

Price Check: Nations Pay Wildly Different Prices For Vaccines

February 19, 2021 - 5:57 PM ET



Keith Rowley, the prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago, has called for global vaccine distribution based on models of "sharing and caring" that provide equitable access to small countries like his and "benefit of all humankind and not just the privileged, well-heeled few."

Carlos Becerra/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

Prime Minister Rowley of Trinidad and Tobago says it doesn't have to be this way.

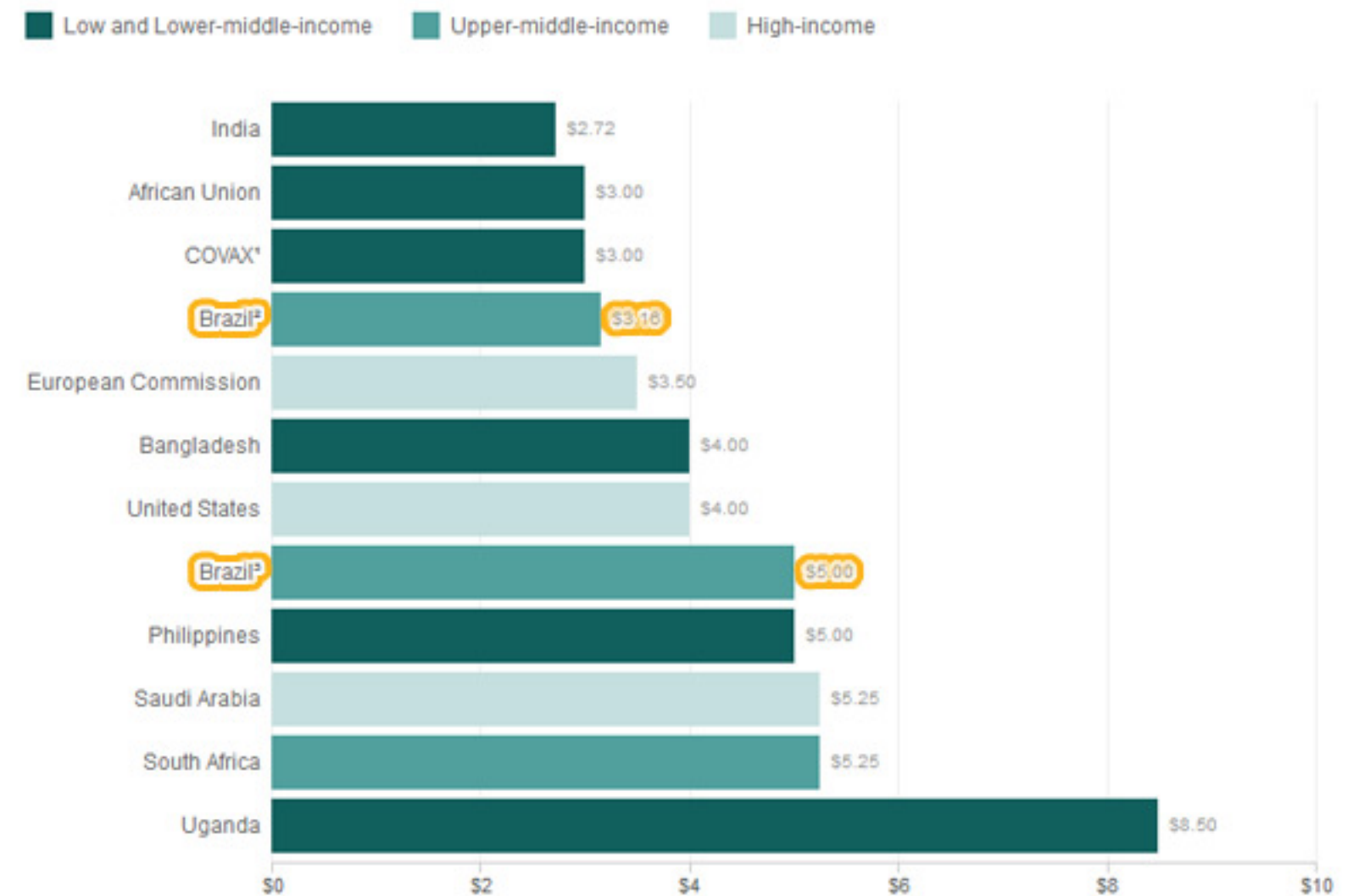
"History is littered with instances of destructive behavior, disrespectful dominance, imbalances and other forms of man's inhumanity to man," Rowley said.

"But on this rare occasion, when we are all yoked to an invisible destroyer, it is my hope and plea that when the journal of this experience is written, it would deviate from what is mostly the norm and record that on this occasion, the rich took care of the poor. And the small and impecunious were not trampled with disdain by those who could have done so simply because they had the wherewithal to do it."

He called for global vaccine distribution based on models of "sharing and caring" that provide equitable access to small countries like his and "benefit of all humankind and not just the privileged, well-heeled few."

Varying Prices For The Oxford-AstraZeneca Vaccine

Here is a sample of the wide range of prices per dose around the globe.



Notes

(1) COVAX is an alliance of 190 countries to collectively buy vaccine and distribute it equitable around the globe. Brazil has two versions of the vaccine: one produced domestically (2) and another (3) imported from India.

Source: Data compiled by local news reports, UNICEF, and NPR research.

Credit: Daniel Wood and Jason Beaubien/NPR.

1 in 3 People Who Survive COVID-19 Are Left With 'Brain Disease' or Psychiatric Disorders, Says New Study

Anxiety and mood disorders were the most common issues among past COVID-19 patients—but more research is needed to know why.

By **Korin Miller**

April 07, 2021



Researchers are continuing to study the [long-term effects](#) of COVID-19. And now, there's evidence to suggest that a third of COVID-19 survivors are struggling with brain disease or other psychiatric disorders.

That's the major takeaway from new research published in [The Lancet Psychiatry](#) on Tuesday. The study analyzed data over a six month period from 236,379 patients who were diagnosed with COVID-19. The researchers discovered that 34% of COVID-19 survivors had a diagnosis for either a neurological or psychological condition within six months after they were infected.

A little more than 17% of those patients were diagnosed with anxiety, while 14% were diagnosed with some form of mood disorder. A smaller number of former patients experienced brain hemorrhaging, stroke, or dementia—all of which can be considered types of brain disease.

This also isn't the first study to link COVID-19 with brain disease. A [study](#) published in March 2020 of 730 COVID-19 patients in China found that 96.2% of them experienced some symptoms of post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD) after recovering from the virus. Another [study](#) of 381 former COVID-19 patients treated at a hospital in Rome, Italy, found that 30% experienced PTSD after they recovered from the virus.

And yet another [study](#), this one of 74 patients in the Boston area who were diagnosed with COVID-19, found that 18 were admitted to the hospital due to stroke after having the virus, 15 had seizures, and 26 experienced confusion and delirium.

Research on the impact of COVID-19 on the brain is continuing, but Harrison says people who have had the virus shouldn't panic. "Two-thirds of people did not have any of these problems," he says. "The average person after COVID is not going to have these problems. We need to have this in perspective." Still, if you've recovered from COVID-19 and are noticing any new neurological or psychiatric issues, it's best to bring them up to your doctor.

What is mRNA? The messenger molecule that's been in every living cell for billions of years is the key ingredient in some COVID-19 vaccines

April 9, 2021 8:19am EDT

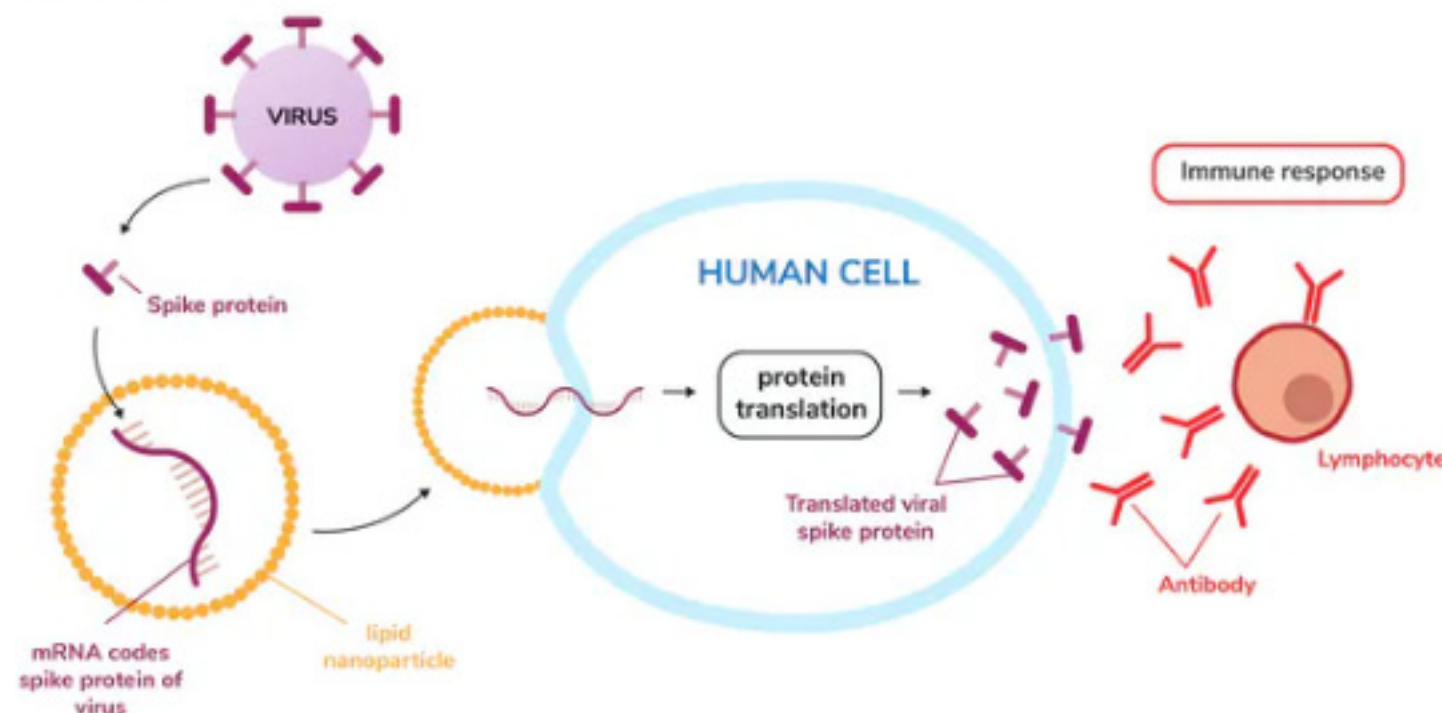
 Penny Riggs, Texas A&M University

One surprising star of the coronavirus pandemic response has been the molecule called mRNA. It's the key ingredient in the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines. But mRNA itself is not a new invention from the lab. It evolved billions of years ago and is naturally found in every cell in your body. Scientists think RNA originated in the earliest life forms, even before DNA existed.

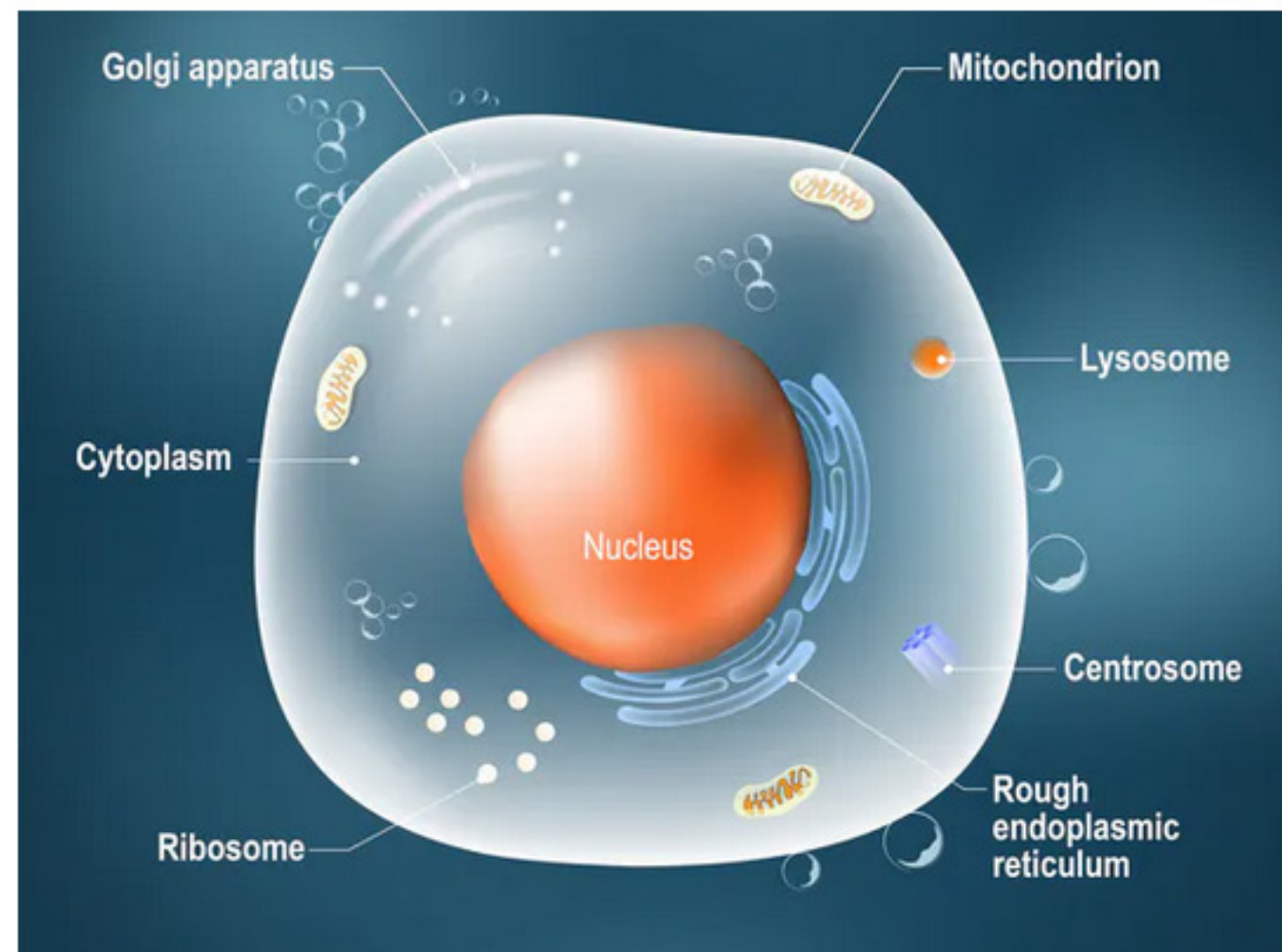
Here's a crash course in just what mRNA is and the important job it does.

Harnessing mRNA for vaccination

All of mRNA's characteristics made it of great interest to vaccine developers. The goal of a vaccine is to get your immune system to react to a harmless version or part of a germ so when you encounter the real thing you're ready to fight it off. Researchers found a way to introduce and protect an mRNA message with the code for a portion of the spike protein on the SARS-CoV-2 virus's surface.



Messenger RNA vaccines get the recipient's body to produce a viral protein that then stimulates the desired immune response. Trinset/iStock via Getty Images Plus



Messenger RNA carries genetic information from DNA in the highly protected nucleus out to the rest of the cell, where structures called ribosomes can build proteins according to the DNA blueprint. ttsz/iStock via Getty

The vaccine provides just enough mRNA to make just enough of the spike protein for a person's immune system to generate antibodies that protect them if they are later exposed to the virus. The mRNA in the vaccine is soon destroyed by the cell – just as any other mRNA would be. The mRNA cannot get into the cell nucleus and it cannot affect a person's DNA.

Although these are new vaccines, the underlying technology was initially developed many years ago and improved incrementally over time. As a result, the vaccines have been well tested for safety. The success of these mRNA vaccines against COVID-19, in terms of safety and efficacy, predicts a bright future for new vaccine therapies that can be quickly tailored to new, emerging threats. Early-stage clinical trials using mRNA vaccines have already been conducted for influenza, Zika, rabies, and cytomegalovirus. Certainly, creative scientists are already considering and developing therapies for other diseases or disorders that might benefit from an approach similar to that used for the vaccines against COVID-19.



mRNA Technology Gave Us the First COVID-19 Vaccines. It Could Also Upend the Drug Industry

BY WALTER ISAACSON

JANUARY 11, 2021 5:10 AM EST

I became a vaccine guinea pig because, in addition to wanting to be useful, I had a deep interest in the wondrous new roles now being played by RNA, the genetic material that is at the heart of new types of vaccines, cancer treatments and gene-editing tools. I was writing a [book on the Berkeley biochemist Jennifer Doudna](#). She was a pioneer in determining the structure of RNA, which helped her and her doctoral adviser figure out how it could be the origin of all life on this planet. Then she and a colleague invented an RNA-guided gene-editing tool, which won them the [2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry](#).

The tool is based on a system that bacteria use to fight viruses. Bacteria develop clustered repeated sequences in their DNA, known as [CRISPRs](#), that can remember dangerous viruses and then deploy RNA-guided scissors to destroy them. In other words, it's an immune system that can adapt itself to fight each new wave of viruses—just what we humans need. Now, with the recently approved Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and a similar one from [Moderna](#) being [slowly rolled out](#) across the U.S. and Europe, RNA has been deployed to make a whole new type of vaccine that will, when it reaches enough people, change the course of the pandemic.

Drs. Ugur Sahin and Ozlem Tureci, Co-founders, BioNTech. In January 2020, before many in the Western world were paying attention to a new virus spreading in China, Dr. Ugur Sahin was convinced it would spur a pandemic. Sahin, who in 2008 co-founded the German biotech company BioNTech with his wife Dr. Ozlem Tureci, went to work on a vaccine and by March called his contact at Pfizer, a much larger pharmaceutical company with which BioNTech had previously worked on an influenza vaccine using mRNA. Less than a year later, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine became the first ever mRNA vaccine available for widespread use. Even so, Sahin, BioNTech's CEO, and Tureci, its chief medical officer, maintain that BioNTech is not an mRNA company but rather an immunotherapy company. Much of the couple's work—both at BioNTech and at their previous venture, Ganymed—has focused on treating cancer. But it is mRNA, and the COVID-19 vaccine made possible by the technology, that has pushed the famously hardworking couple into the limelight—and helped them become one of the richest pairs in Germany, though they reportedly still bicycle to work and live in a modest apartment near their office. *Dina Litovsky—Redux for TIME*



BioNTech co-founders Dr. Ugur Sahin and Dr. Ozlem Tureci in its headquarters in Germany on Jan. 3. Photograph by Dina Litovsky—Redux for TIME

40 percent of Marines have declined the coronavirus vaccine

BY LEXI LONAS - 04/10/21 04:32 PM EDT



Since the vaccines have only emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration, the military can not require that service members get vaccinated.

