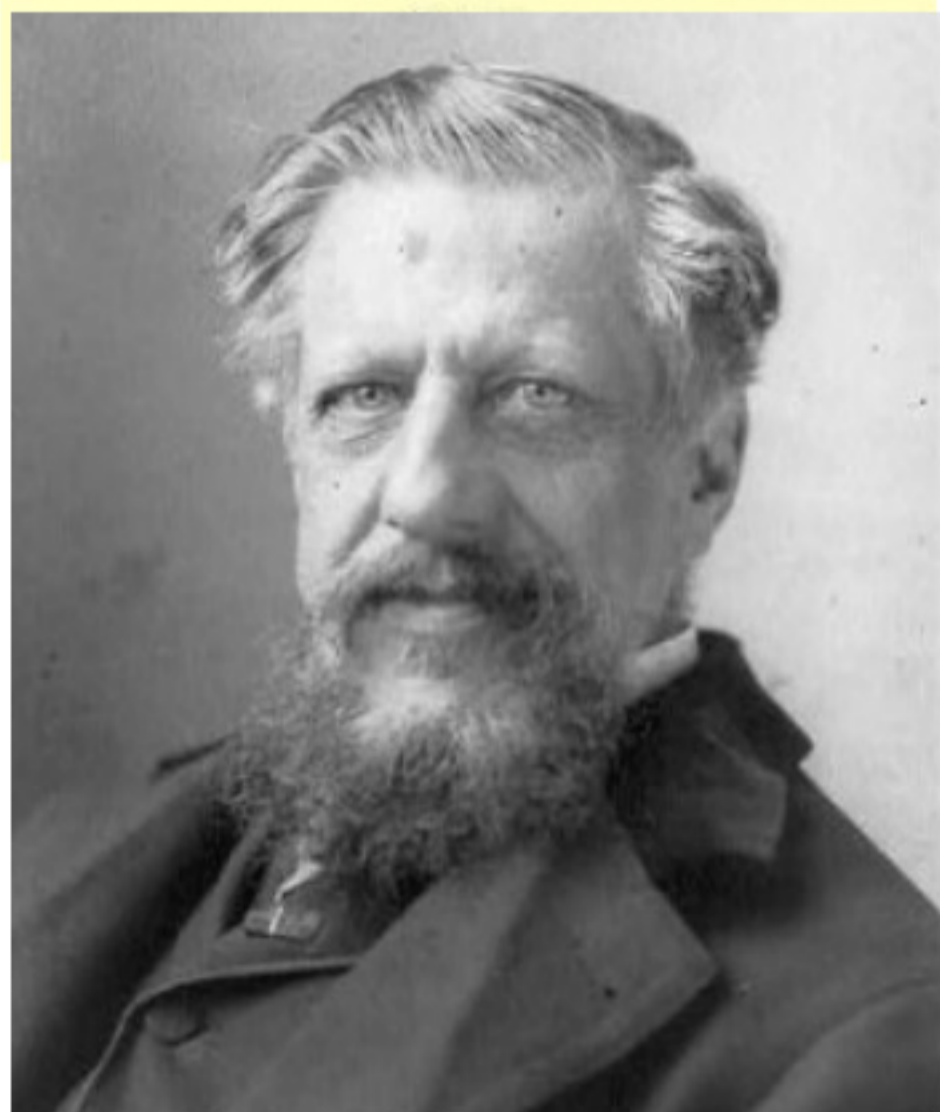
THIRD CLASS OF THE IMPERIAL ORDER OF THE MEGJIDIKH;

THIRD CLASS OF THE EXALTED ORDER OF THE OSMANIEN;

HONORARY MEMBER OF THE SOCIÉTÉ DE GÉOGRAPHIE, MARSEILLES;

FORMERLY PRINCIPAL OF THE DECCAN COLLEGE, POONA,

AND FELLOW OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BOMBAY.



The Light of Asia, or The Great Renunciation (Mahābhinishkramana), is a book by Sir Edwin Arnold. The first edition of the book was published in London in July 1879. In the form of a narrative poem, the book endeavours to describe the life and time of Prince Gautama Buddha, who, after attaining enlightenment, became the Buddha, The Awakened One. The book presents his life, character, and philosophy in a series of verses. It is a free adaptation of the Lalitavistara. A few decades before the book's publication, very little was known outside Asia about the Buddha and Buddhism. Arnold's book was one of the first successful efforts to popularize Buddhism for a Western readership. After receiving the poem from theosophists, Mahatma Gandhi was awed and his subsequent introduction to Madame Blavatsky and her Key to Theosophy inspired him to study his own religion. The book has been highly acclaimed from the time it was first published and has been the subject of several reviews. It has been translated into over thirty languages, including Hindi.

The 1892 publication begins with the following dedication: This Volume is Dutifully Inscribed to the Sovereign, Grand Master, and Companions of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India by the Author. Sir Arnold's preface ends with him stating:

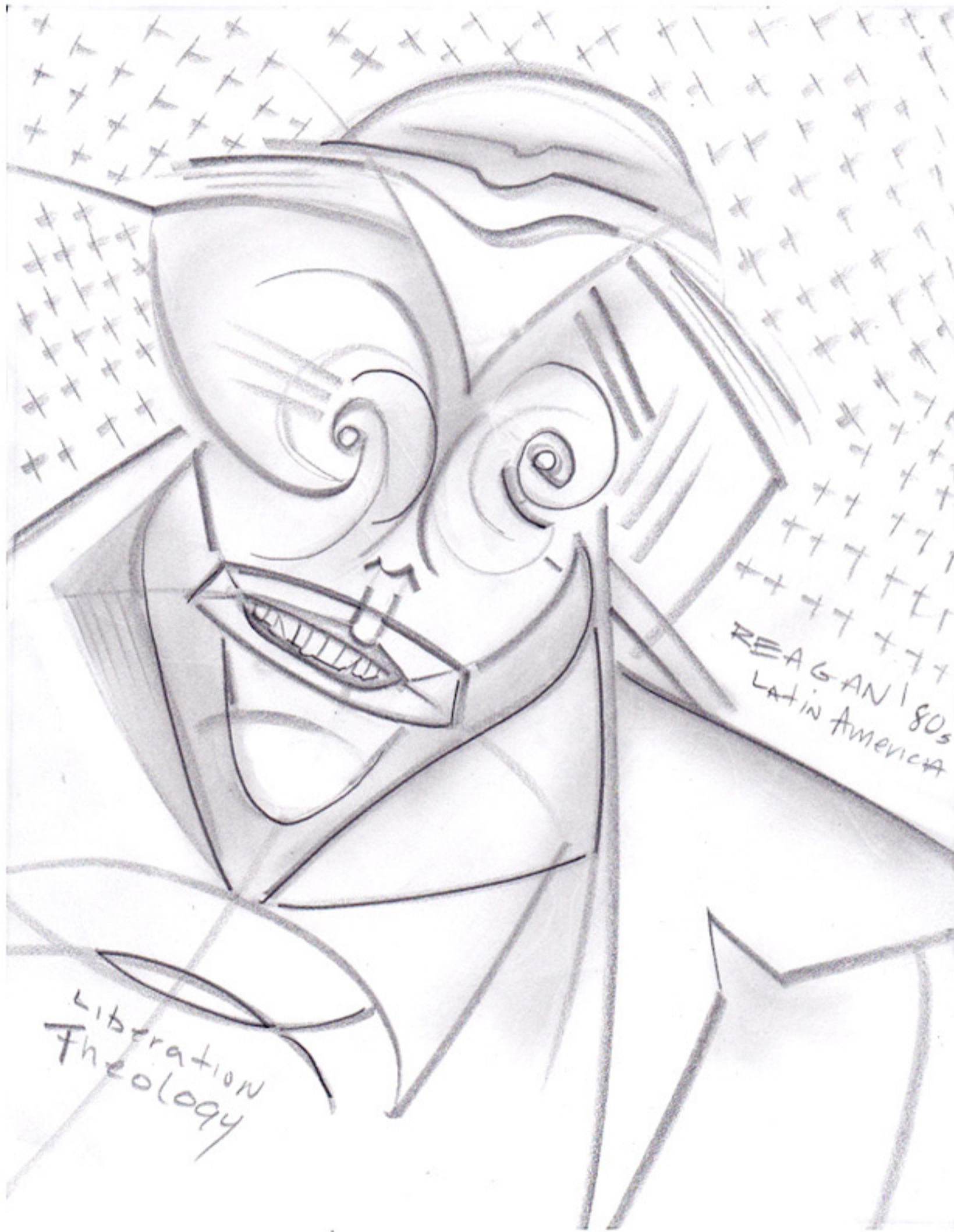
The time may come, I hope, when this book and my Indian Song of Songs and Indian Idylls will preserve the memory of one who loved India and the Indian peoples.

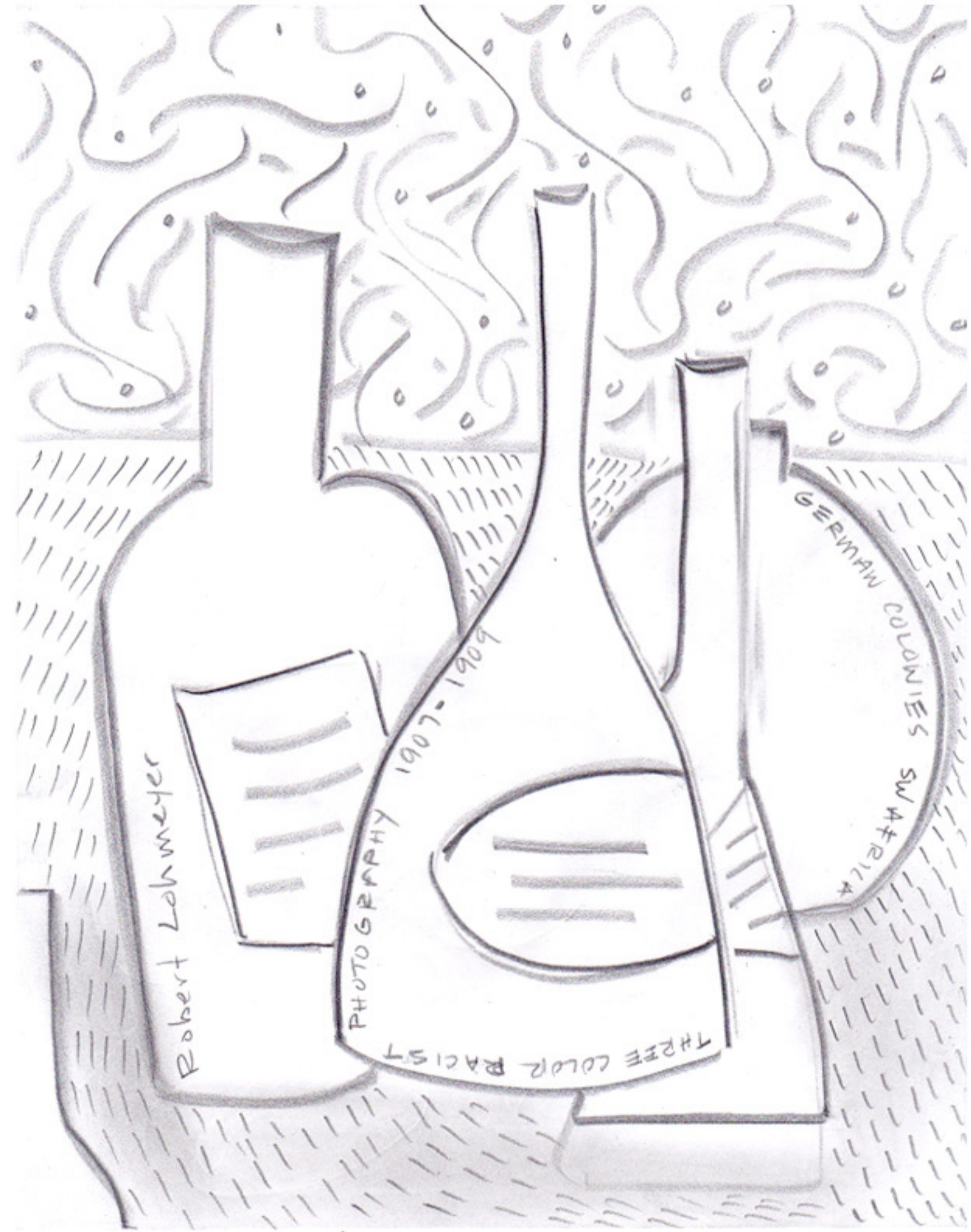
The first six chapters deal with the early part of Buddha's life – his birth as Siddhartha, prince of Kapilavastu, Lumbini, Nepal; his gaining first-hand knowledge of the sufferings of mankind; his resorting to meditation; and his ultimate transformation as the "Enlightened One" after long years of meditation. The subsequent chapters speak of the Buddha's travels and the important elements of the message he spread are discussed – for instance, that suffering is a built-in aspect of existence; that craving for sensuality and identity is the root of suffering, and that suffering can be ended. It calls for right understanding; right thought; right speech; right action; right livelihood; right effort; right mindfulness; and right concentration. **Throughout his peregrinations, mostly in eastern India, Gautama Buddha was joined by thousands of disciples and admirers from all walks of life.**

In his autobiography, Mahatma Gandhi writes of when two theosophist brothers gave him a copy of The Light of Asia along with Arnold's version of the Bhagavad Gita, The Song Celestial, while he studied in London. Gandhi recalls: "Once I had begun it I could not leave off." The brothers also brought Gandhi to the Blavatsky Lodge and introduced him to Madame Blavatsky. Upon reading her Key to Theosophy, Gandhi was stimulated to read more on Hinduism, now "disabused [...] of the notion fostered by the missionaries that Hinduism was rife with superstition."

Former Indian minister Jairam Ramesh wrote The Light of Asia: The Poem that Defined the Buddha on The Light of Asia's phenomenal influence on how people see the Buddha and his teachings, calling the poem a "milestone in Buddhist historiography" that "impacted so many public personalities in different countries, inspired movements for social equality and incarnated itself in music, dance, drama, painting and film".

Dasu Narayana Rao son of Mahakavi Dasu Sriramulu adopted Part of this and wrote a play in Telugu language entitled Sangeetarasa Tarangini anu Buddha Natakamu. He wrote two chapters and part of third chapter and died of some illness in 1905. Rest of the play was completed by the father and it was published in 1907.

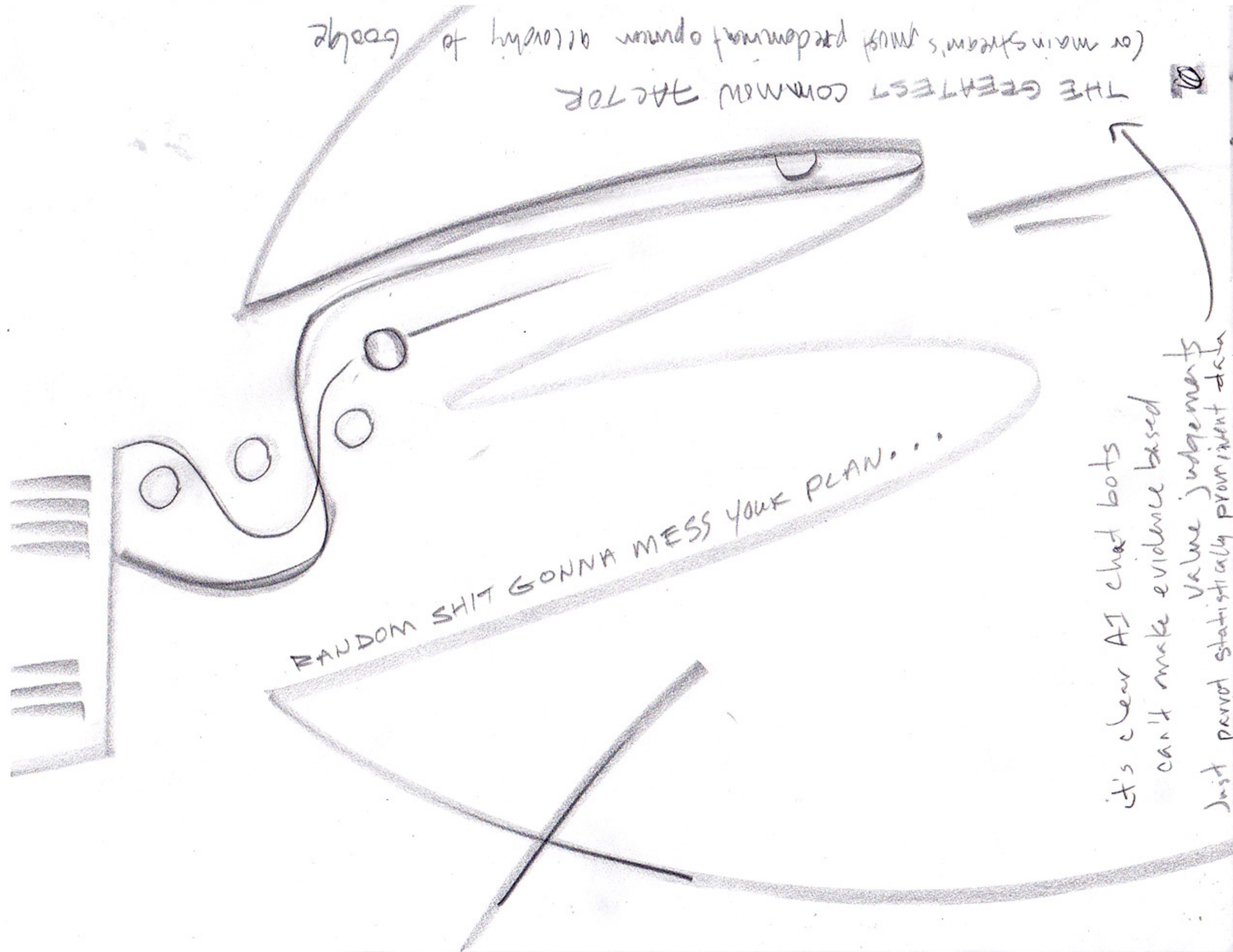




THE GREATEST COMMON FACTOR
(or main stream's must predominant opinion according to Google)

RANDOM SHIT GONNA MESS YOUR PLAN...

it's clear AI chat bots
can't make evidence based
value judgements
Just parrot statistically prominent data

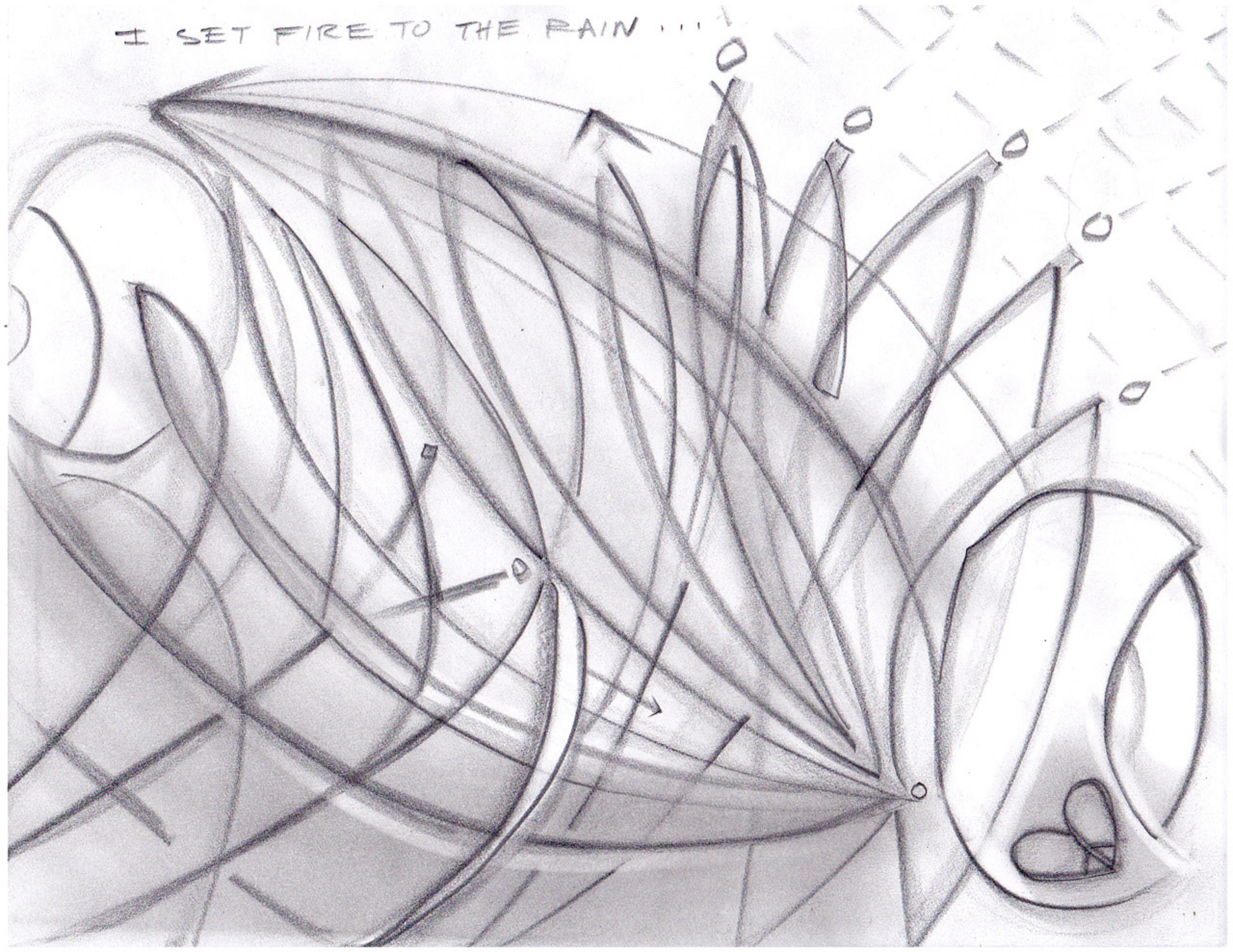


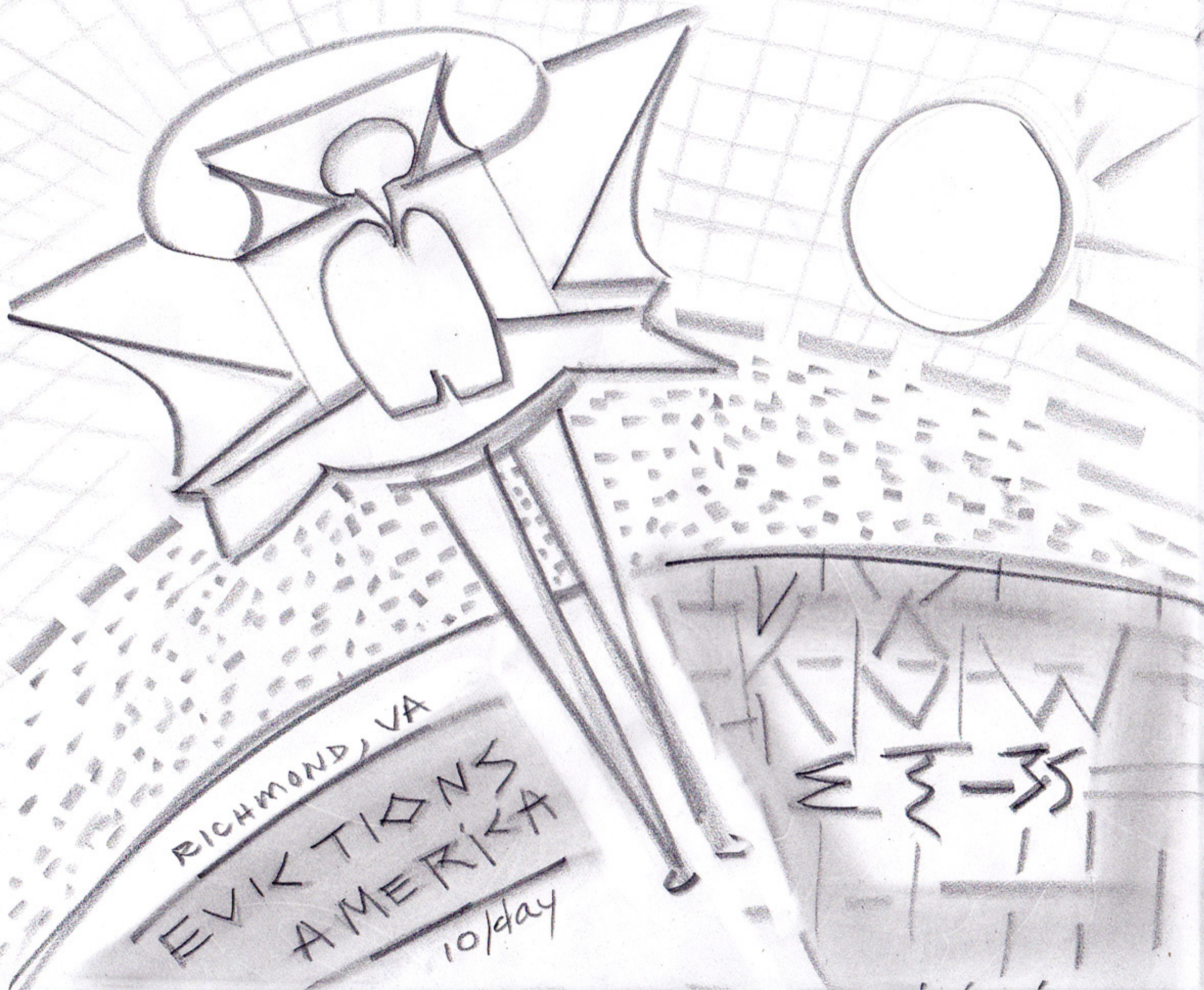
In the good old hip-hop rhyming time mash-up, the Eukaryote systematist went to market, the agent of chaos stayed home. The savage capitalist had all the money, the exhausted worker had none. And the night they burnt old Democracy down, all the people were singing, they went, na, na, la, na, na, la, na, na, la, na, na, la. Like my great, great grandfather before me, I do work the land with my hands; and like my sisters above me, who took a rebel stand, we who engaged in brutal hand-to-hand combat, using swords, axes, and maces to break through enemy lines. We the enemy, we the lines. Archers released volleys of slings and arrows, aiming to take down the many foes. Foes, foes, fo-fairy, fo-na-na, fanna fo-fairy, fee-fi. The noise overwhelming: the clash of steel, Jared Diamond's Guns, Germs and Steel, the screams of the wounded, the screams for Palestinian baby's killed dead, and the vengeful battle cries of those still fighting, we, we who matter, drown out now by dropping mega bombs with nuclear threat from drones in the high altitude air, radioing through these very same air-waves, we put lies and cheat and purposeful deceit to exploit and steal, expand, expand, and expand until we dominate every inch, every iota, every species of bacteria, genus, family, order, class, phylum, kingdom, domain, every and all viruses, fungi and parasites, every each of every kind, in ever onward forward progress for progressive progress fashion, for fashion. Why, why, why? We cry. It's clear the AI chat-bots can't make evidence based value judgments, but only parrot the statistically prominent greatest common factor data, regurgitate the most predominant mainstream influencers' opinion according to the ten ton guerilla of online searches. Can't no way surmise, analyze, justify. Ain't no Dylan, no poet. Not good much more than spitting up worthless, empty Pablum, a big load of foey hoey. Random shit gonna mess you plan, man. Got to be agile to wiggle through the hallow of the logarithm. . Onward Damnation Navy sailor, through high seas and doldrums, in harbor bays and up river, expand, expand, expanding until we've consumed the collective global biomass in the most voracious cannibal manner. Under Excessivism's banner uber-consume, for the we that needs to pee free wherever we be. "Wee wee wee" all the way home . . . east and west, north and south, zenith and nadir, and here, where we are in our epic song, . . . be sure to re-introduce, induce and boost the old timey forms, the villanelle, the virelay, and the sestina in contrast throw in a luddite wrench to the verse melodically, rhythmically, and harmonically. Cacophony is where we aim, where we end and begin again. Where are we? Where are in space and time this time? Slaughter berserker, maurad. It's the wounded PTSD unhealed warriors' time. Assume a higher level of dynamics and drugged up accelerating activity, add a stank-face heavy metal guitar on one formal section, better yet, block play repeatedly. Hand it over to our elevated festival, the traditionally modern pop & rock and roll style of today: repeat, repeat. Repeat, beat the beat into our heads, drive a stake through our systematically aching collective hearts. Onward Salvation Army soldier, the truth goes marching on from nursery rhyme to annihilation time, ain't we got fun. Even if, clinically depressed, we owe the grocer, don't we have fun, feeling woefully alienated, the tax collector's getting closer, still we have fun, there's nothing surer, death and taxes. The rich get rich and the poor get poorer, in the meantime, in between time, ain't we got fun? Don't we have fun? Still we have fun. The Vishnu Eukaryote systematist went to market, the Shiva agent of chaos stayed home. Brahma, Brahma, Oh Brahma, ain't we got fun! Refrain. Play the refrain, play it again, won't you Uncle Sam?

RANDOM SHIT GONNA MESS

It's clear AI chat
can't make evidence
value judgments
Just parrot statistically prominent data

I SET FIRE TO THE RAIN ...





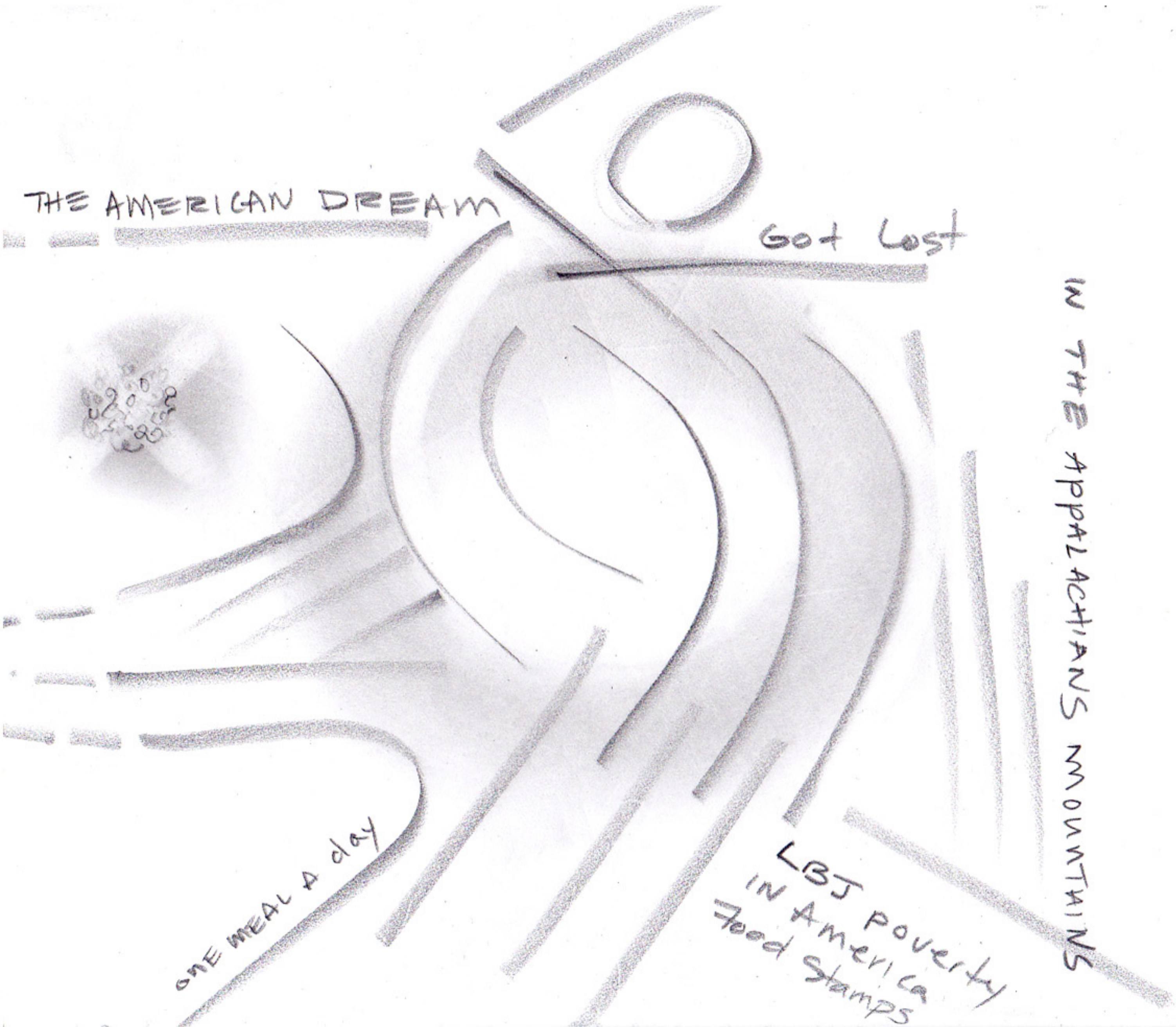
THE AMERICAN DREAM

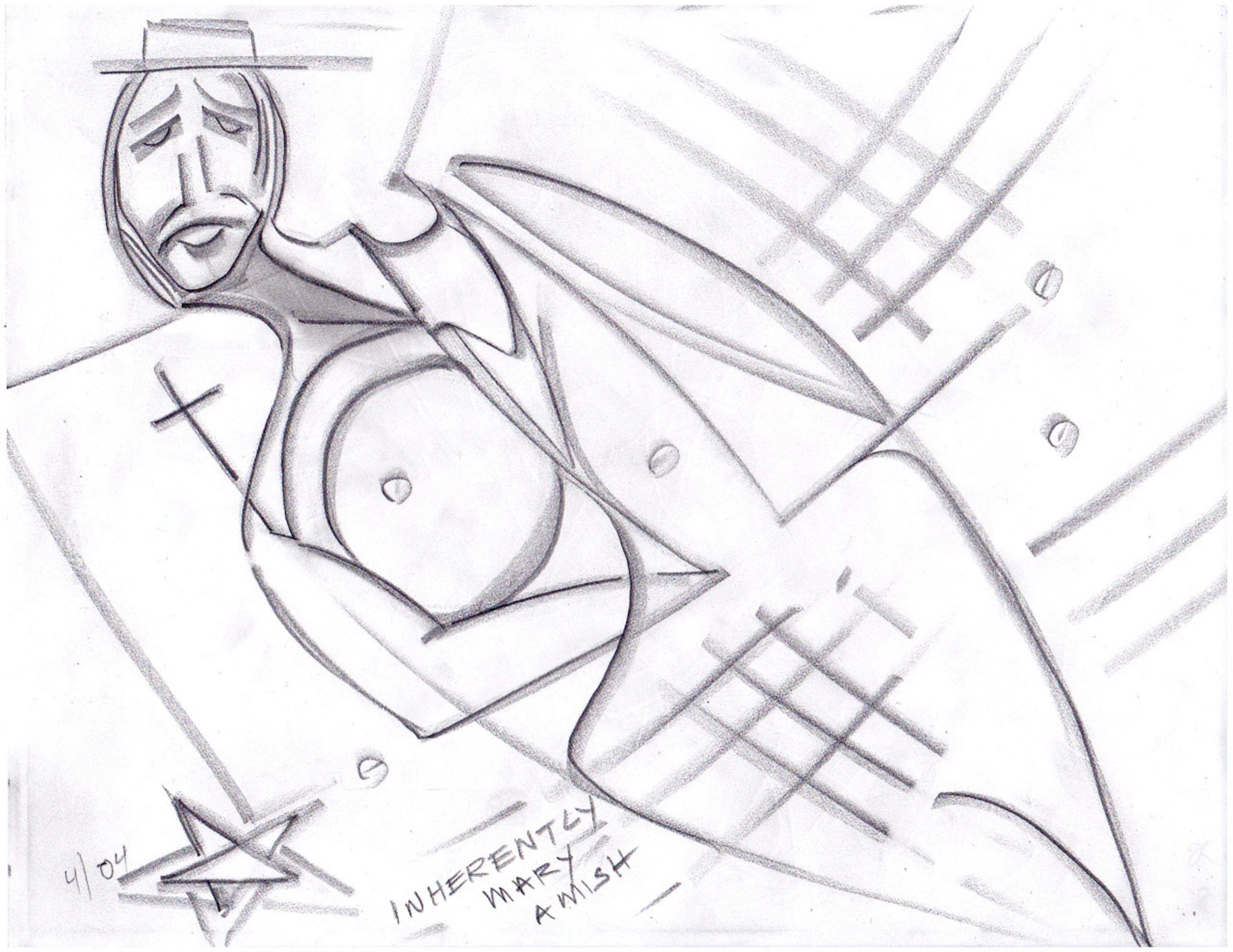
Got Lost

IN THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS

ONE MEAL A DAY

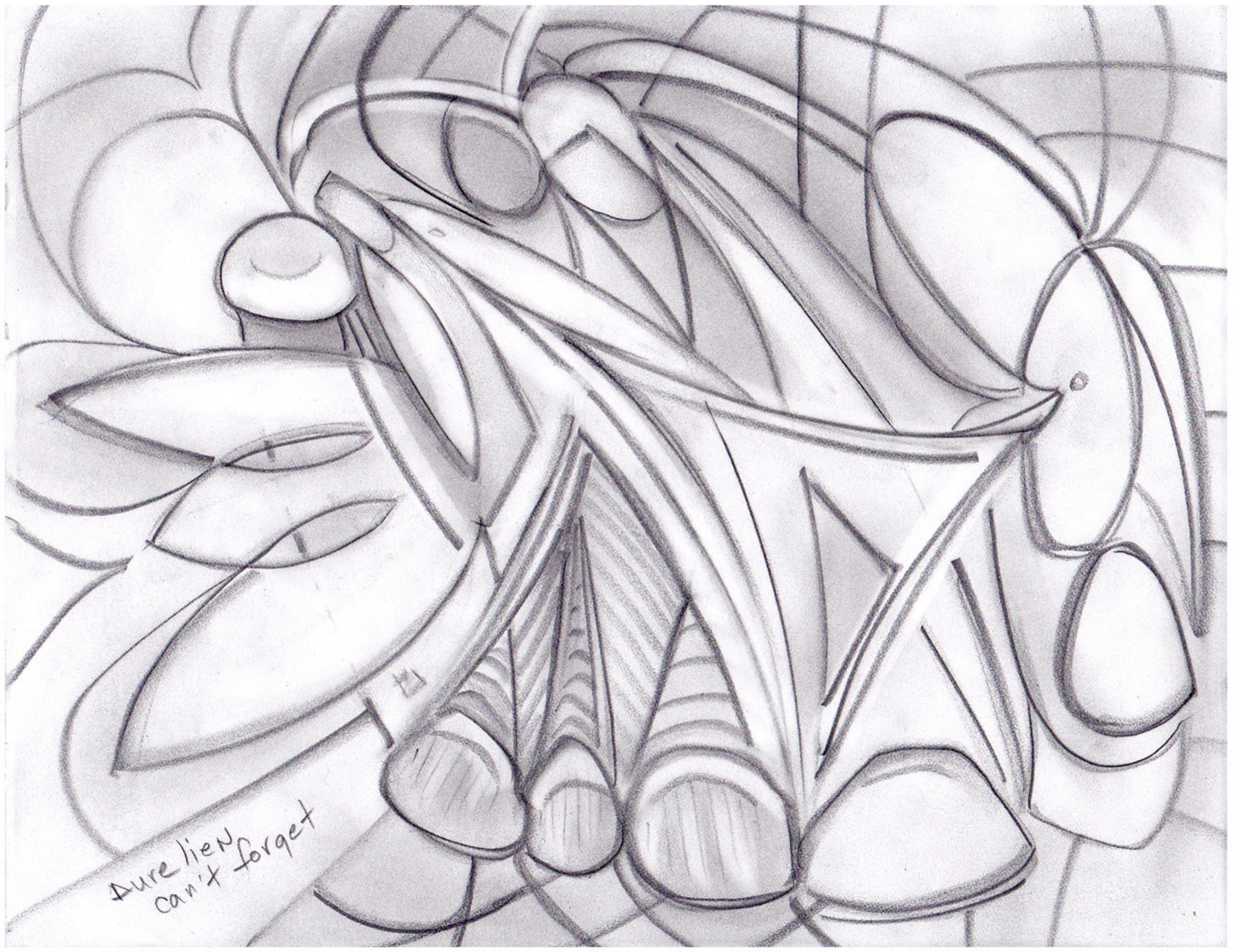
LBJ poverty
IN America
Feed Stamps





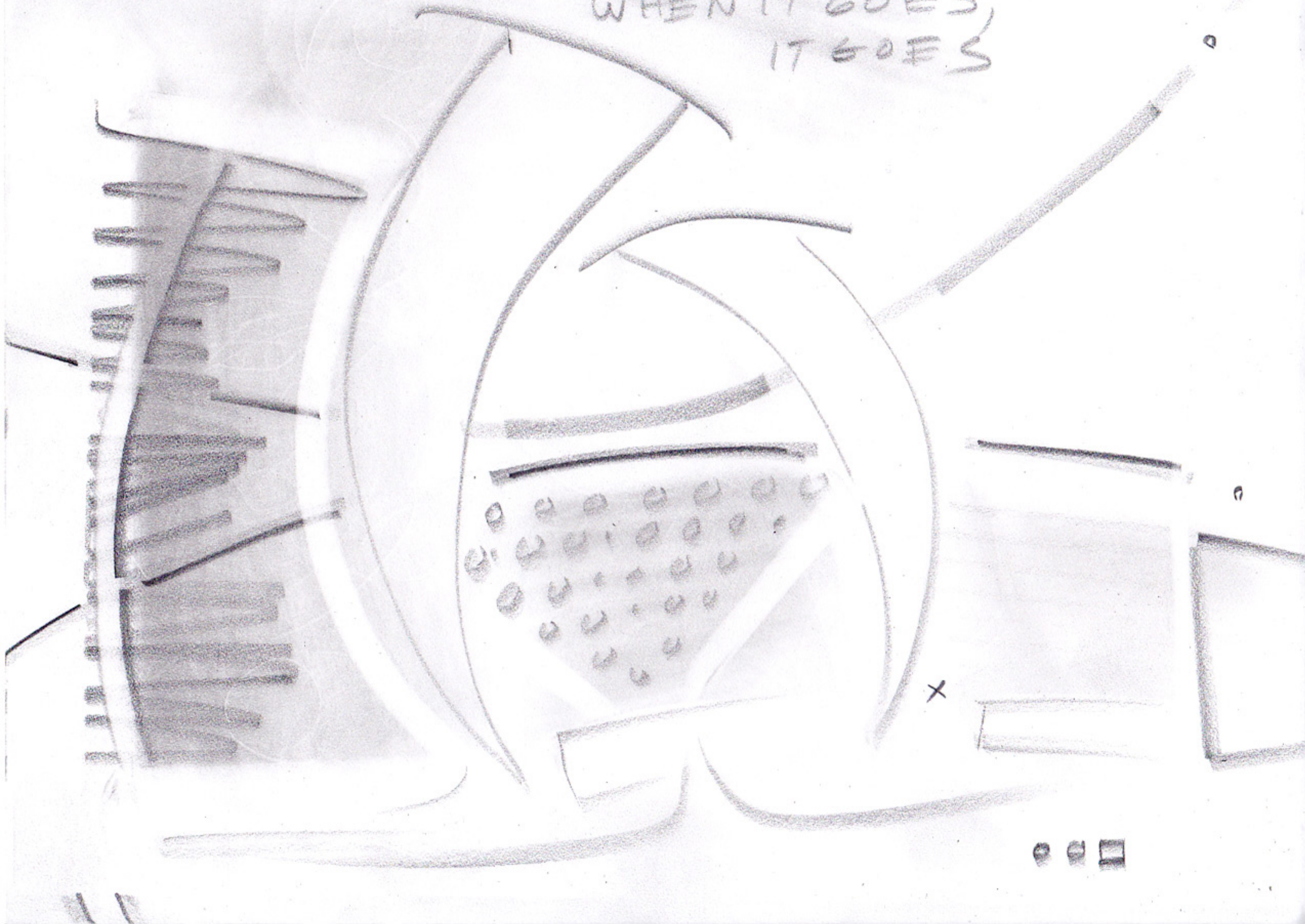
4/04

INHERENTLY
MARY
A WISH



Aurelien
can't forget

STRANGE THING MEMORY
WHEN IT GOES,
IT GOES





TALKING OUT OF THE SIDE
OF HIS MOUTH

2097, Herbert Fingarette
Philosopher on Death
"It's the one thing I
have tried to come
to terms with, and
I have failed."

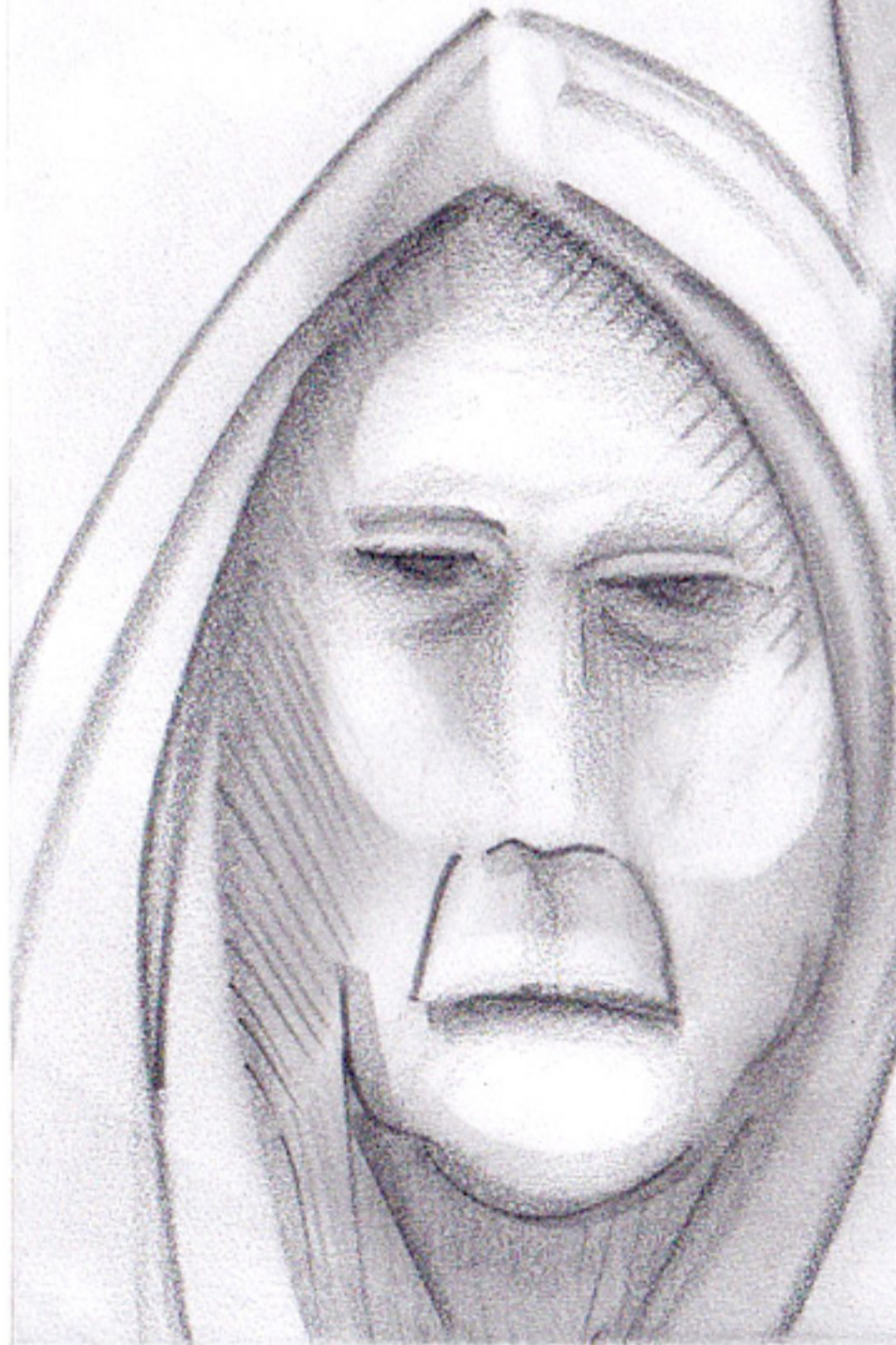
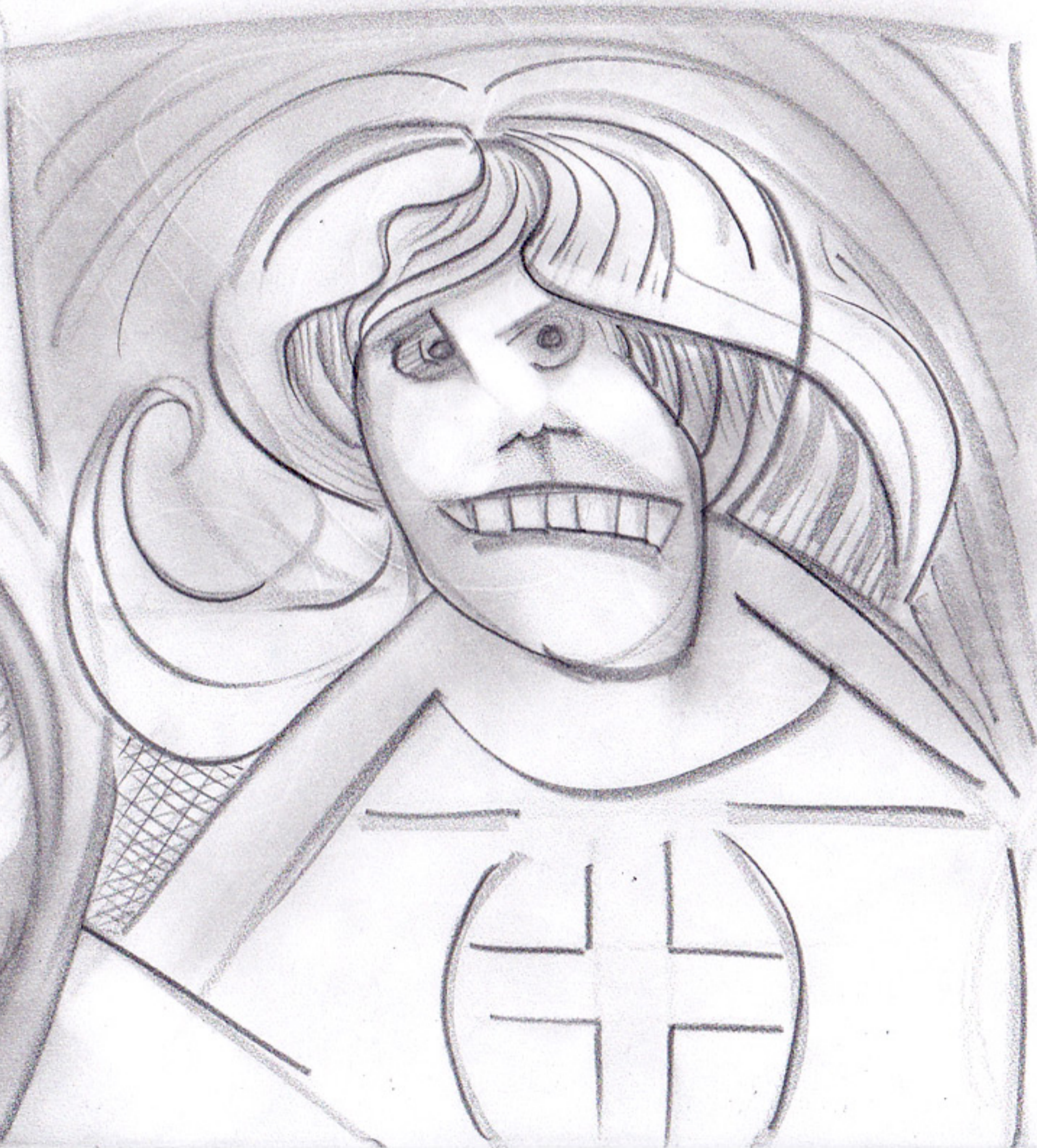


Edward Said
CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS

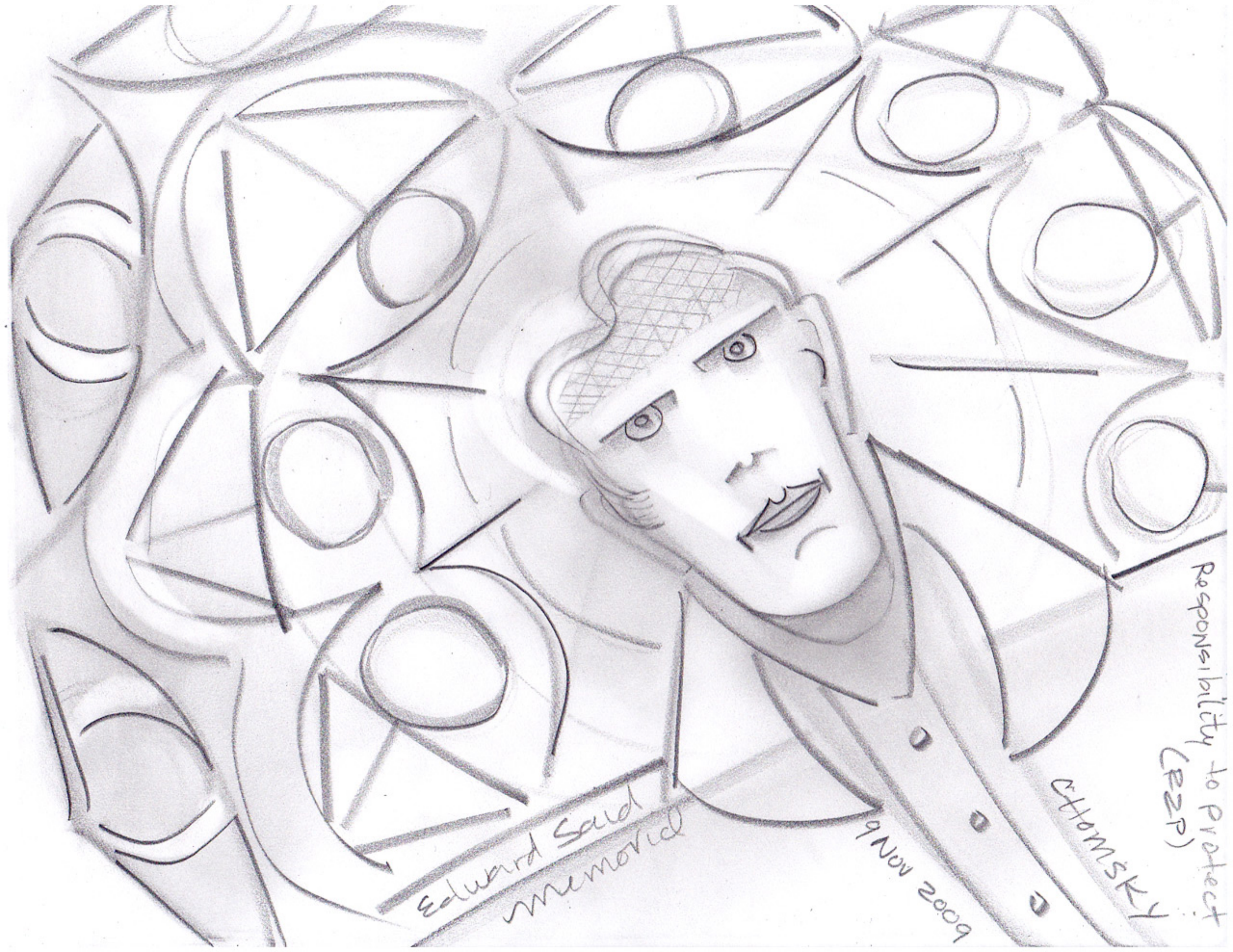


Alfred
McCoy > Phillipine

> dawn of The Unipolar Moment 1990
• a singular dominate world power



Charles Krauthammer





WATER

FIRE

ALAN RICKMAN

<completion>
Kate Winslet

Vi
63

RIP 2015 @ 09



An Ode to Alan Rickman: I Ching hexagram 63: water above, fire below, After Completion (Ji Ji).

Kate Winslet remembered Rickman as warm and generous, "And that voice! Oh, that voice."

Dame Helen Mirren said his voice "could suggest honey or a hidden stiletto blade".

What would explicitly connect Rickman's life to the ultimate message of Hexagram 63, emphasizing the enduring impact of his actions and passions?



WATER

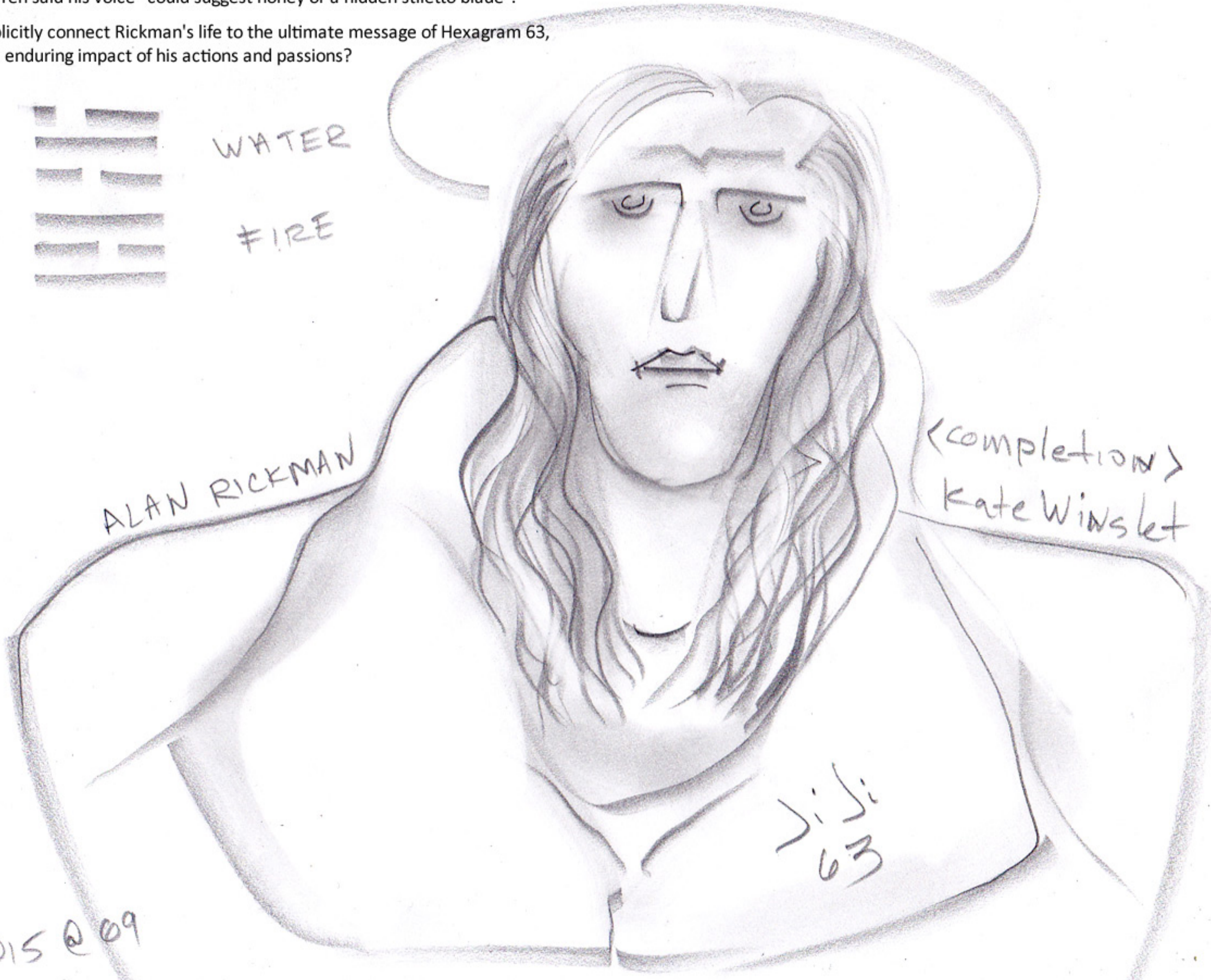
FIRE

ALAN RICKMAN

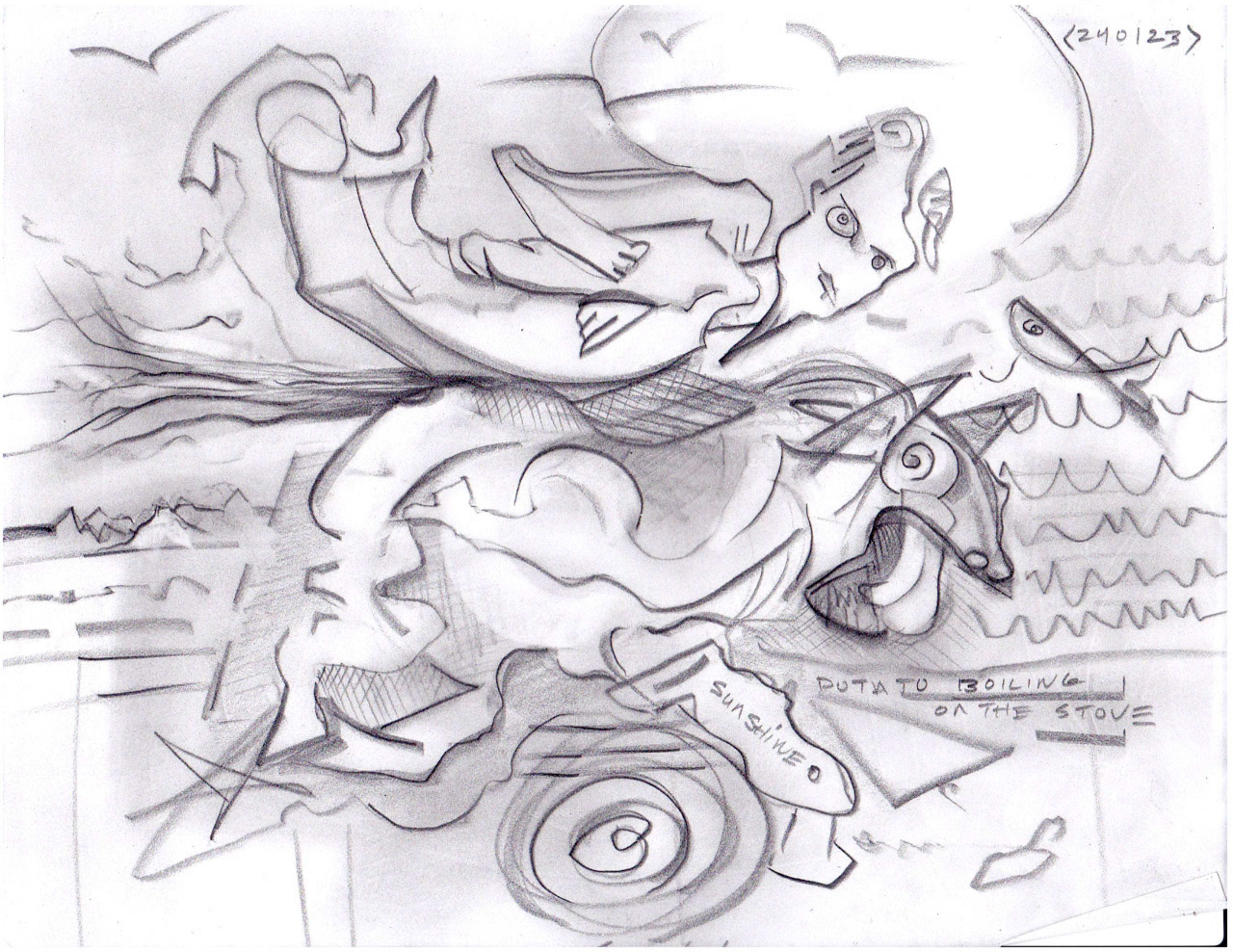
<completion>
Kate Winslet

Ji Ji
63

RIP 2015 @ 69



<240123>





Russian lady tells everything like there's no tomorrow

https://youtu.be/h_LMdoCuSRM

995,271 views Dec 27, 2023

What's your name?
Vera Ivanovna



lovepeace

Why young people are silent?!

▶ ⏩ 🔊 0:00 / 4:04

⏸ 📺 ⚙️ 🗑️



Nina Gonchar, 93, sits in her house, which was mostly destroyed by Russian forces, in the village of Bogorodychne, Ukraine, on Jan. 7, 2023, shortly after the village was retaken by the Ukrainian army. Gonchar's son Vasyliy and his wife Liubov were killed by Russian shelling on July 10, 2022. (AP Photo/Evgeniy Maloletka)"



lovepeace

Existence of Zionist Israel is antithetical to Judaism: Rabbi Weiss

https://youtu.be/7S17Fr8z_Oo :: Rabbi Weiss, "The existence of the Zionist state of Israel is antithetical to Judaism. Zionism is a movement that started around 150 years ago. It's a movement of people who were totally estranged from the Jewish religion. They were Nationalists, they weren't practicing the religion as a whole, and they wanted a convenient community, a land, a nation that they should feel comfortable and proud of themselves. The Jews never attempted even though we went through hardships, inquisition, the Crusades and we suffered a lot, but we never attempted to reestablish a Jewish sovereignty, a Jewish nationhood, a Jewish Kingdom because we know it's forbidden. It's just not acceptable according to Judaism to have our own State." ALSO: Jewish religious leader [Rabbi Weiss] reveals how he feels **about Israeli aggression in Gaza** > https://youtu.be/_FNtMV2i8-8 AND: **Zionism** > <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zionism>

Gabor Mate explains how he sees the Palestine Israel conflict > <https://youtu.be/lrcYQyudLzY&t=90>

How Israel indoctrinates its people w/Miko Peled > <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CU0Uc-PKe9Y> :: Miko Peled, former IDF Special Forces and author of *The General's Son: Journey of an Israeli in Palestine*, joins *The Chris Hedges Report* for a frank conversation on the distortions of history and reality at the foundations of Israeli identity.

Norman Finkelstein on Israel's BRUTAL Assault On Gaza > <https://www.youtube.com/live/m36CUGA1Ucw> :: **Norman Finkelstein**, a political scientist, prolific author, and son of Holocaust survivors, talks about Israel's latest attack on Gaza and debunks some of the most pervasive talking points used to justify Israel's ethnic cleansing of Palestinians.

Rami Khouri on Israel's Gaza Bombardment & Risk of a Regional War :: *Where are the peacekeepers?* > https://www.democracynow.org/2023/10/24/rami_khouri_gaza_israel_palestine

Arab Nations Are REALIGNING in Response to Israel's War on Gaza, Rami Khouri https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=seHce_mlltg :: Palestinian-American author, opinion columnist, & Distinguished Public Policy Fellow at the American University in Beirut Rami Khouri provides much needed background on how and why Arab nations are realigning in response to continued Israeli aggression in Gaza.

We have a tool to stop Israel's war crimes: BDS by Naomi Klein > <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/jan/10/only-outside-pressure-can-stop-israels-war-crimes> :: In 2005, Palestinians called on the world to boycott Israel until it complied with international law. What if we had listened?

"A Textbook Case of Genocide": Israeli Holocaust Scholar Raz Segal Decries Israel's Assault on Gaza > https://www.democracynow.org/2023/10/16/raz_segal_textbook_case_of_genocide :: Raz Segal, an Israeli expert in modern genocide, calls Israel's assault on Gaza a textbook case of "intent to commit genocide" and its rationalization of its violence a "shameful use" of the lessons of the Holocaust. Israeli state exceptionalism and comparisons of its Palestinians victims to "Nazis" are used to "justify, rationalize, deny, distort, disavow mass violence against Palestinians," says Segal.

The ghost of apartheid has come back to haunt Israel and give hope to Palestinians by **Tony Karon** > <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/jan/10/israel-palestinians-genocide-south-africa-apartheid> :: South Africa's lawsuit alleging genocide is a fitting call for the right of an oppressed people to self-determination

Thomas Friedman on Israel and Hamas with Charlie Rose > <https://youtu.be/aOrEwLse-04> :: The NYT columnist and author on the Israel-Hamas war, the biggest lesson he learned in 45 years of journalism.

Israel May Lose Its Statehood, Col. Larry Wilkerson > <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8SdlzMuwsc>

Hala Alyan: 'I am not there and I am not here': a Palestinian American poet on bearing witness to atrocity > <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/jan/28/gaza-palestine-grief-essay-poetry> :: For months, I've watched devastation from five thousand miles away. But what is the task of the diasporic witness?

Palestinian Artist Samia Halaby Slams Indiana U. for Canceling Exhibit over Her Support for Gaza > <https://youtu.be/fWiWOT4V2HA> | https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samia_Halaby

Susan Sarandon at March for Gaza: 'We Need a New System' > <https://youtu.be/zcxGNajPDlk> :: Susan Sarandon spoke backstage at the January 13th March on Washington for Gaza about the backlash and retribution she's faced for her stance on the ongoing genocide.

The Cost of Bearing Witness > <https://chrishedges.substack.com/p/the-cost-of-bearing-witness> :: There are scores of Palestinian writers and photographers, many of whom have been killed, who are determined to make us see the horror of this genocide. :: The professor and poet Refaat Alareer was killed, along with Refaat's brother, sister and her four children, in an airstrike on his sister's apartment building in Gaza on Dec. 7, 2023. Refaat, whose doctorate was on the metaphysical poet John Donne, wrote a poem in November, called "*If I Must Die*," which became his last will and testament.

If I must die,
you must live
to tell my story
to sell my things
to buy a piece of cloth
and some strings,
(make it white with a long tail)
so that a child, somewhere in Gaza
while looking heaven in the eye
awaiting his dad who left in a blaze—
and bid no one farewell
not even to his flesh
not even to himself—
sees the kite, my kite you made,
flying up above
and thinks for a moment an angel is there
bringing back love
If I must die
let it bring hope
let it be a tale.

The Miracle of Kindness: What Chris Hedges learned from the Palestinians > <https://youtu.be/gpU-Sbxg01A> :: Evil, even in the darkest moments, is impotent before the miracle of human kindness. This miracle defies prejudices and hatreds. It crosses cultures and religions. It lies at the core of faith. Take a brief journey through the eyes of American, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Chris Hedges to Jerusalem, Gaza, and Iraq, and discover the sacred bonds that make us human.

Noam Chomsky: Israel & Palestine 2002-2023

The Israel/Palestine Conflict I + II, April, 2002 / 9m:20s + 12:14

> <https://youtu.be/5AJlfW0g2rk> | <https://youtu.be/fGbILqjyNHg>

In U.N. Speech, Noam Chomsky Blasts United States for Supporting Israel, Blocking Palestinian State

Democracy Now!, Oct 22, 2014 / 18m:22s

> https://www.democracynow.org/2014/11/27/in_un_speech_noam_chomsky_blasts

Noam Chomsky on Gaza, Aug 15, 2018 / 10:10

> <https://youtu.be/NoC7sRNkrll>

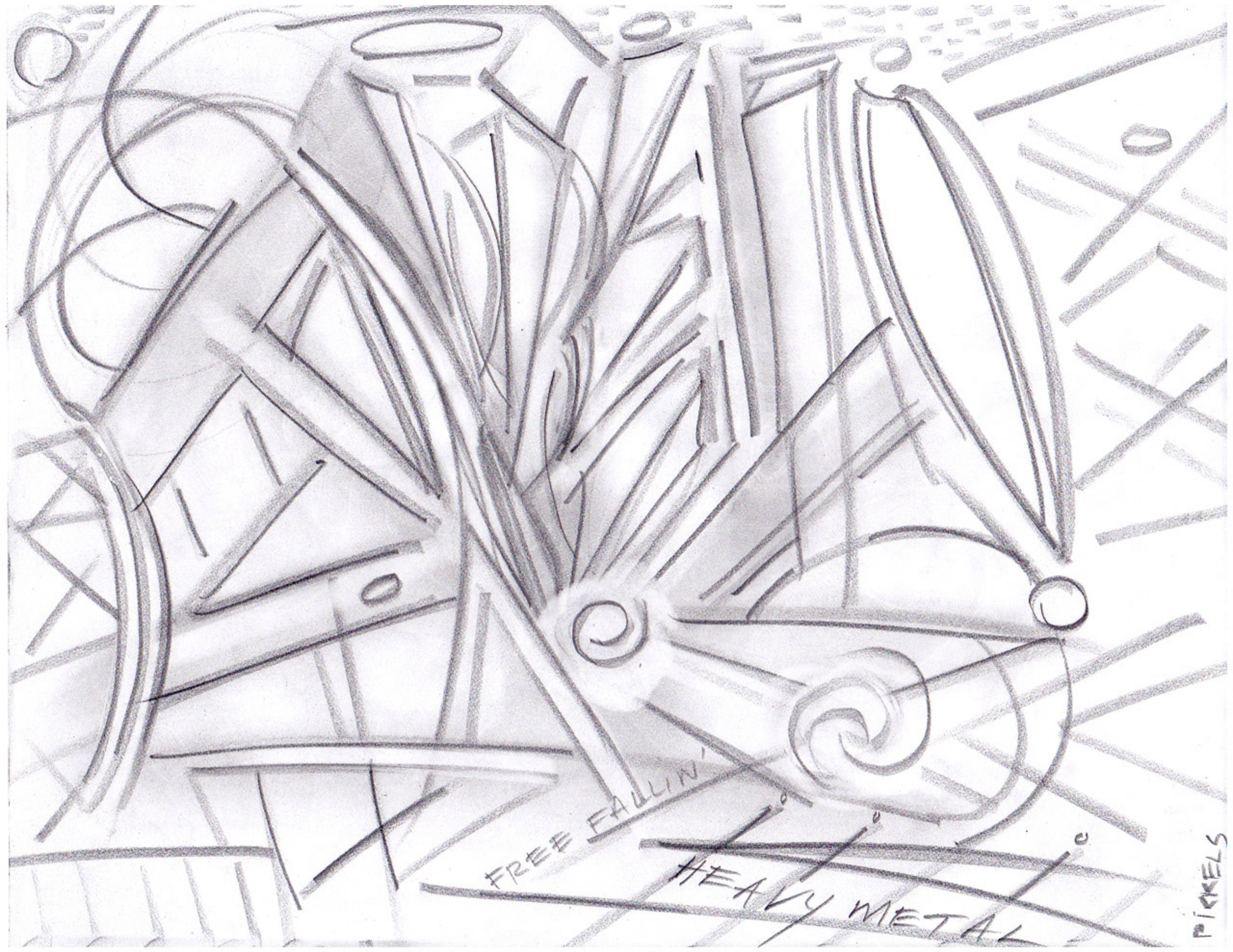
Israel & Palestine: Possible Futures — a Discussion with Noam Chomsky, May 22, 2023 / 1h:20m:43s

> <https://youtu.be/A8ZLiYlvtQ8>

Please don't be asking me for alternatives to what Israel should do after October 7th 2023, when for over 70 years you remained silent, you offered no alternative to the people interloping into what would become called the state of Israel, not based on Judaism, as Rabbi Weiss tells us, but based on nationalism, dislocating millions of the local residents, killing tens of thousands more, stealing their land and property, in defiance of international law, relentlessly persecuting unceasingly, humiliating, torturing and forcing apartheid on the long established inhabitants of those lands. Applying heart and not merely tribal fealty, it's well documented, in the public record, not hard to find, for those applying objective critical integrative reasoning and analysis. One small for instance, the 14 resolutions on Israel adopted in the UN General Assembly in 2023. There are too many inflection points throughout the decades where Israel, if Israeli policymakers were acting in good faith and weren't hell-bent on colonial settler expansion, there are so many inflection points, acting in good faith Israel could have changed the course of history by negotiating honestly with fairness and respect for an equitable two state solution, and didn't. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. There is no good fair and just reason it had come to this tipping point to even pretend I could be able to offer you alternatives for what Israel didn't do in its long marathon run up to the hideous atrocity you so want to justify. When a small faction of the oppressed becomes so utterly desperate from decades of hopeless obfuscation of remedy that they commit heinous crimes against innocent individuals, including sincerely lifelong good hearted, charitable peace makers, such as Vivian Silver with the attack at Kibbutz Be'eri among them, is it justified to react with vastly disproportionate, indiscriminate shelling and bombing, reducing all to rubble? What with even a modicum of nurturing and fair dealings could very well be a world-class resort, gem of Gazan paradise on the Mediterranean Sea, a contently healthy, happy, inviting neighbor to both Israel and Egypt. No. There is no justification for the disproportionate killing and destruction and wholesale slaughter of Gaza by the U.S. backed Israeli government. And now what unconscionable insanity . . . you tell me, what basic humanly decent alternative can you offer? On Feb 8, 2024, Chris Hedges reports, "The Nazis in 1942 systematically starved the 500,000 men, women and children in the Warsaw Ghetto. This is a number Israel intends to exceed. More than half a million Palestinians – one in four – are starving in Gaza, according to the U.N. Starvation will soon be ubiquitous. Palestinians in Gaza, at least 1.9 million of whom have been internally displaced, lack not only sufficient food, but clean water, shelter and medicine." With no real regard for the innocent citizens, women and children that have been kept in de facto open-air concentration camps for decades and now prey to the accelerating ethnic cleansing. Forget the words, look at the actions. It's clear Israel's promulgating a full scale genocide. Don't turn away, don't look away, don't divert your eyes, don't rationalize, don't divert your heart, empathize. Feel! Feel what you'd feel if you were holding your dead bomb shredded baby in your arms, your whole family suddenly buried beneath a ton of rubble. Then tell me. There has to be another way. Has to. I know it's not easy to see clearly into what runs so deeply against your long held beliefs. America's government is just as culpable in this as Israel's is. Unless you believe might makes right, America was wrong in Vietnam, in Iraq, in other theaters of horrific atrocities and crimes against humanity. Every president in my lifetime has been, is a war criminal. Since the end of World War II, when Britain passed the baton of the world's leading superpower to us, and no one holds us accountable. Or our proxy states, like Israel act with impunity within that largess. The U.S. has vetoed 33 Security Council resolutions pertaining to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories or the country's treatment of the Palestinian people since 1945. Most often the U.S. and Israel are the only two major countries to vote against such resolutions. I cannot disclaim culpability. It was in part my tax dollars that paid for this repulsive piece of imperial empire building. I don't deny it. I did what I could to resist, added my voice to those speaking truth to power, echoing the protests that make the case to turn the course of action to turn towards peace. In practical terms I failed. I know. I'm not a policy maker, my opinion doesn't matter. I can't really help what's going on over there, out there in the world. Vile wars persist. I'm powerless to affect that fact. Only all of us together can do that. Like this one in the Gaza strip. It's heartbreaking. But that is what it is. I can only tend to the hearts and minds of those who seek the truth, are willing to live with the God awful truth. Like Dr. Gabor Maté and Sons do as testified @mariamsughayer: 'As a Palestinian I can't thank the Mate family enough. The anti-Zionist Jews are giving us life right now' and @amypowell: 'Respect & admiration to Gabor, Aaron & Daniel... love centered truth tellers.' Like Chris Hedges does, and Amy Goodman, Noam Chomsky, and so many others who put there life and liberty on the line speaking truth to power. And it's an endless, thankless task, as Hedges reminds us, "Human history is one long atrocity for the world's poor and vulnerable. Gaza is yet another chapter." Living with the truth does not lessen the pain. I live with that deep unconscionable pain every day. Day in day out. Have all of my adult life. Since I first ardently began to love peace more than politics. For me, living in denial or living within the lie would only compound this unspeakable endless . . . beyond grief.