Camp Lejeune in North Carolina saw a 57 percent decline rate for the vaccine, the data showed.

“We fully understand that widespread acceptance of the COVID-19 vaccine provides us with the best means to defeat this pandemic,” Wood said.

Forty percent of Marines are declining the coronavirus vaccine, according to data [obtained by CNN](#).

There has been a 38.9 percent decline rate, but the Marines are providing information to individuals to encourage them to get the vaccine.

“The Navy and Marine Corps are providing substantial educational information broadly, and working with commands to ensure Marines, Sailors, and beneficiaries have accurate information regarding the safety and efficacy of the vaccines to encourage individuals to get immunized,” Capt. Andrew Wood, a Marines spokesman, told The Hill in a statement.

ADVERTISEMENT The data showed that 75,500 Marines have received the vaccine and 48,000 have declined it. Overall, the acceptance rate is 61.1 percent.

The numbers for the data include reserves, active-duty and Individual Mobilization Augmentee Marines, according to CNN.

South African variant can 'break through' Pfizer vaccine, Israeli study says

Sunday, April 11, 2021

Maayan Lubell

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - The coronavirus variant discovered in South Africa can "break through" Pfizer/BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine to some extent, a real-world data study in Israel found, though its prevalence in the country is low and the research has not been peer reviewed.

The study, released on Saturday, compared almost 400 people who had tested positive for COVID-19, 14 days or more after they received one or two doses of the vaccine, against the same number of unvaccinated patients with the disease. It matched age and gender, among other characteristics.

The South African variant, B.1.351, was found to make up about 1% of all the COVID-19 cases across all the people studied, according to the study by Tel Aviv University and Israel's largest healthcare provider, Clalit.

But among patients who had received two doses of the vaccine, the variant's prevalence rate was eight times higher than those unvaccinated - 5.4% versus 0.7%.

This suggests the vaccine is less effective against the South African variant, compared with the original coronavirus and a variant first identified in Britain that has come to comprise nearly all COVID-19 cases in Israel, the researchers said.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/instant-article/idCAKBN2BX0JZ>



FILE PHOTO: A woman receives a vaccination against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) at a temporary Clalit healthcare maintenance organisation (HMO) centre, in Herzliya, Israel February 3, 2021. REUTERS/Amir Cohen/File Photo

Covid-19 hospitalizations among younger people are rising in the US -- especially in one region

By Christina Maxouris, CNN

Updated 6:35 AM ET, Sun April 11, 2021



In the past seven days, the US has reported an average of more than 68,000 new Covid-19 cases daily, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. That's up by more than 20% since the March 10 seven-day average.

"On the one hand, we have so much reason for optimism and hope, and more Americans are being vaccinated," CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said during a White House Covid-19 briefing Friday. "On the other hand, cases and emergency room visits are up. And ... we are seeing these increases in younger adults, most of whom have not yet been vaccinated."

Americans ages 18 to 64 have seen increasing numbers of emergency department visits, she added.

And the trends are "magnified" in one part of the country, she said: **the Upper Midwest.**

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/11/health/us-coronavirus-sunday/index.html>

New Arkansas virus cases, per capita, lowest in the nation

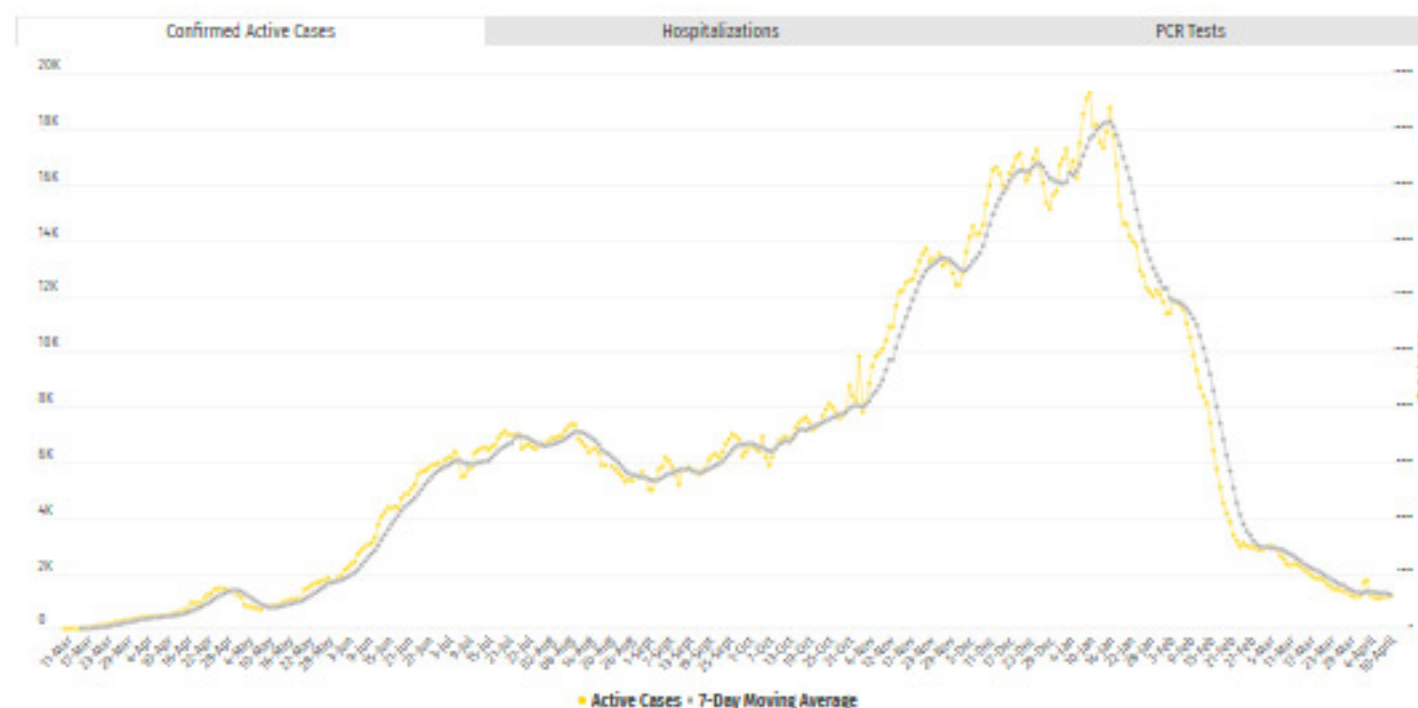
by Associated Press
Saturday, April 10th 2021



Data from Johns Hopkins University on Saturday shows Arkansas' number of new coronavirus cases per capita during the past two weeks is the lowest in the nation. (Photo: AP)

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — Data from Johns Hopkins University on Saturday shows Arkansas' number of new coronavirus cases per capita during the past two weeks is the lowest in the nation.

COVID-19 in Arkansas



Source: Arkansas Department of Health

The data shows Arkansas with 72.6 new cases per 100,000 residents to rank 52nd in the U.S. The data includes the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The state health department reports 332,053 total cases since the pandemic began and 5,661 deaths due to COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus.

According to the Johns Hopkins data, the rolling average of deaths during the past two weeks in the state has fallen from 7.7 per day to 3.8.

Official: Chinese vaccines' effectiveness low

By JOE McDONALD and HUIZHONG WU 2 hours ago Sunday, April 11, 2021



BEIJING (AP) — In a rare admission of the weakness of Chinese coronavirus vaccines, the country's top disease control official says their effectiveness is low and the government is considering mixing them to get a boost.

Chinese vaccines “don't have very high protection rates,” said the director of the China Centers for Disease Control, Gao Fu, at a conference Saturday in the southwestern city of Chengdu.

Beijing has distributed hundreds of millions of doses abroad while trying to promote doubt about the effectiveness of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine made using the previously experimental messenger RNA, or mRNA, process.

“It's now under formal consideration whether we should use different vaccines from different technical lines for the immunization process,” Gao said.

“The mRNA vaccines developed in our country have also entered the clinical trial stage,” said the official, Wang Huaqing. He gave no timeline for possible use.

Vaccines made by two state-owned drug makers, Sinovac and Sinopharm, have been exported to 22 countries including Mexico, Turkey, Indonesia, Hungary, Brazil and Turkey, according to the foreign ministry.

The effectiveness of a Sinovac vaccine at preventing symptomatic infections was found to be as low as 50.4% by researchers in Brazil, near the 50% threshold at which health experts say a vaccine is useful. By comparison, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been found to be 97% effective.

Health experts say Chinese vaccines are unlikely to be sold to the United States, Western Europe and Japan due to the complexity of the approval process.

A Sinovac spokesman, Liu Peicheng, acknowledged varying levels of effectiveness have been found but said that can be due to the age of people in a study, the strain of virus and other factors.

Beijing has yet to approve any foreign vaccines for use in China.

Gao gave no details of possible changes in strategy but cited mRNA as a possibility.

“Everyone should consider the benefits mRNA vaccines can bring for humanity,” Gao said. “We must follow it carefully and not ignore it just because we already have several types of vaccines already.”

Gao previously questioned the safety of mRNA vaccines. He was quoted by the official Xinhua News Agency as saying in December he couldn't rule out negative side effects because they were being used for the first time on healthy people.

Chinese state media and popular health and science blogs also have questioned the safety and effectiveness of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

As of April 2, some 34 million people in China have received both of the two doses required for Chinese vaccines and about 65 million received one, according to Gao.



CORONAVIRUS

HHS: San Diego County in Nation's Highest Tier for Vaccine Acceptance

By Alexis Rivas • Published April 16, 2021 • Updated on April 16, 2021 at 7:04 pm

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SUNDAY



NBC 7's Alexis Rivas breaks down vaccine hesitancy in the county, including race demographics of those who have taken the shot.

A U.S. Health and Human Services survey shows San Diego County has some of the highest vaccine acceptance rates in the nation, with just 11% of residents saying they probably or definitely wouldn't get the vaccine. Just 4% said they definitely would not get a shot.

The county's goal is to vaccinate 75% of people 16 and older. According to data it released Thursday, we're just past halfway to the goal with 38%.

But just 2.7% of the county's administered vaccines have gone to Blacks, who comprise 5.1% of the county's total population.

Nearly 24% of vaccines administered in our county have gone to Latinos, and more than half, 55.5%, have gone to women.

Last month, an NBCLX/Morning Consult poll revealed a growing number of young adults may never get vaccinated. The poll found Gen Z and Millennial adults between 18 and 34 are now the most likely generations to say they will not get vaccinated, with 23% saying they will not, and with 18-23-year-olds particularly disinterested.

Antibody response induced by mRNA vaccination differs from natural SARS-CoV-2 infection



By Lakshmi Supriya, PhD.

Apr 21 2021

Researchers tested the antibodies elicited from mRNA vaccination and compared them to those from natural SARS-CoV-2 infection. They found the vaccine did not have antibodies to the virus nucleocapsid protein but had potent RBD antibodies.

Several vaccines have been approved for combatting the COVID-19 pandemic. The severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) messenger RNA (mRNA)-based vaccines, for example, those developed by Moderna and Pfizer, have shown exceptional efficacy. Evidence suggests strong protection within two weeks of vaccination.

Researchers from the University of California, Irvine, investigated the immune response produced by mRNA vaccines to better understand how they compare to antibodies generated by natural severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). Their results are published on the [bioRxiv](#)* preprint server.

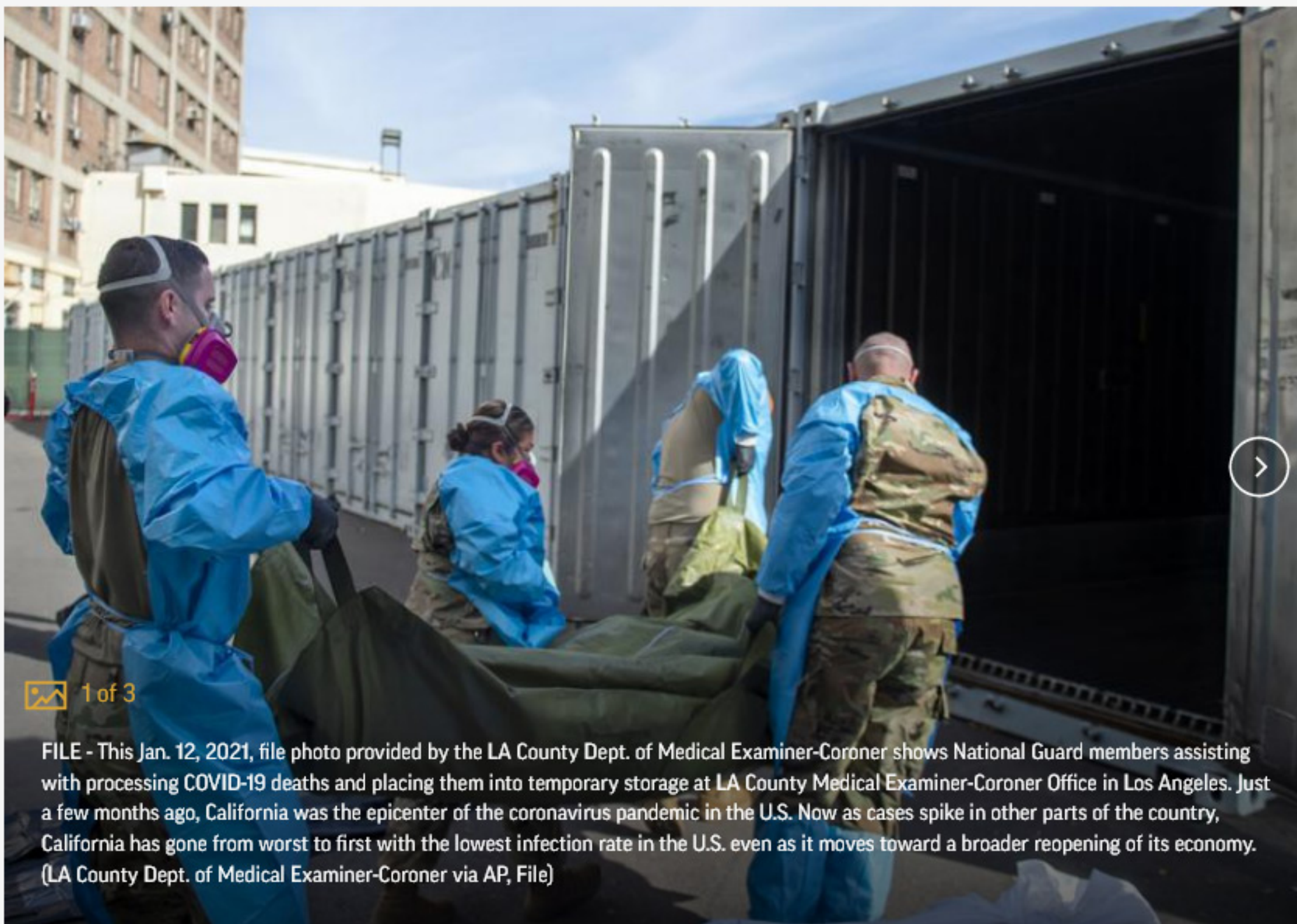
There was a difference between the antibodies elicited by natural infection compared to that from the vaccine. Since the vaccine does not have the nucleocapsid protein, there are no antibodies against this in the vaccine-induced antibodies. However, antibodies against nucleocapsid were seen in natural infection, suggesting this could be a biomarker for natural infection.

Further testing revealed that vaccines elicit more antibodies against the spike protein receptor-binding domain (RBD) compared to the antibodies seen in natural infection. All individuals had antibodies to seasonal flu, and cold and the levels were the same for all irrespective of whether they had COVID-19.

Natural infection produces antibodies to the nucleocapsid and all fragments of the spike protein. The highest antibody levels were against the nucleocapsid, full-length spike protein, and the S2 subunit. Antibody levels against RBD were weak and could be a mechanism for new virus variants to evolve

Vaccinated individuals showed high antibody levels against the full-length spike protein, S2 subunit, and much higher levels to the RBD and S1 subunit. These individuals also had cross-reactive antibodies between the spike protein and RBD, absent in natural infection.

The mRNA vaccine likely adopts a protein conformation that presents cross-reactive epitopes. This could be useful against emerging virus variants and suggests the antibodies produced could still be effective against them.



1 of 3

FILE - This Jan. 12, 2021, file photo provided by the LA County Dept. of Medical Examiner-Coroner shows National Guard members assisting with processing COVID-19 deaths and placing them into temporary storage at LA County Medical Examiner-Coroner Office in Los Angeles. Just a few months ago, California was the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic in the U.S. Now as cases spike in other parts of the country, California has gone from worst to first with the lowest infection rate in the U.S. even as it moves toward a broader reopening of its economy. (LA County Dept. of Medical Examiner-Coroner via AP, File)

LOS ANGELES (AP) by BRIAN MELLEY — Just a few months ago, California was the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic in the U.S. Hospitals in Los Angeles were drowning in patients, and ambulances were idling outside with people struggling to breathe, waiting for beds to open.

The death count was staggering — so many that morgues filled and refrigerated trucks were brought in to handle the overflow.

Now as cases spike in other parts of the country, California has gone from worst to first with the lowest infection rate in the U.S. even as it has moved quickly to reopen more businesses with greater customer counts and allow larger gatherings.

A scramble to get COVID-19 vaccinations has given way to an open invite in many places. Where people lined up hours and counties struggled to get doses, there now appears to be a glut of the shots in many locations.

“It has been a success story for California to have gone from our, if you will, viral tsunami that happened after the back-to-back holiday season to where we are now,” said Dr. Robert Kim-Farley of the University of California, Los Angeles’ public health school.

At the peak of California’s winter surge that followed the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s holidays, the state was recording 40,000 new cases daily and well above 500 deaths per day. Those numbers have dwindled to 2,300 new cases and 68 deaths daily.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2021/04/22/989768074/how-india-went-from-a-ray-of-hope-to-a-world-record-for-most-covid-cases-in-a-da>

How India Went From A Ray Of Hope To A World Record For Most COVID Cases In A Day

India’s COVID-19 caseload plummeted to record lows in February. Now a startling spike is causing health systems — and possibly law and order — to break down. What went wrong?