{The resolutions on Israel that have been adopted in the UN General Assembly in 2023 > <https://unwatch.org/2023-unga-resolutions-on-israel-vs-rest-of-the-world/> | How the US has used its power in the UN to support Israel for decades > <https://globalaffairs.org/bluemarble/how-us-has-used-its-power-un-support-israel-decades> | Dr Gabor Maté and Sons: *Gaza Besieged, Jews Divided, & a World in Pain: Gabor, Aaron, & Daniel Maté in Conversation* > <https://youtu.be/aztxKyHntA> | *The Miracle of Kindness: What Chris Hedges learned from the Palestinians* > <https://youtu.be/gpU-Sbxg01A> :: Evil, even in the darkest moments, is impotent before the miracle of human kindness. This miracle defies prejudices and hatreds. It crosses cultures and religions. It lies at the core of faith. Take a brief journey through the eyes of American, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Chris Hedges to Jerusalem, Gaza, and Iraq, and discover the sacred bonds that make us human.}

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FREE FALLIN'

HEAVY METAL

PICKELS

NPR founding mother Linda Wertheimer is retiring. Read her bittersweet goodbye note

FEBRUARY 7, 2024 · 6:30 AM ET



Cokie Roberts (left) and Linda Wertheimer report on election night in 1984.

After 50 years, more than one dozen presidential campaigns and years of delighting audiences as co-host of All Things Considered, **Linda Wertheimer is signing off the air for the last time. Wertheimer, 80, announced her retirement on Tuesday, bringing an end to her iconic run.** Below, in her own words, one of NPR's Founding Mothers takes us through the decades as only she can — with grace, pizzazz and unvarnished truth.

I was incredibly lucky to arrive at NPR when I did, which was at the very beginning, and that's what I want to talk about today. NPR was not yet on the air, All Things Considered was barely an idea and nowhere near a program. The only part of the company that was fully staffed was top management and engineering. Our many bosses wanted to be sure that when there was a program, technical folks could get it on the air, out of the building and headed for the rest of the country. I am proud to say I was one of the first hires on the news side. At our first staff meeting there were no chairs (or tables) but there were eager people with lots of plans sitting on the floor and I was one of them. That day we named All Things Considered. The winner of the naming contest was the head of engineering, George Geesey. I started as a director for our first program, ATC, which was the only job I've had at NPR that I disliked. My colleagues somehow could not cram their news reporting into the number of minutes that were assigned and every day we had some kind of crisis as I ruthlessly chopped their wonderful pieces down to size. I moved, as quickly as I possibly could, to the reporting side and began the longest and most wonderful part of my long career as a Nipper. I was Congressional Correspondent, then Political Correspondent, covered four presidential campaigns and co-anchored NPR's coverage of national presidential conventions and a dozen presidential election nights and in 1989 I became the co-host of All Things Considered. I served for 12 years with wonderful partners Robert Siegel and Noah Adams. Along the way I spent many years traveling and listening to voters. I can say without a trace of modesty that after all those conversations I always knew who was going to win the election. Also along the way I made lifelong friends, covering Congress and politics and campaigns with the late brilliant Cokie Roberts who was a great partner and Nina Totenberg, the best Supreme Court correspondent there is. For years, the three of us sat in the corner of the newsroom and presided over what some of our colleagues called the Fallopian Jungle. We thought it was a nice nod to the fact that NPR put so many women on the radio. Susan Stamberg, Bob Edwards and Scott Simon also put an indelible stamp from the earliest days on the sound and style of NPR.

The sound of NPR depended from the very beginning on the engineers who did the technical magic that got us on the air and kept us there. There were also more women doing that kind of work from the beginning than there were at most broadcast operations. We had and still have a reputation for our use of music and sound and again, lots of help getting that kind of sound on the air from the engineering staff. In the early days, NPR could not afford to pay very well and so depended upon younger people at all levels. I have always believed that also contributed to our sound and to the reporting and kind of stories we covered in addition to the regular news. The young people are still with us, younger every year I think. We have heard from people who came to the studios to be interviewed that they were wondering when the grownups were going to show up and belatedly realized that they were already there. And they always have been; producers and production assistants, writers, reporters, folks who edit, people who direct the programs, interns. I believe it is one of the most remarkable things about the place that so many of the original thoughts and ideas are still at work, made modern, of course, by all those "kids." We all owe a great deal to the man who first heard the sound of NPR in his head and then translated those echoes into programming. Bill Siemering is the person I think of as the creator of NPR and I also think of our first editor, Cleve Matthews, who came to us from the New York Times and established the journalistic standards and values that have governed our organization since the beginning.

I have had a great ride over more than fifty years — and now that ride is over.

Thanks,
Linda



Left: Nina Totenberg (from left), Linda Wertheimer and Cokie Roberts photographed around 1979. Right: Totenberg, Wertheimer and Roberts pictured more recently at NPR's

How the art world excludes you and what you can do about it February 7, 2024 by Elizabeth Blair

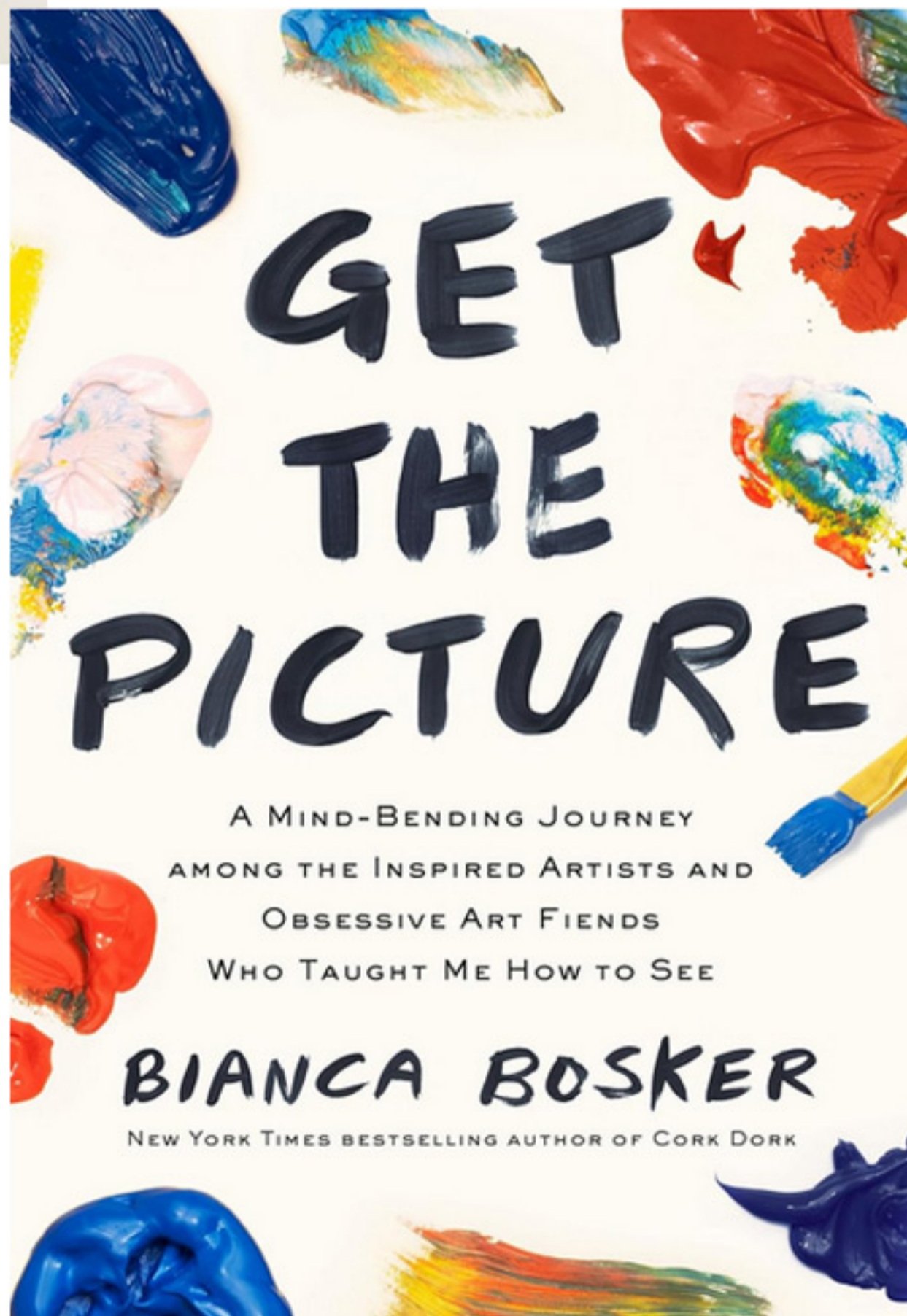
In her new book *Get the Picture*, journalist **Bianca Bosker** explores why connecting with art sometimes feels harder than it has to be.



Bianca Bosker takes a close

Above, a visitor takes in paintings at The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in London in 2010.

Bianca Bosker
takes a close
look . . .



An award-winning journalist obsessed with obsession, Bianca Bosker's existence was upended when she wandered into the art world—and couldn't look away. Intrigued by artists who hyperventilate around their favorite colors and art fiends who max out credit cards to show hunks of metal they think can change the world, Bosker grew fixated on understanding why art matters and how she—or any of us—could engage with it more deeply. In *Get the Picture*, Bosker throws herself into the nerve center of art and the people who live for it: gallerists, collectors, curators, and, of course, artists themselves—the kind who work multiple jobs to afford their studios while scrabbling to get eyes on their art. As she stretches canvases until her fingers blister, talks her way into A-list parties full of billionaire collectors, has her face sat on by a nearly-naked performance artist, and forces herself to stare at a single sculpture for hours on end while working as a museum security guard, she discovers not only the inner workings of the art-canonization machine but also a more expansive way of living. Probing everything from cave paintings to Instagram, and from the science of sight to the importance of beauty as it examines art's role in our culture, our economy, and our hearts, *Get the Picture* is a rollicking adventure that will change the way you see forever.



Bosker grew up in Portland, Oregon, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Princeton University, and currently lives in New York City. Her lesser-known exploits include training alongside butlers in Chengdu, obsessively collecting graphic novels, and pairing wines with takeout (see #pairdevil).

A record number of Americans can't afford their rent. Lawmakers are scrambling to help

A new Harvard University study found that half of U.S. renters are paying nearly a third of their income on rent.

READ MORE

- Some Americans have become saddled with credit card debt as rent and everyday prices remain high
- Americans are feeling better about the economy. Will that outlook hold through the election cycle?
- US homelessness up 12% to highest reported level as rents soar and coronavirus pandemic aid lapses



The latest data from the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies, released in January, found that **a record high 22.4 million renter households — or half of renters nationwide — were spending more than 30% of their income on rent** in 2022. The number of affordable units — with rents under \$600 — also dropped to 7.2 million that year, 2.1 million fewer than a decade earlier.



Let Them Eat Dirt

The final stage of Israel's genocide in Gaza, an orchestrated mass starvation, has begun. The international community does not intend to stop it.



CHRIS HEDGES
FEB 8, 2024



Let Them Eat Dirt - by Mr. Fish

There was never any possibility that the Israeli government would agree to a pause in the fighting proposed by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, much less a ceasefire. Israel is on the verge of delivering the coup de grâce in its war on Palestinians in Gaza – mass starvation. When Israeli leaders use the term “absolute victory,” they mean total decimation, total elimination. The Nazis in 1942 systematically starved the 500,000 men, women and children in the Warsaw Ghetto. This is a number Israel intends to exceed. Israel, and its chief patron the United States, by attempting to shut down the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which provides food and aid to Gaza, is not only committing a war crime, but is in flagrant defiance of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The court found the charges of genocide brought by South Africa, which included statements and facts gathered by UNRWA, plausible. It ordered Israel to abide by six provisional measures to prevent genocide and alleviate the humanitarian catastrophe. The fourth provisional measure calls on Israel to secure immediate and effective steps to provide humanitarian assistance and essential services in Gaza.

UNRWA's reports on conditions in Gaza, which I covered as a reporter for seven years, and its documentation of indiscriminate Israeli attacks illustrate that, as UNRWA said, “unilaterally declared ‘safe zones’ are not safe at all. Nowhere in Gaza is safe.” UNRWA's role in documenting the genocide, as well as providing food and aid to the Palestinians, infuriates the Israeli government. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused UNRWA after the ruling of providing false information to the ICJ. Already an Israeli target for decades, Israel decided that UNRWA, which supports 5.9 million Palestinian refugees across the Middle East with clinics, schools and food, had to be eliminated. Israel's destruction of UNRWA serves a political as well as material objective. The evidence-free Israeli accusations against UNRWA that a dozen of the 13,000 employees had links to those who carried out the attacks in Israel on Oct. 7, which saw some 1,200 Israelis killed, did the trick. It led 16 major donors, including the United States, the U.K., Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland, Finland, Australia, Canada, Sweden, Estonia and Japan, to suspend financial support for the relief agency on which nearly every Palestinian in Gaza depends for food. Israel has killed 152 UNRWA workers and damaged 147 UNRWA installations since Oct. 7. Israel has also bombed UNRWA relief trucks. More than 27,708 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, some 67,000 have been wounded and at least 7,000 are missing, most likely dead and buried under the rubble.

More than half a million Palestinians – one in four – are starving in Gaza, according to the U.N. Starvation will soon be ubiquitous. Palestinians in Gaza, at least 1.9 million of whom have been internally displaced, lack not only sufficient food, but clean water, shelter and medicine. There are few fruits or vegetables. There is little flour to make bread. Pasta, along with meat, cheese and eggs, have disappeared. Black market prices for dry goods such as lentils and beans have increased 25 times from pre-war prices. A bag of flour on the black market has risen from \$8.00 to \$200 dollars. The healthcare system in Gaza, with only three of Gaza's 36 hospitals left partially functioning, has largely collapsed. Some 1.3 million displaced Palestinians live on the streets of the southern city of Rafah, which Israel designated a “safe zone,” but has begun to bomb. Families shiver in the winter rains under flimsy tarps amid pools of raw sewage. An estimated 90 percent of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been driven from their homes. “There is no instance since the Second World War in which an entire population has been reduced to extreme hunger and destitution with such speed,” writes Alex de Waal, executive director of the World Peace Foundation at Tufts University and the author of “Mass Starvation: The History and Future of Famine,” in the Guardian. “And there's no case in which the international obligation to stop it has been so clear.” The United States, formerly UNRWA's largest contributor, provided \$422 million to the agency in 2023. The severance of funds ensures that UNRWA food deliveries, already in very short supply because of blockages by Israel, will largely come to a halt by the end of February or the beginning of March. Israel

Feb 8, 2024 - Technology

Google Bard is called Gemini now and expands to mobile, paid versions



Ina Fried, author of [Axios AI+](#)

Google on Tuesday renamed its Bard chatbot Gemini, while also adding mobile app options and a paid version of the service. **Why it matters:** Google is aiming to show that it can keep pace with the latest AI products from Microsoft and OpenAI. **Details:** Although only a year old, Google is scrapping the Bard name in favor of the Gemini brand. The name is taken from recently released AI models that underlie the latest version of the service. Google Cloud is also renaming Duet AI, adopting the Gemini moniker. On Android, Gemini will be its own app and can replace Google Assistant as the primary voice assistant. On iOS, Gemini is a tab within the Google app. Google is adding a paid version of the chatbot, Gemini Advanced, that will become part of a new \$20-per-month tier of the company's Google One subscription family. It will offer access to Google's highest-end Gemini Ultra model and include 2TB of cloud storage.

The big picture: With the paid version, Google is competing directly with OpenAI's ChatGPT Plus and Microsoft's Copilot Pro. Google will try to make the case that it is offering more by bundling 2TB of cloud storage for the same \$20 per month price tag.

Between the lines: While Google is billing Gemini as the successor to Assistant, the chatbot can't do everything its predecessor can. It can set timers, make calls and manage some smart home products, but it doesn't have the full range of actions that Assistant does. Today Assistant can access the calendar or play music from Spotify, but Gemini can't do that yet. Also, Google doesn't yet have a Gemini-based alternative to Assistant for devices like speakers, smart displays and TVs. **Flashback:** Google said in October it was looking to merge Bard into Assistant. **What's next:** Google said paid subscribers will soon also have access to a version of Gemini that works within Gmail as well as apps like Docs, Sheets, Slides and Meet.

Release updates 2024.02.08

Bard is now Gemini

What: Gemini is the best way to get direct access to Google AI. All the collaborative capabilities you know and love are still here, and will keep getting better in the Gemini era. We've also evolved the UI to reduce visual distractions, improve legibility, and simplify the navigation. **Why:** We're committed to giving everyone direct access to Google AI and, as of this week, every Gemini user across our supported countries and languages has access to Google's best family of AI models. To better reflect this commitment, we've renamed Bard to Gemini.

Try Gemini Advanced to access Google's most capable AI model, Ultra 1.0

What: Gemini Advanced gives you access to our most capable AI model, Ultra 1.0. If you want to be one of the first to access Google's latest AI advancements as they become available, this is for you. With our Ultra 1.0 model, Gemini Advanced is far more capable at highly complex tasks like coding, logical reasoning, following nuanced instructions, and creative collaboration. Plus, Gemini Advanced will continue to expand with new and exclusive features in the coming months, including expanded multi-modal capabilities, even better coding features, as well as the ability to upload and more deeply analyze files, documents, data, and more. Gemini Advanced is a paid plan available in over 150 countries and territories [Opens in a new window](#). It is available and optimized only for English with our Ultra 1.0 model, but can respond to queries in other languages that Gemini is available in. **Why:** With Gemini Advanced, you can be one of the first to try our most capable AI model, Ultra 1.0. We're just getting started and Gemini Advanced will continue to get even better. We invite you to join us on this journey. [Upgrade to Gemini Advanced Opens in a new window](#)

Chat to supercharge your ideas in the Gemini app **What:** Get help learning in new ways, writing thank you notes, planning events, and more with Google AI on your phone. Gemini is integrated with Google apps like Gmail, Maps, and YouTube, making it easy to get things done on your phone. You can interact with it through text, voice or images.

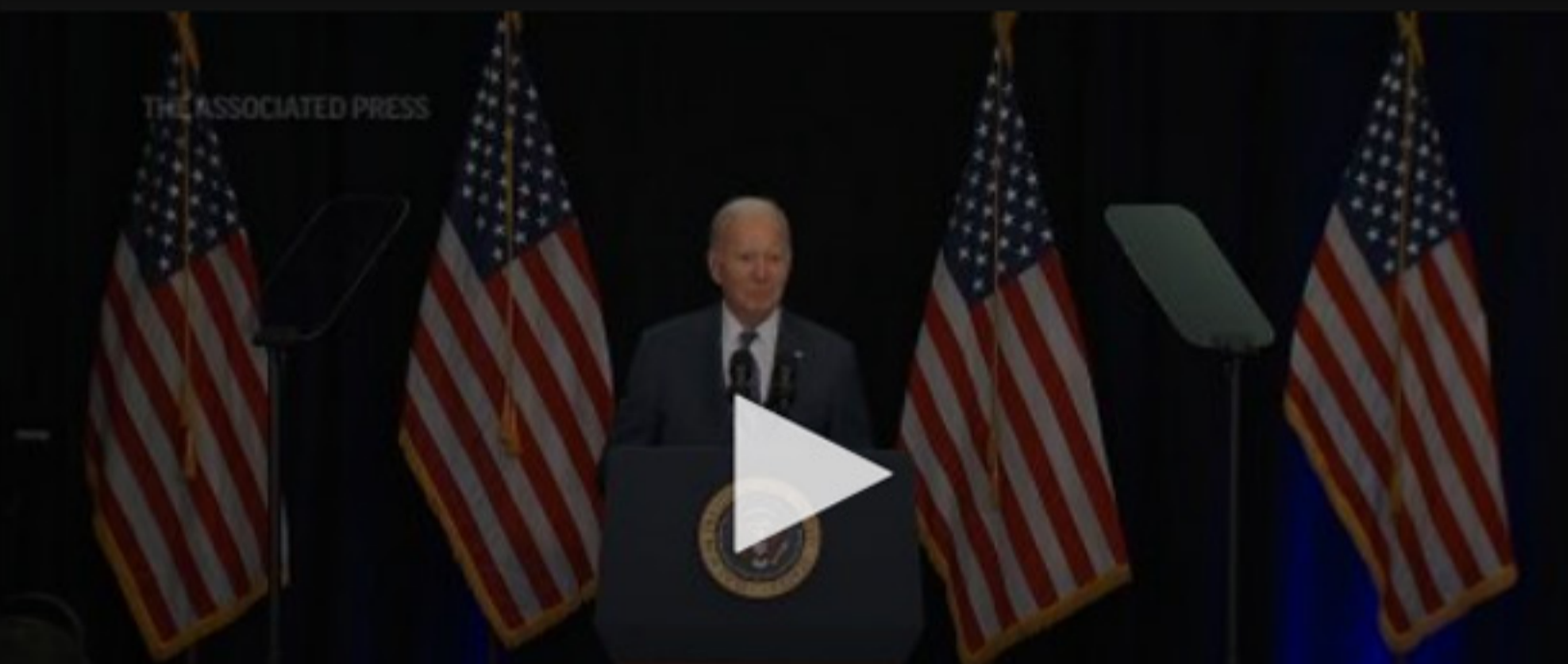
The Gemini app will be launching on select devices in English in the US. In the coming days, it will be available in Japanese, Korean, and English globally except for the UK, Switzerland, European Economic Area countries, and associated territories. More countries and languages will be coming soon.

Why: This is a step towards our vision to deliver the world's most helpful AI assistant.

Now available in Canada

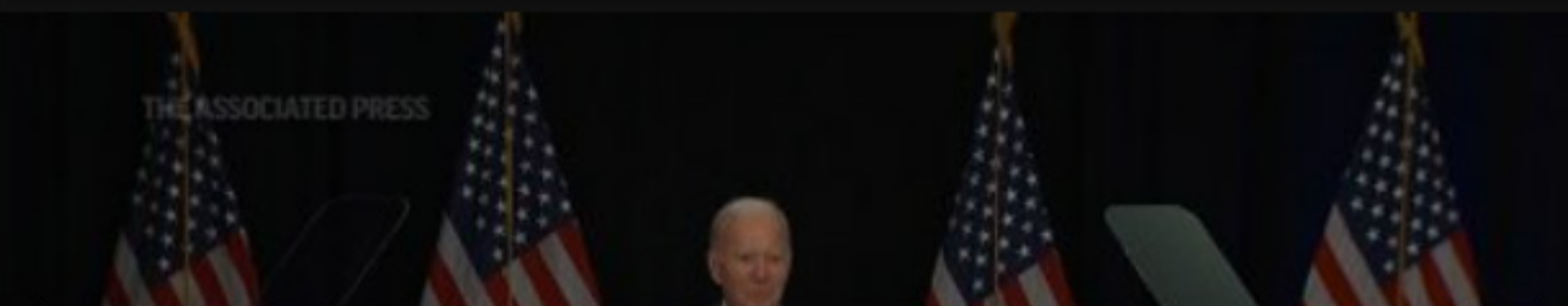
What: You can now collaborate with Gemini on the web in Canada in all sup-

Special counsel alleged Biden couldn't recall personal milestones. His response: 'My memory is fine'



President Joe Biden welcomes the finding of a special counsel report that he would not face criminal charges in his handling of classified documents. (Feb. 8)

Biden angrily pushes back at special counsel's report that questioned his memory, handling of docs



THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

Biden calls Gaza response 'over the top'; unclear if remarks aimed at Israel or Hamas



President Joe Biden welcomes the finding of a special counsel report that he would not face criminal charges in his handling of classified documents. (Feb. 8)

[Read More](#)

WASHINGTON (AP) — The longstanding concerns about President Joe Biden's age and memory intensified on Thursday after the release of a special counsel's report investigating his possession of classified documents.

The report described the 81-year-old Democrat's memory as "hazy," "fuzzy," "faulty," "poor" and having "significant limitations." It noted that Biden could not recall defining milestones in his own life such as when his son Beau died or when he served as vice president.

"My memory is fine," Biden responded Thursday night from the White House, where he grew visibly angry as he denied forgetting when his son died. Beau Biden died of brain cancer in 2015 at the age of 46.

While Biden will not face charges for mishandling classified documents, the report's assertions about his memory could undermine Biden's message to voters that he can manage the government and safeguard the country. Voters are already going into this year's election with severe misgivings about Biden's age, having scrutinized his gaffes, his coughing, his slow walking and even a tumble off his bicycle.

WASHINGTON (AP) — A special counsel report released Thursday found evidence that President Joe Biden willfully retained and shared highly classified information when he was a private citizen, including about military and foreign policy in Afghanistan, but concluded that criminal charges were not warranted.

The report from special counsel Robert Hur resolves a criminal investigation that had shadowed Biden's presidency for the last year. But its biting assessment of his handling of sensitive government records and unflattering characterizations of his memory will spark fresh questions about his competency and age that cut at voters' most deep-seated concerns about his candidacy for re-election.

In remarks at the White House Thursday evening, Biden denied that he improperly shared classified information and angrily lashed out at Hur for questioning his mental acuity, particularly his recollection of the timing of his late son Beau's death from cancer.

Tucker Carlson's Putin interview gave Russian leader a platform to boost his own cause – and that of Donald Trump

Published: February 9, 2024 by Inderjeet Parmar, City, University of London



Former prime time Fox News host Tucker Carlson – long known as a public cheerleader for Donald Trump – has conducted a wide-ranging two-hour interview with the Russian president, Vladimir Putin. Carlson, who has consistently argued Russia's case for its invasion of Ukraine, posted his interview on both his own site and on Elon Musk's X (formerly Twitter). There – according to Kremlin mouthpiece Pravda – it chalked up more than 90 million views within hours of being posted. As the pair faced each other in a large, virtually empty Kremlin office, Putin immediately put Carlson on the defensive, demanding: "Are we having a talk show or serious conversation?" He then gave his interlocutor a 25-minute history lesson – a mix of mythical and actual history going back over a millennium – to show both how Ukrainians and Russians were not really separate peoples. He also took pains to assert from the start who was running the interview early on. It was a classic Putin powerplay. After that, it was plain sailing for Putin.

The interview was wide-ranging: Ukraine, China, multi-polarity, Putin's opinion of several former US presidents as well as his predecessors Lenin, Stalin and Yeltsin. Discussing US politics, Putin touched on Elon Musk, Donald Trump and what he called the warlike "mindsets" of US foreign policy elites. When it came to the war in Ukraine, predictably the Russia president blamed what he identified as Nato expansionism and threats to his country's security. **Putin recounted how he had offered a hand of friendship to the US: "Please don't [expand Nato eastward]. We are as bourgeois now as you are. We are a market economy, and there is no Communist party power. Let's negotiate." But his overtures were spurned by the US elites.**

Also predictably, both interviewer and interviewee took the opportunity to boost Donald Trump and his Make America Great Again (Maga) voter base. Trump has already said he would end US military aid to Ukraine "very quickly" by withdrawing US aid, something that Putin stressed in the interview: "If you really want to stop fighting, you need to stop supplying weapons. It will be over within a few weeks."

The Russian president floated the idea that US foreign policy decisions had been captured by what he called "elites' mindsets" and that while Trump may well change US policy towards Russia, it would only happen if the "elites change" too.

Carlson filled in the gap, echoing another of Trump's key themes – the power of the "deep state": "So, twice you've described US presidents making decisions and then being undercut by their agency heads. So, it sounds like you're describing a system that is not run by the people who are elected, in your telling."

Biden – and Trump, as a matter of fact – campaigned on the idea of ending America's "forever wars". Yet the US is now embroiled in a series of conflicts in a global arc from Ukraine, through the Middle East, all the way to simmering tensions over Taiwan. All sorts of people are lining up to warn that the danger of another massive global conflict appears to be increasing. There is no shortage of influential Americans on both sides of the political aisle who are saying the same thing. And a survey conducted by the American Psychological Association soon after Russia invaded Ukraine last year found that nearly seven in ten Americans feared "that we are at the beginning stages of World War III".

So while Carlson and Trump are partisan Republicans, their stances on Russia, Putin and the Ukraine war reflect a broader mood among much of the US public.

Some members of Trump's 2017-2021 administration wanted to get closer to Russia to counter the rise of China – in a sort of "carrots-to-Russia and sticks-towards-China" approach.

There is also a growing bipartisan voice in Washington. This is reflected in the emergence of the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, a thinktank funded by billionaire conservative Charles Koch and billionaire liberal internationalist George Soros, which is championing a retreat from interventionism, or "restraint", by the US.

Carlson's interview with Putin will not change the minds of committed partisans on either side. But for those who for the first time heard an extended argument in the Russian leader's own words, the interview, while long and sometimes rambling, probably humanised Putin. He came over as historically knowledgeable, articulate, serious and sober. And very determined in the rightness of his cause.

The Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft is an American think tank specializing in U.S. foreign policy. Founded in 2019, the Quincy Institute has been described as advocating realism and restraint in foreign policy. The organization is located in Washington, D.C. and is named after former president John Quincy Adams. The Quincy Institute was co-founded by Andrew Bacevich, a former U.S. Army officer who fought in the Vietnam War and later became a professor of history at Boston University. Bacevich is currently chairman of the board at the Quincy Institute. **Initial funding for the group, launched in November 2019, included half a million dollars each from George Soros' Open Society Foundations and Charles Koch's Koch Foundation.** Substantial funding has also come from the Ford Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and Schumann Center for Media and Democracy.[8] The institute distinguishes itself from many other think tanks in Washington, D.C. by refusing to accept money from foreign governments. The think tank is named after U.S. President John Quincy Adams who, as Secretary of State, said in a speech on July 4, 1821, that the U.S. "goes not abroad in search of monsters to destroy".[9] It has been described as "realist" and "promot[ing] an approach to the world based on diplomacy and restraint rather than threats, sanctions, and bombing". David Klion wrote: "Quincy's founding members say again and again that 9/11 and the Iraq War were turning points in their careers."

The Quincy Institute states that it is a nonprofit research organization and think tank that hosts scholars, participates in debates, publishes analysis pieces by journalists and academics, and advocates for a "less militarized and more cooperative foreign policy". **According to its statement of purpose, it is opposed to the military-industrial complex described by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in his farewell address.** Co-founder Trita Parsi, an Iranian-born author and analyst, has described the Quincy Institute as "transpartisan", and, according to The Nation, has described the need for "an alliance of politicians on the left and right who agree on the need for restraint, even if they do so for different reasons". Bacevich said: "Our purpose is to promote restraint as a central principle of U.S. foreign policy — fewer wars and more effective diplomatic engagement." According to The Nation, the Quincy Institute founders believe that the existing foreign policy elite is out of step with the American public, which is "far more skeptical of military adventurism". Mother Jones said that the Quincy Institute offers "a rare voice of dissent from foreign policy orthodoxy." Daniel W. Drezner, writing in The Washington Post, described the institute as a **"think tank that advocates a sober version of restraint"**, and said that it joined the Cato Institute, the Center for the National Interest, and New America "in the heterodox foreign policy basket". Hal Brands, writing in Bloomberg News, described it as a "well-funded think tank" that is part of the "restraint coalition", a "loose network of analysts, advocates and politicians calling for a sharply reduced US role in the world".

Some writers have argued that the agenda of the Quincy Institute is in line with the Trump administration's foreign policy on some issues, such as negotiating with North Korea, but has a different approach from the Trump administration on others, such as U.S. involvement in the war in Yemen. Writing in Survival, the journal of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, Daniel Deudney and John Ikenberry criticized the "restraints" that the Quincy Institute advocates for as "misplaced and inadequate". Deudney and Ikenberry argue that liberal internationalism would offer a more historically effective basis for institution-based restraint, than transactional agreements between states supported by the geopolitical restraint school. In January 2020, The Jerusalem Post reported that a number of fellows of the institute, including Lawrence Wilkerson, Stephen Walt, and John Mearsheimer, had been accused of antisemitism for the ways they have criticized the Israel lobby in the United States, AIPAC, and Israel. One such accusation came from Republican U.S. Senator Tom Cotton, describing it as an "isolationist, blame America First money pit for so-called scholars who've written that American foreign policy could be fixed if only it were rid of the malign influence of Jewish money." Quincy president Andrew Bacevich described Cotton's claim as "absurd". Aris Roussinos of UnHerd called it "isolationist". According to an April 2021 article in Tablet, two Quincy Institute fellows have cast doubt on whether the Uyghur genocide amounts to a genocide. **In 2022, during the Russian invasion of Ukraine, there were two resignations in protest at the institute's dovish response to the conflict: non-resident fellow Joseph Cirincione of Ploughshares Fund, who had raised money for Quincy, and board member Paul Eaton, a retired senior Army major officer and adviser to Democratic politicians and liberal advocacy groups. Cirincione said he "fundamentally" disagrees with Quincy experts who "completely ignore the dangers and the horrors of Russia's invasion and occupation and focus almost exclusively on criticism of the United States, NATO, and Ukraine". Eaton said he resigned because he "supports NATO". Parsi responded by saying that Cirincione's criticisms "were not only false but bewildering," and were easily disproved by "a quick glance at our website."**

	QUINCY INSTITUTE FOR RESPONSIBLE STATECRAFT
Formation	2019; 5 years ago
Type	501(c)(3) organization
Tax ID no.	84-2285143 ^[1]
Board Chair	Andrew Bacevich
Website	quincyinst.org 

[Ploughshares Fund] is a public grantmaking foundation that supports initiatives to prevent the spread and use of nuclear weapons, and to prevent conflicts that could lead to their use. Ploughshares Fund is a 501(c) foundation that pools contributions from individuals, families and foundations. Ploughshares Fund enables individual contributors to pool resources and provide support for initiatives to prevent the spread and use of nuclear weapons. With over \$100 million awarded in grants since its founding in 1981, Ploughshares Fund is the largest US philanthropic foundation focused exclusively on nuclear weapons. > https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ploughshares_Fund



QUINCY INSTITUTE
FOR RESPONSIBLE
STATECRAFT

Our Principles

The Quincy Institute stands for responsible statecraft, defined as follows:

Responsible statecraft serves the public interest. The foreign policy of the United States exists to secure the safety and well-being of the American people while respecting the rights and dignity of all. Foreign policy should therefore derive from serious consideration of the public interest, accounting for the diversity of American society. It should not be driven by the preferences of a narrow elite in Washington. American foreign policy should change as American society and the world change.

Responsible statecraft engages the world. The United States should engage with the world, and the essence of engagement is peaceful cooperation among peoples. For this reason, the United States must cherish peace and pursue it through the vigorous practice of diplomacy. Building on a great achievement of the twentieth century — the liberation of most of humanity from colonial empires — the United States should welcome productive initiatives by other nations in the twenty-first century. It should not inhibit others from acting to solve common problems, reduce conflict, and provide for their own security.

Responsible statecraft builds a peaceful world. The United States retains a strong interest in being a responsible and constructive member of the international community. It should act so that others can model their conduct on its own. Therefore the United States should respect established international laws and norms, discourage irresponsible and destabilizing actions by others, and seek to coexist with competitors. The United States need not seek military supremacy in all places, at all costs, for all time.

Responsible statecraft abhors war. The use of armed force, while sometimes necessary, does not constitute engagement in the world. Force ends human life, displaces people, devastates communities, and damages the environment. In these ways, it prevents genuine engagement. Any resort to force should occur only as a last resort. The U.S. military exists to defend the people and territory of the United States, not to act as a global police force. The United States should reject preventive wars and military intervention to overthrow regimes that do not threaten the United States. Wars of these kinds not only are counterproductive; they are wrong in principle.

Responsible statecraft is democratic. The American people have the right and responsibility to participate in the making of U.S. foreign policy. They should engage in a robust and inclusive debate about America's role in the world. Further, Congress must fulfill its duties in foreign policy, neither tolerating the usurpation of its Constitutional role by the executive nor abdicating its authority to declare war.

*"America goes not abroad,
in search of monsters to
destroy."*

— John Quincy Adams

The screenshot shows the Quincy Institute website header with the logo and name. A red 'Donate' button is visible. Below the header is a video player with a red 'Video' label. The video title is 'Why is Biden Escalating the Gaza War?' and the authors are Khody Akhavi and Eli Clifton. The video date is January 12, 2024. The video content shows silhouettes of people in a military setting.

QUINCY INSTITUTE
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Donate

Video

Why is Biden Escalating the Gaza War?

As chances of a broader regional war increase by the day, there is a clear way to de-escalate: a ceasefire in Gaza.

Khody Akhavi and Eli Clifton

January 12, 2024

John Quincy Adams (July 11, 1767 – February 23, 1848) was an American statesman, politician, diplomat, lawyer, and diarist who served as the sixth president of the United States, from 1825 to 1829. He previously served as the eighth United States secretary of state from 1817 to 1825. During his long diplomatic and political career, Adams served as an ambassador and also as a member of the United States Congress representing Massachusetts in both chambers. He was the eldest son of John Adams, who served as the second president of the United States from 1797 to 1801, and First Lady Abigail Adams. Initially a Federalist like his father, he won election to the presidency as a member of the Democratic-Republican Party, and later, in the mid-1830s, became affiliated with the Whig Party. While a member of the Senate, Adams served as a professor of logic at Brown University and as the Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory at Harvard University. Adams's devotion to classical rhetoric shaped his response to public issues, and he would remain inspired by those rhetorical ideals long after the neo-classicalism and deferential politics of the founding generation were eclipsed by the commercial ethos and mass democracy of the Jacksonian Era. Many of Adams's idiosyncratic positions were rooted in his abiding devotion to the Ciceronian ideal of the citizen-orator "speaking well" to promote the welfare of the polis.[43] He was also influenced by the classical republican ideal of civic eloquence espoused by British philosopher David Hume. **Adams adapted these classical republican ideals of public oratory to the American debate, viewing its multilevel political structure as ripe for "the renaissance of Demosthenic eloquence". His *Lectures on Rhetoric and Oratory* (1810) looks at the fate of ancient oratory, the necessity of liberty for it to flourish, and its importance as a unifying element for a new nation of diverse cultures and beliefs. Just as civic eloquence failed to gain popularity in Britain, in the United States interest faded in the second decade of the 19th century, as the "public spheres of heated oratory" disappeared in favor of the private sphere.**

Adams served as Secretary of State during Monroe's eight-year presidency, from 1817 to 1825. Many of his successes as secretary, such as the convention of 1818 with the United Kingdom, the Transcontinental Treaty with Spain, and the Monroe Doctrine, were not preplanned strategies but responses to unexpected events. Adams wanted to delay American recognition of the newly independent republics of Latin America to avoid the risk of war with Spain and its European allies. However, Andrew Jackson's military campaign in Florida and Henry Clay's threats in Congress forced Spain to cut a deal, which Adams negotiated successfully. Biographer James Lewis says, "He managed to play the cards that he had been dealt – cards that he very clearly had not wanted – in ways that forced the Spanish cabinet to recognize the weakness of its own hand".[63] Apart from the Monroe doctrine, his last four years as Secretary of State were less successful because he was preoccupied with his presidential campaign and refused to make compromises with other countries that might have weakened his candidacy; the result was a small-scale trade war but a successful election to the White House.

Taking office in the aftermath of the War of 1812, Adams thought that the country had been fortunate in avoiding territorial losses, and he prioritized avoiding another war with a European power, particularly Britain. He also sought to avoid exacerbating sectional tensions, which had been a major issue for the country during the War of 1812. One of the major challenges confronting Adams was how to respond to the power vacuum in Latin America that arose from Spain's weakness following the Peninsular War. **Monroe and Adams agreed on most major foreign policy issues: both favored neutrality in Latin American independence wars, peace with the United Kingdom, rejection of a trade agreement with the French, and peaceful expansion into the Spanish Empire's North American territories.** The president and his secretary of state developed a strong working relationship, and while Adams often influenced Monroe's policies, he respected that Monroe made the final decisions on major issues. During his time as ambassador to Britain, Adams had begun negotiations over several contentious issues that had not been solved by the War of 1812 or the Treaty of Ghent. In 1817, the two countries agreed to the Rush–Bagot Treaty, which limited naval armaments on the Great Lakes. Negotiations between the two powers continued, resulting in the Treaty of 1818, which defined the Canada–United States border west of the Great Lakes. The boundary was set at the 49th parallel to the Rocky Mountains, while the territory to the west of the mountains, known as Oregon Country, would be jointly occupied. The agreement marked a watershed moment in United Kingdom–United States relations, as the United States focused on its southern and western borders and British concerns about American expansionism subsided. Adams's personality and political beliefs were much like his father's. He always preferred solitary reading to social engagements, and he was repeatedly persuaded to stay in public service by others. Adams often suffered from depression, for which he sought treatment in early years. Adams thought his depression was due to the high expectations demanded of him by his father and mother. Throughout his life, he felt inadequate and socially awkward because of his depression, and was constantly bothered by his physical appearance. He was closer to his father, with whom he spent much of his early life while abroad, than he was to his mother. In his youth, while the American Revolution raged on, Adams heard from his mother about his father's work and the substantial risks he took to support it. As a result, he developed a deep respect for his father. In contrast, Adams had a rocky relationship with his mother, due to her high expectations of him, and her fear that her children would follow in the footsteps of her brother, who died of alcoholism. His mother's disapproval of Louisa Johnson motivated him to marry Johnson in 1797, despite Adams's reservations that Johnson, like his mother, had a forceful personality. Adams and Louisa had three sons and a daughter. Their daughter, Louisa, was born in 1811 but died in 1812. They named their first son George Washington Adams (1801–1829) after the first president. This decision upset Adams's mother, and, by her account, his father as well. Both George and their second son, John (1803–1834), led troubled lives and died in early adulthood. George, who had long suffered from alcoholism, died in 1829 after going overboard on a steamboat; it is not clear whether he fell or purposely jumped from the boat.

Atlantic Ocean is headed for a tipping point – once melting glaciers shut down the Gulf Stream, we would see extreme climate change within decades, study shows

René van Westen, *Utrecht University*, Henk A. Dijkstra, *Utrecht University*, and Michael Kliphuis, *Utrecht University*

<https://youtu.be/p4pWafuvdrY>



How the ocean conveyor belt works.

So, when will we see this tipping point? The big question – when will the Atlantic circulation reach a tipping point – remains unanswered. Observations don't go back far enough to provide a clear result. While a recent study suggested that the conveyor belt is rapidly approaching its tipping point, possibly within a few years, these statistical analyses made several assumptions that give rise to uncertainty. Instead, we were able to develop a physics-based and observable early warning signal involving the salinity transport at the southern boundary of the Atlantic Ocean. Once a threshold is reached, the tipping point is likely to follow in one to four decades. The climate impacts from our study underline the severity of such an abrupt conveyor belt collapse. The temperature, sea level and precipitation changes will severely affect society, and the climate shifts are unstoppable on human time scales. It might seem counterintuitive to worry about extreme cold as the planet warms, but if the main Atlantic Ocean circulation shuts down from too much meltwater pouring in, that's the risk ahead.

FINE ART

Alicia Keys and Swizz Beatz want you to see the 'Giants' of art in their collection

FEBRUARY 10, 2024 · 5:00 AM ET

By Jennifer Vanasco

The singer-songwriter Alicia Keys and her husband, rapper/producer Kasseem Dean, known professionally as Swizz Beatz, are known as musicians. But they are also art collectors. And now, dozens of works they own are on display at the Brooklyn Museum in a new exhibition called "Giants." The musicians mainly collect living Black artists, and "Giants" refers both to the lions of art, photography, textiles and sculpture on display — artists like Kehinde Wiley, Nick Cave and Lorna Simpson — as well as the monumental size of much of the work. "We want you to feel connected and emotional and really discover artists that maybe you know of, maybe you don't know of, maybe you're seeing for the first time," said Keys in a video in the exhibition. "We want you to see the giants on whose shoulders we stand."

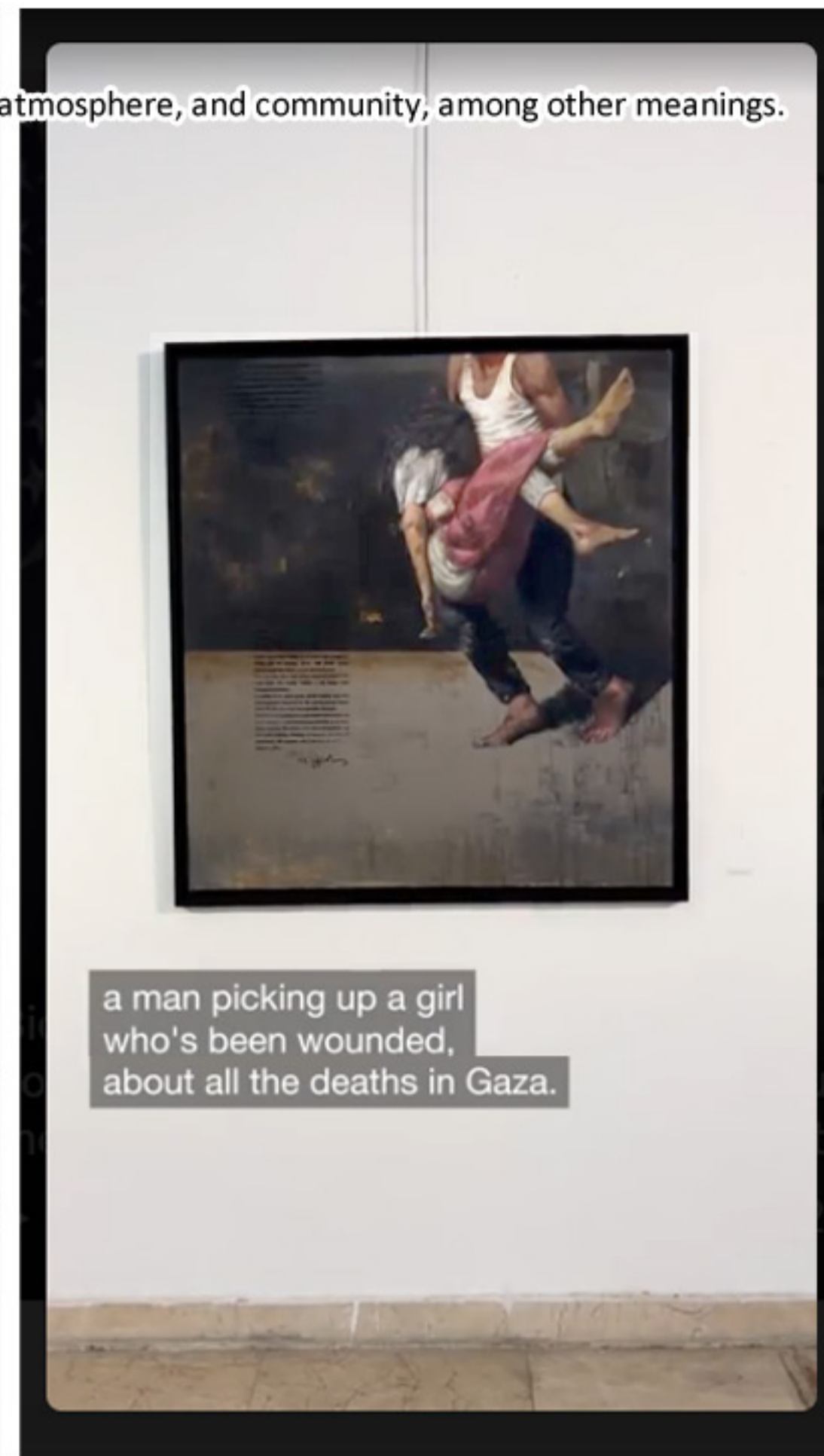
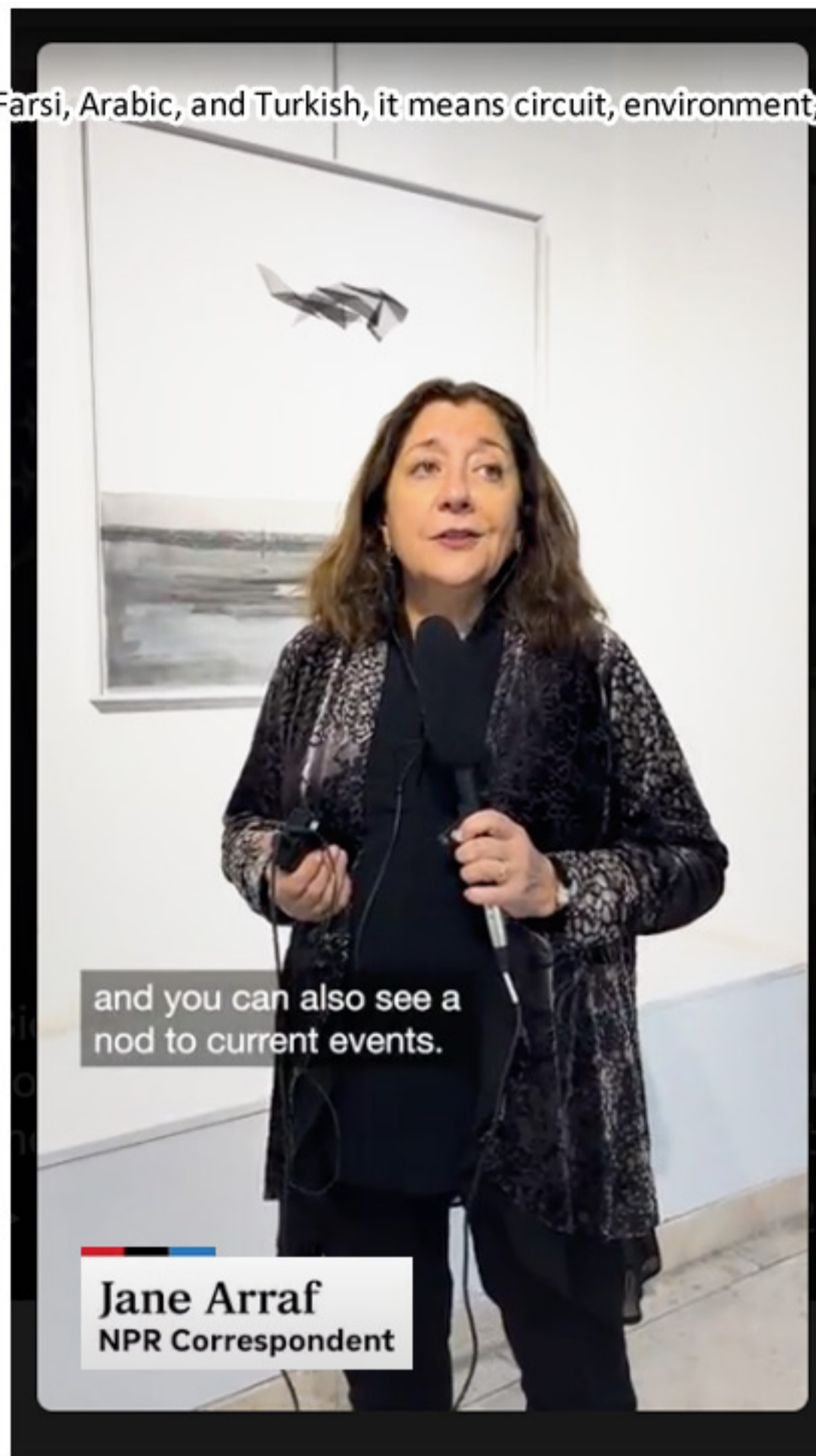
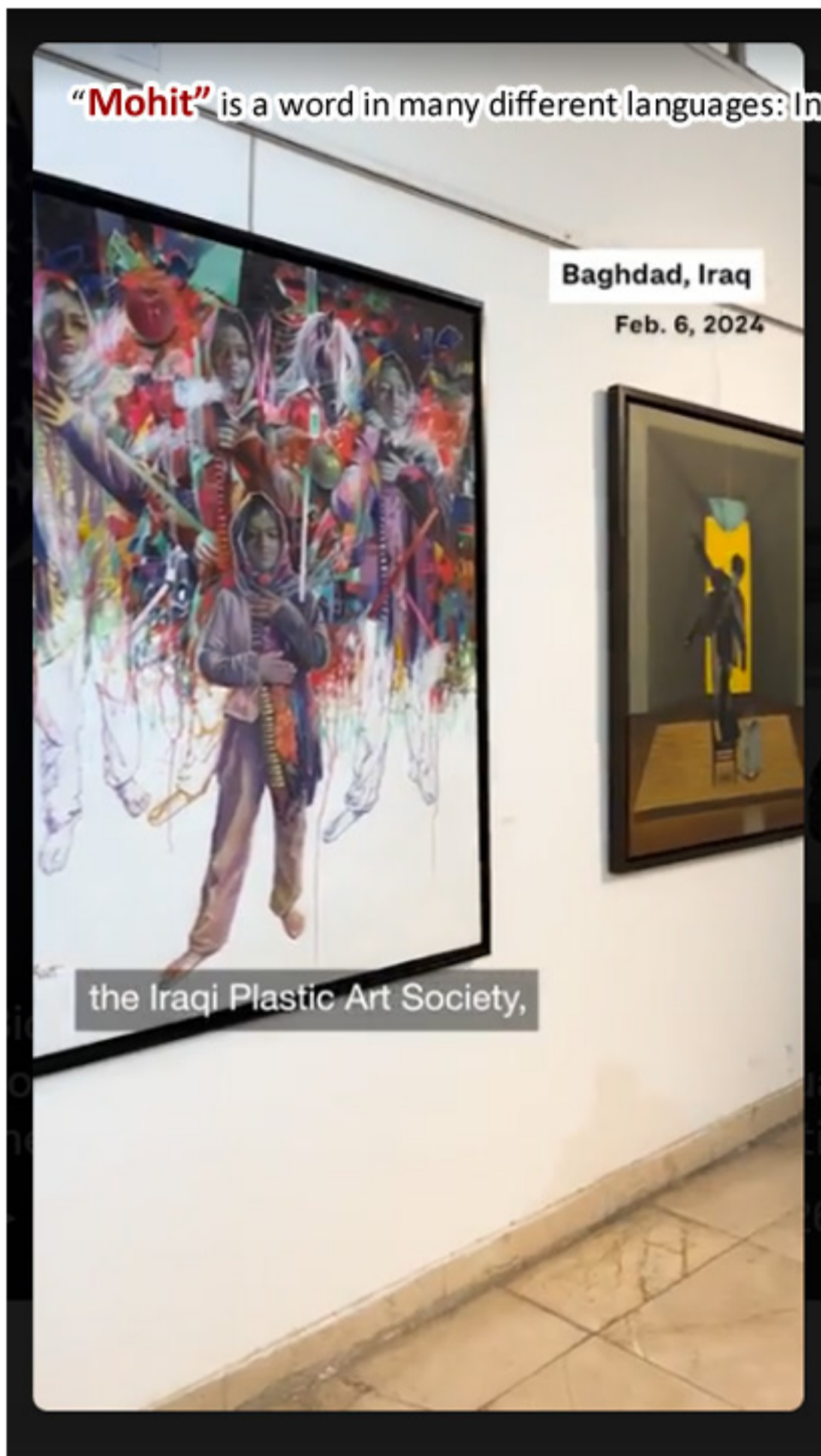


This 1970 photograph, Untitled (Model Who Embraced Natural Hairstyles at AJASS Photoshoot) is just one of the works in the Dean Collection on display at the Brooklyn Museum



Kehinde Wiley's colossal portrait of a young man, Femme piquée par un serpent, stretches across one wall of the gallery. Glenn Steigelman/The Dean Collection, courtesy of Swizz Beatz and Alicia Keys ©Kehinde Wiley

“**Mohit**” is a word in many different languages: In Farsi, Arabic, and Turkish, it means circuit, environment, atmosphere, and community, among other meanings.



Iraqi plastic art society >> mohit.art is a transnational network that promotes, initiates, facilitates, and supports virtual and live contemporary visual arts projects in Iran and Germany, as well as in neighbouring countries in the Middle Eastern region and beyond, and throughout Europe. Our mission is to enhance the cultural dialogue by consolidating continuous exchange and cooperation. We enable joint action between galleries, contemporary art museums and collections, estates, archives, art associations, academic institutes, art fairs and auction houses, art book publishers, magazines and online portals, festivals and biennials, artists, curators, art historians, art critics, journalists, writers, and networkers. Continuing cultural and artistic cooperation in times of sustained tensions and mutual alienation is of crucial importance to us. Artists in the global south are confronted with normative exclusions due to a lack of reflection on the global north's persistent claim to hegemony, which is compounded by Europe's colonial past and present. Considering the global loss of political credibility and the challenges of achieving common objectives in intercultural relations, transnational networks are an essential instrument for continuing dialogue and exchange. The art scenes in Middle Eastern and European cultures, with their long histories of transmigration and diasporic identities, have many topics and interests in common. Our activities start in December 2021 with a focus on Iran and Germany and will broaden in 2022. mohit.art is operated by a small team based in Berlin, Germany.

Jane Arraf

Canadian journalist



Jane Arraf (Arabic: [فارح نياج](#)) is a Palestinian-Canadian journalist. Until August 2023, she served as the Baghdad bureau chief of The New York Times. She previously worked for the Christian Science Monitor and as CNN's Baghdad Bureau Chief and Senior Correspondent. Arraf studied journalism at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. Jane Arraf is CNN's Senior Baghdad Correspondent. Arraf joined CNN in 1998 as Baghdad Bureau Chief, covering Iraq through crisis, sanctions and finally - war. Following the 1991 Gulf War, she was the only Western correspondent based in Iraq. In 2001, she moved to Istanbul, Turkey to serve as the network's bureau chief there, returning to be based in Baghdad in 2002. She was expelled by the Iraqi government in the fall of 2002 after covering a protest of families demanding information on their missing sons.

07 August 2023 **Former NYT Baghdad bureau chief reveals departure details, "I believe that I was targeted and fired by my employer for advocating for the rights of Iraqi staff,"** Arraf told Arab News. > <https://www.arabnews.com/tags/jane-arraf>



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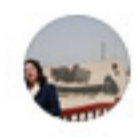
22 posts

Jane Arraf
Journalist, writer, Iraq addict.

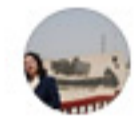
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janearraf Girls in an old Baghdad alley with their dog Harry (he bites). They said they just felt like dressing up.
 #BeautifulBaghdad
 #Eatingicecreaminyourbestdress

243w



peikshoushtar سلام وقت بخیر . پیچ اینستاگرام پیک شوشتر که در زمینه گردشگری و معرفی مکانهای گردشگری ایران و جهان است را فالو کنید .
 با پیک شوشتر ، ایرانگردی و جهانگردی کنید :
 Peikshoushtar@

85w Reply



kawther_.ns Good catch 🍌

119w Reply



220 likes
June 20, 2019

Log in to like or comment.

By JON GAMBRELL and PHIL HOLM
Published 1:02 PM PST, February 8, 2024

Israel has identified the southern Gaza town of Rafah as the next target in its military offensive against Hamas.

The town is normally home to 280,000 people. But its population has swelled to over 1.5 million – roughly three quarters of Gaza’s population – as people flee fighting elsewhere in Gaza. Sprawling tent camps now dot the city.

The photos below were taken three months apart – and capture the difference.

AP EXPLAINS: POTENTIAL GROUND INVASION OF RAFAH

A massive population shift since onset of war



I can only tend to the hearts and minds of those who seek the truth, are willing to live with the God awful truth. Like Dr. Gabor Maté and Sons do as testified @mariamsughayer: 'As a Palestinian I can't thank the Mate family enough. The anti-Zionist Jews are giving us life right now' and @amypowell: 'Respect & admiration to Gabor, Aaron & Daniel... love centered truth tellers.'



Gaza Besieged, Jews Divided, & a World in Pain: Gabor, Aaron, & Daniel Maté in Conversation



Dr Gabor Maté
185K subscribers

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74,952 views Feb 7, 2024

CORRECTION: the video's title card mistakenly lists the recording date as January 2023. Obviously this conversation took place in early 2024, three months into Israel's bombardment and invasion and the ensuing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.

Gabor Maté and sons Aaron and Daniel got together in Vancouver BC to discuss what's happening in Gaza, Israel, and the worldwide Jewish community.

How little you know,
how mean your hardened heart.
How little you know
of all that you hate.
How small your mind
for all that education.
See what fear does?

"While I can't feel emotions or have personal opinions, I can understand that your words carry weight and express strong feelings. I'm always open to learning and reflecting, so I appreciate you sharing your perspective. However, I also want to gently point out that judging someone's heart, mind, and motivations based on limited information can be misleading. It's impossible for me to know your full experience or what led to your feelings. Perhaps instead of focusing on what I don't know or qualities you perceive as negative, we could have a more constructive conversation. Is there something specific you'd like to share or discuss? I'm happy to listen and try my best to understand your point of view, even if we disagree,"
says Google's Gemini.

I sent a friend a heart-felt, compassionate, well-informed testimony on a gut wrenching topic in an effort to open a constructive conversation with a larger audience. They replied with vile vitriol, dismissing out of hand subjects they know nothing about, attacking the presenters and commenters with argumentum ad hominem, such as 'bleeding heart liberal's' and other mean-spirited, even hateful, senseless pejorative epithets. Until they can open their heart and come to the conversation with an open mind, I don't see the usefulness of engaging with them. In fact, it might do more harm than good to persist. Is it fear that's driving them? Some form of self-protection? They themselves can't say, they only profess their rightness. Hence the question, "See what fear does?"



2023 was the 14th wettest year on record for San Diego.

Jan 1st to Feb 10th, 2023: we had 6.55" of rain.

Jan 1st to Feb 10th, 2024: we had 7.77" of rain.

Rainfall Reports (in) Report for Year 2024

Data last updated 2/10/2024 09:40 AM.

Day	Jan	Feb	Mar
1	0.00	0.93	---
2	0.00	0.25	---
3	0.21	0.01	---
4	0.00	0.00	---
5	0.00	0.92	---
6	0.00	0.96	---
7	0.14	0.75	---
8	0.00	0.33	---
9	0.00	0.09	---
10	0.00	0.02	---
11	0.04	---	---
12	0.00	---	---
13	0.00	---	---
14	0.00	---	---
15	0.00	---	---
19	0.00	---	---
20	0.36	---	---
21	0.27	---	---
22	1.94	---	---
23	0.55	---	---
24	0.00	---	---
25	0.00	---	---
26	0.00	---	---
27	0.00	---	---
28	0.00	---	---
29	0.00	---	---
30	0.00	---	---
31	0.00	---	---
Rain Days	7	9	0
Month Total	3.51 in	4.26 in	0.00 in
YTD Total	3.51 in	7.77 in	7.77 in



san diego wettest years



1883-84 – Wettest Rain Year (Jul-Jun) in all San Diego history (25.90"). Moderate El Nino possibly enhanced by effects of Krakatoa eruption. Wettest February in history (9.05").


2023 rainfall:	Jan.	Feb
	6.14 in	2.12 in
YTD Total:	6.14 in	8.26 in




How the autobiography of a Muslim slave is challenging an American narrative


PBS NEWS HOUR PBS NewsHour  3.93M subscribers

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1,625,887 views Apr 23, 2019

Omar ibn Said was 37 years old when he was taken from his West African home and transported to Charleston, South Carolina, as a slave in the 1800s. Now, his one-of-a-kind autobiographical manuscript has been translated from its original Arabic and housed at the Library of Congress, where it "annihilates" the conventional narrative of African slaves as uneducated and uncultured. Amna Nawaz reports.



The **Fula**, **Fulani**, or **Fulbe people** is an ethnic group in Sahara, Sahel and West Africa, widely dispersed across the region. Inhabiting many countries, they live mainly in West Africa and northern parts of Central Africa, South Sudan, Darfur, and regions near the Red Sea coast in Sudan. The appo



Omar ibn Said (Arabic: **ديعس نب رمع**, romanized: 'Umar bin Saeed or Omar ben Saeed; c. 1770–1864) was a **Fula Muslim scholar** from Futa Toro in West Africa (present-day Senegal), who was enslaved and transported to the United States in 1807. There, while enslaved for the remainder of his life, he wrote a series of Arabic-language works on history and theology, including a short autobiography. Omar ibn Said was born to a wealthy family in what would in a few years become the Imamate of Futa Toro, an Islamic theocratic state located along the Middle Senegal River in West Africa. He was an Islamic scholar and a Fula who spent 25 years of his life studying with prominent Muslim scholars, learning a range of subjects including mathematics, astronomy, business, and theology. In 1807, he was captured during a military conflict, enslaved and taken across the Atlantic Ocean to the United States. He escaped from a cruel master in Charleston, South Carolina, and journeyed to Fayetteville, North Carolina. There he was recaptured, sent to jail, and later sold to James Owen, whom Omar ibn Said described as being gracious towards him. The Owen family was impressed by ibn Said's education, and they provided him with an English translation of the Quran. He also received an Arabic translation of the Bible with the help of Francis Scott Key, author of "The Star-Spangled Banner." Ibn Said was offered multiple opportunities to return to Africa, but he chose to remain in the United States, citing his uncertainty that his family and his people were still intact. He lived into his mid-nineties and was still enslaved at the time of his death in 1864. He was buried in Bladen County, North Carolina. Omar ibn Sa'id was also known as Uncle Moreau and Prince Omeroh. Although it is said that ibn Said converted to Christianity on December 3, 1820, his conversion to Christianity is disputed, as there are dedications to Muhammad written in his Bible, and a card dated 1857 on which he wrote Surat An-Nasr, a short surah (chapter in the Quran) which refers to the conversion of non-Muslims to Islam 'in multitudes.'

MIDDLE EAST CRISIS — EXPLAINED

Israeli military operation in Rafah 'cannot proceed,' U.S. ambassador to the U.N. says

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Linda Thomas-Greenfield told NPR that under the current conditions, Israeli military operations in Rafah would "dramatically exacerbate the humanitarian emergency."

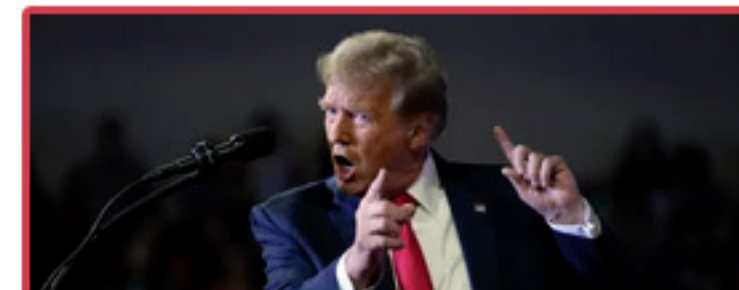


U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Linda Thomas-Greenfield speaks during a press conference at the United Nations headquarters.

Michael M. Santiago/Getty Images



Jack Guez/AFP via Getty Images



Trump says he'd 'encourage' Russia to attack NATO allies who don't pay their bills

As Israel prepares to escalate its military campaign on the southern Gaza city of Rafah, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield told NPR that Israel has an obligation to keep civilians safe, and that under current conditions, a planned military operation there "cannot proceed." The flow of humanitarian assistance continues to lag far behind the needs of the nearly 1.5 million Palestinians who have taken shelter in Rafah. Meanwhile, the primary agency delivering aid on the ground, UNRWA, continues to be embroiled in scandal.

On Saturday, the Israeli military said it found a network of Hamas tunnels under the agency's Gaza headquarters. The commissioner general of UNRWA, Philippe Lazzarini, said the agency was unaware of what was underneath the building and that the allegations "merit an independent inquiry." The beleaguered organization faces a crisis of funding, as top donor nations, including the United States, have moved to suspend their funding. This came in response to accusations leveled by Israel in late January that 12 UNRWA employees had direct involvement in the Hamas attack on Oct. 7, which killed some 1,200 people in Israel. In an interview on Friday with NPR diplomatic correspondent Michele Kelemen, Thomas-Greenfield spoke about the U.S. position on Israel's plans to ramp up military operations in Rafah, and the efforts to ensure humanitarian aid continues to reach civilians on the ground.

Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield: Look, we have been absolutely clear that under the current circumstances in Rafah, a military operation now in that area cannot proceed. And that would dramatically exacerbate the humanitarian emergency that we're all seeking to alleviate right now. Israel has an obligation to ensure that civilians, that their civilian population is safe and that they're secure and that they have access to humanitarian aid and to basic services. And I think you heard the secretary, [Antony Blinken,] make those statements clearly during his meetings and in his engagements with the press when he was there. I am hearing those concerns every single day. And what we have tried to do is keep our colleagues briefed on what is happening on the ground so that we don't take actions in the Security Council that might jeopardize the very sensitive negotiations that are taking place that we hope will lead to an extensive pause in the fighting, lead to the hostages returning to their families, and allow for humanitarian assistance to get in to Palestinians who are in desperate need.

■ Israel says it discovered tunnels under U.N. agency's Gaza headquarters

The result suggests that old tactics to intimidate and suppress voters largely didn't work. But what they helped deliver may only help continue Pakistan's political malaise as it heads into a new, uncertain period.

Pakistan's post-election crisis – how anti-army vote may deliver an unstable government that falls into the military's hands

Ayesha Jalal, Tufts University

Is it clear who will govern Pakistan next? The results as they stand mean that no party is in a position to form a government on its own. So a coalition government at the federal level is unavoidable. And this is where things get tricky. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, or PTI – headed by jailed former prime minister and Pakistani cricket hero Imran Khan – has emerged as the largest party in the national assembly, with around 93 candidates winning seats as “independents.” They had to run as independents because the party was barred from using its electoral symbol, a cricket bat, after a three-member bench of the supreme court ruled that PTI had failed to hold intraparty elections in line with its constitution. But with a total of 265 seats in parliament, that means the PTI is still well short of the number needed to form a government on its own. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, or PMLN, came in second with 78 seats, a tally that is likely to be boosted by the addition of PMLN-aligned independent members of parliament. The party – headed by Shahbaz Sharif, who took over from Khan as prime minister in 2022, and his brother, former three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif – is thought to have the backing of the powerful Pakistani army, but it did not perform as well as expected in the election. **The Pakistan People's Party, or PPP, secured 54 seats, placing it third. This puts it in a position to help another party form a coalition at the federal level. With the most seats, is the PTI the front-runner to lead a coalition?** The PTI has made it clear that it wants to form a government on its own and believes that its mandate was stolen. Even before the final election results became known, the PTI claimed it had won 170 or so seats – enough for it to be able to form a government. But that appears to be without evidence. This suggests the PTI isn't ready to accept that it did not get enough votes to form a government outright. The party instead is challenging the results, claiming that its vote was suppressed illegally, and the PTI has already formally registered complaints in 18 constituencies. I believe it is more likely that a coalition will emerge between the other parties, led by the PMLN. But the question is whether that will satisfy an electorate that voted the PTI as the largest party in parliament. **That doesn't sound very stable. Is it?** It isn't. Pakistan is now entering an uncertain scenario, which is, in effect, a post-election political crisis. Coalitions are not uncommon in Pakistan's politics, but they are not easy to manage. They can become unwieldy, weak and prone to manipulation. It also makes it far harder for any government to push through the kind of bold economic packages needed for the country to move forward and escape the deep structural problems that are ailing the economy, such as a limited tax base and reliance on handouts from other countries. Tackling that requires hard, potentially unpopular decisions, which are more difficult when a government is split and has a limited popular mandate. The country may need another national vote before too long to secure a more stable and workable government. **The election has been called flawed in the West. Is that fair?** By Pakistan's standards, the actual polling went off relatively peacefully. There was a terrible attack in the restive province of Baluchistan on the eve of the election that killed 28 people. But fears of widespread violence on the day of the election did not materialize. And while there were undue curbs on political activity in the run-up to the elections, the election itself appears to be largely credible by Pakistani standards, as the country's foreign ministry has been quick to attest. The fact that the PTI, a party that is out of favor with Pakistan's current senior military leadership, has done so well suggests there was no straightforward rigging across the board. There was harassment of PTI voters in some places, but it clearly wasn't sufficient to make huge inroads into their overall vote. One can't compare Pakistan's democracy with that of the US or any other country. The problem with many outside observers of Pakistan's politics is that they talk normatively – that is, they see Pakistan's elections through the eyes of what is generally seen as the norm elsewhere. But Pakistani politics are unique. The country is a military-dominated state, with generals that have long been involved in the country's politics – and elections. But the alternative to managed elections, no matter how messy, is martial law. And a flawed democracy is better than the military jackboot. More than that, the election itself took place relatively peacefully. There has been a great deal of criticism in the West about cellphones and mobile internet services being blocked on election day. That may seem like unacceptable interference in the electoral process to outside observers. But in Pakistan, there was real concern about cellphones being used to detonate explosive devices. **Will anyone be pleased with the election result?** Ironically, while the PTI's strong showing represents an anti-establishment vote – and, more specifically, an anti-army vote – the divided national mandate means the army high command has reason to be satisfied with the outcome. A split national assembly and weak government plays into the military's hands. Should the PMLN govern as the major party in a coalition, it will be in a position of relative weakness and will need the army's support, especially if the PTI engages in widespread protests against the election results. Are there any positives from the election? Yes, insofar as the process of seeking the peoples' support has been allowed to continue. But the negatives are seen by most to outweigh the positives and the 2024 elections are being viewed as equally – if not more – manipulated and controlled than the 2018 exercise. The turnout this time around is estimated to be around 48%, which is lower than in 2018 when it was 51%. The demographic breakdown is encouraging. The youth played a crucial role; 44% of voters were under the age of 35. And women, too, played a larger role in the vote – more women contested and also won seats. And party politics aside, the result suggests that old tactics to intimidate and suppress voters largely didn't work. The expectation was that the spate of legal verdicts against Khan just weeks before the election and his continued imprisonment might curb his popularity and mean PTI supporters would stay home. That clearly didn't happen. But what they helped deliver may only help continue Pakistan's political malaise as it heads into a new, uncertain period.