Michigan became hotspot as variants rose and vigilance fell

By COREY WILLIAMS, DAVID EGGERT AND LINDSEY TANNER Monday, April 26, 2021



ROYAL OAK, Mich. (AP) — Eric Gala passed up an opportunity to get a coronavirus vaccine when shots became available in Michigan, and he admits not taking the virus seriously enough.

Then he got sick with what he thought was the flu. He thought he would sweat it out and then feel back to normal.

Before long, the 63-year-old Detroit-area retiree was in a hospital hooked up to a machine to help him breathe. He had COVID-19.

“I was having more trouble breathing and they turned the oxygen up higher — that’s when I got scared and thought I wasn’t going to make it,” a visibly weary Gala told The Associated Press on Wednesday from his hospital bed at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, north of Detroit. “I had so many people tell me this was a fake disease.”

Gala’s situation illustrates how Michigan has become the current national hotspot for COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations at a time when more than half the U.S. adult population has been vaccinated and other states have seen the virus diminish substantially.

Gala was expected to be sent home this week from Beaumont Royal Oak. His brother-in-law, who caught the virus around the same time, died a few days ago at another hospital.

Gala still wonders when and how he caught the virus.

“I was wearing masks and sometimes I wasn’t,” he said. “I was never out in public without a mask. My biggest regret is I didn’t get vaccinated. This is a life-changer for me.”

COVID-19 alters human genes, explaining mystery behind coronavirus ‘long haulers’



by Chris Melore

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

LUBBOCK, Texas — For some COVID-19 patients, getting over their infection is just the beginning of the recovery. Over the last year, COVID “long haulers” have continued experiencing a variety of symptoms months after the virus clears. These include anything from skin problems, to shortness of breath, to losing the sense of taste or smell. Now, researchers say they may know why this is happening. A new study finds coronavirus actually causes long-term changes to an infected patient’s genes.

Specifically, scientists reveal the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19, creates **long-lasting changes** to human gene expression. These tiny spikes cover the surface of coronavirus cells. They allow the virus to bind to certain receptors on human cells and hijack their functions — leading to COVID infection. Once the spike cuts into a patient’s cells, the virus releases its own genetic material into the cell so it can replicate.

“We found that exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein alone was enough to change baseline gene expression in airway cells,” says Nicholas Evans, a master’s student at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, in a **media release**. “This suggests that symptoms seen in patients may initially result from the spike protein interacting with the cells directly.”

“Our work helps to elucidate changes occurring in patients on the **genetic level**, which could eventually provide insight into which treatments would work best for specific patients,” Evans explains.

Study authors now plan to use this approach to examine how long these genetic changes last. They also hope to reveal what other **long-term consequences** a COVID infection will have on a patient’s health.

The team is presenting their findings at **Experimental Biology (EB) 2021**, a virtual meeting of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.



San Diego County will not enforce CDC's new mask guidance

Posted: April 28, 2021

Updated: 3:28 PM by KUSI Newsroom



SAN DIEGO (KUSI) – U.S. health officials say fully vaccinated Americans don't need to wear masks outdoors anymore unless they are in a big crowd of strangers, and those who are unvaccinated can go without a face covering outside in some cases, too.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released the updated guidance Tuesday in yet another carefully calibrated step on the road back to normal from the coronavirus outbreak that has killed over 570,000 people in U.S.

For most of the past year, the CDC had been advising Americans to wear masks outdoors if they are within 6 feet of each other.

The change comes as more than half of U.S. adults have gotten at least one dose of coronavirus vaccine, and more than a third have been fully vaccinated.

During Wednesday's San Diego County Health Briefing, a reporter asked if San Diego County would be enforcing the CDC's new guidelines. Supervisor Nathan Fletcher answered the question explaining that they will not be, and that they have not in the past.

Fletcher explained, "from the beginning, it's been something that's been in the guidance, but never in San Diego County has someone been punished, for not doing it."

Furthermore, Fletcher addressed the frustrations from people who are fully vaccinated, but are still being required to wear their mask. Fletcher said they need to continue wearing their masks because, "there are still people who have not been vaccinated."

Mar 29, 2021
Holi >>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/in-pictures-indian...>

India celebrates Holi amid alarming surge in COVID cases ...

Mar 29, 2021 — Indians are celebrating Holi, the festival of colours, despite many states restricting gatherings to contain a **coronavirus** resurgence across the ...

<https://apnews.com/article/india-holi-celebrations-co...>

Indians gather for Holi celebrations as virus cases surge

Mar 29, 2021 — ... **coronavirus** resurgence rippling across the country. Holi marks the advent of spring and is widely celebrated throughout Hindu-majority **India**.

386,555
April 29



<https://www.nature.com/news/article>

India's massive COVID surge puzzles scientists - Nature

Apr 21, 2021 — **SURGING CASES.** New daily cases in India have been rapidly on the rise. The. Source: ...

<https://www.wsj.com/World/Asia/India>

India's Covid-19 Surge Worsens as Nation Stumbles in ...

3 hours ago — **India's Covid-19 Surge** Worsens as Nation Stumbles in Vaccine Expansion. As country opens doses to all adults, many people can't book ...

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/04/29>

Anger grows at India's Narendra Modi amid devastating ...

18 hours ago — In **India's** devastating **coronavirus** surge, anger at Modi grows. Image without a caption. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses an ...

Apr 29, 2021
COVID surges >>

More young people are getting hospitalized as Covid variants spread. Here's what we know

PUBLISHED FRI, APR 16 2021-10:30 AM EDT UPDATED FRI, APR 16 2021-12:45 PM EDT



Berkeley Lovelace Jr.
@BERKELEYJR

- CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said earlier this month that hospitals are seeing more younger adults admitted with Covid-19 as more contagious variants spread.
- Older teens and young adults were among the last prioritized to get the coronavirus vaccines and many of them have yet to receive the shots.
- Young adults are also thought to be involved in more high-risk behaviors such as playing close-contact sports and going out to bars.
- Those factors coupled with the highly contagious B.1.1.7 variant are likely driving a surge in young people going to the hospital, health experts say.



Related Article: After you're vaccinated, it's critical to keep masking up in some places (for now). Here's why

"So it's still about masks and physical distancing and ventilation and vaccines. And our current vaccines -- and this is really critical -- the current vaccines work really well against B.1.1.7."



Variant first detected in UK is now the most dominant coronavirus strain in US

More young people are getting hospitalized as a 'stickier,' more infectious coronavirus strain becomes dominant

By Holly Yan, CNN

Updated 10:53 AM ET, Sun April 18, 2021

(CNN) — What used to be a mysterious new variant first detected in the UK is now the most dominant coronavirus strain in the US.

And unlike the original strain of the novel coronavirus, the more contagious B.1.1.7 strain is hitting young people particularly hard.

Now doctors say many young people are suffering Covid-19 complications they didn't expect.

And it's time to ditch the belief that only older adults or people with pre-existing conditions are at risk of severe Covid-19.

Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch (EISB)

Daily 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Summary of Deaths by Demographics



Data are preliminary and subject to change

Data through 5/3/2021, updated 5/4/2021 8:00 AM

0-60 years old = 84.3% of the cases
60+ = 87% of the Deaths

| Positive Cases in San Diego County Since February 14, 2020 Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Table updated May 4, 2021, with data through May 3, 2021. | | | |
| COVID-19 Case Summary | San Diego County Residents | | |
| | Count | % | Rate per 100,000 |
| Total Cases* | 276,878 | 100% | 8,260.6 |
| Age Groups | | | |
| 0-9 years | 15,075 | 5.4% | 3,477.3 |
| 10-19 years | 30,721 | 11.1% | 7,083.2 |
| 20-29 years | 61,910 | 22.4% | 11,661.0 |
| 30-39 years | 49,171 | 17.8% | 10,034.6 |
| 40-49 years | 39,331 | 14.2% | 9,854.1 |
| 50-59 years | 37,114 | 13.4% | 9,176.4 |
| 60-69 years | 23,835 | 8.6% | 7,004.0 |
| 70-79 years | 11,217 | 4.1% | 5,611.3 |
| 80+ years | 8,332 | 3.0% | 6,953.2 |
| Age Unknown | 172 | — | — |
| Gender | | | |
| Female | 141,175 | 51.4% | 8,495.8 |
| Male | 133,573 | 48.6% | 7,903.3 |
| Unknown | 2,130 | — | — |
| Hospitalizations** | 15,264 | 5.5% | — |
| Intensive Care*** | 1,684 | 0.6% | — |
| Deaths | 3,713 | 1.3% | — |

| | % population |
|-------------|--------------|
| 0-9 years | 12.60% |
| 10-19 years | 12.40% |
| 20-29 years | 16.70% |
| 30-39 years | 14.40% |
| 40-49 years | 12.90% |
| 50-59 years | 12.60% |
| 60-69 years | 9.70% |
| 70-79 years | 5.10% |
| 80+ years | 3.50% |

| | % population |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Hispanic or Latino | 32% |
| White | 65% |
| Black or African American | 6% |
| Asian | 17% |

| COVID-19 Case Summary | San Diego County Residents | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Total Positives¹ | 276,878 | | |
| | | % of Total with Known Race/Ethnicity (N=236,977) | Rate per 100,000** |
| Race and Ethnicity* | Count | | |
| Hispanic or Latino | 129,629 | 54.7% | 11,855.8 |
| White | 64,316 | 27.1% | 4,258.3 |
| Black or African American | 8,890 | 3.8% | 5,277.4 |
| Asian | 15,755 | 6.6% | 3,684.3 |
| Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander | 2,385 | 1.0% | 16,720.4 |
| American Indian/Alaska Native | 847 | 0.4% | 3,890.5 |
| Multiple Race | 2,539 | 1.1% | 2,350.1 |
| Other Race | 12,616 | 5.3% | |
| Race/Ethnicity Unknown | 39,901 | | |

Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch (EISB)
 Daily 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
 Summary of Deaths by Demographics



Data are preliminary and subject to change

Data through 5/3/2021, updated 5/4/2021 8:00 AM

0-60 years old = 84.3% of the cases
 60+ = 87% of the Deaths

| COVID-19 Death Summary | | San Diego County Residents | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Count | % of Deaths with Known Demographics | |
| Total Deaths | 3,713 | 100.0% | |
| Selected Characteristics | | | |
| Age Groups | | | |
| | | | % population |
| 0-9 years | 0 | 0.0% | 0-9 years 12.60% |
| 10-19 years | 2 | 0.1% | 10-19 years 12.40% |
| 20-29 years | 18 | 0.5% | 20-29 years 16.70% |
| 30-39 years | 30 | 0.8% | 30-39 years 14.40% |
| 40-49 years | 106 | 2.9% | 40-49 years 12.90% |
| 50-59 years | 328 | 8.8% | 50-59 years 12.60% |
| 60-69 years | 720 | 19.4% | 60-69 years 9.70% |
| 70-79 years | 877 | 23.6% | 70-79 years 5.10% |
| 80+ years | 1,632 | 44.0% | 80+ years 3.50% |
| Age Unknown | 0 | | |
| Gender | | | |
| Female | 1,515 | 40.8% | |
| Male | 2,198 | 59.2% | |
| Gender Unknown | 0 | | |
| Race/Ethnicity* | | | |
| Hispanic or Latino | 1,626 | 44.7% | Hispanic or Latino 32% |
| White | 1,320 | 36.3% | White 65% |
| Black or African American | 151 | 4.2% | Black or African American 6% |
| Asian | 385 | 10.6% | Asian 17% |
| Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander | 23 | 0.6% | |
| American Indian/Alaska Native | 12 | 0.3% | |
| Multiple Race | 22 | 0.6% | |
| Other Race | 97 | 2.7% | |
| Race/Ethnicity Unknown | 77 | | |

New Study Estimates More Than 900,000 People Have Died Of COVID-19 In U.S.

May 6, 2021 · 12:58 PM ET



BECKY SULLIVAN



A new study estimates that the number of people who have died of COVID-19 in the U.S. is more than 900,000, a number 57% higher than official figures.

Worldwide, the study's authors say, the COVID-19 death count is nearing 7 million, more than double the reported number of 3.24 million.

The analysis comes from researchers at the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, who looked at excess mortality from March 2020 through May 3, 2021, compared it with what would be expected in a typical nonpandemic year, then adjusted those figures to account for a handful of other pandemic-related factors.

The final count only estimates deaths "caused directly by the SARS-CoV-2 virus," according to the study's authors. SARS-CoV-2 is the virus that causes COVID-19.

Researchers estimated dramatic undercounts in countries such as India, Mexico and Russia, where they said the official death counts are some 400,000 too low in each country. In some countries — including Japan, Egypt and several Central Asian nations — the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation's death toll estimate is more than 10 times higher than reported totals.

Researchers estimate more than 400,000 people have died of COVID-19 in India than has been officially reported.

Last month, a group of researchers at Virginia Commonwealth University published a study in the medical journal *JAMA* that examined excess mortality rates in the U.S. through December.

While that team similarly found the number of excess deaths far exceeded the official COVID-19 death toll, it disagreed that the gap could be blamed entirely on COVID-19 and not other causes.

"Their estimate of excess deaths is enormous and inconsistent with our research and others," said Dr. Steven Woolf, who led the Virginia Commonwealth team. "There are a lot of assumptions and educated guesses built into their model."

Other researchers applauded the UW study, calling the researchers' effort to produce a global model important, especially in identifying countries with small reported outbreaks but larger estimates of a true death toll, which could indicate the virus is spreading more widely than previously thought.

"We need to better understand the impact of COVID across the globe so that countries can understand the trajectory of the pandemic and figure out where to deploy additional resources, like testing supplies and vaccines to stop the spread," said Jennifer Nuzzo, an epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins.

Researchers at UW also released an updated forecast for the COVID-19 death count worldwide, estimating that roughly 2.5 million more people will die of COVID-19 between now and Sept. 1, driven in part by the dramatic surge of cases in India.

In the United States, researchers estimated roughly 44,000 more people will die of COVID-19 by September.

Is COVID-19 a new disease?



By Michael Greenwood, M.Sc.

May 9 2021

In a review recently published in *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine* journal by Osuchowski *et al.* (May 6th, 2021) the currently known pathophysiology of COVID-19 is laid out to describe the mechanistic features that make COVID-19 distinct from many conditions previously thought to be similar.

Impact and conclusions

In summing up, the authors declare that a new infectious profile is evident in SARS-CoV-2. Some older coronaviruses such as hCoV-229E or hCoV-NL63 (common colds) infect the upper airway and cause mild-to-moderate respiratory disease, while more highly pathogenic coronaviruses have previously been seen to settle further into the lower respiratory tract, resulting in more severe pneumonia and ARDS.

SARS-CoV-2 shares features of each of these subspecies, infecting the upper airways and then progressing into the lower tract and resulting in ARDS only in severe cases.

Compared to SARS-CoV or influenza, COVID-19 disease more frequently results in multi-organ failure and thromboembolic events, and endothelial and epithelial infection also dominates SARS-CoV-2 infections, rather than alveolar-centered infections.

COVID-19 patients also exhibit heightened but variable levels of proinflammatory cytokines for a more extended period of time than those infected with influenza, though levels are often lower than those seen in patients with non-COVID-related ARDS. A dysregulated host response is associated with viral load the severity of disease, and evidence suggests that it is poor response control by the host that leads to severe COVID-19. SARS-CoV-2 appears to be associated with inducing this dysregulation and generates a unique and as yet poorly understood inflammatory profile.

Given the similarity of COVID induced ARDS to ARDS by other means, the authors deem many of the critical clinical responses employed for those with severe SARS-CoV-2 infection to have been appropriate, though also stress that COVID-19 should be considered a new entity with distinct pathophysiology and should be studied without preconceptions based on other diseases.

Future research prioritized by the group includes establishing the molecular basis for the lower pathogenicity observed in SARS-CoV-2 than SARS-CoV, and the development of precise predictive thresholds for disease progression.

Regarding severe COVID-19 and the development of long COVID, the role of pre-existing and acquired T-cell immunity in COVID-19 must be elucidated, and optimum anti-coagulative and immunomodulatory strategies must be developed to combat late-stage disease until better preventative measures can be put in place.