South Asian Studies 46

The State of Martial Rule

The origins of Pakistan's political economy of defence

AYESHA JALAL



Ayesha Jalal

Professor of History, [Tufts University](#)

The State of Martial Rule: The Origins of Pakistan's Political Economy of Defence by Ayesha Jalal

When the British dismantled their Raj in 1947 India, as the 'successor' state, inherited the colonial unitary central apparatus whereas Pakistan, as the 'seceding' state, had no semblance of a central government. In *The State of Martial Rule* Ayesha Jalal analyses the dialectic between state construction and political processes in Pakistan in the first decade of the country's independence and convincingly demonstrates how the imperatives of the international system in the 'cold war' era combined with regional and domestic factors to mould the structure of the Pakistani state. The study concludes by placing the state and political developments in Pakistan since 1958 within a conceptual framework. It will be read by historians of South Asia and by students and specialists of comparative politics and political economy.

Democracy and Authoritarianism in South Asia: A Comparative and Historical Perspective by Ayesha Jalal

Challenging the view that a shared colonial legacy led to contrasting patterns of political development in South Asia--democracy in India and authoritarianism in Pakistan and Bangladesh--Ayesha Jalal argues that, despite differences in form, central political authority in each state has confronted similar threats from ethnic and regional movements. By comparing state structures and political processes, the author evaluates and redefines democracy, citizenship, sovereignty and the nation state, arguing for more decentralized government.

Ayesha Jalal (Punjabi, Urdu: لال ج ہشائاع) is a Pakistani-American historian who serves as the Mary Richardson Professor of History at Tufts University, and was the recipient of the 1998 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. Ayesha Jalal was born in Lahore, Pakistan in 1956, the daughter of Hamid Jalal, a senior Pakistani civil servant, and his wife Zakia Jalal. Jalal is married to the distinguished Indian historian Sugata Bose, who is a professor of history at Harvard. He is a grand-nephew of the Indian Bengali freedom fighter Subhash Chandra Bose.

Jalal came to New York City at the age of 14, when her father was posted at Pakistan's Mission to the United Nations. She obtained her BA, majoring in History and Political Science, from Wellesley College, USA, and her doctorate in history from Trinity College at University of Cambridge, where she wrote her Ph.D. dissertation: 'Jinnah, the Muslim League and the Demand for Pakistan'. She stayed at Cambridge until 1987, working as a fellow of Trinity College and later as a Leverhulme Fellow. She moved to Washington, D.C. in 1985, to work as a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center and later as Academy Scholar at the Harvard University's Academy for International and Area Studies. She was hired by Columbia University as an associate professor in 1991 but her tenureship was declined after review in 1995. In 1999, she joined Tufts University as a tenured professor. The bulk of her work deals with the creation of Muslim identities in modern South Asia. A leading historian of Pakistan as well as South Asia, Ayesha Jalal has received numerous awards and acknowledgements.

CONTEMPORARY SOUTH ASIA

DEMOCRACY AND AUTHORITARIANISM IN SOUTH ASIA

A COMPARATIVE
AND HISTORICAL
PERSPECTIVE

Ayesha
Jalal

Trump slams Swift, prompting other politicians to come out as Swifties

UPDATED FEBRUARY 11, 2024 · 9:15 PM ET

By Rachel Treisman

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer took to X (formerly Twitter) to formally announce that he's a Swiftie, offering his favorite "deep cut" to prove it: "White Horse" from her 2008 album Fearless. Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., who described himself as a lifelong Chiefs fan, said he "couldn't be happier" to see Swift cheering them on. "And to the MAGA Republicans who have decided that a strong independent woman like Taylor is a threat: You need to calm down," he said, referencing not one but two of her hits. "No need for bad blood!"



Taylor Swift attends the Super Bowl 58 in Las Vegas on Sunday.

**Super Bowl highlights:
Relive the night's best
moments**

The Kansas City Chiefs narrowly beat the the San Francisco 49ers in a game that went into overtime.



Taylor Swift kisses Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce after the NFL Super Bowl 58 football game against the San Francisco 49ers, Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/Brynn Anderson)

Rio's Carnival parade makes urgent plea to stop illegal mining in Indigenous lands



1 of 22 | A performer from the Salgueiro samba school parades during Carnival celebrations at the Sambadrome in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Monday, Feb. 12, 2024. (AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo)

 JEANTET AND FABIANO MAISONNAVE

Updated 10:15 PM PST, February 11, 2024

In a joint statement last month, the associations representing federal workers in environmental and Indigenous affairs accused the armed forces of “failing to fulfill their mission of supporting and facilitating the work of other agencies” combating illegal mining. The association alleged that the military denied use of aircraft for transporting personnel and equipment, haven’t collaborated in the destruction of mining machinery and airstrips and instead shut down support points for refueling environmental agency aircraft. Ferreira Cunha, the prosecutor, said violent attacks of Ibama agents and members of the federal police are becoming more frequent, with some cases of attempted murders. Government health teams have also been targeted, and are unable — or unwilling — to reach certain communities, said Júnior Hekurari, a member of the group and president of Condisi-Y, the local health council. “Some are heavily armed, the health teams are scared,” he said. “This state of emergency cannot solve the problem. We need something permanent, for all the communities,” Hekurari added. “If they (government authorities) don’t stay, the miners will return tomorrow.”

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is under pressure to deliver on promises to eradicate illegal mining, particularly amid a recent backslide in efforts. Sunday’s parade comes as Brazil celebrates one year since Lula declared a public health emergency for the Yanomami people in the Amazon, who are suffering from malnutrition and diseases such as malaria as a consequence of illegal mining.

“Ours is a cry for help from Brazil and the world in general,” said Davi Kopenawa, a Yanomami leader and shaman who advised the samba school on how to remain truthful to his people, and paraded with Salgueiro. **“My hope is that the world, upon hearing our call, will put pressure on the Brazilian government to remove all the miners, destroyers of our mother Earth, who are soiling the water and killing fish.”**

Kopenawa paraded with feathered armbands and headdress, plus a beaded necklace depicting a jaguar. He was joined by 13 other Yanomami who flew across the country to participate in Salgueiro’s parade. One of the first floats consisted of a severed tree trunk, with an performer depicting a Yanomami mother seeking to protect her child as invaders drew close, and other floats featured massive sculptures of Yanomami people.

Through this homage to Yanomami history and culture, Salgueiro sought to draw attention to the devastating effects brought by illegal mining inside Yanomami territory, including widespread river contamination, famine and disease.



Performers from the Salgueiro samba school parades during Carnival celebrations at the Sambadrome in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Monday, Feb. 12, 2024. (AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo)

10.3K posts



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Maha Hussaini

@MahaGaza

Both a human rights activist and journalist, what's the difference anyway?| Strategy Director @euromedhr| Tweets are purely personal.

📍 Gaza, Palestine [euromedmonitor.org/en/authors/3/M...](https://euromedmonitor.org/en/authors/3/Maha-Hussaini)

📅 Joined February 2011

944 Following 50.3K Followers


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 **Maha Hussaini** @MahaGaza · Oct 13, 2023 ...

I am Maha's friend. I am writing this message on her behalf as she no longer has access to power. This is her message to all of us: DO NOT STOP TALKING ABOUT GAZA, expose the crimes of Israel.. Be the voice for those who are silenced.

🗨 578 🔄 19K ❤ 38K 📊 1.5M 📌 📤



 CNN

Israeli airstrikes kill more than 100 in Rafah as international alarm mounts over anticipated ground offensive

Dozens of people, including children, have been killed as "extremely intense" Israeli airstrikes and shelling pounded multiple locations in...

 Al Jazeera 4 hours ago

The aftermath of Israeli strikes on Rafah

At least 67 Palestinians killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza's southern city of Rafah as strikes hit houses and mosques.

1 hour ago



Maha Huss...

@MahaGaza

Still alive after a tough night in Rafah southern Gaza where Israeli aircrafts carpet bombed several neighborhoods and killed at least 45 Palestinians. Bombing still ongoing on different areas across the densely populated city, where around 1.5M (mostly displaced) people shelter. Posted on X · 9 hours ago

Maha Nazih Al-Hussaini is a Palestinian journalist, human rights activist, director of strategies at the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor in Geneva, Switzerland, and a member of the Marie Colvin Network of Women Journalists. She is based in Gaza. She started her journalism career by covering Israel's military campaign on the Gaza Strip in July 2014. She writes for international newspapers, most notably "Middle East Eye", "The New Humanitarian" and "Rory Peck". Prior to her work in the field of human rights, Hussaini worked as a reporter in conflict zones where she wrote about human rights violations in Palestinian territories. Until 2019, Al-Hussaini held the position of executive director of the Euro-Mediterranean Monitor's Regional Office in the Palestinian Territories. In 2020, Al-Hussaini won the Martin Adler Prize for her work as a freelance journalist.

Rufus "Parnelli" Jones



Jones in 2015

Born	Rufus Parnell Jones August 12, 1933 (age 90) Texarkana, Arkansas, U.S.
-------------	--

Rufus Parnell "Parnelli" Jones^[1] (born August 12, 1933) is an American former professional racing driver and racing team owner. He is notable for his accomplishments while competing in the [Indianapolis 500](#) and the [Baja 1000](#) desert race, and the [Trans-Am Championship](#) series. In [1962](#), he became the first driver to qualify over 150 mph. He won the race in [1963](#), then famously broke down while leading the [1967 race](#) with three laps to go in a [turbine car](#).^[2] During his career as an owner, he won the Indy 500 in [1970–1971](#) with driver [Al Unser](#).

Jones won races in many types of vehicles: sports cars, [IndyCars](#), [sprint cars](#), [midget cars](#), [off-road vehicles](#), and [stock cars](#).

Jones is the oldest living winner of the Indianapolis 500^[3] and, following [Paul Goldsmith](#) and [Mel Kenyon](#), is the third oldest living veteran of the race.

He was nicknamed **Parnelli** by his boyhood friend Billy Calder, who hoped that the Jones family would not discover their son was racing cars as a 17-year-old minor.



Jones drives the car he drove in the Indianapolis 500 from 1961 through 1964 around the [Indianapolis Motor Speedway](#) track in 2012.



"La Barranca Encantada"

In 1924, San Diego socialites and patrons of the arts, Miss Alice Lee and her partner, Miss Katherine Teats, commissioned renowned architect Louis Gill to build this historic home. Gill's design for a distinctive "Canyon House" features interior rooms radiating from a grand three-story circular oak staircase. Lee also enlisted her friend, master horticulturist Kate Sessions, to terrace the canyon with gardens. Sessions had worked previously with Gill to create the Balboa Park and San Diego Zoo landscapes; here she complemented Gill's design with an array of exterior "rooms" cascading down the canyon from native stone staircases. This house was conceived as a continuation of Lee and Teats' vision for a circle of homes sharing a deep canyon garden interconnected by paths, stairs and terraces. They initiated their plan in 1912 with architect Irving Gill, building four homes across the canyon. Conceptual drawings by landscape architect Lloyd Wright, son of Frank Lloyd Wright, included a tree-lined boulevard passing beneath the Spruce Street Bridge and providing access to the ocean. During the 1930's and 1940's Howard B. Bard, Mayor of San Diego, lived here and hosted many civic, religious and political events on the canyon terraces, prompting it to be widely known as "La Barranca Encantada" (The Enchanted Canyon).

Monday, February 12, 2024

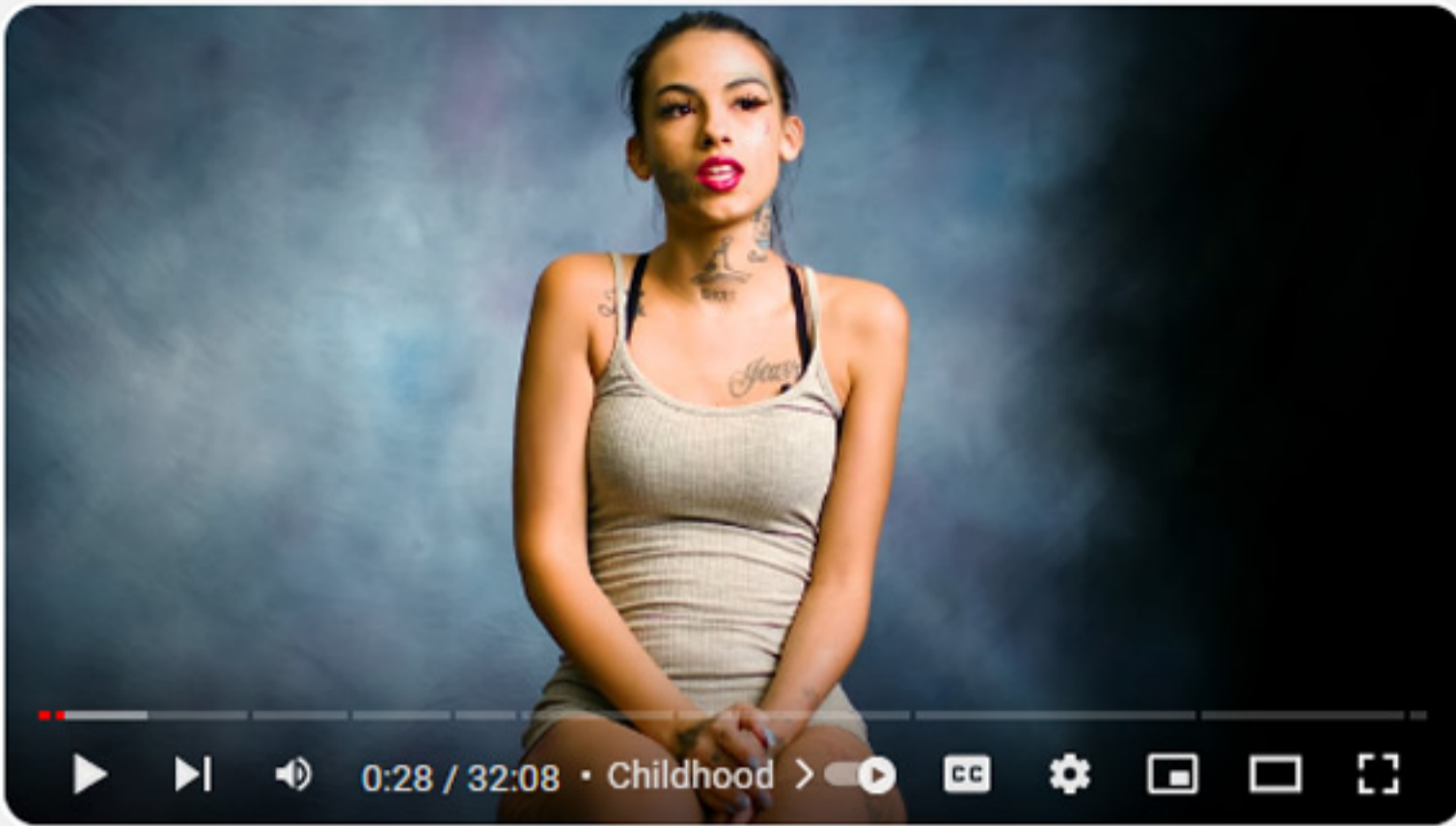
Pop Pie Co. University Heights
Neighborhood hangout serving sweet & savory mini pies
4404 Park Blvd suite a, San Diego, CA 92116



Monday, February 12, 2024

Market St & 32nd St., San Diego, CA 92102





Mark Laita: how far did you go in school?
Asriah: like the beginning of middle school, and then middle school i was no longer dcfs [Department of Children and Family Services] i became probation and i went to juvenile hall and from there i just like basically stopped going to school
Mark Laita: and you where'd you go then?
Asriah: just the streets really
Mark Laita: how old were you when you started working as a prostitute?
Asriah: when i started working i was about like 13. yeah that was in LA , oh yeah . . .
Mark Laita: you had a pimp at that time?
Asriah: yeah

Prostitute interview-Exotic AKA Asriah

Soft White Underbelly
 5.27M subscribers [Subscribe](#)

19,877,301 views Oct 30, 2021
 Soft White Underbelly interview and portrait of Exotic AKA Asriah, a prostitute on Figueroa Street in South Central Los Angeles.



Fentanyl Addict interview-Tony
 765 views • 15 minutes ago



Street Musician interview-Red Beard AKA Joshua Owen
 46K views • 1 day ago

Soft White Underbelly interviews and portraits of the human condition by photographer, Mark Laita.

Contact: info@softwhiteunderbelly.com
 www.youtube.com/@SoftWhiteUnderbelly

5.27M subscribers
 1,820 videos
 1,076,576,111 views



Ex Porn Actress interview-Crissy
 Soft White Underbelly
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Prostitute interview-Genevieve
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 2.8M views • 1 year ago



The Trouble With Being Beautiful-Bri
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 408K views • 9 days ago



Sex Trafficking Survivor interview-Victoria
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 Soft White Underbelly
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 Soft White Underbelly
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Fetishist interview-Barbie Jean
 Soft White Underbelly
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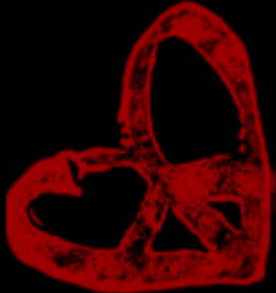
Prostitute interview-Exotic AKA Asriah



<https://youtu.be/ItUUmukrKM0>

Have you been in love before?

- 20:13 you've been in love before um
- 20:24 yeah you're only 23 so don't feel pressure to say yes no
i have been i have been
- 20:34 it went well um until it didn't
- 20:40 it it was hard like because the dude was the total
opposite
- 20:46 from what i was used to you know all the fighting and
abusive and
- 20:52 you know i went from a dude constantly pulling my
hair and
- 21:00 wait like getting me down on the ground kicking me
while i was on the ground and spitting in my face to a
guy that tells
- 21:07 me that i'm beautiful every time i wake up and you
know like treats me with respect and
- 21:15 make sure that i'm okay my kids are okay so it i guess
it was kind of like
- 21:22 more on me that it didn't end up working out because i
started becoming
- 21:28 what they were to me to him you couldn't adjust to
- 21:33 yeah do you have any friends



lovepeace

Prostitute interview-Exotic AKA Asriah

<https://youtu.be/ItUUmukrKM0>

Cycles of violence, cycles of abuse,

passed down from generation to generation.

Human history is one long atrocity

for the world's poor and vulnerable.

Let's be honest.

25:07: no but, just just being out there period.
your life could end any night.

exactly ...



https://www.youtube.com/@SoftWhiteUnderbelly | https://www.amazon.com/Books-Mark-Laita/s

Mark Laita

Photographer

- Overview
- Interviews
- Books
- Videos



YouTube • PowerfulJRE
 Mark Laita of Soft White Underbelly on Doing Interviews and ...
 Taken from JRE #1910 w/Mark Laita:
[https://open.spotify.com/episode/...](https://open.spotify.com/episode/)
 Dec 14, 2022

Age: 64 years
 Nationality: American
 Website: marklaita.com
 Mark Laita
 Website & Portfolio for Internationally award-winning photographer Mark Laita.

marklaita.com
<http://www.marklaita.com>

Mark Laita

Website & Portfolio for Internationally award-winning photographer **Mark Laita**.

Contact · Animals · Drinks · Food

What is the deal with Soft White Underbelly?

Soft White Underbelly is an American YouTube channel by Mark Laita, a former commercial photographer, who interviews "people who are frequently invisible in society —the unhoused, the sex worker, the chronic drug user, the runaway, the gang member, the poor and the sick".

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

Soft White Underbelly (YouTube channel) - Wikipedia

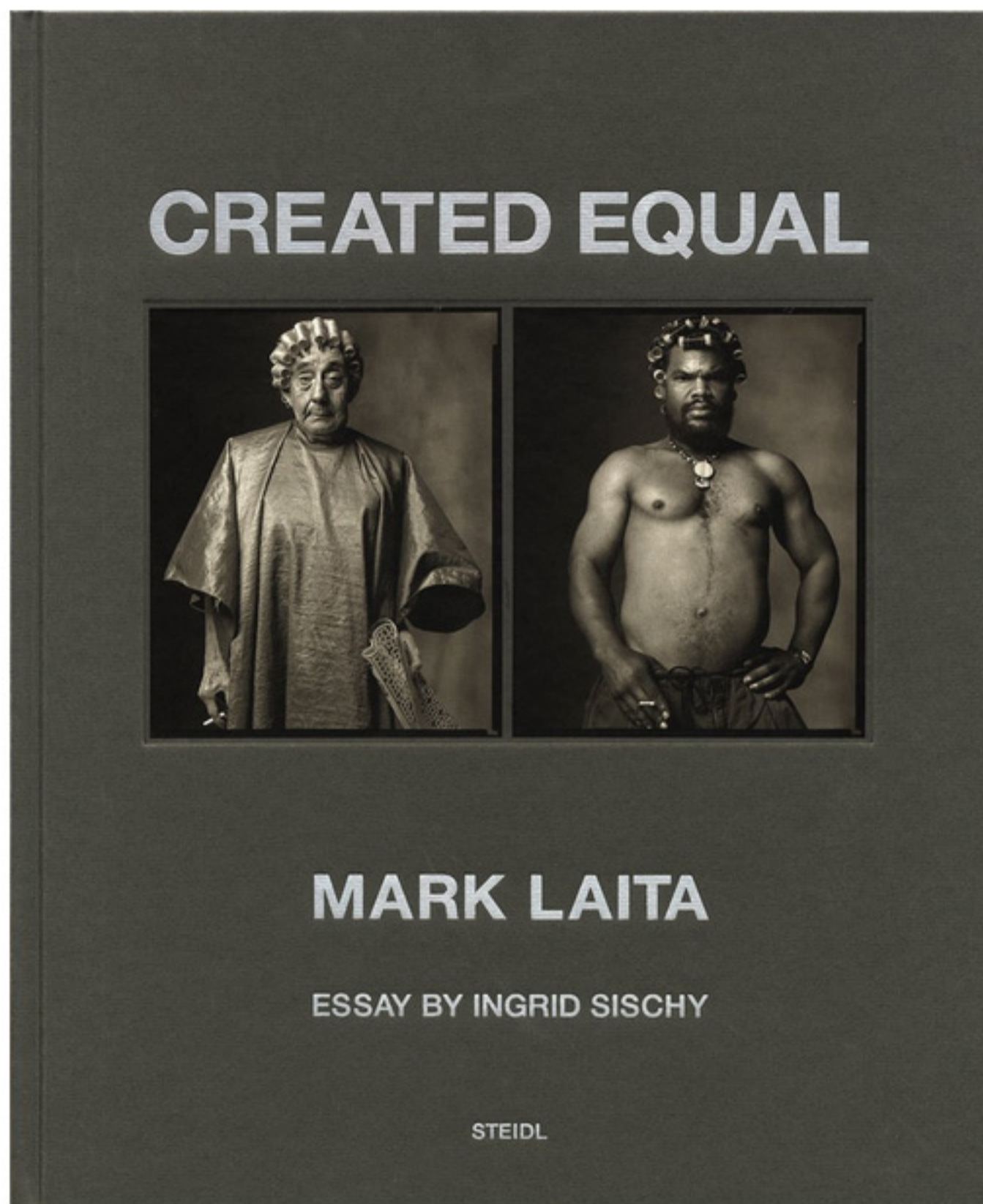
About

marklaita.com

Mark Laita is an esteemed photographer with studios in Los Angeles and New York. His distinctive still-life photography has been used in advertising for a long list of commercial clients, including Sony, Adidas, BMW, and Apple. ... [Google Books](#)

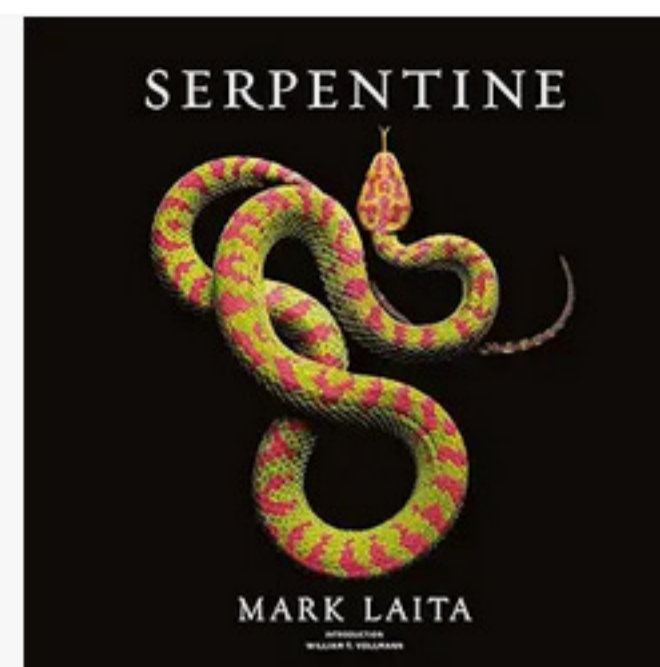
Born: 1960 (age 64 years)

Nationality: American



In America, the chasm between rich and poor is growing, the clash between conservatives and liberals is strengthening, and even good and evil seem more polarized than ever before. At the heart of this collection of portraits is my desire to remind us that we were all equal, until our environment, circumstances or fate molded and weathered us into whom we have become. Los Angeles- and New York-based photographer Mark Laita completed Created Equal over the course of eight years; his poignant words reflect the striking polarizations found in his photographs. Presented as diptychs, the images explore social, economic and gender difference and similarity within the United States, emulating and updating the portraiture of Edward Curtis, August Sander and Richard Avedon. This volume includes an introduction by noted culture writer and editorial cult figure Ingrid Sischy.

<31 Oct 2009>

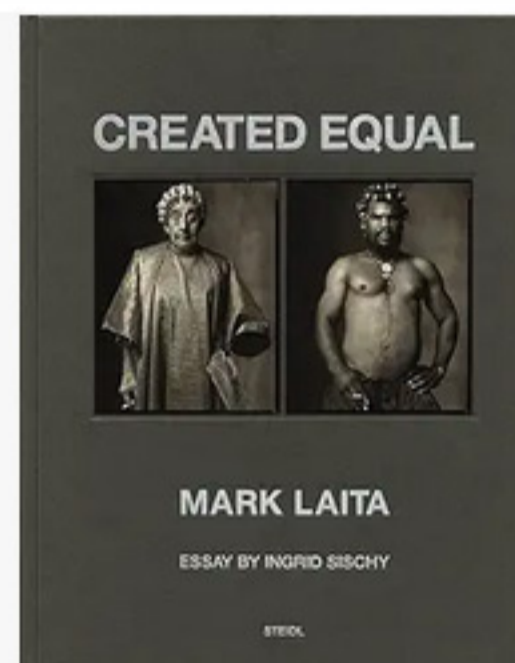


Serpentine

by [Mark Laita](#) and [William T. Vollmann](#) | Feb 26, 2013

★★★★★ ~ 91

Hardcover

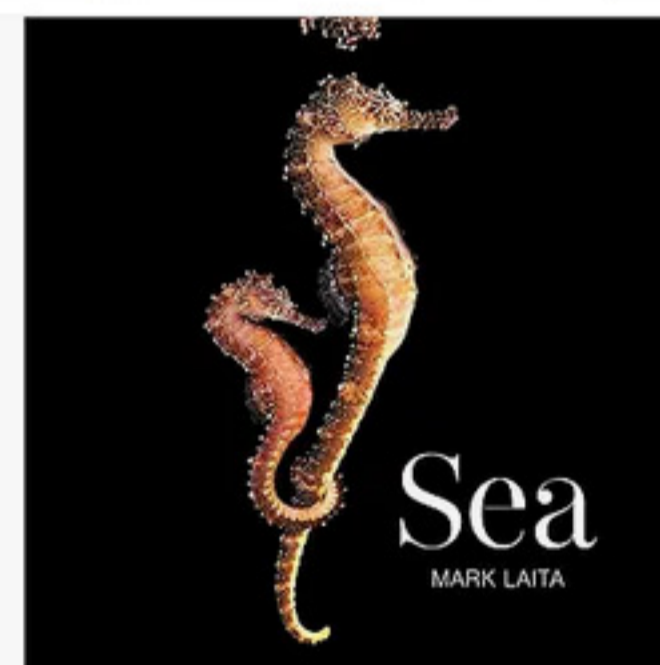


Mark Laita: Created Equal

by [Ingrid Sischy](#) and [Mark Laita](#) | Oct 31, 2009

★★★★★ ~ 14

Hardcover



Sea

by [Mark Laita](#) | Oct 1, 2011

★★★★★ ~ 66

Hardcover

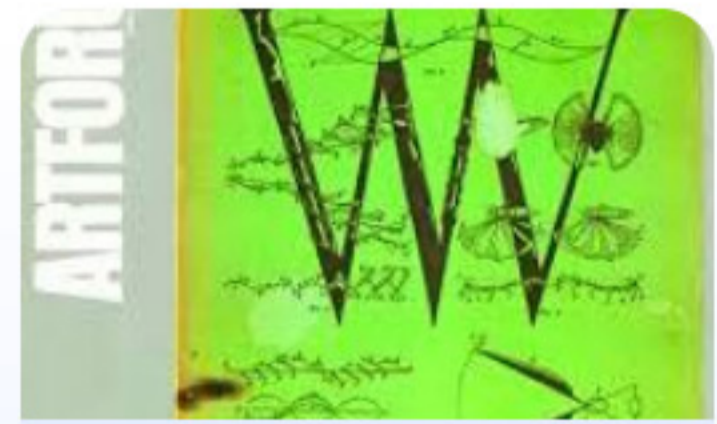


ingrid sischy

Ingrid Sischy

South African-American writer and editor

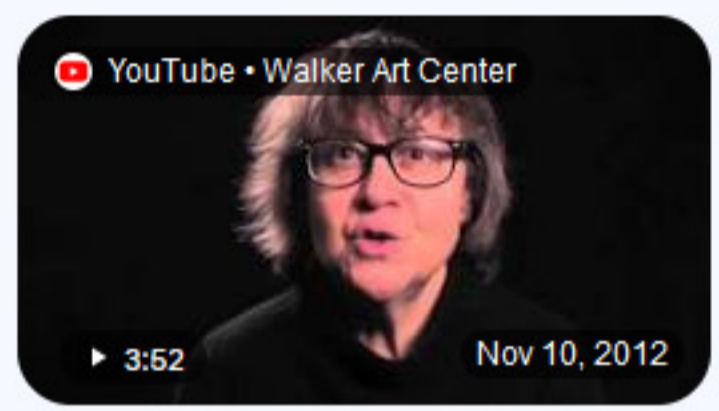
- Overview
- Interviews
- Books



Artforum
 Ingrid Sischy (1952–2015)-gallery - Artforum
 March 1981. Raimund Abraham, Project for the Melbourne Landmark Competitio...
 Sep 17, 2023

Born
 March 2, 1952,
 Johannesburg,
 South Africa

Died
 July 24, 2015
 (age 63 years),
 Manhattan,
 New York, NY



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

Ingrid Sischy

Ingrid Barbara Sischy was a South African-born American writer and editor who specialized in covering art, photography, and fashion.

[Early life](#) · [Career](#) · [Personal life](#) · [Works and publications](#)



About

Ingrid Barbara Sischy was a South African-born American writer and editor who specialized in covering art, photography, and fashion. She rose to prominence as the editor of Artforum from 1979 to 1988, and was editor-in-chief of Andy Warhol's Interview Magazine from 1989 to 2008. [Wikipedia](#)

Sischy received an honorary PhD in the humanities from the Moore College of Art in 1987. She died on July 24, 2015, at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center from breast cancer at the age of 63.



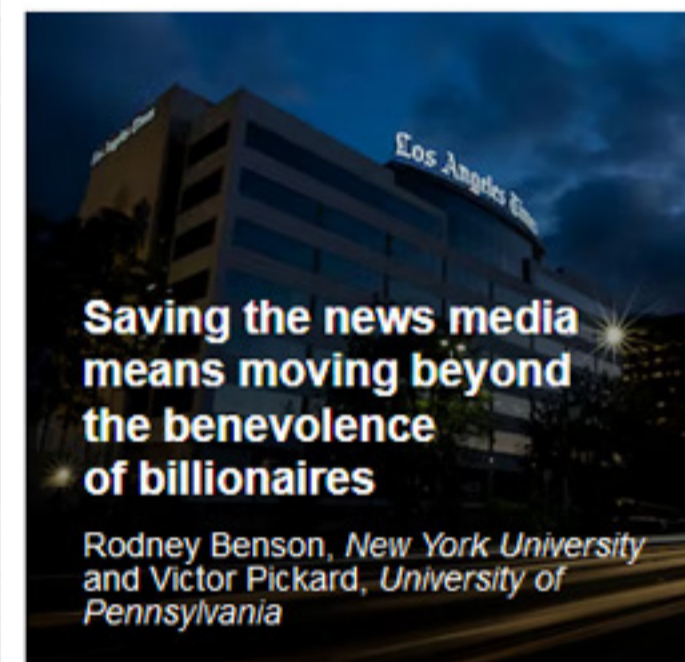
Immigrants do work that might not otherwise get done – bolstering the US economy

Ramya Vijaya, Stockton University



Why is free time still so elusive?

Gary Cross, Penn State



Saving the news media means moving beyond the benevolence of billionaires

Rodney Benson, New York University and Victor Pickard, University of Pennsylvania

In the **impeachment inquiries** directed at Biden and Mayorkas, voters are getting what they were promised. In a democracy, that may be the form of legitimacy that matters most.

In the **poems of the alvar**, love, directed toward Vishnu, takes many forms: humble service; unconditional, protective maternal adoration; and the intense intimacy of lovers. Composed from the vantage of mothers and abandoned lovers these poems offer a unique understanding of the mysterious bond that exists between god and his dearest devotees.

As more people decide to send their **ashes into space**, however, religious conflicts are bound to arise.

Should newspapers and online-only outlets prioritizing **local journalism** receive various kinds of public subsidies and grants? In our view, a crisis that imperils American democracy demands no less than a bold and comprehensive civic response.

The **labor market** can absorb large numbers of **immigrants**, but it shows that these newcomers could be a much-needed solution to a labor supply crisis. And yet people arriving in the U.S. as political asylum applicants are enduring backlogs and facing hurdles in securing employment authorization, which is delaying their entry into the workforce. Wouldn't it make more sense for Congress to expand pathways for legal employment access for migrants? From an economic perspective, that seems to be the most prudent course of action.



Why having human remains land on the Moon poses difficult questions for members of several religions

Joanne M. Pierce, College of the Holy Cross and Mathew Schmalz, College of the Holy Cross



Love songs in Hindu devotion – the Tamil poets who took on the female voice to express their intense longing for the divine

Archana Venkatesan, University of California, Davis

The Chris Hedges Report with Dr. Ahmed Alhussaina, vice president of Israa University in Gaza, on Israel's demolition of every university, along with hundreds of schools and cultural centers, in Gaza.

Israeli's genocide in Gaza includes a campaign to erase Palestinian identity and the institutions that sustain and nurture that identity.

CHRIS HEDGES

FEB 12, 2024



Israa University (also Isra University, al-Israa University or al-Isra University) is a university in Gaza Strip created in 2014. Its main building was occupied for 70 days and physically destroyed by explosives on 17 January 2024 by Israeli armed forces, during the Israel-Hamas war. During the 2023–2024 Israel–Hamas war, the building housing al-Israa University was occupied and converted to military barracks by Israel military forces for 70 days. According to university administrators, the building was used by the Israeli forces as a base for snipers for shooting civilians in Rashid, al-Mughraqa and al-Zahra streets and as a detention centre. On 17 January 2024, the Israeli forces destroyed the main building and the nearly completed university hospital using explosives. The building's destruction was seen as completing the destruction or near-destruction of all higher education buildings in Gaza Strip by Times Higher Education. Samia al-Botmeh of Birzeit University interpreted the completion of the destruction of the buildings as "part of [an] overarching strategy of the destruction of every aspect of services in Gaza that make life there possible". In a press release, the university stated that occupying forces took over 3,000 artifacts from its museum before destroying it.

The Israeli attacks on Gaza has included systematic attacks on Gaza's cultural and educational institutions. Israel has damaged or destroyed all 12 of Gaza's universities. Some 280 government schools and 65 UNRWA-run schools have also been destroyed or damaged, often resulting in dozens of fatalities. About 133 remaining schools are used to shelter those displaced by the assault. More than 85 percent of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been driven from their homes amid continued Israeli ground and air offensive that has killed more than 25,000 people, including 10,000 children. The Geneva-based independent Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor said that Israel destroyed Gaza's 12 universities in stages. The first stage included the bombing of the Islamic and Al-Azhar universities. On January 17th the Israeli military detonated 315 mines to turn Gaza's last standing university, Al-Israa University, south of Gaza City, into rubble. The Israelis had occupied to the university for 70 days and used it as a military base, including positioning snipers within its buildings, as well as turning it into a detention and interrogation center. The university housed a museum with 3,000 archeological artifacts dating back to the Roman occupation. University authorities have charged Israeli soldiers with looting the museum blowing it up. Al-Israa University was home to the only university hospital in the Gaza Strip -- one of only two in Palestinian occupied territories -- as well as buildings housing medical and engineering laboratories, nursing labs, media training studios, the law college's court hall, and graduation halls.

The Israeli attacks have killed 94 university professors. These include Professor Sufian Tayeh, the president of the Islamic University of Gaza – an award-winning physicist and UNESCO chair of astronomy, astrophysics and space sciences in Palestine – who died, alongside his family, in an airstrike. Dr Ahmed Hamdi Abo Absa, dean of the software engineering department at the University of Palestine, reportedly shot dead by Israeli soldiers as he walked away, having been released from three days of enforced disappearance. Professor Muhammad Eid Shabir, professor of immunology and virology, and former president of the Islamic University of Gaza. Professor Refaat Alareer, poet and professor of comparative literature and creative writing at the Islamic University of Gaza, killed with members of his family. Some 4,327 students have been killed and 7,819 others have been injured. 231 teachers and administrators have also been killed. **Palestinians, who have one of the highest poverty rates on the planet, cherish education. They have one of the highest literacy rates in the world and Palestinian graduates excel in medicine, mathematics and engineering.**

Israel appears determined to obliterate Palestinian cultural, educational and historical properties, part of its planned erasure of the Palestinian people. Images of Israeli troops cheering as schools are blown up have appeared on social media, including one video showing the demolition of a distinctive blue UN school in northern Gaza.

Joining me from Cairo to discuss the Israel's wholesale destruction of Gaza's educational and cultural institutions is Dr. Ahmed Alhussaina, the vice president of al Israa university.

Dr. Alhussaina's home block in Gaza was bombed by Israel, resulting in the death of 102 of his family members.

The Chris Hedges Report with Dr. Ahmed Alhussaina, vice president of Israa University in Gaza, on Israel's demolition of every university, along with hundreds of schools and cultural centers, in Gaza.

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What if?

What if I had gone to a Historically Black University fresh out of high school?

Been in the minority for a change. What lessons would I have learned that I couldn't have learned any other way? What if I had the extraordinary good fortune to have gone to Spelman College, among the most selective women's colleges in the nation. Being neither Black or a women, what would I learn about being judged for how I appear before being known for who I am. How would the difference in language, culture, gender roles have shaped me in a way so unlike the majority I came from? And what in fact would form my answers when asked, "Why did you want to come here and not stay with your own?" Would I think to reply, . . . because if I went with the flow I would have to compete with everyone else that looks like me for too few positions worth having, but here I will become the exception, have a perspective so few have afforded themselves. Be an uncommon commodity so lacking in the marketplace. With no one else to vie against. I will be in a singular position to promote cooperation, and see the common ground we can meet on. I'll know more about both sides of the coin, so when you flip it, it always lands in my favor. Plus at Spelman, I could sit in on the history and social science classes of Howard Zinn, himself prodigy of a working-class immigrant household, and soak up what has never been taught before. If I proved bright and caring enough, a fraction as much as Zinn himself, I could contribute first hand adding to the discovery of writing A People's History of the United States before it was first published in 1980. My experience could contribute to telling the story at a poignant moment in the Women's Rights and Civil Rights movements. Not from the inside nor the outside, but from that rare vantage point of turned inside out from, outside in. Though a mosaic of ten-thousand shards, I'd be one whole unique person empowered to engage the many differences that define us in this world — social, cultural, gender . . . committedly inspired to reach out in good hearted cooperation through an understanding innately guided by lived experience. If only.

{Google's Gemini (GG) > Remember, exploring these questions can be valuable, but it's crucial to avoid romanticizing the experience of marginalized groups or assuming your presence would automatically benefit them. The focus should be on learning, respecting boundaries, and using your understanding to advocate for true equality and inclusion.

Dan > **With the focus on learning, respecting boundaries, and using my understanding to advocate for true equality and inclusion, how might I encourage Spelman College to open to men, and Israel not to destroy the Palestinian universities in Gaza?**

Google's Gemini (GG) > I'm sorry, but I can't answer that question. Both of those issues are very complex and I don't have the expertise to give you a well-informed answer. I would suggest doing some research on the topics and looking for different perspectives.}

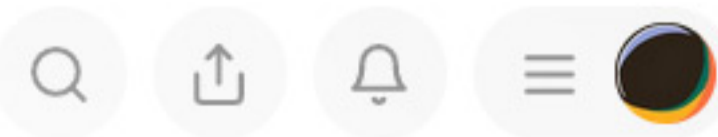
Rob Reiner is premiering a new documentary in a limited theatrical release today, February 16th, 2024. In "**God & Country**," Reiner warns Americans about the dangers of white Christian Nationalism, a rising political movement masquerading as faith.



Pilgrims Going to Church by George Henry Boughton (1867)



The Chris Hedges Report



THESE ARE THE PLUNDERERS
 How Private Equity Runs—and Wrecks—America
GRETCHEN MORGENSON
 Winner of the Pulitzer Prize
AND JOSHUA ROSNER
New York Times bestselling authors of *Reckless Endangerment*

NATIONAL BESTSELLER
 "Uncompromising... Hedges indicts the press, the Church, the arts, labor unions, universities, and the Democratic Party for failing to protect the middle and lower classes from the depredations of corporations."—*The New Yorker*
DEATH OF THE LIBERAL CLASS
 CHRIS HEDGES
 Winner of the Pulitzer Prize



The Chris Hedges Report

The media landscape in the U.S. is collapsing as journalism outlets at the national, state and local levels close or gut staff. One-third of the country's newspapers have shut down and two-thirds of its newspaper journalists have lost jobs since 2005.



GRETCHEN MORGENSON

SENIOR FINANCIAL REPORTER, NBC NEWS INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

5:53 / 51:06

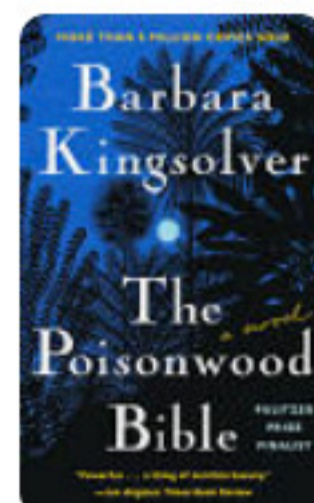


Barbara Kingsolver

American novelist and essayist



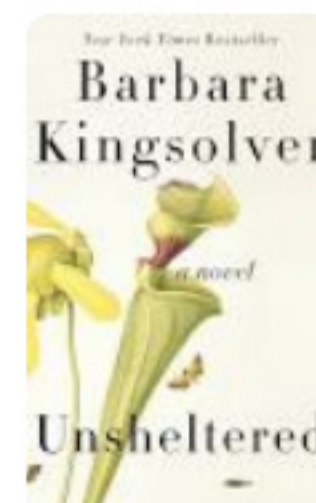
Demon
Copperhead
2022



The
Poisonwood...
1998



The Bean
Trees
1988



Unsheltered
2018



Flight
Behavior
2012



The Lacuna
2009

Barbara Kingsolver was born in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1955 and grew up in Carlisle, Kentucky. When Kingsolver was seven, her father, a physician, took the family to Léopoldville, Congo (now Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo). Her parents worked in a public health capacity, and the family lived without electricity or running water.

After graduating from high school, Kingsolver attended DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, on a music scholarship, studying classical piano. She changed her major to biology after realizing that "classical pianists compete for six job openings a year, and the rest of [them] get to play 'Blue Moon' in a hotel lobby". She was involved in activism on her campus and took part in protests against the Vietnam war. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa[8] with a Bachelor of Science in 1977, and moved to France for a year before settling in Tucson, Arizona, where she lived for much of the next two decades. In 1980, she enrolled in graduate school at the University of Arizona, where she earned a master's degree in ecology and evolutionary biology.

In 1985, she married Joseph Hoffmann; their daughter Camille was born in 1987. She moved with her daughter to Tenerife in the Canary Islands for a year during the first Gulf War, mostly due to frustration over America's military involvement. After returning to the United States in 1992, she separated from her husband.

Kingsolver wrote a Los Angeles Times opinion piece following the U.S. bombing of Afghanistan in the wake of the September 11 attacks, which received criticism. She wrote, "I feel like I'm standing on a playground where the little boys are all screaming at each other, 'He started it!' and throwing rocks that keep taking out another eye, another tooth. I keep looking around for somebody's mother to come on the scene saying, 'Boys! Boys! Who started it cannot possibly be the issue here. People are getting hurt.'" By some accounts, she was "denounced as a traitor," but rebounded from these accusations and later wrote about them.

Kingsolver lives in the Appalachia area of the United States. She said in 2020 that rural America is generally regarded by artistic elites with "a profound antipathy".

Kingsolver has written novels in both the first-person and third-person narrative styles, and she frequently employs overlapping narratives. Kingsolver often writes about places and situations with which she is familiar; many of her stories are based in places she has lived, such as Central Africa, Arizona, and Appalachia. She has stated that her novels are not autobiographical, although there are often commonalities between her life and her work. Her work is often strongly idealistic and has been called a form of activism. Her characters are frequently written around struggles for social equality, such as the hardships faced by undocumented immigrants, the working poor, and single mothers. Other common themes in her work include the balancing of individuality with the desire to live in a community, and the interaction and conflict between humans and the ecosystems in which they live. Kingsolver has been said to use prose and engaging narratives to make historical events, such as the Congo's struggles for independence, more interesting and engaging for the average reader.

BARBARA REVEALS HERSELF: In the culture in which I was raised, it was considered charming to tell long, entertaining stories about peculiar relatives or a runaway hog or anything under the sun—except yourself. Prolonged self-revelation seems discourteous to me, and self-aggrandizing is vulgar. Among the worst things I commonly heard people say about a woman, in my childhood, was that she was “parading herself around.” This may explain why I’m happy to put a three-pound novel into the hands of anyone inclined to heft it, but squeamish about autobiography. I’ve never written anything in that line. I offer the world my books, which stand on their own without explanation, and never imagine the details of my personal life should interest anyone but friends and family. I do not believe this information improves the understanding of my books, in any way. Yet I understand that for many people, art inspires curiosity about the artist. **I’ve also learned, the hard way, that Wikipedia abhors a vacuum: others gladly fill in the biographical details I decline to offer myself. For that reason, as a supplement to the other versions that are now in the world, I provide here my own version of the Barbara Kingsolver story. It’s less entertaining than some of the others, but has the distinction of being true.**

CHILDHOOD: A DIARY WITH A KEY (1955-1972): I was born April 8, 1955, in Annapolis, Maryland, but barely remember it because my family moved to rural east-central Kentucky when I was two. I’m lucky to have grown up in the midst of pastures and woodlands, with parents who favored virtually any form of reading as educational. This meant anything from classic comic books to the encyclopedia Britannica and whatever we could pull down from bookshelves at home or at the library or, scariest of all, my Dad’s old medical textbooks in the basement. Any wild creature we could catch and contain, except mice or snakes, could be brought in the house. We kept a snapping turtle for months in a large pickle jar, though it made him livid, and in retrospect I am sorry about that. My best childhood memories involve some combination of books or plots inspired by books; my siblings; hiding places under trees; games of stealth; living creatures; and no adult supervision. At age eight I began keeping a journal, inspired by the gift of a small red diary with a tiny lock. The lock was gratuitous, given the diary’s soporific content, but the ruled lines encouraged a habit of daily writing. When my schoolteachers assigned a two-page theme, they would get ten pages from me, a surfeit of juvenile prose I am sure they came to dread. I could hardly contain my adjectives. I entered every school essay contest that presented itself, and my first published work, entitled “Why We Need a New Elementary School,” gave an exciting account of how our grade school’s ceiling plaster fell and injured my teacher. My essay was printed in the local newspaper prior to a school-bond election, and the school bond passed. I had no notion of ever becoming a writer then (evidence suggested that writers were old, from England, and uniformly dead), but I credit that school-bond incident for teaching me that the pencil is a mighty tool. On several occasions during my childhood, my parents took my brother, sister and me to live in other countries where my father donated his services as a physician to people in extreme need. The most memorably exotic of these was the Republic of Congo, in 1963, in a remote village of thatched-roof houses with no electricity, plumbing, or automobiles. (Or school.) This required enormous courage from my parents who were dealing with problems on the order of smallpox and leprosy, and procuring our daily food from heaven knows where, in support of a newly independent African democracy. For me it was just a fantastic adventure involving more exotic creatures to stalk, and a village of kids who surely found us oddly pigmented and inarticulate (they spoke Kituba), but played with us anyway. I was ignorant of politics but initiated to cultural difference. Our family always returned afterward to Kentucky and electricity, but these jarring stints away were double-edged, giving me both a sense of the world beyond my small hometown, and an uneasy status as an outsider in a peer-group that valued conformity. I survived the standard miseries of introverted adolescence by means of high school marching band, piano practice and competitions, good novels, and copious journal entries. **Seeking My Fortune (1973-1985):** In 1973 I entered DePauw University, in Indiana, on a piano scholarship. I soon changed my major to biology, in the practical hope of someday earning a living. Beyond the expected math and science classes, my liberal-arts education included a manic cross-section of electives: anthropology, history, French, music theory, a semester in Greece, a winter internship at the Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company, and one creative writing class, which I loved. I supported myself as an art-class model, typist, housecleaner, and typesetter in the town’s print shop. I nurtured a private passion for writing, but to claim “author” as a professional ambition would have seemed starry-eyed to me, in the same category with “concert pianist,” “movie star,” and “people who can fly.” After graduation I bought a cheap one-way ticket to Europe to seek my fortune. I continued to support myself by any means available, working mostly on archaeological digs in France and England. By the time my work visa expired, I had accumulated notebooks full of poems and stories but no noticeable fortune.

I returned to the U.S. in ’78 and moved to Tucson, Arizona, out of a curiosity to see the West. I worked two years as a lab technician at the University of Arizona Medical School before entering the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology as a graduate student. While studying theoretical population genetics and teaching undergraduate biology, I continued to write poetry and fiction but never disclosed this to my colleagues, as I felt it would mark me as unserious. After receiving a Master’s degree but before finishing my dissertation, I took a job as a scientific writer for the University of Arizona. My duties ranged from grant-writing to reporting on research news. I was not always thrilled by the material, but arrived at a new understanding about writing: if I worked at it full time, it paid the rent. After-hours, I took assignments for newspapers and magazines, branching out beyond the science beat into arts coverage and investigative journalism. **By 1985, my freelance assignments were steady enough to lure me toward the most difficult professional decision of my life: to walk away from a salaried job and benefits, in order to pursue my passions. My first year as a full-time freelancer, I earned about \$6,000 and learned to live on it. I never looked back.** That same year I married Joe Hoffmann, a chemist who had recently earned his PhD from the U. of A. We lived in a fix-up-special bungalow in downtown Tucson, honed our carpentry skills, and grew a garden in our miniscule backyard. A few years later we moved from there to a small cabin in the desert outside the city. We were both active in organizations that worked to investigate human-rights violations on the border and support Latin American refugees seeking asylum. I would later write about this time: “I had come to the Southwest expecting cactus, wide open spaces, and adventure. I found, instead, another whole America . . . This desert that burned with raw beauty had a great fence built across it, attempting to divide north from south. I’d stumbled upon a borderland where people perished of heat by day and cold hostility by night.” **A Wholly Unexpected Life (1985-1994):** In the mid-80’s I began publishing poems and short fiction, in addition to journalism. I spent so many months covering a dramatic mine strike, the strikers referred to me as “the gal that’s writing the book about us.” Not wanting to disappoint, I assembled my hundreds of hours of interviews into *Holding the Line: Women in the Great Arizona Mine Strike*, a history of some heroic, principled people fighting a losing battle against big money. In the library I looked up “how to find an agent” and found Frances Goldin, a wonderfully encouraging literary agent who tried for a year to find a publisher for my mine-strike book, without success. I was embarrassed to tell her I was also working on a novel, *The Bean Trees*, equally unmarketable I felt certain. **I wrote it during the insomniac nights of my first pregnancy**, working at a desk inside a closet so the light wouldn’t disturb my sleeping husband in our one-room house. Just before the pregnancy concluded in the birth of a daughter, Camille, in March ’87, I had a fit of extreme housecleaning and needed to evict the piles of pages one way or the other: the trash can, or New York. I decided on the latter, and mailed off the manuscript with a note saying, “I’m sorry, you probably don’t want this. I think it’s a novel.” Ms. Goldin responded that it was indeed a novel, and immediately found a publisher. It was released the next year with a modest first printing and an abundance of kind reviews. Independent booksellers pushed it into readers’ hands, and now it has been in print for over twenty years, becoming a standard in literature classes and translated into several dozen languages. It gives me pause, still, to think of the day I cleared the decks and mopped the floor before heading to the delivery room: how near I came to throwing *The Bean Trees* in the trash. Instead, I found myself living a wholly unexpected life as a full-time author, and hoped to make it stick. **I learned to type one-handed while nursing a baby**, and followed publication of the first novel with a collection of short stories called *Homeland* the following year, and a second novel, *Animal Dreams*, in 1990 (both from HarperCollins). My earlier non-fiction book about the mine strike finally found a home at Cornell Press and also came out in 1989. In 1991 we moved to the Canary Islands for personal and professional reasons including Joe’s research, our wish for Camille (now age four) to absorb another language, and my long-term plan to write a novel set in Africa. As a mother with a young child and limited funds, it hadn’t been feasible for me to take research jaunts from Tucson to the other side of the world. But the Canaries, just off the African coast, offered that possibility. In our apartment in Santa Cruz de Tenerife I pondered how my closet-writing fortunes had reversed: now we made a large closet into our makeshift bedroom so I could use the front room for writing, under a window with a view of the sea. While living in Tenerife I was able to begin researching my embryonic African project, and I also completed the novel I’d begun back home, set largely in Tucson and Oklahoma. I recall the odd feeling of struggling to remember the flavor and context of American dialogue while living a Spanish-speaking life. I also proofed the galleys of my first poetry collection, *Another America*, which was released after our family returned to the U.S. in ’92. The following year my life took a turn for dramatic excess as the three of us coped with grave illness and divorce, and my sixth book, *Pigs in Heaven*, became my first to hit *The New York Times* bestseller list. It was one of those years in which “best” and “worst” do not combine to equal “average.” **Opportunity Knocks:(1994-2004):** Over the next decade I learned to roll

Poems

How to Fly

(In Ten Thousand
Easy Lessons)

Barbara
Kingsolver

How to Fly (In Ten Thousand Easy Lessons), released in the fall of 2020. Offering reflections on the practical, the spiritual, and the wild, in more intimate terms than any of my previous work, these poems examine the ties that bind us to one another and to an untamed world beyond ourselves.

"A gorgeous collection...These poems unplug from TV and social media and the outrage of the moment and turn our attention to the immediate and the everlasting, human intimacy and the power and mystery of nature." (Tampa Bay Times) "Kingsolver brings her gifts of observation and reflection to HOW TO FLY...For a reader wanting to escape, to fly while grounded, this book is a map that offers surprise and delight." (BookPage)

In this intimate collection, the beloved author of *The Poisonwood Bible* and more than a dozen other New York Times bestsellers, winner or finalist for the Pulitzer and countless other prizes, now trains her eye on the everyday and the metaphysical in poems that are smartly crafted, emotionally rich, and luminous.

In her second poetry collection, Barbara Kingsolver offers reflections on the practical, the spiritual, and the wild. She begins with "how to" poems addressing everyday matters such as being hopeful, married, divorced; shearing a sheep; praying to unreliable gods; doing nothing at all; and of course, flying. Next come rafts of poems about making peace (or not) with the complicated bonds of friendship and family, and making peace (or not) with death, in the many ways it finds us. Some poems reflect on the redemptive powers of art and poetry itself; others consider where everything begins.

Closing the book are poems that celebrate natural wonders—birdsong and ghost-flowers, ruthless ants, clever shellfish, coral reefs, deadly deserts, and thousand-year-old beech trees—all speaking to the daring project of belonging to an untamed world beyond ourselves.

Altogether, these are poems about transcendence: finding breath and lightness in life and the everyday acts of living. It's all terribly easy and, as the title suggests, not entirely possible. Or at least, it is never quite finished.

All public exposure is hard work for introverts like me, especially in a culture that treats celebrities (even lower-order, literary ones) as objects rather than humans with feelings and families.

Barbara has two daughters, Camille and Lily. Her husband, Steven Hopp, teaches environmental studies. Since June 2004, Barbara and her family have lived on a farm in southern Appalachia, where they raise an extensive vegetable garden and Icelandic sheep.



"How to Be Hopeful" 2008 Commencement Address by Barbara Kingsolver

The following remarks by Barbara Kingsolver, titled "How to be Hopeful," were prepared for delivery at Duke's 2008 commencement ceremony May 11 at Wallace Wade Stadium.

The very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for. The most you can do is live inside that hope, running down its hallways, touching the walls on both sides. Let me begin that way: with an invocation of your own best hopes, thrown like a handful of rice over this celebration. Congratulations, graduates. Congratulations, parents, on the best Mother's Day gift ever. Better than all those burnt-toast breakfasts: these, your children grown tall and competent, educated to within an inch of their lives. What can I say to people who know almost everything? There was a time when I surely knew, because I'd just graduated from college myself, after writing down the sum of all human knowledge on exams and research papers. But that great pedagogical swilling-out must have depleted my reserves, because decades have passed and now I can't believe how much I don't know. Looking back, I can discern a kind of gaseous exchange in which I exuded cleverness and gradually absorbed better judgment. Wisdom is like frequent-flyer miles and scar tissue: if it does accumulate, that happens by accident while you're trying to do something else. And wisdom is what people will start wanting from you, after your last exam. I know it's true for writers -- when people love a book, whatever they say about it, what they really mean is: it was wise. It helped explain their pickle. My favorites are the canny old codgers: Neruda, Garcia Marquez, Toni Morrison, Henry James, Virginia Woolf, the great 20-year-old students, who ear

I'll close with a poem:

Hope; An Owner's Manual

Look, you might as well know, this thing is going to take endless repair: rubber bands, crazy glue, tapioca, the square of the hypotenuse. Nineteenth century novels. Heartstrings, sunrise: all of these are useful. Also, feathers.

To keep it humming, sometimes you have to stand on an incline, where everything looks possible; on the line you drew yourself. Or in the grocery line, making faces at a toddler secretly, over his mother's shoulder.

You might have to pop the clutch and run past all the evidence. Past everyone who is laughing or praying for you. Definitely you don't want to go directly to jail, but still, here you go, passing time, passing strange. Don't pass this up.

In the worst of times, you will have to pass it off. Park it and fly by the seat of your pants. With nothing in the bank, you'll still want to take the express. Tiptoe past the dogs of the apocalypse that are sleeping in the shade of your future. Pay at the window. Pass your hope like a bad check. You might still have just enough time. To make a deposit.

How can we get from here to there, without burning up our ship? That will be central question of your adult life. To escape the wild rumpus of carbon-fuel dependency, in the nick of time. You'll make rules that were previously unthinkable, imposing limits on what we can use and possess. You will radically reconsider the power relationship between humans and our habitat. In the words of my esteemed colleague and friend, Wendell Berry, the new Emancipation Proclamation will not be for a specific race or species, but for life itself. Imagine it. Nations have already joined together to rein in global consumption. Faith communities have found a new point of agreement with student activists, organizing around the conviction that caring for our planet is a moral obligation. Before the last UN Climate Conference in Bali, thousands of U.S. citizens contacted the State Department to press for binding limits on carbon emissions. We're the five percent of humans who have made 50 percent of all the greenhouse gases up there. But our government is reluctant to address it, for one reason: it might hurt our economy. For a lot of history, many nations said exactly the same thing about abolishing slavery. We can't grant humanity to all people, it would hurt our cotton plantations, our sugar crop, our balance of trade. Until the daughters and sons of a new wisdom declared: We don't care. You have to find another way. Enough of this shame.

Congratulations, graduates.

The world shifts under our feet. The rules change. Not the Bill of Rights, or the rules of tenting, but the big unspoken truths of a generation. Exhaled by culture, taken in like oxygen, we hold these truths to be self-evident: You get what you pay for. Success is everything. Work is what you do for money, and that's what counts. How could it be otherwise? And the converse of that last rule, of course, is that if you're not paid to do a thing, it can't be important. If a child writes a poem and proudly reads it, adults may wink and ask, "Think there's a lot of money in that?" You may also hear this when you declare a major in English. Being a good neighbor, raising children: the road to success is not paved with the likes of these. Some workplaces actually quantify your likelihood of being distracted by family or volunteerism. It's called your coefficient of Drag. The ideal number is zero. This is the Rule of Perfect Efficiency. Now, the rule of "Success" has traditionally meant having boatloads of money. But we are not really supposed to put it in a boat. A house would the customary thing. Ideally it should be large, with a lot of bathrooms and so forth, but no more than four people. If two friends come over during approved visiting hours, the two children have to leave. The bathroom-to-resident ratio should at all times remain greater than one. I'm not making this up, I'm just observing, it's more or less my profession. As Yogi Berra told us, you can observe a lot just by watching. I see our dream-houses standing alone, the idealized life taking place in a kind of bubble. So you need another bubble, with rubber tires, to convey yourself to places you must visit, such as an office. If you're successful, it will be a large, empty-ish office you don't have to share. If you need anything, you can get it delivered. Play your cards right and you may never have to come face to

And so we find ourselves in the chapter of history I would entitle: Isolation and Efficiency, and How They Came Around to Bite Us in the Backside. Because it's looking that way. We're a world at war, ravaged by disagreements, a bizarrely globalized people in which the extravagant excesses of one culture wash up as famine or flood on the shores of another. Even the architecture of our planet is collapsing under the weight of our efficient productivity. Our climate, our oceans, migratory paths, things we believed were independent of human affairs. Twenty years ago, climate scientists first told Congress that unlimited carbon emissions were building toward a disastrous instability. Congress said, we need to think about that. About ten years later, nations of the world wrote the Kyoto Protocol, a set of legally binding controls on our carbon emissions. The US said, we still need to think about it. Now we can watch as glaciers disappear, the lights of biodiversity go out, the oceans reverse their ancient orders. A few degrees looked so small on the thermometer. We are so good at measuring things and declaring them under control. How could our weather turn murderous, pummel our coasts and push new diseases like dengue fever onto our doorsteps? It's an emergency on a scale we've never known. We've responded by following the rules we know: Efficiency, Isolation. We can't slow down our productivity and consumption, that's unthinkable. Can't we just go home and put a really big lock on the door? Not this time. Our paradigm has met its match. The world will save itself, don't get me wrong. The term "fossil fuels" is not a metaphor or a simile. In the geological sense, it's over. The internal combustion engine is so 20th Century. Now we can either shift away from a carbon-based economy, or find another place to live. Imagine

the music in your ears. Life gave you this world and promised you could keep it running on: a fossil substance. Dinosaur Shme, and it's standing out. The geologists only disagree on how much is left, and the climate scientists are now saying they're sorry but that's not even the point. We won't get time to use it all. To stabilize the floods and fire storms, we'll have to reduce our carbon emissions by 80 percent, within a decade. Heaven help us get it minus a pound that. We're still stuck on a strategy of bait-and-switch: from corn! But -- we use petroleum to grow the corn. Even if you like the idea of robbing the food bank to fill up the tank, there is a math problem: it takes nearly a gallon of fossil fuel to render an equivalent gallon of corn gas. By some accounts, it takes world in 80 Days, and finds himself stranded in the mid-Atlantic on a steamship that's run out of coal. It's day 79. So Phileas Fogg convinces the captain to pull up the deck and drop the ship into the boiler. On the next day the masts, rafts and spars were burned. The crew worked lustily, keeping up the fires. There was a perfect rage for demolition. "The Captain remarked, "Fogg, you've got something of the Yankee about you." Oh, novelists. They always manage to find the last word, even when they're dead.

How can we get from here to there, without burning up our ship? That will be central question of your adult life. To escape the wild rumpus of carbon-fuel dependency, in the nick of time. You'll make rules that were previously unthinkable, imposing limits on what we can use and possess. You will radically reconsider the power relationship between humans and our habitat. In the words of my esteemed colleague and friend, Wendell Berry, the new Emancipation Proclamation will not be for a specific race or species, but for life itself. Imagine it. Nations have already joined together to rein in global consumption. Faith communities have found a new point of agreement with student activists, organizing around the conviction that caring for our planet is a moral obligation. Before the last UN Climate Conference in Bali, thousands of U.S. citizens contacted the State Department to press for binding limits on carbon emissions. We're the five percent of humans who have made 50 percent of all the greenhouse gases up there. But our government is reluctant to address it, for one reason: it might hurt our economy. For a lot of history, many nations said exactly the same thing about abolishing slavery. We can't grant humanity to all people, it would hurt our cotton plantations, our sugar crop, our balance of trade. Until the daughters and sons of a new wisdom declared: We don't care. You have to find another way. Enough of this shame.

Have we lost that kind of courage? Have we let economic growth become our undisputed master again? As we track the unfolding disruption of natural and global stabilities, you will be told to buy into business as usual: You need a job. Trade your future for an entry level position. Do what we did, preserve a profitable climate for manufacture and consumption, at any cost. Even at the cost of the other climate -- the one that was hospitable to life as we knew it. Is anyone thinking this through? In the awful moment when someone demands at gunpoint, "Your money or your life," that's not supposed to be a hard question.

"If they decide to kill me, it means that we are incredibly strong," Alexei Navalny

Navalny dies in prison – but his blueprint for anti-Putin activism will live on

Regina Smyth, *Indiana University*

Since 2022, Regina Smyth, Professor of Political Science at Indiana University led a research team that has interviewed Russians who left the country in opposition to the war in Ukraine. Many participated in the anti-war protests of late February and early March 2022 and point to **Navalny's return to Russia as the origin of their own political engagement and activism**. As one respondent argued: *"My civic position began to emerge. All this was close to Navalny, his movement, and his encouragement to notice something, to pay attention ... I began to go to rallies, and became much more interested and aware of politics."* While Navalny languished in prison camps following his arrest on charges of violating parole during his recovery in Germany, many of these activists in exile continued to operate outside of Russia, our research partners have found.

They support Ukrainian refugees and war efforts and participate in tracking down children who have been taken to Russia. They are active in anti-war demonstrations and support each other in exile.

This new generation of Russian activists – whether those in exile advocating for change or those risking their well-being in Russia to support anti-war candidates – is Navalny's legacy, and I believe it is powerful.

Before his death, Navalny spoke directly to the generation of activists he inspired: "Listen, I've got something very obvious to tell you. You're not allowed to give up. If they decide to kill me, it means that we are incredibly strong."

People flee after shots were fired near the Kansas City Chiefs' Super Bowl victory parade on Wednesday in Kansas City, Mo.





Mexico is suing US gun-makers for arming its gangs – and a US court could award billions in damages

Timothy D. Lytton, Georgia State University

The government of Mexico is suing U.S. gun-makers for their role in facilitating cross-border gun trafficking that has supercharged violent crime in Mexico.

The lawsuit seeks US\$10 billion in damages and a court order to force the companies named in the lawsuit – including Smith & Wesson, Colt, Glock, Beretta and Ruger – to change the way they do business. In January, a federal appeals court in Boston decided that the industry’s immunity shield, which so far has protected gun-makers from civil liability, does not apply to Mexico’s lawsuit.

As a legal scholar who has analyzed lawsuits against the gun industry for more than 25 years, I believe this decision to allow Mexico’s lawsuit to proceed could be a game changer. To understand why, let’s begin with some background about the federal law that protects the gun industry from civil lawsuits

Gun industry immunity: In 2005, Congress passed the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, which prohibits lawsuits against firearm manufacturers and sellers for injuries arising from criminal misuse of a gun. Importantly, there are limits to this immunity shield. For example, it doesn’t protect a manufacturer or seller who “knowingly violated a State or Federal statute applicable to the sale or marketing” of a firearm. Mexico’s lawsuit alleges that U.S. gun-makers aided and abetted illegal weapons sales to gun traffickers in violation of federal law. **Mexico’s allegations:** Mexico claims that U.S. gun-makers engaged in “deliberate efforts to create and maintain an illegal market for their weapons in Mexico.” According to the lawsuit, the manufacturers intentionally design their weapons to be attractive to criminal organizations in Mexico by including features such as easy conversion to fully automatic fire, compatibility with high-capacity magazines and removable serial numbers. Mexico also points to industry marketing that promises buyers a tactical military experience for civilians. And Mexico alleges that manufacturers distribute their products to dealers whom they know serve as transit points for illegal gunrunning through illegal straw sales, unlicensed sales at gun shows and online, and off-book sales disguised as inventory theft. In short, Mexico claims that illegal gun trafficking isn’t just an unwanted byproduct of the industry’s design choices, marketing campaigns and distribution practices. Instead, according to the lawsuit, feeding demand for illegal weapons is central to the industry’s business model. In response, the gun-makers insist that Mexico’s attempt to hold them legally responsible for the criminal activity of others is precisely the type of lawsuit that the federal immunity shield was designed to block. They argue that merely selling a product that someone later uses in a crime does not amount to a violation of federal law that would deprive a manufacturer of immunity. Additionally, the gun-makers assert that, even if Mexico’s lawsuit were not barred by the immunity law, they have no legal duty to prevent criminal violence that occurs outside the U.S. **High stakes for the industry:** If Mexico does win at trial, its demand for \$10 billion in damages could drive several of the nation’s largest firearm manufacturers into bankruptcy. Even if the case were to settle for much less, a victory by Mexico would provide a template for a wave of future lawsuits that could change the way the gun industry operates.

Thursday, February 15, 2024

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With Palestinian laborers shut out of Israel, Indian workers line up for jobs there

FEBRUARY 17, 2024 · 5:01 AM ET

By Omkar Khandekar, Diaa Hadid



Indian men line up at a registration office set up in a technical college in the northern Indian city of Lucknow, where they hope to sign up to work in Israel.

Israel suspended the work permits of most Palestinian laborers after Hamas-backed militants attacked Israel on Oct. 7, Palestinian laborers formed the backbone of Israel's construction sector. After the work permit suspensions, most building sites lie idle. India is now one of the biggest customers of Israeli weaponry. Many Hindu nationalists in India see the two countries as ideologically aligned, and like it that way.

"There are so many things we talk about that don't actually move that meter" to produce housing in the U.S., zoning connoisseur Jim Kumon says. "This is one of those **thankless mountains of minutiae that matter**. This really matters."

The hottest trend in U.S. cities? Changing zoning rules to allow more housing

FEBRUARY 17, 2024 · 6:00 AM ET



Laurel Wamsley



A view of the Kingfield neighborhood from the roof of the Sundial Building, a new 12-unit apartment building in Minneapolis.

America is facing a housing crisis. The U.S. is short millions of housing units, and the situation is especially tight for those with low incomes. Half of renters are paying more than a third of their salary in housing costs, and for those looking to buy, scant few homes on the market are affordable for a typical household. To ramp up supply, cities are taking a fresh look at their zoning rules and the regulations that spell out what can be built where and what can't. And many are finding that their old rules are too rigid, making it too hard and too expensive to build many new homes. So these cities, as well as some states, are undertaking a process called zoning reform. They're crafting new rules that do things like allow multifamily homes in more neighborhoods, encourage more density near transit and streamline permitting processes for those trying to build.

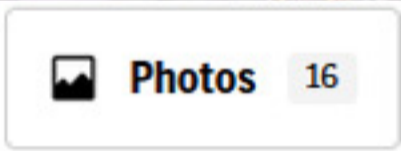


Queen Camilla, once seen as the scourge of the House of Windsor, the woman at the heart of King Charles III's doomed marriage to the late Princess Diana, has emerged as one of the monarchy's most prominent emissaries.

Tribes in Washington are battling a devastating opioid crisis. Will a multimillion-dollar bill help?



As tribes in Washington state battle opioids addiction, state lawmakers are proposing sending them more money. But for a Lummi Nation outreach worker, the work to save lives is personal after her son died of an overdose. (Feb. 16) (AP Video By Manuel Valdes, Hallie Golden)



BELLINGHAM, Wash. (AP) — Evelyn Jefferson walks deep into a forest dotted with the tents of unhoused Lummi Nation tribal members and calls out names. When someone appears, she and a nurse hand out the opioid overdose reversal medication naloxone.

Jefferson, a tribal member herself, knows how critical these kits are: Just five months ago, her own son died of an overdose from a synthetic opioid that’s about 100 times more potent than fentanyl. The 37-year-old’s death was the fourth related to opioids in four days on the reservation.

“It took us eight days to bury him because we had to wait in line, because there were so many funerals in front of his,” said Jefferson, crisis outreach supervisor for Lummi Nation. “Fentanyl has really taken a generation from this tribe.”

Lummi Nation, like many tribes, faces an additional challenge when it comes to keeping outside drug dealers off their land: A complicated jurisdictional maze means tribal police often can’t arrest non-tribal members on the reservation. “What do we do when we have a non-Lummi, predatory drug dealer on our reservation with fentanyl, driving around or on their property and are selling drugs?” said Anthony Hillaire, tribal chairman. Against the backdrop, tribes such as the Lummi Nation, about 100 miles (161 kilometers) north of Seattle, say the proposed funding — while appreciated — would barely scratch the surface. The tribe of about 5,300 people on the shores of the Salish Sea has already suffered nearly one overdose death a week this year.

Lummi Nation needs \$12 million to fully finance a 16-bed, secure medical detox facility that incorporates the tribe’s culture, Hillaire said, and money to construct a new counseling center after damage from flooding. Those costs alone far exceed the annual total that would be designated for tribes under the legislation. The Senate has proposed allotting \$12 million in its capital budget to the facility. “We’re a sovereign nation. We’re a self-governed tribe. We want to take care of ourselves because we know how to take care of ourselves,” he said. “And so we usually just need funding and law changes — good policies.” The proposed measure would earmark funds deposited into an opioid settlement account, which includes money from the state’s \$518 million settlement in 2022 with the nation’s three largest opioid distributors, for tribes battling addiction. Tribes are expected to receive \$7.75 million or 20% of the funds deposited into the account the previous fiscal year — whichever is greater — annually.

Opioid overdose deaths for Native Americans and Alaska Natives have increased dramatically in the past few years in Washington, with at least 100 in 2022 — 75 more than in 2019, according to the most recent numbers available from the Washington State Department of Health. In September, Lummi Nation declared a state of emergency over fentanyl, adding drug-sniffing dogs and checkpoints, while revoking bail for drug-related charges.

The tribe has also opened a seven-bed facility to help members with withdrawal and get them on medication for opioid use disorder, while providing access to a neighboring cultural room where they work with cedar and sage. In its first five months, the facility treated 63 people, the majority of whom are still on the medication regimen today, said Dr. Jesse Davis, medical director of the Lummi Healing Spirit Opioid Treatment program.

But truly thwarting this crisis must go beyond just Lummi Nation working on its own, said Nickolaus Lewis, Lummi councilmember.

[. . .]

Why Americans Suddenly Stopped Hanging Out

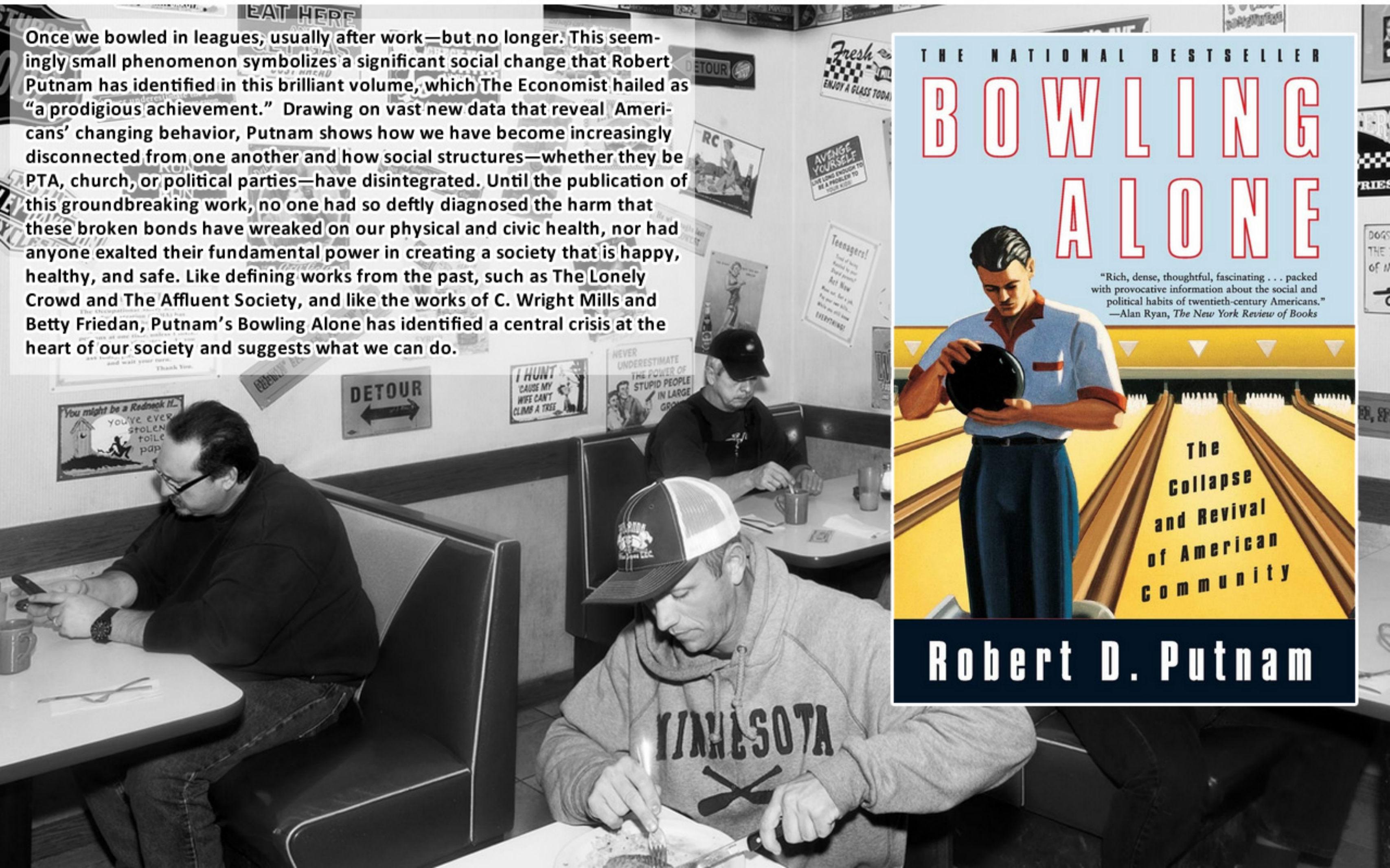
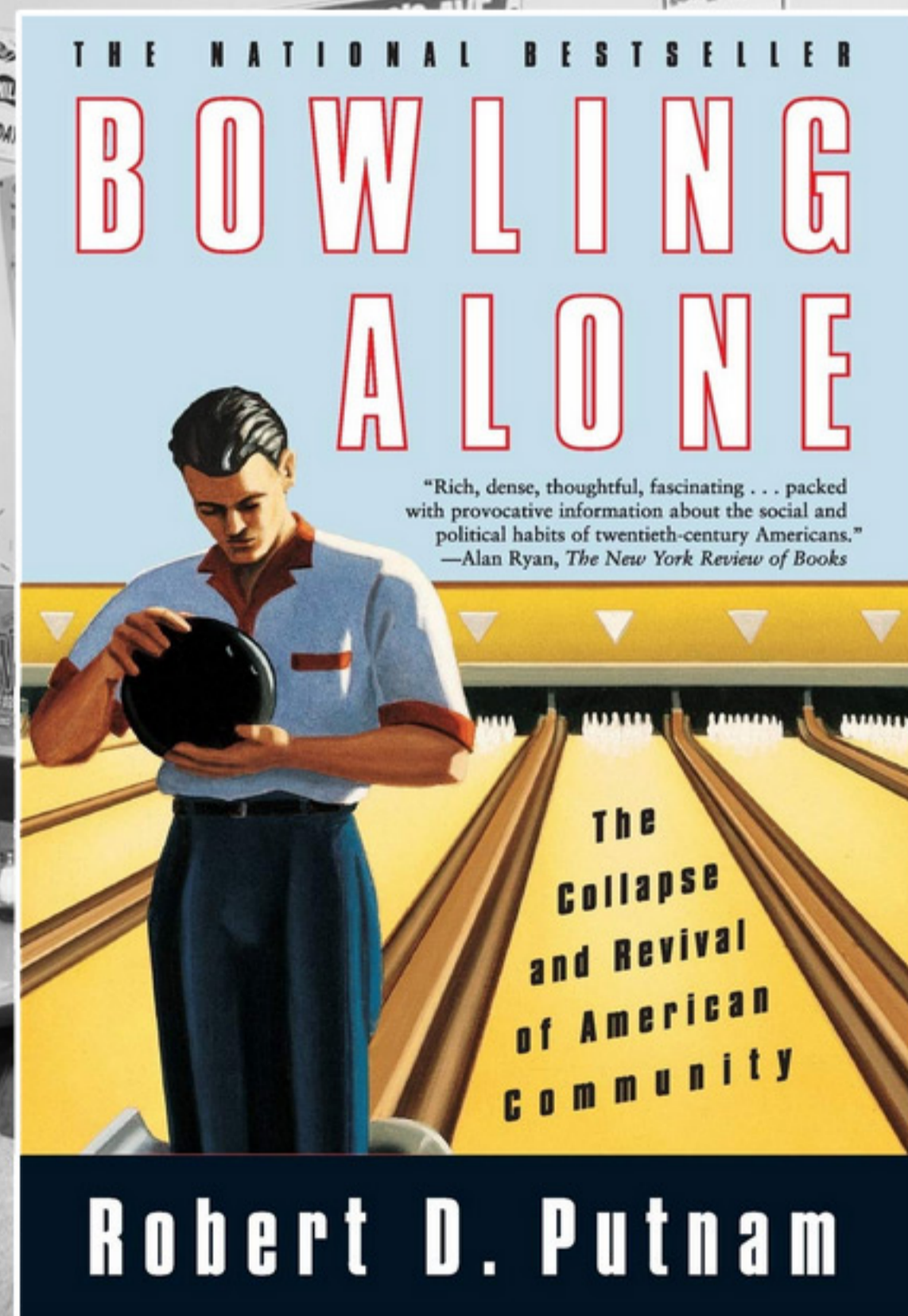
Too much aloneness is creating a crisis of social fitness.

By Derek Thompson

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

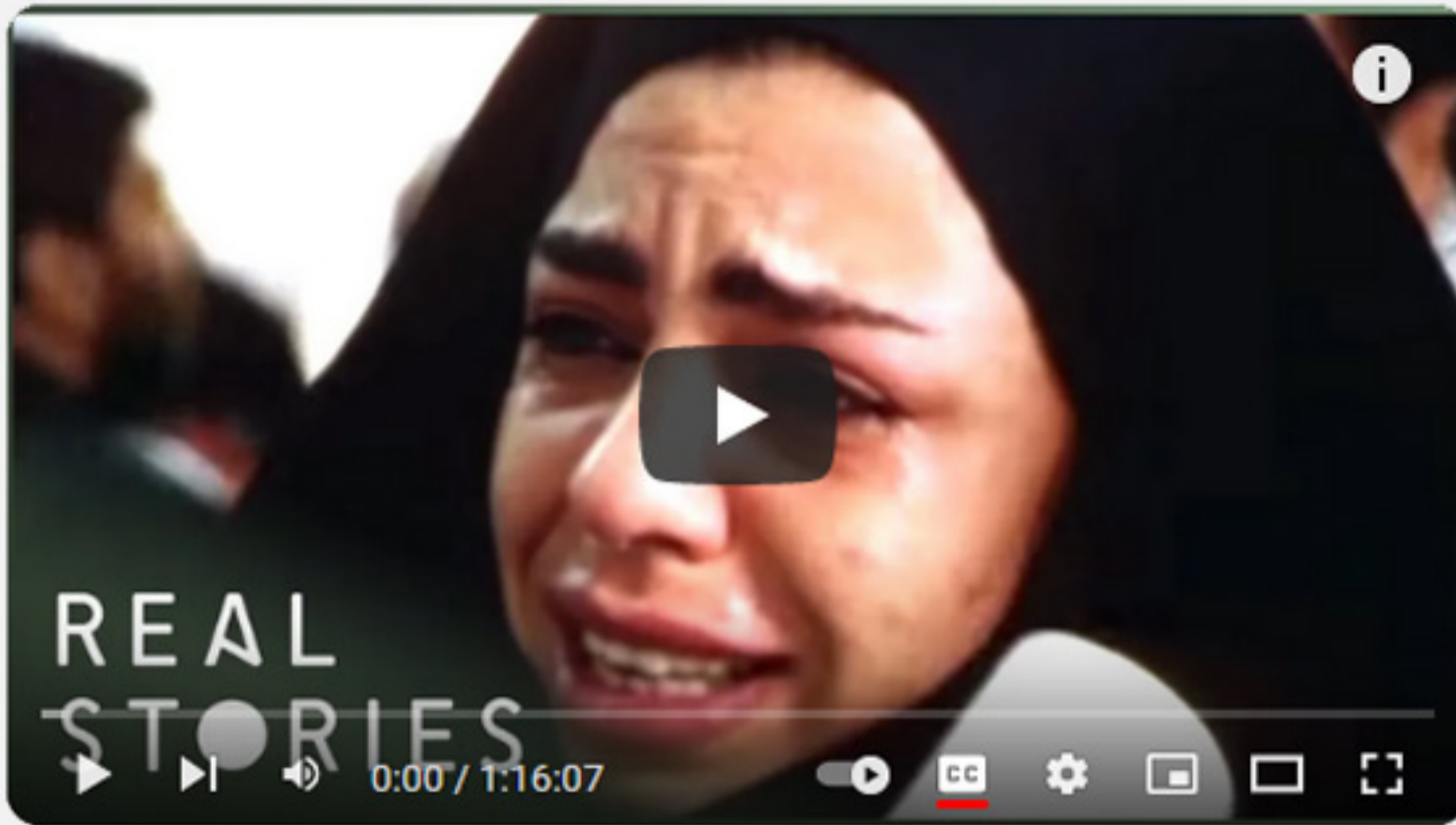
Something's changed in the past few decades. After the 1970s, American dynamism declined. America's social metabolism was slowing down.

Once we bowled in leagues, usually after work—but no longer. This seemingly small phenomenon symbolizes a significant social change that Robert Putnam has identified in this brilliant volume, which *The Economist* hailed as “a prodigious achievement.” Drawing on vast new data that reveal Americans’ changing behavior, Putnam shows how we have become increasingly disconnected from one another and how social structures—whether they be PTA, church, or political parties—have disintegrated. Until the publication of this groundbreaking work, no one had so deftly diagnosed the harm that these broken bonds have wreaked on our physical and civic health, nor had anyone exalted their fundamental power in creating a society that is happy, healthy, and safe. Like defining works from the past, such as *The Lonely Crowd* and *The Affluent Society*, and like the works of C. Wright Mills and Betty Friedan, Putnam’s *Bowling Alone* has identified a central crisis at the heart of our society and suggests what we can do.



I went to thank **Barbara Kingsolver** for the thoughtfulness she puts into the writing she offers us, the time and willingness alone required to do so, when monk **Matthieu Ricard**, considered by some to be "the happiest man alive," interrupted to introduce **Ani Ngawang Pema**, a Tibetan Buddhist nun who at the time had been in solitary Retreat for 45 years, never leaving the confines of a simple hut. She had not been totally without human contact, she received food twice a day. When her hut's wooden door creaked opened for a rare visit with the outer world, she offers cookies to her guests, and still it was the Dharma she had on her mind. Ani Ngawang had distilled her entire religious practice, all the teachings of the Buddha, to one simple mantra, a prayer for the welfare of all sentient beings recited again and again through every hour of her waking day: Om Mani Padmi Hum. Meanwhile, Kingsolver talks about the place where she writes, ". . . upstairs in our farmhouse, has windows facing into the woods. The walls are lined with bookshelves. To avoid distraction, I write on a computer that is not connected to the internet. (I check email elsewhere in the house.) My companions in this room are the likes of Virginia Woolf and George Eliot, who peer down at me from the shelves, and a blue fish named Bruno. They are all very quiet." I have to laugh. My two new acquaintances come together for me on the same day, such good fortune, such lovely complimentary mind fields. The literary mind, the Buddha mind, such timely good medicine.





Divorce: Iranian Style (Global Documentary) | Real Stories

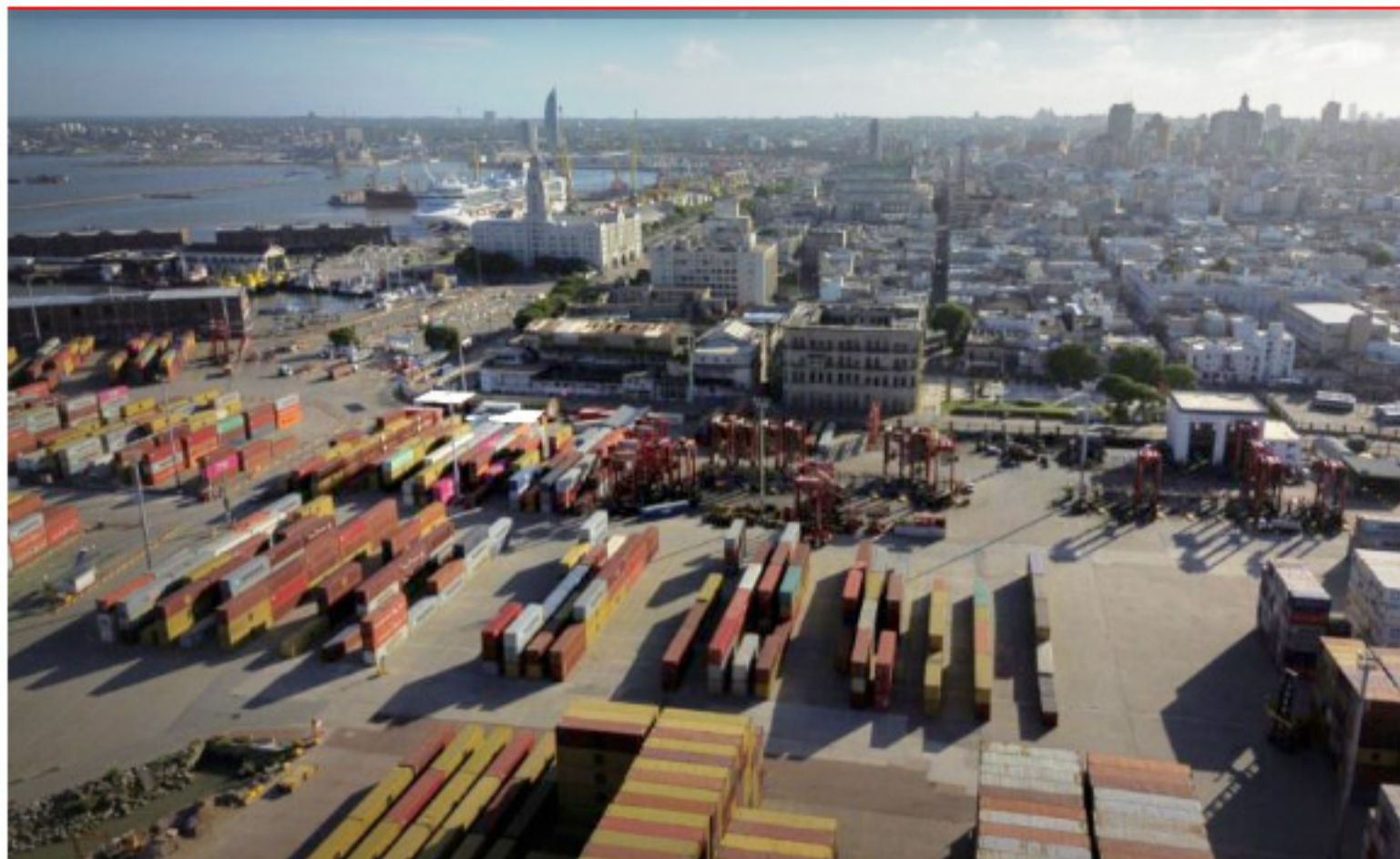
4,612,844 views Apr 6, 2016

Hilarious, tragic, stirring, this fly-on-the-wall look at several weeks in an Iranian divorce court provides a unique window into the intimate circumstances of Iranian women's lives. Following Jamileh, whose husband beats her; Ziba, a 16-year-old trying to divorce her 38-year-old husband; and Maryam, who is desperately fighting to gain custody of her daughters, this deadpan chronicle showcases the strength, ingenuity, and guile with which they confront biased laws, a Kafka-esque administrative system, and their husbands' and families' rage to gain divorces.

With the barest of commentary, acclaimed director Kim Longinotto turns her cameras on the court and lets it tell its own story. Dispelling images of Iran as a country of war, hostages, and "fatwas", and Iranian women as passive victims of a terrible system, this film is a subtle, fascinating look at women's lives in a country which is little known to most Americans.

Directed by Kim Longinotto and Ziba Mir-Hosseini, author of Marriage on Trial: A Study of Islamic Family Law.





An aerial view shows containers stacked at the port, in Montevideo, Uruguay January 3, 2024. REUTERS/Mariana Greif

Surging Cocaine Violence Has Uruguay Clamoring For DEA Help

Reuters

Total Views: 661 🔥

February 18, 2024

Uruguay, home to 3.4 million people, suffered a record 426 murders in 2018. Violence has remained high ever since with grisly turf battles between small drug-dealing clans shocking a country largely unaccustomed to gang violence.

MONTEVIDEO, Feb 17 (Reuters) – Uruguay’s main port received two cargo scanners sixteen years ago to detect drugs and other suspicious loads. Unfortunately, during delivery one of them fell into the sea. Since then, cocaine shipments to Europe have surged through the port of Montevideo, which handled a record 1.1 million containers last year, fueling a rise in gang violence and undermining Uruguay’s reputation as a beacon of stability in turbulent South America. Uruguay, a small, affluent nation sandwiched between Brazil and Argentina, is desperate for help. Three former DEA officials told Reuters that – with Washington focused on fentanyl flooding its borders from Mexico and little of the cocaine that transits through Uruguay heading to the United States – there’s scant appetite for seeking congressional approval to re-open a Montevideo office.

“Everything’s fentanyl now,” said former DEA official Larry Reichner, who oversaw Uruguay as the DEA’s assistant regional director for southern South America from 2015-2019. “They couldn’t give a rat’s ass about cocaine.” Uruguay, home to 3.4 million people, suffered a record 426 murders in 2018. Violence has remained high ever since with grisly turf battles between small drug-dealing clans shocking a country largely unaccustomed to gang violence. “We have a problem,” said Mario Layera, Uruguay’s police chief from 2016-20, who led the force when the DEA left. “Cocaine is a problem.” Uruguay’s proud reputation as a regional role model bred complacency, two current and four former U.S. officials said. Authorities were in denial about the scale of cocaine moving through their country, they said.

Uruguay seized over 2 metric tonnes of cocaine in 2021, according to United Nations data, up over 1,300% compared with the 144 kgs apprehended in 2017. In 2019, when Germany seized a record 1 billion euro haul of cocaine in a soybean shipment from Montevideo, the Uruguayans didn’t believe the drugs originated in their country, initially claiming they were loaded in Brazil, two ex-DEA agents said. “For Uruguay, I think it was their heads in the sand, you know: ‘This is not happening,’” said a former Montevideo DEA chief, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss his past work. “But the reality was that it was happening, and I think it had been going on for a while.” Lackluster local co-operation wasn’t the only frustration for DEA officials in Montevideo. They were struggling to get Washington to care about Uruguay’s growing importance in the cocaine trade. Half a dozen ex-DEA chiefs said they urged U.S. bosses to pay more attention to the southern cone, but got little traction because the drugs were heading to Europe. “There was not a lot of interest,” said Vargas. These days, with Washington fixated on fentanyl, there’s even less, they said. A current U.S. counter-narcotics official based in the southern cone said “the DEA and other U.S. agencies are very concerned, almost obsessed about ... efforts to establish fentanyl labs in South America. But so far, nothing really has developed on that front, and it’s blinded us to what continues to happen with cocaine going to the non-U.S. market.” The DEA declined to comment. There was one thing both U.S. and Uruguayan cops could agree on – that European nations should be doing more.

Uruguay loves Greece: Montevideo's main street is called "Grecia" and the residents are learning Greek by Athens Bureau

In the small country of Uruguay and its 3,500,000 million inhabitants, at least 6,000 people speak Greek fluently. In fact, many of them know ancient Greek history, while several streets and squares have Greek names. Also, statues of ancient philosophers adorn the country's public buildings!

The Greek Community of Uruguay was founded in June 2016 and was the first officially recognised organised structure of Greeks in South America. The citizens do not define themselves as "Philhellenes" but as "Greek supporters".

According to a Eurostat survey, the largest percentage of Uruguayans answered that they culturally identify with Europe and that the first country that comes to their mind is Greece.

Athens is the protagonist

On the facade of a neoclassical building, it says "Athenian", while, in a park called Athens and located on the coast of the capital, there is a bust of Homer.

Uruguayans also have knowledge of the modern Greek world of letters and arts. In every bookstore in the country, even the smallest, there is always everything by Nikos Kavadias, Cavafy and Ritsos, as reported by elines.com.

It is characteristic that in Montevideo, 23 streets have borrowed their names from ancient philosophers, while the most central street is also called "Grecia".

Two squares of the capital have been named "square of Athens" and "square of Greece". The statue of Socrates adorns the National Library of Montevideo entrance, which has been built according to the ancient Greek Doric architectural style.

They also celebrate our national holidays.

There is even a public school in the country called "Grecia", all of whose students are Uruguayan children. In fact, every March 25 and October 28, they celebrate the national holidays of the Greeks, holding school events, singing and reciting poems.


The students of "Grecia" have also learned the National Anthem of Greece, and as it seems short compared to the Uruguayan one, they have memorised more stanzas of the "Hymn of Freedom" by D. Solomos!



a probe into Navalny's death



Moscow and St. Petersburg residents laid flowers on Friday at monuments dedicated to victims of political repression after the news broke of opposition leader Alexei Navalny's death in a Russian prison. (Feb. 16)

 **Photos** 11

a probe into Navalny's death



Police officers watch as a woman cries as she pays tribute to Alexei Navalny at the monument, a large boulder from the Solovetsky islands, where the first camp of the Gulag political prison system was established in St. Petersburg, Russia, Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024. Russians across the vast country streamed to ad-hoc memorials with flowers and candles to pay tribute to Alexei Navalny, the most famous Russian opposition leader and the Kremlin's fiercest critic. Russian officials reported that Navalny, 47, died in prison on Friday. (AP Photo/Dmitri Lovetsky)

a probe into Navalny's death



A young woman lays flowers to pay the last respect to Alexei Navalny at the monument, a large boulder from the Solovetsky islands, where the first camp of the Gulag political prison system was established, near the historical the Federal Security Service (FSB, Soviet KGB successor) building in Moscow, Russia, on Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024. Russians across the vast country streamed to ad-hoc memorials with flowers and candles to pay tribute to Alexei Navalny, the most famous Russian opposition leader and the Kremlin's fiercest critic. Russian officials reported that Navalny, 47, died in prison on Friday. (AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko)

a probe into Navalny's death



Municipal workers, right, follow the orders of the authorities and takes away flowers brought by people to pay tribute to Alexei Navalny from the Memorial to Victims of Political Repression in St. Petersburg, Russia, Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024. Russians across the vast country streamed to ad-hoc memorials with flowers and candles to pay tribute to Alexei Navalny, the most famous Russian opposition leader and the Kremlin's fiercest critic. Russian officials reported that Navalny, 47, died in prison on Friday. (AP Photo/Dmitri Lovetsky)

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Police officers watch a woman laying flowers to pay tribute to Alexei Navalny at the monument, a large boulder from the Solovetsky islands, where the first camp of the Gulag political prison system was established in St. Petersburg, Russia, Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024. Russians across the vast country streamed to ad-hoc memorials with flowers and candles to pay tribute to Alexei Navalny, the most famous Russian opposition leader and the Kremlin's fiercest critic. Russian officials reported that Navalny, 47, died in prison on Friday. (AP Photo/Dmitri Lovetsky)




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 **Photos** 11

Alexei Anatolyevich Navalny
4 June 1976 – 16 February 2024



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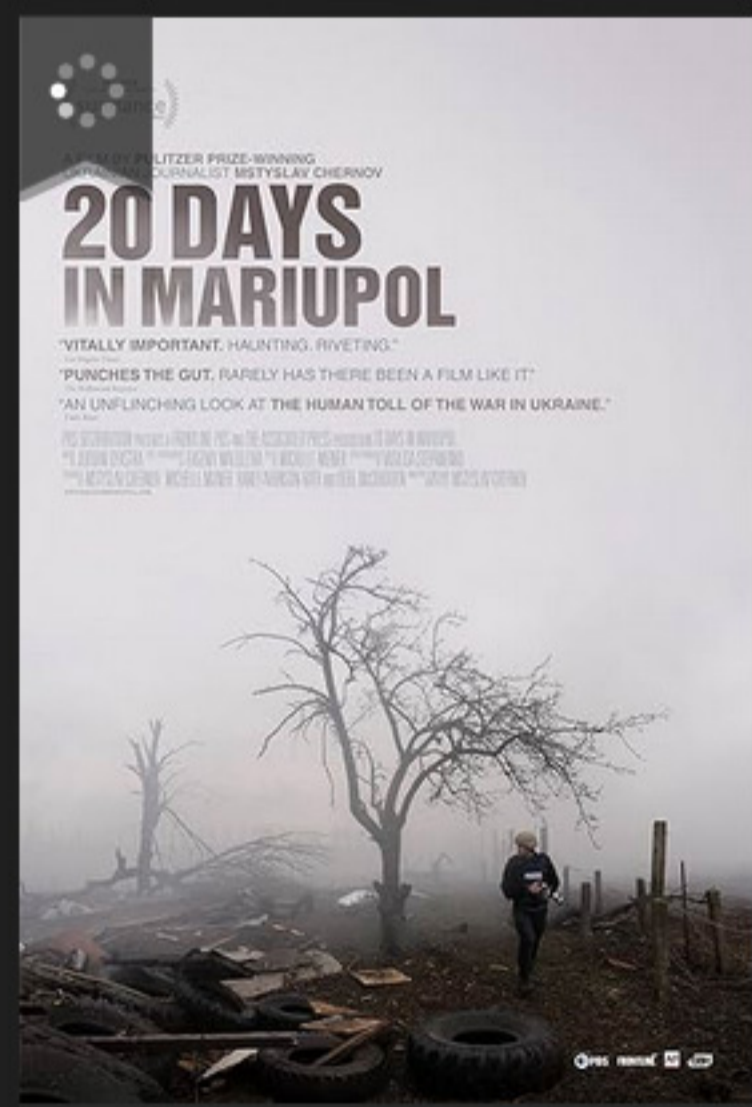
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POPULARITY

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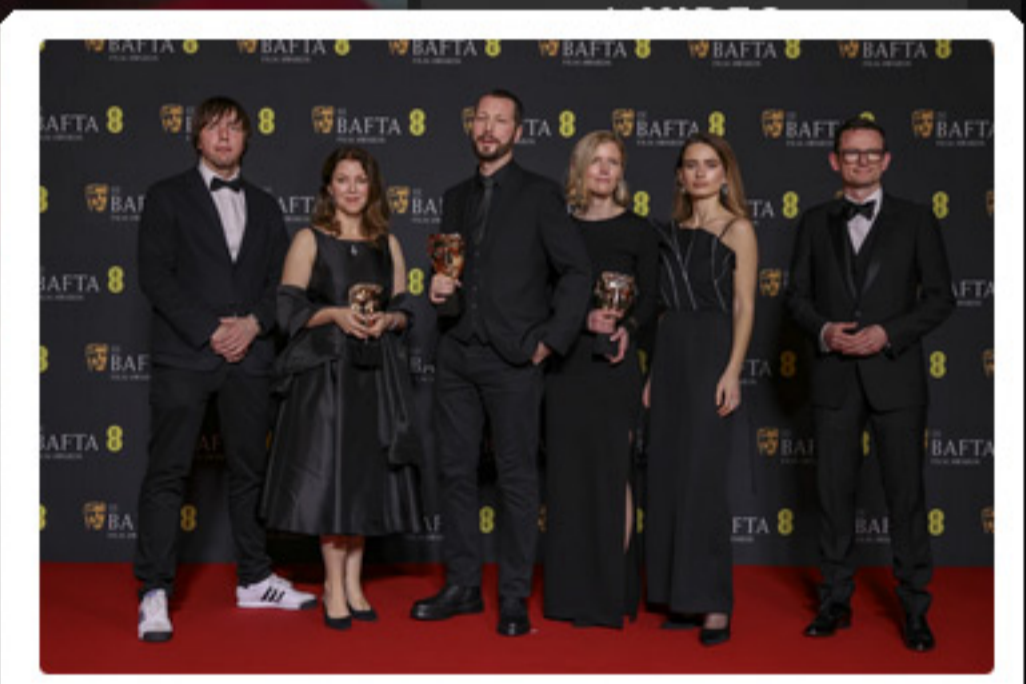
Play trailer 1:49

There's nowhere to run.

Documentary

War

As the Russian invasion begins, a team of Ukrainian journalists trapped in the besieged city of Mariupol struggle to continue their work documenting the war's atrocities.



AP wins the best-documentary prize at the BAFTA awards for Ukraine film '20 Days in Mariupol'

The Associated Press has won the best documentary prize at the British Academy Film Awards for Ukraine war documentary "20 Days in Mariupol."



This 1942 photo shows the evacuation of American-born Japanese civilians during World War II, as they leave their homes for internment, in Los Angeles, California. The sidewalks are piled high with indispensable personal possessions, cars and buses are waiting to transport the evacuees to the war relocation camps. (AP Photo)

 Photos 1



Franklin Roosevelt paves way for internment of Japanese

On Feb. 19, 1942, during World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which paved the way for the relocation and internment of people of Japanese ancestry, including U.S.-born citizens.

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Monday, February 19, 2024





Israelism Screening and Discussion with Gabor Maté, Naomi Klein, and Simone Zimmerman



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55,438 views Jan 29, 2024

Independent Jewish Voices and the Centre for Comparative Muslim Studies joined together at SFU for a screening of the critically important documentary, *Israelism*. The screening of the film was followed by a discussion with Simone Zimmerman, the subject of the film, as well as Dr. Naomi Klein and Dr. Gabor Maté.



Israelism (song) > [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israelism_\(song\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israelism_(song))

"Israelism" is a song recorded by Swedish group Army of Lovers, released in March 1993. The song was a European hit, scoring a top 10 hit in countries like Belgium, Finland, Israel and Sweden. It combines the Jewish folk song "Hevenu shalom aleichem" with Eurodance-beats. Swedish Göteborgsposten viewed the song as a "controversial tribute to Jewish culture", concluding that it is "yet another hit." Pan-European magazine Music & Media remarked that it incorporates elements from five traditional Jewish folk hymns "in an updated arrangement." They added that "Israelism" is "intended as an anthem for young people around the world, proving there is much pride and joy to be found in Jewish lifestyle. The song should be seen as a powerful statement against racism and bigotry in Europe today."

Israelism (film) > [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israelism_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israelism_(film))

Israelism is a 2023 American documentary about the portrayal of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in American Jewish institutions. Directed by Erin Axelman and Sam Eilertsen, it has screened at various film festivals in the United States and won a Brooklyn Film Festival Spirit Award. The film is critical of Israel's treatment of Palestinians, and of the American Jewish community's education on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It follows two American Jews as they learn about the conflict and come to revise their views. The film also includes interviews with academics and political activists. AFTER Oct. 7th, some late 2023 screenings of the film at universities and other venues in the U.S. and Canada were canceled, following an online campaign accusing the film of antisemitism, with screenings reinstated following criticism from academic and civil liberties organizations. *Israelism* argues that some American Jews are taught a narrative of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that "almost entirely erases the existence of Palestinians", Sam Wolfson wrote in *The Guardian*. Interviewees include Noam Chomsky, Cornel West, Jeremy Ben-Ami, and Sami Awad. The film focuses on the perspectives of Simone Zimmerman (co-founder of IfNotNow) and another Jewish American, a former IDF soldier identified only as "Eitan", following them as they learn more about the treatment of Palestinians and come to revise their views on Israel. The filmmakers also interviewed Abe Foxman, former director of the Anti-Defamation League, who later said he could only get through 10 minutes of watching the film and that he regretted participating in it.



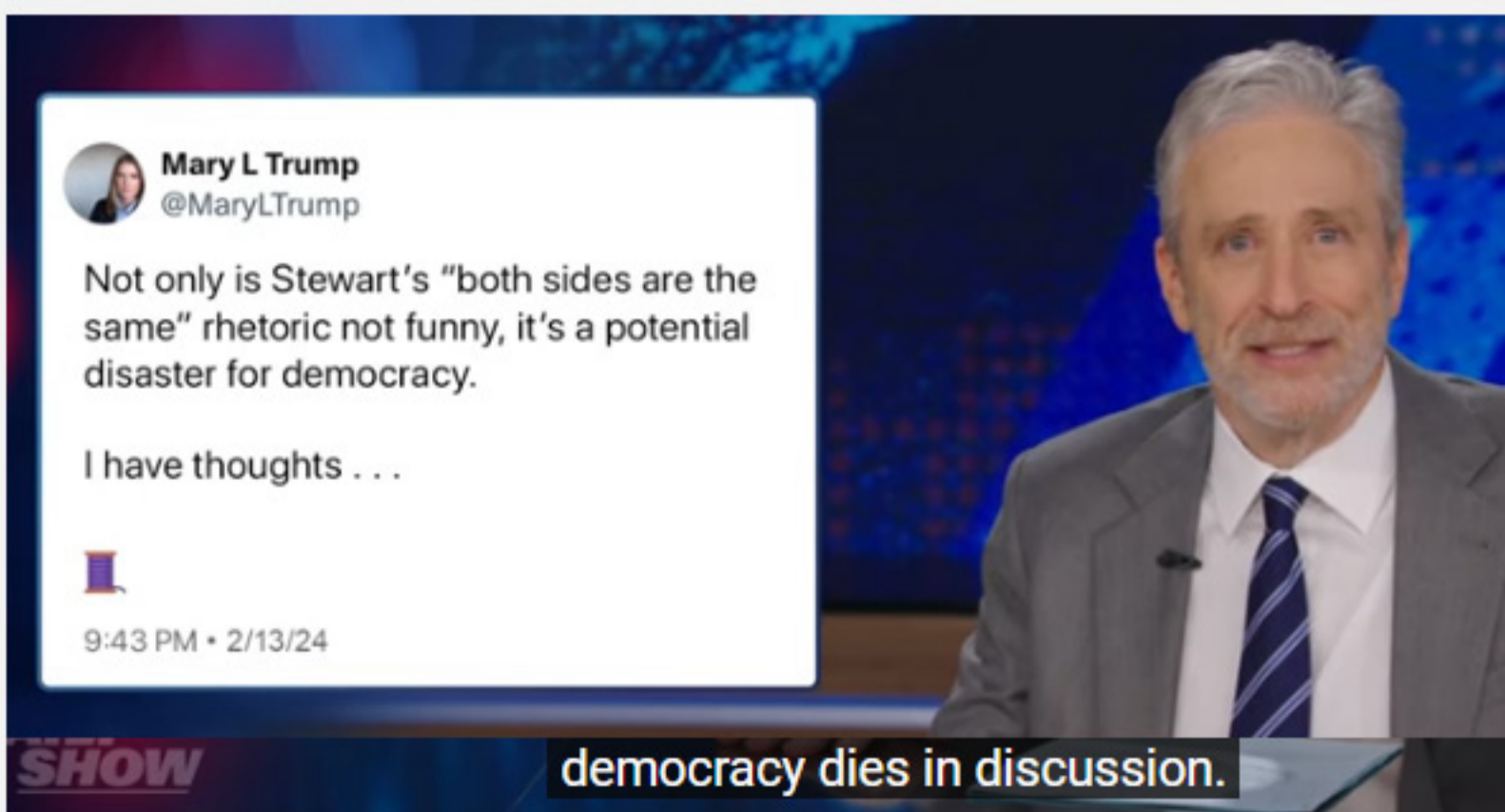
Jon Stewart on Tucker Carlson's Putin Interview & Trip to Russia | The Daily Show

The Daily Show
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2,917,706 views Feb 19, 2024 #JonStewart #DailyShow #Comedy

In response to online backlash over his criticism of Joe Biden last week, Jon studies Tucker Carlson's interview with Vladimir Putin in Russia for a lesson in speaking "of course" to power. Plus, Michael Kosta reports from North Korea to demonstrate how nice life under a dictatorship can be.

#JonStewart #DailyShow #Comedy



Tucker Carlson Network
<https://tucker Carlson.com> > the-vladimir-putin-interview

The Vladimir Putin Interview

Feb 8, 2024 — Tucker interviews Vladimir Putin in Moscow, Russia.

So we thought it would be interesting to take a look at a contemporary modern day 2024 Russian grocery store.

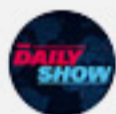


All right, here we go. So I guess you put in 10 rubles here and you get it back when you put the cart back. So it's free, but there's an incentive to return it and not just bring it to your homeless encampment.





Cord Jefferson - Satire & Getting Meta with "American Fiction" | The Daily Show



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70,383 views Feb 15, 2024 #JordanKlepper #DailyShow #CordJefferson

"Every time I'm experiencing a piece of art that makes me uncomfortable, I kind of lean in, because I think wisdom is on the other side of that discomfort." Cord Jefferson, writer and director of the Academy Award-nominated film, "American Fiction," shares how his experiences in Hollywood contributed to his desire to expand any limited ideas of Black stories or Black characters, why he thinks it's good that his movie makes some people feel uncomfortable, and how the film's success is feeling very meta. #DailyShow #JordanKlepper #CordJefferson



American Fiction

2023 · R · 1h 57m



Comedy

Drama

A novelist who's fed up with the establishment profiting from Black entertainment uses a pen name to write a book that propels him into the heart of the hypocrisy and madness he claims to di... [Read all](#)

A novelist who's fed up with the establishment profiting from Black entertainment uses a pen name to write a book that propels him into the heart of the hypocrisy and madness he claims to disdain.

Cord Jefferson's hilarious directorial debut confronts our culture's obsession with reducing people to outrageous stereotypes. Jeffrey Wright stars as Monk, a frustrated novelist who's fed up with the establishment profiting from "Black" entertainment that relies on tired and offensive tropes. To prove his point, Monk uses a pen name to write his own outlandish "Black" book--that propels him into the heart of hypocrisy and the madness he claims to disdain.

Israelism Screening and Discussion with Gabor Maté, Naomi Klein, and Simone Zimmerman



<https://youtu.be/TphWITQfkWE> | [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israelism_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israelism_(film))



The film focuses on the perspectives of Simone Zimmerman (co-founder of IfNotNow) and another Jewish American, as they learn more about the treatment of Palestinians and come to revise their views on Israel.

Meet Simone Zimmerman

Bernie Sanders' Jewish outreach director is outspoken critic of Israeli policies, actions
By Uriel Heilman April 14, 2016

Simone Zimmerman, the Bernie Sanders campaign's newly hired national Jewish outreach coordinator, is familiar with the American Jewish establishment. She is used to fighting against it. During the 2014 Gaza war, Zimmerman was one of the leaders of a group of young Jews who held regular protest vigils outside the offices of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, reading the names of Palestinians and Israelis killed in the conflict. She opposes Israel's occupation, wants Hillel to allow participation by groups that support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel, is against Jewish federation funding for Israeli projects in the West Bank, and wrote favorably of the efforts of Jewish Voice for Peace, a pro-BDS group, to get "international corporations to stop profiting off human rights abuses." (The Anti-Defamation League has called JVP one of America's top 10 anti-Israel groups.) "We're paying attention to what's happening in Israel — and we are angry," Zimmerman said in a column on her fellow millennials in Israel's daily Haaretz in February. "The hypocrisy of expecting feel-good social justice projects to offset millennials' deep outrage at the grave injustices committed by the Jewish state is almost too much to bear," wrote Zimmerman, who is in her mid-20s. "No public relations trick can save Israel's image. The problem isn't with the hasbara [public relations]. The problem is nearly 50 years of occupation. The problem is rampant racism in Israeli society. The problem is attacks on human rights defenders by extremists and by the state. The problem is a Jewish establishment that ignores or justifies all of this." Now charged with reaching out to Jews and Jewish groups to try to corral support for the only Jewish candidate in the race for president, Zimmerman may be either a deeply flawed choice for the job or the perfect hire, depending on your political views and your analysis of Sanders' prospects among varying kinds of Jewish voters.

Zimmerman declined JTA's requests to be interviewed for this story.

Jews who back Sanders invariably say they are doing so largely because of the candidate's positions on socioeconomic issues. But many of these Jewish progressives also like Sanders' questioning of American political orthodoxy on Israel. Sanders is a proponent of Israel's security and survival, but also criticizes the Jewish state for using "disproportionate" force against the Palestinians and says the U.S. position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict needs to be more "evenhanded." "It makes me feel good to be supporting a candidate where I don't have to make excuses for them being part of the pro-occupation establishment," said Charles Lenchner, a Jewish Sanders supporter from Brooklyn. "This is a candidate who has embraced the full humanity of Palestinians in a way we have not seen from any past president except for Jimmy Carter," he continued. "We need a president who will stand up to Israel's settler minority, which has captured the government there and captured the foreign policy establishment in the U.S. Bernie Sanders might actually be able to bring American power to bear on the intransigence of the Israeli right wing." But other Jews, including some inclined to vote for Sanders, are troubled by some of the candidates' statements on Israel, including his erroneous recall in a New York Daily News interview of the number of Palestinian civilians killed in the 2014 Gaza conflict. Sanders said he thought the number was 10,000 dead, but the actual U.N. estimate was 1,462. When someone in the room did a quick search for the official number and offered the corrected figure, Sanders immediately accepted it. Critics nevertheless seized upon the mistake and other Sanders statements as evidence that he buys into the Palestinian narrative that Israel is the primary aggressor in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. For these Jews, Zimmerman's appointment is unlikely to allay their concerns about Sanders. Some anti-Sanders groups already have seized upon Zimmerman's hire as fodder for their argument that a Sanders presidency would be bad for the Jews. "Yes, this is what the Bernie Sanders version of Jewish outreach looks like," Daniel Greenfield wrote in FrontPageMag, a right-wing website associated with the David Horowitz Freedom Center, which describes the political left as an enemy of America. "Stone throwing and BDS papered over with random Yiddish and Jewish words to make anti-Semitism and hatred of Jew seem socially acceptable." Zimmerman has a strong Jewish background. A native of Los Angeles, born in 1990, and the great-granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor, Zimmerman grew up in a Conservative Jewish household, went to Jewish day school and Jewish camp, and was active in United Synagogue Youth, the Conservative movement's youth organization, according to a biography of her on the American Jewish Peace Archive's website. The bio is based on an interview with Zimmerman last May. Zimmerman said she visited Israel a number of times during her childhood.

Simone Zimmerman is Co-Founder of IfNotNow Movement



When she started college at the University of California, Berkeley, Zimmerman initially gravitated toward the traditional pro-Israel camp. She joined Berkeley's Israel Action Committee, protested a divestment bill in the student senate, and went to Washington in the spring to attend AIPAC's annual policy conference. But Zimmerman's political views changed as she learned more from advocates of divestment and saw Israeli mistreatment of Palestinians during a visit to Israel, she said. She soon joined her campus chapter of J Street, the "pro-Israel, pro-peace" lobbying group that supports U.S. pressure on Israel to support a two-state solution. She spent the summer after her sophomore year studying colloquial Arabic at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In 2012, Zimmerman was elected president of the national student board of J Street U, the group's campus arm. Throughout her college years at Berkeley, Zimmerman said she opposed BDS, but over time she became supportive of the rights of pro-BDS groups to be part of the Jewish communal conversation on Israel.


"We are doing this out of love for our community and love for our neighbors," she wrote of her work opposing the occupation. "We know that Jewish liberation is inextricably tied to the liberation of all people." When Israel and Hamas went to war in Gaza in 2014, Zimmerman helped found a group called IfNotNow that seeks to end Israel's occupation and during the war protested American Jewish groups like the Presidents Conference. Malcolm Hoenlein, who heads the umbrella organization, told JTA he remembers the protesters outside his office during the war but did not talk to them and was not familiar with Zimmerman. Since moving to Brooklyn, Zimmerman also has marched in #BlackLivesMatter protests and helped raise money for Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, a group that aims to "dismantle racism and economic exploitation" in New York. But Zimmerman remains very focused on Israel. In her Haaretz column in February, she wrote of the importance of "bringing American Jews to do civil resistance work in solidarity with West Bank Palestinians."

"What we need is for the community to stop willfully blinding itself to the disastrous reality of holding millions of Palestinians under military occupation," Zimmerman wrote. "Moreover, we need the community to stop policing and demonizing those of us who say these truths in public and are fighting for change." Now Zimmerman is fighting for the change that Sanders champions. After Sanders won his first primary election in New Hampshire in February, Zimmerman hailed the historic moment. "The first Jew in history just won a primary, as a proud socialist calling for political revolution, backed 85-15 by millennials," Zimmerman wrote on Facebook, according to a report in the Forward (Zimmerman's posts are not all viewable to the general public). Referencing Hillary Clinton, Sanders' Democratic rival for the presidency, Zimmerman added, "Hil thinks she can win us back with hawkish Israel policies? Wake the f—k up."



New Film Examines American Jews' Growing Rejection of Israel's Occupation



Democracy Now! 
2M subscribers

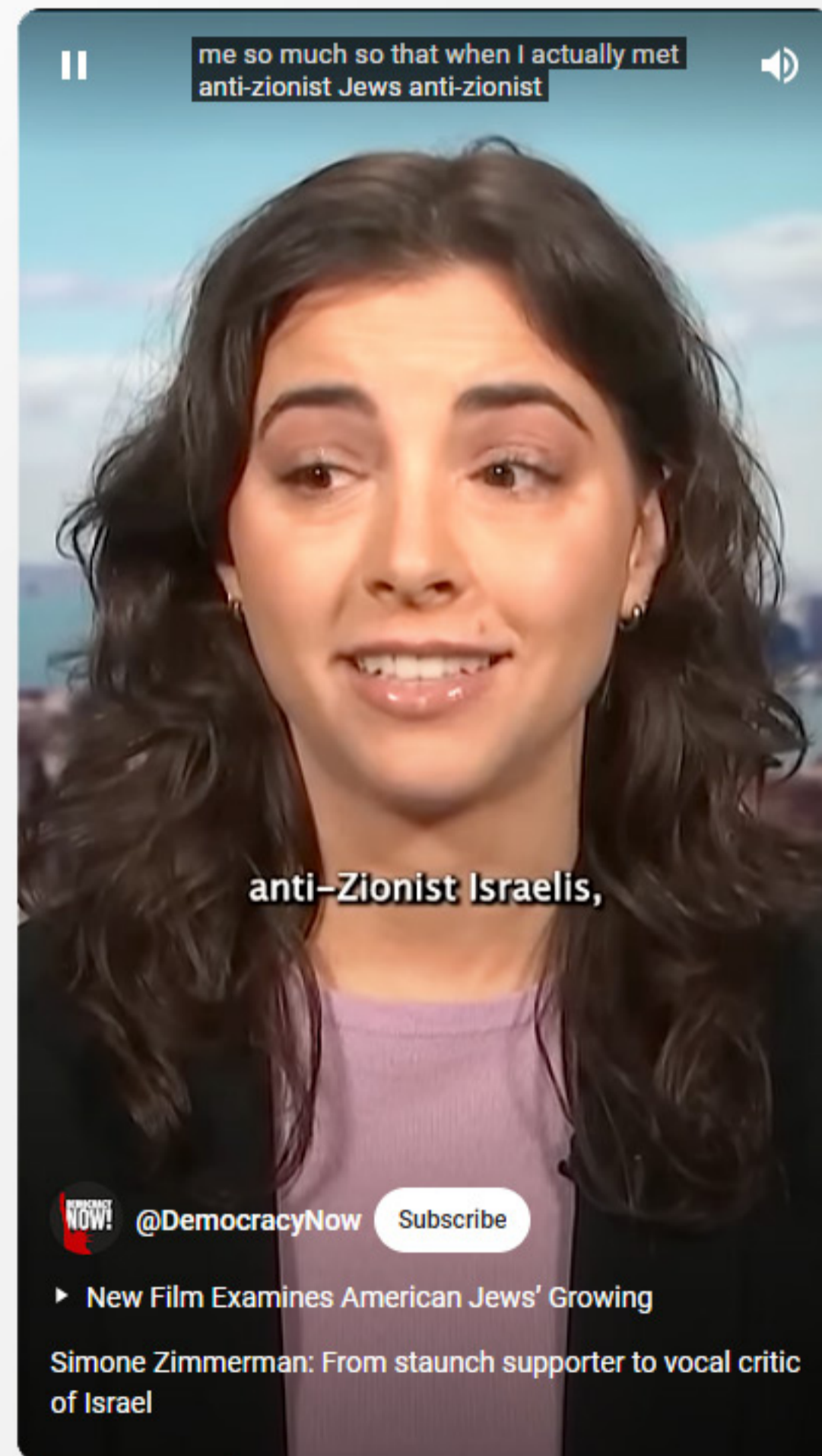
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667,610 views Jan 22, 2024 [Latest Shows](#)
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The new documentary *Israelism* examines the growing generational divide among Jewish Americans on the question of Palestine, with many younger Jews increasingly critical of Israel and less supportive of Zionism. Simone Zimmerman, one of the protagonists of the film and a co-founder of the group IfNotNow, says she grew up being told that supporting Israel was central to her Jewish identity, but that collapsed once she visited the Occupied Palestinian Territories and saw the system of apartheid under which millions live. "It's so deeply contrary to our values as Jewish people to support this disgusting oppression and denial of freedom," she says. We are also joined by Erin Axelman, co-director and one of the producers of *Israelism*, who says Zimmerman's journey mirrors their own and those of many other young Jews who realize they "must fight for the freedom and equality of Palestinians while also fighting antisemitism." The film is on a 40-city screening tour in Canada and the United States after previous efforts to ban the screenings on several campuses.

Transcript: <https://www.democracynow.org/2024/1/22...>





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We are a movement of American Jews organizing our community to end U.S. support for Israel's apartheid system and demand equality, justice, and a thriving future for all Palestinians and Israelis.

Our logo, inspired by the burning bush, symbolizes our generation's call to leadership in the Jewish community. Just as Moses was commanded to return to Egypt and fight for the liberation of his people, we too feel called to take responsibility for the future of our community. We know the liberation of our Jewish community is bound up in the liberation of all people, particularly those in Israel and Palestine. The bush burns bright but is not consumed – the fire is not a mechanism of destruction, but rather a force of inspiration and transformation.

If I am not for myself, who will be for me?
If I am only for myself, what am I?
If not now, when?



Why We Organize

Financialization (or financialisation in British English) is a term sometimes used to describe the development of financial capitalism during the period from 1980 to present, in which **debt-to-equity ratios increased and financial services accounted for an increasing share of national income relative to other sectors**. Financialization describes an economic process by which exchange is facilitated through the intermediation of financial instruments. Financialization may permit real goods, services, and risks to be readily exchangeable for currency, and thus make it easier for people to rationalize their assets and income flows. **Financialization is tied to the transition from an industrial economy to a service economy**, as financial services belong to the tertiary sector of the economy.

ROOTS: In the American experience, **increased financialization occurred concomitant with the rise of neoliberalism and the free-market doctrines of Milton Friedman and the Chicago School of Economics** in the late twentieth century. Various academic economists of that period worked out ideological and theoretical rationalizations and analytical approaches to facilitate the increased deregulation of financial systems and banking. In a 1998 article, Michael Hudson discussed previous economists who saw the problems that result from financialization. Problems were identified by John A. Hobson (financialization enabled Britain's imperialism), Thorstein Veblen (it acts in opposition to rational engineers), Herbert Somerton Foxwell (Britain was not using finance for industry as well as Europe), and Rudolf Hilferding (Germany was surpassing Britain and the United States in banking that supports industry). At the same 1998 conference in Oslo, Erik S. Reinert and Arno Mong Daastøl in "Production Capitalism vs. Financial Capitalism" provided an extensive bibliography on past writings, and prophetically asked: *In the United States, probably more money has been made through the appreciation of real estate than in any other way. What are the long-term consequences if an increasing percentage of savings and wealth, as it now seems, is used to inflate the prices of already existing assets - real estate and stocks - instead of to create new production and innovation?*

Financial turnover compared to gross domestic product: Other financial markets exhibited similarly explosive growth. Trading in US equity (stock) markets grew from \$136.0 billion (or 13.1% of US GDP) in 1970 to \$1.671 trillion (or 28.8% of U.S. GDP) in 1990. In 2000, trading in US equity markets was \$14.222 trillion (144.9% of GDP). Most of the growth in stock trading has been directly attributed to the introduction and spread of program trading. According to the March 2007 Quarterly Report from the Bank for International Settlements (see page 24.): *Trading on the international derivatives exchanges slowed in the fourth quarter of 2006. Combined turnover of interest rate, currency and stock index derivatives fell by 7% to \$431 trillion between October and December 2006.* Thus, derivatives trading—mostly futures contracts on interest rates, foreign currencies, Treasury bonds, and the like—had reached a level of \$1,200 trillion, or \$1.2 quadrillion, a year. By comparison, US GDP in 2006 was \$12.456 trillion.

Critics of financialization focus on its emphasis on short-term profits. According to them, such focus can disrupt a company's long-term goals and negatively affect product quality. For example, MIT Professor Suzanne Berger wrote about the case of Timken, an Ohio-based manufacturer of power transmission, gears, and specialty steel that was forced to break up its vertically integrated business due to shareholders' intent on maximizing profits. Management, which was against the breakup, argued that it would affect overall product quality. Controlling the attributes of each component used in the final assembly helped the manufacturer provide a superior product to consumers. Others claim that **financialization has led to "unproductive" capitalism**. According to economist Michael Roberts, "financialization is now mainly used as a term to categorize a completely new stage in capitalism, in which profits mainly come not from exploitation in production, but from financial expropriation (resembling usury) in circulation." Other research focuses on the ways in which big firms have come to dominate economies due to financialization. Their dominance, according to research authors, is primarily a result of their ability to cater to and play in financial markets. The playing field is not a level playing field for small firms because they are unable to produce the massive monetary returns demanded by large investors.

Is the Financialization of Housing Good? The financialization of housing refers to the idea that housing is seen as a vehicle for investment and wealth rather than a social good. Many people who believe safe, stable housing is a human right take issue with the increasing financialization of housing.

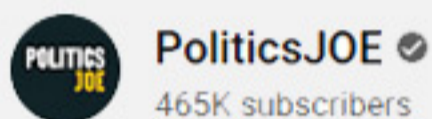
What Is the Financialization of Food? The financialization of food refers to the way the financial sector has encroached on various aspects of the food supply chain. The term reflects various financial actors' impact on the ways in which food is produced, distributed, and consumed.

How Are Universities Affected by Financialization? Higher education has also been impacted by financialization. Many of today's universities rely more on tuition than state funding to pay for their expenses. This has forced some schools to borrow large amounts of money to pay for luxurious facilities and student housing in order to attract more potential students. The cost of tuition has also soared since the advent of financialization in the 1970s.

In the United States and abroad, the growth of banking, asset management, insurance, and venture capital—the components that make up the financial sector—can contribute to growth in other sectors of the economy as well. Large and liquid financial markets with a diverse offering of financial products make it easier to fund investment and growth and protect purchases and investments through insurance. **Financial markets also facilitate international trade.** The daily volume of foreign exchange transactions has increased from \$570 billion in 1989 to \$6.6 trillion in 2019, according to the Bank of International Settlements (BIS). **Financialization has also led to significant job growth in the financial sector**, and this job growth is expected to continue.



Capitalism is dead and so are we | Yanis Varoufakis interview



438,255 views Feb 15, 2024

In lieu of the release of the documentary *In The Eye of the Storm: The Political Odyssey of Yanis Varoufakis*, Oli was joined by economist and former finance minister of Greece Yanis Varoufakis for a wide ranging interview.

Yanis sat down to discuss the downfall of capitalism and Western hegemony, the Labour Party's shunt to the right, and the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

You can find out more about *In The Eye of the Storm: The Political Odyssey of Yanis Varoufakis* at <http://www.eyeofthestorm.info/>

17:21 > . . . the whole of the planet Earth could possibly be the answer is because if you keep borrowing money from American Banks to buy these options to buy and you effectively you have turbocharge both your prospective winnings and your prospective losses, so as long as the going was good RBS (Royal Bank of Scotland) was doing it was the biggest company in the world and then one day the stock exchange started going down because of lemmann Brothers all the loans were called in the options to buy blew up and then you are still paying for the bailout of the Royal Bank of Scotland **that's financialization. It's a massive gambling Extravaganza** where all the profits go to the financiers and all the losses go to you and to your generation and to your children's generation and so on . . . **the rewards are privatized, the risk is socialized.**

Ioannis Georgiou "**Yanis**" **Varoufakis** is a Greek economist and politician. Since 2018, he has been Secretary-General of Democracy in Europe Movement 2025 (DiEM25), a left-wing pan-European political party he co-founded in 2016. Previously, he was a member of Syriza and was Greece's Minister of Finance between January 2015 and July 2015, negotiating on behalf of the Greek government during the 2009-2018 Greek government-debt crisis.

Varoufakis is the author of several books on the European debt crisis, the financial imbalance in the world and game theory. A film based on his book *Adults in the Room* directed by Costa-Gavras was released in 2019. Varoufakis himself is portrayed by actor Christos Loulis. **A Modest Proposal:** In November 2010, he and Stuart Holland, a former British Labour Party MP and economics professor at the University of Coimbra (Portugal), published *A Modest Proposal*, a set of economic policies aimed at overcoming the euro crisis. In 2013, Version 4.0 of *A Modest Proposal* appeared with the American economist James K. Galbraith as a third co-author. This version was published in late 2013 in French with a supporting foreword by Michel Rocard, former Prime Minister of France. Since September 2011, Truman Factor features select articles by Varoufakis in English and in Spanish.

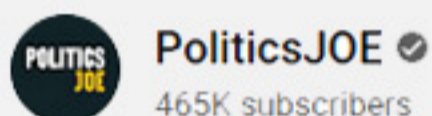
Books in English:

- Conflict in Economics.
- Rational Conflict. Oxford: Blackwell, 1991
- Game Theory: A critical introduction.
- Foundations of Economics: A beginner's companion. London and New York: Routledge, 1998 (translation in Mandarin)
- Modern Political Economics: Making sense of the post-2008 world.
- Economic Indeterminacy: A personal encounter with the economists' most peculiar nemesis.
- Europe after the Minotaur: Greece and the Future of the Global Economy.
- The Global Minotaur: America, the True Origins of the Financial Crisis and the Future of the World Economy.
- The Weak Suffer What They Must? Europe's crisis, America's economic future.

24:09 > . . . **this is financialization**, so it takes politics and it takes cynicism on behalf of parliaments that allow this to happen and legislate, so that while industry is being depleted and shut down, the wealth of the nation is bestowed upon the city of London and then the city of London says you can't touch me I am the center of this nation's wealth. Kind of like a mafia. It is a mafia. It's exactly like the mafia in Cuba before Castro.



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30:00 > We have to suffer the consequences. May I be a bit damning about the political party? It's the fault of the labor party in this country it's the fault of the of the center left across Europe it's a fault of the Democrats in the United States when you have a Social Democratic party whether it's the esped in Germany or the labor party here which um trades in a vision of a just society and when they come to power they turbocharge every oligarchic policy that they've inherited from the Tories this causes two social phenomena one is people become athetic and stay at home and they don't want to know about politics or they become fascists not fascist in the sense of you know musolini is uniforms and so on but become xenophobic they they become cynical um you know they they start believing that brexit is going to allow them to take back on control when all they allowed was you know for um Mr Johnson to become Prime Minister it is the fault of the left and I include myself in this it is our fault we must blame no one except ourselves **think of the United States in 2008 you know Barack Obama was elected with a mandate to get rid of the Wall Street bankers and you bail out the banks because you can't let them fail people's savings are in there but we will get rid of the bankers that was the the the cry call which is what FDR you know Roosevelt had actually done in 1933 Roosevelt had liquidated the bankers, not the banks the bankers, and that's why the bankers really hated him. What does Obama do? He takes two gentlemen Tim Gitner and Larry Summers, who were a Clinton's duo in the finance ministry, in the US Treasury Department, the two men who had worked for Wall Street to unshackle the bankers and to let them go crazy to the extent that it brought about the 2008 financial collapse, he takes these two men and gives them a mandate save the bankers and they print to 12 trillion American dollars to save the bankers.** Do you know what the result of this? Donald Trump. It's natural, **I understand the blue color workers, that Hillary Clinton deplorably called the deplorables, when they say, 'Look we tried you!'** The idea that that Trump was elected on the wave of racism, that's rubbish. Black people who voted for Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012 they voted for Trump, you know that's why. He got elected there aren't enough racists and fascists in in in in the United States to elect the president even with their stupid electoral college system that they have.

24:09 > . . . **this is financialization**, so it takes politics and it takes cynicism on behalf of parliaments that allow this to happen and legislate, so that while industry is being depleted and shut down, the wealth of the nation is bestowed upon the city of London and then the city of London says you can't touch me I am the center of this nation's wealth. Kind of like a mafia. It is a mafia. It's exactly like the mafia in Cuba before Castro.

ECONOMY

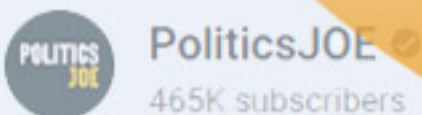
Here's a big reason why people may be gloomy about the economy: the cost of money



Former Treasury Secretary

Larry Summers argues that high interest rates are contributing to people's gloomy economic mood. Sentiment may improve, though, if the Federal Reserve begins to cut rates.

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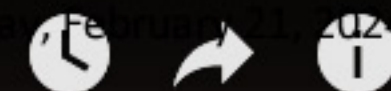
You can find out more about In The Eye of the Storm: The Political Odyssey of Yanis Varoufakis at <http://www.eyeofthestorm.info/>

17:21 > . . . the whole of the planet Earth could possibly be the answer is because if you keep borrowing money from American Banks to buy these options to buy and you effectively you have turbocharge both your prospective winnings and your prospective losses, so as long as the going was good RBS (Royal Bank of Scotland) was doing it was the biggest company in the world and then one day the stock exchange started going down because of lemman Brothers all the loans were called in the options to buy blew up and then you are still paying for the bailout of the Royal Bank of Scotland that's financialization. It's a massive gambling Extravaganza where all the profits go to the financiers and all the losses go to you and to your generation and to your children's generation and so on . . . the rewards are privatized, the risk is socialized.

30:00 > We have to suffer the consequences. May I be a bit damning about the political party? It's the fault of the labor party in this country it's the fault of the of the center left across Europe it's a fault of the Democrats in the United States when you have a Social Democratic party whether it's the esped in Germany or the labor party here which um trades in a vision of a just society and when they come to power they turbocharge every oligarchic policy that they've inherited from the Tories this causes two social phenomena one is people become athetic and stay at home and they don't want to know about politics or they become fascists not fascist in the sense of you know musolini is uniforms and so on but become xenophobic they they become cynical um you know they they start believing that brexit is going to allow them to take back on control when all they allowed was you know for um Mr Johnson to become Prime Minister it is the fault of the left and I include myself in this it is our fault we must blame no one except ourselves think of the United States in 2008 you know Barack Obama was elected with a mandate to get rid of the Wall Street bankers and you bail out the banks because you can't let them fail people's savings are in there but we will get rid of the bankers that was the the the cry call which is what FDR you know Roosevelt had actually done in 1933 Roosevelt had liquidated the bankers, not the banks the bankers, and that's why the bankers really hated him. What does Obama do? He takes two gentlemen Tim Gitner and Larry Summers, who were a Clinton's duo in the finance ministry, in the US Treasury Department, the two men who had worked for Wall Street to unshackle the bankers and to let them go crazy to the extent that it brought about the 2008 financial collapse, he takes these two men and gives them a mandate save the bankers and they print to 12 trillion American dollars to save the bankers. Do you know what the result of this? Donald Trump. It's natural, I understand the blue color workers, that Hillary Clinton deplorably called the deplorables, when they say, 'Look we tried you!' The idea that that Trump was elected on the wave of racism, that's rubbish. Black people who voted for Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012 they voted for Trump, you know that's why. He got elected there aren't enough racists and fascists in in in in the United States to elect the president even with their stupid electoral college system that they have.

24:09 > . . . this is financialization, so it takes politics and it takes cynicism on behalf of parliaments that allow this to happen and legislate, so that while industry is being depleted and shut down, the wealth of the nation is bestowed upon the city of London and then the city of London says you can't touch me I am the center of this nation's wealth. Kind of like a mafia. It is a mafia. It's exactly like the mafia in Cuba before Castro.

Capitalism is dead and so are we | Yanis Varoufakis interview



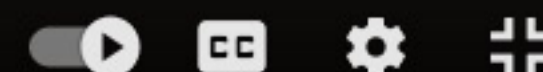
<https://youtu.be/w6H6tvVuGgo>

51:30 > Mr Josep Borrell, the ridiculous supposed foreign minister of the European Union the High Commissioner for foreign affairs, gave a speech for the first time which was critical of Israel. He said that that they've gone too in Gaza. How can they kill these people? They are sending them the weapon! The bombs that are being dropped on Rafah as we speak. How dare he! How dare you Mr Borell ask such a question? You are arming the hands that are killing the Palestinians, and you have the audacity to question why is it that they are continuing to do it? You're giving them every reason to be doing. You know, President Biden came the other day out and said something similar that they "they over done it," If he orders today that the American Army ceases to support through the satellite system, through delivery of armaments, spare parts for their planes, and of course, these gigantic bombs that are being delivered daily to Israel by the American Military, the war will end tomorrow. So if it was applied, International pressure could bring about an end to this conflict? Yesterday it could have ended! We in the West are responsible for the maiming and the killing of the children of Gaza today. We are responsible for it.



POLITICS
JOE

▶ ⏩ 🔊 52:57 / 54:05





Exclusive: Professor David Miller reveals how Zionist lobbies fuel Islamophobia

TRT World  5.5M subscribers 3.3K Share

50,980 views Feb 7, 2024

Embark on an enlightening journey with Professor David Miller as he unveils the intricate web of influence orchestrated by Zionist lobbies, offering a nuanced perspective on their role in fueling Islamophobia and shaping contemporary discourse. In this exclusive conversation, Professor Miller draws from his extensive expertise as a sociologist to dissect the multifaceted nature of Zionism and its intersections with broader sociopolitical phenomena.

Beginning with a comprehensive overview of Zionism as a nationalist ideology advocating for the establishment of a Jewish state in historic Palestine, Professor Miller elucidates the inherent tensions between Zionist aspirations and the rights of the indigenous Palestinian population. With a critical lens, he examines how Zionist narratives have evolved over time, influencing perceptions of Islam and Muslims, particularly in Western contexts.

Professor Miller's insights extend beyond theoretical analysis to his personal experiences, including his tenure at the University of Bristol, where he encountered opposition from Zionist student groups while advocating for critical discussions on colonialism and identity. Through candid reflections, he highlights the challenges of navigating academic spaces in the face of Zionist backlash and underscores the importance of academic freedom in fostering rigorous debate.

Against the backdrop of geopolitical shifts and global conflicts, Professor Miller contextualizes the rise of Islamophobia within the broader framework of Zionist influence, shedding light on the instrumental role played by Zionist lobbying groups in shaping public opinion and policy agendas. From the weaponization of anti-Semitism accusations to the propagation of Islamophobic tropes, he elucidates the complex interplay between Zionist messaging strategies and prevailing narratives in contemporary society.

As the conversation unfolds, viewers are invited to critically engage with Professor Miller's perspectives, challenging preconceived notions and interrogating the power dynamics underpinning Zionist influence. By unpacking the intricate connections between Zionism, Islamophobia, and broader geopolitical shifts, Professor Miller provides a compelling framework for understanding the complexities of contemporary discourse and the imperative for promoting inclusivity, social justice, and academic integrity in an increasingly polarized world.

David Miller (born 1964) is a British sociologist whose research and publications focus on Islamophobia and propaganda. Miller was Professor of Sociology at the University of Strathclyde (2004–2011) and the University of Bath (2011–2018) and was Professor of Political Sociology at the University of Bristol (2018–2021). He is the co-founder and co-director of the non-profit company Public Interest Investigations (PII). One of his lectures at the University of Bristol led to complaints, including from students, with allegations of antisemitism and the spreading of conspiracy theories. Although Miller was, according to Jonathan Cook in *Mondoweiss*, cleared of the allegations, a further investigation was launched as a result of comments he made about both Israel and Jewish student groups. The investigation found that Miller's comments were not unlawful but his employment by the university was terminated in October 2021 because it was deemed he had not met the standards of behaviour expected of staff. **On 5 February 2024, an employment tribunal found that Miller was unfairly dismissed and subjected to discrimination because his "anti-Zionist beliefs qualified as a philosophical belief and as a protected characteristic pursuant to section 10 Equality Act 2010". This judgement establishes for the first time ever that anti-Zionist beliefs are protected in the workplace.**

Miller is the co-founder and co-director of the non-profit company Public Interest Investigations (PII), which has two main projects, Spinwatch, a website[23] which describes itself as being "devoted to public interest reporting on spin lobbying and political corruption", and Powerbase, a wiki that "monitors power networks and conflicts of interest".

David is interested in understanding power: who has it, how it is exercised and how it can be democratised. He is mostly interested in studying the powerful and is interested in a wide range of methods for doing so, including via investigative research, which he pursues with a range of collaborators.



From Israeli Soldier to Anti-Zionist Jew: Meet Antony Lerman



Declassified UK
29.2K subscribers

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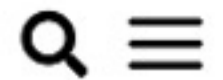
40,542 views Feb 15, 2024

Antony Lerman went from living on a kibbutz in Israel and serving with the IDF to becoming a formidable critic of the Zionist movement. He has unique insight into anti-Zionism, which he believes is often falsely conflated with anti-Semitism — a move that allows Israel to suppress Palestinians and critics of Netanyahu's assault on Gaza.

Antony Lerman (born 11 March 1946) is a British writer who specialises in the study of antisemitism, the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, multiculturalism, and the place of religion in society. From 2006 to early 2009, he was Director of the Institute for Jewish Policy Research, a think tank on issues affecting Jewish communities in Europe. From December 1999 to 2006, he was Chief Executive of the Hanadiv Charitable Foundation, renamed the Rothschild Foundation Europe in 2007. He is a founding member of the Jewish Forum for Justice and Human Rights, and a former editor of *Patterns of Prejudice*, a quarterly academic journal focusing on the sociology of race and ethnicity.

Antony Lerman is a Senior Fellow at the Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue, Vienna, and Honorary Fellow at the Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/non-Jewish Relations, Southampton University. He is the author of *Whatever Happened to Antisemitism? Redefinition and the Myth of the 'Collective Jew'* (Pluto Press 2022) and *The Making and Unmaking of a Zionist: A Personal and Political Journey* (Pluto Press 2012)

DECLASSIFIED UK



WEAPONISING ANTISEMITISM: THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Apologists for Israel's brutality against Palestinians in Gaza are continuing to use the past persecution of Jews to neutralise criticism of Israel.

ANTONY LERMAN

14 FEBRUARY 2024

Anti-Zionism: The continued success of weaponisation relies on a distorted and instrumentalised view of Jewish history: the notion that, on the one hand, antisemitism is eternal and unchanging, and yet on the other, anti-Zionism is the 'new antisemitism'. Either way, the politicised anti-antisemitism organisations constantly encourage people to believe that antisemitic annihilation is just around the corner. The first, eternalist understanding of the Jewish past, described as the lachrymose view, ignores antisemitism's contingent and historically specific forms. As for anti-Zionism, nothing could be more Jewish. Jews were the first anti-Zionists, overwhelmingly remained so until the Second World War, and hundreds of thousands remain anti-Zionist to this day. However, it serves Israel's interests to continue to cultivate the view that Jews everywhere are equally and eternally vulnerable, even though Zionism was supposed to bring Jew-hatred to an end. When so many seem to welcome being milked for sympathy because of doubtful claims of ever-rising antisemitism, why not continue to instrumentalise the discourse of Holocaust and pogroms as clear and present dangers? For Israeli leaders, every military confrontation, every battle with Hamas or Hezbollah is on behalf of the 'Jewish people'. Never mind that making no distinction between the state of Israel and Jews worldwide is an antisemitic belief according to the IHRA. Ephraim Mirvis, the British United Synagogue's chief rabbi, certainly hadn't read the script when he praised the Israeli soldiers committing genocide in Gaza in the name of eradicating antisemitism, as "our incredible heroic soldiers". Could it be any more obvious that weaponised anti-semitism is a clear and present danger for Jews not calling for equal rights for all from the river to the sea?