“ We forget that covid-19 is a new disease, never having been seen until late 2019, w/ different features than any prior illness. A truly outstanding review today on its pathophysiology <https://t.co/8gx2w8r1xf> @LancetRespirMed @osuchm and colleagues pic.twitter.com/WGIfI2nb9B

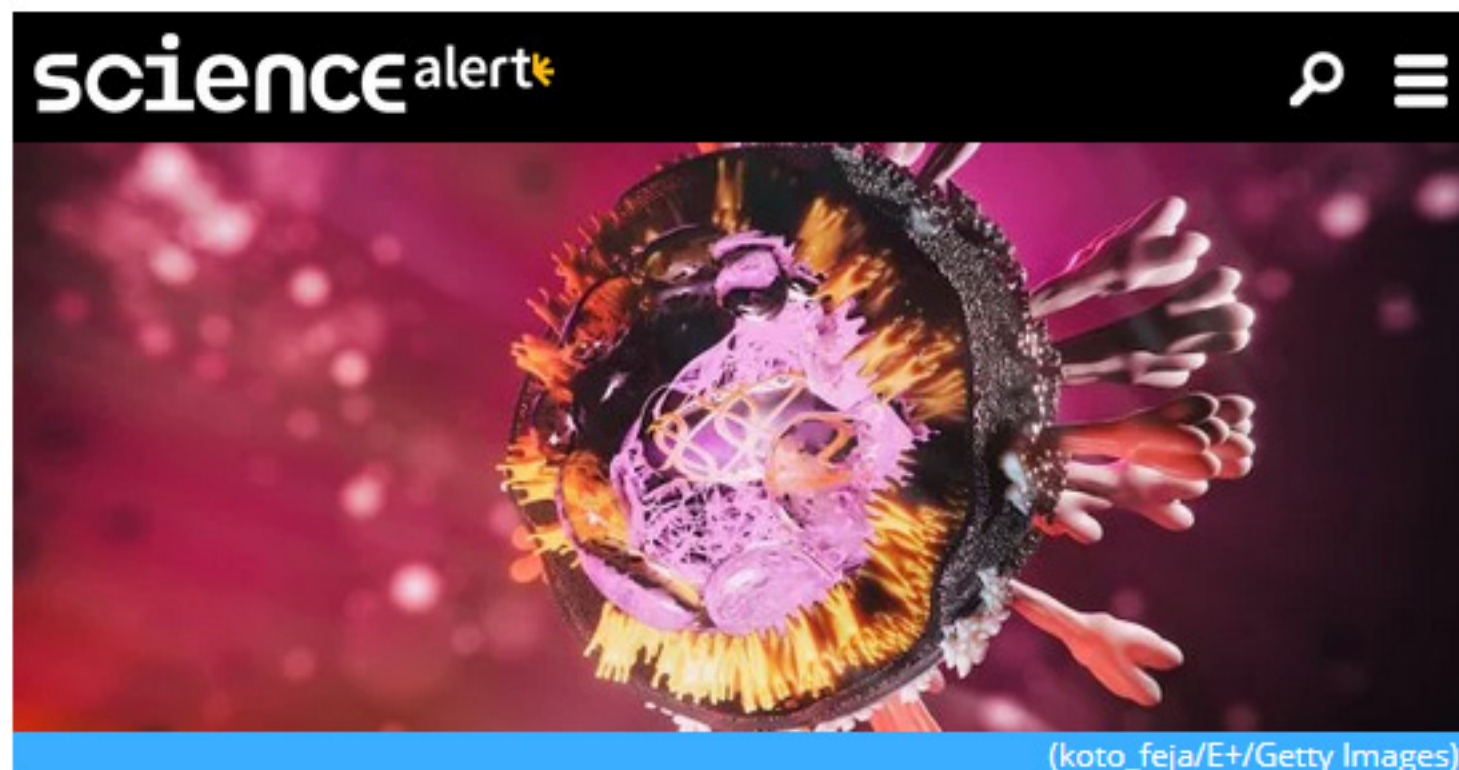
— Eric Topol (@EricTopol) May 6, 2021

Eric Jeffrey Topol (born 26 June 1954^[1]) is an American [cardiologist](#), scientist, and author. He is the founder and director of the Scripps Research Translational Institute,^[2] a professor of Molecular Medicine at [The Scripps Research Institute](#), and a senior consultant at the Division of Cardiovascular Diseases at Scripps Clinic in La Jolla, California. He is editor-in-chief of [Medscape](#) and *theheart.org*. He has published three bestseller books on the future of medicine.^[3] *The Creative Destruction of Medicine* (2010), *The Patient Will See You Now* (2015), and *Deep Medicine: How Artificial Intelligence Can Make Healthcare Human Again* (2019). He was also commissioned by the UK 2018–2019 to lead planning for the National Health Service's future workforce, integrating genomics, digital medicine, and artificial intelligence.

In 2016, Topol was awarded a US\$207 million grant from the [National Institutes of Health](#) to lead a significant part of the [Precision Medicine Initiative](#) (All of Us Research Program), a one million American prospective research program.^[4] This is in addition to his role as principal investigator for a US\$35 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to promote innovation in medicine and the education and career training of future medical researchers.

"At this point, we can only speculate," [says Jaenisch](#).^{*} Whitehead Institute biologist Rudolf Jaenisch

With so much attention being given to this devastating pandemic, we can be confident that it won't be long before speculations will become solutions that ensure this coronavirus becomes just one more ghost in our bodies' graveyard of plagues.



HEALTH

Strongest Evidence Yet Shows SARS-CoV-2 May Insert Itself Into The Human Genome

MIKE MCRAE
12 MAY 2021

Our genome is a graveyard littered with genetic fragments of [viruses](#) that once plagued our ancestors. If a controversial claim by MIT researchers withstands the criticisms being leveled at it, the virus behind the current [pandemic](#) has a fair chance of joining them.

Having a few chunks of virus code scattered among our genes doesn't necessarily mean the pandemic is here to stay. It could even go some way towards explaining why a handful of patients continue to test positive for [COVID-19](#) long after recovery.

But [SARS-CoV-2](#) simply isn't equipped with the tools to bury itself in our genetic library, meaning it would need a way to convince our own bodies to manage the job on its behalf.

"SARS-CoV-2 is not a retrovirus, which means it doesn't need reverse transcription for its replication," [says](#) biomedical researcher Liguo Zhang from MIT's Whitehead Institute.

"However, non-retroviral RNA virus sequences have been detected in the genomes of many vertebrate species, including humans."

Last year, Zhang and his team [shared the initial results](#) of an investigation suggesting SARS-CoV-2 might have a means of accomplishing such a task after all.

Using published data sets of infected cell cultures and patient samples, the team identified part-human, part-virus transcripts among sequences produced by the cells.

This was followed by experiments that assessed whether the presence of SARS-CoV-2 particles was enough to stimulate cells into producing certain enzymes that specialize in reverse transcribing RNA into DNA.

Delay in giving second jabs of Pfizer vaccine improves immunity

Study finds antibodies against Sars-CoV-2 three-and-a-half times higher in people vaccinated again after 12 weeks rather than three



Researchers from Oxford University showed in February that **antibody responses were more than twice as strong** when boosters of their vaccine were delayed for 12 weeks. But the latest study is the first to compare immune responses after different timings with the Pfizer/BioNTech jab.

The scientists analysed blood samples from 175 over-80s after their first vaccine and again two to three weeks after the booster. Among the participants 99 had the second shot after three weeks, while 73 waited 12 weeks. After the second dose, all had antibodies against the virus's spike protein, but the level was 3.5 times higher in the 12-week group.

The researchers then looked at another arm of the immune system, the T cells that destroy infected cells. They found that T cell responses were weaker when the booster was delayed, but settled down to similar levels when people were tested more than three months after the first shot. Details are published in pre-print form and have yet to be peer reviewed.

“This study further supports the growing body of evidence that the approach taken in the UK of delaying that second dose has really paid off,” said Dr Gayatri Amirthalingam, consultant epidemiologist at Public Health England.

“Individuals need to really complete their second dose when it's offered to them because it not only provides additional protection but potentially longer lasting protection against Covid-19.”

Ian Sample
Science editor

@iansample

Thu 13 May 2021 19.05
EDT



819

Can children get long COVID?

Dr Khan examines the mounting evidence that children are suffering from long COVID months after catching the virus.

By Dr Amir Khan

16 May 2021

Children have been largely overlooked during the COVID-19 pandemic; thankfully the majority of them get mild or even no symptoms if they catch the virus. Much of the discussion around the role of children in the pandemic has been about how they may spread the virus.

However, over time there has been a growing body of evidence that suggests that a proportion of children may develop long COVID, whether or not they had any symptoms when they actually contracted the virus.

So far there is no medical definition of long COVID in children but support groups and researchers say there may be up to 100 symptoms, including fatigue, “brain fog”, muscle aches, pain, gastrointestinal problems, nausea, dizziness, seizures, hallucinations and testicular pain. The cause of these symptoms is poorly understood, although findings suggest an ongoing immune reaction, after the virus has cleared, plays a part.

A [study](#) in Italy looked at 129 children aged between six and 16 years, diagnosed with COVID-19 between March and November 2020. Some 96 of them had symptoms of COVID-19 during the acute infection phase, while 33 had no symptoms at all but tested positive. The study found that 42.6 percent of the children still had symptoms more than 60 days post-infection. Symptoms like fatigue, muscle and joint pain, headache, insomnia, respiratory problems and palpitations were particularly frequent.

A recent report from the UK’s Office for National Statistics estimates that 12.9 per cent of UK children aged two to 11, and 14.5 per cent of children aged 12 to 16, still have symptoms five weeks after their initial infection with COVID-19. Almost [500,000](#) UK children have tested positive for COVID-19 since March 2020.

More research is needed but as the debate around vaccinating children against COVID-19 rages, it is important to acknowledge as part of that discussion the growing body of evidence that children appear to develop symptoms beyond the initial infection and these symptoms can be debilitating.

The lack of knowledge in this area is also a source of frustration for families who are presenting children to hospitals and GP surgeries with vague and varied symptoms and being turned away without adequate treatment and support. Campaigners are urging policymakers to invest in research in this area so that these children can be managed appropriately and return to normal life.

Until now, the focus has been on COVID-19 in adults. Perhaps now is the time to think about the long-term effects it can have on children. We urgently need research into both the effects the lockdown has had on children and also the long-term effects of the coronavirus on children. Both are vital to their future health.

A New, Infectious Coronavirus Is Detected In Malaysia – And It's Coming From Dogs

May 20, 2021 - 1:07 AM ET



MICHAELEEN DOUCLEFF



Angela Hsieh for NPR

Now, scientists are reporting that they have discovered what may be the latest coronavirus to jump from animals into people. And it comes from a surprising source: dogs.

taken by a collaborator in 2017 and 2018. "These were deep nasal swabs, like doctors collect with the COVID-19 patients," says Gray.

The patients had what looked like regular pneumonia. But in eight out of 301 samples tested, or 2.7%, Xui and Gray found that the patients' upper respiratory tracts were infected with a new canine coronavirus — a dog virus.

"That's a pretty high prevalence of a [new] virus," Gray says. "That's remarkable." So remarkable, in fact, that Gray actually thought maybe he and Xiu had made a mistake. Perhaps Xiu's test wasn't working quite right. "You always wonder if there was a problem in the lab," he says.

To find out, he sent the patients' samples over to a world expert on animal coronaviruses at Ohio State University. She was also dubious. "I thought, there's something wrong," says virologist [Anastasia Vlasova](#). "Canine coronaviruses were not thought to be transmitted to people. It's never been reported before."

Nevertheless, Vlasova went to work. She tried to grow the coronavirus in the lab, using a special solution she knew worked for other dog coronaviruses. Lo and behold, "the virus grew very well," she says.

With a lot of virus on hand, Vlasova could decode its genome. From the virus' gene sequences, she could see that the virus had likely infected cats and pigs at one point. But it likely jumped directly from dogs into people. "The majority of the genome was canine coronavirus," she says.

Then she found a disturbing clue about the virus' future. "We did discover a very, very unique mutation — or deletion — in the genome," Vlasova says. That specific deletion, she says, isn't present in any other known dog coronaviruses, but it is found somewhere else: in human coronaviruses. "It's a mutation that's very similar to one previously found in the SARS coronavirus and in [versions of] SARS-CoV-2 ... [that appeared] very soon after its introduction into the human population," Vlasova says.

This deletion, she believes, helps the dog virus infect or persist inside humans. And that it may be a key step required for coronaviruses to make the jump into people.

"Apparently the deletion is somehow associated with [the virus'] adaptation during this jump from animal to human," she says.

Altogether, this genetic data suggest that Vlasova and her colleagues are catching this new coronavirus early on in its journey in people, while it's still trying to figure out how to infect people efficiently — and possibly, before it can spread from person to person and trigger a big outbreak.

THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

After Months Of A Racing Heart And Burning Feet, A COVID Long-Hauler Gets A Diagnosis

May 22, 2021 · 7:01 AM ET



Jennifer Minhas had been a nurse for years when she contracted COVID-19 in 2020. Since then, lingering symptoms — what's known as long-haul COVID-19 — made it impossible for her to work. For months, she and her doctors struggled to understand what was behind her fatigue and rapid heartbeat, among other symptoms.

Tara Pixley for NPR

A growing number of people are facing mountains of frustration over health problems that linger after COVID-19 with no clear path to improvement. But for a subset of people with what's known as "long COVID" — mostly women such as Minhas — a **POTS diagnosis** offers a road map to treatment options and relief from their often-debilitating symptoms.

COVID-19 brings new cases, new awareness

The doctors told Minhas that they had begun to see other patients after COVID-19 who had developed similar symptoms. They explained to her that an issue with her nervous system was causing her heart to race, usually upon standing — a signature feature of the syndrome — and the circulatory problems.

POTS is a type of **dysautonomia**, which stems from dysfunction in the autonomic nervous system. That's the part of the nervous system that works automatically to regulate body functions such as breathing, heart rate, blood pressure and digestion.

Don't be surprised if you've never heard of POTS. "There's been a lack of awareness" of the condition, even within the medical community, says Dr. Tae Chung, a POTS specialist at Johns Hopkins Medicine in Baltimore.

 <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/6004-dysautonomia>

Dysautonomia

Dysautonomia refers to a group of medical conditions caused by problems with the autonomic nervous system (ANS). This part of your nervous system controls involuntary body functions like your heartbeat, breathing and digestion. When the ANS doesn't work as it should, it can cause heart and blood pressure problems, trouble breathing and loss of bladder control.

To fully account for the impact of COVID-19, our estimates now include the total number of COVID-19 deaths, which is greater than what has been reported.

Estimation of total mortality due to COVID-19

Publication date: May 13, 2021 | Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)

In the IHME estimation of COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, and deaths to date, we have used officially reported COVID-19 deaths for nearly all locations. Since the release on May 6, 2021, we have switched to a new approach that relies on the estimation of total mortality due to COVID-19. There are several reasons that have led us to adopt this new approach. These reasons include the fact that testing capacity varies markedly across countries and within countries over time, which means that the reported COVID-19 deaths as a proportion of all deaths due to COVID-19 also vary markedly across countries and within countries over time. In addition, in many high-income countries, deaths from COVID-19 in older individuals, especially in long-term care facilities, went unrecorded in the first few months of the pandemic. In other countries, such as Ecuador, Peru, and the Russian Federation, the discrepancy between reported deaths and analyses of death rates compared to expected death rates, sometimes referred to as “excess mortality,” suggests that the total COVID-19 death rate is many multiples larger than official reports. Estimating the total COVID-19 death rate is important both for modeling the transmission dynamics of the disease to make better forecasts, and also for understanding the drivers of larger and smaller epidemics across different countries.

Our approach to estimating the total COVID-19 death rate is based on measurement of the excess death rate during the pandemic week by week compared to what would have been expected based on past trends and seasonality. However, the excess death rate does not equal the total COVID-19 death rate. Excess mortality is influenced by six drivers of all-cause mortality that relate to the pandemic and the social distancing mandates that came with the pandemic. These six drivers are: a) the total COVID-19 death rate, that is, all deaths directly related to COVID-19 infection; b) the increase in mortality due to needed health care being delayed or deferred during the pandemic; c) the increase in mortality due to increases in mental health disorders including depression, increased alcohol use, and increased opioid use; d) the reduction in mortality due to decreases in injuries because of general reductions in mobility associated with social distancing mandates; e) the reductions in mortality due to reduced transmission of other viruses, most notably influenza, respiratory syncytial virus, and measles; and f) the reductions in mortality due to some chronic conditions, such as cardiovascular disease and chronic respiratory disease, that occur when frail individuals who would have died from these conditions died earlier from COVID-19 instead. To correctly estimate the total COVID-19 mortality, we need to take into account all six of these drivers of change in mortality that have happened since the onset of the pandemic.

Our analysis follows four key steps. First, for all locations where weekly or monthly all-cause mortality has been reported since the start of the pandemic, we estimate how much mortality increased compared to the expected death rate. In other words, we estimate excess mortality in all locations with sufficient data. Second, based on a range of studies and consideration of other evidence, we estimate the fraction of excess mortality that is from total COVID-19 deaths as opposed to the five other drivers that influence excess mortality. Third, we build a statistical model that predicts the ratio of total COVID-19 deaths to reported COVID-19 deaths based on covariates and spatial effects. Fourth, we use this statistical relationship to predict the ratio of total to reported COVID-19 deaths in places without data on total COVID-19 deaths and then multiply the reported COVID-19 deaths by this ratio to generate estimates of total COVID-19 deaths for all locations. More details on each of these analytical steps are presented below.

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) is a research institute working in the area of global health statistics and impact evaluation at the University of Washington in Seattle. The Institute is headed by Christopher J.L. Murray, a physician and health economist, and professor at the University of Washington Department of Global Health, which is part of the School of Medicine. IHME conducts research and trains scientists, policymakers, and the public in health metrics concepts, methods, and tools. Its mission includes judging the effectiveness and efficacy of health initiatives and national health systems. IHME also trains students at the post-baccalaureate and post-graduate levels.

In 2020, IHME published its model projecting deaths from the COVID-19 pandemic in the US, and informed guidelines developed by the Trump administration. The model has received significant criticism from many in the epidemiological community for being misleading.



Christopher Murray is an American researcher in global health and public health at the University of Washington in Seattle and is the institute director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). Beginning in 1990, he has worked on ways to measure the burden of disease and dis

To fully account for the impact of COVID-19, our estimates now include the total number of COVID-19 deaths, which is greater than what has been reported.

Estimation of total mortality due to COVID-19

Publication date: May 13, 2021 | Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)

May 16, 2021

| Countries with the highest death rates due to COVID-19, March 2020 to May 2021 | | |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Country | Total COVID-19 deaths | Reported COVID-19 deaths |
| United States of America | 912,345 | 578,555 |
| India | 736,811 | 248,016 |
| Mexico | 621,962 | 219,372 |
| Brazil | 616,914 | 423,307 |
| Russian Federation | 607,589 | 111,909 |
| United Kingdom | 210,076 | 150,815 |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 180,487 | 75,547 |
| Italy | 178,144 | 122,851 |
| Egypt | 175,590 | 13,970 |
| South Africa | 161,504 | 54,746 |
| Poland | 153,626 | 69,954 |
| Peru | 151,939 | 64,511 |
| Ukraine | 143,415 | 48,393 |
| France | 134,400 | 106,874 |
| Spain | 124,449 | 85,822 |
| Germany | 122,977 | 84,807 |
| Indonesia | 118,796 | 47,150 |
| Mexico | 102,568 | 34,306 |
| Romania | 89,619 | 29,020 |
| Kazakhstan | 84,453 | 5,810 |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| China ▼ | Total 4,749.74 Reported 4,749.74 |
| United States of America ▼ | Total 918,178.6 Reported 582,218.41 |
| California ▼ | Total 120,515.1 Reported 62,596.38 |
| Florida ▼ | Total 50,888.97 Reported 36,021.51 |
| Massachusetts ▼ | Total 17,734.58 Reported 17,734.58 |
| Michigan ▼ | Total 26,515.37 Reported 19,696.84 |
| New York ▼ | Total 64,505.4 Reported 52,948.32 |
| Texas ▼ | Total 85,764.88 Reported 50,850.28 |
| Arkansas ▼ | Total 10,351.55 Reported 5,774.9 |

Study finds majority of severe Covid-19 cases had longterm symptoms, as officials race to vaccinate

By Aya Elamroussi, CNN

🕒 Updated 6:32 AM ET, Thu May 27, 2021

Nearly three-quarters of patients with moderate-to-severe Covid-19 had at least one long-term symptom, according to the analysis published Wednesday in JAMA Network Open.