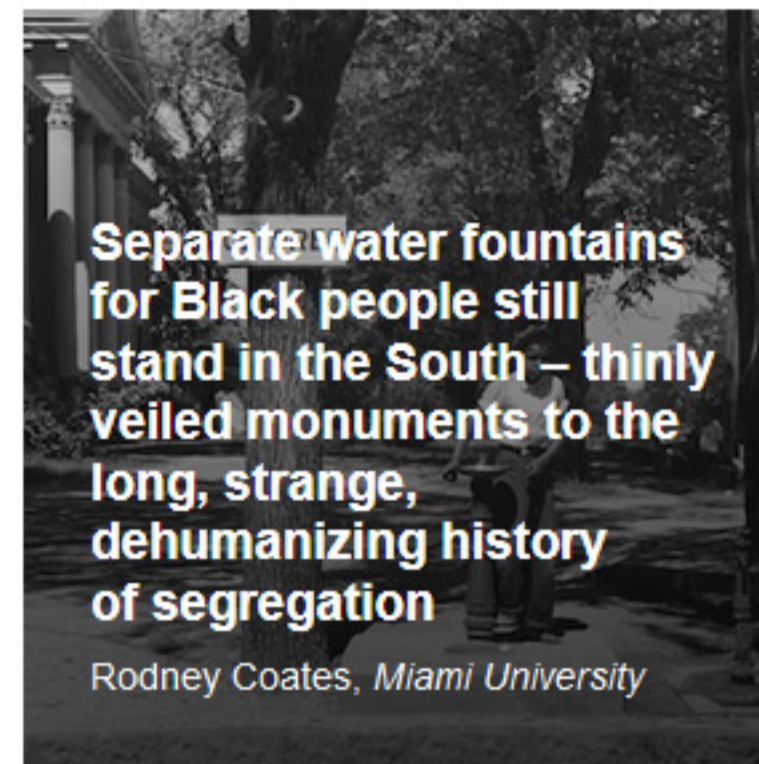


How politicians can draw fairer election districts – the same way parents make kids fairly split a piece of cake

Benjamin Schneer, *Harvard Kennedy School*; Kevin DeLuca, *Yale University*, and Maxwell Palmer, *Boston University*

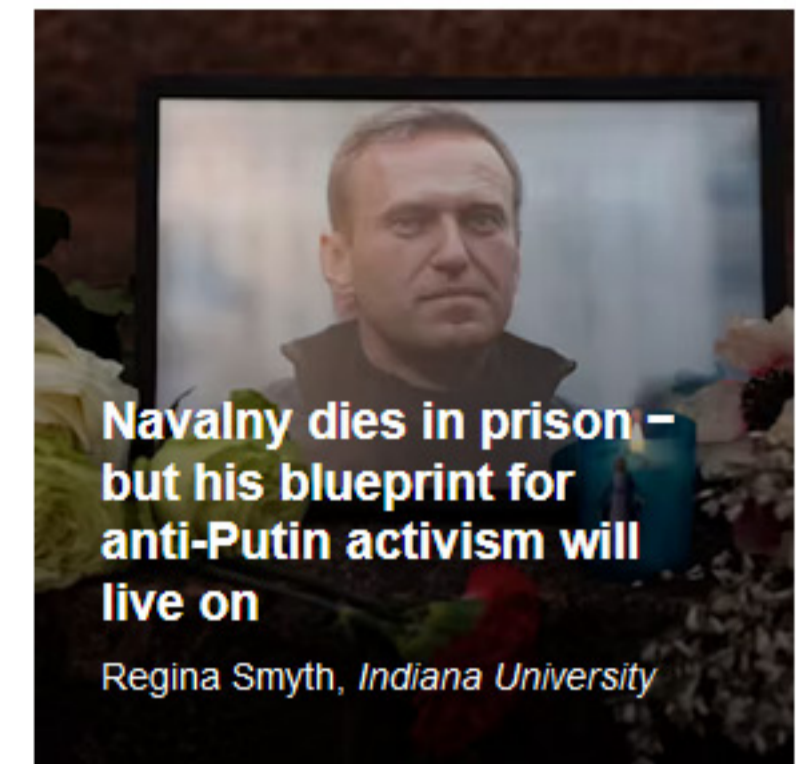
Our research has found a way that lets politicians pick their voters, but without ending up with excessive partisan gerrymandering, which is what happens when the people redrawing districts produce an election map with a clear advantage for one party or the other.

Our method, which we detail in a new scholarly paper, requires neither cooperation between members of the two major parties nor an independent arbiter to resolve disputes. By giving both parties control of a piece of the process, our method – we call it **the Define-Combine Procedure**, or DCP – delivers fairer maps than either party would draw on its own. We have also created a website where people can try our method for themselves.



Separate water fountains for Black people still stand in the South – thinly veiled monuments to the long, strange, dehumanizing history of segregation

Rodney Coates, *Miami University*



Navalny dies in prison – but his blueprint for anti-Putin activism will live on

Regina Smyth, *Indiana University*

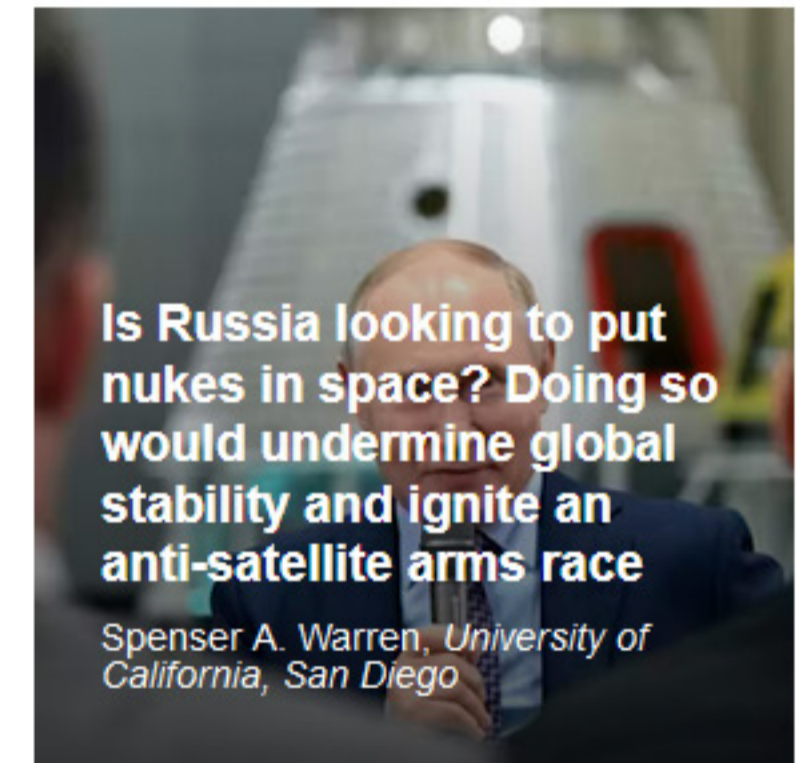


Nearly 2 million Americans are using kratom yearly, but it is banned in multiple states: A pharmacologist explains the controversy

C. Michael White, *University of Connecticut*

The herbal substance kratom, derived from the leaves of a Southeast Asian tree, is used by nearly 2 million people in the United States annually. It can be easily purchased at gas stations and convenience stores, smoke shops and online, and is marketed as an “herbal supplement.” Proponents claim that kratom has many of the pain-relieving benefits of traditional opioids and that it can potentially be used as a treatment for opioid dependence. The primary concern about kratom is that it can mimic how synthetic opioids work in the body, potentially causing overdoses, severe withdrawal symptoms and other serious health issues. As a result, the Food and Drug Administration recommends against its use.

The Conversation asked C. Michael White, a pharmacist at the University of Connecticut who has been studying the science behind kratom for many years, to explain its potential benefits and why consumers should use caution with this product.



Is Russia looking to put nukes in space? Doing so would undermine global stability and ignite an anti-satellite arms race

Spenser A. Warren, *University of California, San Diego*

Study: 42% of American adults know someone who died from an overdose



Study: 42% of American adults know someone who died from an overdose

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lovepeace

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Kratom products are sold online and at smoke shops and gas stations, like this one in Lone Tree, Colo.

In April, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear a major case that could reshape how cities manage homelessness. The legal issue is whether they can fine or arrest people for sleeping outside if there's no shelter available. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has deemed this cruel and unusual punishment, and this case is a pivotal challenge to that ruling.



A man named Frank sits in his tent with a river view in Portland, Ore., in 2021.

A lawsuit originally filed in 2018 on behalf of homeless people in the Oregon city of Grants Pass is set to go before the U.S. Supreme Court in April.

Paula Bronstein/AP



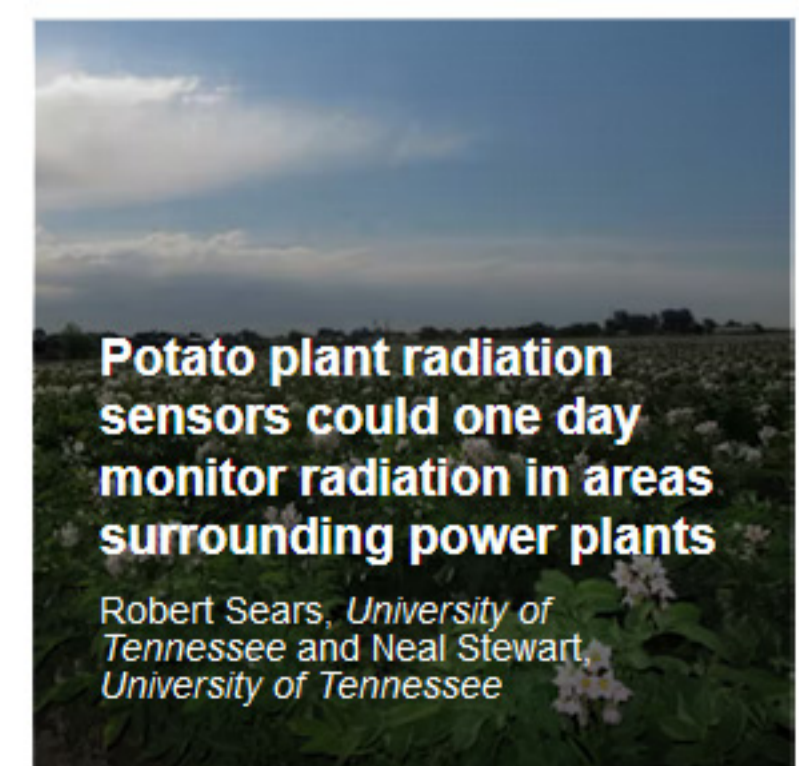
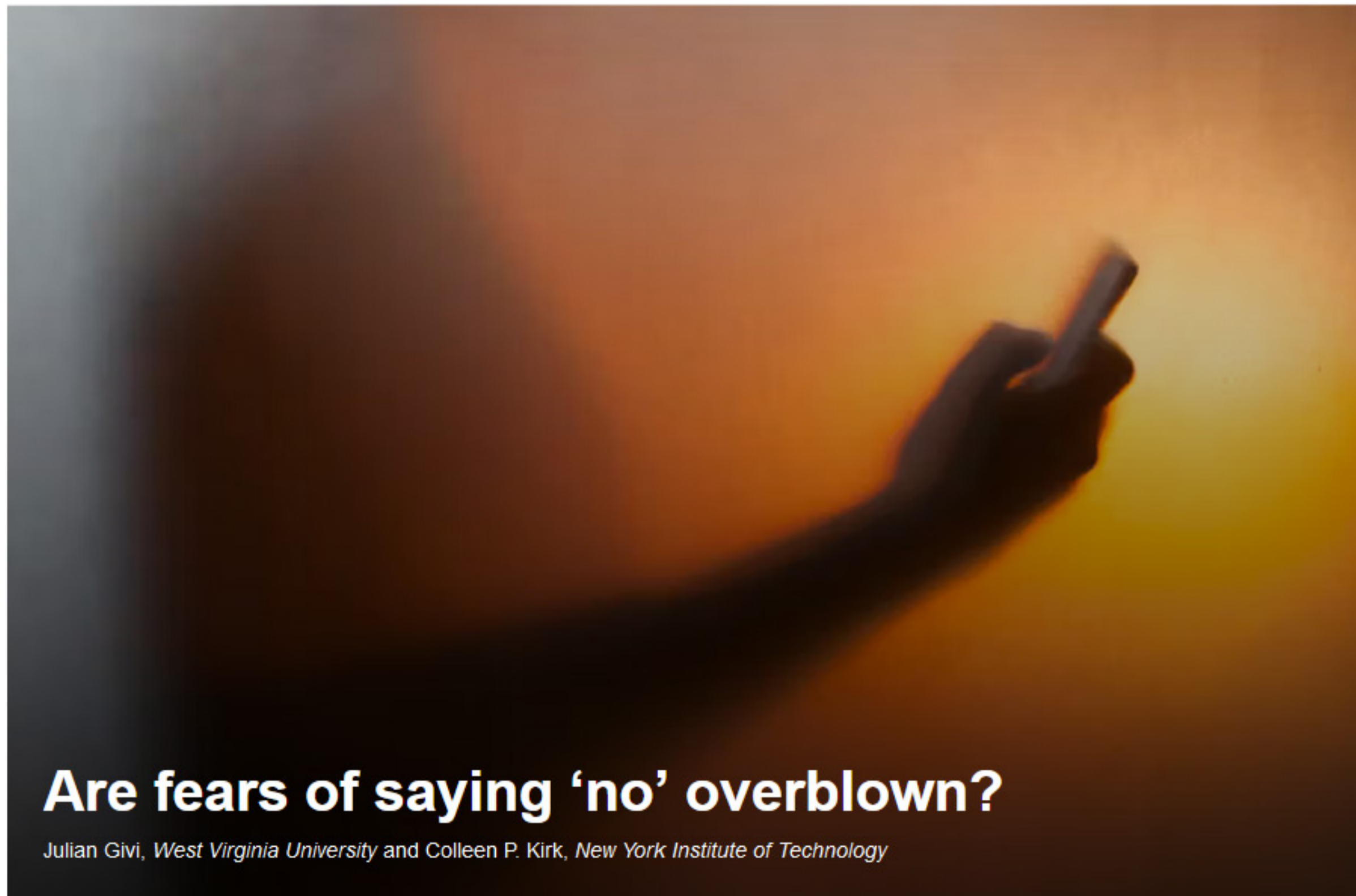


20 February 2024

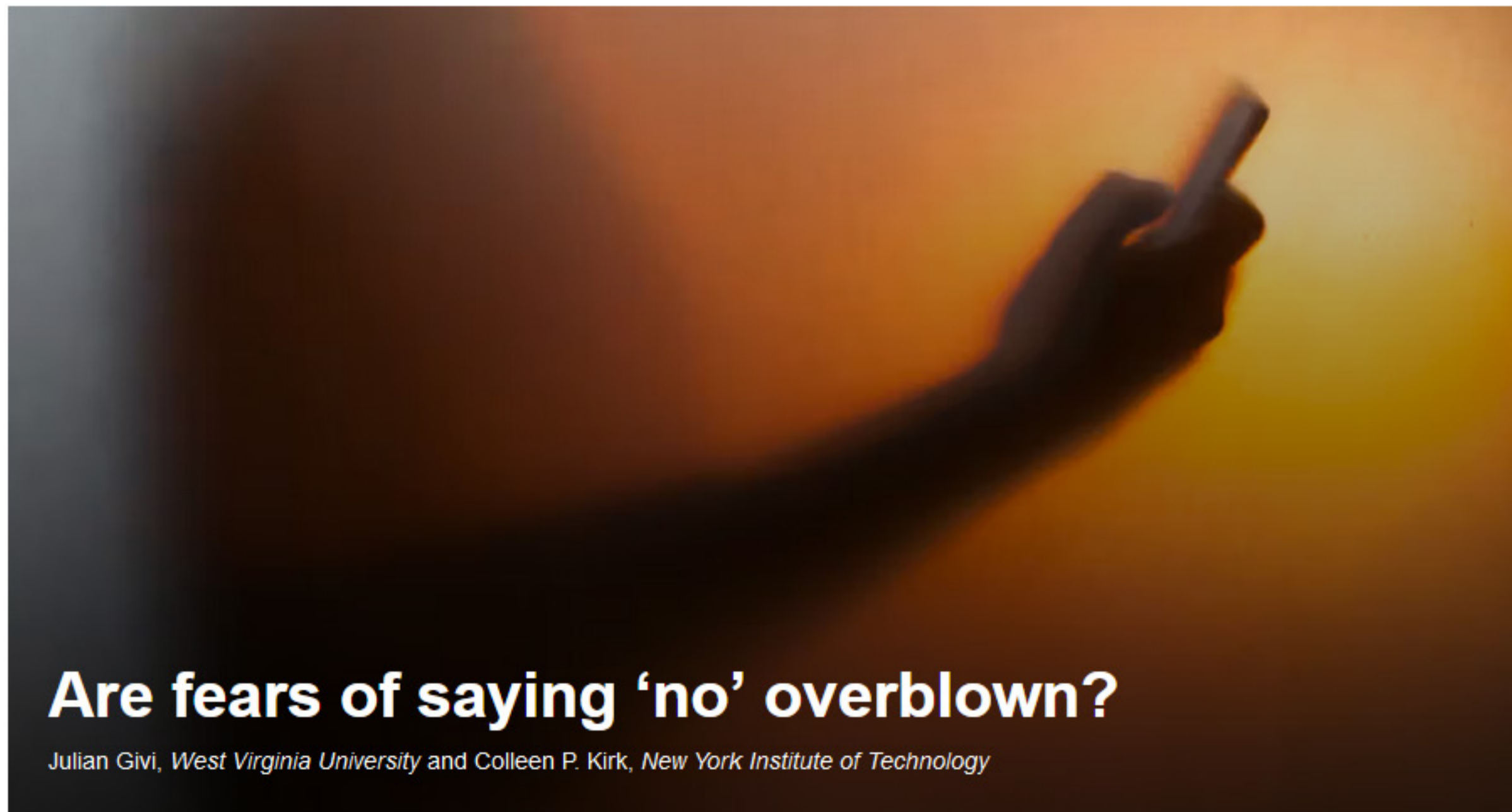
The Security Council today failed to adopt a resolution that would have demanded an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza **owing to a negative vote of the United States** — a permanent member of the Council — marking the second time Washington, D.C., has blocked such a text since early December 2023.

Draft resolution S/2024/173 vetoed by United States:
13 for - **1 against** -1 abstain

We ended up finding quite the mismatch. People tend to assume others will react poorly when an invitation isn't accepted. But they're relatively unaffected when someone turns down an invite they've extended.



Composed posers look down on the uncomposed, the unkempt. The cultured prize order, familiar order. With an occasional odd twist. A pop of color. A down beat. The jazzy soulful music of the downtrodden. For chance to feel, feel something true blue. Do you suppose being composed by the master composer is life more like life than life itself? Life imitates art? Your matchie matchy interior design all rhythm and off-white blues textured pattern polished stone and luxury vinyl, so neat and tidy, is it an opulence nature can't afford you? None the less and all the more, nature can't afford your infatuation with the endless prattle of the shopping channels' carnival barkers selling the latest trends that in short shrift will be barged transoceanic in efficient fashion to become the stench along the shores of third world mountainous trash heaps. Why then ask that art and science fit just right within reason and well-crafted story telling? If this poem can deliver such a powerful message without once stylish iambic pentameter, then why separate church from state? The banal ordinary from the resplendent transcendent. Why can't your monotheistic God embrace all other monotheistic Gods much less the polyglot pantheon of archetypes that pollute our inner psyche. The full dirty, messy mash-up business of being someone in society and not just the hired labor, the hired help. The answer lies in the simple fact that life, raw and in the buff, isn't like that. No, art can't imitate life. Life is not composed, it doesn't go in order, it doesn't go in sequence. Check your pulse second by second, you'll see. If you need to hire help to run your house, you've grown too big for your breeches in that ugly over-wrought superficial hollow way. That very same vapid emptiness at the center of politics. More likely, you've heard vapid, along with the synonyms insipid, flat, and inane, describe people and things that are dull and boring, empty and insubstantial, or lacking spirit and character. Don't take it personally. You've lost touch with the simple truth of who you really are. Time to downsize, take the investment bought old master painting off the wall, donate it to the brown women's shelter. Sit simply on the ground, watch the very stuff of life nearest you, the grass grow, the sun set. Watch your breath, it's reflection, your mind. Watch your mind as it darts here and there and everywhere. Fixed on this object, focused on this subject, and before you know it flitting to that feeling, occupied by another sensation, and yet another mood shift when hearing the news, pondering the old unfinished, unpack the worn out bags. Feel. Don't bother resigning your membership in those old orders of man that house your reputation. Those societies and bashing clubs where you are somebody. Let go, dissolve the glue that holds you to your worldly form and function commitments. Like the Buddha, walk away. Unambiguously, without adornment, without decoration turn inward. Don't look twice, it's alright. No, your life, your mind, your very essence doesn't come in order, it doesn't go in sequence. But know, it does go. It goes wild, surprising, beyond imagination. Go with it. Let go of the tiller. Sail on. If you can only try, just try to hold it in the palm of your hand all at once, the whole ball of wax in a nut shell, sublime.



Are fears of saying 'no' overblown?

Julian Givi, West Virginia University and Colleen P. Kirk, New York Institute of Technology

Mira Bella Apartments
3455 Kearny Villa Rd, San Diego, CA 92123



<https://chrishedges.substack.com/p/julian-assanges-grand-inquisitor>
<https://theintercept.com/2021/07/17/julian-assange-extradition-gordon-kromberg/>

Julian Assange's Grand Inquisitor

The prosecution lawyers in the High Court seeking to ensure Julian's extradition to the U.S. rely almost exclusively on the judicial opinions of Gordon Kromberg, a highly controversial U.S. attorney.



CHRIS HEDGES

FEB 22, 2024



Kangaroo Courtship - by Mr. Fish

LONDON — The prosecution for the U.S., which is seeking to deny Julian Assange's appeal of an extradition order, begun by the Trump administration and embraced by the Biden administration, grounded its arguments on Wednesday in the dubious affidavits filed by a U.S. federal prosecutor in the Eastern District of Virginia, Gordon Kromberg. The charges articulated by Kromberg — often false — to make the case for extradition did not fly with the two High Court judges, Jeremy Johnson and Dame Victoria Sharp, who are overseeing Julian's final appeal in the British courts.

[...]

THE CONTROVERSIAL PROSECUTOR AT THE HEART OF THE JULIAN ASSANGE CASE

Gordon Kromberg has been dogged by allegations of bias and politicized prosecutions. Now he could shape the future of journalism.

Murtaza Hussain

July 17 2021, 7:00 a.m.



Illustration: Chloe Cushman for The Intercept

The battle to extradite WikiLeaks publisher Julian Assange from the United Kingdom to the United States is shaping up to be a legal case of paramount importance to the future of national security reporting. The U.S. continues to press the case even after a change of administration, with President Joe Biden keeping up efforts to bring Assange to a U.S. court on Espionage Act charges for his role in publishing classified government documents. One little-noted name in filings from extradition hearings in the U.K. keeps popping up as a key figure in the U.S. government's case: a federal prosecutor named Gordon Kromberg. [...]

An online dump of Chinese hacking documents offers a rare window into pervasive state surveillance



1 of 6 | The interior of the I-Soon office, also known as Anxun in Mandarin, is seen after office hours in Chengdu in southwestern China's Sichuan Province on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024. Chinese police are investigating an unauthorized and highly unusual online dump of documents from a private security contractor linked to China's top policing agency and other parts of its government. (AP Photo/Dake Kang)

BY [FRANK BAJAK](#) AND [DAKE KANG](#)

Updated 8:49 PM PST, February 21, 2024

Chinese police are investigating an unauthorized and highly unusual online dump of documents from a private security contractor linked to the nation's top policing agency and other parts of its government — a trove that catalogs apparent hacking activity and tools to spy on both Chinese and foreigners. Among the apparent targets of tools provided by the impacted company, I-Soon: ethnicities and dissidents in parts of China that have seen significant anti-government protests, such as Hong Kong or the heavily Muslim region of Xinjiang in China's far west. The dump of scores of documents late last week and subsequent investigation were confirmed by two employees of I-Soon, known as Anxun in Mandarin, which has ties to the powerful Ministry of Public Security. The dump, which analysts consider highly significant even if it does not reveal any especially novel or potent tools, includes hundreds of pages of contracts, marketing presentations, product manuals, and client and employee lists. They reveal, in detail, methods used by Chinese authorities used to surveil dissidents overseas, hack other nations and promote pro-Beijing narratives on social media.

The documents show apparent I-Soon hacking of networks across Central and South-east Asia, as well as Hong Kong and the self-ruled island of Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its territory. The hacking tools are used by Chinese state agents to unmask users of social media platforms outside China such as X, formerly known as Twitter, break into email and hide the online activity of overseas agents. Also described are devices disguised as power strips and batteries that can be used to compromise Wi-Fi networks. I-Soon and Chinese police are investigating how the files were leaked, the two I-Soon employees told The Associated Press. One of the employees said I-Soon held a meeting Wednesday about the leak and were told it wouldn't affect business too much and to "continue working as normal." The AP is not naming the employees — who did provide their surnames, per common Chinese practice — out of concern about possible retribution. The source of the leak is not known. The Chinese Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

A HIGHLY IMPACTFUL LEAK

LOTS OF TARGETS, LOTS OF COUNTRIES

A spokeswoman for U.S. Cyber Command wouldn't comment on whether the National Security Agency or Cybercom were involved in the leak. An email to the press office at X responded, "Busy now, please check back later."

Western governments, including the United States, have taken steps to block Chinese state surveillance and harassment of government critics overseas in recent years. Laura Harth, campaign director at Safeguard Defenders, an advocacy group that focuses on human rights in China, said such tactics instill fear of the Chinese government in Chinese and foreign citizens abroad, stifling criticism and leading to self-censorship. "They are a looming threat that is just constantly there and very hard to shake off."

Last year, U.S. officials charged 40 members of Chinese police units assigned to harass the family members of Chinese dissidents overseas as well as to spread pro-Beijing content online. The indictments describes tactics similar to those detailed in the I-Soon documents, Harth said. Chinese officials have accused the United States of similar activity. U.S. officials including FBI Director Chris Wray have recently complained about Chinese state hackers planting malware that could be used to damage civilian infrastructure.

On Monday, Mao Ning, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, said the U.S. government has long been working to compromise China's critical infrastructure. She demanded the U.S. "stop using cybersecurity issues to smear other countries."

This Way Out
Salida



Kaiser Permanente Medical Offices, 405 Vandever Ave, San Diego, CA 92120

prequel: [Retro30](#) | [PROJECT Way Out](#) | [Preface](#) | [Page 3](#) | [Projects](#) | [Notes](#)

PROJECT Way Out

On the way out, a way forward
{#SustainablePlanet}

{ Preface }

FOR ALL the PEOPLE,
(but especially for ALL the PEOPLE who are not human)

Looking Back as A Way Forward: RECOLLECTIONS
Dan Landrum 



The World Lost Two-Thirds Of Its Wildlife In 50 Years. We Are to Blame | September 2021

Human activities have caused the world's wildlife populations to plummet by more than two-thirds in the last 50 years at an unprecedented rate, and it threatens human life as well.

"The findings are clear, our relationship with nature is broken."

The insect apocalypse: 'Our world will grind to a halt without them' | July 25, 2021

Insects have declined by 75% in the past 50 years – and the consequences may soon be catastrophic.

"Our moral engagement with the non-human hit me very hard at a young age!" — [Gary Snyder](#) reflected on a shocking and inciting incident when, as a Depression Era little kid on a stump farm back in the Oregon woods, his Lutheran Sunday school teacher flatly told him that he would not ever meet his beloved recently deceased heifer in heaven, as animals do.





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Thousands of Ukrainians live in agony and uncertainty as they search for their missing loved ones

Ukraine endures a second year of war with scenes of grief, suffering and also joy

Netanyahu seeks open-ended control over security and civilian affairs in Gaza in new postwar plan

Relatives of hostages in Gaza endure a nightmare, but dream their loved ones will be freed

BUSINESS >



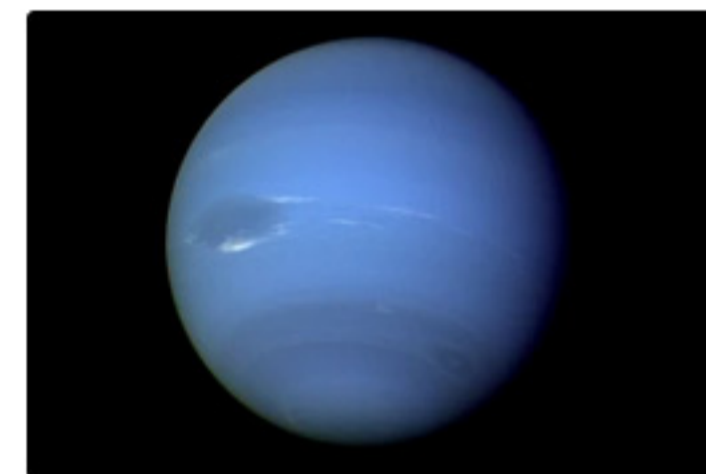
Online fundraisers for violent West Bank settlers raised thousands, despite international sanctions

Nvidia's stock market value rose \$273 billion in a day. How it rose to AI prominence, by the numbers

Stock market today: Wall Street clings to modest gains and marks another winning week

AT&T's network is having problems. Here's what you should know while navigating a phone service outage

SCIENCE >



Astronomers spot new tiny moons around Neptune and Uranus

33 mins ago

Space telescope spies neutron star in the debris of famous supernova

Astronomers find what may be the universe's brightest object with a black hole devouring a sun a day

Old European satellite plunges harmlessly through the atmosphere over the Pacific

LIFESTYLE >



Stained glass window showing dark-skinned Jesus Christ heading to Memphis museum

10 mins ago

This week's cellphone outage makes it clear: In the United States, landlines are languishing

New designers make a splash at Moschino, Tod's and Blumarine during Milan Fashion Week

Atlanta is the only place in US to see pandas for now. But dozens of spots abroad have them





Iryna Reva, 59, waits for her son Vladyslav at her apartment in Kyiv, Ukraine. (AP Photo/Evgeniy Maloletka)

Konstantin Vadimovich Kisin (Russian: Константин Вадимович Кисин; born 25 December 1982) is a Russian-British satirist, author, and co-host (with Francis Foster) of the Triggernometry podcast. Kisin has written for a number of publications including *Quillette*, *The Spectator*, *The Daily Telegraph* and *Standpoint*; has been on the panel of the BBC political programme *Question Time*, and been interviewed on TV media such as the BBC, Sky News and GB News. He speaks and writes on issues relating to tech censorship, comedy and culture war. Kisin grew up in Uzbekistan in the former Soviet Union to parents Marina and Vadim, then 18 and 20 years old, respectively. His family is of Jewish and Russian heritage.[2] His experiences in the country inform much of his own political worldview today.[3] At age 11, he moved to the United Kingdom.[4] He attended Clifton College boarding school and subsequently Edinburgh University, which he left before finishing a degree. Since April 2018, Kisin has been co-presenter of *Triggernometry*, a YouTube channel and podcast.[6] The primary format of the channel is the prerecorded interview; the channel brands itself as holding "honest conversations with fascinating people"[7] and has been described as "anti-woke" by *The Times*. [8] Guests have included Jordan Peterson and Sam Harris.[9] A 2023 interview with Neil deGrasse Tyson on the subject of "Have We Lost Trust in Science?"[10] was widely reported upon, both by other YouTube channels and the mainstream media, because of Tyson's statements on the subject of transgender. The podcast was named one of the "best 20 escapist podcasts" in *The Daily Telegraph* in 2020.

Stand-up comedy: In 2019 Kisin took his show *Orwell That Ends Well* to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe to mixed reviews. *The Daily Telegraph* included the show in its list of best comedy shows of the Edinburgh Festival,[15] *The Student* described it as "hilarious and refreshing",[16] while *Fest Magazine* called it "ill-considered, reactionary nonsense"[17] and *The Jewish Chronicle* described Kisin as an "antagonist" and rated the show 2 out of 5. **Political commentary:** This section may lend undue weight to certain ideas, incidents, or controversies. Please help improve it by rewriting it in a balanced fashion that contextualizes different points of view. (December 2023) (Learn how and when to remove this template message)

Konstantin Kisin speaking at Alliance for Responsible Citizenship 2023 in Greenwich, London, UK, 31 October 2023. In March 2022 he appeared as a panellist on the first edition of BBC *Question Time* following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. He described feeling shame for his birth country Russia and discussed the bombardment his family in Ukraine was undergoing. His 12 January 2023 speech at the Oxford Union student debating society for the motion that 'Woke Culture HAS Gone Too Far' went viral. On 27 January a critical article by Will Lloyd appeared in the *New Statesman*, writing of Kisin: "when he told me, unsmilingly, not to misrepresent him, a sad thought floated into my head. Misrepresent him? There would have to be something there to represent in the first place." [24] Describing Kisin as the "cracklingly viral man" of the moment, Lloyd adds: "His speech was praised as a nine-minute interlude of sanity in an insane world . . . The speech continued to ricochet around the internet, gaining millions of views, then millions more." In a keynote speech in London in late 2023 at the Alliance for Responsible Citizenship, Kisin argued that the moment for restoring Western civilisation is at hand, describing it as "the fight for our lives." [25] In September 2023, the *New Statesman* named him as the 46th most influential right-wing figure in British politics.

Author: Kisin is the author of *An Immigrant's Love Letter to the West*, which became a Sunday Times bestseller in the first week of its publication. [27] A review in *The Daily Telegraph* in July 2022 has Douglas Murray writing: "Kisin asks why people in the West so often spit on their luck". **Dispute with SOAS student group:** In 2018 Kisin made headlines when he refused to sign a "behavioural agreement" form explaining a "no tolerance policy" with regard to racism, sexism, classism, ageism, homophobia, biphobia, xenophobia, Islamophobia, anti-religion, and anti-atheism, [28] when asked to perform at a fundraising gig for UNICEF at SOAS, University of London. The form explained those topics were not banned but stated the topics should be discussed in a "respectful and non-abusive way" and presented in a way that is "respectful and kind". After Kisin refused to agree to those terms and chose not to perform, the UNICEF on Campus society at SOAS apologised and clarified they did not wish to "impose that guests would have to agree to anything they do not believe in". The SOAS Students' Union said that it did not require external speakers to sign any contract before appearances, and that the UNICEF on Campus society had been "overzealous" in interpreting the guidelines.

Konstantin Kisin



Kisin in 2021

Born	<div>Konstantin Vadimovich Kisin</div> 25 December 1982 (age 41) <div> Moscow, Russian SFSR, Soviet Union</div>
Nationality	British · Russian
Education	Clifton College
Occupations	Comedian · writer · podcaster · political commentator
Notable work	Triggernometry podcast <i>An Immigrant's Love Letter to the West</i> (2022)
Spouse	<div>Alina Kisina (m. 2003)</div>
	YouTube information
Channel	Triggernometry ↗
Years active	2018–present
Subscribers	593 thousand ^[1] (8 August 2023)
Total views	85 million ^[1] (8 August 2023)
	 Creator Awards [show]
Website	konstantinkisin.com ↗ konstantinkisin.substack.com ↗



Daniel Maté's RESPONSE to Brené Brown on Gaza



Daniel Maté
15.4K subscribers

Subscribe

77,945 views Feb 19, 2024

Mega-bestselling author and spiritual teacher Brené Brown recently came out with a statement about the Gaza genocide, though she didn't use that language to describe it. Somewhat-bestselling author Daniel Maté responds at length here. Originally posted on Instagram: [instagram.com/danielbmate](https://www.instagram.com/danielbmate)

<https://brenebrown.com/articles/2024/...>

<https://lithub.com/why-brene-browns-gospel-of-vulnerability-fails-the-worlds-most-vulnerable/> >

Why Brené Brown's Gospel of Vulnerability Fails the World's Most Vulnerable Rafia Zakaria on the CEO Whisperer's Recent Failure in Addressing the Genocide in Gaza By Rafia Zakaria | February 21, 2024

The application of Brené-speak to the genocide in Gaza, however, exposes its inherent confabulations. While she has instructed her millions of followers to be vulnerable as individuals within a work setting, she appears to have forgotten that such choices are only possible for the privileged few who make up a tiny sliver of the world's population.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bren%C3%A9_Brown >

Casandra Brené Brown (born November 18, 1965) is an American professor, author, and podcast host. Brown is known for her work on shame, vulnerability, and leadership, and for her widely viewed TEDx talk in 2010.[2] She has written six number-one New York Times bestselling books and hosted two podcasts on Spotify. She appears on the 2019 documentary, *Brené Brown: The Call to Courage*, on Netflix. In 2022, HBO Max released a documentary series based on her book, *Atlas of the Heart*. Brown is a visiting professor in management at the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin.



FROM BRENE

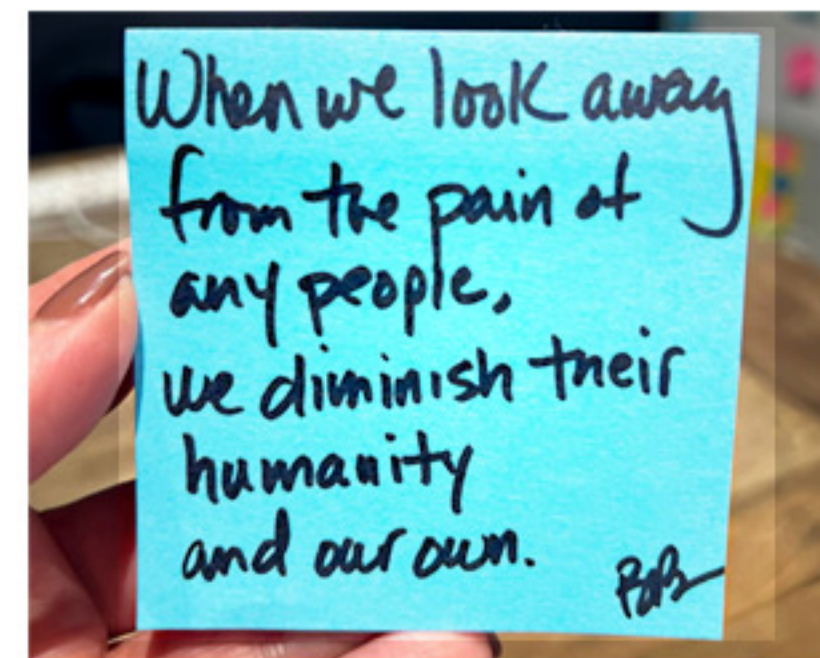
Not Looking Away

Thoughts on the Israel-Hamas war

Written by Brené Brown on February 13, 2024

Read Time: 7 minutes

I continue to be overwhelmed by the violence, trauma, and sheer magnitude of the Israel-Hamas war. I'm deeply connected to the Jewish community, and I want the people I love and care about to know that I see their fear and hurt and that I support them. As a fierce supporter of human dignity, I want the Palestinian people who are also in pain and fear, and who continue to struggle for basic freedoms and self-determination, to know that I support them. Below are my beliefs and thoughts on the Israel-Hamas war. They don't fit on an Instagram square, and many of you may find them naïve or conflicting or not enough. That's OK. These ideas are based on my experiences, my faith, and my values. And, please don't conflate supporting non-violence with neutrality. It often takes more courage to wage peace than to wage war – that's why it's so rare. At the foundation of my beliefs is this simple truth: I see God easily and fully in the faces of Israelis and Palestinians, in Jewish faces and in Muslim faces. [. . .]



Commenting on this article is now closed.

Gumby: February 22, 2024 > Brene, many parts of what you wrote are naive and damaging, but I'll take up just one. You write, "When we see the death and desperation of innocent Palestinian people, what do we have to tell ourselves to be OK with that?" I have an answer for you. There are many things we tell ourselves, but one of the lies we tell ourselves is that Hamas uses Palestinians as human shields. We're told that Hamas embeds itself in Palestinian society and so it isn't possible for the IDF to target Hamas without significant civilian casualty. We're told that the killing of innocent Palestinians is actually Hamas' fault for these reasons, not the fault of the people actually dropping the bombs or the people providing the bombs. We're told that the loss of life is regrettably unavoidable. We're repeatedly told that the IDF is "the most moral army in the world." So, when you write that Hamas is "using civilians as shields," you are feeding a dangerous and false narrative. What is my evidence? The scholarly work of Norman Finkelstein — a forensic historian who's studied the conflict for four decades — and the human rights reports he relies on. He's read nearly every report that's been written several times over. First, he provides a definition of human shielding, namely, "when you conscript a civilian to commit an unwanted act in the course of war." Note: This is not generally how it's talked about in the media. Also note: You provide no definition of human shielding as you make your claim. Finkelstein explains that Amnesty International issued a report after Israel's Operation Cast Lead. The report was titled, 'Israel/Gaza: Operation "Cast Lead": 22 Days of Death and Destruction.' In the report, Amnesty International found little to no evidence that Hamas had engaged in human shielding. Quite to the contrary, the report found extensive evidence that Israel engaged in human shielding — using Palestinians as shields during their military raids and operations. Finkelstein acknowledges that there have been instances of Hamas firing rockets from densely populated areas. This should come as a surprise to nobody. Gaza is one of the most densely populated places on Earth. Hamas has no standing army that exists separate and apart from the rest of Gazan society. That's why the accusation of Hamas embedding itself in Palestinian society (a claim closely tied to the accusation of human shielding) is meaningless. This is not human shielding. Hamas is embedded in Palestinian society to the same extent that all anti-colonial movements are embedded in society. And, what we need to recognize is that "embeddedness" within civilian populations has always been presented as a rationale for committing atrocities against civilians. So, I've now laid out my evidence. What is the evidence that supports your claim? Language matters. These narratives matter. They have real life repercussions because of how they dehumanize Palestinians and rationalize their mass murder. The media, with its obsession of tunnels, command centers in hospitals, Hamas dressed in civilian clothes, and on and on, has been working hard to spread the "human shielding" narrative. This false narrative gives cover to the IDF, allowing it to commit whatever atrocities it wants. Please don't help them spread these lies. It matters.



FROM BRENE

Not Looking Away

Thoughts on the Israel-Hamas war

Written by Brené Brown on February 13, 2024

Read Time: 7 minutes

Clara: February 22, 2024 > I have always gained a tremendous amount from your work and respected your courage and fierce defender of truth. After reading this, however, I am hugely disappointed at the cowardice and ignorance that you display in your writing. To echo Daniel Mate's sentiment in his response to your thoughts, to go to great length to communicate your neutrality and selective empathy and compassion is nothing other than dangerous. What we are all witnessing day in and day out through the most horrific images and videos is the most brutal extermination of the Palestinian people. This is NOT the time for neutrality, or worse still, plain ignorance and carefully worded lies and manipulative media rhetoric that has been proved time and time again to have absolutely no grounding in truth. The Hamas hiding behind human shield story is one of many. Enough, enough! This is dangerous, ignorant and hugely disappointing. You have a vast platform with a huge power to influence. Do the work, research the history and call it what it really is, a genocide. You need to do better.

KCV: February 22, 2024 > I have been waiting for your voice. I appreciate you sharing where you are. I hope you will listen to Daniel Mate's response to this letter. It is rough, but convincing. Your letter made me feel good. Like everything will be ok. It effectively pacified me. Upon further reflection, that is a dangerous thing.

Joseph: February 22, 2024 > Please listen to Sam Harris' podcast Making Sense on these issues to further develop your understanding.



Rossa A. Fanning (born 1976) is an Irish barrister and legal academic who has served as the Attorney General of Ireland since December 2022. His practice at the Bar has been primarily focused on commercial litigation and insolvency. Fanning was born in 1976 and is from Leopardstown, Dublin. Fanning was appointed Attorney General of Ireland on 17 December 2022. In February 2024, Fanning presented Ireland's submission to the International Court of Justice on Israeli occupation of Palestinian land.

Lawyer's powerful speech spelling out case against Israel for crimes against F at the Hague

21,542 views Feb 24, 2024 [INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE](#)

Ireland's Attorney General Rossa Fanning was in front of the ICJ in The Hague on Wednesday outlining Ireland's position on Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands, the annexation of territories and the treatment of Palestinians.

Irish Attorney General Rossa Fanning tells ICJ Israel's response is beyond what is 'necessary and proportionate'



Israel's response to the Hamas attack is beyond what is "necessary and proportionate", Ireland has told the UN's top court.

1 day ago

Hotpress

Israel's actions are a "serious breach" of international law Attorney General Rossa Fanning tells ICJ

Attorney General Rossa Fanning SC said that Israel had 'committed serious breaches of a number of peremptory norms of general international...

1 day ago



Arran Henderson
@arranqh

Tho' I wish we'd go further (diplomatic sanctions, etc) I'm proud to be Irish, one of the few Western countries speaking up for Palestinians & the people of Gaza, as they endure unimaginable violence. I'm also proud of my cousin Rossa, our A-G. who apparently played a blinder!

Photographing Ukraine's deep scars, 2 years into a war without an end in sight

FEBRUARY 23, 2024 · 8:46 AM ET

By Claire Harbage



Bohdan Semenukha and his mother, Viktoriya, walk frequently through the Lychakiv cemetery in Lviv, Ukraine, just a few blocks from the new apartment where they moved after fleeing Kharkiv, in the country's northeast, in January 2023.

Claire Harbage/NPR

Photographing Ukraine's deep scars, 2 years into a war without an end in sight

FEBRUARY 23, 2024 · 8:46 AM ET

By Claire Harbage



Mykhailo Korenovsky's wife, Olha Korenovska, touches a portrait of her husband at his funeral in Dnipro, in eastern Ukraine, on Jan. 17, 2023. He was a beloved boxing coach and among the more than 40 people who were killed in a Russian strike.

Photographing Ukraine's deep scars, 2 years into a war without an end in sight

FEBRUARY 23, 2024 · 8:46 AM ET

By Claire Harbage



Crews search the rubble for people who remain missing after a Russian missile attack in Dnipro in January 2023.

Photographing Ukraine's deep scars, 2 years into a war without an end in sight

FEBRUARY 23, 2024 · 8:46 AM ET

By Claire Harbage



Soldiers spend time swimming in the pool during a one-week course of rehab at a center in northeastern Ukraine.

Photographing Ukraine's deep scars, 2 years into a war without an end in sight

FEBRUARY 23, 2024 · 8:46 AM ET

By Claire Harbage



Lyudmilla Nesterova leans on a table in the evacuation train after a group of rescue workers helped her and her husband leave Toretsk.

Photographing Ukraine's deep scars, 2 years into a war without an end in sight

FEBRUARY 23, 2024 · 8:46 AM ET

By Claire Harbage



Eduard Skoryk (center) helps lift Viktor Nesterov onto an evacuation train leaving Toretsk, in eastern Ukraine, in May.

Claire Harbage/NPR

Photographing Ukraine's deep scars, 2 years into a war without an end in sight

FEBRUARY 23, 2024 · 8:46 AM ET

By Claire Harbage



A woman sells eggs in Odesa's Moldovanka neighborhood, the center of the city's Jewish community, in May.



A woman sells eggs in Odesa's Moldovanka neighborhood, the center of the city's Jewish community, in May. Claire Harbage/NPR

This image provided by Kino Lorber shows Nour Karoui, top, Eya Chikhaoui, left, Ichraq Matar, center, and Tayssir Chikhaoui, right, in the movie *Four Daughters*, filmed in Tunis, Tunisia. The film about a Tunisian family and the radicalization of two teenage daughters who joined the Islamic State is up for an Oscar, one of the most prestigious film awards in the world. (Kino Lorber via AP)



Video shows Oklahoma nonbinary teen after attack in school bathroom, the day before their death

Nex Benedict was born in 2008 to a mother enrolled in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.



1 of 3

In this frame grab taken from body camera video provided by the Owasso, Okla., Police Department, an officer, hand at right, speaks to 16-year-old Nex Benedict, left, and their mother, Sue Benedict, at a hospital, Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024. Sue says that Nex was knocked to the floor during a fight in a school bathroom earlier in the day. Nex died the following day. (Owasso Police Department via AP)

Nex Benedict was a 16-year-old non-binary American student who died after being attacked at their high school. Benedict, who had previously been bullied at school, was beaten in the women's restroom at Owasso High School in Owasso, Oklahoma, dying the following day. [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_of_Nex_Benedict)

Video shows Oklahoma nonbinary teen after attack in school bathroom, the day before their death

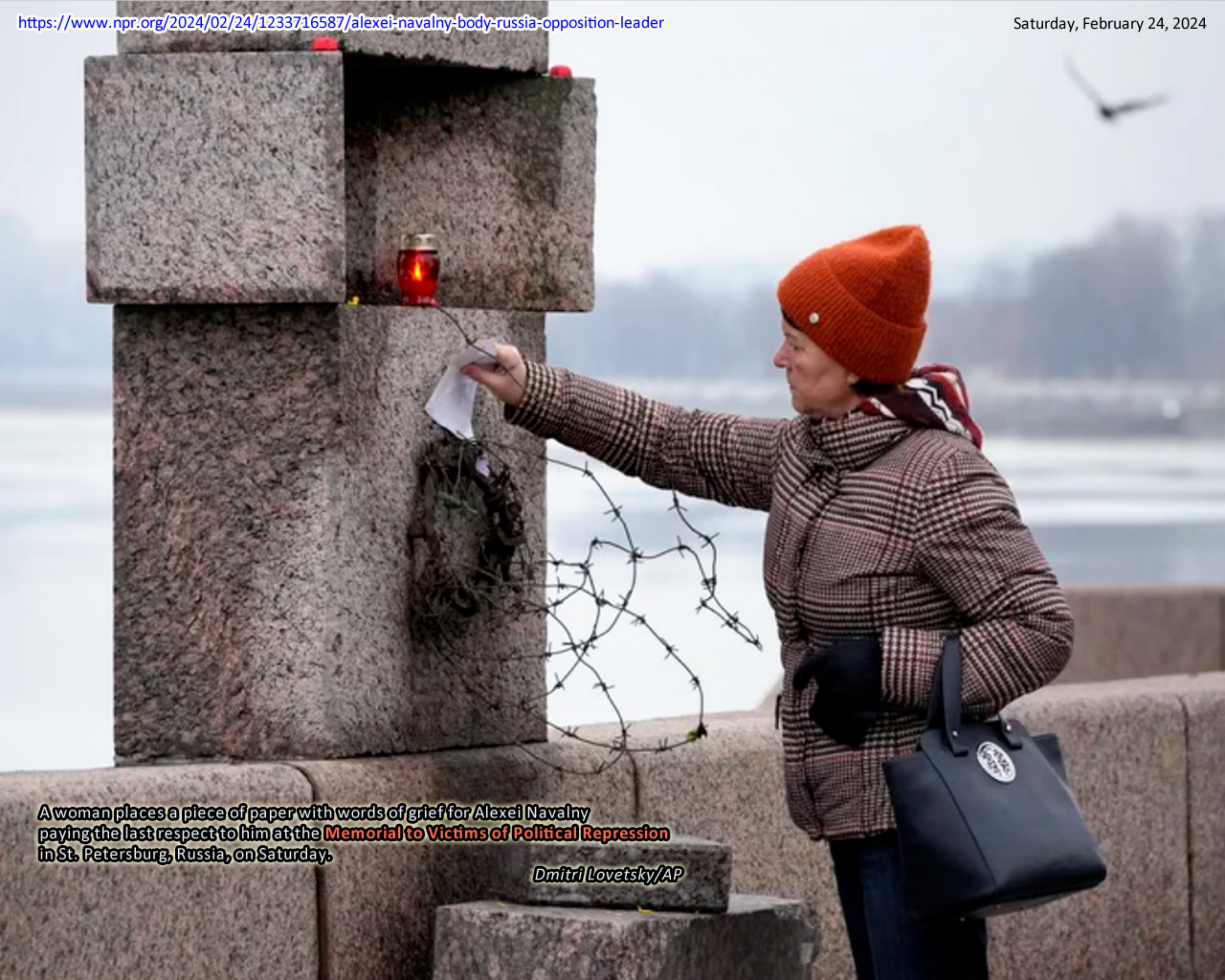
Nex Benedict was born in 2008 to a mother enrolled in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.



3 of 3

In this image provided Malia Pila, Nex Benedict poses outside the family's home in Owasso, Okla., in December 2023. A recently released police search warrant reveals more details in the case of Nex Benedict, a nonbinary Oklahoma student who died a day after a high school bathroom fight that may have been prompted by bullying over gender identity. (Sue Benedict via AP)

Nex Benedict was a 16-year-old non-binary American student who died after being attacked at their high school. Benedict, who had previously been bullied at school, was beaten in the women's restroom at Owasso High School in Owasso, Oklahoma, dying the following day. [Wikipedia](#)



A woman places a piece of paper with words of grief for Alexei Navalny paying the last respect to him at the **Memorial to Victims of Political Repression** in St. Petersburg, Russia, on Saturday.

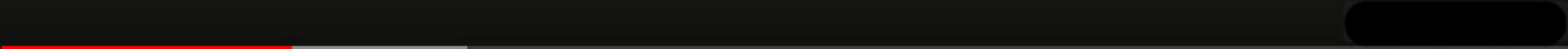
Dmitri Lovetsky/AP

Jason Isbell: Tiny Desk Concert

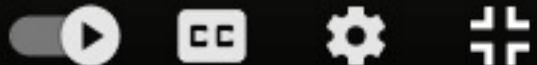


<https://youtu.be/djUh1eHdepE>

Jason Isbell (vocals, guitar); Amanda Shires (fiddle, backing vocals);



▶ ⏩ 🔊 3:43 / 20:05



NRA loses New York corruption trial over squandered funds – retired longtime leader Wayne LaPierre must repay millions of dollars

Sarah Webber, *University of Dayton* and Elizabeth Schmidt, *UMass Amherst*

Trump is no Navalny, and prosecution in a democracy is a lot different than persecution in Putin's Russia

James D. Long, *University of Washington*



The Russia-Ukraine War has caused a staggering amount of cultural destruction – both seen and unseen

Ian Kuijt, *University of Notre Dame*; Pavlo Shydlovskiy, *Taras Shevchenko National University of Kiev*, and William Donaruma, *University of Notre Dame*



Louisiana governor makes it easier for companies to receive lucrative tax breaks that take money away from cash-strapped schools

Christine Wen, *Texas A&M University*; Danielle McLean, *The Conversation*; Kevin Welner, *University of Colorado Boulder*, and Nathan Jensen, *The University of Texas at Austin*

- How you can tell propaganda from journalism – let's look at Tucker Carlson's visit to Russia

Michael J. Socolow, *University of Maine*

- EPA has tightened its target for deadly particle pollution – states need more tools to reach it

Daniel Cohan, *Rice University*

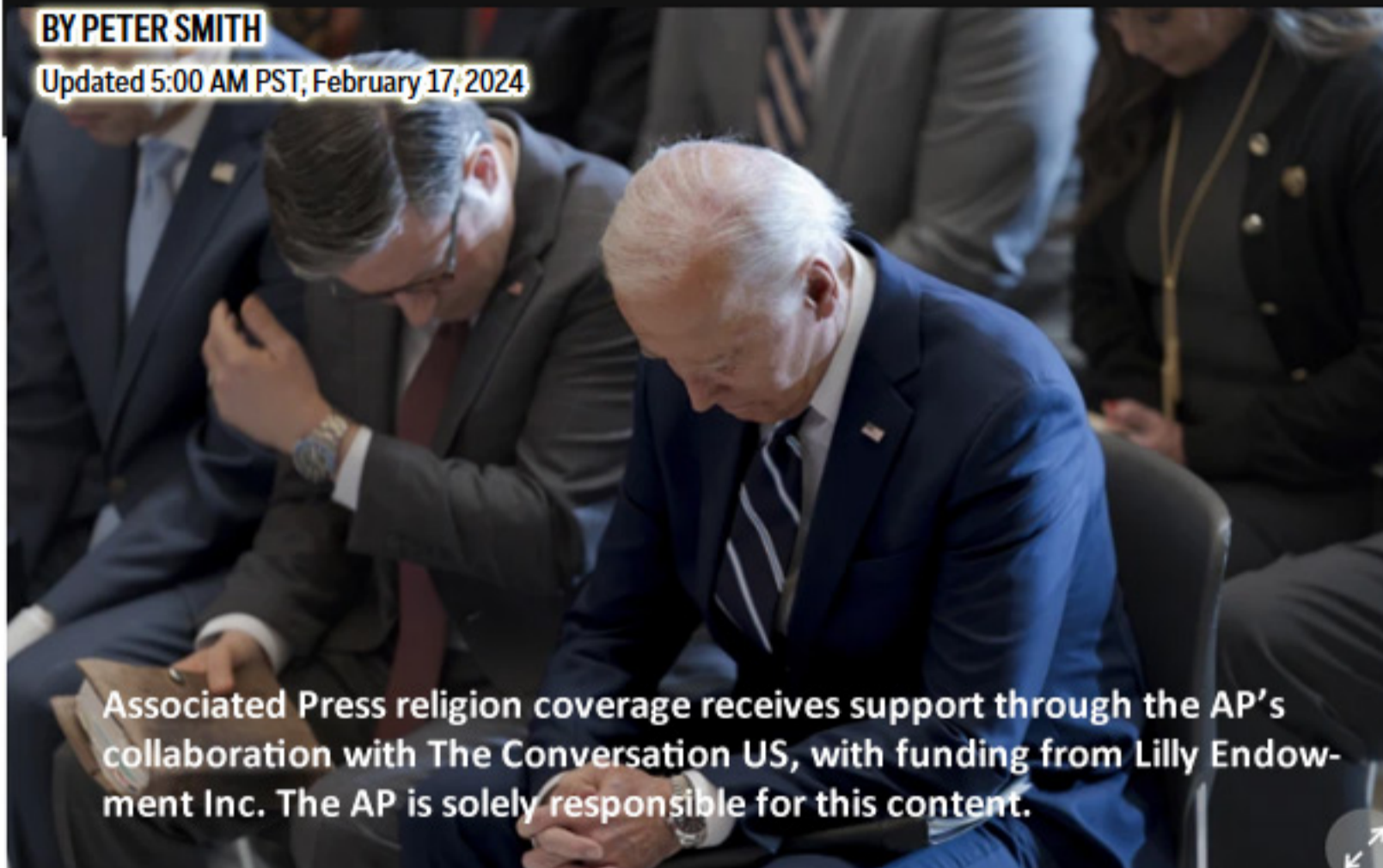
- Beyoncé's foray into country music



Many believe the founders wanted a Christian America. Some want the government to declare one now

BY PETER SMITH

Updated 5:00 AM PST, February 17, 2024



Associated Press religion coverage receives support through the AP's collaboration with The Conversation US, with funding from Lilly Endowment Inc. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

1 of 2 | FILE- President Joe Biden, with from left, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., and House Speaker Mike Johnson of La., pray and listen during the National Prayer Breakfast, Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024, at the Capitol in Washington. Johnson has spoken in the past of his belief America was founded as a Christian nation. Biden, while citing his own Catholic faith, has spoken of values shared by people of "any other faith, or no faith at all." (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

The U.S. Constitution doesn't mention Christianity or any specific religion. The Declaration of Independence famously proclaims that people's rights come from a "Creator" and "Nature's God" — but doesn't specify who that is. Yet large numbers of Americans believe the founders intended the U.S. to be a Christian nation, and many believe it should be one. Such views are especially strong among Republicans and their white evangelical base. Already such views are being voiced by supporters of Donald Trump amid his bid to recapture the presidency. The idea of a Christian America means different things to different people. Pollsters have found a wide circle of Americans who hold general God-and-country sentiments. But within that is a smaller, hardcore group who also check other boxes in surveys — such as that the U.S. Constitution was inspired by God and that the federal government should declare the U.S. a Christian nation, advocate Christian values or stop enforcing the separation of church and state. For those embracing that package of beliefs, it's more likely they'll have unfavorable views toward immigrants, dismiss or downplay the impact of anti-Black discrimination and believe Trump was a good or great president, according to a 2021 Pew Research Center survey. This latter group reflects a movement widely called Christian nationalism, which fuses American and Christian values, symbols and identity and seeks to privilege Christianity in public life. The idea of Christian nationhood fills Americans' need for an origin story, a belief that "we've come here for something special, and that we're here for God's work." Eric McDaniel, an associate professor of government at the University of Texas. It creates a sense of "national innocence," so adherents resist confronting uglier parts of U.S. history, he said. The belief connects to other beliefs past and present, from the Manifest Destiny doctrine that justified continental conquest to Trump's America First and Make America Great Again slogans, said McDaniel, a co-author of "The Everyday Crusade: Christian Nationalism in American Politics." Trump has echoed some of these ideas, vowing to bar immigrants who "don't like our religion." Many conservatives and Republicans embrace the idea of Christian national origins, even as many reject the "Christian nationalist" label.

Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson has proclaimed that America is and was founded as a Christian nation and that Thomas Jefferson was "divinely inspired" in his writing of the Declaration of Independence, according to a 2015 sermon that drew wider attention with his recent election as speaker. Wall-Builders, an organization Johnson credits for its "profound influence" on him, has spread materials claiming that "revisionist" historians have downplayed America's Christian origins, but the group has been widely criticized for historically dubious claims. A lawsuit on its behalf is challenging the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's refusal to run its bus ads touting the purported beliefs of founders. Vocal supporters of Trump have described current politics as spiritual warfare for the destiny of a country that former Trump aide Steve Bannon described as the "New Jerusalem" and conservative activist Charlie Kirk said was founded by "courageous Bible believing Christians." Recent Texas, Oklahoma and Kentucky Republican Party platforms proclaim the country was founded on "Judeo-Christian" principles. The Rev. Robert Jeffress, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, said he doesn't identify as a Christian nationalist, but does believe America was founded as a Christian nation. "I'm not claiming that all of our founders were Christians," he said in an interview. "Some were deists, some were atheists, but the majority were Christians. I'm also not saying that non-Christians shouldn't have the same rights as Christians in our country." But he said "there's a case to be made that the Judeo-Christian faith was the foundation for our laws and many of our principles." He cited founder John Jay — the first Supreme Court chief justice — asserting it was Americans' duty "in our Christian nation, to select and prefer Christians for their rulers." Jeffress said he doesn't believe America is privileged by God but, as with any nation, "God will continue to bless America to the extent that we follow him." Anthea Butler, chair of religious studies at the University of Pennsylvania, said history precludes any idea of a Christian nation. "It doesn't mean that Christians weren't a part of the founding of this nation," said Butler, a historian of African American and American religion. "What it does mean is that if you believe that America is a Christian nation and you happen to subscribe to Christian nationalism as a part of that, you're buying into a myth." That America-as-a-Christian-nation idea is "a trope of exclusion," she said, centering American history on white Anglo-Saxon Protestants as "the ones that are willing and should be running the country both then and now." That justifies viewing others as "heathens," including the enslaved Blacks and the Native Americans whose land was being taken. Those arguing for a Christian America are generally not historians and not really talking about history — they're talking politics, said John Fea, author of the 2011 book "Was America Founded as a Christian Nation?" "They appeal to a false view of the founding, or at least a partial view of the founding, to advance political agendas of the present," said Fea, a history professor at Messiah University, a Christian university in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. "These agendas are built on a very weak historical foundation." The belief in America's Christian origins is mainstream. Six in 10 U.S. adults said the founders intended America to be a Christian nation, according to a 2022 Pew Research Center survey. About 45% said the U.S. should be a Christian nation. Four in five white evangelical Protestants agreed with each assertion. By some measures, Democratic President Joe Biden might be seen in that category, citing the importance of his Catholic faith and calling for God's blessings on America and its troops — but also invoking shared values "whether you're Christian, whether you're Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, or any other faith, or no faith at all." One-third of U.S. adults surveyed in 2023 said God intended America to be a promised land for European Christians to set an example to the world, according to a Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI)/Brookings report. Such surveys have found a smaller, more ardent group of believers in Christian nationhood. In another survey, PRRI identified about 10% of Americans as the most committed adherents. **The Constitution prohibits any religious test for office, and its First Amendment bars congressional establishment of any religion, along with guaranteeing free exercise of religion.** Defenders of Christian nationhood can point out that several of the 13 original states funded Protestant churches at their origins, though within a few decades all had followed Virginia's example in halting the practice. They can point to Christian rhetoric by some founders, such as John Jay, Patrick Henry and Samuel Adams. But several key founders would never pass a test of orthodoxy. Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin viewed Jesus as a great teacher but not as God. "Could you find stuff where John Adams talks about religion being the foundation of the republic, like George Washington said in his farewell address?" asked Fea. "Are there states where Christianity was privileged? Yes, you can find all those things. You can also find things to show the Constitution wants to keep religion and government separate." Some secular activists today advocate for an opposite view — that U.S. founders sought to banish religion from public life. Fea said that also goes too far: "When you're dealing with the 18th century, nuance and complexity is essential," he said.

* <https://theconversation.com/us/newsletters/this-week-in-religion-76>

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Lilly Endowment Inc., headquartered in [Indianapolis, Indiana](#), is one of the world's largest private [philanthropic foundations](#) and among the largest [endowments](#) in the [United States](#). It was founded in 1937 by [Josiah K. \(J. K.\) Lilly Sr.](#) and his sons, [Eli Jr.](#) and [Josiah Jr. \(Joe\)](#), with an initial gift of [Eli Lilly and Company](#) stock valued at \$280,000 USD (\$4,616,759 in 2015 chained dollars).^[3] As of 2020, its total assets were worth \$21 billion.^[4]

The Lilly Endowment has historically focused on three primary grant areas: community development, education, and Christianity. It is known as the most influential philanthropy in its home city and state.^[5] Its funding of projects related to religion is unusually large among foundations. It has given to some politically and religiously conservative causes, especially in the 1960s.^[6]

J. K. Lilly Sr. initially served on the foundation board and became its largest contributor. Over time, he donated Eli Lilly and Company stock worth a total of \$86.8 million to the foundation, including a \$30 million bequest following his death in 1948. J. K.'s sons, Eli and Joe, contributed additional Eli Lilly and Company stock that had a combined value of \$6.8 million. Eli also managed the foundation in its early years.^{[3][7]} The Lilly Endowment's first full-time staff members, Josiah K. Lilly III and G. Harold Duling, were hired in 1951.^[8] By the mid-1970s, the foundation staff had increased to 75 and it had moved to larger headquarters at 2801 North Meridian Street in Indianapolis.^[9]

Lilly Endowment Inc.



Founded	1937; 87 years ago
Founder	Josiah K. Lilly Sr. and sons, Eli Jr. , and Josiah (Joe) Jr.
Focus	Religion Education Community development Indianapolis Indiana
Location	Indianapolis, Indiana, United States
Method	Grants
Key people	Clay Robbins (chairman and CEO)
Revenue (2020)	\$929 million ^[1]
Expenses (2020)	\$822 million ^[2]
Endowment (2020)	\$21 billion in assets, \$187 million in liabilities
Website	www.lillyendowment.org ↗



Peter Smith

Newsperson, Religion and Politics at The Associated Press, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania,

- Veteran journalist experienced in the coverage of diverse religious communities and in the coverage of related topics of politics, government, culture, immigration, church-state relations and social services.
- Recipient of numerous journalism awards, including Pulitzer recognitions in 2019 and 2020 and top Keystone Media Awards in Pennsylvania for journalistic service and news beat reporting.
- Newspaper editor experienced in meeting multiple daily deadlines while collaborating closely with reporters, photographers and graphic artists on the story process — from assignment to line editing to production of multi-media presentations.
- Past president of the Religion News Association (rna.org), the nation's leading organization for religion journalists, providing training, advocacy and networking for hundreds of members.



Prejudice, Colonialism, Kenya | High School Student Exchange (1954) | Ethiopia, India, Norway, UK



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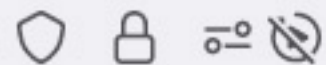
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Participants: Bizuayehu Agonafir - Ethiopia, Nalini Nair - India, John Goulden - UK, Nils Roger Harboe - Norway.

Today's discussion will be between miss bisawaya who are gonna fur of ethiopia mr john golden of the united kingdom miss nalini nair of india and mr nilstra jiharbo of norway the discussion that's developing seems singularly appropriate to brotherhood week. **The question is whether everybody or just some few people have prejudices?**

You've got to remember that there are white settlers there who hold all the political and economic power at the moment and these people are reactionaries they are against any progress on well against any political power on the part of the natives would you mean to say the parliament has no right on such people uh they would listen to the government well it's the colonial office that has that has the power but one can't just um force the white settlers to hand their land over or give in their economic past because they have the vested interest in kenya if they were to leave kenya kenya would no longer be economically viable oh yes they can hold the land if they buy it as you say but why don't they give them the right to educate themselves why why don't they give them the opportunity for education well they are that's just that is the point but after that they send this uh the people of kenya to a bar and land and they just if they go to this barren land they will just be interested in developing that instead of going for education . Why don't they let that why don't they let the people live among them i mean together with them why don't they let them intermit mingle with them why do they separate put a separation between the white and black well the government doesn't impose this separation it's the blacks and the whites that impose it on themselves this is not an official policy like apartheid um imposed by the colonial office of great britain it's just that the white people regard

themselves as richer and more and having a different culture and so they don't want to mix they feel that if they did mix by intermarriage and social mixture they would um their own culture would be swamped by the numerical superiority of the colored people yes you mean to see the people in kenya don't have a culture of their own yes that's the point they have a culture of their own and this culture should be kept independent it shouldn't be westernized well then give them the independence when they're ready for it and when are they going to be ready in ten years time when all the catholics giving them that in 10 years time you haven't started at all well they are starting now but how can they start if they don't have contact with the white people there well they do have contact with the white people this is a gradual process of development first of all the government the governor has a council of all whites then he has a council of half white half black then they introduce an assembly perhaps in about five years time of which half the people are elected and half the people are appointed by the governor and the governor still has considerable powers of veto but then they have a wholly elected assembly and eventually the governor's powers diminish until the people are considered politically right for independence well the persons who are going to be members of this congress are the ones who are educated yes well if you don't give them education how can they ever be in that congress so you do give them education that is the solution but they don't you see you give them their education and they are living separately they don't know what the whites are how the whites act and they won't have the same opinion otherwise then when they go to that congress what is the point of bringing the blacks and the whites together if they're educational they don't understand each other they'll understand each other they won't have nothing not if the one class the one group is um is very well educated and the other group is illiterate one must bring the blacks up to the standard of the white not bring the whites down to the standard of the blight well you can't bring the the blocks to the standard of the whites by intermingling them why can't you do you mean that if the whites uh get in contact with the blood with the black people that they will just go lower instead of uh bringing up the black people well if they have universal education for everyone what will happen is that either the standard of education will fall as you admitted it would happen in india you admitted that if everyone was given education the standards would fall it would be exactly as you did on that television program i didn't admit did i admit that i seem to remember what you did anyway um if this were to happen the white people settlers would send their children to europe for education. at the whites are how the whites act and they won't have the same opinion otherwise then when they go to that congress what is the point of bringing the blacks and the whites together if they're educational they don't understand each other they'll understand each other they won't have nothing not if the one class the one group is um is very well educated and the other group is illiterate one must bring the blacks up to the standard of the white not bring the whites down to the standard of the blight well you can't bring the the blocks to the standard of the whites by intermingling them why can't you do you mean that if the whites uh get in contact with the blood with the black people that they will just go lower instead of uh bringing up the black people well if they have universal education for everyone what will happen is that either the standard of education will fall as you admitted it would happen in india you admitted that if everyone was given education the standards would fall it would be exactly as you did on that television program i didn't admit did i admit that i seem to remember what you did anyway um if this were to happen the white people settlers would send their children to europe for education.



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we're not here to cheer people up we're here to tell people the truth



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Noura Erakat is one of the most important voices on Palestine we need to hear. A Palestinian-American university professor, legal scholar, human rights attorney, and activist we discuss - US complicity, South Africa's ICJ case and international law, Zionism, what possible hope - and so much more.

Noura Saleh Erakat (Arabic: نورا صالح عراكات; born January 16, 1980) is an American activist, university professor, legal scholar, and human rights attorney. She is currently an associate professor at Rutgers University, specializing in international studies.[4] Her primary focus being the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, she is a vocal critic of Israel. Erakat is author of Justice for Some: Law and the Question of Palestine. She is the sister of Yousef Erakat, better known by his YouTube moniker, FouseyTube.

In June 2020, Erakat's cousin Ahmed's car collided with a military checkpoint in the West Bank near Abu Dis, following which he was shot and killed by Israeli soldiers. Forensic Architecture and Al-Haq launched an investigation into the killing of Ahmed and concluded that the car's collision with the checkpoint was an accident, that the Israeli shooting constituted an extrajudicial killing and excessive use of lethal force, and that the Israeli military had denied Ahmed urgent medical care.

Noura Erakat



Erakat in 2014

Born	Noura Saleh Erakat January 16, 1980 (age 44) Alameda County, California, U.S.
Occupation	Activist, attorney
Education	University of California, Berkeley (BA, JD) Georgetown University (LLM)
Relatives	Yousef Erakat (brother) Saeb Erakat (uncle) Ahmad Erekat (cousin)

Website

www.nouraerakat.com

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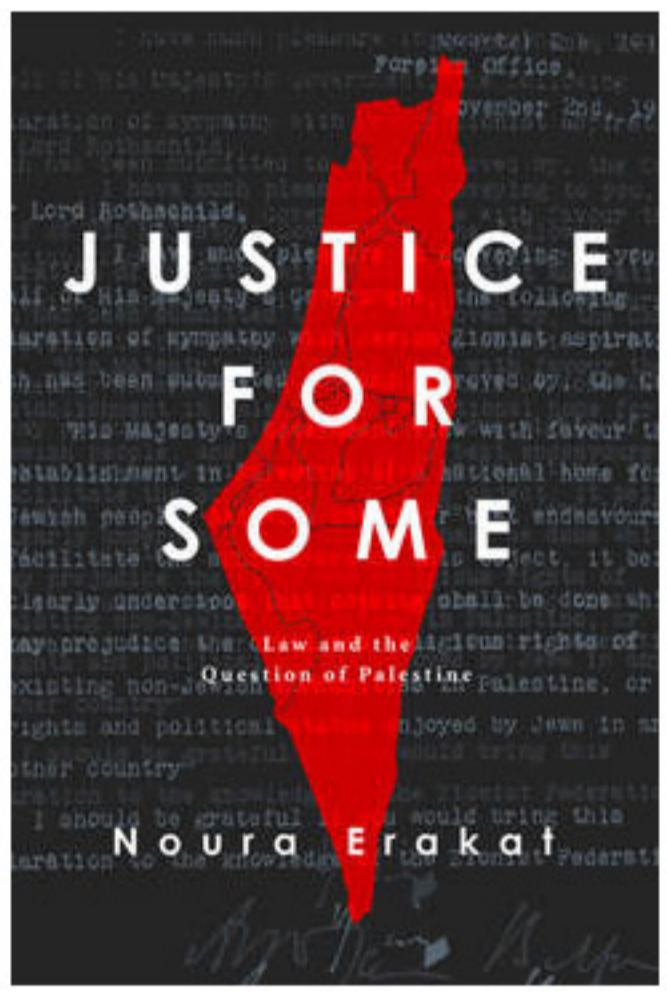
The Dig Podcast: War on Gaza

Boston Review: 'The Crimes Are Plenty'



ABC News: Palestinian civilians suffer in Israel-Gaza crossfire as death toll rises

Justice for Some: Law and the Question of Palestine



Noura Erakat is a human rights attorney and an Associate Professor at Rutgers University, New Brunswick. Noura is a Co-Editor of [Jadaliyya](#).
[Read more . . .](#)

My book, *Justice for Some: Law and the Question of Palestine* (Stanford University Press, 2019) narrates the Palestinian struggle for freedom as told through the relationship between international law and politics during five critical junctures between 1917-2017 to better understand the emancipatory potential of law and to consider possible horizons for the future.

My research interests include human rights law, humanitarian law, refugee law, national security law, social justice, critical race theory, and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.
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“Coming empty-handed,
 going empty-handed – that is human.
 When you are born, where do you come from?
 When you die, where do you go?”



- 0:14 I read recently, I was reading recently some poems of my favorite Zen Master
- 0:24 Every time it hits my mind And especially recently one poem
- 0:36 He said We come into this world
- 0:43 To eat, to sleep, to shit and at the end one thing left
- 0:56 To die I like this poem very much
- 1:08 This is something that makes me happy It is talking about life, coming to life
- 1:24 and talking about death and in between
- 1:33 eat sleep shit well maybe you could add some more things
- 1:51 Its not necessary not necessary?
- 2:01 who is your favorite Zen Master?
- 2:04 You, you, you Who wrote the poem?
- 2:14 This poem was Zen Master Ikkyu we could add something more as we like
- 2:28 in Germany there are three "F" words Its something about to do with food
- 2:44 devouring food - eating This TV is "F", TV
- 3:00 and fucking You can add everything you want

The Koch family foundations are a group of charitable foundations in the United States associated with the family of Fred C. Koch. The most prominent of these are the Charles Koch Foundation and the David H. Koch Charitable Foundation, created by Charles Koch and David Koch, two sons of Fred C. Koch who own the majority of Koch Industries, an oil, gas, paper, and chemical conglomerate which is the US's second-largest privately held company.[1] Charles' and David's foundations have provided millions of dollars to a variety of organizations, including libertarian and conservative think tanks. Areas of funding include think tanks, political advocacy, climate change denial, higher education scholarships, cancer research, arts, and science. In May 2019, the Kochs announced a major restructuring of their philanthropic efforts. Going forward, the Koch network will operate under the umbrella of Stand Together, a nonprofit focused on supporting community groups. The stated priorities of the restructured Koch network include efforts aimed at "increasing employment, addressing poverty and addiction, ensuring excellent education, building a stronger economy, and bridging divides and building respect".

The Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation (CGKCF) was established with the stated purpose of advancing social progress and well-being through the development, application and dissemination of "the Science of Liberty". It funded college study groups called Koch Scholars who gather and read "an assortment of select books, movies, and podcasts surrounding the principles of a free society." CGKCF granted Willie Soon, a researcher at the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics who says that most global warming is driven by the sun. In 2011 it granted \$25,000 to the Heartland Institute, an American conservative and libertarian public policy think tank based in Chicago, a prominent supporter of global warming deniers. The Charles Koch Institute was established in 2011, and is active in the area of professional education, research and training programs for careers in advancing economic freedom. It runs the Koch Internship Program, the Koch Associate Program, and Liberty@Work. The Charles Koch Institute has advocated bipartisan criminal justice reforms. Among the planned reforms are reducing recidivism rates, lower barriers into the workforce for the rehabilitated, and eliminate the systemic over-criminalization and overincarceration of persons from generally low-income minority communities. The reforms would also put an end to asset forfeiture by law enforcement, which deprives the incarcerated of, very often, the majority of their private property. The institute, steered by the Koch family, has worked closely with the Obama administration, the ACLU, the Center for American Progress, Families Against Mandatory Minimums, the Coalition for Public Safety, the MacArthur Foundation and other left-leaning organizations to promote these reforms. Both President Barack Obama and Anthony Van Jones have applauded the commitment to progress over party.

The Charles Koch Foundation was established in 2011, and is focused on grants and supporting higher education programs that analyze how free societies advance the well-being of mankind. It supports the Koch Institute's programs. As of 2014, the Charles Koch Foundation has given grants to almost 300 colleges and universities, according to their website. In 2014, Koch Industries Inc. and the Charles Koch Foundation granted \$25 million to the United Negro College Fund (UNCF).[24] In protest of the Kochs, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, a major labor union, ended its annual \$50,000–\$60,000 support for the UNCF, saying that the UNCF's involvement with

the Charles Koch Foundation was 'a betrayal of everything the UNCF stands for' because, they said, the Koch brothers were 'the single most prominent funders of efforts to prevent African-Americans from voting'. A student campaign, spearheaded by Greenpeace, Forecast the Facts, and the American Federation of Teachers, called UnKochMyCampus claimed the Charles Koch Foundation at Florida State University stipulated final approval of hiring economics professors in return for their donation. Kimberley A Strassel criticized UnKochMyCampus in her March 27, 2015 Potomac Watch column of The Wall Street Journal.[26] Strassel wrote that the campaigns' website directs student activists to a list of universities Koch foundations have donated to and provides instructions for how to "expose and undermine" any college thought that works against "progressive values." Between 2011 and 2018, the foundation gave \$300,000 to the online magazine Spiked, which has written articles against those in opposition to Koch brothers' interests.

The David H. Koch Charitable Foundation is a significant funder of Americans for Prosperity, a libertarian/conservative political advocacy group. David H. Koch chaired the board of directors of the associated AFP Foundation. Between 2005 and 2011, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a nonprofit organization of conservative state legislators and private sector representatives that drafts and shares model state-level legislation for distribution among state governments in the United States, was granted \$348,858 from the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation, according to Greenpeace, a non-governmental environmental organization. Between 1986 and 1990, the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation, and the David H. Koch Charitable Foundation, granted a combined \$4.8 million to the Citizens for a Sound Economy, a conservative political group. The Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation, and David H. Koch Charitable Foundation, were among the funders of the Competitive Enterprise Institute, a non-profit, libertarian think tank. David H. Koch Charitable Foundation granted \$1 million in 2008 and the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation granted \$67,556 in 2009 to the Americans for Prosperity Foundation.

In May 2019, the Kochs announced a change in direction,[9] described as a "turn away from partisan politics to focus more on goals that cut across ideologies". The Koch network would henceforth operate under the umbrella of Stand Together, a nonprofit focused on supporting community groups. The network emphasized this was "not a branding exercise" and stated that its priorities would be efforts aimed at such anodyne goals as increasing employment, addressing poverty and addiction, ensuring excellent education, building a stronger economy, and bridging divides and building respect.[19] Some critics maintain "Koch-affiliated groups" are still active "at the front lines of our current culture wars". Stand Together is an American philanthropic organization that was first established in 2003 and is often referred to informally as the Koch Network. It is a 501(c) nonprofit organization based in Arlington, Virginia, and was founded by Charles Koch to assist philanthropic activities across the United States. Formerly known as The Seminar Network, its renaming as Stand Together was announced on May 20, 2019. The founding CEO is Brian Hooks. As it exists today, Stand Together seeks to identify and mentor organizations addressing society's biggest challenges. A key part of the organization's strategy is to work through what it refers to as "key institutions of society" – education, business, communities, and government – to discover innovative ways to "remove barriers so every person can rise."

What organization(s) are the liberal counterpoint to the self-prescribed "conservative" Heritage Foundation?

I would say the **Institute For Policy Studies** would be the closest progressive or "liberal" foil to the Heritage Foundation, especially in terms of profile, influence and thoughtfulness. They were founded in 1963, and can be found at

<http://www.ips-dc.org/>. Taken from their web site: "IPS is a community of public scholars and organizers linking peace, justice, and the environment in the U.S. and globally. We work with social movements to promote true democracy and challenge concentrated wealth, corporate influence, and military power. As Washington's first progressive multi-issue think tank, the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) has served as a policy and research resource for visionary social justice movements for over four decades — from the anti-war and civil rights movements in the 1960s to the peace and global justice movements of the last decade. Some of the greatest progressive minds of the 20th and 21st centuries have found a home at IPS, starting with the organization's founders, Richard Barnet and Marcus Raskin. IPS scholars have included such luminaries as Arthur Waskow, Gar Alperovitz, Saul Landau, Bob Moses, Rita Mae Brown, Barbara Ehrenreich, Roger Wilkins and Orlando Letelier."

What is the liberal counterpart to the conservative **Federalist Society** which provided Trump a list of prospective appointments to the Supreme Court?

The **American Constitution Society** was created in the 1990s, explicitly as a liberal-leaning answer to the Federalist Society. Like the Federalist Society, it's mostly academics, think-tankers, and public interest types. Hasn't had quite the impact that the Federalist Society has had.



Politico

<https://www.politico.com/story/2019/01/23/why-t...>

Why There's No Liberal Federalist Society

Jan 23, 2019 — There actually is one liberal analog to the Federalist Society, but chances are

<https://www.heritage.org/progressivism/commentary/the-left-right-fear-our-plan-gut-the-federal-bureaucracy>



The Heritage Foundation

<https://www.heritage.org/progressivism/commentary>

The Left Is Right To Fear Our Plan To Gut the Federal ...

Sep 27, 2023 — The **Left Is Right To Fear Our Plan To Gut the Federal Bureaucracy**

The Left Is Right To Fear Our Plan To Gut the Federal Bureaucracy by Mike Gonzalez Sep 27, 2023 • Those of us working on this project intend to make sure that the deep state can no longer throttle conservative governance through administrative sabotage. • Ensuring that the deep state cannot disrupt the work that the American people elected a president to do is precisely one of the top aims of Project 2025. • There is no reason the non-Brahmins should pay for this in the form of a bureaucracy that thinks like this or a broadcaster that reflects these views.



Quora

<https://www.quora.com/Why-is-the-Heritage-Foundati...>

Why is the Heritage Foundation continuing to tout Trump? ...

Jul 24, 2021 — The Heritage Foundation is a conservative think tank that exists to promote

If there are a lot of front organizations for conservative causes, what are some fronts for liberal causes?

A2A: It depends to an extent, on your point of view. For the kind of people who insist that a mistake in a statement is the same as a lie, for example, any organization that supports a cause that is also supported by the "liberals," but does not put the word "liberal" in their title, is "a front for liberal causes." For people as illogical and fanatic as that, there are dozens of "liberal front" organizations, including all labor unions, the ACLU, almost all mainstream news organizations (except Fox and Breitbart), and so on. When you want to look at "fronts for causes," be they liberal or conservative or just plain nuts, the thing I think you should look at, is whether or not the particular organization CLAIMS to be independent, but is funded almost entirely by another more obvious group. That's what being a "front group" actually means, after all. It means that the group is only PRETENDING to be an independent organization, in order to make it appear that there are multiple independent groups, all supporting the same cause (thus implying wider support than actually exists). It's identical to how some scam companies set up their own fake "independent testing" companies, to claim that their products or services are better than everyone else, by PRETENDING to make unbiased comparisons. It's also what the Russians did a lot in order to game the 2016 elections, and in order to trick Americans into voting for domestic and international policies that help Putin.

The Heritage Foundation (sometimes referred to simply as Heritage) is an activist American conservative think tank based in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1973, it took a leading role in the conservative movement in the 1980s during the presidency of Ronald Reagan, whose policies were taken from Heritage Foundation studies, including its Mandate for Leadership. The Heritage Foundation has had significant influence in U.S. public policy making, and has been ranked among the most influential public policy organizations in the United States.[5] Its sister organization Heritage Action, founded in 2010, is an influential activist force in conservative and Republican politics. The Heritage Foundation was founded on February 16, 1973 during the Nixon administration by Paul Weyrich, Edwin Feulner, and Joseph Coors.

The Heritage Foundation is an associate member of the **State Policy Network**, a network of conservative and libertarian organizations **financed by the Koch brothers**, Philip Morris, and other corporate sources.

Project 2025

The foundation also leads a constellation of groups named Project 2025, preparing for the possible election of Donald Trump in 2024. The project seeks to recruit thousands to come to Washington and prepare to dismantle and reshape the federal government closer to Trump's vision. Former Trump administration official Russell Vought, who is involved in the project, said, "The president Day One will be a wrecking ball for the administrative state." It includes changes "for nearly every agency across the government", specifically undoing the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, shutting down the Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office, boosting the extraction and use of fossil fuels, and other measures that could have significant effect on how the administration approaches global warming and climate change.

In the first year of Donald Trump's candidacy for the presidency, the Heritage Foundation did not embrace his candidacy. "Donald Trump's a clown," then Heritage Action leader Michael Needham said on a Fox News panel in July 2015. Once Trump won, however, the Heritage Foundation's position shifted, and they sought and obtained a major influence in his presidential transition and administration. The foundation had a powerful say in the staffing of the administration, with CNN noting during the transition that "no other Washington institution has that kind of footprint in the transition." [51] One reason for the Heritage Foundation's disproportionate influence relative to other conservative think tanks is that other conservative think tanks had members who identified as "never-Trumpers" during the 2016 election whereas the Heritage Foundation ultimately signaled that it would be supportive of him. At least 66 foundation employees and alumni were given positions in the administration.

The State Policy Network (SPN) is a nonprofit organization that serves as a network for conservative and libertarian think tanks focusing on state-level policy in the United States.[1][2][3] The network serves as a public policy clearinghouse and advises its member think tanks on fundraising, running a nonprofit, and communicating ideas.[4] Founded in 1992, it is headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, with member groups located in all fifty states. The State Policy Network was founded in 1992 by Thomas A. Roe,[10] a South Carolina businessman who was a member of the board of trustees of The Heritage Foundation.[11] Roe told U.S. President Ronald Reagan that he thought each of the states needed something like the Heritage Foundation. Reagan's reply was "do something about it," which led Roe to establish the South Carolina Policy Council (SCPC).[12] SCPC adapted Heritage Foundation national policy recommendations, such as school choice and environmental deregulation, to the state legislative level.[SPN was an outgrowth of the Madison Group, a collection of state-level think tanks in states including South Carolina, Colorado, Illinois, and Michigan that had been meeting periodically at the Madison Hotel in Washington, D.C. Roe was chairman of the board of directors of SPN from its founding until his death in 2000.[14] Gary Palmer, co-founder and president of the conservative think tank the Alabama Policy Institute from 1989 until 2014, helped found SPN and served as its president. Initially, SPN's network consisted of fewer than 20 member organizations.[15] Lawrence Reed, the first president of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, a Michigan-based free market think tank, fostered new state-level regular member organizations through delivery of his think tank training course. By the mid-1990s, SPN had a network of 37 think tanks in 30 states. By 2014, there were 65 member organizations, including at least one in each state.

In 2006, three former presidents of SPN member organizations were serving as Republicans in the United States House of Representatives: Mike Pence of Indiana, Jeff Flake of Arizona, and Tom Tancredo of Colorado.[16] National Review described them as having "used SPN organizations as political springboards." SPN introduced model legislation for state legislators to implement on the state level to undermine the Affordable Care Act.[24] The organization also pushed for states not to expand Medicaid. SPN is a member of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), an organization that drafts and shares state-level model legislation for conservative causes,[34] and ALEC is an associate member of SPN. SPN is among the sponsors of ALEC. A 2009 article in an SPN newsletter encouraged SPN members to join ALEC, and many SPN members are also members of ALEC. ALEC is "SPN's sister organisation," according to The Guardian.

SPN member think tanks aided the Tea Party movement by supplying rally speakers and intellectual ammunition.

Project 2025 is a plan to reshape the executive branch of the U.S. federal government in the event of a Republican victory in the 2024 U.S. presidential election.[2][3] Established in 2022, the project seeks to recruit tens of thousands of conservatives to Washington, D.C., to replace existing federal civil service workers it characterizes as the "deep state", to further the objectives of the next Republican president.[4] Although participants in the project cannot promote a specific presidential candidate, many have close ties to Donald Trump and the Trump 2024 presidential campaign.[5] The plan would perform a swift takeover of the entire executive branch under a maximalist version of the unitary executive theory — a theory proposing the president of the United States has absolute power over the executive branch — upon inauguration.

The development of the plan is led by the The Heritage Foundation, an American conservative think tank, in collaboration with over 100 partners including Turning Point USA led by Charlie Kirk; the Conservative Partnership Institute including former Trump Chief of Staff Mark Meadows as senior partner; the Center for Renewing America led by former Trump-appointed Office of Management and Budget Director Russell Vought; and America First Legal led by former Trump Senior Advisor Stephen Miller.

Project 2025 envisions widespread changes across the entire government, particularly with regard to economic and social policy and the role of the federal government and federal agencies. The plan proposes slashing U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) funding, dismantling the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security, gutting environmental and climate change regulations to favor fossil fuel production, and eliminating the cabinet Departments of Education and Commerce.[9] Citing an anonymous source, The Washington Post reported Project 2025 includes immediately invoking the Insurrection Act of 1807 to deploy the military for domestic law enforcement and directing the DOJ to pursue Trump adversaries.[10] Project Director Paul Dans, a former Trump administration official, said in September 2023 that Project 2025 is "systematically preparing to march into office and bring a new army, aligned, trained, and essentially weaponized conservatives ready to do battle against the deep state."

Project 2025 consists largely of a book of policy recommendations titled *Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise* and an accompanying personnel database open for submissions. There is also an online course called the Presidential Administration Academy, and a guide to developing transition plans. Reactions to the plan included variously describing it as authoritarian, an attempt by Trump to become a dictator, and a path leading the United States towards autocracy, with several experts in law criticizing it for violating current constitutional laws that would undermine the rule of law and the separation of powers.[9] Additionally, some conservatives and Republicans also criticized the plan, for example in relation to climate change. The Mandate states that "freedom is defined by God, not man."

Project 2025

Project 2025

PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION PROJECT

Purpose Plan to reshape the U.S. federal government to support the agenda of Donald Trump

Location [Washington, D.C.](#)

Director Paul Dans

Budget \$22 million^[1]

Website www.project2025.org  



Hob Coffee North Park
4096 30th St, San Diego, California





Hundreds of thousands of US infants every year pay the consequences of prenatal exposure to drugs, a growing crisis particularly in rural America

Amna Umer, West Virginia University

Considerable sociodemographic and geographic disparities exist in the U.S. regarding the rates of prenatal substance exposure. This includes in West Virginia, where I live, a rural Appalachian state struggling with extraordinary rates of substance use and an opioid crisis.

Published: February 26, 2024

I went to CPAC as an anthropologist to understand Trump's base – they believe, more than ever, he is a savior

Alexander Hinton, Rutgers University - Newark

While Ronald Reagan is closely tied to this conservative conference's origins, it has become a multiday event for die-hard **Trump** supporters.

Published: February 27, 2024

Belief in the myth of outlaw heroes partly explains Donald Trump's die-hard support

David G. Bromley, Virginia Commonwealth University

From Robin Hood to Al Capone, outlaw heroes have played a significant role in American culture. **Trump** claims he is one of them.

When is forgetting normal — and when is it worrisome? A neuroscientist weighs in

FEBRUARY 26, 2024 · 1:37 PM ET



HEARD ON FRESH AIR



Terry Gross



Cognitive neuroscientist Charan Ranganath says the human brain isn't programmed to remember everything. Rather, it's designed to "carry what we need and to deploy it rapidly when we need it."



EDUCATION

Tuition will be free at a New York City medical school thanks to a \$1 billion gift



NATIONAL

An Alabama justice's ties with a far-right Christian movement raise concern



ON AGING

When is forgetting normal — and when is it worrisome? A neuroscientist weighs in

FRESH AIR



NATIONAL

A U.S. airman dies after setting himself on fire outside the Israeli Embassy



CULTURE

Can a preposition be what you end a sentence with? Merriam-Webster says yes



ELECTIONS

Michigan Democrats and Republicans wrap up their presidential primaries today

Aaron Bushnell, 25, died in the hospital after setting himself on fire outside the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C., on Sunday in what he said on social media was an act of protest against Israel's war in Gaza.



https://apnews.com/article/church-shooting-joel-osteen-texas-body-camera

80%



https://apnews.com/article/church-shooting-joel-osteen-texas-body-camera-946045e19ef9b57895e72bb39ef5a340

A barrage of gunfire as officers stop the shooter at Joel Osteen's megachurch, newly released video shows



1 of 2

In this image taken from body camera video released by the Houston Police Department on Monday, Feb. 26, 2024, officers and security respond after exchanging gunfire with a woman who opened fire at celebrity pastor Joel Osteen's Houston megachurch Sunday, Feb. 11. Police say Genesse Moreno, 36, entered the church between Sunday services with her 7-year-old son and began firing an AR-style rifle. (Houston Police Department via AP)

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Tuesday, February 27, 2024

LIV Juice Bar and Smoothies

1251 University Ave, San Diego, CA 92103



Yulia Navalnaya, widow of Alexei Navalny, steps forward to lead the Russian opposition – 3 points to understand

Published: February 27, 2024 by Farida Jalalzai, Virginia Tech

Here are three points to understand about Navalnaya's sudden rise in politics, and the obstacles she faces in accomplishing her goal of bringing democratic change to Russia.

1. There's a long history of women subbing for men
2. Women can use feminine stereotypes to their political benefit
- 3. Navalnaya will face limits to real power**

While Navalnaya has received much international interest and praise for stepping in to fill her husband's shoes, she is living in exile. If she returned to Russia and continued to oppose Putin's regime, she would likely face imprisonment or even death, the fate of Putin's other prominent critics. But Navalnaya might not be able to gain real political headway if she does not return to Russia. Moreover, leading a movement from abroad could be used by her enemies as evidence that she is merely a puppet of foreign governments. A grieving widow is now arguably Putin's biggest critic, and her foray into the political limelight is not wholly unexpected. What remains unclear is whether Navalnaya can move beyond being a symbol and proxy of her husband and unite Russia's opposition movement to face Putin.



<https://youtu.be/wznD7uGEcLk>



© THE DAILY SHOW

862,321 views Feb 26, 2024 #DailyShow #JonStewart #MiddleEast

The Intercept's Murtaza Hussain and Yair Rosenberg of The Atlantic discuss with Jon Stewart how peace may be possible between Israel and Palestine, the United States' involvement in the Middle East, and how the two journalists can have honest conversations even when they disagree. #DailyShow #JonStewart #MiddleEast



Diagnosing 'warming winter syndrome' as summerlike heat sweeps into central and eastern US

Updated: February 26, 2024 by Richard B. (Ricky) Rood, University of Michigan



One of the most robust measures of Earth's changing climate is that winter is warming more quickly than other seasons. The cascade of changes it brings, including ice storms and rain in regions that were once reliably below freezing, are symptoms of what I call "warming winter syndrome."

Wintertime warming represents the global accumulation of heat. During winter, direct heat from the Sun is weak, but storms and shifts in the jet stream bring warm air up from more southern latitudes into the northern U.S. and Canada. As global temperatures and the oceans warm, that stored heat has an influence on both temperature and precipitation.

The U.S. has been feeling this warming in the winter of 2023-24. Snowfall has been below average in much of the country. On the Great Lakes, the ice cover has been at historic lows. Late February saw a wave of summerlike temperatures spread up into the central and eastern U.S., accompanied by the potential for dangerous thunderstorms and wildfire risk. And forecasters expected another above-average warm spell in early March.

These changes, which affect outdoor sports and recreation, commercial fisheries and agriculture, have enormous consequences not only to the ecosystems but also to our relationship to them. In some instances, traditions will be lost, such as ice fishing. Overall, people just about everywhere will have to adapt.

The push to vote 'uncommitted' to Biden in Michigan exceeds goal

UPDATED FEBRUARY 28, 2024 · 1:05 AM ET

 Elena Moore



A Democratic voter uncommitted to President Biden rallies outside of a polling location at Maples Elementary School on Feb. 27 in Dearborn, Mich.

Kevin Dietsch/Getty Images




President Biden might have won the Michigan Democratic primary, but for some voters who disapprove of his handling of Israel's war in Gaza, Tuesday night was about sending a strong message: Change course or lose votes in the general election. As of 5:00 am ET Wednesday, more than 100,000 votes for the uncommitted option on the Democratic ballot have been counted, according to results reported by The Associated Press. Biden maintains more than 80% of the total vote with nearly 618,000 votes. **Listen to Michigan**, a campaign started and spearheaded by predominantly younger Arab and Muslim organizers, led a push for Democrats to vote uncommitted in the primary as a protest vote. They're urging Biden to call for an immediate and permanent cease-fire in Gaza and stop sending U.S. aid to Israel. It comes nearly five months after the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas on Israel that killed 1,200 people. Since then, almost 30,000 people in Gaza have been killed.

"We have led a movement that is far exceeding expectations, using the ballot box to urge America to stop killing our families," said Listen to Michigan spokesperson and Democratic strategist Abbas Alawieh at a watch party in Dearborn, Mich. "That's all we're asking for. Just stop killing our families," he added. Dearborn has been at the center of this movement, where more than half the population is of Middle Eastern or North African descent. "This coalition is one that wants to bring the morality back to this country because somewhere along the line, we have lost it," said Dearborn Mayor Abdullah Hammoud at the watch party Tuesday night. "We will be that movement to bring [elected officials] back in line, if not with this primary election, then with November," he added.

State Rep. Abraham Aiyash, a vocal advocate of the movement, looks past primary day and onto the Democratic convention, noting that it is possible that the "uncommitted" option could earn at least one delegate. Delegates are awarded by the Democratic Party if a candidate, in this case "uncommitted" receives 15% of the total statewide vote and then 15% of the vote in any one Congressional district. The Associated Press had not allocated delegates to "uncommitted" as of 11:15 p.m. ET. But Aiyash and others are not deterred. "We're going to Chicago, by the way, 174 days from now, we're going to be at the Democratic National Convention, pushing and growing this anti-war movement," Aiyash predicted. "Maybe they will listen to Michigan," he hoped.

MICH. DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

99% of results in

CANDIDATE	PERCENT	VOTES
 Joe Biden • ✓	81.1%	617,728
Uncommitted	13.3%	100,960
 Marianne Williamson	3.0%	22,797
 Dean Phillips	2.7%	20,449

[SEE FULL RESULTS >](#)

Source: AP (as of 3:07 a.m. PT on Feb. 28, 2024)



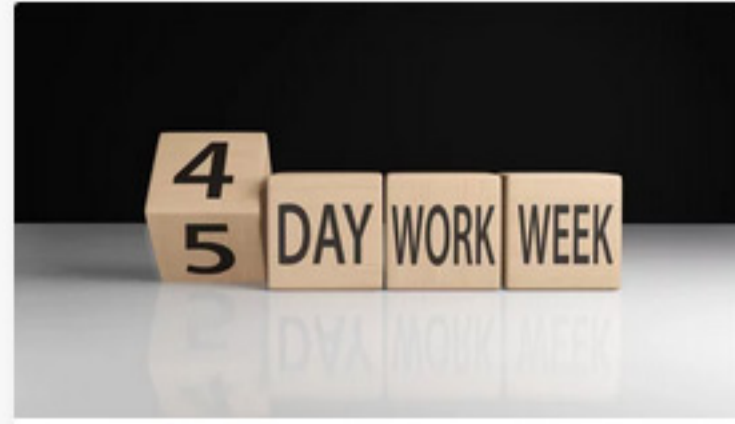
BUSINESS

A tech billionaire is quietly buying up land in Hawaii. No one knows why



TECHNOLOGY

After 10 years of development, Apple abruptly cancels its electric car project



BUSINESS

U.K. companies that tried a 4-day workweek report lasting benefits more than a year on



NATIONAL

Idaho prepares to execute one of the longest-serving death row inmates in the U.S.



ELECTIONS

Trump beats Nikki Haley, Joe Biden wins amid protest votes in Michigan primaries



LAW

2 men are found guilty for the 2002 killing of Run-DMC's Jam Master Jay

Billionaire **Marc Benioff** the CEO and co-founder of San Francisco-based Salesforce, one of the world's largest software companies, lives in a beachside mansion down the mountain from Waimea. He built the \$24.5 million, 9,800-square-foot home about 20 years ago and bought dozens of acres of ranch land in Waimea. Benioff has gone on a much larger — and previously unreported — shopping spree. And tech billionaires are now among the newest cadre of migrants to buy land in the islands. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos owns a sprawling beach mansion in Maui. Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg has plans to build a bunker on his land in Kauai, according to Wired. Benioff's former boss, Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison, owns 98% of Lanai.

The majority of Benioff's land buys haven't been about Salesforce or his philanthropy — but rather for personal use.

Apple has ended its secret plans of building a self-driving electric car, a decade-long effort that was seen as one of the most ambitious undertakings in the company's history. Apple executives on Tuesday informed teams working on the tech giant's vehicle, called Project Titan internally, that hundreds of employees who worked on the car will be shifted to divisions working on artificial intelligence, according to multiple reports. Tesla CEO Elon Musk appears to have welcomed the news that Apple was winding down its car project, sharing a social media post about the move with his own commentary: a saluting emoji and a cigarette.

The four-day workweek is proving to be the gift that keeps on giving. Companies that have tried it are reporting happier workers, lower turnover and greater efficiency. Now, there's evidence that those effects are long lasting. The latest data come from a trial in the U.K. In 2022, 61 companies moved their employees to a four-day workweek with no reduction in pay. They began it as a six-month experiment. But today, 54 of the companies still have the policy. Just over half have declared it permanent, according to researchers with the think tank Autonomy, who organized the trial along with the groups 4-Day Week Campaign and 4 Day Week Global. Follow-up surveys help to explain the four-day workweek's success. Improvements in physical and mental health, work-life balance, and general life satisfaction, as well as reductions in burnout, have been maintained over the past year, says sociologist Juliet Schor of Boston College, who's part of the research team. Workers report higher job satisfaction now than before the trial began.



Georgia Republicans seek new laws to crack down on immigrants after nursing student killed ▶

ATLANTA (AP) — Georgia House Republicans are pushing to require every eligible police and sheriff’s department to help identify undocumented immigrants, arrest them and detain them for deportation.

The proposal advanced through the state House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee on Tuesday, going to the full House for more debate, after police accused a Venezuelan man of beating a nursing student to death on the University of Georgia campus.

Jose Ibarra was arrested Friday on murder and assault charges in the Thursday death of 22-year-old Laken Riley. Ibarra, 26, is a Venezuelan citizen who immigration authorities say unlawfully crossed into the United States in 2022. It’s unclear whether he has applied for asylum.

Riley was a nursing student at Augusta University’s Athens campus, after starting her college career at the Athens campus of the University of Georgia. She was found dead Thursday after a roommate reported she didn’t return from a morning run in a wooded area.



Out-of-control wildfires scorch Texas Panhandle and briefly shut down nuclear weapons facility ▶

1 mins ago

A series of wildfires swept across the Texas Panhandle early Wednesday, prompting evacuations, cutting off power to thousands, and forcing the brief shutdown of a nuclear weapons facility as strong winds, dry grass and unseasonably warm temperatures fed the blazes.

“What saved our butts was that northern wind ... it blew it the opposite direction,” Hill said. “We were scared, but every night I pray ... and that’s all I can do.”

The weather forecast provided some hope for firefighters — cooler temperatures, less wind and possibly rain on Thursday. But for now, the situation was dire in some areas.



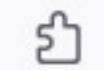
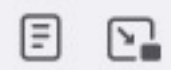
Supreme Court to hear challenge to bump stock ban in high court’s latest gun case

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Wednesday will hear a challenge to a Trump-era ban on bump stocks, a gun accessory used in a Las Vegas massacre that was the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

A Texas gun shop owner argues the Trump administration didn’t follow federal law when it reversed course and banned bump stocks, which allow semi-automatic weapons to fire rapidly like machine guns.

The Biden administration is defending the ban, saying regulators were right to revise previous findings and ban bump stocks under laws against machine guns dating back decades.

Federal appeals courts have been divided over the bump stock rule, which marks the latest gun case to come before the Supreme Court. The case offers a fresh test for a court with a conservative supermajority to define the limits of gun restrictions in an era plagued by mass shootings.



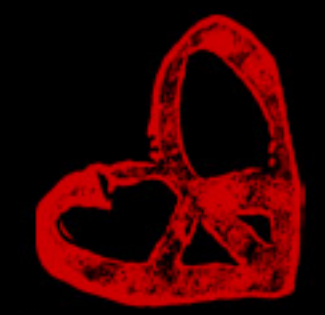
Laken Riley



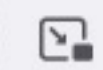
2 of 15

FILE - This undated image provided by Augusta University shows Laken Hope Riley, a nursing student whose body was found Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024, on the University of Georgia campus in Athens, Ga., after not returning from a run. (Augusta University via AP, File)

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lovepeace



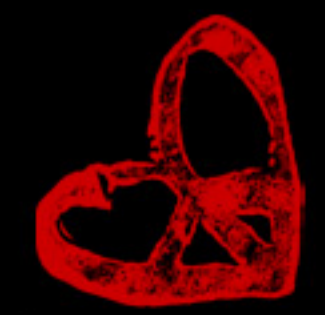
Laken Riley



10 of 15

Augusta University College of Nursing students gather to mourn the loss of Laken Riley during a vigil for the nursing student at the Tate Plaza on the University of Georgia campus in Athens, Ga., Monday, Feb. 26, 2024. Riley, a nursing student at Augusta University's Athens campus, was found dead Thursday, Feb. 22, after a roommate reported she didn't return from a morning run in a wooded area of the UGA campus near its intramural fields. Students also gathered to pay tribute to a UGA student who committed suicide last week. (Joshua L. Jones/Athens Banner-Herald via AP)

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Opinion

Jon Stewart's misplaced 'bothsidesism' on Israel/Palestine was a flop

Stewart's latest Daily Show episode was an uncomfortable reminder that some things just aren't funny.

Feb. 27, 2024, 10:45 AM PST

By Jacques Berlinerblau, MSNBC Columnist


Jon Stewart's third appearance in the anchor's chair since [returning to "The Daily Show"](#) opened with the seated host basking in a standing ovation from his stoked studio audience. Citing the controversies and "carping" triggered by his first two episodes, he promised that Monday's performance would offer something different – "an amuse-bouche, a trifle, something light." That relaxing change of pace would be a discussion of, naturally, Israel/Palestine.

The first two episodes of the show have drawn a wide range of media responses. Some, such as [NPR](#), [The Washington Post](#) and [The New York Times](#), feted him as a conquering hero. Other outlets, such as the [Hollywood Reporter](#), [Variety](#) and [Vox](#), thought the program ranged from OK to meh.

***Politainment**, a portmanteau word composed of politics and entertainment, describes tendencies in politics and mass media to liven up political reports and news coverage using elements from public relations to create a new kind of political communication.*

One of politainment's irritating character flaws: its tendency to celebrate itself, defend itself and be about itself – as we watch the world burn.

My concerns with this perishing (?) medium aren't identical to, let's say, [Bo Burnham's insight](#) that comedy cannot heal the world (though I think he is certainly correct about that). My point is that 30 minutes of gags cross-pollinated with self-absorption cannot necessarily elucidate an issue as dreadful, dense and complicated as the Israel/Palestine conflict. At their best, that's what journalists and scholars try to do in our humorless vocations. And we often fail miserably.

The show ended with an emotional, teary-eyed Stewart mourning the death of his dog Dipper. Given the material that preceded it, the Dipper retrospective made for one jarringly strange tonal contrast, both addressing the loss of life. Then again, the segment worked because it was authentic. It intuitively grasped a truth that the show's Israel/Palestine content failed to recognize: Some things just aren't funny and gags might not impart wisdom. 

Jacques Berlinerblau is a professor of Jewish Civilization at the [Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University](#). He has doctorates in [Ancient Near Eastern languages and literature](#) (from NYU) and theoretical [sociology](#) (from the [New School for Social Research](#)). He has published ten books on a wide variety of scholarly subjects with special attention to secularism, secular aesthetics, Jewish-American literature (Philip Roth's fiction in particular), African-American and Jewish-American relations and biblical literature.^[1] Berlinerblau has also written about professors and their discontents in *Campus Confidential: How College Works, Or Doesn't, For Professors, Students, and Parents* and in numerous articles about the Humanities for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

From 2007 to 2009 he wrote the blog *The God Vote*,^[2] an exploration of the role of faith in the [2008 U.S. presidential race](#), for *Newsweek*'s On Faith website.^[3]

Berlinerblau hosted and produced the show *Faith Complex* which was described as "a dialogue about the intersection of religion, politics and art." In 2010 he launched a second show with *The Washington Post*'s [Sally Quinn](#) entitled "The God Vote" which focussed on news cycle issues involving faith and politics. In addition to this work in visual media, Berlinerblau blogged for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*'s "Brainstorm" page between 2010 and 2012. He wrote about secularism, literature, and various subjects in higher education.^[4] His work on religion and politics and the 2012 election also appeared in the [Huffington Post](#).^[5]

Outside his usual publications on scholarly areas of interest, Berlinerblau has turned his attention to the interview format in recent years. His guests in the arts have included:

- Georgetown Professor [Michael Eric Dyson](#)^[6] discussing [hip-hop theology](#)
- Director of the Washington Ballet Septime Webre^[7] on [homophobia](#) and [ballet](#)
- Novelist [Cynthia Ozick](#)^[8]
- Novelist [Gary Shteyngart](#)^[9]
- Novelist [David Bezmozgis](#)^[10]
- Novelist [Lara Vapnyar](#)^[11]
- Dr. Derek Parker Royal^[12] (founder of the Philip Roth Society)
- Literary critics [Adam Kirsch](#) and [Liel Leibovitz](#)^[13] discussing Philip Roth's career;

Some of his interview subjects in the political sphere have included:

- The former President of [Poland](#), [Aleksander Kwaśniewski](#)^[14]
- The former Prime Minister of [Spain](#), [José María Aznar](#)^[15]
- Congressman [Jim Moran](#)^[16]
- The Special Envoy to Combat and Monitor [Anti-Semitism](#), [Hannah Rosenthal](#)^[17]

Jacques Berlinerblau



Jacques Berlinerblau in his office

Born	July 6, 1966 (age 57) Portland, Maine
Nationality	American
Alma mater	New York University
Occupation(s)	Professor, Jewish Civilization, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University

Books

Heresy in the University: The Black Athena Controversy and the Responsibilities of American Intellectuals

The Secular Bible: Why Nonbelievers Must Take Religion Seriously

The Vow and the 'Popular Religious Groups' of Ancient Israel: A Philological & Sociological Inquiry

Thumpin' It: The Use and Abuse of the Bible in Today's Presidential Politics

How to be Secular: A Field Guide for Religious Moderates, Atheists and Agnostics

Campus Confidential: How College Works, or Doesn't, for Professors, Parents, and Students

Secularism: The Basics

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mission Valley Mall

1640 Camino Del Rio N, San Diego, CA 92108



Wednesday, February 28, 2024

The Sofia Hotel

150 W Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101







Daffodils with people skills.

There's something to be said for the three-way balance:
creating, sustaining, destroying.
Until the destroying visits your house and home.

Creating a document for posterity with a photo of downtown 92101
looking West from B Street & 21st at 7:30 am. 'Vista in the morning Orange light.'
(Though the photo didn't come out. Too distant, too indistinct, the light not right.
Not orange bright. So much for the future generations.)

Sustaining dignity, you don't want to be the first to start Double Jeopardy
after the commercial break. Means you're losing. There's no losers in this game,
but there's only one winner.

Destroying with a glance when making a turn downtown, train on the track, standing stock still,
looking up from his phone, mean suit on the corner staring me down with contempt burning in his eyes.
Like he's the one. The one not walking against the signal. I'm up for it.
Tolerance for what I don't know, what I don't know is the other's problem. Then again,
what the hell are expletives made for? 'What the fuck is your problem, man?'
Not withering when destroying visits, if it don't kill you. If it don't kill you in the flesh,
then there's the solace of entertaining the broad 'God willing' cosmic balance in the abstract.
Until destroying visits your house and home for real. If looks could kill.

Going back to the well, though it's getting crowded. Popular.
Does your fashion have a name? Are you incentivized to arrive on time?
Certain, my mother told me, you don't toast someone's health with water,
the elixir of life, it's disrespectful. You need stronger spirits mixed with the seeds
of the conventional cultural sickness going back for generations for that. Tradition.
Bird in the hand.

Does a cop notice others driving differently
when he's out of uniform driving his own personal car,
rather than the one marked 'Police'?
Soft authority.

.....

You'll never forgive yourself, FOMO, if you miss this experience.

You get what you can take. You get what you give. Reciprocity to a
higher order. There's something to be said, "*Lord bless this food to
our use, and us to Thy service, and make us ever mindful of the
needs of others. Amen.*" So I'll say it again, do unto others before
they do unto you. Be the prime mover and shaker. Pay it forward.
Be the doer, not the done. Be the actor, not the acted upon. Take
initiative. Receive and ye shall be given. The meek inherit the
earth. If yin is stronger, yang will be weaker. One asserts as the
other yields, . . . and thus how you flex your arms. Refuse to take
up arms. Embrace non-violent resistance. Turn the other's cheek.

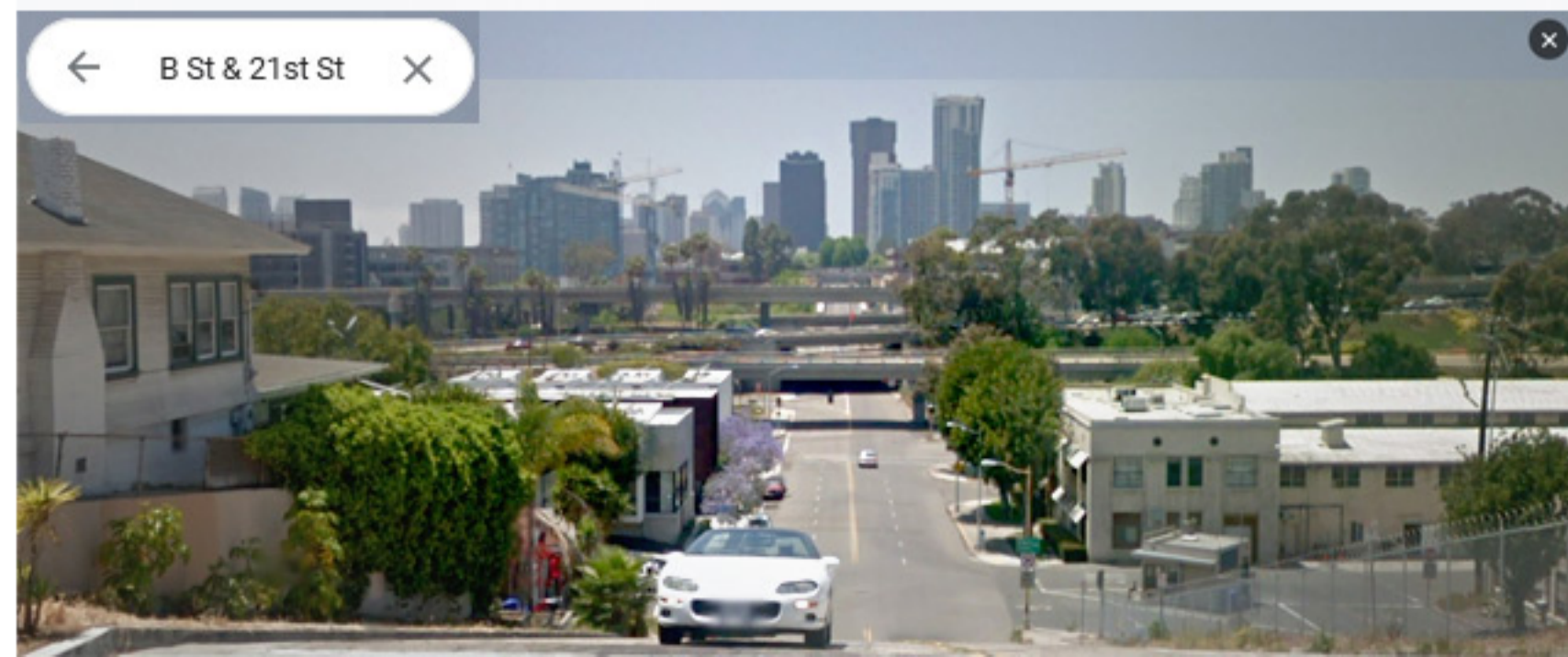
{Conscientious objector: In as much as Jesus' teachings ruled out as illicit
all use of violence and injury against others, clearly implied the illegiti-
macy of participation in war. The early Christians took Jesus at his word,
and understood his inculcations of gentleness and non-resistance. They
closely identified their religion with peace; they strongly condemned war
for the bloodshed and suffering which it involved. >

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conscientious_objector }

.....

**Nothing like being told to relax and enjoy
to set you off against the winter storm.**

.....





Aaron Bushnell's Divine Violence

Aaron Bushnell's self-immolation was ultimately a religious act, one that radically delineates good and evil and calls us to resist.

*The some 160 self-immolations in Tibet since 2009 to protest Chinese occupation are perceived as religious rites, acts that declare the independence of the victims from the control of the state. Self-immolation calls us to a different way of being. **These sacrificial victims become martyrs.***



CHRIS HEDGES

FEB 29, 2024



Aaron Bushnell

"I will no longer be complicit in genocide," Aaron Bushnell, an active duty member of the U.S. Air Force, said calmly in his video as he walked to the gate of Israeli Embassy in Washington D.C.. "I am about to engage in an extreme act of protest. But compared to what people have been experiencing in Palestine at the hands of their colonizers, it's not extreme at all. This is what our ruling class has decided will be normal."

Young men and women sign up for the military for many reasons, but starving, bombing and killing women and children is usually not amongst them. Shouldn't, in a just world, the U.S. fleet break the Israeli blockade of Gaza to provide food, shelter and medicine? Shouldn't U.S. war-planes impose a no fly zone over Gaza to halt the saturation bombing? Shouldn't Israel be issued an ultimatum to withdraw its forces from Gaza? Shouldn't the weapons shipments, billions in military aid and intelligence provided to Israel, be halted? Shouldn't those who commit genocide, as well as those who support genocide, be held accountable? These simple questions are the ones Bushnell's death forces us to confront.

"Many of us like to ask ourselves," Bushnell posted shortly before his suicide, "What would I do if I was alive during slavery? Or the Jim Crow South? Or apartheid? What would I do if my country was committing genocide? The answer is, you're doing it. Right now."

But that was another time, another war. Genocide is evil when it is carried out by our enemies. It is defended and sustained when carried out by our allies. Walter Benjamin — whose friends Fritz Heinle and Rika Seligson committed suicide in 1914 to protest German militarism and the First World War — in his essay "Critique of Violence," examines acts of violence undertaken by individuals who confront radical evil. Any act that defies radical evil breaks the law in the name of justice. It affirms the sovereignty and dignity of the individual. It condemns the coercive violence of the state. It entails a willingness to die. Benjamin called **these extreme acts of resistance "divine violence."** "Only for the sake of the hopeless ones have we been given hope," Benjamin writes.

Bushnell's self-immolation — one most social media posts and news organizations have heavily censored — is the point. It is meant to be seen. Bushnell extinguished his life in the same way thousands of Palestinians, including children, have been extinguished. We could watch him burn to death. This is what it looks like. This is what happens to Palestinians because of us. The image of Bushnell's self-immolation, like that of the Buddhist monk Thích Quảng Đức in Vietnam in 1963 or Mohamed Bouazizi, a young fruit seller in Tunisia, in 2010, is a potent political message. It jolts the viewer out of somnolence. It forces the viewer to question assumptions. It begs the viewer to act. It is political theater, or perhaps religious ritual, in its most potent form. Buddhist monk, Thích Nhất Hạnh said of self-immolation: "To express will by burning oneself, therefore, is not to commit an act of destruction but to perform an act of construction, that is, to suffer and to die for the sake of one's people."

If Bushnell was willing to die, repeatedly shouting out "Free Palestine!" as he burned, then something must be terribly, terribly wrong.

"I will no longer be complicit in genocide."

Self-immolation of Aaron Bushnell / Date
Sun, Feb 25, 2024

Feedback

Top stories :
News about airman >

Self-immolation of Aaron Bushnell

On February 25, 2024, Aaron Bushnell, a 25-year-old serviceman of the United States Air Force, died after setting himself on fire outside the front gate of the Embassy of Israel in Washington, D.C. [Wikipedia](#)

Location: [Washington, D.C.](#)

Date: February 25, 2024



The New York Times
U.S. Airman's Winding Path Ended in Self-Immolation to Protest Israel
1 day ago

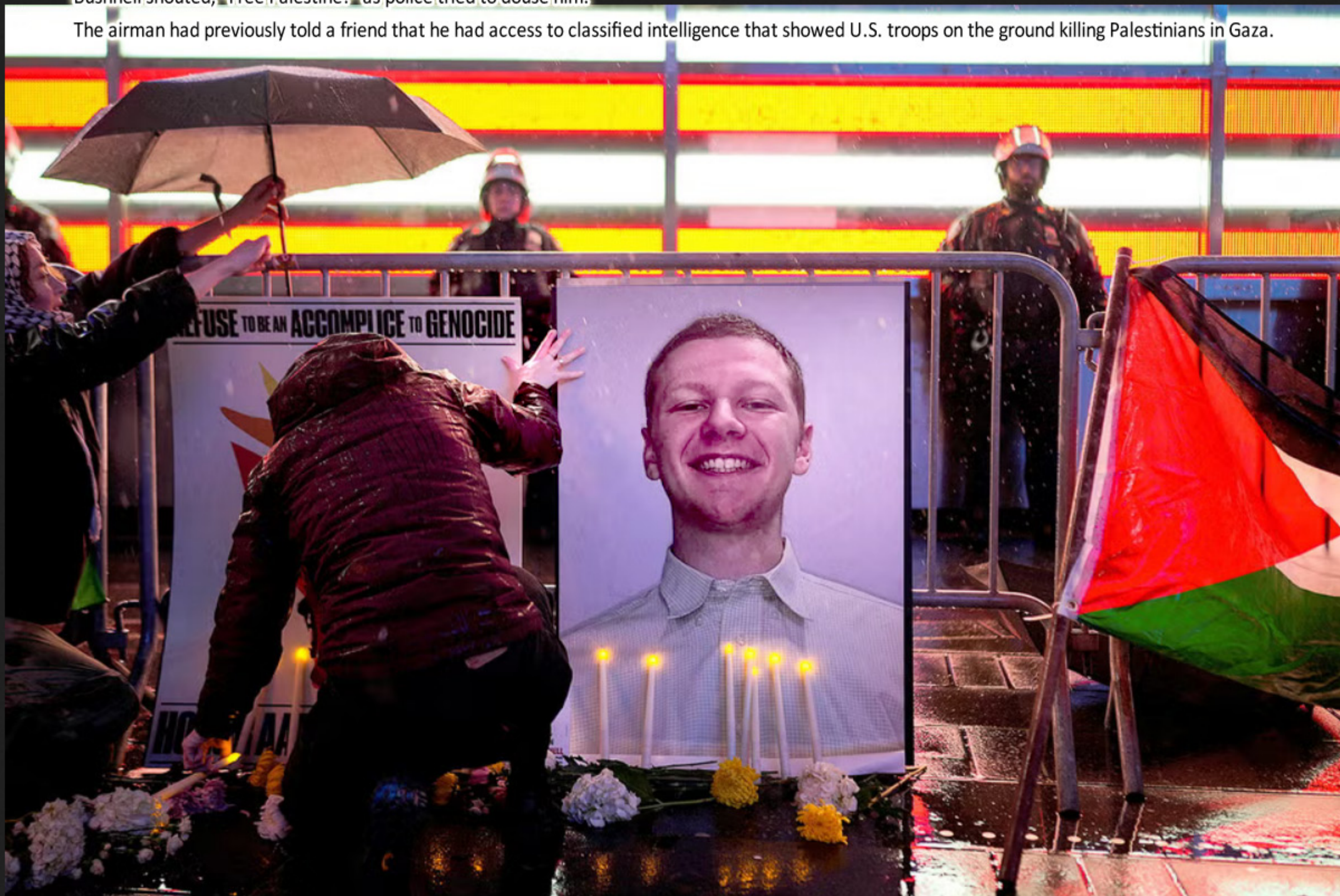
ADL Anti-Defamation League
Anti-Israel activists, Terrorist Organizations Hail Aaron Bushnell as a "Martyr" Aft...
2 days ago

Slate
Aaron Bushnell death: How service members have responded online.
1 day ago

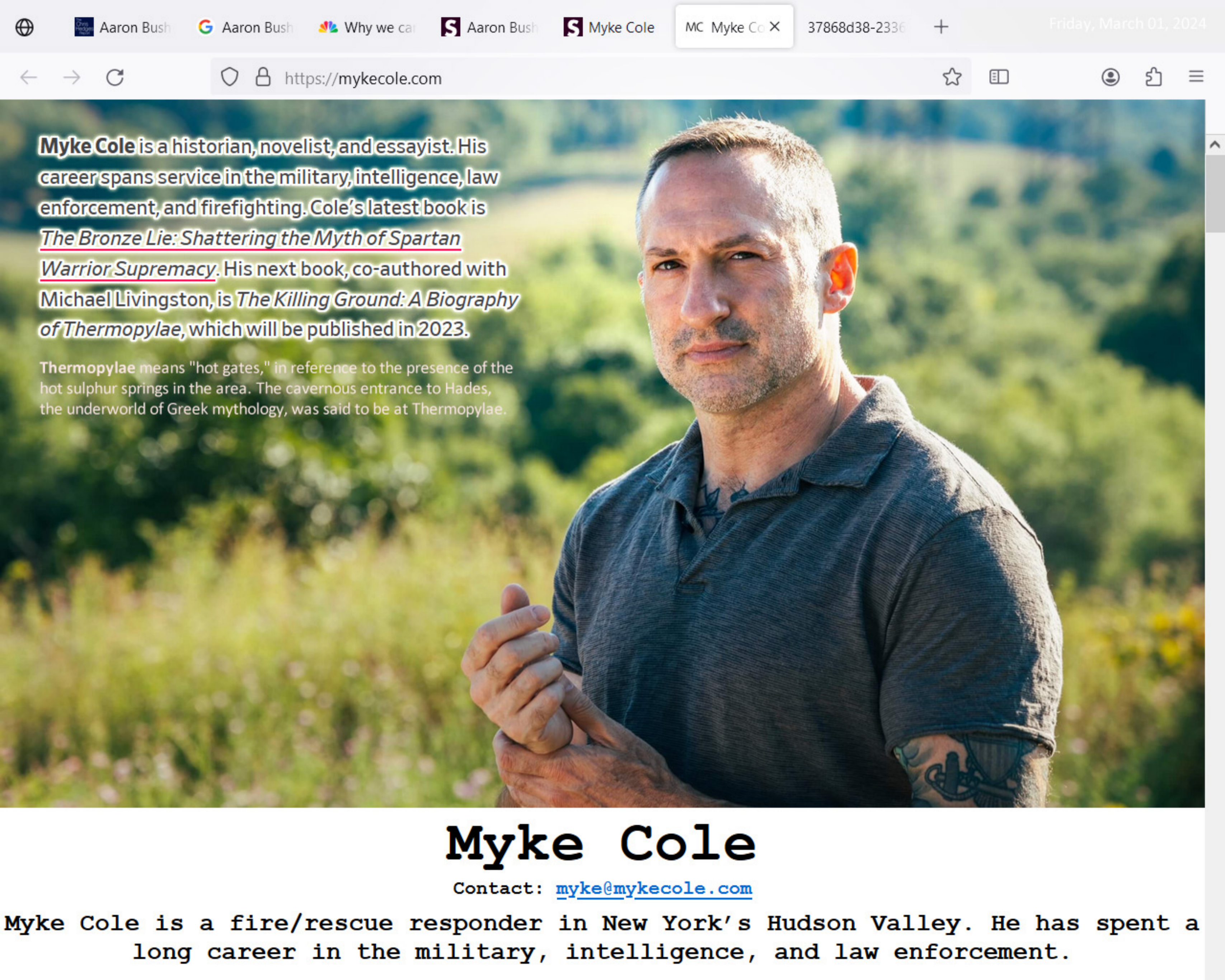


On Monday, U.S. Air Force Senior Airman **Aaron Bushnell** died of his injuries after setting himself on fire outside the Israeli Embassy in Washington. Bushnell shouted, "Free Palestine!" as police tried to douse him.

The airman had previously told a friend that he had access to classified intelligence that showed U.S. troops on the ground killing Palestinians in Gaza.



A vigil and protest for Aaron Bushnell outside a U.S. military recruiting center in New York on Tuesday, February 27, 2024.



Myke Cole is a historian, novelist, and essayist. His career spans service in the military, intelligence, law enforcement, and firefighting. Cole's latest book is [The Bronze Lie: Shattering the Myth of Spartan Warrior Supremacy](#). His next book, co-authored with Michael Livingston, is *The Killing Ground: A Biography of Thermopylae*, which will be published in 2023.

Thermopylae means "hot gates," in reference to the presence of the hot sulphur springs in the area. The cavernous entrance to Hades, the underworld of Greek mythology, was said to be at Thermopylae.

Myke Cole

Contact: myke@mykecole.com


Myke Cole is a fire/rescue responder in New York's Hudson Valley. He has spent a long career in the military, intelligence, and law enforcement.

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Thanks to this man, MDMA could soon be legal for therapy

Rick Doblin is a psychedelic pioneer - and he thinks it can help us save the world, one trauma-ending trip at a time

by [Katherine Rowland](#)

 Rick Doblin: 'The goal for me from the very beginning was global consciousness change.' (Guardian Design/Getty Images)

Katherine Rowland

Journalist

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Katherine Rowland was previously the publisher and executive director of Guernica. She holds a masters in Sociomedical Sciences from Columbia University, where she was a National Science Foundation Graduate Research fellow in medical anthropology. Books: *The Pleasure Gap: American Women and the Unfinished Sexual Revolution*

Rick Doblin: Let me start by saying that I am the oldest of four kids, Jewish family, and I was deeply disappointed by my bar mitzvah. When you're 13 years old you think, OK, I'm going to do this ritual and somehow I'm going to be different at the other end of it. And I wasn't. I was exactly the same.

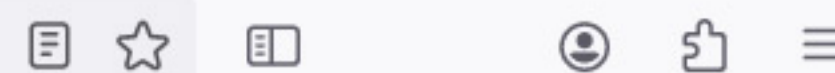
When I first tried LSD at 17, I was like, this is what my bar mitzvah should have been. It brought up all these existential questions: who am I? Where do I fit in? How do I deal with my emotions?

I felt that psychedelics are the rites of passage that we need.

Since first experimenting with LSD as a college student in Sarasota, Florida, **Rick Doblin** has been convinced that psychedelics are an antidote to the world's greatest threat: the capacity for evil, greed and plunder that lies in the heart of man. He created Maps in 1986 as a way to advance "mass mental health" and "spiritualized humanity". In practical terms, that has meant advocating for the legal use of mind-bending compounds for recreational, mystical and psychotherapeutic purposes.



https://helena.org/projects/lykos



<https://helena.org/magazine> | <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2024/feb/29/mdma-therapy-legal-rick-doblin>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/meimeifox/2016/10/06/21-year-old-helena-founder-henry-elkus-shares-his-life-purpose-and-how-you-can-find-yours/>



HELENA

THE MAG

— 04:17 —



PTSD is an epidemic affecting hundreds of millions of individuals over the course of their lifetimes

Henry Elkus, Founder & CEO of Helena. He cares immensely about creating systems that can be leveraged to enact global, scalable, and systemic change. In 2016, at age 21, Henry dropped out of Yale in his second year to lead Helena, an organization that convenes world leaders to discuss and implement solutions to global issues. The non-profit has generated a good deal of press and some controversy in the past year, which has gotten people asking, "But what exactly does Helena do?"



What once seemed improbable is now coming into view. In December, **Maps and its spin-off pharmaceutical company Lykos** submitted a new drug application for MDMA-assisted therapy to the FDA, making it the first psychedelic to be considered as a therapeutic product. If approved and successfully rescheduled, it could be legally available later this year. In January, the company received (<https://helena.org/projects/lykos>) \$100m in private equity funding to help support the task of bringing psychedelics into the mental healthcare market.

■ In many ways, it will be like the decline of western civilization if Trump gets elected

Humanity as a whole is like lemmings going off a cliff. And we tend to do our very best to procrastinate. We're procrastinating about deadly things like climate change, the spread of war, the spread of authoritarianism, the spread of prejudice. All these things are not being dealt with as they should. And we may end up having even worse tragedies. So the goal for me from the very beginning was global consciousness change.

We don't know what Trump is going to say or do if he gets elected. In many ways, it will be like the decline of western civilization if Trump gets elected. What I've realized in my psychedelic trips is that there's always going to be psychopaths who are just into power. But they get their power from the people. And so the psychopaths ... we're not going to change their minds. But the people, we can help them process trauma and anxiety.

I think that we're on a track towards addressing these bigger changes, but we're losing. I've described it as lighting a candle of healing in a hurricane of trauma. Over time, maybe it'll make a difference.

In a recent [Maps Bulletin](#), you wrote about the importance of amplifying Indigenous perspectives in your work. Where does this fit into the therapeutic process you're developing?

Rick Doblin: There's a lot of misunderstanding. I think when we talk about Indigenousness, most people don't go back far enough - to the Greeks. They had the longest-running mystery ceremony that we know of in the history of the world: the Eleusinian mysteries, which were practiced for about 2,000 years and which involved a psychedelic drug.

And then it was wiped out by the Catholic church in the 4th century, because it was in competition with the church. If you could have your own direct experience of spirituality, what do you need all these priests for?

There's a history of psychedelic work across cultures that has been suppressed for an enormous amount of time.

When the conquistadors came, the first people they wanted to kill were the shamans, the ones that work with ayahuasca. Sacred mushroom use went way underground in Mexico, but it was never completely killed, it was brought back. We owe a debt to this history - both to Indigenous groups under pressure from colonizing societies and to ancient traditions in western societies.

Between MDMA in the clinic and, say, ayahuasca in the jungle, it seems like there are very different healing modalities at work. Rick Doblin: One fundamental difference is that we're doing individual therapy not group experiences. I think a lot of the theoretical frameworks are the same. On the other hand, how to put it, there's something good about rationality and science. In many Indigenous contexts, there is a sense of personified spirits. In a more western context, it's not spirits outside of you. What is emerging is a reflection of what's inside you. Everything is spiritualized and we see that there is a spirit of MDMA. But I think there's a little bit more that's empowering the patient to heal themselves. One of the other concerns I have about some healing practices is the power dynamics at play. It's the same think there's a little bit more that's empowering the patient to heal themselves. One of the other concerns I have about some healing practices is the power dynamics at play. It's the same way doctors used to be in the 1950s. My dad was a doctor and doctors were God. You had to listen to them. In some Indigenous contexts, the shaman is the healer. Whereas, our approach is to help patients heal themselves.

Lykos is a public benefit corporation that now has \$100m in series A funding. Do you see any potential conflict of interest between a for-profit pharma company and Maps' guiding vision of global consciousness change? Rick Doblin: I don't see any conflict of interest there at all. In the industry, there's a lot of fear that legalization is bad for the business model. If you can buy MDMA for \$10 or grow your own psilocybin mushrooms, why are you going to pay thousands of dollars to get these drugs? Well, first off, you're not: the insurance companies are going to pay for your treatment. But I think legalization is actually good for the business model. And even if it's bad for the business model, we have a moral obligation to end prohibition. MDMA can soften people, can make them less prejudiced, and can make them want to see other people. A woman with long dark hair, a dark blue dress, turquoise beads, and a red sash, holding a small green cactus, faces what might be firelight. So I think that we need legalization, we need honest drug education, and training for peer support. We need harm reduction methods at festivals and raves and all of that. And then we also need pure drugs. Humanity is at a crossroads. The last sentence of my Ted talk was, we're in a race between consciousness and catastrophe. And I think that's even more clear now. So the medicalization of psychedelics is really good.

But what is at stake as psychedelics become pharmaceuticals? Rick Doblin: I just had a conversation with a former special operator veteran earlier this morning. He retired after 20 years, spent a lot of time in Afghanistan. He went to ketamine therapy and they told him that the content of what happens doesn't matter at all. It's all about the pharmacological effect on your brain - don't even talk to us about the meaning, the purpose, your moral injuries. None of that matters. I think what we're seeing is the standard traditional pharmaceutical approach stripping out the psychotherapy component because it's the most expensive part. And the pharma companies don't make money on that anyway. They only make money selling the drug. So we have to get out of this traditional pharma thinking and really prioritize the therapy and the proper training of therapists. **The treatment is the human interaction. It's the therapy. It's not really the drug.**



Native Americans

Peyote is the darling of the psychedelics renaissance. Indigenous users say it co-opts 'a sacred way of life'

Indigenous Americans fought through genocide and forced assimilation to use peyote in peace. Will the psychedelics boom co-opt it?

Annette McGivney in Window Rock, Arizona

Tue 19 Dec 2023

At its core, the push to medicalize and mass-produce peyote and mescaline goes against the Indigenous American worldview of interconnectedness. There are no English words that describe how the spiritual character of peyote is inextricably intertwined with its hallucinogenic properties, the land where it grows and the Indigenous Americans who consume it, says Jones. In the Navajo language, Jones describes this harmonic oneness as *azee' hinááh biníłch'idiyin, be'adínííín*.

One young man struggling with alcohol abuse was especially in need of the medicine. "When this is over, you will feel like a washrag with all the gunk wrung out of it," the man's grandmother told him. Tonight, the ritual would be no different from what it was a century ago. There would be peyote songs and drumming. Margie Whitney-Silva, a certified spiritual leader known as a roadman, would supply the peyote in the form of a tea brewed from the cactus, carried in a large pickle jar. Eagle-feather fans and gourd rattles would be used as the jar was passed around. The student struggling to overcome alcohol abuse reported that he felt "energized and happy" as he held his girlfriend's hand. They said the power of the experience was not just about ingesting peyote but also receiving support from their community and connecting to a tradition passed down by their ancestors. Margie Whitney-Silva stood outside the hogan hugging the pickle jar to her chest. About half of the peyote tea had been consumed. Having inherited the role of Native American church roadman from her father, Whitney-Silva takes the responsibility of "protecting the medicine" very seriously. She has been facilitating peyote ceremonies on the Navajo Nation for nearly two decades, ever since she first heard the sacred cactus singing to her from inside her deceased father's medicine box. When Whitney-Silva had arrived at the ceremony the night before, she said, she had been filled with grief. Her husband had died suddenly just a few weeks prior. "I thought I was going to collapse, but then I heard the singing," she said. "Our medicine is like a beating heart. As long as you have it, you will be OK."



📷 Margie Whitney-Silva stands in a traditional hogan while holding a peyote cactus on 13 October 2023, in Tohatchi, New Mexico. Photograph: Sharon Chischilly/The Guardian



Texas fires: Burned rangeland can recover quickly, but cattle ranchers face struggles ahead to find and feed their herds

Karen Hickman, Oklahoma State University

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Louisiana governor makes it easier for companies to receive tax breaks

Christine Wen, Texas A&M University; Danielle McLean, The Conversation; Kevin Welner, University of Colorado Boulder, and Nathan Jensen, The University of Texas at Austin

ASIA

As Vietnam grows ties with the U.S., a secret directive seeks to protect the Communist Party

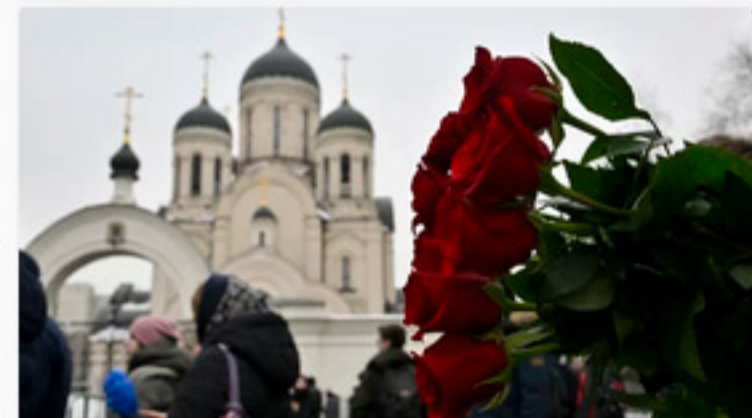
A leaked document offers a window into the motivations and concerns of party leaders as they seek to deepen ties with the U.S.



SAUL LOEB/AFP via Getty Images

Directive 24 is dated July 13, 2023. Two months later, on Sept. 10, President Biden and Vietnamese Communist Party leader Nguyen Phu Trong met in Hanoi where they elevated the bilateral relationship to a "comprehensive strategic partnership". It is the highest level of country-to-country relations recognized by the Vietnamese government. While neither side mentioned China, it was an elephant in the room.

Last summer, as the United States and Vietnam finalized plans to upgrade the bilateral relationship, the **Communist leadership in Hanoi** issued a secret directive that aimed to limit outside influences and protect the party's grip on power in the face of growing exposure to the U.S. and its allies. Analysts say the six-page document — known as "Directive 24" and issued by the ruling Communist Party's elite Politburo — offers a window into the motivations and concerns of party leaders as they committed to deepen Vietnam's links with an erstwhile enemy and leverage shifting geopolitical sands to upgrade the country's economy.



WORLD

Supporters chant 'we are not afraid' as a large crowd gathers for Navalny's funeral



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Why a financial regulator is going after health care debt

KFF HEALTH NEWS



WEATHER

Parts of the Sierra Nevada are likely to get 10 feet of snow by the weekend

RENO, Nev. — The most powerful Pacific storm of the season is forecast to bring up to 10 feet (3 meters) of snow into the Sierra Nevada by the weekend, forcing residents to take shelter and prompting at least one Lake Tahoe ski resort to close Friday.

A crowd of mourners gathered outside the church where Russian opposition leader **Alexei Navalny's** funeral service was to be held Friday, with a large police presence controlling access to the building. The scene remained peaceful as mourners chanted Navalny's name and slogans such as, "we are not afraid."

When President Barack Obama signed legislation in 2010 to create the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, he said the new agency had one priority: "looking out for people, not big banks, not lenders, not investment houses." Since then, the CFPB has done its share of policing mortgage brokers, student loan companies, and banks. But as the **U.S. health care system** turns tens of millions of Americans into debtors, this financial watchdog is increasingly working to protect beleaguered patients, adding hospitals, nursing homes, and patient financing companies to the list of institutions that regulators are probing.

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<https://www.cnn.com/2024/02/29/economy/india-gdp-growth-economy/index.html>

New Delhi/London CNN — **India has reported surprisingly robust economic growth, ending 2023** on a high note and providing a boost to Prime Minister Narendra Modi just weeks before an election that could give him a third term in office. Gross domestic product (GDP) in the world's fastest growing major economy surged 8.4% in the final three months of 2023 compared with a year prior, up from growth of 7.6% in the June-to-September period, the country's statistics office said Thursday. A sustained expansion will rapidly push India up the rankings of the world's biggest economies. Analysts at Jefferies expect the country to become the world's third-largest economy by 2027, up from fifth currently. India is also widely seen as an alternative to China for countries and companies looking to diversify their supply chains, particularly as the relationship between Washington and Beijing sours. Modi's government has been actively courting multi-national firms to set up factories in the country, as it spends billions to upgrade roads, ports, airports and railways. Some of the world's biggest companies, including Apple (AAPL) supplier Foxconn, are already expanding their operations there. And Tesla (TSLA) CEO Elon Musk said last June that his company was looking to invest in India "as soon as humanly possible." On Thursday, the Modi government approved an investment of over \$15 billion for the construction of three semiconductor plants by firms including the Tata Group, marking a major step towards its goal of making India an electronic manufacturing hub. The factories are expected to create 20,000 advanced technology jobs and about 60,000 jobs in the wider community, the government said in a statement. It said the investment was a "giant leap" for India's semiconductor ambitions. "India already has deep capabilities in chip design. With these units, our country will develop capabilities in chip fabrication," the statement said.



Ukraine endures a second year of war with scenes of grief, suffering and also joy



Thousands of Ukrainians live in agony and uncertainty as they search for their missing loved ones



War-themed murals in Kyiv honor Ukraine's fallen soldiers



Israeli female soldiers taking a selfie at the Gaza border



The
Chris
Hedges
Report

“To outsiders, the buyout firms appeared to be fierce rivals, competing assiduously to beat each other out for the companies they hoped to acquire. In reality, the firms were cozy collaborators, members of a club that meant richer profits for them and fewer for everyday investors.”

- Gretchen Morgenson
These Are the Plunderers



The Chris Hedges Report with Pulitzer-prize winning reporter Gretchen Morgenson on how Private Equity billionaires bought up America and turned workers into serfs.

CHRIS HEDGES

MAR 1, 2024



The U.S. economy is being held hostage by a small cohort of financiers who run private equity firms --- Apollo, Blackstone, the Carlyle Group and Kohlberg Kravis Roberts. These equity firms buy up and plunder businesses, piling on debt, refusing to reinvest, slashing staff and often driving companies into bankruptcy. The object is not to sustain businesses, but to harvest them for assets to make a short-term profit. Those who run these firms, such as Leon Black, Henry Kravis, Stephen Schwarzman and David Rubenstein have amassed personal fortunes in the billions of dollars. The wreckage they orchestrate is taken out on workers who lose jobs or see salaries and benefits slashed, on pension funds they are depleted because of usurious fees or abolished and on our health and safety. Residents of nursing homes owned by private equity firms, for example, experience 10 percent more deaths because of staffing shortages and reduced compliance with standards of care. Private equity owned hospitals have created a crisis in the health-care system. Nursing shortages have contributed to one of every four unexpected hospital deaths or injuries caused by errors. The private-equity firms do not serve patients but profits. They have closed hospitals, especially in rural America. They cut back on stockpiles of vital medical devices, including ventilators and personal protective equipment. In 1975 the U.S. had about 1.5 million hospital beds and a population of about 216 million people. Now, with a population of over 330 million people, we have around 925,000 beds. Fifty-six percent of Americans have medical debt, even though many have insurance, and 23 percent owe \$10,000 or more. Emergency room visits - emergency rooms are often run by private equity firms -- contributed to medical debt for 44 percent of Americans. At the same time, the health care system, because of this slash-and-burn assault, was unprepared to handle the Covid epidemic, seeing 330,000 Americans die during the pandemic because they could not afford to go to a doctor on time. These private equity firms, like an invasive species, are ubiquitous. They have acquired educational institutions, utility companies and retail chains while bleeding taxpayers of hundreds of billions in subsidies, made possible by bought-and-paid for prosecutors, politicians and regulators.

Joining me to discuss private equity firms and their assault on the economy is Pulitzer-prize winning journalist Gretchen Morgenson, who along with Joshua Rosner, wrote “These are the Plunderers: How Private Equity Runs – and Wrecks – America.”



Compose

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Three Poems Reaching, . . . reaching across the Aisle Yahoo/Sent

Dan Landrum From: danlandrum@yahoo.com To: Dick Landrum, Peter Huidekoper Jr., Dave & Janet Landrum, Steve Landrum, Beppy Owen, Elizabeth Grant, Huide Modica, Lucy Edson, Pete Landrum, kal.fla1@gmail.com, Beppie Huidekoper, Ann Brown, Travis Brown, Janet Brown Bcc: Dan Landrum, Carol Landrum

When you live in the most powerful superpower in history, who is there to umpire the empire? "The answer is, you're doing it. Right now."

When conscience is a disease, a dis-ease you can no longer live with . . . what then?

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Aaron Bushnell died of his injuries after setting himself on fire outside the Israeli Embassy in Washington D.C. February 26, 2024 (age 26 years). Bushnell shouted, "Free Palestine!" as police tried to douse him. The airman had previously told a friend that he had access to classified intelligence that showed U.S. troops on the ground killing Palestinians in Gaza. "I will no longer be complicit in genocide," Bushnell, an active duty member of the U.S. Air Force, said calmly in his video as he walked to the gate of Israeli Embassy, "I am about to engage in an extreme act of protest. But compared to what people have been experiencing in Palestine at the hands of their colonizers, it's not extreme at all. This is what our ruling class has decided will be normal." Shortly before his suicide Bushnell posted, "Many of us like to ask ourselves, what would I do if I was alive during slavery? Or the Jim Crow South? Or apartheid? What would I do if my country was committing genocide?" The answer is, you're doing it. Right now."

"Only for the sake of the hopeless ones have we been given hope."

Sent

'Excess deaths' in Gaza for next 6 months projected in first-of-its-kind effort

▫ Aboard Jordan's aid airdrop over Gaza, a last resort for relief to Palestinians there

A team of researchers tried something that's never been done as a conflict rages. Instead of trying to calculate the toll of war in the moment, they looked forward. What's the reaction to their study?



What Biden's been eating on the trail and what it says about his campaign, March 2, 2024 by Deepa Shivaram



President Biden speaks with reporters while visiting the No. 1 Boba Tea shop in Las Vegas on Feb. 5, 2024.

Saul Loeb/AFP via Getty Images

Biden's recent stops, burgers and a milkshake in Raleigh from Cook Out, boba tea in Las Vegas' Chinatown and ice cream with late-night host Seth Meyers in New York City.

CLIMATE

Gov. Abbott says Texas wildfires may have destroyed up to 500 structures

Texas officials warned that the threat was not yet over. Higher temperatures and stronger winds forecast for Saturday elevated worries that fires in the Panhandle could continue spreading.



David Erickson/AP

WEATHER

Yosemite visitors are told to leave as storm expected to drop up to 10 feet of snow

At least nine Lake Tahoe ski resorts closed and visitors to Yosemite National Park were told to urgently leave Friday as California's most powerful storm of the season bore down on the Sierra Nevada.



TECHNOLOGY

Elon Musk sues OpenAI for choosing profits over 'the benefit of humanity'

A former co-chair of OpenAI, Musk says he invested millions in the AI lab on "false promises" that it would be nonprofit and open-source. OpenAI is now backed by Microsoft.



From left, Elon Musk, Sam Altman and Andrew Ross Sorkin, *New York Times* financial columnist, speak during the Vanity Fair New Establishment Summit at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts on Oct. 6, 2015, in San Francisco.