Researchers from Stanford University conducted a review of 45 existing studies that followed 9,751 patients in the months after a Covid-19 infection. **They found 73% of the patients had at least one symptom 60 days after diagnosis, symptom onset or hospital admission. That finding was consistent even in studies that followed patients up to six months.**

The researchers also found across the studies that 40% of participants experienced fatigue, 36% had shortness of breath and another 25% reported an inability to concentrate, often referred to as brain fog.

"We had no data on individuals who got Covid-19 and simply went about their day, so we don't want to cause a lot of alarm with the value of 73% of people experiencing long-term outcomes," Tahmina Nasserie, a Ph.D. candidate in epidemiology and population health at Stanford University and the lead author of the study, told CNN. "We want people to understand that these are mainly hospitalized so we can only generalize our findings for that particular population."



Tahmina Nasserie graduated with a Bachelor's of Science and Master's of Public Health from the University of Toronto. Prior to joining the PhD program, she worked as an epidemiologist at BlueDot, a start-up focused on reducing the risk of global infectious disease spread. In this role, she was involved in a range of applied and research-based activities, including collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support the development of a web-based public health analysis tool. She was also a trainee with the Canadian Immunization Research Network and led a project using mathematical modeling approaches to forecast the epidemic spread of seasonal influenza. Tahmina is broadly interested in the application of computational, statistical, and mathematical techniques to understand the spread of infectious diseases and to assess the cost-effectiveness of epidemiologic interventions. Tahmina enjoys brewing coffee (as well as drinking it), cooking, and trying new restaurants. She also loves cycling, exploring California, and traveling.

If You Got Moderna, This Is When You'll Need a Booster, CEO Says

YOUR THIRD COVID SHOT COULD BE MERE MONTHS FROM NOW.

By ALLIE HOGAN MAY 24, 2021

→ Now that masks are no longer required **for fully vaccinated people** in most spaces, it's more important than ever to make sure the vaccine is protecting you as best it can. Experts predict that over time, the vaccine's efficacy will wane, causing you to need a booster shot at some point down the line. While you should feel confident you're protected for the time being, health experts are already offering their best guess as to when you'll need to sit down for another shot. And according to Moderna CEO **Stéphane Bancel**, you might need a booster sooner than you think.

Axios reached out to Bancel via email to get his take on when those who got the Moderna vaccine would **need a third shot**. On May 19, the CEO predicted an eight- to nine-month gap between your original Moderna vaccination and a booster shot. "People at highest risks (elderly, healthcare workers) were vaccinated in December/January," Bancel said. "So I would do [a] September start for those at highest risk."

Saying that he didn't want to take any chances, Bancel added, "I think as a country we should rather be two months too early than two months too late with outbreaks in several places."

During an Axios live event on May 19, the timing of booster shots was on everyone's mind. Multiple experts weighed in on when they thought the time would come for another shot, including Pfizer CEO **Albert Bourla**. Bourla also believes that those who were vaccinated earliest could be up for a third dose as early as September. "The data that I see coming, they are supporting the notion that likely there will be a need for a booster somewhere between eight and 12 months," he said.

*"I think as a country we should rather be two months too early than two months too late ...likely there will be a need for a booster somewhere **between eight and 12 months.**"*

White House COVID adviser **Anthony Fauci**, MD, agrees that a booster shot in the near future is likely. "I think we will almost certainly require a booster sometime within a year or so after getting the primary [shot] because the durability of protection against coronaviruses is generally not lifelong," Fauci told Axios. However, some experts believe we may be able to wait longer than eight months to a year.

The CDC Says This One Thing Is Most Likely to Cause COVID After Vaccination

NEW CDC DATA SHOWS THERE'S A COMMON CULPRIT BEHIND BREAKTHROUGH INFECTIONS.

By JAIMIE ETKIN MAY 29, 2021

→ Since the first two COVID vaccines were first approved six months ago, we've been hearing that they're about 95 percent effective. But what you may not realize is that the mRNA vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna are 95 percent effective *at preventing symptomatic COVID cases*, which still leaves a chance of asymptomatic infection and a small margin of **vaccine recipients** who could come down with a symptomatic case. The point of the vaccine, however, is to stop *severe* cases and based on the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it's doing its job. According to their findings as of April 30, only 1,155 of the 101 million fully vaccinated people in the U.S. have come down with a severe or fatal case of COVID, meaning 0.001 percent. However, there is one clear **commonality among those who develop COVID** after vaccination.



Based on the CDC's research, which was released on May 25, 64 percent of breakthrough infections—the medical term for **vaccinated people who get infected**—are caused by variants of concern. But really, it's one variant in particular: B.1.1.7. which originated in the U.K. and caused a disastrous wave of illness

there. According to the CDC, 64 percent of breakthrough cases were **caused by variants of concern**, but more than half of those were due to B.1.1.7—56 percent, to be exact. Behind that was the California variant B.1.429 (25 percent); the other California variant of concern, B.1.427 (8 percent); the Brazil variant, P.1 (8 percent); and the South Africa variant, B.1.351 (4 percent).

Another new study out of the University of Washington (UW) Medicine, also released on May 25, similarly found that the B.1.1.7. variant is behind the majority of breakthrough cases. The research—which has not yet been peer-reviewed but was posted on medRxiv—involved 20 healthcare workers within the UW Medicine hospital system who ended up **getting infected with COVID** after vaccination between February and April 2021.

"Variants of concern (VOCs) are those strains that show **evidence of increased transmissibility**, more severe disease, reduced neutralization by antibodies elicited by past infection or vaccination, reduced efficacy of treatments, or failures in diagnostic detection," the UW Medicine researchers wrote in their study. "Overall, variants of concern were proportionally over-represented in breakthrough cases."

Study co-author **Pavitra Roychoudhury**, PhD, an acting instructor at UW Medicine, told Reuters: "These infections could lead to the **continued spread of variants of concern**, particularly in areas with low vaccination rates."

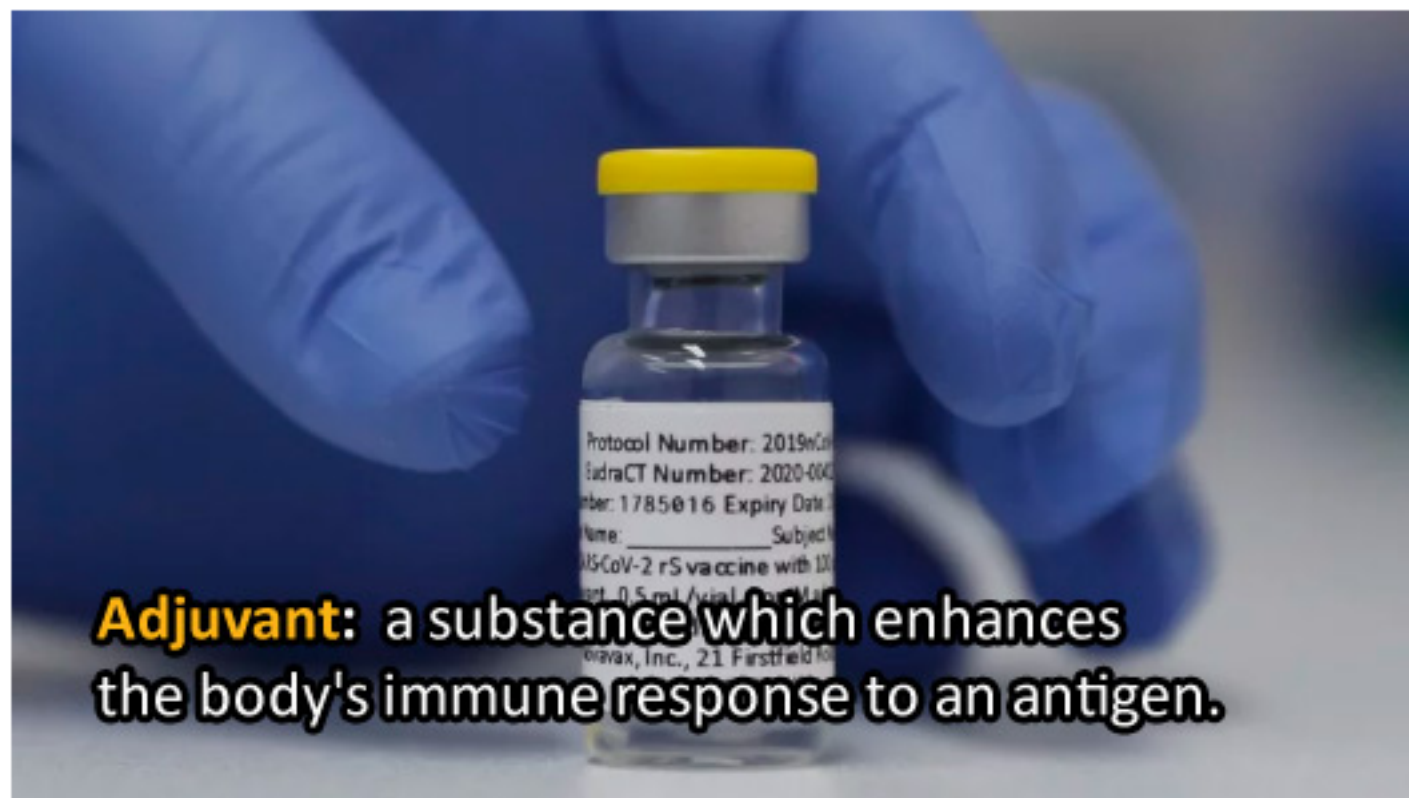
At the start of April, the B.1.1.7 variant became the **dominant coronavirus strain** in the U.S. "These trends are pointing to two clear truths," CDC Director **Rochelle Walensky**, MD, said at a White House press briefing at the time. "One, the **virus still has hold on us**—infecting people and putting them in harm's way—and we need to remain vigilant. And, two, we need to continue to accelerate our vaccination efforts and to take the individual responsibility to get vaccinated when we can."

New Type Of COVID Vaccine Could Debut Soon

June 6, 2021 · 6:02 AM ET



JOE PALCA



A vial of the experimental Novavax coronavirus vaccine is ready for use in a London study in 2020. Novavax's vaccine candidate contains a noninfectious bit of the virus — the spike protein — with a substance called an **adjuvant** added that helps the body generate a strong immune response.

A new kind of COVID-19 vaccine could be available as soon as this summer. It's what's known as a **protein subunit vaccine**. It works somewhat differently from the current crop of vaccines authorized for use in the U.S. but is based on a well-understood technology and doesn't require special refrigeration.

In general, vaccines work by showing people's immune systems something that looks like the virus but really isn't. Consider it an advance warning; if the real virus ever turns up, the immune system is ready to try to squelch it.

In the case of the coronavirus, that "something" is one of the proteins in the virus — the spike protein. The vaccines made by Johnson & Johnson, Moderna and Pfizer contain genetic instructions for the spike protein, and it's up to the cells in our bodies to make the protein itself.

The first protein subunit COVID-19 vaccine to become available will likely come from the biotech company, Novavax. In contrast to the three vaccines already authorized in the U.S., it contains the spike protein itself — no need to make it, it's already made — along with an adjuvant that enhances the immune system's response, to make the vaccine even more protective.

Protein subunit vaccines made this way have been around for a while. There are vaccines on the market for hepatitis B and pertussis based on this technology.

Turning plants into factories

To make the virus protein, Novavax uses giant vats of cells grown in the lab. But there's another way to make the protein: Get plants in a greenhouse to do it. That's the approach being used by the Canadian biotech firm Medicago.

The plants used are related to the tobacco plant, and have been modified to contain the genetic instructions to make the viral protein. The plants do something very valuable — they make a lipid shell that surrounds a bunch of the viral proteins, with the proteins sticking out.

"The plant will assemble the protein in a shape and form that is looking like the virus," says Nathalie Landry, Medicago's executive vice president for scientific and medical affairs. "So, if you look at an image of it, it looks like a virus, but it cannot induce any disease. But when [it's] injected as a vaccine your body will raise a good immune response."

Another latecomer that's coming is the pharmaceutical giant Sanofi. Its protein subunit vaccine against the coronavirus is also grown in cells in the lab. Late last year the company was getting ready to mount a large study of the vaccine's effectiveness when the early results in a smaller group of people showed it did not seem to be inducing the immune response that would be protective.

"Especially in elderly individuals in that study, it was not as immunogenic as it should be," says Dr. Paul Goepfert at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, who was one of the researchers involved in those early studies. He says the issue turned out to be an incorrect calculation of the dose of vaccine being delivered. "So instead of giving 10 micrograms of the dose, they were actually giving one microgram," Goepfert says.

Sanofi has fixed that problem and repeated the early studies with good results. The company is now enrolling volunteers in a large efficacy trial.

Guns, Trucks And Trips: West Virginia Expands Prizes For Vaccinated Residents
The Coronavirus Crisis

Guns, Trucks And Trips: West Virginia Expands Prizes For Vaccinated Residents

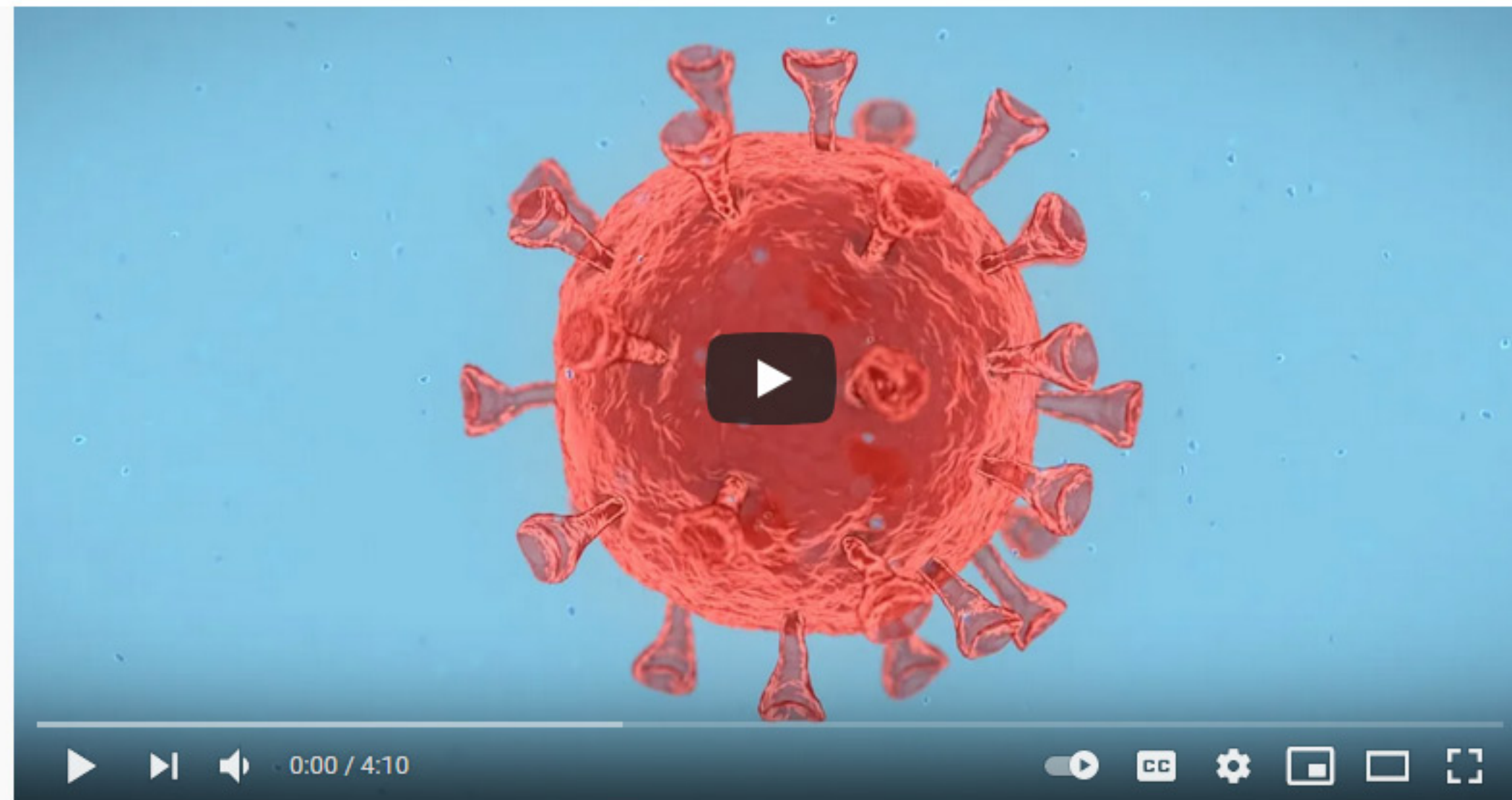
Goepfert says it'll be a good thing if all these vaccines make it to consumers. But that alone isn't going to solve the problem of getting people vaccinated.

Why? "Because the vaccines that we have now are just beyond our wildest dreams kind of effective," he says. "And I'm living in a state right now where it just frustrates me how slow our vaccine uptake is."

Goepfert lives in Alabama. According to the latest numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, only Mississippi has a lower per capita rate of

Rather than injecting a whole pathogen to trigger an immune response, **subunit vaccines** (sometimes called acellular vaccines) contain purified pieces of it, which have been specially selected for their ability to stimulate immune cells. Because these fragments are incapable of causing disease, subunit vaccines are considered very safe. There are several types: protein subunit vaccines contain specific isolated proteins from viral or bacterial pathogens; polysaccharide vaccines contain chains of sugar molecules (polysaccharides) found in the cell walls of some bacteria; conjugate subunit vaccines bind a polysaccharide chain to a carrier protein to try and boost the immune response. Only protein subunit vaccines are being developed against the virus that causes COVID-19.

Other subunit vaccines are already in widespread use. Examples include the hepatitis B and acellular pertussis vaccines (protein subunit), the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (polysaccharide), and the MenACWY vaccine, which contains polysaccharides from the surface of four types of the bacteria which causes meningococcal disease joined to diphtheria or tetanus toxoid (conjugate subunit).



There are four types of COVID-19 vaccines: here's how they work

1,467,324 views • Dec 18, 2020

👍 10K 💬 4.9K ➦ SHARE 📌 SAVE ⋮



Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
10.9K subscribers

The fight against COVID-19 has seen vaccine development move at record speed, with more than 170 different vaccines in trials. But how are they different from each other and how will they protect us against the disease?

CORONAVIRUS

No vaccine needed for those who've had COVID-19, Cleveland Clinic study says



by: [Cris Belle](#)

Posted: Jun 8, 2021 / 07:44 PM EDT / Updated: Jun 8, 2021 / 10:41 PM EDT

CLEVELAND (WJW) — The Cleveland Clinic recently studied the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccination among people who caught the virus and those who haven't.

The study finds that anyone who previously tested positive for a SARS-CoV-2 infection did not get additional benefits from the vaccine, which suggests the vaccines should be prioritized to people who haven't gotten the infection.

The clinic says this research provides insight into how the immune system protects the body once a COVID-19 infection is confirmed.

During the study that was conducted on 52,238 employees in the Cleveland Clinic, the clinic says “not a single incidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection was observed in previously infected participants with or without vaccination.”

The clinic still recommends that anyone who can get the vaccine, should.



The journalists of the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder are covering the trial of Derek Chauvin, the former officer who is on trial on charges of murder and manslaughter in George Floyd's death. The Spokesman-Recorder is a newspaper for Minnesota's Black community, by Minnesota's Black community.



Darnella Frazier, Teen Who Filmed Floyd's Murder, Praised For Making Verdict Possible

Frazier is being hailed for her bravery and quick-thinking in recording the video, which was seen by millions and played a key role in Chauvin's trial. There are calls for her to win a Pulitzer Prize.



An image from a police body camera shows bystanders outside Cup Foods in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020. The group includes Darnella Frazier, third from right, as she made a 10-minute recording of George Floyd's death.

Minneapolis Police Department via AP

Study finds people want more than watchdogs for journalists

By DAVID BAUDER Wednesday, April 14, 2021



NEW YORK (AP) — A study of the public's attitude toward the press reveals that distrust goes deeper than partisanship and down to how journalists define their very mission.

In short: Americans want more than a watchdog.

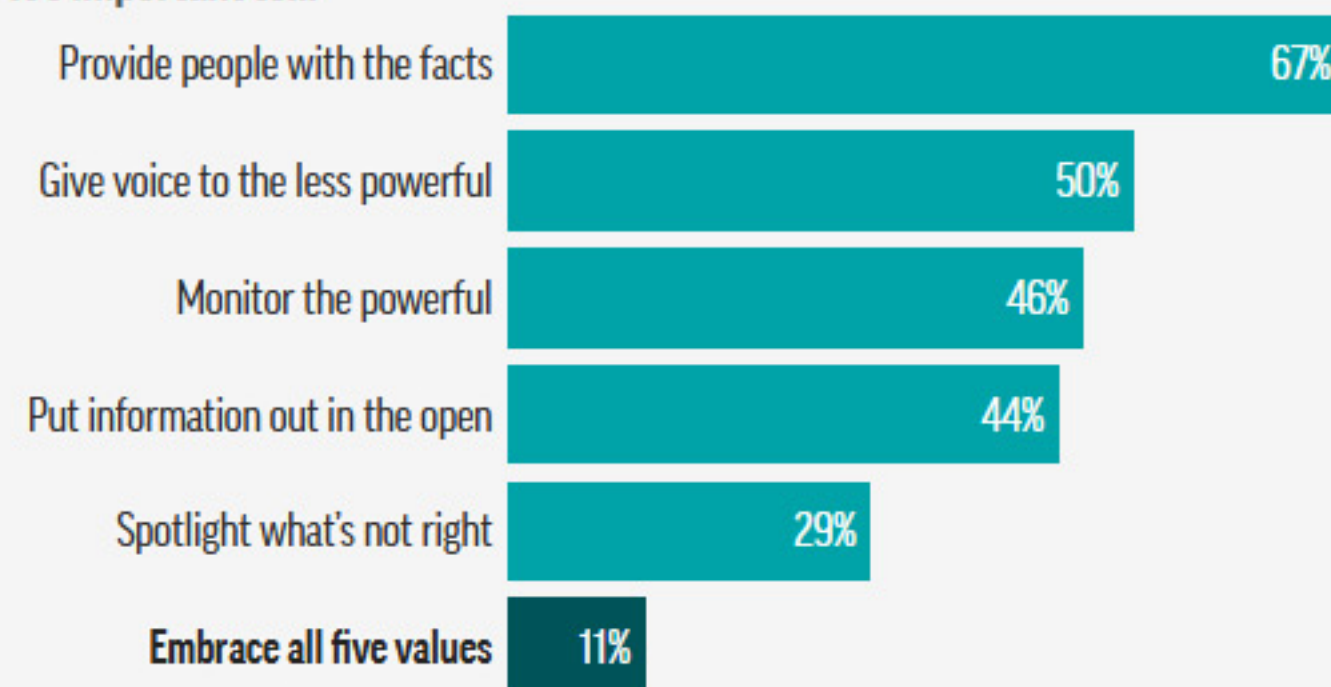
The study, released Wednesday by the Media Insight Project, a collaboration between the American Press Institute and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, suggests ways that news organizations can reach people they may be turning off now.

“In some ways, this study suggests that our job is broader and bigger than we’ve defined it,” said Tom Rosenstiel, executive director of the American Press Institute.

Few Americans fully embrace core journalism values

A Media Insight Project survey finds wide support for factualism as a key journalism value, while fewer Americans fully embrace values such as transparency and criticism. Only 1 in 10 fully support all five values tested.

It's important to...



Results based on a survey of 2,727 U.S. adults conducted Oct. 22-Nov. 15, 2019, with a margin of error of +/- 2.3 percentage points. Percent fully supporting each value is based on average results from four questions.

Source: AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research / Graphic: Kati Perry

AP

Yet the survey, which asked non-journalists a series of questions designed to measure support for each of those ideas, found unqualified majority support for only one of them. Two-thirds of those surveyed fully supported the fact-finding mission.



A picture of a hug during the coronavirus pandemic has been named World Press Photo of the Year. Rosa Luzia Lunardi, an 85-year-old Brazilian woman at a care home, was photographed getting her first embrace in five months through a transparent hug curtain from nurse Adriana Silva da Costa Souza at the Viva Bem care home in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Photographer Mads Nissen wanted a picture which could show "this certain Latin American spirit to fight and find love even in the most dark hour".

Do Bronies Have a 'Nazi Problem'? FedEx Shooting Shines Light on Faction of Subculture

Since it was revealed that the FedEx shooter had a love for Applejack, questions have been raised about the fandom

By **EJ DICKSON**  APRIL 19, 2021 2:57PM ET



It's important to note that while there is undeniably a component of the fandom that skews extremist — as is arguably the case with any fandom — it would be unfair to use the FedEx shooting as an excuse to slander bronies as a whole, or to paint the subculture as inherently problematic.

Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP/Getty Images

Bronies are male fans of the franchise *My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic*. The community **took root on the anonymous message board** 4chan in 2010, about two years after the series started airing, says Lauren Orsini, a journalist who has covered the roots of the fandom. Though it might seem an unorthodox obsession for adult men, many would share their non-ironic love for the series and the messages it imparted.

“Like a lot of modern kids’ media, *My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic* is designed with multiple audiences in mind: to engage kids without boring parents to death,” says Orsini. “By appealing to adults who would watch alongside kids, it makes more sense how it developed an adult-fan following.”

Much like the furry fandom, there is an indisputable erotic component to the community, and those interested in *My Little Pony* erotica are traditionally known as “cloppers,” a play on “fappers.” But also like the furry fandom, many of the members of the *My Little Pony* fandom do not eroticize the franchise’s characters, and [take offense to the mainstream conception of the fandom as purely sexual](#).

“It says a lot about us that we are so uncomfortable with men actually liking a show for little girls about ponies and friendship,” says Anne Gilbert, a media studies professor who has studied brony culture. It has since blossomed into a bona fide online subculture, spawning an annual convention called [BronyCon](#) as well as numerous documentaries portraying the fandom.

What is the relationship between the brony fandom and the far-right?

Because the community took root on 4chan, which tends to be a bastion of unfettered misogyny and hate speech, there has always been a small sliver of the MLP fandom that has skewed far-right extremist, says Orsini. “Even in the mid-2010s, you were seeing fringe groups come out. People whose involvement in the fandom was designed to shock and disgust (like photos of ponies with swastikas or pony figures covered in cum),” she says. “You were also seeing positive fringe elements, like brony fan artists and musicians who were creatively building on MLP fandom in more appealing ways. But the unpleasant stuff has been there alongside it for a decade.”

<https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2021/04/jim-caviezel-decries-the-adrenochroming-of-children-as-if-thats-a-thing>

<https://www.newsweek.com/lin-woods-qanon-gesture-sends-audience-wild-during-oklahoma-conference-1584390>

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/media/2021/04/19/jim-caviezel-theory-donie-osullivan-qanon-pkg-newday-vpx.cnn>

<http://tulsabeacon.com/lineup-for-freedom-conference/>

Jim Caviezel Decries “The Adrenochroming of Children,” As If That’s a Thing

The film and television star conferenced to a rally boasting Lin Wood, Sidney Powell, and the My Pillow guy. Person of Interest and The Passion of the Christ star Jim Caviezel gave a checked-in with a rally of COVID-deniers and QAnon lunatics in Tulsa this weekend. Caviezel checked in to hype his forthcoming film Sound of Freedom, in which he portrays Timothy Ballard, a former special agent for the Department of Homeland Security whose group, The Nazarene Fund, works to “liberate the captive, to free the enslaved, and to rescue, rebuild and restore the lives of Christians and other persecuted religious and ethnic minorities wherever and whenever they are in need.” In doing so he alluded to a fringe conspiracy theory that suggests that people are harvesting adrenaline from children, an act called “adrenochroming.”

Lin Wood's QAnon Gesture Sends Audience Wild During Oklahoma Conference

Pro-Trump attorney Lin Wood received a standing ovation on Friday when he made “Q” gestures during a speech and appeared to link the QAnon conspiracy to a religious revival in the U.S. Wood spoke about people worshipping Satan and said “millions” of children had disappeared around the world.

The QAnon conspiracy theory posits that there is an international cabal of Satanists who abduct children and its members include prominent businessmen and politicians. He told the audience that there was a “battle between good and evil” and went on to discuss his belief in the role that God would play in it.

Lineup for Freedom Conference

Actor Jim Caviezel, General Flynn, attorney Lin Wood, the Health Ranger host Mike Adams, My Pillow’s Mike Lindell, Dr. Simone Gold, Sidney Powell and Patrick Byrne headline Freedom Conference April 16-17 on the campus of Rhema Bible College in Broken Arrow, OK. Organizer Clay Clark said the goal of the conference is “to teach Americans how to fight back against the tyrannical left who has been using COVID-19 as justification to steal the constitutional rights of Americans.



Jim Caviezel as King of Bacchus XLIXI in the 2017 Krewe Of Bacchus parade on February 26, 2017 in New Orleans, Louisiana. BY ERIKA GOLDRING/GETTY IMAGES

AMERICA RECKONS WITH RACIAL INJUSTICE

'Finally': America Reacts To Chauvin Guilty Verdict

April 20, 2021 - 11:15 PM ET



EMMA BOWMAN



'A NEW DAY'



People gather at George Floyd Square in Minneapolis after police officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty of two murder charges and one manslaughter charge in the death of George Floyd.

Brandon Bell/Getty Images

CHAUVIN TRIAL

Cities Nationwide React To Chauvin Guilty Verdict

Scenes of joy and relief erupted across the country after Derek Chauvin was found guilty of murder in the death of George Floyd. "Finally, some little piece of justice," B.J. Wilder of Minneapolis said.

▀ **Derek Chauvin Found Guilty Of George Floyd's Murder**

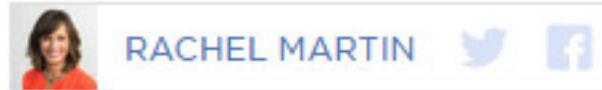
Scenes of joy and relief erupted across the country after a jury found Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin guilty of murder in the death of George Floyd.

The jury found Chauvin guilty on all three charges in Floyd's death during an arrest last Memorial Day: second- and third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

Yet simultaneously in several cities, the celebratory mood was tempered by a sense that the verdict represented just a small degree of accountability in a greater fight against racial injustice and police violence.

George W. Bush Lends His Voice To Immigrants In 'Out Of Many, One'

April 21, 2021 · 5:03 AM ET



He's doing it in a new book of portraits called *Out of Many, One*. It features the stories of 43 immigrants — athletes and public servants, business leaders, educators.



Former President George W. Bush's portrait of Roya Mahboob.

On his portrait of Roya Mahboob, a woman from Afghanistan

Well, first of all, it's one of my favorite paintings. ...she's covered because she's devout ... And she, after the liberation of Afghanistan, her family had fled to Iran because of the Taliban. And she came back from Iran and became a computer programmer and one of the few in the country — women computer programmers. And she then taught and she became well known in the sense that she helped educate many, many women. And then the Taliban found out about her, started threatening her, and she left. She didn't leave happily, I might add. I mean, she loves her family and loves her country. But she couldn't operate in an environment in which she was threatened all the time and — but people got to understand, this is the Taliban. They follow through on their threats. I mean, these aren't empty, these aren't hollow words. I mean, you know, whether or not they would kill her [there's] no doubt in my mind, if they could, they would have. And so she's now in the States and she's promoting literacy among women and entrepreneurship among women via the computer. ...

I think I capture her determination. She is a pretty woman. First of all, when you're painting women, it's really important that you have a gentle brush, I guess is the way to put it. And I think she'll like it. I think it captures her beauty, but it also captures her fierce determination and proud heritage. You know, the beautiful thing about America ... is that you can be a citizen and still hold on to your heritage. And that's important.

AUTHOR INTERVIEWS

After Growing Up In A Cult, Lauren Hough Freed Herself By Writing The Truth

FRESH AIR

Hough was 15 when her family left the Children of God cult. Afterward, she struggled to face the trauma of her past. Her new collection of personal essays is *Leaving Isn't the Hardest Thing*.



Karl Poss IV/Knopf Doubleday

▶ LISTEN · 30:38 + PLAYLIST <> ☰

"I spent a long time lying to myself more than, I think, anyone else. Telling myself that my childhood didn't affect me, telling myself that the military didn't affect me," she says. "I think writing, more than anything, brought that out. ... You kind of have to tell the truth, or it's crap and you know it."

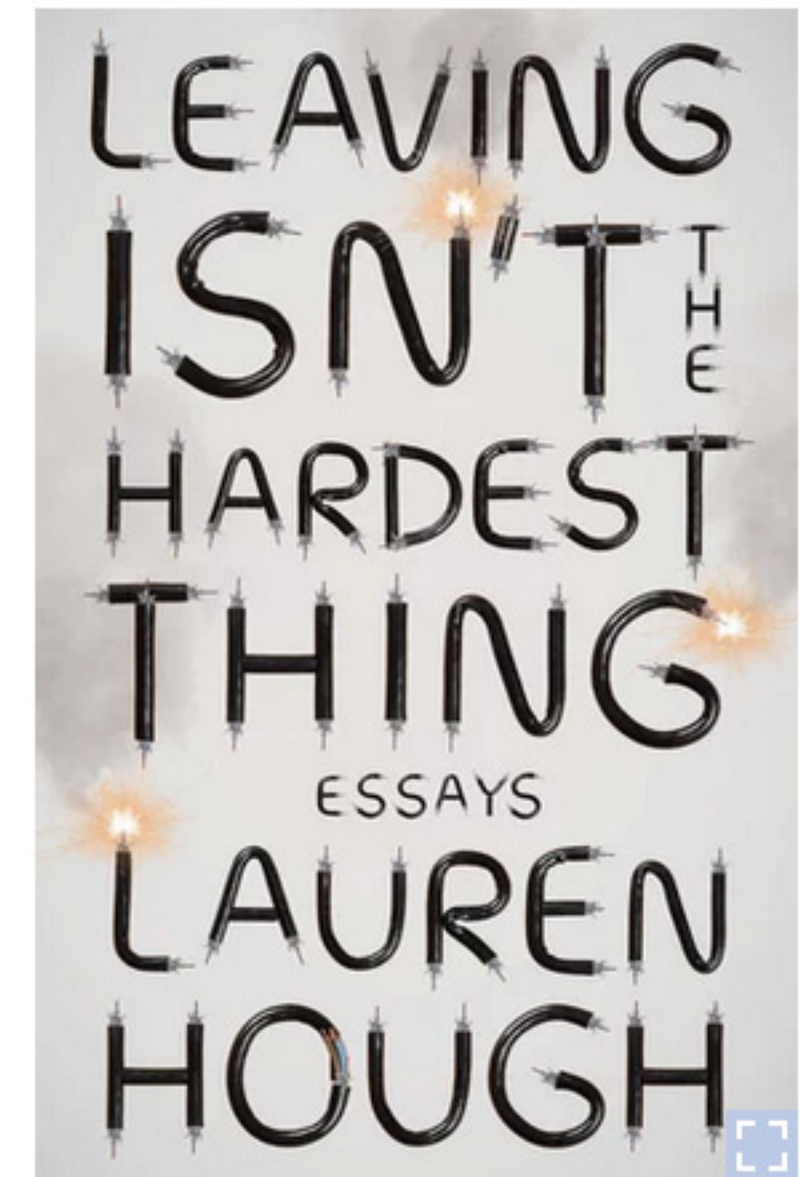
On learning to speak openly in writing

I think writing, naturally, feels a little bit secretive. You start writing in notebooks under your blanket with a flashlight. So it feels like this secretive thing that's just between you and the page. I have a long history of telling my secrets to a piece of paper. I didn't want to publish any of it until there was a reason to, because who knows what the difference is between trauma porn and writing, but I didn't want to traumatize anybody with my story. ... If I was going to tell any of it, I wanted to have a point and a reason and something I was trying to say.



I have a long history of telling my secrets to a piece of paper.

Lauren Hough



One essay about [working as a cable guy](#) went viral. That essay is included in Hough's new collection, *Leaving Isn't the Hardest Thing*.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Chew On This For Earth Day: How Our Diets Impact The Planet

April 22, 2017 · 8:00 AM ET



MARIA GODOY



ALLISON AUBREY



MHJ/Getty Images

The foods we choose to put on our plates — or toss away — could have more of an ecological impact than many of us realize.

On Earth Day, here are some ways to consider how our diet impacts the planet.