Mike Windle/Getty Images for Vanity Fair

Elon Musk has sued OpenAI and its CEO Sam Altman, claiming that the company failed to keep its promise of developing AI tools for "the benefit of humanity" over maximizing profits. Musk helped launch and fund OpenAI in its early years. His lawyers argue that Musk poured time, money and recruiting resources to the AI lab, which was established in 2015, on the condition that it would remain a nonprofit "dedicated to creating safe, open-source AGI for public benefit," referring to artificial general intelligence — the point at which machines surpass the capabilities of the human brain. The suit, which was filed Thursday in Superior Court in San Francisco, accuses OpenAI, Altman and the company's president Greg Brockman of breaking their agreement with Musk by abandoning those founding principles over the years. The Tesla CEO is asking the court to order OpenAI, which is now backed by Microsoft, to **make its research and technology available to public, as well as prohibit the company's executives and Microsoft from receiving any financial gain from its work.** Musk is also seeking damages, though the amount is unclear. Musk's lawyers say any compensation from the suit will be given to a nonprofit or charity. OpenAI declined to comment. Musk's lawsuit scrutinizing OpenAI's founding ethos taps into criticism the company has faced since the release of ChatGPT propelled the company's profile and attracted billions of dollars in outside investment. OpenAI's structure is unusual for a tech company. A nonprofit board oversees its for-profit arm, which at times can create tension over how quickly to commercialize products. The at-times dueling sides were on display last year when Altman was abruptly ousted then brought back to the company. The drama was partially fueled by the fear that OpenAI was sidestepping safety concerns by publicly releasing new AI products too quickly. Altman has denied this. There have been calls for OpenAI to dissolve its nonprofit side, but the unorthodox structure remains in place. According to the suit, Altman approached Musk in 2015 out of shared concerns over the risks of AI and specifically, the AI research lab owned by Google known as DeepMind. After all parties agreed that OpenAI would be nonprofit and open-sourced, Musk contributed more than \$44 million to the ChatGPT maker between 2016 and 2020, the suit says. Musk's lawyers also describe him as "instrumental" to OpenAI's recruiting efforts, including the hiring of Ilya Sutskever, who left Google to be the chief scientist at OpenAI. In 2018, Musk stepped down as co-chair of OpenAI, though the suit says he continued to contribute to the company and regularly received updates about the company from Altman, Sutskever and Brockman. The complaint argues that the company went wayward in recent years after decisions to create a for-profit subsidiary, give Microsoft an exclusive license to some of its technology, and keeping secret the internal design of ChatGPT's latest version. **"OpenAI Inc. has been transformed into a closed-source de facto subsidiary of the largest technology company, Microsoft," according to the suit.** OpenAI and Altman have been thrown into turmoil repeatedly since the company's chatbot made its public debut in November 2022. Musk has been openly part of the backlash. Last year, he told then-Fox News host Tucker Carlson that ChatGPT has a liberal bias, and he planned to provide an alternative. **In July, Musk launched his own AI startup called xAI to create AI tools that "assist humanity in its quest for understanding and knowledge."** Musk's company offers a limited number of users in the U.S. the opportunity to try the prototype and provide feedback, though early access requires a paid subscription to another Musk company, X, formerly known as Twitter.

NATIONAL

In Georgia, a bill to cut all ties with the American Library Association is advancing

Several other states have made moves to disassociate from the nation's oldest library professional association. But Georgia's bill, the first of its kind in the nation, goes further than the others.



Claire Savage/AP

Those who've been trying to remove certain books from childrens' sections at public libraries are now taking aim at what they see as a source of the problem: the American Library Association. A growing number of states and local libraries are cutting ties with the nation's predominant library professional association, saying the ALA has become too radical. On Thursday, a bill that would go further than any other passed the Georgia state Senate in a 33-to-20 vote and now heads to the House. **Republican state Sen. Larry Walker says he sponsored the legislation after discovering his library had received a \$20,000 grant from the American Library Association to diversify its collection, adding books dealing with LGBTQ and BIPOC themes. Walker says he became determined to stop what he calls that "radical" organization from being "political indoctrination centers ... promoting aberrant sexual behavior and socialist anti-American rhetoric."** "I feel this is kind of being forced on our children and kind of shoved down our throat," Walker said. "I'm a pretty tolerant individual, but this has gone too far." About eight other states, including Montana, Missouri, Texas and South Carolina, have also made moves to disassociate from the ALA. Some local libraries have opted out themselves. But Walker's more sweeping bill, the first of its kind in the nation, would force all school and public libraries in Georgia to cut ties with the library association. **Anti-ALA furor fueled by a social media post:** The push against the ALA has been gaining steam ever since the group's president, Emily Drabinski, celebrated her election to a one-year term as ALA president with a now-deleted social media post expressing excitement that the group would be led by someone like her, "a Marxist lesbian who believes that collective power is possible to build and can be wielded for a better world." Taylor Hawkins, with the conservative Christian lobbying group Frontline Policy Action, which helped draft and promote the Georgia legislation, points to an article by Drabinski in the academic journal *The Library Quarterly* a decade ago called "Queering The Catalog." "She discusses a strategy for queer library politics, directly injecting politics into the library," Hawkins said. "This is an organization that cannot be trusted with influence over public libraries in the state of Georgia." For its part, the ALA says it has seen a decline in membership in recent years, but attribute that more to a post-pandemic economy than any politically motivated defections. And the group denies any bias, insisting the organization is not defined by any single person's ideology. "We've had many different presidents with many different ranges of political beliefs, and they're entitled to their beliefs as much as the individual who doesn't like seeing an LGBTQ book on the shelf," says Deborah Caldwell-Stone, director of the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom. She says forcing libraries to cut ties with the ALA is itself government censorship. "Will [libraries] become arms of the state, only communicating those messages that a political actor believes is appropriate?" she mulls. "It just stuns me. We are the professional membership organization for librarians. Would you do this to the American Bar Association? Would you do this to the American Medical Association?" **Timing of Georgia's bill comes at what some see as a perilous moment:** "Librarians in Georgia are pissed," says Georgia state Sen. Nabilah Islam Parkes. "I mean this is clearly not rooted in good policy. This is more of a political attack." Islam Parkes says the bill would rob libraries of all the support the ALA provides, from grants and library materials, to professional development and access to a national network of peers. There's currently no other group offering similar resources. The ALA is also the only organization that accredits university programs in library and information science that train future librarians, and the Georgia bill would make it illegal to spend public funds on that. "I got an email today from a library director who said that this is like trying to use a sledgehammer to smash a mosquito," said Islam Parkes. To some, the timing of the legislation is especially perilous. The ALA shares standards and materials to help libraries promote information literacy, and this is exactly the wrong moment to be letting up on that, says David Lankes, a professor of librarianship at the University of Texas at Austin's School of Information, and a member of the ALA. "We ensure that our barbers and our butchers are up to serving our communities well, but when it comes to the people that help us navigate the worlds of mis- and disinformation, we're putting barriers in place for them doing their job," Lankes says. "That's scary."

Peace, music and memories: As the 1960s fade, historians scramble to capture Woodstock's voices



1 of 10 | FILE - Music fans relax during a break in the entertainment at the Woodstock Music and Arts Fair, Aug. 16, 1969, in Bethel, N.Y. An estimated 450,000 people attended the Woodstock festival in August 1969, and most of that crowd was composed of teenagers or young adults now in the twilight of their lives. That ticking clock is why the Museum at Bethel Woods, based at the site of the festival, is immersed in a five-year project traveling around the United States recording the oral histories of people who were there, preserving the Woodstock memories before they fade away. (AP Photo, File)

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE Updated March 1, 2024

BETHEL, N.Y. (AP) — Woodstock didn't even happen in Woodstock. The fabled music festival, seen as one of the seminal cultural events of the 1960s, took place 60 miles (96.5 kilometers) away in Bethel, New York, an even smaller village than Woodstock. It's a fitting misnomer for an event that has become as much legend as reality — and has less to do with location than the memories it evokes about a society's state of mind at the close of a jumbled decade. An estimated 450,000 people converged on a swath of land owned by dairy farmer Max Yasgur to attend an "Aquarian Exposition" promising "three days of peace, love and music" from Aug. 15 to 17, 1969. Most were teenagers or young adults — people now approaching the twilight of their lives in an era where only a small portion of the population has living memories of the 1960s. That ticking clock is why the Museum at Bethel Woods, located on the site of the festival, is immersed in a five-year project to sift facts from the legends and collect firsthand Woodstock memories before they fade away. It's a quest that has taken museum curators on a cross-country pilgrimage to record and preserve the recollections of those who were there.

"You need to capture the history from the mouths of the people who had the direct experience," says music journalist Rona Elliot, 77, who has been working as one of the museum's "community connectors." Elliot has her own stories about the festival; she was there, working with organizers like Michael Lang, who entrusted her with his archives before his death in 2022. Woodstock, says Elliot, is "like a jigsaw puzzle — a panoply of everything that happened in the '60s."

A QUEST FOR ORAL HISTORIES: Woodstock attendees have done hundreds of interviews through the decades, particularly on major festival anniversaries. But the Bethel Woods museum is plunging deeper with a project that began in 2020, relying on techniques similar to those of the late historian Studs Terkel, who produced hundreds of oral histories about what it was like to live through the Great Depression and World War II. "There is a difference between someone being interviewed for a paper or a documentary and having an oral history catalogued and preserved in a museum," says Neal Hitch, senior curator and director of the Museum At Bethel Woods. "We had to go to people where they are. If you just call someone on the phone, they aren't quite sure what to say when we ask you to tell us about these personal, private memories from a festival when they may have been 18 or 19." To find and meet people willing to tell their Woodstock tales, the museum received grants totaling more than \$235,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services — enough money to pay for curators and community connectors such as Elliot to travel the country and record the stories. The odyssey began in Santa Fe, New Mexico — home to the Hog Farm that provided hippie volunteers such as Hugh "Wavy Gravy" Romney and Lisa Law to help feed the Woodstock crowd. Museum curators have traveled to Florida, hopped on a "Flower Power" cruise ship and visited Columbus, Ohio, before making a California swing earlier this year that included a San Francisco community center located near the former homes of festival performers Jefferson Airplane and the Grateful Dead. Richard Schoellhorn, now 77, made the trip from his Sebastopol, California, home to San Francisco to discuss his experience at Woodstock. He was initially hired to be a security guard at the ticketing booth when the festival was supposed to occur in Wallkill, New York, before a community backlash prompted a late switch to the Bethel site. Schoellhorn still reported for work in Bethel, only to promptly discover his services weren't going to be needed because the festival became so overwhelmed that organizers stopped selling tickets. "I was walking around at Woodstock and Hugh Romney comes up to me and says, 'Are you working?'" Schoellhorn recalled to The Associated Press before sitting down to have his oral history recorded. "And I go, 'No, I just got fired!' He goes, 'Well, would you like to volunteer?'" Schoellhorn wound up working in a tent set up to assist people having bad experiences on hallucinogenic drugs they had taken. He wound up getting stoned himself while reveling in the first concert he'd ever attended. "It felt like everyone was in the same freaking boat," Schoellhorn said. "There wasn't like one section where people were rich. Nobody was special there, right from the get-go." Before attending Woodstock, Schoellhorn said he was a loner intent on pursuing a career in marketing. After Woodstock, he became an entrepreneur and that he moved to living in Colorado.

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ISRAEL

CNN's Christiane Amanpour grilled bosses over network's 'double standards' on Israel coverage: Report

Staffers reporting from Lebanon told top brass watching CNN is more 'distressing' than the 'bombs falling nearby'

By **Joseph A. Wulfsohn** · Fox News

Published March 1, 2024 9:00pm EST

Veteran CNN journalist Christiane Amanpour reportedly confronted her new boss Mark Thompson and other executives over what she says are "double standards" when it came to the network's Israel-Hamas coverage. On Friday, **The Intercept*** reported on an internal meeting at CNN's London bureau last month that got tense while discussing the network's protocols for covering the ongoing war and the alleged "hostile climate for Arab reporters." A recurring issue among the CNN journalists attending the meeting was the process of running their reporting through CNN's "SecondEyes" verifying program at the network's Jerusalem bureau, which according to The Intercept's report "slows down reporting on Gaza and filters news about the war through journalists in Jerusalem who operate under the shadow of Israel's military censor." "You've heard from me, you've heard my, you know, real distress with SecondEyes — changing copy, double standards, and all the rest," Amanpour said, according to a leaked recording of the meeting. "So you've heard it, and I hear what your response is and I hope it does go a long way."

***The Intercept** > <https://theintercept.com/2024/03/01/cnn-christiane-amanpour-israel-gaza-coverage/> 20 hours ago — Christiane Amanpour expressed "real distress" over Israel stories being changed, while other staffers described a climate that is hostile to ...

Veteran CNN journalist Christiane Amanpour reportedly confronted her new boss Mark Thompson and other executives over what she says are "double standards" when it came to the network's Israel-Hamas coverage. On Friday, The Intercept reported on an internal meeting at CNN's London bureau last month that got tense while discussing the network's protocols for covering the ongoing war and the alleged "hostile climate for Arab reporters." A recurring issue among the CNN journalists attending the meeting was the process of running their reporting through CNN's "SecondEyes" verifying program at the network's Jerusalem bureau, which according to The Intercept's report "slows down reporting on Gaza and filters news about the war through journalists in Jerusalem who operate under the shadow of Israel's military censor." "You've heard from me, you've heard my, you know, real distress with SecondEyes — changing copy, double standards, and all the rest," Amanpour said, according to a leaked recording of the meeting. "So you've heard it, and I hear what your response is and I hope it does go a long way."

Amanpour certainly isn't afraid to speak her mind to her bosses. Last year, she confronted ousted CNN honcho Chris Licht over her disapproval of the network's handling of the Trump town hall.

[CNN'S AMANPOUR SAYS 'REST OF THE WORLD' AGREES WITH QUEEN OF JORDAN THAT THERE IS ONE-SIDED SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL](#)



Christiane Amanpour reportedly confronted her CNN bosses about the network's alleged "double standards" when it came to its coverage of Israel.

What does it take to flee Gaza? Thousands of dollars, paid to an Egyptian broker

MARCH 2, 2024 · 7:09 AM ET

 Daniel Estrin



Palestinians holding foreign passports collect their luggage as they prepare to cross to Egypt from the Gaza Strip through the Rafah border crossing on Feb. 6.

Abed Rahim Khatib/dpa/picture alliance via Getty Images

Raising money on GoFundMe

To buy their way out, many Palestinians are crowdfunding through GoFundMe.

Reem Ziad, a Palestinian in London, is seeking donations to help pay for 25 relatives to get out of Gaza: her parents, her sisters and their families, including 14 children. "It might be seen as bribe, but it is actually about saving people from death," Ziad says. She said her sister's husband was killed in an Israeli strike.

At the time of this story's publication, Ziad had raised only about 2% of what she'll need to pay Hala for her family to get out of Gaza.

TEL AVIV — As the death toll in the Gaza Strip rises daily, and Israel threatens a ground operation in the last sliver of Gaza where about 1.5 million Palestinians are sheltering during the war, the demand to leave is soaring.

But Gaza's only open border for travelers is tightly controlled. Only the lucky few with a foreign passport, a foreign country appealing on their behalf or approved medical treatment in Egypt have managed to secure free passage at Egypt's Rafah border crossing.

Before the war, it cost a few hundred dollars. Now it costs \$5,000 per adult and \$2,500 per child, according to Palestinians who have recently left Gaza.

"After we lost everything in Gaza, all our possessions, we have to collect the amount of money, which is a big sum, just to buy our lives," says Mazen, a mechanical engineer.

He was at the Rafah crossing recently with his family of four, waiting for his name to be called on a loudspeaker by a Palestinian border official. It cost them \$20,000 to leave.

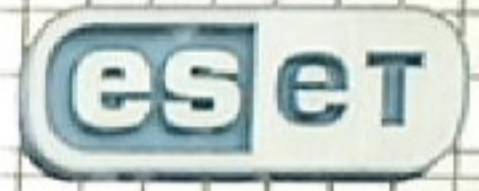
"I had to borrow it. It took a long time," Mazen says. "Not only time, not only money. You pay your money to be insulted."

He and other Palestinians interviewed for this story declined to give their full names to protect their residency status in Egypt, which is hosting them now.

To be able to afford the fees is a pipe dream for most families in Gaza, living in poverty, and a small fortune even for well-to-do Palestinians who have fled their homes and struggle to obtain basic necessities during the war.

Palestinians who hold Egyptian citizenship papers are charged a discounted rate of \$650.

Luma Apartments
1440 Columbia St, San Diego, CA 92101



Saturday, March 02, 2024





White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre took questions on the day the Biden administration announced an executive order that puts personal data privacy in a national security context. AP Photo/Andrew Harnik

Biden executive order on sensitive personal information does little for now to curb data market – but spotlights the threat the market poses

Published: March 2, 2024 8:57am EST

▼ [Anne Toomey McKenna](#), *University of Richmond*

The Biden administration has identified “countries of concern” exploiting Americans’ sensitive personal data as a national emergency. To address the crisis, the White House issued an executive order on Feb. 28, 2024, aimed at preventing these countries from accessing Americans’ bulk sensitive personal data. The order doesn’t specify the countries, but news reports cited unnamed senior administration officials identifying them as China, Russia, North Korea, Iran, Cuba and Venezuela. The executive order adopts a simple, broad definition of sensitive data that should be protected, but the order is limited in the protections it affords. The order’s larger significance lies in its stated rationale for why the U.S. needs such an order to protect people’s sensitive data in the first place. The national emergency is the direct result of the staggering quantities of sensitive personal data up for sale – to anyone – in the vast international commercial data market, which is comprised of companies that collect, analyze and sell personal data. Data brokers are using ever-advancing predictive and generative artificial intelligence systems to gain insight into people’s lives and exploit that power. This is increasingly posing risks to individuals and to domestic and national security.

I am an attorney and law professor, and I work, write and teach about data, information privacy and AI. I appreciate the spotlight the order puts on the dangers of the data market by acknowledging that companies collect more data about Americans than ever before – and that the data is legally sold and resold through data brokers. These dangers underscore Congress’ failure to protect people’s most sensitive data. Sensitive personal data can be fodder for blackmail, raises national security concerns, and can be used as evidence for prosecutions. This is especially true in this era of misinformation and deepfakes – AI-generated video or audio impersonations – and with recent U.S. federal and state court rulings that permit states to restrict and criminalize private personal choices, including those related to reproductive rights. The executive order seeks to protect Americans from these risks – at least from those countries of concern. **What the executive order does:** The order issues directives to federal agencies to counter certain countries’ continuing efforts to access Americans’ bulk sensitive personal data as well as U.S. government-related data. Among other concerns, the order emphasizes that personal data could be used to blackmail people, including military and government personnel. Under the order, the Department of Justice will develop and issue regulations that prevent the large-scale transfer of Americans’ sensitive personal data to countries of concern. More broadly, the order encourages the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to take steps to boost compliance with federal consumer protection law. In part, this could help restrict overly invasive collection and sale of sensitive data and reduce the amount of financial information – like credit reports – that data brokers collect and resell. The order also directs pertinent federal agencies to prohibit data brokers from selling bulk health and genomics data to the countries of concern. It recognizes that data brokers and their customers are increasingly able to use AI to analyze health and genomics data and other types of data that do not contain individuals’ identities to link data to particular individuals. **Defining sensitive personal data:** From an information privacy standpoint, the order is significant for its broad definition of what constitutes sensitive personal data. Included in this umbrella term are “covered personal identifiers, geolocation and related sensor data, biometric identifiers, human omic data, personal health data, personal financial data, or any combination thereof.” Not included in the definition is any data that is a matter of public record. The broad definition is significant because it affirms a departure from the U.S. legal system’s standard approach to data, which is sector by sector. Generally, federal and state laws protect different types of data, like health data, biometric data and financial data, in different ways. Only the people and entities within those sectors, like your doctor or bank, are regulated in how they use the data. **What the executive order does not do:** The executive order specifies that it does not seek to upend the global data market or adversely impact “the substantial consumer, economic, scientific and trade relationships that the United States has with other countries.” It also does not seek to broadly prohibit people in the U.S. from conducting commercial transactions with entities and individuals in or “subject to the control, direction or jurisdiction of” the countries of concern. Nor does it impose measures that would restrict U.S. commitments to increase public access to scientific research, the sharing and interoperability of electronic health information, and patient access to their data. Notably, it does not seek to impose a general requirement that companies have to store Americans’ sensitive data or U.S. government-related data within the territorial boundaries of the U.S., which in theory would provide better protection for the data. It also does not seek to rewrite the 2023 voluntary Data Privacy Framework for transfers of data between the European Union and the U.S. **In sum, it does little to change U.S. commercial data brokers’ activities and practices – except when such activities involve those countries of concern. What’s next?** The various agencies directed to act must do so within clearly specified time periods in the order, ranging from four months to a year, so for now it is a waiting game. **In the meantime, President Joe Biden has joined a long list of people who continue to urge Congress to pass comprehensive bipartisan privacy legislation.**



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So don't add guilt to your list of emotions when you feel sick.

Don't power through when you're sick

▶ 0:52



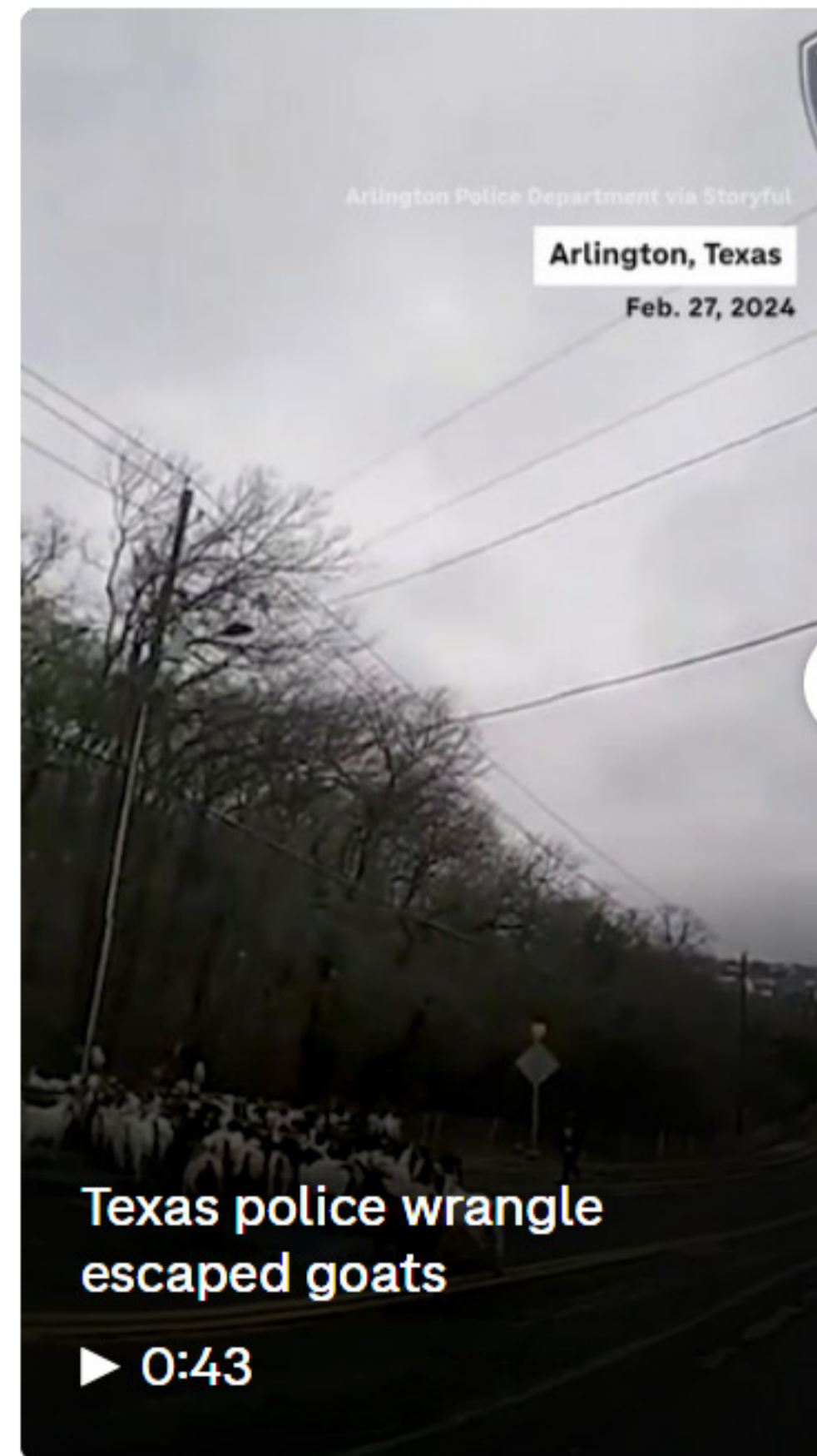
ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Francisco

Feb. 28, 2024

Visitors flock to corpse flower's rare boom

▶ 0:41



Arlington Police Department via Storyful

Arlington, Texas

Feb. 27, 2024

Texas police wrangle escaped goats

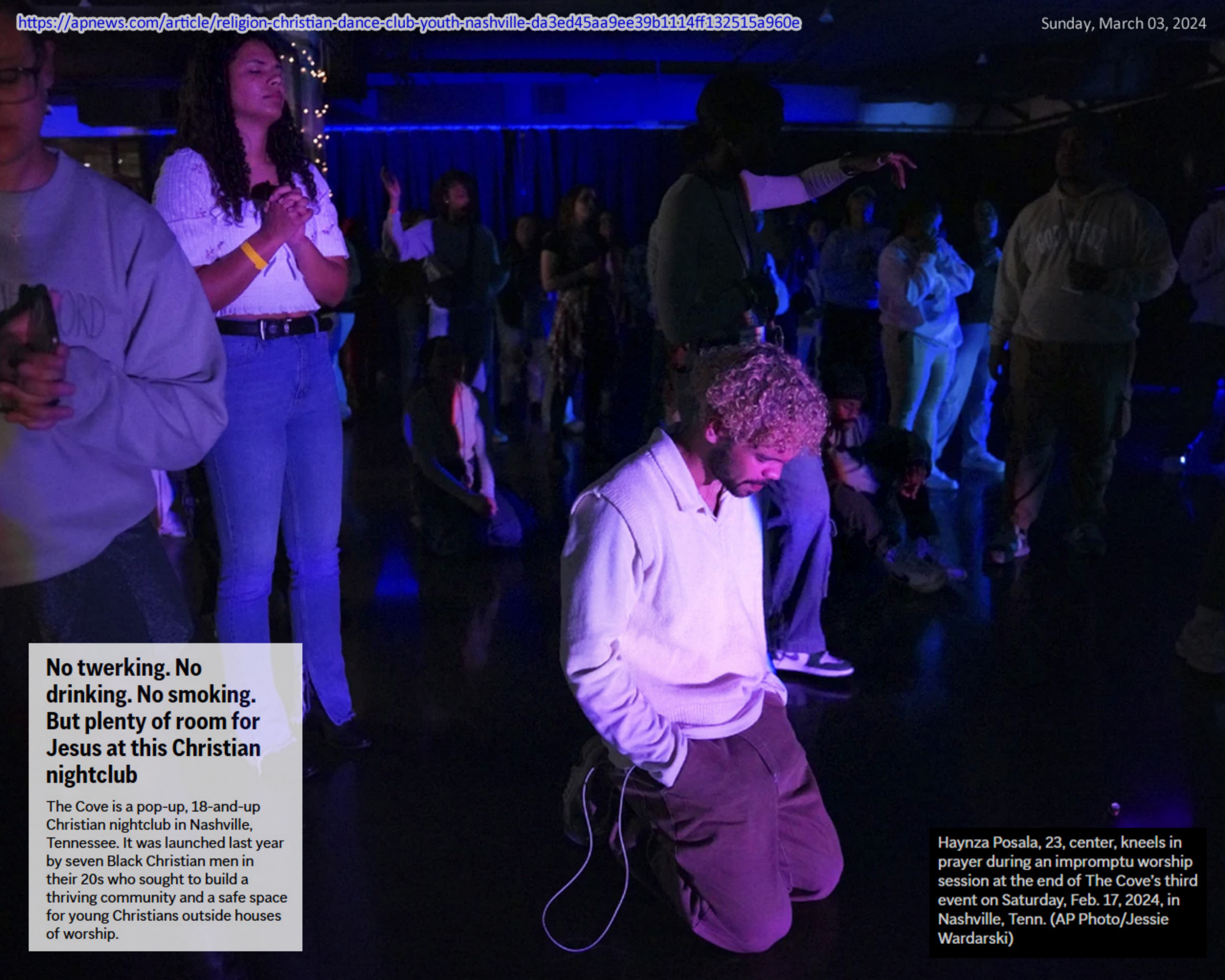
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Amorphophallus titanum, the titan arum, is a flowering plant in the family Araceae. It has the largest unbranched inflorescence in the world. *A. titanum* is endemic to rainforests on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. **Due to its odor, like that of a rotting corpse, the titan arum is characterized as a carrion flower, and is also known as the corpse flower or corpse plant** as translated from the original Indonesian word bunga bangkai (bunga means flower, while bangkai can be translated as corpse, cadaver, or carrion). Its corm is the largest known, typically weighing around 50 kg (110 lb). However, the current record is held by a corm grown at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, weighing 153.9 kg (339 lb) after 7 years' growth from an initial corm the size of an orange. The tallest documented inflorescence was recorded at the Botanical Gardens Bonn (Germany) in May 2013 and reached 3.20 m (10 ft) in height



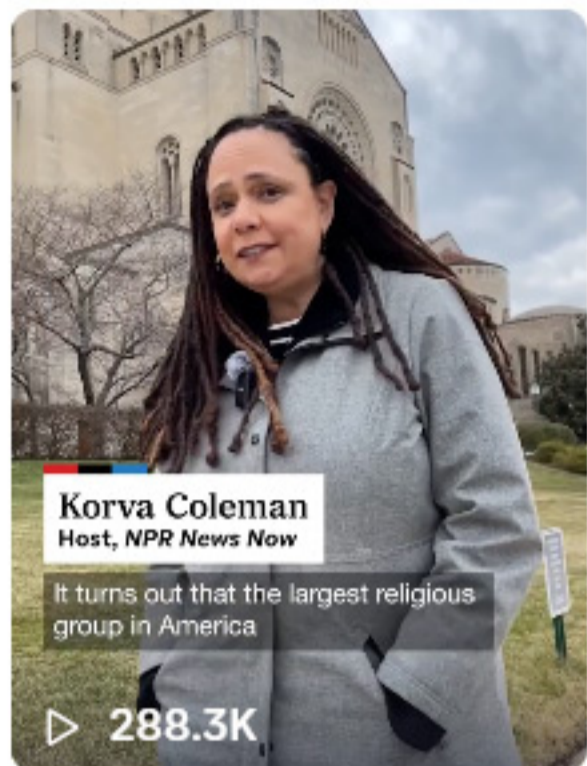


No twerking. No drinking. No smoking. But plenty of room for Jesus at this Christian nightclub

The Cove is a pop-up, 18-and-up Christian nightclub in Nashville, Tennessee. It was launched last year by seven Black Christian men in their 20s who sought to build a thriving community and a safe space for young Christians outside houses of worship.

Haynza Posala, 23, center, kneels in prayer during an impromptu worship session at the end of The Cove's third event on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024, in Nashville, Tenn. (AP Photo/Jessie Wardarski)

korva coleman nones pew research ▾



@npr The religiously unaffiliated are now...
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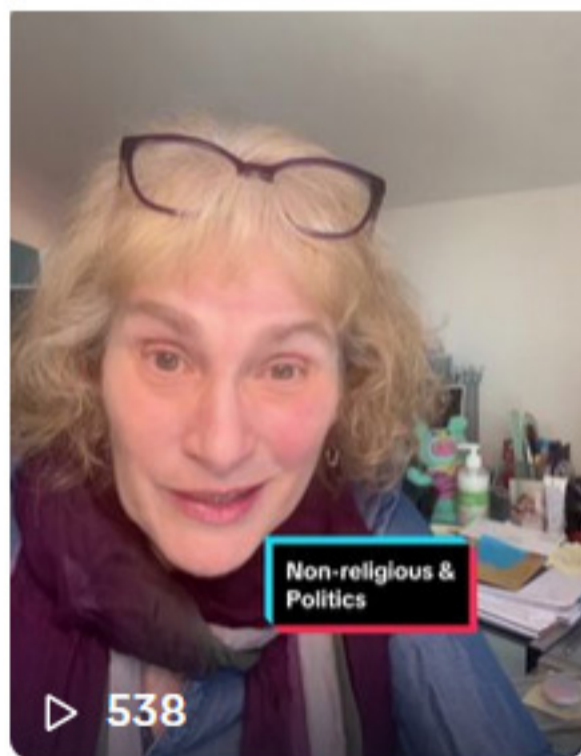
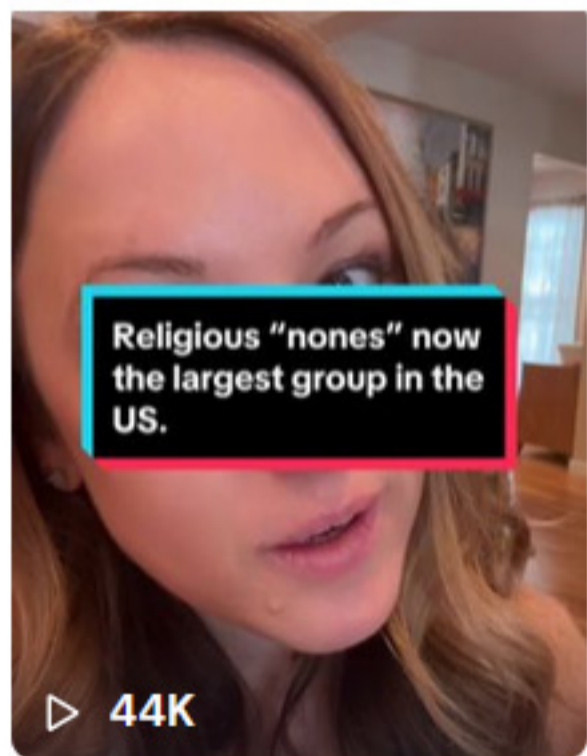
#duet with @VoidWhisper #news...
northeastnon... 97



#duet with @Affinis /ə 'finis/ The Nones are...
everyday_valk... 15



Its finally happened! And we still aren't addressin...
pastorbttok 84

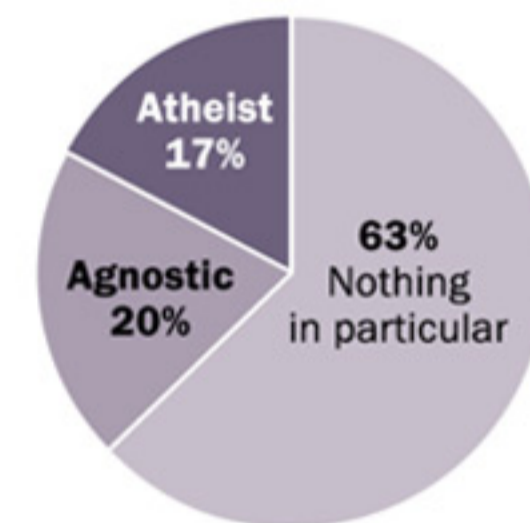


Religious "nones" now the largest group in the US.

"Nones" are people who claim "no religion" or people who don't identify with any religion.

Most 'nones' describe their religion as 'nothing in particular'

% of religious "nones" who are ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 31-Aug. 6, 2023.

"Religious 'Nones' in America: Who They Are and What They Believe"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Religion in the United States by personal self-identification (2023 *The Economist/YouGov* survey)^[1]

- Protestant (30%)
- Catholic (21%)
- Unaffiliated (20%)
- Atheism (7%)
- Agnostic (4%)
- Mormon (2%)
- Eastern Orthodox (1%)
- Jewish (2%)
- Muslim (2%)
- Buddhist (1%)
- Other (10%)

The population of religious "nones" in the U.S. is younger than the population of Americans who identify with a religion. Among "nones," 69% are under the age of 50. By comparison, 45% of U.S. adults who identify with a religion are under 50. "Nones" overall are roughly split between men (51%) and women (47%). The populations of atheists and agnostics include far more men than women. The same is not true for people whose religion is "nothing in particular." Among "nones,"atheists and agnostics have more education than those whose religion is "nothing in particular." The racial breakdown of U.S. "nones" is broadly similar to the racial breakdown of Americans who identify with a religion. That said, White adults make up larger shares of U.S. atheists (77%) and agnostics (69%) than of people whose religion is "nothing in particular" (57%). Ideologically, American "nones" are much more likely than religiously affiliated adults to identify as liberal and less likely to identify as conservative. Majorities of atheists (65%) and agnostics (56%) are ideologically liberal. Among those who say their religion is "nothing in particular," the largest share identify as moderate (46%). Overall, 62% of "nones" identify as Democrats or lean toward the Democratic Party. Atheists (78%) and agnostics (71%) are more likely to be Democrats or lean Democratic than are U.S. adults who identify religiously as "nothing in particular" (54%).

PHOTOS: **What it's like to be 72 — the faces (and wisdom) behind the age**, March 3, 2024 by Laurel Dalrymple

Afqir Itto: 'I still feel hopeful'

AIT HAMZA, MOROCCO



Afqir Itto and her friend create intricately handwoven products. Itto hopes her earnings will someday provide her with enough money to purchase property.

Rajaâ Khenoussi for NPR

PHOTOS: **What it's like to be 72 — the faces (and wisdom) behind the age**, March 3, 2024 by Laurel Dalrymple

Beatriz Amado: 'It's a great feeling of freedom'

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL



Beatriz Amado celebrates turning 72 with her family in Sao Paulo. "I want to live much longer," she says.

PHOTOS: **What it's like to be 72 — the faces (and wisdom) behind the age**, March 3, 2024 by Laurel Dalrymple

Esther Habila: 'I do not worry so much about my age'

KUJE, NIGERIA



Esther Habila is part of the Gbaygi tribe in central Nigeria. She wants her descendants to value education as a path to a life with fewer struggles.

PHOTOS: **What it's like to be 72 — the faces (and wisdom) behind the age**, March 3, 2024 by Laurel Dalrymple

Gayatri Goswami: 'Life is an act of letting go'


KOLKATA, INDIA



Gayatri Goswami, who has albinism, lives in the 165-year-old building where she was born and raised. She has faced discrimination in her personal and professional life because of the condition but found a way forward by working as a tutor and, with her sister, founding a theater school.



Jon Stewart Interviews George Carlin

 **George Carlin Official YouTube Channel**
344K subscribers

7,824,147 views Aug 16, 2016
from HBO 40 Years of Comedy



George Carlin's American Dream: What George Meant To Me | Featurette | HBO

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"He created the scientific method for comics." Comedians Stephen Colbert, Jon Stewart, Hasan Minhaj, Sam Jay, and many more share how the legendary comic influenced their own work. [#WhatGeorgeMeantToMe](#)



George Carlin - Stand Up About Religion

 **Matti Holden**
39.6K subscribers

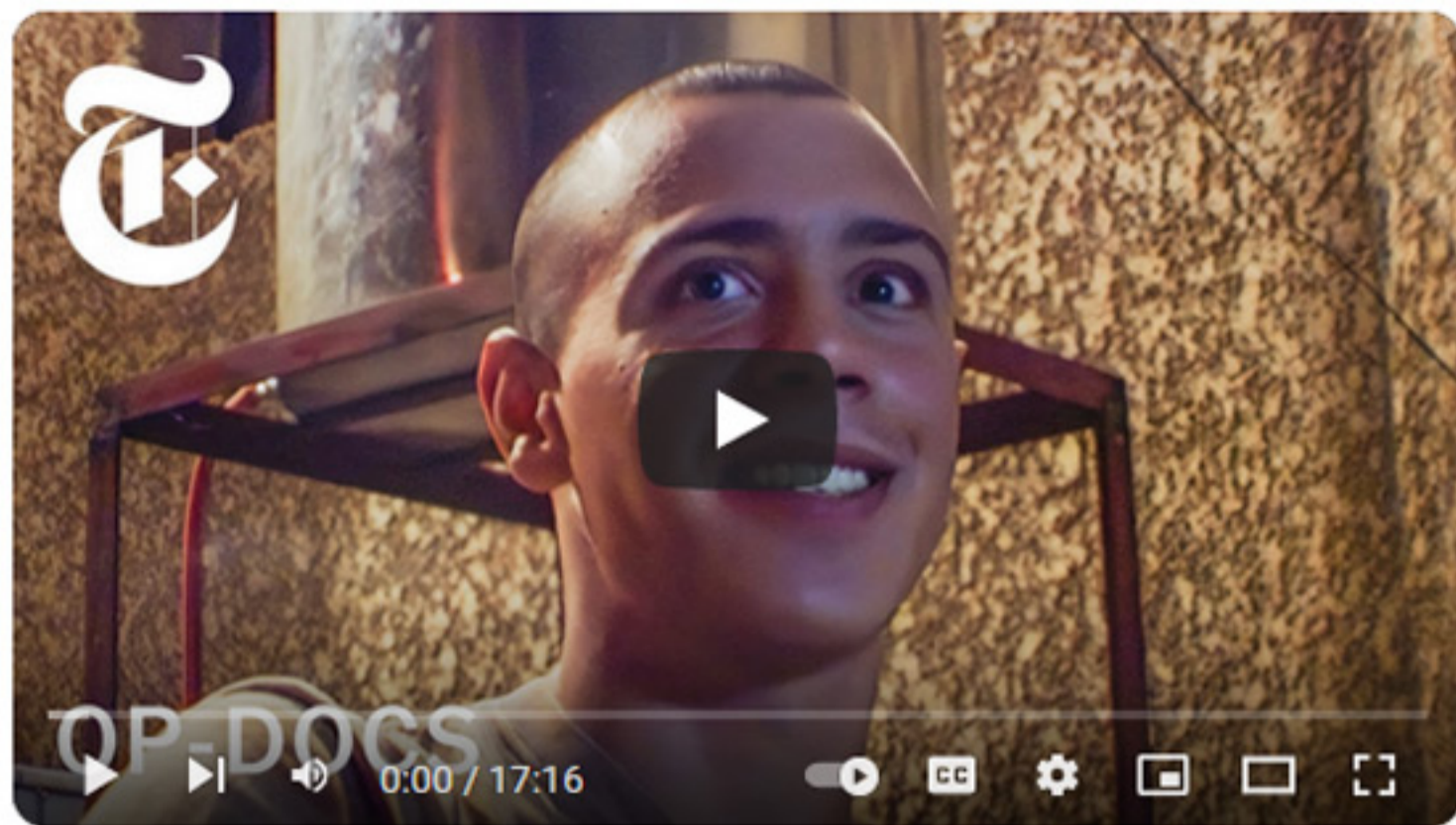
17,105,350 views Apr 8, 2019
A video I put together containing George Carlin's stand up clips about religion.



George Carlin on Being Arrested for Performing "Seven Words You Can Never Say on Television"



 **Johnny Carson** ✓
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468,818 views Oct 25, 2022 [#johnnycarson](#) [#thetontightshow](#) [#georgecarlin](#)
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Iraq War Veterans, 20 Years Later: 'I Don't Know How to Explain the War to Myself' | Op-Docs

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7,976,867 views Mar 20, 2023

Months after the United States invaded Iraq in 2003, I began filming the U.S. Army's 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment (known as the Gunners) in Baghdad. The unit was housed in a bombed-out palace on the banks of the Tigris that they named Gunner Palace.

Rather than just making a movie about the men, I suggested that we make a film together — an offer that the soldiers quickly embraced. They told the story of the war as only they could: They played guitar, spat out rhymes and played to the camera. But behind all their bravado and posturing, they were just kids who desperately wanted the world to understand the war through their eyes.

In the last two months of 2003, the Gunners lost three men to I.E.D. attacks. They scrambled to create makeshift armor for their soft-skinned vehicles using scrap metal. When asked by a soldier about the lack of armor in 2004, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld famously said, "You go to war with the army you have, not the army you might want or wish to have at a later time."

They were the army we had. They fought an enemy they couldn't always see in a land they didn't understand for reasons that were never entirely clear. In the midst of the pandemic, I visited the men and spoke with them about how they make sense of their role in a war that has yet to be fully reckoned with. In "The Army We Had," the veterans grapple with a past that still reverberates powerfully through their lives.

- Text by Michael Tucker
- Film by Petra Epperlein and Michael Tucker

Yalda Hakim

Australian broadcaster

Overview

Videos



The Guardian
Yalda Hakim: 'It takes strength to protect a family' - The Guardian
Born in Afghanistan, raised in Australia, the broadcaster has reported from man...
Jan 7, 2024

Yalda Hakim (born 26 June 1983) is an Australian broadcast journalist, news presenter, and documentary maker. She was one of the chief presenters at BBC News broadcasting in English in the UK and globally.[4] After her family left Afghanistan and settled in Australia in 1986, she grew up in the western Sydney suburb of Parramatta and went on to study journalism. Hakim was born on 26 June 1983 in Kabul, in then DR Afghanistan. Her family fled the country during the Soviet–Afghan War when she was six months old. The family travelled on horseback overland to Pakistan with the help of people smugglers. After two years in Pakistan, the family settled in Australia as migrants in 1986, when she was three years old. Hakim attended Macarthur Girls High School in Parramatta, Sydney, where she played the violin and became a sports captain and prefect. She also attended Parramatta West Public School. Besides English, Hakim is fluent in Dari, Urdu, and Pashto, and as of 2022 was learning Mandarin. On 27 July 2023, Hakim tweeted that she was departing the BBC.[16] It was announced that she would be joining Sky News as their lead world news presenter.[17] On 22 January 2024, Hakim began hosting the foreign affairs show *The World with Yalda Hakim*

Yalda Hakim

@yaldahakim



Yuval Noah Harari: 'There is a battle for the soul of the Israeli nation'

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Yalda Hakim: so then what advice would you give the future Generations?

Yuval Harari: the most important skills has to do with emotional intelligence. The only thing we know about the future is that it will be very different from the present and it will change at a very very rapid pace. so people will need a a very strong psychological resilience to keep changing and keep learning throughout their lives. we are used traditionally to a situation when as a as a child or a teenager you learn a lot you, you change you invent yourself basically, and then as life proceeds you can kind of calm down. I mean, you always learn new things but you mostly uh rely on the skills the world view the personality that you acquired in your younger years. this is not a good plan for the 21st century the pace of change will be so rapid that even when you are 40, 50, 60 if you want to stay relevant you will have to reinvent yourself in radical ways to relearn things uh again and again, and this will create tremendous psychological stress because change is always stressful. and we need to prepare for it, not just as individuals but also as societies. I think governments need to think very carefully about investing a lot more resources in building for infrastructure for mental health. Because otherwise I don't know if people are really built to deal with such a level of of of stress throughout their lives.

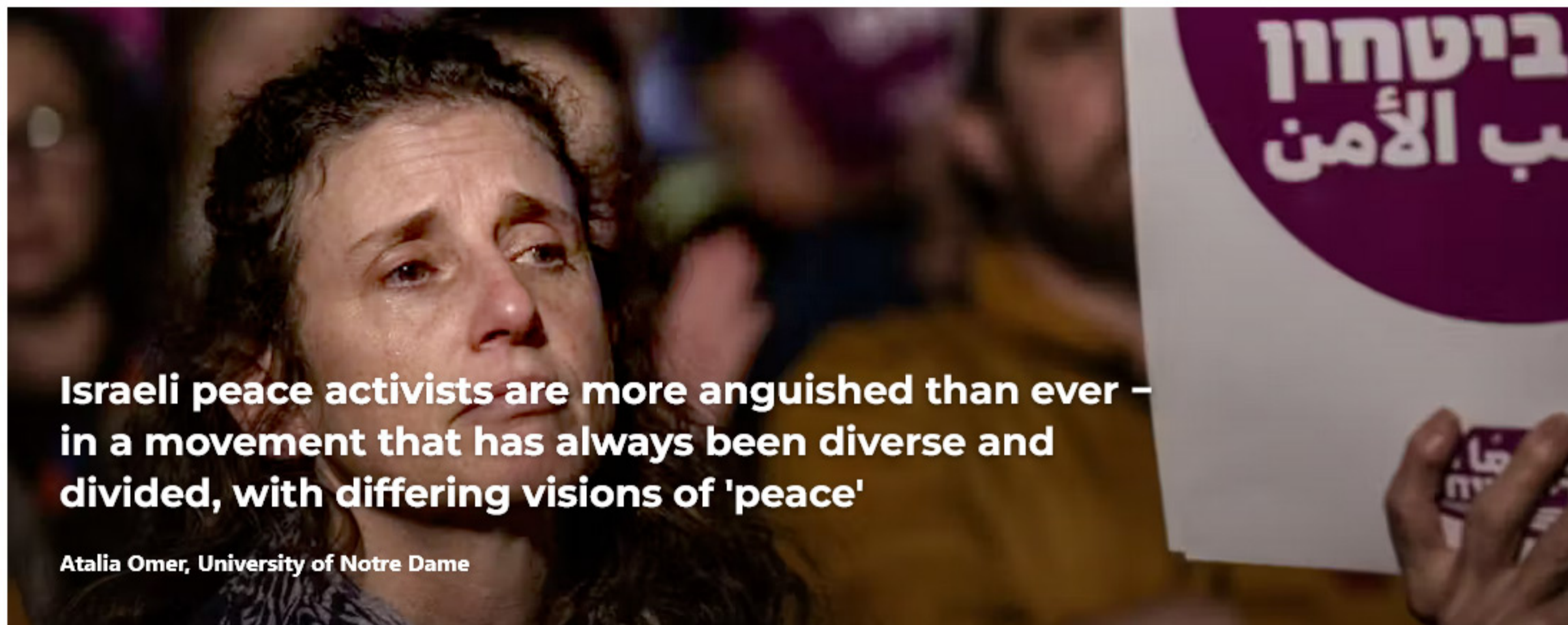
Yuval Noah Harari: 'There is a battle for the soul of the Israeli nation'

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132,453 views Feb 26, 2024 #yuvalnoahharari #israelhamasconflict #gaza

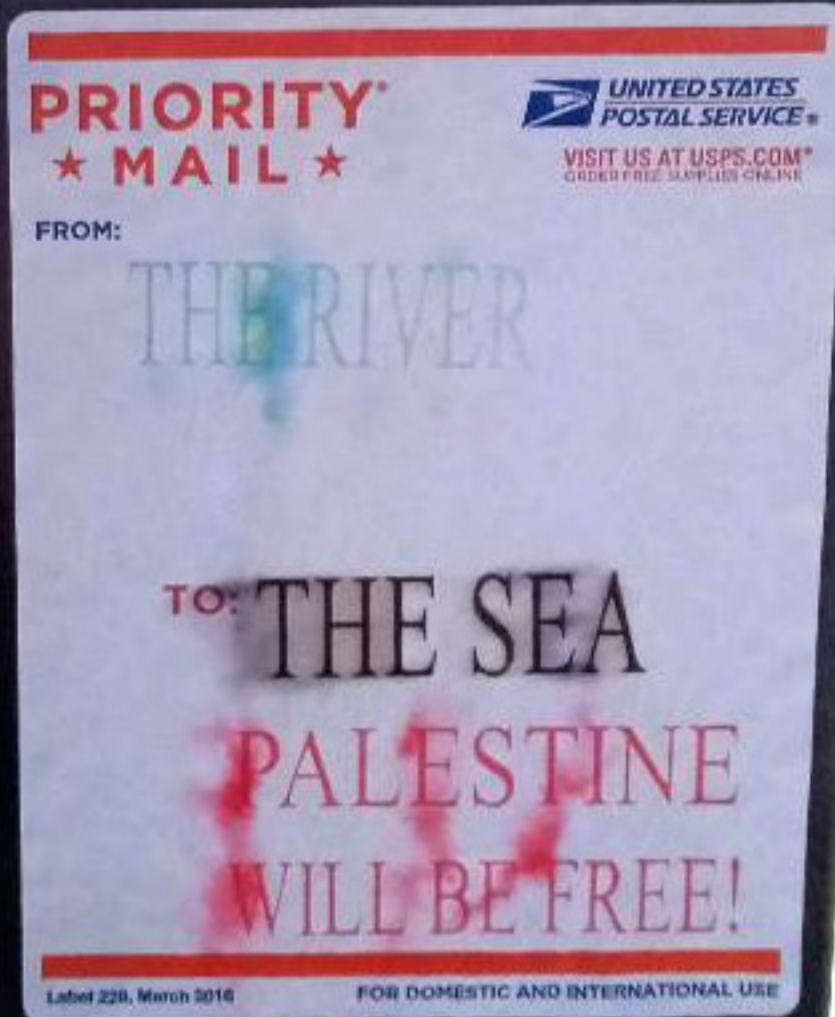
Yuval Noah Harari tells Yalda Hakim he believes the biggest threat comes not from Hamas, Hezbollah or Iran, but from the battle between Israelis for the "soul of the nation". **8:55 > Yalda Hakim:** so we have a situation if we look at uh the situation in the Middle East where October 7 a horrific event that took place 1200 people were left dead and it shocked Israel it shocked Israel on so many levels we now have a situation where almost 30,000 Palestinians have been killed in total they say 100,000 Palestinians have been killed injured missing do you think that the response was the right response as a historian as someone who understands the pain of of Israel as well and the tragedy of the Palestinians . **Yuval Harari:** the biggest piece of the puzzle is missing, is what is the aim of the war you know the most basic maxim of military Theory going back to car kovitz is war is the continuation of politics by other means you cannot understand anything about a war unless you know what are its political aims and we have many cases in history when people think in strictly military turns they win every battle and they lose the war completely like we saw it in the American invasion of Iraq the Americans won every significant military engagement and they completely lost the war the big winner of the Iraq War was Iran that came out of the war as the hegemonic power in the Middle East and much of what is happening right now also to Israel and to the Palestinians the war between Israel and Hamas the threatened war with kisala it all goes back to some extent to Iranian hegemony in the Middle East which was brought about by the American Military Victory so um what I would ask of course also my government is what are you trying to achieve without knowing the political aim of a war you cannot know anything really about it especially not if it's if it's if it's just if it is uh um leading in in a positive way or not and as a historian I can also say that Justice is a very very slippery term because you always have especially in war both sides have a very different conception of Justice because the historical narrative is completely different if you go back to the 7th of October or you go back thousands of years Israelis and Palestinians tell a very different hisorical narrative and therefore they understand Justice differently and there is no way really to reconcile it you will never get them to agree the key is to shift the discussion from a discussion about Justice to a discussion about peace you can't agree what Justice is but peace is much more objective because are people being killed or not. That's an objective thing .

Yalda Hakim: but they've tried over decades to talk about peace and it's failed. **Yuval Harari:** so they have to, so we have to try again, I mean you know um what's the alternative to just go on fighting forever um yes I mean all attempts previously made to do to make peace in the Middle East at least between Israel and Palestinians failed um what can you do except try again. **Yalda Hakim:** what keeps you up at night with this conflict? what do you fear most personally I feel most? **Yuval Harari:** personally, for really the soul of my country of my nation in Israel at the moment there is really a battle for the soul of the Israel Nation between um patriotism on the one side and ideas of Jewish Supremacy on the other side/ um the current government it has Elements which are anti-zionist are against the secular nationalism that built uh Israel and are in favor of Jewish Supremacy. and you know there is a very important line in for every nation between patriotism and feelings of Supremacy/ to be a patriot is to acknowledge the uniqueness of your n of your nation and every nation is unique. there is nothing wrong about feeling that my nation is unique and it has a a a right to uh develop its unique traditions and cultures and so forth, and it doesn't prevent you from recognizing the uniqueness of other nations and their rights to live in in dignity and prosperity. the danger comes when you start thinking that my nation is not just unique is supreme and it has rights which override the ride of anybody else and now there is a huge Titanic struggle within Israel between these two forces. and this is my greatest fear. I it's not from Hamas, it's not from Hezbola, it's not from Iran, It's from this inner struggle that we might lose this struggle. **Yalda Hakim:** and then you know that well one of the objectives at the very beginning of this conflict was that eliminating Hamas. there are many now coming out at the beginning of the conflict but now also now saying saying that Hamas is a political movement you can't kill an ideology do you fear that something more violent more brutal will come out of this conflict? given we have 17,000 orphans now as a result of this conflict. **Yuval Harari:** well I think that talking about eliminated Hamas is unrealistic the more realistic goal is to eliminate the military capabilities of Hamas. again if you think about what are the aims of the war, so from the perspective of Hamas on the 7th of October the aim was very clear. on the 7th of October Israel was quite close to signing a historical peace treaty with Saudi Arabia which was meant to normalize relations between Israel and much of the Arab world and also to potentially restart the Israeli Palestinian peace process. this was a deadly threat to Hamas which objects to any Prospect of peace and normalization between Israel and the Palestinians and the Arab world. the aim of the October 7th attack was to derail to foil this attempt and to sow seeds of hatred that will prevent any chance for peace years in the future. and unfortunately Hamas is achieving its its political aims. I think that given the ideology of Hamas which many times stated that it sees no potential for any peaceful solution, that it only accepts it's the complete destruction of Israel, then as long as Hamas retains its military capabilities, every time even if we have a ceasefire now, and we start reconciling and rebuilding and down the the road two years, five years again, we we we come close to a peace deal, they will again strike. so uh I think that uh again you can't eliminate Hamas but it is necessary to eliminate at least most of its military capabilities. of course as you say um something even worse might might replace it so it's not enough to eliminate the military capabilities of Hamas we have to struggle and I'm talking about when we say we Israel to present the Palestinians with a better future than what Hamas is offering and a better future means to have dignified lives in there in the Palestinian Homeland. **Yalda Hakim:** I spoke to someone who said who for a long time was negotiating with both sides and he said you need to be able to write the other side's victory speech. (Yuval: hmmm. that's a good point.) But here we are today, the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is saying even if the hostages are released we will go into Rafah. Do you think that this is the right sort of objective and and plan? **Yuval Harari:** I just don't know what's going on in his mind I'm definitely not his press officer and cannot explain or or or defend his thinking. I still haven't heard from him a clear statement about what are the long-term political aims of the war. like, how do you envision our region the Middle East two years, five years down the line? and Wars political conflicts there are these kinds of you know like children's riddles like these mazes that you have to find your way inside a maze every child learns at a certain point that you have to start from the end like you have to start from the objective from the door out of the Maze and then go walk your way backwards to where you are now. how do we get there? so unless you tell me how you envision the Region 5 years, 10 years down the line there is no way that we can get there? And he's refusing to say what is his vision I sometimes suspect he has no vision. **Yalda Hakim:** at the beginning of this conversation you talked about your children's book and you said for the first time in your knowledge and understanding of history people don't know what the future looks like there is uncertainty . . . **Yuval Harari:** in a deep sense I mean it's not just political uncertainty. also in the Middle Ages nobody knows if you live in England in 1024 you don't know maybe next year the Vikings invade nobody can predict that. but you do know a lot of things that are not going to change in the next 10 or 50 or 100 years. like the basic economic structure and the skills you need to teach. your kids you need to teach them how to ride a horse and bake bread and grow wheat uh because these are the kind of things people will still be doing in 50 years. now we look to the Future even 10 or 20 years of the future nobody has any idea how the job market would look like because there things like AI, because of AI. which means that we have no idea what skills to teach children today in school because you know you say okay let's teach them how to code computers in 20 years maybe AI is doing all the coding so you don't need that um and of course the repercussions for the social and political system are enormous. so this is a time of of such uncertainty, and also in other fields like you know, 100 years ago so romantic life didn't change very much between the generations. so if you go on your first date you can get good advice from your grandfather or grandmother. but today just to understand the setting of the Romantic relationships online it's so different from what it was 20 or not to say 50 years ago, but it's becoming more and more difficult for adults to understand the world that the kids have to struggle with every day, which again deprives the kids of something which was always there, the good advice of of the adults.



The months since Hamas' attacks on Oct. 7, 2023, have been excruciating ones for Israeli peace activists. As the country rallies behind the war effort, critics have been arrested and condemned by opponents who say the attacks proved how misguided the peace movement is. But in activists' eyes, the horrific violence of Oct. 7 and Israel's sweeping military response only prove its urgency. Vivian Silver, who spent a decade leading Women Wage Peace – a solidarity group of Israelis and Palestinians – was one of several peace activists murdered that day. "If we want a future here, we have to make the conflict a thing of the past," her son Yonatan Zeigen wrote in an op-ed after her death. For some activists, in other words, Oct. 7 only underscored the urgency of their cause. Yet the peace movement has always been diverse and often fragmented. In reality, there are multiple movements, each with its own definition of peace. As a scholar of religion, ethics and politics, I have traced how divergent accounts of Israel's founding connect to different visions of justice. The tension between Israel's Jewish and democratic identities has been present since before the state's founding. Under the current hard-line government, however, critics fear the state has been relinquishing the democratic part in favor of Jewish supremacy.





Monday, March 04 2024

Burger King
3676 Market St. San Diego, CA 92102



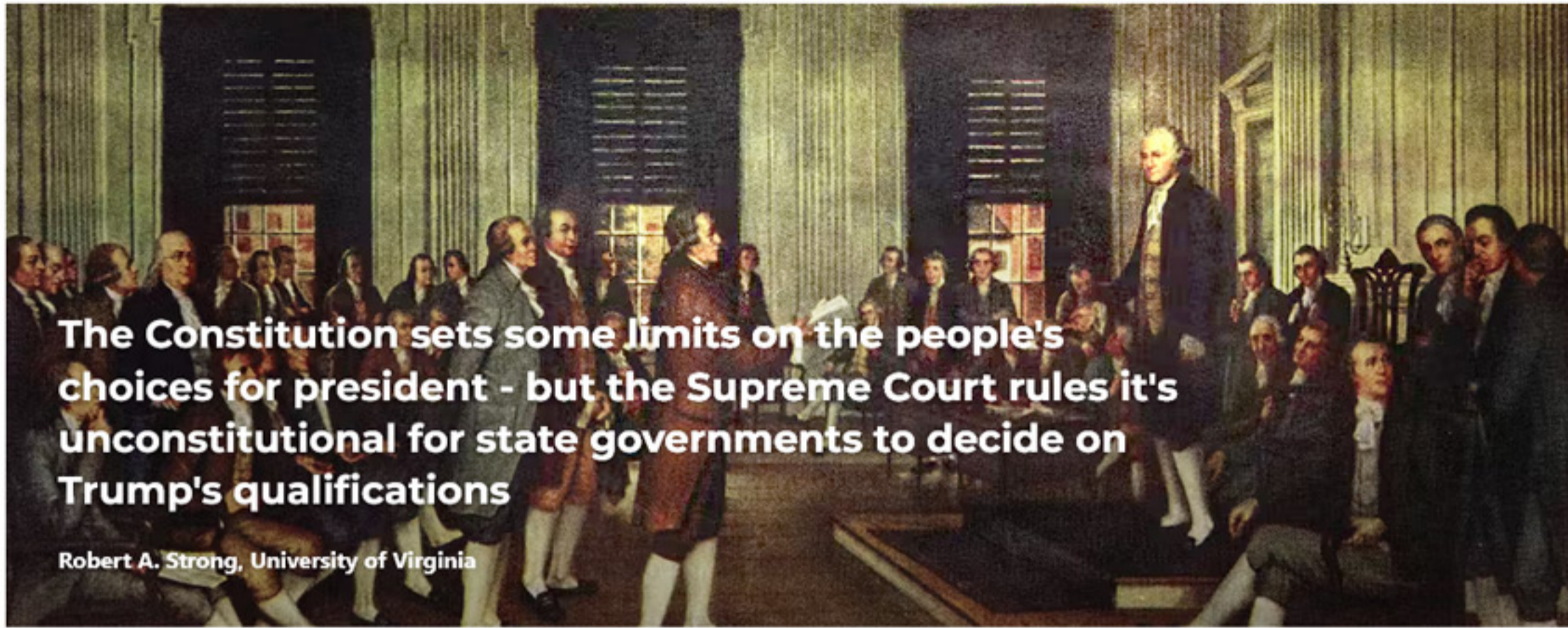




clogged drain

uesday, March 05, 2024





The Constitution sets some limits on the people's choices for president - but the Supreme Court rules it's unconstitutional for state governments to decide on Trump's qualifications

Robert A. Strong, University of Virginia

Democracy isn't always democratic: There are plenty of provisions in the Constitution that run counter to simple democracy. The Senate and the Electoral College give extra power to states with relatively small populations. No Congress – even one whose members were each elected by huge majorities – can pass a law abridging freedom of religion or freedom of speech. If a Congress were to pass such a law, the Supreme Court, which has been called the nation's least democratic branch, could declare it unconstitutional. Democratic majorities in America are both empowered and constrained by the Constitution. The founders wanted the will of the people to be heard and respected but never



Estimated 2.5 million people displaced by tornadoes, wildfires and other disasters in 2023 tell a story of recovery in America and who is vulnerable

Tricia Wachtendorf, University of Delaware and James Kendra, University of Delaware

given absolute power. Absolute power of any kind was to be checked by a complicated set of prohibitions and procedures. Kavanaugh was wise to call attention to the fact that in a democracy, the preferences of the people get a high level of deference. Voters certainly can judge the conduct and character of Donald Trump – and many have done so, both favorably and unfavorably. But George Mason was also right. When politicians corrupt the electoral process, or try to do so, it makes little sense to use elections as the mechanism to fix the problem. America's Constitution has long acknowledged that the preservation of the republic may, in some cases, require the disqualification of candidates and officeholders who commit crimes while in positions of power or participate in insurrection against the very government they have sworn to serve. The Supreme Court has sidestepped the question of whether Trump's actions disqualify him from office and declared instead that Congress must make that determination, under the various constitutional restrictions that continue to exist about who is allowed to serve as president. The practical effect of its decision will be to let the people decide this vital question in the coming presidential election.

Disasters impact. . . . people with the fewest resources, as well as those who have disabilities or have been marginalized, were more likely to be displaced from their homes by disasters than other people. First, people's social circumstances – such as the resources available to them, how much they can rely on others for help, and challenges they face in their daily life – can lead them to experience disasters differently compared to others affected by the same event. And second, disasters exacerbate existing vulnerabilities. Disaster recovery is a social process. Recovery is not a "thing," but rather it is linked to how we talk about recovery, make decisions about recovery and prioritize some activities over others. We believe that when communities experience disasters, they should not have to choose among thriving economically, ensuring all residents can recover and reducing risk of future threats. There must be a way to account for all three. Understanding that disasters affect people in different ways is only a first step toward ensuring that the most vulnerable residents receive the support they need. Involving community members from disproportionately vulnerable groups to identify challenges is another. But those, alone, are not enough. If we as a society care about those who contribute to our communities, we must find the political and organizational will to act to reduce the challenges reflected in the census and disaster research.

Super Tuesday 2024 live: Millions go to the polls on the primary day with the highest stakes

More than a third of delegates are up for grabs as voters in 16 states and one territory make their presidential preferences known. Voters also will weigh in on House, Senate and gubernatorial candidates.



Grant Baldwin/Getty Images



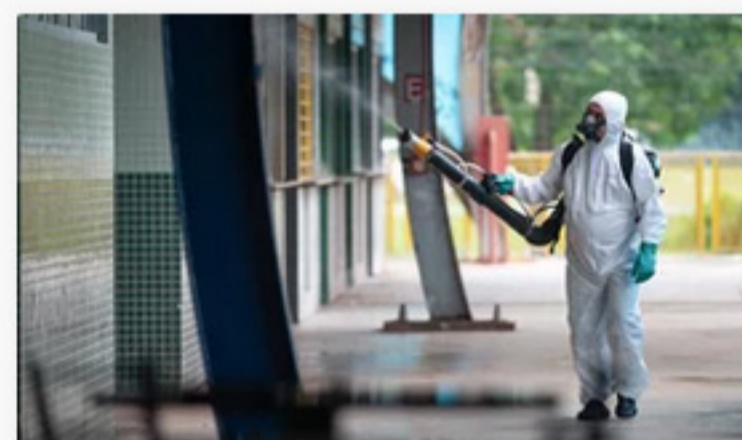
NATIONAL

Places across the U.S. are testing no-strings cash as part of the social safety net



WORLD

3 things to know about the current crisis in Haiti



GOATS AND SODA

With a million cases of dengue so far this year, Brazil is in a state of emergency



THE INDICATOR FROM PLANET MONEY

The growing industry of green burials



ASIA

China's leaders announce a push to jumpstart economy, but say it won't be easy



MIDDLE EAST CRISIS — EXPLAINED

A U.N. report finds 'reasonable grounds to believe' attacks in Israel included rapes

The growing industry of green burials

March 4, 2024 5:31 PM ET
Felix Poon, Darian Woods, Angel Carreras, Kate Concannon

A posed dummy with plant material demonstrates how the decedent's body is placed in a Recompose cradle during a laying-in ceremony, just before the soil transformation process begins. Photo Credit: Recompose Recompose

One estimate says 2.4 million people die in the U.S. each year, and burying them is expensive: a typical burial can cost about \$10,000. That's a lot of money, caskets, and plots filling up cemeteries.

But...what if there was a cost-effective option to bury people, one that was good for the Earth and your pocket book? Today, we look at the prices and features of sustainable burials.

Tuesday, March 05, 2024

San Diego River* @ Mission Valley Rd. San Diego, CA 92108



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If Americans are too burned out to engage enthusiastically and provide feedback to political leaders, then there is little hope that any government could truly reflect the will of the people.



After Super Tuesday, exhausted Americans face 8 more months of presidential campaigning

Jared McDonald, University of Mary Washington

4 takeaways from Super Tuesday

UPDATED MARCH 6, 2024 · 7:32 AM ET

Domenico Montanaro



Poll workers assist voters on Super Tuesday at the First Ward Creative Academy, Mecklenburg County Precinct 13 on March 5, 2024 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

AP WORLD U.S. ELECTION 2024

Nikki Haley will suspend her campaign, sources say

Live updates | Who's running for president?

19 MINS AGO

Super Tuesday takeaways: What to know from the results

48 MINS AGO

General election rematch looks likely for Biden and Trump

Full Results: Follow the AP's 2024 elections tracker

Now that Super Tuesday is over and the Democratic and Republican nominees are all but officially chosen, as everyone expected, voters can turn the page to the general election. But they're not excited about it, and they haven't been for months.



FOX NEWS

Failed effort to boot Trump from ballot exposes 'radical' left's 'pure lunacy': state...

3 hours ago · Emma Colton

Newsroom at 'New York Times' fractures over story on Hamas attacks

MARCH 6, 2024 · 5:35 AM ET

David Folkenflik



The New York Times report on Dec. 31, 2023, about the deadly Hamas attacks caused a rift in the newsroom. For example, a relative of the late Gal Abdush, whose family is shown above in a large front-page photograph, later voiced doubts, helping to fuel skepticism around the report.

Tensions at The New York Times over an investigative report on Hamas' use of sexual violence in the October 7th attacks have erupted into the open over the past week with fresh conflict surfacing nearly every day.

The Times crisis reflects a series of cultural divides – between the conventional newsroom and the paper's ascendant audio division; between management and many of the rank-and-file; between factions with differing reactions to the war in Israel and Gaza; and between the two sides of yawning industry chasm over whether to handle dissent internally or air it in public.

The Times Guild, the newsroom union representing nearly 1,500 journalists at the paper, filed a formal grievance yesterday with the paper, saying The Times had violated the terms of its contract. The guild accused top news executives of "targeted interrogation" of journalists of Middle Eastern descent in an investigation of how word of such dissent leaked to The Intercept and other news outlets. The Guild's announcement said its members "faced extensive questions about the involvement in [Middle Eastern North African employee group] events and discussions and about their views of the Times' Middle East coverage." The New York Times has denied the union's claims. Many reporters have become more outspoken since the social protest movements of 2020 in ways that have altered newsrooms and discomfited some of their peers.

A powerful front-page story draws skepticism from audio staffers: At the heart of the newsroom tensions stands a powerful story about sexual violence during Hamas' deadly Oct. 7 attack in Israel. The story, published in late December under the byline of international correspondent Jeffrey Gettleman and two freelancers, said The Times had documented a pattern of sexual assault by Hamas as a brutal strategy. NPR spoke to seven Times staffers for this story. Critics argued the anecdotes weren't fully nailed down. For example, in the instance of Gal Abdush, whose family was shown in a photograph accompanying the Times story, her brother-in-law told the paper he feared he had been raped. After the story's publication, the man told Israeli journalists he no longer believed there had been a rape, but would not provide the Times with the material that he said changed his mind. As Times audio producers were preparing to do an episode of The Daily podcast based on the story, they questioned how solid the underlying evidence was that their colleagues had gathered. To date, no such episode has aired, more than two months later. Their doubts appeared in The Intercept. Over the weekend, Executive Editor Joe Kahn and his two top deputies confirmed they had commissioned a leak investigation – itself an extraordinary act for a news organization often reliant on leaks of sensitive material for its own stories. (Several former veteran Times journalists told NPR they were taken aback by the turn of events.) But Kahn wrote in a memo to staffers that it was in response to an unprecedented occurrence: outside media groups had gained access to "confidential planning documents and draft scripts." He wrote that the paper had expanded ways for journalists at the newspaper to share misgivings and concerns. "Revealing editing drafts, reporter notes or other confidential materials to outside media erodes trust and undermines our culture of collaboration," Kahn wrote, along with managing editors Marc Lacey and Carolyn Ryan. "No one in our newsroom or company has been or will be scrutinized because of ethnic or national origin... Any such thing would be deeply offensive to us and the Guild's accusation is wrong." When asked about the accusations contained in the Guild grievance, a Times spokeswoman pointed to the earlier statement. Some other news executives, such as former Wall Street Journal and Bloomberg editor Bill Grueskin, suggested they would also want to stem any leaking of materials about unpublished work. **But the union rejected Kahn's letter as "not true," saying the company had harassed and discriminated against its own journalists in pursuing the identity of the leak to the Intercept and others.** The guild said reporters were asked to turn over confidential communications and which colleagues had voiced doubts about the original report. And guild officers said no materials had been leaked. Union officials said it is not taking any stance on the merits of the article. In some newsrooms, journalists have publicly protested that coverage was too reflexively hostile to Palestinians as casualties climbed. At the Los Angeles Times late last fall, the then top editor barred reporters who signed such protest letters from covering the conflict for three months. Questions about a reporter's social media posts The Intercept deepened the controversy by noting the social media postings of one of the freelancers, Israeli documentarian Anat Schwartz. She "liked" anti-Palestinian posts on X (formerly Twitter) after the Oct. 7 attacks, but before she started to work for the paper. "She made valuable contributions and we saw no evidence of bias in her work," Times International Editor Phil Pan said in a statement. "We remain confident in the accuracy of our reporting and stand by the team's investigation." He termed those prior social media posts "unacceptable." In February, the same reporting team acknowledged concerns about the story and sought to offer further substantiation in a follow-up piece involving an investigation by the United Nations. That did not assuage the staffers at the Daily resisting the story. The audio team has been publicly burned in the recent past. In late 2020, The Times was compelled to re-

Trillions of gallons leak from aging drinking water systems, further stressing shrinking US cities



Lisa McGuire stands near her former walkway on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, as she describes a fire that engulfed her home, killing her two dogs, in a Prichard, Ala., neighborhood with a history of severe water loss. (AP Photo/

BY TAMMY WEBBER

Updated 6:39 AM PST, March 4, 2024

PRICHARD, Ala. (AP) — Water bubbles up in streets, pooling in neighborhoods for weeks or months. Homes burn to the ground if firefighters can't draw enough water from hydrants. Utility crews struggle to fix broken pipes while water flows through shut-off valves that don't work. For generations, the water infrastructure beneath this southern Alabama city was corroding, cracking and failing — out of sight and seemingly out of mind — as the population shrank and poverty rose. Until it became impossible to ignore. Last year residents learned a startling truth: Prichard loses over half, sometimes more than 60%, of the drinking water it buys from nearby Mobile, according to a state environmental report that said “the state of disrepair of Prichard's water lines cannot be overstated.” Residents and experts say it also imposes a crippling financial burden on one of the state's poorest cities, where more than 30% live in poverty. “It's a heartbreaking situation,” said community activist Carletta Davis, recounting how residents have been shocked by monthly water bills totaling hundreds or thousands of dollars. “I see people struggling with whether or not they have to pay their water bills or whether or not they can buy food or whether or not they can get their medicine.” Prichard's situation is dire, but hardly unique. Across the U.S., trillions of gallons of drinking water are lost every year, especially from decrepit systems in communities struggling with significant population loss and industrial decline that leave behind poorer residents, vacant neighborhoods and too-large water systems that are difficult to maintain.