Rethink your beef and lamb habit

Everything we eat has an environmental footprint — it takes land, water and energy to grow crops and raise livestock. The folks at the World Resources Institute have [calculated](#) the greenhouse gas emissions associated with producing a gram of edible protein of various foods.

Not surprisingly, they found that foods such as beans, fish, nuts and egg have the lowest impact. Poultry, pork, milk and cheese have medium-sized impacts. By far, the biggest impacts, in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, were linked to beef, lamb and goat. (As we've reported, that's partly because the need for pastureland [drives deforestation in places](#) like the Brazilian Amazon.)

Why? [According to WRI](#), beef uses 28 times more land per calorie consumed — and two to four times more freshwater — than the average of other livestock categories. What's more, cows are [less efficient](#) than other animals, like pigs and poultry, at converting feed into food.

Still, telling people to go cold turkey with their red meat isn't likely to inspire real change. But this message might resonate: Even if you don't give up on red meat consumption entirely, just [cutting back](#) can significantly impact your diet's carbon footprint.

A 'Relic' And 'Burden': Manhattan District Attorney To Stop Prosecuting Prostitution

April 21, 2021 · 4:40 PM ET

RACHEL TREISMAN



Protesters gather in New York City in February 2019 to advocate for the decriminalization of sex trades in the city and state. The Manhattan District Attorney's Office announced more than two years later it would stop prosecuting prostitution and seek the dismissal of hundreds of related cases dating back decades.

Erik McGregor/LightRocket via Getty Images

Abigail Swenstein, an attorney with the Legal Aid Society's Exploitation Intervention Project who joined Vance in his motions to dismiss the cases, welcomed Wednesday's announcement.

But she said the policy should not replace [pending legislation](#) that would decriminalize sex work and provide criminal relief for people who have already been convicted, and called on state lawmakers to pass it.

Manhattan's district attorney announced Wednesday that his office will no longer prosecute prostitution and unlicensed massage under a new policy that's believed to be the first of its kind in New York.

Cyrus Vance Jr. also appeared virtually in Manhattan Criminal Court to request the dismissal of more than 900 such cases dating back to the 1970s, according to a [press release](#). He moved to dismiss another 5,000 cases related to the state's controversial [anti-loitering statute](#), which New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo repealed in February.

In a statement, Vance noted the disproportionate impact of such laws on the LGBTQ community and other vulnerable populations, and credited advocates and survivors with making this set of reforms possible.

"Over the last decade we've learned from those with lived experience, and from our own experience on the ground: criminally prosecuting prostitution does not make us safer, and too often, achieves the opposite result by further marginalizing vulnerable New Yorkers," Vance said. "... By vacating warrants, dismissing cases, and erasing convictions for these charges, we are completing a paradigm shift in our approach."

The Manhattan District Attorney Office's previous policy was to dismiss prostitution cases after the charged individual completed five counseling sessions with service providers. Going forward, it said its Human Trafficking Response Unit will file paperwork to decline formally to prosecute, and to inform the person arrested about purely voluntary services.

The text of the new policy notes it does not preclude officials from bringing "other charges that may stem from a prostitution-related arrest." A spokesperson confirmed to NPR that it will not change the office's existing [approach to arresting patrons of prostitution](#).

But the change is poised to affect thousands of sex workers and victims of sex trafficking, many of whom are women, people of color and members of the LGBTQ community.

But Is It Art? San Diego Buys 100 Paintings, Sculptures, Other Works for \$500,000

The acquisitions were made possible through a \$500,000 gift from the estate of Thomas O. Rasmussen, an avid contemporary art collector

By **NBC 7 Staff** • Published April 21, 2021 • Updated on April 21, 2021 at 6:02 am

Doris Bittar



Artist: Doris Bittar
Artwork Name: Excavated World 1
Artwork Medium: Hand-cut collage, archival map
Artwork Year: 2019

The goals behind the purchases: Supporting artists affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and acquiring works that reflect the diversity of artistic talent and

San Diego has acquired 100 new works of art from 89 local artists for its [Civic Art Collection](#) through the SD Practice initiative, which focuses on the purchase of existing artworks from San Diego area artists, city officials said last week.



Artist: Mario Torero
Artwork Name: BATMAN C/S UN CHOLO!
Artwork Medium: Acrylic on vinyl
Artwork Year: 2018

The city issued a request for proposal, and 552 artists responded. The RFP was open to practicing artists residing in San Diego County. The city convened a panel of five jurors to assess eligible applications considering the priorities of the SD Practice initiative.

The panel included:

- Anthony Graham, associate curator, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego
- Eun Jung Park, assistant professor, Southwestern College art department
- Derrick Cartwright, director of University Galleries and associate professor in the department of art, architecture and art history at the University of San Diego and director of curatorial affairs at the Timken Museum of Art
- Gaidi Finnie, executive director, San Diego African American Museum of Fine Art
- Alessandra Moctezuma, artist and gallery director/professor, fine arts department, museum studies at San Diego Mesa College

Graham and Jung Park are Commission for Arts and Culture Public Art Committee members.

"We are thrilled to be bringing such a rich and diverse selection of works into the collection this year thanks to Thomas O. Rasmussen," said Jonathon Glus, executive director for the city's Commission for Arts and Culture. "We greatly appreciate his generosity to make these acquisitions possible and, in turn, for helping to enhance and more fully represent artists working in San Diego in this collection."

The works will be featured in public places for residents and visitors to enjoy, beginning this summer.

NBC 7 made repeated requests to the city for images of the artworks and received a total of nine of the 100 pieces that were purchased.

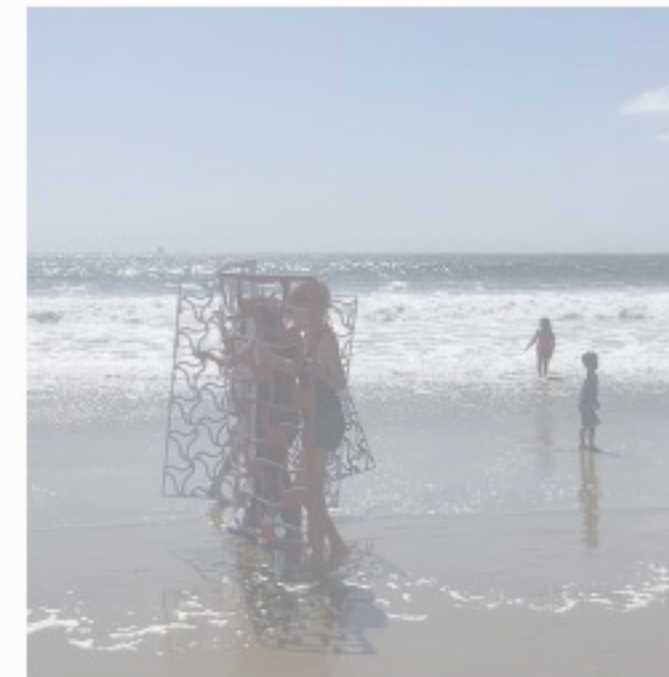


Doris Bittar

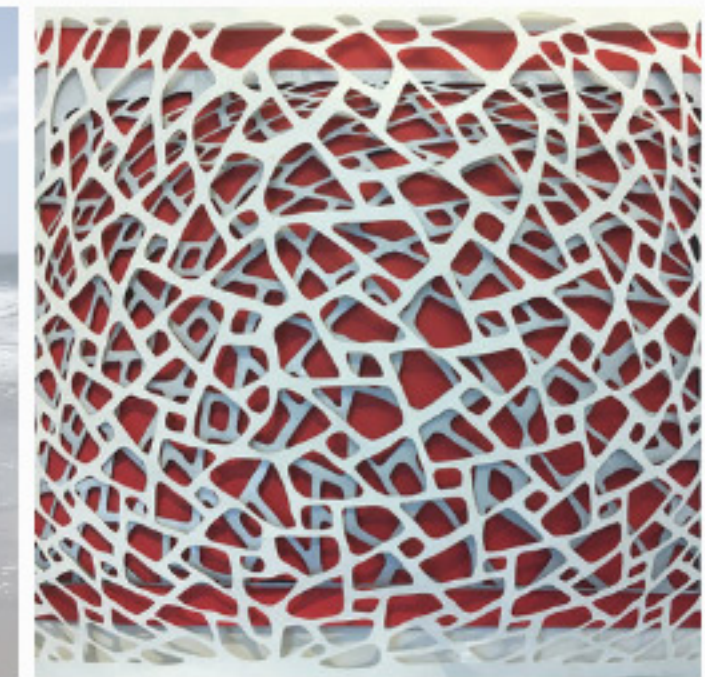
Doris Bittar's art intersect decorative motifs and cultural patterns with geopolitical legacies. Bittar views pattern as cultural DNA. In her paintings and installations, writing and community work Bittar finds pathways toward peace and rapprochement. Bittar's art is housed innational and international public collections. She is the recipient of several awards, among them the Alexandria, Egypt Biennial 2nd prize. Bittar has shown at the Venice Biennale with Gulf Labor and has an extensive international and national exhibition record. Bittar is a civil rights organizer, and founder of Teach and Learn Literacy, a program bringing English to Syrian refugees in San Diego County. Bittar has taught at the UCSD, SDSU, American University of Beirut and NYU. Bittar has over 40 publications on Arabic calligraphy and contemporary art. Bittar received a BFA at the State University of New York, and an MFA from the University of California San Diego.

Doris Bittar, March 13, 2020

doris.bittar@gmail.com (619)787-8505



PERFORMING PATTERNS



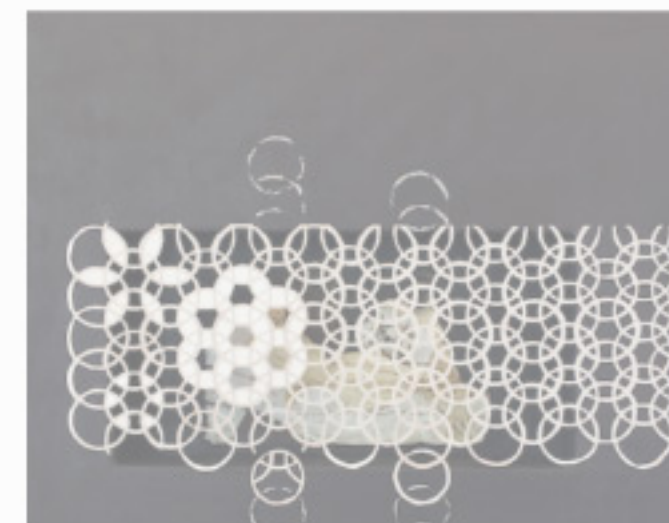
MIGRATING PATTERNS: WORKS ON PAPER & DRAWINGS



SPINDLED CONSTRUCTIONS



INSTALLATIONS



Doris Bittar's interdisciplinary projects examine decorative motifs and how they intersect with historical and geopolitical legacies. Related activities include teaching, curating, writing and activism. Bittar's art is housed in several public collections in the United States and abroad. She works with the American Civil Liberties Union, is a core member of Gulf Labor, and co-founder of Gulf Labor West. Bittar received a Masters of Fine Arts from the University of California San Diego. Bittar teaches at California State University, San Marcos.

Asian American young adults are the only racial group with suicide as their leading cause of death, so why is no one talking about this?

April 23, 2021 8:26am EDT

Amelia Noor-Oshiro, Johns Hopkins University



Death by suicide is the number one cause of death for young adult Asian Americans. Kelvin Murray/Getty

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States. When broken down by race, suicide is the first leading cause of death among Asian American young adults age 15-24. This is true of no other racial group in this age range in America.

Despite this disparity, very little attention is paid by society and by gatekeeping institutions like academe and private and public funding agencies as to what causes suicidal behavior among racial minorities like Asian Americans. There is not enough research on how to prevent suicide among Asian Americans in particular. What makes this research more challenging to do is that Asian Americans are also the least likely racial group to seek and utilize mental health services.

Unfortunately, the first, only and last study that assesses national epidemiological prevalence estimates of mental disorders in the Asian American community occurred and was published in the early 2000s, nearly two decades ago. Since these data were collected, the U.S. Asian population grew 72% by 2015, making Asians the fastest-growing racial or ethnic group, surpassing Hispanics.

What makes this important to know?

Current trends indicate that the U.S. is explosively growing into an immigrant-rich nation. More than 36% of all Americans are projected to be of immigrant origin – that's first- or second-generation – by 2050. By that time, the overwhelming majority – 93% – of the country's working-age population will be of immigrant origin, too. Here's the problem: Second-generation immigrants are considered an at-risk group for suicidal behavior and death by researchers across the world. Researchers aren't fully sure why yet, and that's why this research is so timely.

Even as overall hate crimes fell in 2020, hate crimes against Asian Americans in major U.S. cities grew nearly 150 percent. Since the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the group Stop AAPI Hate has recorded at least 3,795 reported incidents of hate against Asian American and Pacific Islanders.

What you can do to fight violence and racism against Asian Americans

Nation Mar 18, 2021 6:44 PM By – **Vignesh Ramachandran**

As Asian American communities reel from an uptick in violence and hate spurred by racist rhetoric about the coronavirus pandemic, advocates are urging Americans to be allies in actionable ways that go beyond words.

AGRICULTURE

White House dances around a big contributor to climate change: Agriculture

Biden wants to slash emissions by the end of the decade, but his administration is treading lightly when it comes to the farm industry.



An especially thorny topic that could draw huge resistance from farmers and ranchers is what to do about methane emissions from livestock. | Scott Olson/Getty Images

By RYAN MCCRIMMON
04/22/2021 07:30 PM EDT

President Joe Biden needs the help of the powerful farm industry to reach his sky-high climate goals. But his plans for cutting agricultural emissions might not have enough teeth to take a big bite out of global warming.

Biden on Thursday [pledged](#) a drastic reduction in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. But the White House hasn't set any specific targets yet for agriculture, which accounts for 10 percent of all U.S. emissions, according to the EPA. Those discharges mostly stem from fertilizers, livestock and manure.

Industry groups say farmers are stepping up efforts to limit the climate impact of their operations. For example, the National Pork Producers Council in January launched a “Farming Today for Tomorrow” [campaign](#) to tout the sector’s shrinking carbon footprint compared with previous decades. The American Farm Bureau Federation marked Earth Day on Thursday by [promoting](#) farmers and ranchers “leading the way in climate-smart practices that reduce emissions, enrich the soil and protect our water and air.”

Pingree, who sits on the House Agriculture Committee and the appropriations panel that oversees USDA’s budget, has called for a balanced approach to nudging the industry toward more climate-friendly practices.

“I really don’t think it’s either/or,” she said. “USDA is interested in finding ways to combine these, so that we aren’t just pointing our fingers at farmers and saying, ‘It’s all your fault. You fix the problem.’ We’re saying, ‘Hey, we could be great partners in helping reduce the amount of carbon in the atmosphere as well as upgrading your practices.’”



(your perspective depends on where you're standing)

Recordings Show Chaos

The instant before 16-year-old Ma'Khia Bryant tried mightily to end a black life, the life of 22-year-old Tionna Bonner with a kitchen knife, Officer Nicholas Reardon shot and killed her dead.

The instant before, one of the young women had apparently been cut with the object that was in Bryant's hand.

The instant before, one of the adult males is seen kicking one of the young women who is on the ground in the head with all his might.

In those next 11 seconds, Bryant was seen charging at 20-year-old Shai-Onta Lana Craig-Watkins with a kitchen knife before moving on to 22-year-old Tionna Bonner before Reardon yelled, "Get down!" and fired four consecutive shots into her chest.

"You have no respect for life," another Black man, who lives across the street, can be heard yelling at Reardon. "No, actually, you have no respect for Black life."

While Reardon, who is white, faced recrimination at the scene, his split-second decision to shoot was commended by the national Fraternal Order of Police, who called it "an act of heroism, but one with tragic results."

More Than One Mass Shooting Per Day Has Occurred In 2021



Jack Brewster Forbes Staff

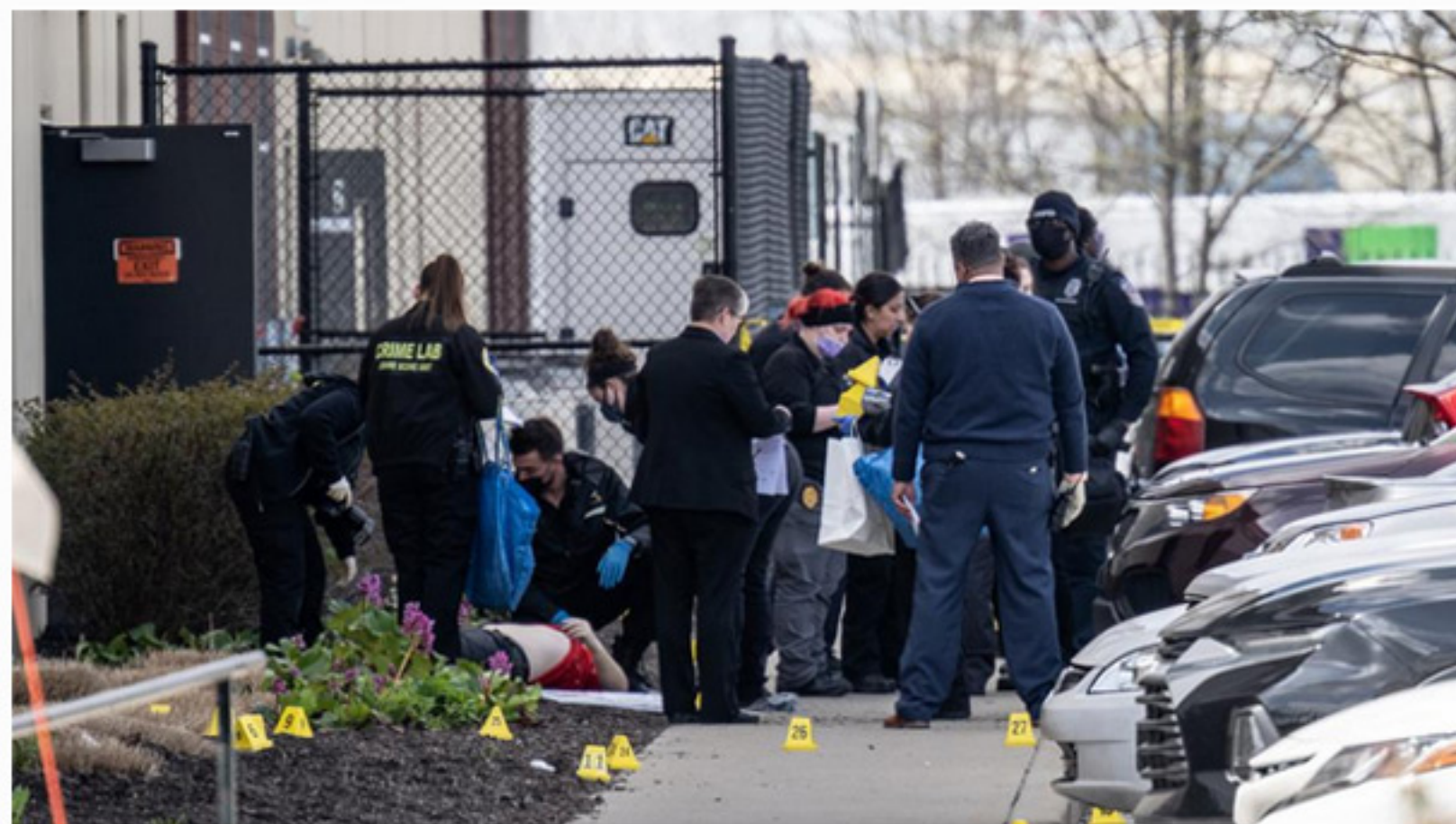
Business

I'm a news reporter for Forbes.