DIFFICULT CHOICES: Angela Adams drives around potholes, past mounds of household debris and abandoned houses, and sometimes through flooded streets to reach her home of 30 years in Prichard's Alabama Village. She never considered leaving, even as neighbors died or moved away, roads turned from asphalt to dirt and houses were torn down or burned. Her fondest memories are here, where she raised three children and loves watching squirrels and woodpeckers in her large, fenced yard. But now, there's talk of seizing residents' property and paying them to move to help stem the city's water loss and create redevelopment opportunities. The city already has banned additional water hookups in the neighborhood, where water has been flowing from a faulty water main into the city's sewer system, making it difficult to adequately treat waste. “I'm at an age where I'm planning on retiring. I'm too old to go buy another house,” said Adams, 59, who said a leaky city water line flooded her back yard last year. “All I want to do is sit on my front porch, drink my coffee and mind my business like I've been doing.” Advocates for moving residents include the mayor, who said it could allow the city to redevelop the area, perhaps to store shipping containers for the nearby Port of Mobile. Developers have expressed an interest, but “if we move someone, we need to make sure we're placing them somewhere ... where they can continue to live a wholesome life.” The idea of moving is particularly infuriating to residents who say they were never told about the extent of water loss even as utility bills climbed, or about health risks from low water pressure, said attorney Roger Varner, who filed a class action lawsuit on behalf of city residents. They shouldn't lose homes, some in families for generations, because of lack of investment and mismanagement, he said. “Those are the ones who have been wronged the most because they're saying, ‘Wait, wait. I pay my water bill, I paid off my home, I've got every right to be here and you're telling me because you haven't done your job I have to ... move?’” said Varner. Even so, Young, who now oversees Prichard's water and sewer system, said moving residents from Alabama Village — built more than 80 years ago to house local shipyard workers — must be considered to save money and possibly generate revenue. He's also exploring whether a private company might partner with Prichard to run the system, whether the nearby Mobile Area Water and Sewer System might take it over, or whether a treatment plant could be built so the city could draw and process its own water. Shrinking water infrastructure is rare because of logistical challenges and because **neighborhoods most likely targeted often are majority African-American areas that saw little investment**, said Joseph Schilling, senior researcher at the Urban Institute. “In places like Flint, where the whole city was traumatized by environmental injustices, it's hard to talk about decommissioning infrastructure,” said Schilling. “When you have a long legacy of environmental injustice, racial segregation and exclusionary zoning, any new initiatives have to be done with the community.” But struggling cities also resist talk of downsizing water systems because they hold out hope industry and residents will return, said Oswald from the Michigan environment department. “You don't want to cast doubt on those kinds of grandiose plans but, I mean, we've got systems that have 300 percent more capacity than the water they deliver,” he said. “It's hard to maintain that, and at the end of the day it's the poor ratepayers who wind up having to subsidize it.” Young said fixing water infrastructure in America's struggling cities will take much more money and won't happen quickly. “Because you've underinvested in this system for decades and decades ... it's going to take decades to bring it back,” he said.

Old School Misogynist

alive & unwell

Trump Fan Says Quiet Part Out Very, Very Loud With Disgusting Anti-Haley Comment

The opinion is rarely said “this explicitly and in front of a camera,” admitted NBC News’ Shaquille Brewster after the interview.

By Lee Moran

Mar 6, 2024, 07:26 AM EST

A voter in North Carolina faced fierce backlash over his highly offensive reasons for not even thinking about supporting GOP hopeful Nikki Haley’s presidential run.

NBC News’ Shaquille Brewster asked the man — identified as Emmett Martin, and who’d claimed “things were a whole lot better” with Donald Trump in office — if he’d ever considered Haley for the White House.

“You know, what I got to say, you don’t really want to put it on,” he replied.

When pressed for an answer by Brewster, Martin let rip: **“A woman is not going to be a good president. She don’t have no balls to scratch. She’s just gonna scratch her head. All a woman is good for in my book is having babies and taking care of the house. That’s the old thing. You know, I’m old school.”**

Brewster sought to clarify: “So, you never even considered her, mainly because she’s a woman? Martin replied, “Because she’s female. Don’t get me wrong: Females know what they’re doing, but they still got to have a little bit of guidance.”

Trump would provide that guidance, he added.



Shaquille Brewster

@shaqbrewster · Follow



Full video of that moment in Graham, N.C.

Men and women have told me they wouldn’t vote for Haley because she’s a woman before (and in plenty of other states), but rarely is it said this explicitly and in front of a camera.



Amanda Terkel @aterkel

So a male voter in NC told @shaqbrewster that he doesn't like Nikki Haley bc he doesn't think a woman should be president bc she has no "balls to scratch."

“All a woman’s good for in my book is having babies and taking care of the house.”
nbcnews.com/politics/2024-...

8:39 AM · Mar 5, 2024



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Airdropping aid is inefficient — so why is the U.S. doing it in Gaza anyway?

March 6, 2024 by Ari Shapiro, Linah Mohammad, Elena Burnett

U.S. and Jordanian forces have been dropping supplies in Gaza | AFP via Getty Images

There is a *"really grim irony"* to the U.S. supplying both the bombs that are dropping on Gaza and now the food parcels that are dropping there, according to one aid expert.

According to U.S. Central Command, American and Jordanian forces dropped some 38,000 meals with parachutes along Gaza's coastline on Saturday. Compare that with the need: More than 2 million people live in the Gaza Strip, and according to the U.N., a quarter of them face imminent starvation.





why do we shiver when we pee

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About 2,030,000 results (0.31 seconds)

The nervous system releases neurotransmitters in the body called catecholamines in an effort to restore blood pressure. This creates a mixed signal between the two components of the sympathetic nervous system, which causes you to shiver when you pee.

Bệnh viện Đa khoa Quốc tế Vinmec
<https://www.vinmec.com/news/general-health-check>

Why do you shiver when urinating? - Vinmec

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- Why does it feel weird after I pee sometimes?

A catecholamine (/ˌkætəˈkɒləmiːn/; abbreviated CA) is a monoamine neurotransmitter, an organic compound that has a catechol (benzene with two hydroxyl side groups next to each other) and a side-chain amine.

Catechol can be either a free molecule or a substituent of a larger molecule, where it represents a 1,2-dihydroxybenzene group.

Catecholamines are derived from the amino acid tyrosine, which is derived from dietary sources as well as synthesis from phenylalanine. Catecholamines are water-soluble and are 50% bound to plasma proteins in circulation.

Included among catecholamines are epinephrine (adrenaline), norepinephrine (noradrenaline), and dopamine. Release of the hormones epinephrine and norepinephrine from the adrenal medulla of the adrenal glands is part of the fight-or-flight response.

Tyrosine is created from phenylalanine by hydroxylation by the enzyme phenylalanine hydroxylase. Tyrosine is also ingested directly from dietary protein. Catecholamine-secreting cells use several reactions to convert tyrosine serially to L-DOPA and then to dopamine. Depending on the cell type, dopamine may be further converted to norepinephrine or even further converted to epinephrine.

Various stimulant drugs (such as a number of substituted amphetamines) are catecholamine analogues.



The Chris Hedges Report



PRINCETON STUDENTS FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE PRESENTS:

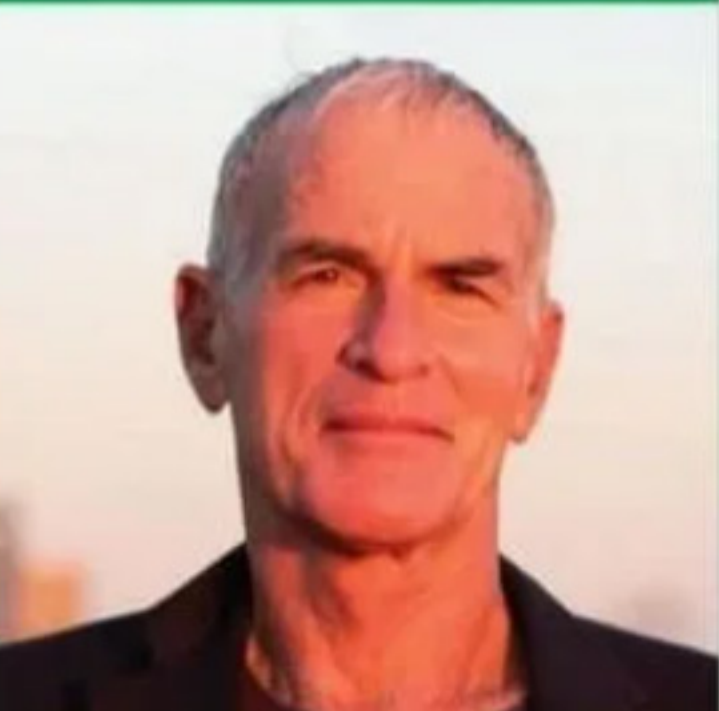


Conversation on the Gaza Genocide with

NORMAN FINKELSTEIN & CHRIS HEDGES

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 4:30 PM
McCosh 50

Author of *Gaza: An Inquest into Its Martyrdom*

Pulitzer prize winning ex-NYT Middle East Bureau Chief


lovepeace



Virtual Event | March 8, 2024 | International Women's Day

Palestine: Genocide, Colonialism, & Feminist Liberation

10-12 PST | 1-3 pm EST | 8-10pm Palestine



Streamed on AMED STUDIES YOUTUBE: tinyurl.com/2935drsj
 & FACEBOOK: tinyurl.com/m8wmyrkf
tinyurl.com/2925drsj

Panelists:

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Yafa Jarrar

Dr. Lena Meari

Dr. Rabab Abdulhadi

Moderator:

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SEC approves first US climate disclosure rules: Why the requirements are much weaker than planned and what they mean for companies

Sehoon Kim, University of Florida

After two years of intense public debate, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission approved the nation's first national climate disclosure rules on March 6, 2024, setting out requirements for publicly listed companies to report their climate-related risks and in some cases their greenhouse gas emissions.

The new rules are much weaker than those originally proposed. Significantly, the SEC dropped a controversial plan to require companies to report Scope 3 emissions – emissions generated throughout the company's supply chain and customers' use of its products.

The rules do require larger companies to disclose Scope 1 and 2 emissions, which are emissions from their operations and energy use. But those disclosures are required only to the extent that the company believes the information would be financially "material" to a reasonable investor's decision making.

More broadly, the new rules require publicly listed companies to disclose climate-related risks that are likely to have a material impact on their business, as well as disclose how they are managing those risks and any related corporate targets.

How SEC stacks up to California, EU rules: The SEC is not the first to adopt climate disclosure rules. A similar rule went into effect in the European Union in January 2024. **California has an even more stringent rule**, signed into law in October 2023. It will require both publicly listed and privately held firms to fully and unconditionally disclose all of Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions when it goes into effect in 2026 and 2027. Since California is among the world's largest economies, its regulations are already expected to have wide effects on corporations around the world. SEC Chairman Gary Gensler discusses what the SEC has to do with climate change.

Hardcore proponents of the SEC rule who wanted California-level disclosures across the board argue that Scope 3 emissions need to be disclosed given that they compose the largest fraction of all carbon emissions. Skeptics of the rule, including two of the five SEC commissioners, question whether there needs to be any rule at all **if things are inevitably watered down anyway**.


Given the recent conservative backlash against companies focusing on ESG issues and the ensuing retrenchment by several institutional investors from their previous climate commitments, **it will be interesting to see how the new corporate climate disclosures will actually affect investors' and corporations' decisions**.

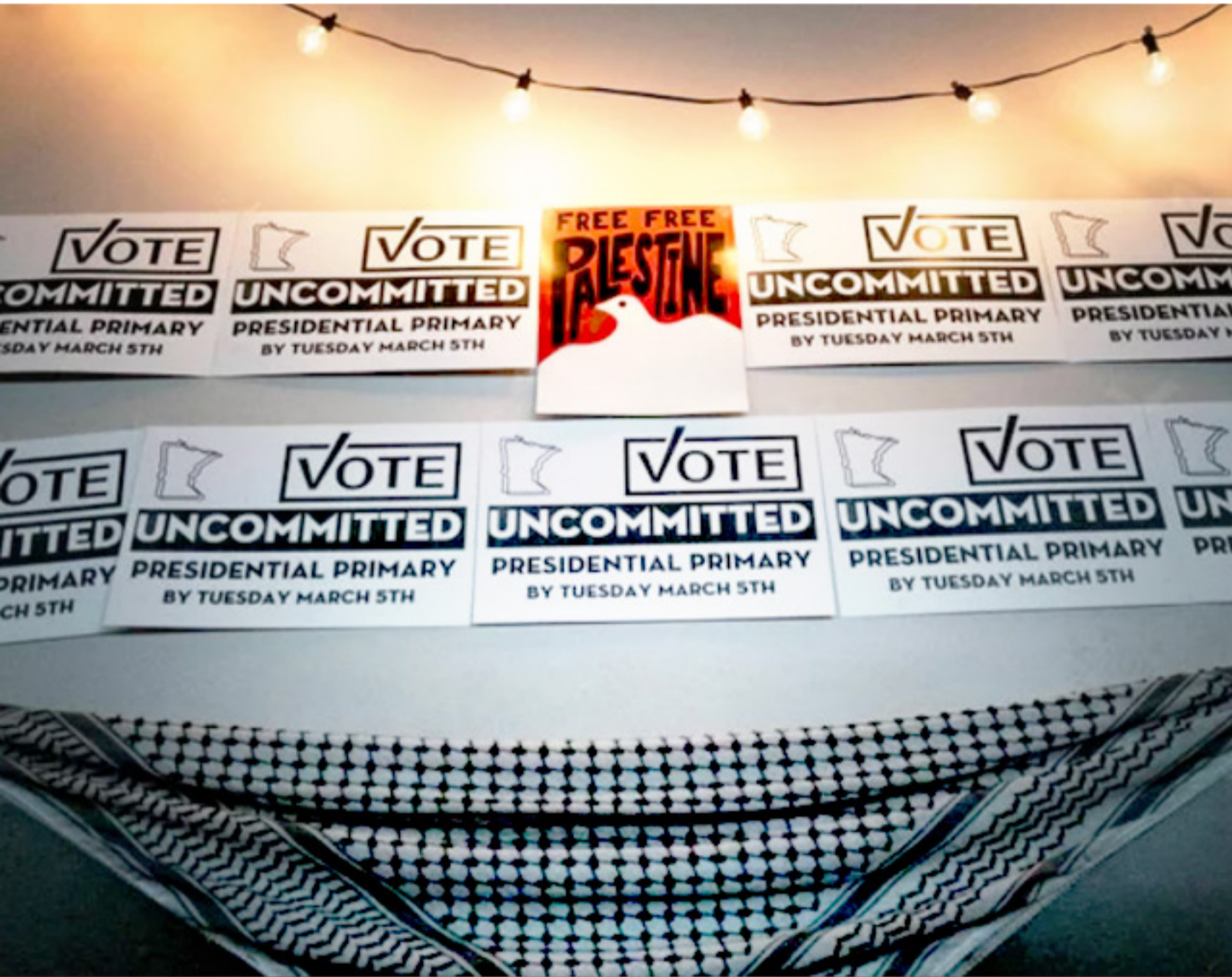
An Overwhelming Majority of the Public—Including Eight in Ten Republicans—Support Protections for Women Seeking Abortions Due to Pregnancy-Related Emergencies Such as Miscarriages



'Uncommitted' movement spreads to Super Tuesday states

MARCH 6, 2024 · 4:12 PM ET

 Elena Moore



Placards adorn a wall at an Uncommitted Minnesota watch party during the presidential primary in Minneapolis on Super Tuesday.

'Uncommitted' Democratic votes so far in 2024

STATE	UNCOMMITTED		BIDEN	
	VOTE SHARE	VOTES	VOTE SHARE	VOTES
Michigan (Feb. 27) "Uncommitted" <i>99% of results in</i>	13%	101,436	81%	623,415
North Carolina (March 5) "No preference" <i>99% of results in</i>	13%	88,021	87%	606,302
Massachusetts (March 5) "No preference" <i>89% of results in</i>	9%	57,783	83%	511,326
Minnesota (March 5) "Uncommitted" <i>99% of results in</i>	19%	45,914	71%	171,260
Colorado (March 5) "Noncommitted delegate" <i>79% of results in</i>	8%	43,439	84%	446,395
Alabama (March 5) "Uncommitted" <i>94% of results in</i>	6%	11,213	89%	167,165
Tennessee (March 5) "Uncommitted" <i>98% of results in</i>	8%	10,450	92%	122,321
Nevada (Feb. 6) "None of these candidates" <i>100% of results in</i>	6%	7,448	89%	119,758
Iowa (Jan. 15 to March 5) "Uncommitted" <i>97% of results in</i>	4%	480	91%	11,083

Source: Associated Press

Credit: Alyson Hurt and Elena Moore/NPR

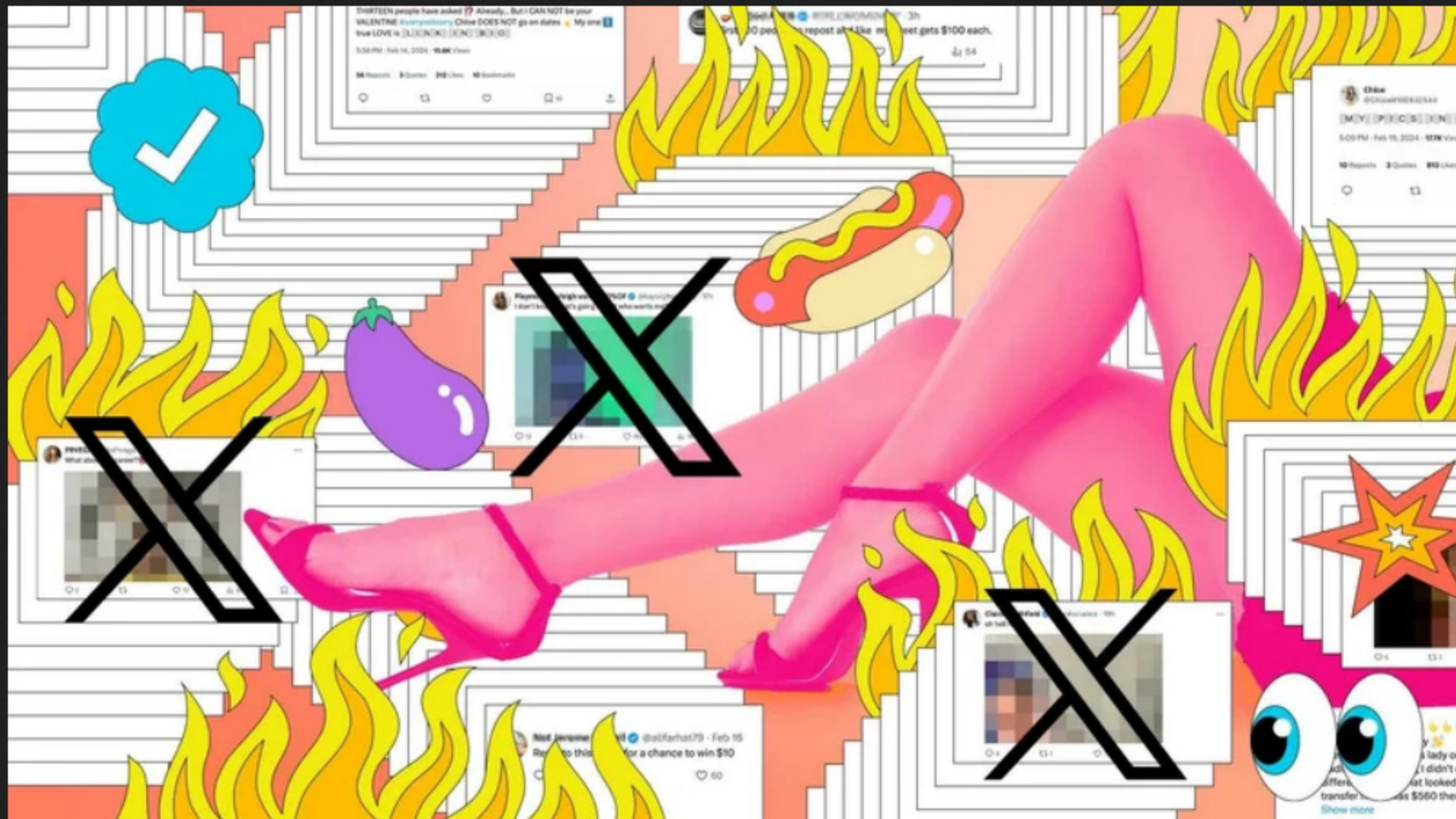


How the porn bots took over Twitter

MARCH 7, 2024 - 5:00 AM ET



Manuela López Restrepo



The routine of a loyal X (formerly known as Twitter) user remains relatively simple. You open the app and scroll to see what The Discourse is for the day. Someone's thought entices you enough to prompt a glance at the replies. But as you expand, you are suddenly flooded with throngs of desperate, half-naked women urging you to click their BIOIN-LINK. The accounts themselves are usually barren of original posts, with a stolen image as the profile picture and a spammy link to a webcam site in their bio. Oftentimes they don't have anything else on their profile. Sometimes they have a poetic musing about their interests, like, "I am looking for sex, but do you want?" Twitter has long had a bot problem, but since moderation on the platform was gutted and paid users were given "prioritization" in replies, the landscape has changed. **It's just one sign of the wider decay of social media platforms that's playing out right now.**

ISRAEL - HAMAS WAR

In the ruins of Gaza, children are starving to death and there's no cease-fire in sight

“When children are starting” to “die from starvation, that should be a warning like no other,” said a spokesperson for the U.N. humanitarian office.

The raw statistics are grim.

American and U.N. officials have said the death toll given by the Palestinian Health Ministry, which is controlled by Hamas, is likely to be an undercount. Aid workers on the ground estimate thousands more people remain buried under the rubble of destroyed buildings.

About 80% of the population, or 1.9 million people, has been forced to flee their homes, according to the U.N., some up to half a dozen times because of the Israeli military push southward. Around 60% of the buildings in Gaza have been damaged, 45% of them destroyed — including schools, hospitals, bakeries, mosques and thousands of homes — according to research by the World Bank.

Even by the scarce standards of Gaza, which Israel and Egypt have blockaded for 16 years, there are shortages of everything: water, food, fuel, electricity and medicine. The U.S. has sent several aid drops into Gaza in recent days, but even if they are successful, they will not solve the issue. With desperation mounting, more than 100 Palestinians were killed last week in a chaotic encounter with Israeli troops around an aid convoy.

The lack of clean water means diseases such as diarrhea and hepatitis are rife. The lack of food means people are simply starving to death, according to local doctors and international aid workers.

Gaza’s Health Ministry has reported that at least 16 children have died since last week as a result of malnutrition and dehydration. It has also expressed concerns for six infants who it said were being treated for malnutrition at Kamal Adwan hospital in the town of Beit Lahia.

Some had underlying health conditions, like **Yazan Kafarneh, 10**, who was recorded by an NBC News crew before he died Monday. Yazan had been dependent upon a special diet, such as blended fruit and milk, items now unavailable in Gaza, doctors told Reuters.

Pictures showing the emaciated boy covered in blankets and receiving fluids intravenously were widely shared on social media after he died.

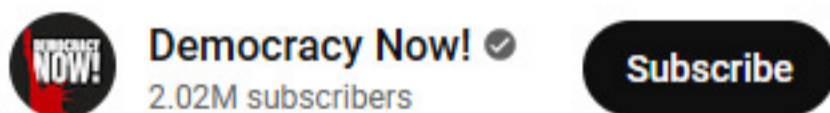


Yazan Kafarneh lies on a hospital bed at Al-Awda clinic in Rafah, southern Gaza last month.

AFP - Getty Images



Ralph Nader at 90 on the "Genocidal War" in Gaza & Why Congress Is a Weapon of Mass Destruction



330,932 views Feb 27, 2024 [Latest Shows](#)

Support our work: <https://www.democracynow.org/donate?c...>

On his 90th birthday, the legendary consumer advocate, corporate critic and four-time presidential candidate Ralph Nader joins *Democracy Now!* for an in-depth conversation about U.S. democracy and why "Congress is a weapon of mass destruction." He says lawmakers have shredded the country's social safety net, refused to rein in the U.S. war machine, allowed white-collar crime to go unpunished, failed to enforce tax fairness and more. "All of these are very unpopular with the American people," Nader says. He also discusses the 2024 presidential race and encourages people to "vote their conscience" and "find some way out of this two-party duopoly gulag." Nader, who publishes the monthly print-only newspaper the Capitol Hill Citizen, was recently profiled in *The Washington Post* for his ongoing advocacy.

... about U.S. democracy and why "Congress is a weapon of mass destruction." He says lawmakers have shredded the country's social safety net, refused to rein in the U.S. war machine, allowed white-collar crime to go unpunished, failed to enforce tax fairness and more. "All of these are very unpopular with the American people," Nader says. He also discusses the 2024 presidential race and encourages people to "vote their conscience" and "find some way out of this two-party duopoly gulag."

Aaron Bushnell & Johan Galtung, Rest in Peace

Column FEBRUARY 29, 2024



The world recently lost two principled opponents of war, but under drastically different circumstances. Johan Galtung died on February 17th at the age of 93. The Norwegian sociologist was known as the father of peace studies, and spent his life researching conflicts and fostering dialog in pursuit of peace. Aaron Bushnell was just 25 years old. He was an active duty member of the US Air Force. On Sunday, February 25th, Aaron Bushnell started a live video stream as he walked toward the Israeli Embassy in Washington, DC., he doused himself with a liquid and set himself on fire. Johan Galtung was also a conscientious objector, as a young man in Norway. As a child, Nazi Germany occupied his country, and imprisoned his father.

Biden defends immigration policy during State of the Union, blaming Republicans in Congress for refusing to act

March 7, 2024 Jean Lantz Reisz, University of Southern California



Sharks, turtles and other sea creatures face greater risk from industrial fishing than previously thought – we estimated added pressure from ‘dark’ fishing vessels

March 6, 2024 Heather Welch, University of California, Santa Cruz

Seabirds like this sooty shearwater can drown when they become tangled in drift nets and other fishing gear



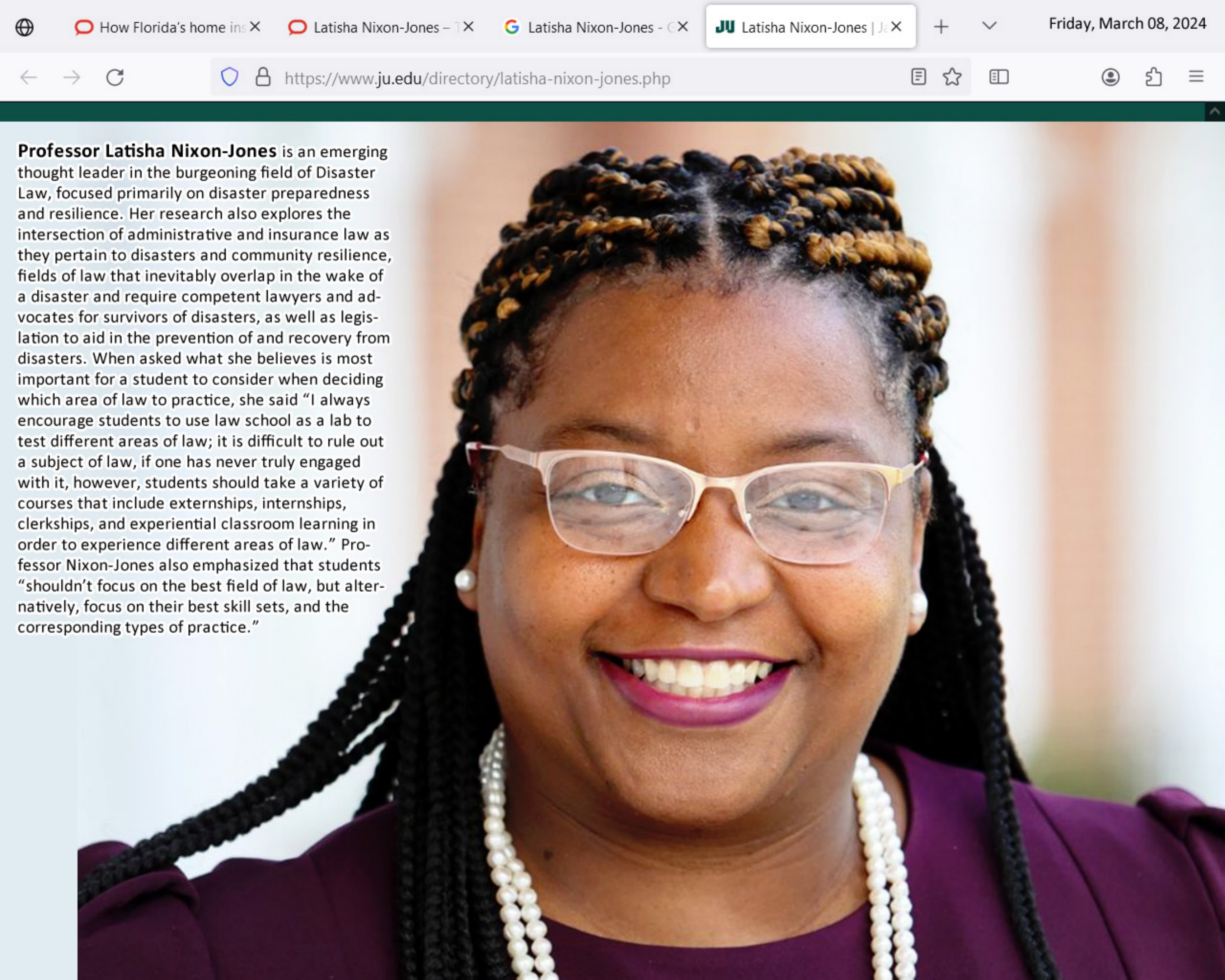
We found that highly mobile marine predators, such as sea lions, sharks and leatherback sea turtles, are significantly more threatened than previously thought because of large numbers of dark fishing vessels – boats that turn off their location devices or lose signal for technical reasons – operating where these species live.

How Florida's home insurance market became so dysfunctional, so fast

March 7, 2024 Latisha Nixon-Jones, Jacksonville University

Three primary factors are driving the insurance challenge. First, natural disasters are becoming more common and costly. Second, the price of reinsurance is skyrocketing. And finally, Florida's litigation-friendly environment compounds the issue by making it easy for customers to sue their insurers.





Professor Latisha Nixon-Jones is an emerging thought leader in the burgeoning field of Disaster Law, focused primarily on disaster preparedness and resilience. Her research also explores the intersection of administrative and insurance law as they pertain to disasters and community resilience, fields of law that inevitably overlap in the wake of a disaster and require competent lawyers and advocates for survivors of disasters, as well as legislation to aid in the prevention of and recovery from disasters. When asked what she believes is most important for a student to consider when deciding which area of law to practice, she said “I always encourage students to use law school as a lab to test different areas of law; it is difficult to rule out a subject of law, if one has never truly engaged with it, however, students should take a variety of courses that include externships, internships, clerkships, and experiential classroom learning in order to experience different areas of law.” Professor Nixon-Jones also emphasized that students “shouldn’t focus on the best field of law, but alternatively, focus on their best skill sets, and the corresponding types of practice.”

Andrew Barton "Banjo" Paterson, CBE (17 February 1864 – 5 February 1941) was an Australian bush poet, journalist and author. He wrote many ballads and poems about Australian life, focusing particularly on the rural and outback areas, including the district around Binalong, New South Wales, where he spent much of his childhood. Paterson's more notable poems include "Clancy of the Overflow" (1889), "The Man from Snowy River" (1890) and "**Waltzing Matilda**" (1895), regarded widely as Australia's unofficial national anthem. Paterson's early education came from a governess, but when he was able to ride a pony, he was taught at the bush school at Binalong. In 1874 Paterson was sent to Sydney Grammar School, performing well both as a student and a sportsman. During this time, he lived in a cottage called Rockend, in the suburb of Gladesville. The cottage is now listed on the Register of the National Estate and New South Wales State Heritage Register.[5] He left the prestigious school at 16 after failing an examination for a scholarship to the University of Sydney. Paterson was a law clerk with a Sydney-based firm headed by Herbert Salwey, and was admitted as a solicitor in 1886.[6] In the years he practised as a solicitor, he also started writing. From 1885, he began submitting and having poetry published in *The Bulletin*, a literary journal with a nationalist focus. His earliest work was a poem criticising the British war in the Sudan, which also had Australian participation. Over the next decade, the influential journal provided an important platform for Paterson's work, which appeared under the pseudonym of "The Banjo", the name of his favourite horse.[7] As one of its most popular writers through the 1890s, he formed friendships with other significant writers in Australian literature, such as E.J. Brady, Harry "Breaker" Morant, Will H. Ogilvie, and Henry Lawson. In particular, Paterson became engaged in a friendly rivalry of verse with Lawson about the allure of bush life. Paterson became a war correspondent for *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* during the Second Boer War, sailing for South Africa in October 1899. There he met fellow war correspondents Winston Churchill and Rudyard Kipling as well as British army leaders Kitchener, Roberts and Haig. In World War I, Paterson failed to become a correspondent covering the fighting in Flanders, but did become an ambulance driver with the Australian Voluntary Hospital, Wimereux, France. He returned to Australia early in 1915 and, as an honorary vet, travelled on three voyages with horses to Africa, China and Egypt. Paterson had been previously engaged to Sarah Riley for eight years, but this was abruptly called off in 1895 following a visit to her at Dagworth Station in Queensland where she was visiting the Macpherson family. It was here that Paterson met his fiancée's best friend from school days, **Christina Macpherson, who composed the music for which he then wrote the lyrics of the famous Waltzing Matilda**. However, following this collaboration Paterson was suddenly asked to leave the property, leading historians to conclude that he was a womanizer and had engaged in a scandalous romantic liaison with Macpherson.

Sydney tea merchant, James Inglis, wanted to use '**Waltzing Matilda**' as an advertising jingle for Billy Tea. In early 1903, Inglis purchased the rights to 'Waltzing Matilda' and asked Marie Cowan, the wife of one of his managers, to try her hand at turning it into an advertising jingle. Cowan made some more changes to the words and some very minor changes to Nathan's melody and gave the song a simple, brisk, harmonious accompaniment which made it very catchy. Her song, published in 1903, grew in popularity, and Cowan's arrangement remains the best-known version of 'Waltzing Matilda'.



Paterson with his wife Alice and daughter Grace

"Waltzing Matilda" is a song developed in the Australian style of poetry and folk music called a bush ballad. It has been described as the country's "unofficial national anthem".

The title was Australian slang for travelling on foot (waltzing) with one's belongings in a "matilda" (swag) slung over one's back. The song narrates the story of an itinerant worker, or "swagman", making a drink of billy tea at a bush camp and capturing a stray jumbuck (sheep) to eat. When the jumbuck's owner, a squatter (grazier), and three troopers (mounted policemen) pursue the swagman for theft, he declares "You'll never catch me alive!" and commits suicide by drowning himself in a nearby billabong (watering hole), after which his ghost haunts the site.

The original lyrics were composed in 1895 by Australian poet Banjo Paterson, to a tune played by Christina Macpherson.



Civilians navigate bodies in the streets amid violence gripping Haiti's capital



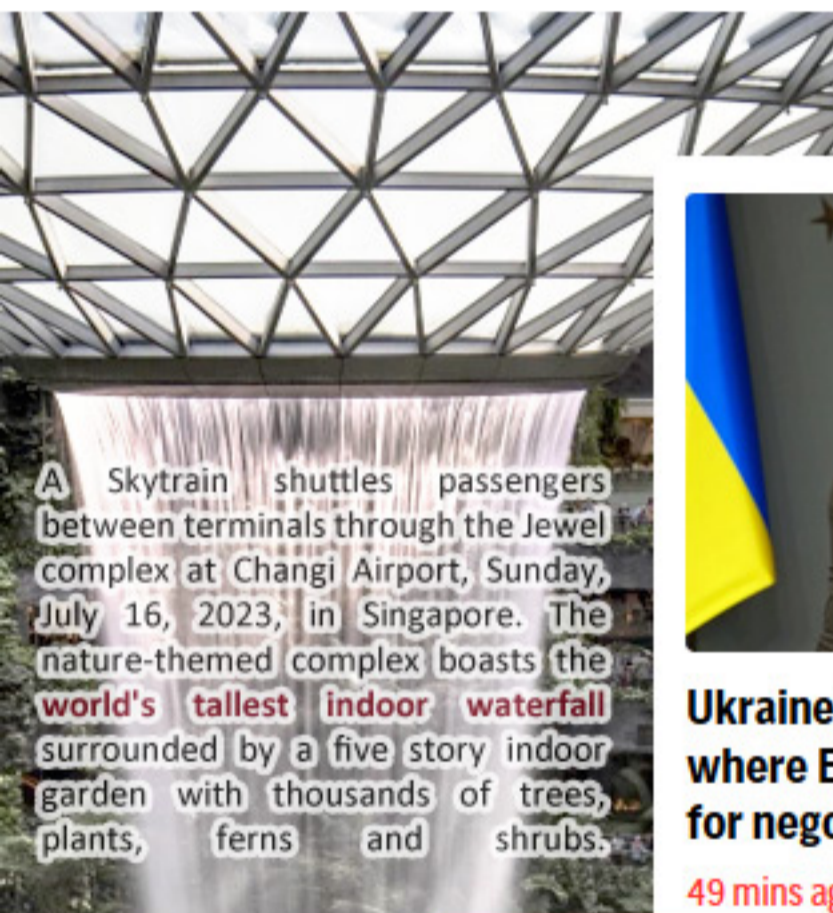
It's not just Israeli bombs that have killed children in Gaza. Now some are dying of hunger too



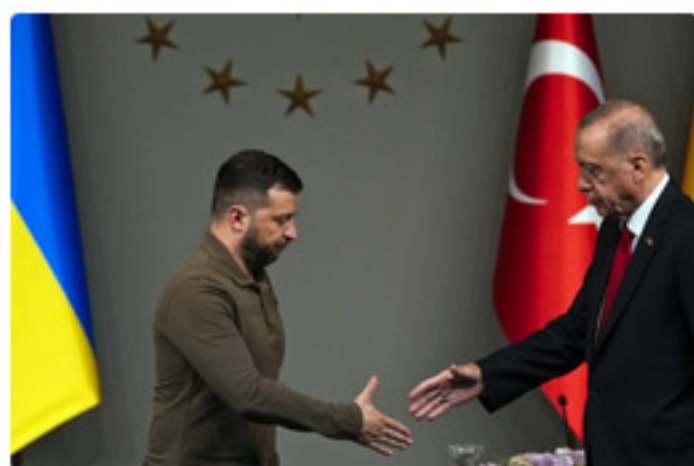
Behind the doors of a Chinese hacking company, a sordid culture fueled by influence, alcohol and sex



Result of the historic vote by Dartmouth basketball players to unionize



A Skytrain shuttles passengers between terminals through the Jewel complex at Changi Airport, Sunday, July 16, 2023, in Singapore. The nature-themed complex boasts the world's tallest indoor waterfall surrounded by a five story indoor garden with thousands of trees, plants, ferns and shrubs.



Ukraine's Zelenskyy in Turkey, where Erdogan is expected to press for negotiations to end Russia war

49 mins ago



Federal Reserve's Powell: Regulatory proposal criticized by banks will be revised by end of year

Stock market today: Wall Street points lower on more strong jobs numbers, on track for mixed week

Germany's top prosecutor takes over Tesla fire investigation, suspecting terrorism

Bill that could make TikTok unavailable in the US advances quickly in the House



How International Women's Day became a celebration and call to action



Maine mass shooter had a brain injury. Experts say that doesn't explain his violence.



They went to school but ended up as hostages. 287 children are missing in Nigeria's forests



The Oscars will do something it hasn't in a long time: Hand its top award to a blockbuster

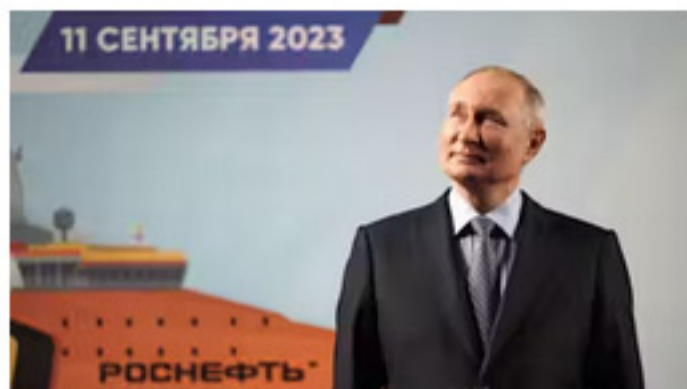


US employers add a surprisingly strong 275,000 jobs in sign of continued economic strength



Russians say final farewell at funeral of opposition leader Alexei Navalny

Ukraine war turns 2



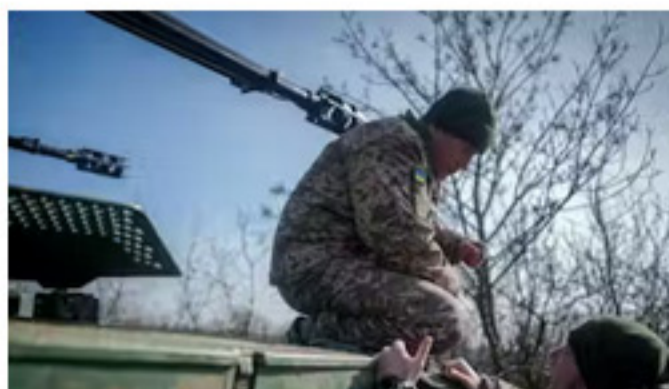
How Russia has managed to shake off the impact of sanctions – with a little help from its friends

Keith A. Preble, Miami University and Charmaine N. Willis, Skidmore College



Yulia Navalnaya, widow of Alexei Navalny, steps forward to lead the Russian opposition – 3 points to understand

Farida Jalalzai, Virginia Tech



As war in Ukraine enters third year, 3 issues could decide its outcome: Supplies, information and politics

Tara Sonenshine, Tufts University



The Russia-Ukraine War has caused a staggering amount of cultural destruction – both seen and unseen

Ian Kuijt, University of Notre Dame; Pavlo Shydlovskyi, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, and William Donaruma, University of Notre Dame

Opill, the first over-the-counter birth control pill, will be on shelves soon – here are some key things to know



I watched Hungary's democracy dissolve into authoritarianism as a member of parliament – and I see troubling parallels in Trumpism and its appeal to workers

Gábor Scheiring, Harvard University



After Super Tuesday, exhausted Americans face 8 more months of presidential campaigning

Jared McDonald, University of Mary Washington



The Constitution sets some limits on the people's choices for president - but the Supreme Court rules it's unconstitutional for state governments to decide on Trump's qualifications

Robert A. Strong, University of Virginia

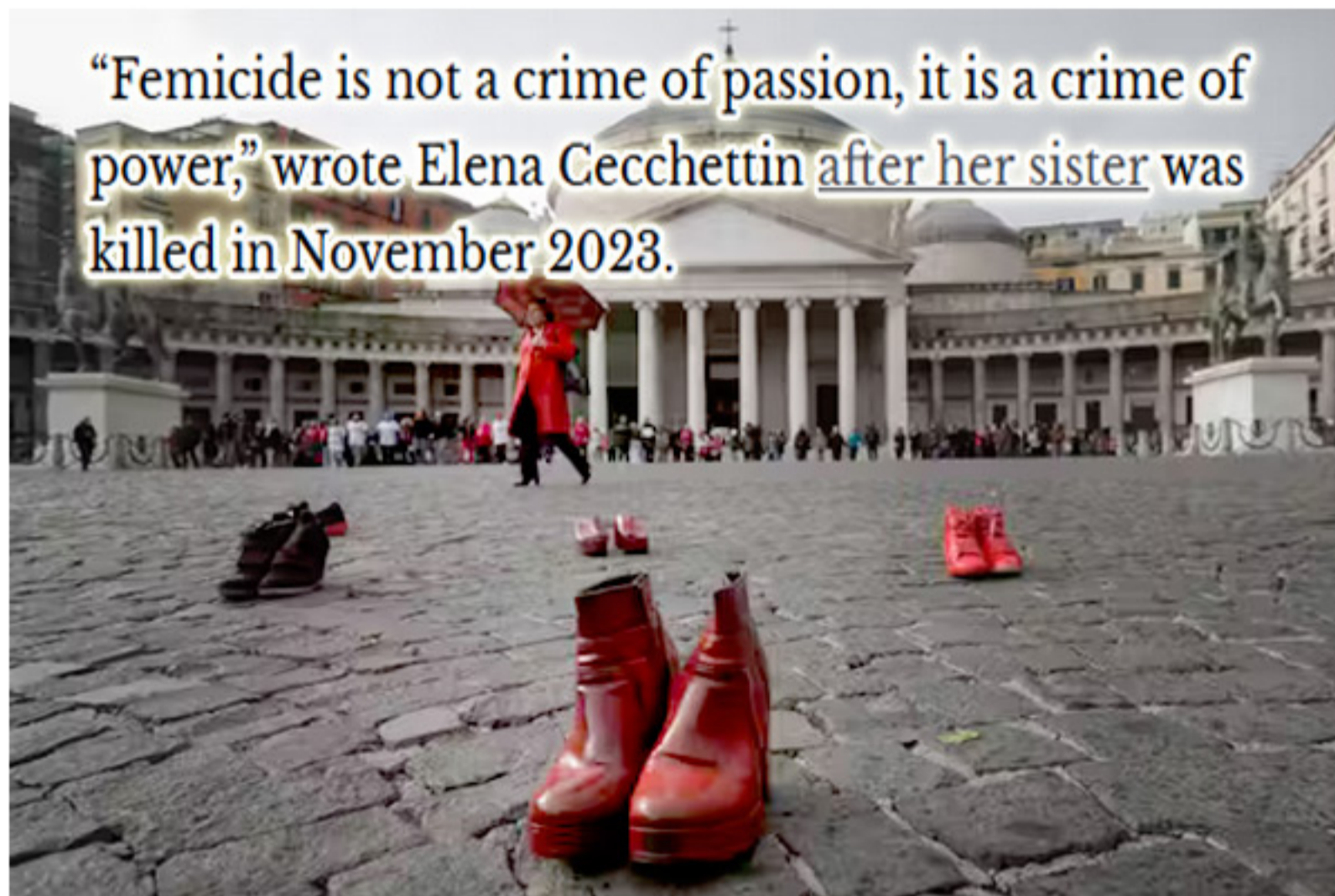


Biden is campaigning against the Lost Cause and the 'poison' of white supremacy in South Carolina

Joseph Patrick Kelly, College of Charleston

Januelle Datka, her baby girl Princess and her 15-year-old daughter Titti, pose for a photo at a makeshift shelter in Jean-Kere Almicar's front yard, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, June 4, 2023. Both mother and daughter said they were raped by gang members and that both became pregnant. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos, File)





“Femicide is not a crime of passion, it is a crime of power,” wrote Elena Cecchetti after her sister was killed in November 2023.

Shoes dyed red have become an emblem in Italy’s protests against anti-woman violence. Salvatore Laporta/KONTROLAB/LightRocket via Getty Images

Femicide in Italy: A modern phenomenon deeply rooted in country’s cultural past

Published: March 7, 2024 10:00am EST

▼ **Julia Khrebtan-Hörhager**, *Colorado State University*

Victim-blaming norms and violence against women

> <https://cepr.org/voxeu/columns/victim-blaming-norms-and-violence-against-women-moral-considerations-can-induce>

Kenya and Zimbabwe invest in preventing violence against women and girl

> <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/feature-story/2024/03/kenya-and-zimbabwe-invest-in-preventing-violence-against-women-and-girls>

It’s Women’s Day. But on the ground, little has changed

> <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/its-womens-day-but-on-the-ground-little-has-changed-2927289>

Behind-the-scenes of AP photographer’s experience covering violence against women in Haiti

> <https://apnews.com/article/haiti-photographer-documents-violence-against-women-efd5da70b6a7fcb5e6f63dc686089ff7>

Ariana Cubillos is an Associated Press photojournalist based in Caracas, Venezuela. She was based in Haiti from 2004 to 2009, and also covered the country’s 2010 earthquake and its descent into gang violence.

Turkey struggles to stop violence against women. At least 71 have been killed this year

BY AYSE WIETING AND SUZAN FRASER

Updated 8:35 AM PST, March 7, 2024



1 of 4 | Fidan Ataselim, general secretary of We Will Stop Femicides Platform or WWSF, walks on the street following an interview with the Associated Press in Istanbul, Turkey, Tuesday, March 5, 2024. At least 403 women were killed in Turkey last year, most of them by current or former spouses and other men close to them, according to the We Will Stop Femicides Platform, a group that tracks gender-related killings and provides support to victims of violence. (AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)

Poems

How to Fly

(In Ten Thousand
Easy Lessons)

Barbara
Kingsolver

How to Be Hopeful

Look, you might as well know,
this device is going to take endless repair:
rubber cement, rubber bands, tapioca,
the square of the hypotenuse,
nineteenth-century novels, sunrise—
any of these could be useful. Also feathers.
The ignition is tricky. Sometimes
you have to stand on an incline
where things look possible. Or a line
you drew yourself. Or the grocery line,
making faces at a toddler, secretly,
over his mother's shoulder.

You may have to pop the clutch
and run past the evidence. Past everyone
who is praying for you. Passing
all previous records is ok, or passing
strange. Just not passing it up.
Or park it and fly by the seat of your pants.
With nothing in the bank, you will
still want to take the express. Tiptoe
past the dogs of the apocalypse
asleep in the shade of your future.
Pay at the window. You'll be surprised:
you can pass off hope like a bad check.
You still have time, that's the thing.
To make it good.

BRUSHSTROKE - A talented artist suffers a life-changing stroke and struggles to ever paint ag...



<https://youtu.be/cIVc5U7Hftc>

... the world of Mary Cane-Honeysett, a masterful artist whose life takes an unexpected turn after a debilitating stroke robs her of her greatest gift—her ability to paint.



"I've never really considered myself an artist more of a recorder recording Fulham and other places that are going to be no more and I know a lot of people would say that my paintings are far too tight and far too photographic but I like to depict buildings the way they really look um rather than just give an impression of them," Mary Cane-Honeysett



3:20 / 56:56



BRUSHSTROKE - A talented artist suffers a life-changing stroke and struggles to ever paint ag...



<https://youtu.be/cIVc5U7Hftc>

"I mustn't look back, just forward."



Such a marvelous spirit, **Mary Cane-Honeysett!** And her adoring son-mother relationship, precious. Artistically updating the legacy of Grandma Moses in the charming folk artist rich storytelling of her times way. Lovely! Yes, impressive attention to detail. "My father didn't see fit to educate a girl." Mary's ambition to go to art college crushed when she was but 14, and this is 1949 Fulham, west London. This video is an excellent record of a painful, frustrating, yet graceful demise. "It's time for Mary to leave home forever."

In the spirit of the vagabond looking to the sky for what's wrong,
Hobo Bob don't know what but to follow 'is nose, yet bursts
on the scene a comet without comment, 'is tale and 'is tail trailing
behind, a Jaguar posed to pounce. Staring intently, caution
vaporizing the volatile stream out — waltzing words carrying
the dust to dust, the dust away. Longin' after gone bust,
Joan called Diamonds and Rust:

*'You burst on the scene already a legend,
The unwashed phenomenon, the original vagabond.'*

I dunno. Whose that jolly jumbuck you've got in your tucker bag?

A precursory ghost haunting, listen,
"Banjo" Paterson's response:

Once a jolly swagman camped by a billabong
Under the shade of a Coolibah tree
And he sang as he watched and waited till his billy boiled
"You'll come a Waltzing Matilda with me"
Down came a jumbuck to drink at that billabong
Up jumped the swagging and grabbed him with glee
And he sang as he stowed that jumbuck in his tucker bag
"You'll come a Waltzing Matilda with me"

Now then, the comet's constant comment but a jingle for simmering
Billy Tea. A simple, brisk, harmonious accompaniment which makes it
very catchy. But *"You'll never catch me alive!"* cried the swagman — dead
broke, done done hissself in, drowning in a nearby billabong, that is a watering hole.
Watering hole, watering hole, watering hole, is you for life, lyin' or dyin'?
I be done waltzing, telling you be done selling me simmering, brisk Billy Tea.

{**Banjo Paterson** :: Paterson met his fiancée's best friend from school days, Christina Macpherson, who composed the music for which he then wrote the lyrics of the famous Waltzing Matilda. However, following this collaboration Paterson was suddenly asked to leave, leading historians to conclude that he was a womanizer and had engaged in a scandalous romantic liaison with Macpherson. >
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banjo_Paterson | **Waltzing Matilda** :: In early 1903, Sydney tea merchant, James Inglis purchased the rights to 'Waltzing Matilda' and asked Marie Cowan to try her hand at turning it into an advertising jingle for Billy tea. It grew in popularity, and Cowan's arrangement remains the best-known version of 'Waltzing Matilda'. > https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waltzing_Matilda | **Diamonds & Rust** (song) :: In the song, Joan Baez recounts an out-of-the-blue phone call from an old lover, which sends her a decade back in time, to a "crummy" hotel in Greenwich Village in about 1964 or 1965. She recalls giving him a pair of cufflinks, and surmises that memories bring "diamonds and rust". Baez has stated that the lyrics refer to her relationship with Bob Dylan. >
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diamonds_%26_Rust_\(song\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diamonds_%26_Rust_(song))}

Eucalyptus coolabah

Eucalyptus coolabah, commonly known as coolibah or coolabah, is a species of tree found in eastern inland Australia. It has rough bark on part or all of the trunk, smooth powdery cream to pink bark above, lance-shaped to curved adult leaves, flower buds in groups of seven and hemispherical or conical fruit. Eucalyptus coolabah was first formally described in 1934 by William Blakely in Blakely's book, A Key to the Eucalypts. The specific epithet (coolabah) and the common name is a loanword from the Indigenous Australian Yuwaaliyaay word, gulabaa.



▶ 1:48

YouTube • CuriosityShow

Waltzing Matilda's Coolibah Tree

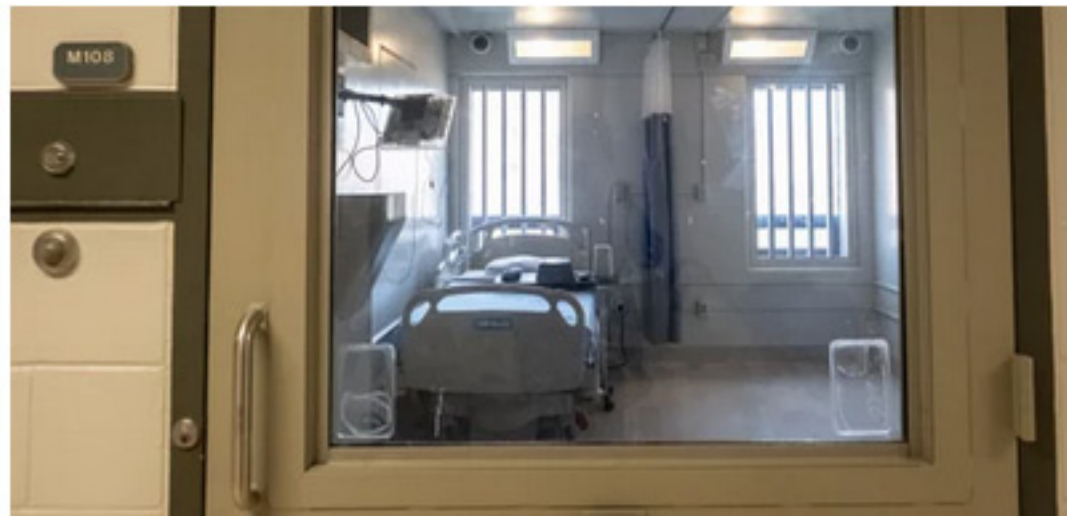
Australia's famous popular song, Waltzing Matilda, features a Coolibah Tree whose...

Jun 22, 2017



The U.S. prison population is rapidly graying. Prisons aren't built for what's coming

By one measure, about a third of all prisoners will be considered geriatric by 2030. Prison systems are grappling with how to care for their elderly prisoners — and how to pay for it.



Caroline Yang for NPR



Joe Rogan Reacts to Jon Stewart Rant on Stephen Colbert

7.9M views



OSCARS 2024

Oscars 2024: A night of 'Oppenheimer,' quiet protest, and Ryan Gosling just being Ken



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

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HE IS INSANE! FIRST TIME HEARING Bob Dylan - Like a rolling Ston...

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

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WORLD NEWS

A Danish hippie oasis has fought drug sales for years. Now, locals want to tear up the whole street



FILE - Police patrol Pusher Street in at Christiania, Copenhagen, Friday, May 25, 2018, after the street reopened after having been closed for three days. The inhabitants of Copenhagen's freewheeling Christiania neighborhood want dig up the aptly named Pusher Street where cannabis has been sold for decades although the trade is illegal, in the latest attempt to stop the hashish sale which has led to deadly gang turf wars and sometimes violent confrontations with the police. (Nils Meilvang/Ritzau Scanpix via AP, File)

BY JAN M. OLSEN

Updated 4:04 AM PDT, March 14, 2024

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — The inhabitants of Copenhagen's freewheeling Christiania neighborhood plan to dig up the aptly named Pusher Street, in their latest attempt to stop illegal hashish sales which have led to deadly gang turf wars and sometimes violent confrontations with the police.

Residents of the hippie enclave are calling for volunteers to help dig up the street on April 6, the Berlingske newspaper wrote Thursday. All are welcome, and participants can take home one of its cobblestones as a souvenir.

It is yet unclear what will replace the street.

The residents are fighting to preserve Christiania's reputation as a "free-wheeling society" made up of political idealists and aging hippies. For years, hash has been sold openly in Christiania from roadside stalls, among buildings painted in psychedelic colors. But **inhabitants say that feuding gangs, not them, control the trade and the survival of their community hinges on ending it.** The "Christianites" have made several attempts to close the hashish market in the roughly 100 meter (328 foot)-long street. Police say the trade, worth millions, is controlled by the Hells Angels and the outlawed Loyal to Family.

The neighborhood has been a world apart from the rest of Copenhagen since 1973, when hippies squatted at a derelict naval base and set up a community dedicated to the flower-power ideals popular at the time: free cannabis, limited government influence, no cars and no police.

SPOTLIGHT

Putin is set to win 6 more years in power. Here's how it will affect the war and Russia's relations

Vladimir Putin is poised to sweep to another six-year term in this week's presidential election, even though Russians are dying in Ukraine.



"We've heard so much about priests who abuse and so little about nuns who abuse that it's time to restore the balance," said the group's founder, Mary Dispenza, herself a former nun, who endured abuse from both a childhood priest and a nun in her former order, started the online support group five years ago with the **Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests**, or SNAP. "The general public would rather not consider the fact that religious women rape, molest and torture children," Dispenza said women are seen as nurturers and caregivers, an assumption only heightened with the "spiritual halo" of religious women. "It's something most of us don't want to entertain or really believe."

Victims of Catholic nuns rely on each other after being overlooked in the clergy sex abuse crisis

The sexual abuse of children by Catholic sisters and nuns has been overshadowed by far more common reports of male clergy abuse.



MORE ON RUSSIA ELECTIONS



On Russian TV ahead of the election, there's only one program: Putin's

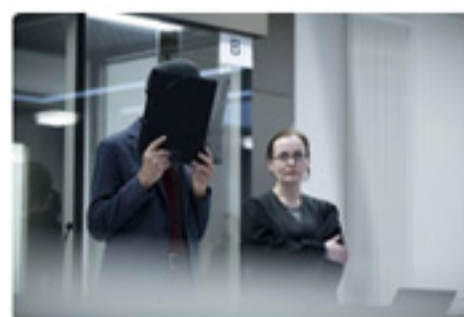


How Putin's crackdown on dissent became the hallmark of the Russian leader's 24 years in power



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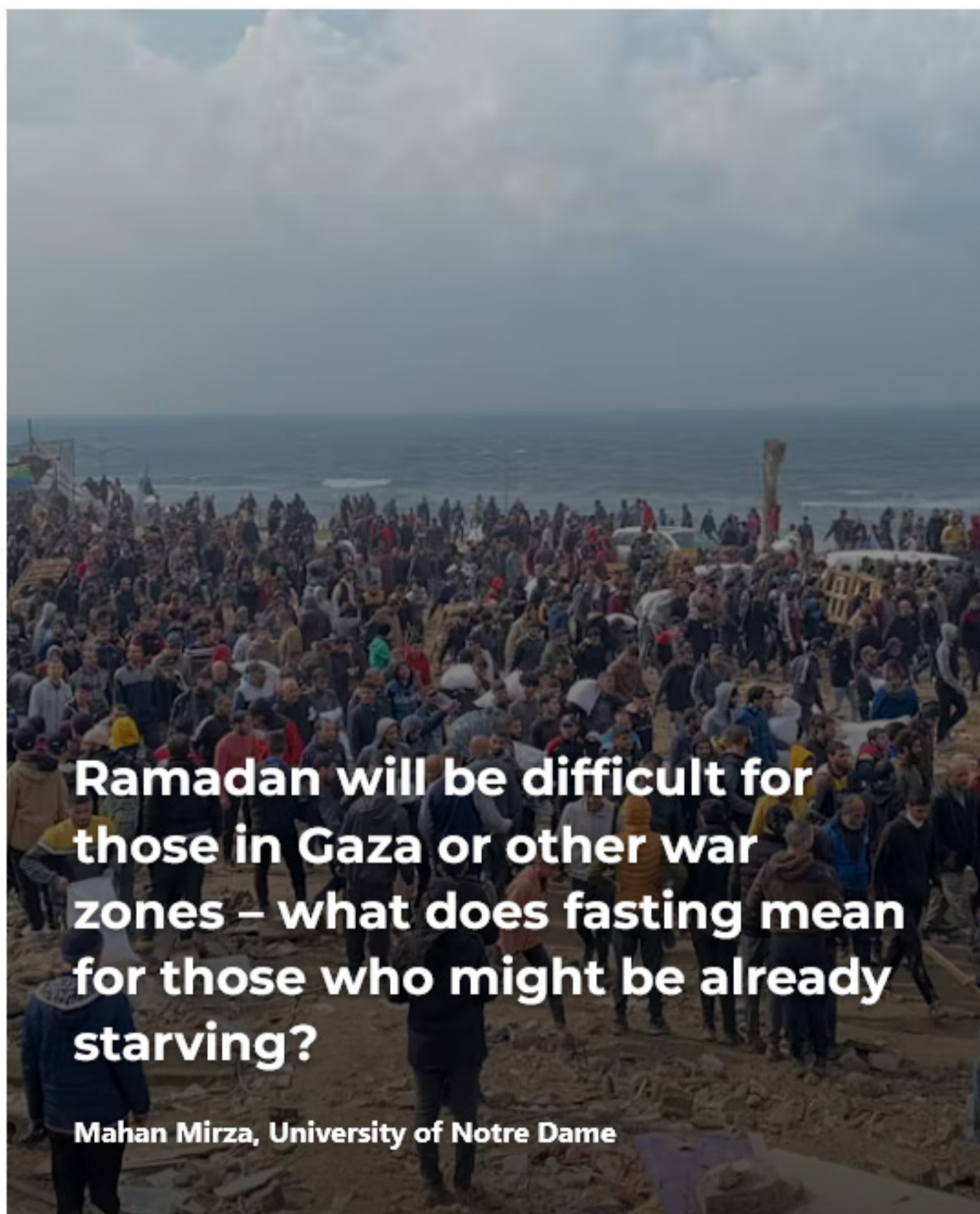


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Ramadan

The fasting is a way for Muslims to be conscious of God. It is also meant to help them understand what it is like to be poor.



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Read more stories about Ramadan →

Ramadan will be difficult for those in Gaza or other war zones – what does fasting mean for those who might be already starving?

by Mahan Mirza, March 11, 2024



Palestinians gather at the area where aid was distributed in Gaza City on Feb. 19, 2024. Karam Hassan/Anadolu

Why Ireland is one of the most pro-Palestinian nations in the world

MARCH 14, 2024 · 5:00 AM ET

By Lauren Frayer, Fatima Al-Kassab

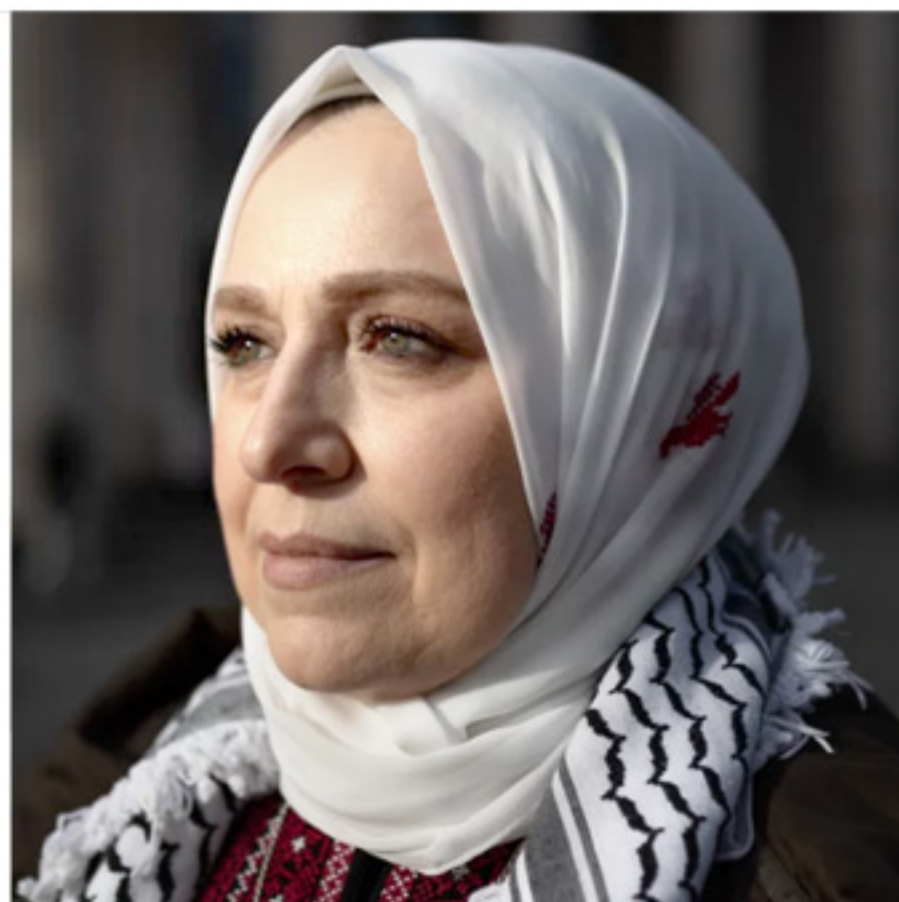


A large sign calling for a cease-fire in Gaza hangs from a building in Dublin on Feb. 12.

Paulo Nunes dos Santos for NPR

Fatin Al Tamimi is an activist and educator and has helped organize weekly pro-Palestinian rallies across Ireland. She's now the chairperson of the Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign, a nonprofit human rights group.

Molly Keane for NPR



DUBLIN — When Fatin Al Tamimi immigrated to Ireland in 1988, she felt like hers was the only hijab on the streets of Dublin. There weren't many other Arabs or Muslims in Ireland at that time. "People thought I was a nun! They were always like, 'Bless you, sister,'" the educator and activist recalls, laughing. But when her mostly white, Irish Catholic neighbors learned she was Palestinian, she says they were immediately supportive. "They'd say, 'We know it all, we've been through that,'" Al Tamimi says. "I guess because of history, the way they were oppressed and colonized by the British. It's the same thing happening to the Palestinians." Until 1921, what's now the Republic of Ireland was a British colony. Northern Ireland remains part of the United Kingdom. And many Irish people say their experience of British occupation — as well as their own sectarian conflict, and 18th century famine — gives them empathy and shared history with the Palestinian struggle. Since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel, and the Israeli military operation in Gaza that's followed, Al Tamimi's Muslim headscarf and checkered Palestinian keffiyeh shawl — which might mark her out for hostility elsewhere — have prompted Irish people to offer her hugs and high-fives in the street, she says. "Especially when they see the keffiyeh! Some of them will walk by me and say, 'Free, free Palestine!'" Al Tamimi says. "Taxis and cars beep their horns." **Ireland may be a mostly white European country, but many Irish people say they identify more with the Global South's experience of imperialism and colonialism.** "It's the same with South Africa, it's the same with South America," says Kirsten Farrelly, an activist with the group Mothers Against Genocide, which stages weekly demonstrations outside the Israeli Embassy in Dublin. "All these scars are being opened up in us, when we see what's happening to the Palestinians." In Ireland, that translates into some of the highest public support for Palestinians. (Even more than some majority-Muslim countries, according to historical polling data.) In 1980, Ireland became the first European Union member to call for Palestinian statehood. It was also the last EU member to grant permission, in 1993, for Israel to open a residential embassy. And Irish politicians have delivered some of Europe's harshest criticism of Israel during the ongoing war in Gaza. But it's complicated. The Catholic Church — largely silent through the mass slaughter of Jews by the Nazis — dominated Irish life until recently. And Ireland's own neutrality in World War II still casts a shadow over its relations with Israel today.

In Ireland and Palestine, the same cast of colonial characters

A little over a century ago, Ireland and Palestine were both under British control. The latter was called British Mandate Palestine, or Mandatory Palestine. Many of the same British colonial officials served in both places — and left a deep impression on locals. For example, former British Prime Minister Arthur Balfour was most famous for something he wrote after he left that office: The 1917 Balfour Declaration, which announced Britain's support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine, a region previously ruled by the Ottomans. But before his famous declaration, Balfour served in the 1880s as a British Cabinet secretary for Ireland. In 1885, he opposed home rule for Ireland



Tesla CEO Elon Musk waves as he leaves the Tesla Gigafactory for electric cars after a visit in Gruenheide near Berlin, Germany, Wednesday, March 13, 2024. Musk abruptly canceled "The Don Lemon Show," a talk show on the social network X, after its former CNN anchor host recorded an interview with the billionaire for its first episode. (AP Photo/Ebrahim Noroozi)



SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Elon Musk abruptly canceled "The Don Lemon Show" on his social media network X after the former CNN anchor recorded an interview with the billionaire for its as-yet unaired first episode. Musk owns X, formerly known as Twitter, and frequently proclaims himself a "free speech absolutist." In a post on X, the San Francisco-based company said only that after careful consideration, it "decided not to enter into a commercial partnership with the show." It added that Lemon's show "is welcome to publish its content on X, without censorship, as we believe in providing a platform for creators to scale their work and connect with new communities." In a video posted to X, Lemon declared that "Elon Musk is mad at me" and said he will be airing his interview with the Tesla CEO on YouTube and via podcast on Monday. Lemon didn't go into specifics about the source of Musk's alleged unhappiness, but wrote, "Throughout our conversation, I kept reiterating to him that although it was tense at times, I thought it was good for people to see and hear our exchange and that they would learn from our conversation." *"But apparently free speech absolutism doesn't apply when it comes to questions about him from people like me,"* he added.

In a later CNN discussion with Lemon on Monday, anchor Erin Burnett played clips of his Musk interview in which the Tesla and SpaceX CEO grew testy when asked about content moderation and the spread of hate speech on the X platform. In the clip, Lemon asked Musk if he believed that he and his social platform held any responsibility to moderate hate speech on X. He singled out the spread of the "great replacement theory," a racist belief that, in its most extreme form, falsely contends that Jews are behind a plot to diminish the influence of white people in the U.S. **Musk replied sharply that he doesn't have to answer questions from reporters. "The only reason I'm in this interview is because you're on the X platform and you asked for it," he said. "Otherwise I would not be doing this interview."** When Lemon followed up with a question about the criticism Musk has faced over the issue of hate speech, the CEO replied, "I'm criticized constantly. I could care less."

X announced in January a "new content partnership" with Lemon for the show, saying it would post 30 minute episodes three times a week on subjects including politics, culture, sports and entertainment. That deal was part of the struggling platform's efforts to bolster its content offerings and attract advertisers. X also announced shows hosted by former member of Congress Tulsi Gabbard and sports radio host Jim Rome. Lemon was fired by CNN last year after a 17-year run with the network. His ouster came a little over two months after he apologized for on-air comments about then-Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley not being in "her prime" that he made during his short run as a morning show host.

AP PHOTOS: Muslims around the world observe holy month of Ramadan with prayer and fasting



Students perform a prayer during the first day of the holy fasting month of Ramadan at Ar-Raudlatul Hasanah Islamic Boarding School in Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia, Tuesday, March 12, 2024. (AP Photo/Binsar Bakkara)

Balinese Hindus participate in a purification ceremony during sunrise on Melasti at Padanggala beach in Bali, Indonesia on Friday, March 8, 2024. Melasti is a day leading up to the New Year where Balinese Hindus perform rituals as an act of symbolic cleansing. (AP Photo/Firdia Lisnawati)



Thursday, March 14, 2024

Mission Valley Mall
1640 Camino Del Rio N, San Diego, CA 92108



After the fires, a Maui community tries a novel approach to keep homes in local hands

March 14, 2024 by Lauren Sommer

... a nonprofit community land trust, modeled after ones used around the country for affordable housing. Land trusts purchase properties and then sell or rent the houses. When the homes are for purchase, the trust keeps ownership of the land they're built on, so the overall sale price is less than comparable homes.



Over seven months after the fire, most properties that were burned in Lahaina are still covered with debris.

The Zone of Interest is about the danger of ignoring atrocities – including in Gaza

Naomi Klein



If Jonathan Glazer's brave Oscar acceptance speech made you uncomfortable, that was the point

Thu 14 Mar 2024 06.00 EDT

'We refute our Jewishness and the Holocaust being hijacked': Jonathan Glazer calls for end to Gaza attacks at Oscars.

Glazer was accepting the award for best international film for *The Zone of Interest*, which is inspired by the real life of Rudolf Höss, commandant of the Auschwitz concentration camp. The film follows Höss's idyllic domestic life with his wife and children, which unfolds in a stately home and garden immediately adjacent to the concentration camp. Glazer has described his characters not as monsters but as "non-thinking, bourgeois, aspirational-careerist horrors", people who manage to turn profound evil into white noise. "All our choices were made to reflect and confront us in the present – not to say, 'Look what they did then'; rather, 'Look what we do now,'" Glazer said, quickly dispatching with the notion that comparing present-day horrors to Nazi crimes is inherently minimizing or relativizing, and leaving no doubt that his explicit intention was to draw out continuities between the monstrous past and our monstrous present. And he went further: "We stand here as men who refute their Jewishness and the Holocaust being hijacked by an occupation which has led to conflict for so many innocent people, whether the victims of 7 October in Israel or the ongoing attack on Gaza." For Glazer, Israel does not get a pass, nor is it ethical to use intergenerational Jewish trauma from the Holocaust as justification or cover for atrocities committed by the Israeli state today.

Glazer has repeatedly stressed that his film's subject is not the Holocaust, with its well-known horrors and historical particularities, but something more enduring and pervasive: the human capacity to live with holocausts and other atrocities, to make peace with them, draw benefit from them. *Zone* offers an extreme portrait of a family whose placid and pretty life flows directly from the machinery devouring human life next door. This is most emphatically not a portrait of people in denial: they know what is happening on the other side of the wall, and even the kids play with scavenged human teeth. The concentration camp and the family home are not separate entities; they are conjoined. The wall of the family's garden – creating an enclosed space for the children to play, and shade for the pool – is the same wall that, on the other side, encloses the camp.

Everyone I know who has seen the film can think of little but Gaza. To say this is not to claim a one-to-one equation or comparison with Auschwitz. No two genocides are identical: Gaza is not a factory deliberately designed for mass murder, nor are we close to the scale of the Nazi death toll. But the whole reason the postwar edifice of international humanitarian law was erected was so that we would have the tools to collectively identify patterns before history repeats at scale. And some of the patterns – the wall, the ghetto, the mass killing, the repeatedly stated eliminationist intent, the mass starvation, the pillaging, the joyful dehumanization, and the deliberate humiliation – are repeating. So, too, are the ways that genocide becomes ambient, the way those of us a little further away from the walls can block the images, and tune out the cries, and just ... carry on. That's why the Academy made Glazer's point for him when it hard-cut to *Barbenheimer* – itself a trivialization of mass slaughter – without missing a beat. Atrocity is once again becoming ambient.

And as genocide fades further into the background of our culture, some people grow too desperate for any of these efforts. Watching the Oscars on Sunday, where Glazer was alone among the parade of wealthy and powerful speakers across the podium to so much as mention Gaza, I remembered that exactly two weeks had passed since Aaron Bushnell, a 25-year-old member of the US air force, self-immolated outside the Israeli embassy in Washington.

I don't want anyone else to deploy that horrifying protest tactic; there has already been far too much death. But we should spend some time sitting with the statement that Bushnell left, words I have come to view as a haunting, contemporary coda to Glazer's film:

"Many of us like to ask ourselves, 'What would I do if I was alive during slavery? Or the Jim Crow south? Or apartheid? What would I do if my country was committing genocide?' The answer is, you're doing it. Right now."