Follow

Updated Apr 16, 2021, 04:09pm EDT

TOPLINE The U.S. has averaged more than one mass shooting a day this year, continuing an upward trend since researchers began thoroughly tracking the subject following the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary.



A group of crime scene investigators gather around a body in the parking lot of a FedEx SmartPost on April 16, 2021, in Indianapolis—the scene of another mass shooting, this one leaving at least eight people dead and five wounded. [-] JON CHERRY/GETTY IMAGES

KEY FACTS

- There have been 147 mass shootings this year, according to the [Gun Violence Archive](#), which defines a mass shooting as when four or more people have been shot or killed, not including the shooter.
- The U.S. was wracked by a record high [610 mass shootings](#) in 2020, the most of any year since the organization began tracking the number in 2014.
- This year, the U.S. is on pace to have 511 mass shootings—more than any year between 2014 and 2019—though mass shootings are historically [more likely to occur](#) during the latter half of the year, meaning the rate could increase.
- In 2019, there were 417 mass shootings, up from 337 in 2018.
- Nearly 20,000 Americans died from gun violence in 2020, more than [any year in two decades](#) in what was the highest one-year jump in homicides since the U.S. began keeping records in the 20th century, [according to the Washington Post](#), while about 24,000 died by suicide using a gun.
- The U.S. is currently on pace for about as many Americans to die from gun violence as last year, with [5,415 killed so far](#).

TANGENT

On Thursday night, eight people were [killed](#) by a gunman at a FedEx facility near Indianapolis International Airport. It was the [fifth high-profile mass shooting](#) this year, following shooting sprees in Atlanta; Boulder, Colo.; Orange, Calif. and Rock Hill, S.C.

Panel: End commanders' power to block military sex cases

By LOLITA C. BALDOR LOUDY Friday, April 23, 2021



FILE - In this April 14, 2021, file photo, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin poses for photographers as he arrives at NATO headquarters in Brussels. The Associated Press has learned that a Pentagon panel is recommending that decisions to prosecute service members for sexual assault be made by independent authorities, not commanders. It would be a major reversal of military practice and a change long sought by Congress members. (Kenzo Tribouillard, Pool via AP)

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Pentagon panel is recommending that decisions to prosecute service members for sexual assault be made by independent authorities, not commanders, in what would be a major reversal of military practice and a change long sought by Congress members, The Associated Press has learned.

The recommendation by an independent review commission created by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin goes against decades of vehement Pentagon arguments to keep cases within the chain of command. It was among a number of initial recommendations delivered to Austin on Thursday, according to two senior defense officials.


AFTER GEORGE FLOYD

A high school 2 miles from where George Floyd died plays outsized role in Chauvin trial

Darnella Frazier "did a service to our city and a justice to our country," one of her high school teachers said.

Below a yearbook photo of Frazier from her sophomore year reads the quote, "Some people say that you just can't win, when people choose to judge you by the color of your skin."

Howard said Frazier was one of her students last year and she also taught two of her older siblings. She holds Frazier, whom she said "did a service to our city and a justice to our country," in high regard.

"Being in Minneapolis at Roosevelt, the epicenter of a global social justice movement, and knowing that one of their classmates helped strike the match that lit the world's fervor for social justice," Howard said, "I personally can't be more proud to be from the school at which I've taught for 23 years." 

"Our school has some of the most fervent social justice activists that I've ever seen among young adults," said **Marcia Howard**, 47, whose teaching career began at Roosevelt High School in 1998. "What's special about that school is our commitment to creating civic-minded students. Our model is: Enter to learn and leave to serve."



— People march near the Minnesota State Capitol to honor George Floyd on March 19 in St. Paul, Minn.

— Darnella Frazier, third from right, films as former Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin presses his knee on George Floyd's neck for several minutes in Minneapolis on May 25. Minneapolis Police Department via AP file

No justice, no streets: Among the powerful women who are managing George Floyd Square

By Deena Winter - September 22, 2020

Marcia Howard did not go back to school for the first time since 1996 this fall, instead continuing her summer-long vigil at George Floyd Square, along with dozens of others who created a group called Meet on the Street to "hold space" at what has become an autonomous zone. Photo by Will Jacott/Minnesota Reformer.



At 8:15 a.m. at George Floyd Square, 16 people — mostly women — are perched on chairs, benches and couches in between the idled pumps at the Speedway, which is covered in graffiti and serves as a gathering space now.

They have met twice a day, every day, since Floyd died on the street under a cop's knee just steps away.

Meet on the Street, they call it.

Neighbors who'd never met before now work together to keep the square safe, autonomous and organized. Their motto: No justice, no streets.

"There's so many people here, it's like a village," says Marcia Howard, a 47-year-old mother who would normally be teaching high school but took a leave this fall to stay in "the zone," as she calls it.

"We all have roles to play," Howard says.

After Floyd died and protests erupted in Minneapolis, and then spread across the globe, the city put up cement barricades about a block from the scene in every direction to keep mourners safe. It's proving much more difficult to remove those barricades, however. These community activists are demanding something new after decades of mass incarceration, which followed a century of Jim Crow, which followed centuries more of slavery.

Howard has been in the square about 20 hours a day all summer. This morning at the daily meeting, she's explaining to the group how they're going to deal with the city from now on. How "Black and brown people" in the group are going to take the lead, and if anyone doesn't like it, they can leave.



Madi Ramirez-Tentinger and Marcia Howard (left) talk during a Meet on the Street night meeting recently. The group is "holding space" until the city meets some of their demands. Photo by Will Jacott/Minnesota Reformer.

No justice, no streets: Among the powerful women who are managing George Floyd Square

Marcia Howard jumped rope with Silas Yechout, 10, during a community dinner at the George Floyd memorial at 38th and Chicago in Minneapolis last month.

By Deena Winter - September 22, 2020

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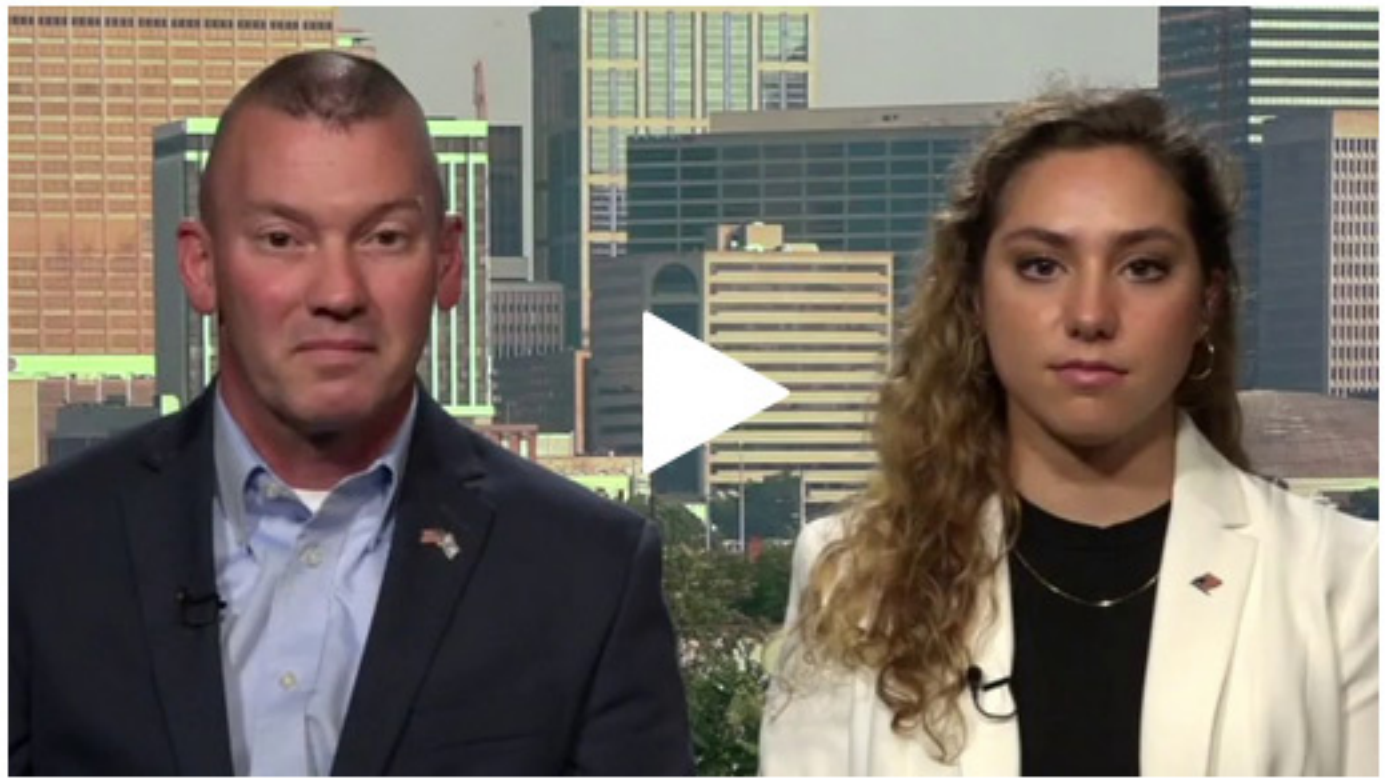
Madi Ramirez-Tentinger and Marcia Howard (left) talk during a Meet on the Street night meeting recently. The group is "holding space" until the city meets some of their demands. Photo by Will Jacott/Minnesota Reformer.

EDUCATION · Published 16 hours ago · Sunday, April 25, 2021

Tennessee professor rejects 'racist' label in flyers distributed by colleagues

Tennessee Tech has not taken any disciplinary action 'at this time'

By Audrey Conklin | Fox News



Professor rejects 'racist' label after colleagues spread flyer on campus

Tennessee Tech professor Andrew Donadio refutes 'racist' label hung on him by colleagues for his role in Turning Point USA

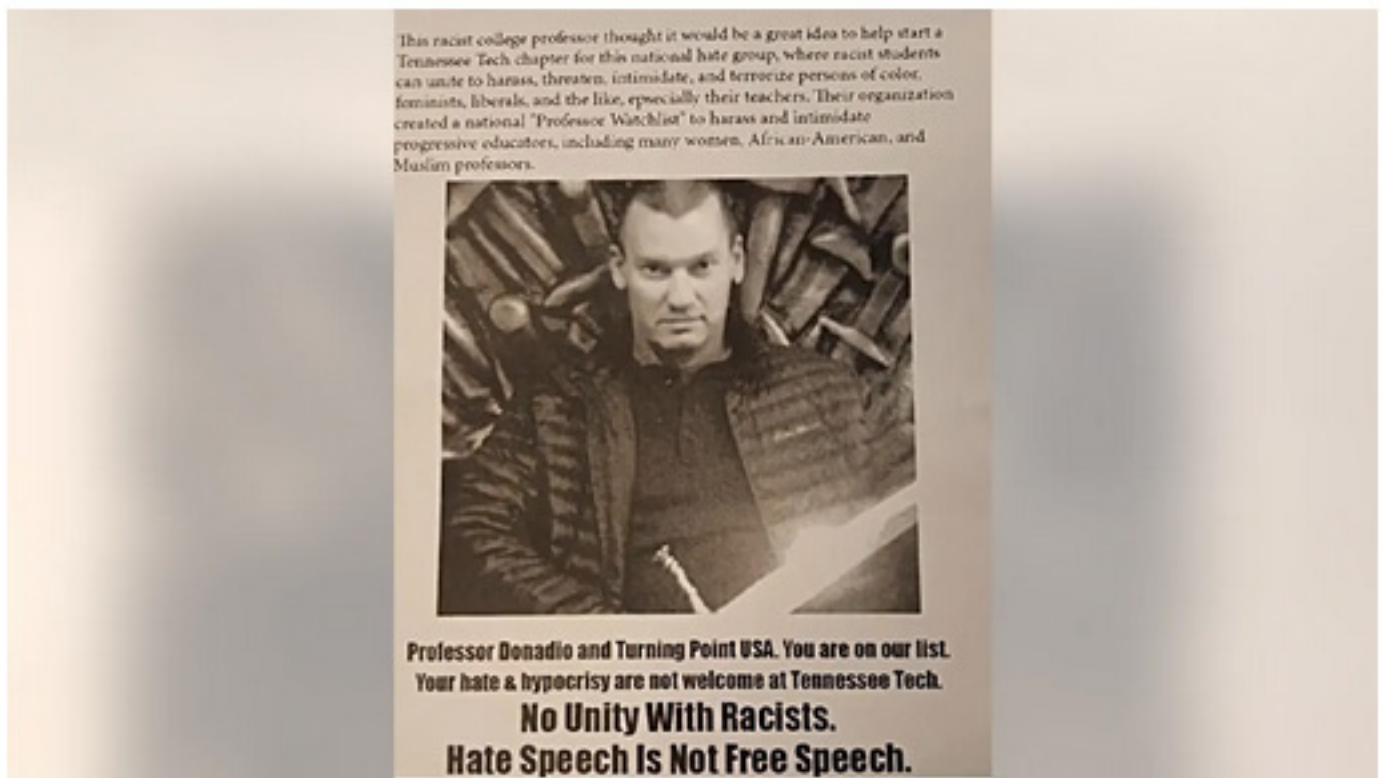
A Tennessee Tech professor is rejecting his colleagues' attempts to label him as a "racist" in flyers posted on campus.

Faculty members Julia Gruber and Andrew Smith allegedly spread flyers on campus that said the school's Turning Point USA members and the chapter's faculty adviser, Andrew Donadio, were not welcome, according to Fox 17 Nashville.

Gruber is an associate professor of German and Smith is an English instructor, according to the report.

Turning Point USA is a conservative grassroots organization with a mission to "educate students about the importance of fiscal responsibility, free markets, and limited government," according to its website.

"Professor Donadio and Turning Point USA. You are on our list," the flyer reads. "Your hate [and] hypocrisy are not welcome at Tennessee Tech!"



Tennessee Tech flyer (Fox 17 Nashville)

It continues: "This racist college professor thought it would be a great idea to help start a Tennessee Tech chapter for this national hate group, where racist students can unite to harass, threaten, intimidate and terrorize persons of color, feminists, liberals and the like, especially their teachers."

Cookeville Holler Retweeted

Carol Abney, CPA @ElectCarolAbney · Apr 23

.@tennesseetech needs to handle this correctly. This is proof that Profs Gruber & @teacheronradio are 🎯

Prof Donadio is, in fact, a racist.

Thanks for the receipts @adversewitness. TTU Biz taught us alumnae to stick to facts.

Truth is hard. Keep speaking! 🗣️

PJ Ray @adversewitness · Apr 22

TTU prof AJ Donadio is fighting to get colleagues fired for calling him racist but his social is telling me they weren't wrong:

1. Blaming Chinatown for COVID spread?
2. Implying that speakers of Arabic are terrorists
3. Thin blue line flag during George Floyd murder coverage

[Show this thread](#)

Andrew AJ Donadio Sep 26, 2018 · 📍

Wo hoo! I've hit the BIG TIME!

Either my Arabic (I think) is amazing OR my account has been cloned!!!

Tennessee Tech's Turning Point chapter president Gittle Sciolis said, "It's been a crazy ride since the beginning."

She added that "it's very hard hearing those words" come from "people who are supposed to be your mentors, especially at the university you love so much."

"There's no facts [or] anything behind their words," she said, adding that she was glad to have "such a supportive university and faculty adviser."

Gittle Sciolis Retweeted

Turning Point USA @TPUSA · Apr 22

Faculty at @tennesseetech University were found responsible for threatening TPUSA students—targeting their faculty sponsor, aiming to have him fired from his job

Conservative voices—whether they belong to a teacher or a student—are under attack.



Tennessee Tech Staff Targets TPUSA

tpusa.com

12 79 121

Gittle Sciolis
148 Tweets


OPTIMISM

Gittle Sciolis
@GittleSciolis
TN Tech Women's Golf
Joined February 2015
291 Following 151 Followers

Gittle Sciolis Retweeted

Turning Point USA @TPUSA · Apr 22

We now live in a country where our educators threaten students who express conservative ideologies. This is dangerous.



Tennessee Tech Profs Attack Colleague for Advising Turning Point USA Group

breitbart.com

14 54 125

Gittle Sciolis Retweeted

Jon Groves @JonLGroves · Mar 28

Fixed.



An original art piece / social commentary by Taylor Ransom

33 674 5.7K

it would be a great national hate group, intimidate and like, especially their

John 3:16 >
New International Version >
For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ...

Crochet Playgrounds by Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam

JULY 3, 2012

CHRISTOPHER JOBSON

In the mid 1990s Japanese artist **Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam** was showing a large scale crochet artwork at an art gallery when two rambunctious children approached her and asked if the sculpture, resembling a colorful hammock, could be climbed on. She nervously agreed and watched cautiously as her suspended artwork twisted and stretched as the kids climbed on top of it. Suddenly an idea was born. Almost three years later MacAdam would open her **first large-scale crochet playground** in conjunction with engineers TIS & Partners and landscape architects Takano Landscape Planning.



Toshiko MacAdam (born Toshiko Horiuchi) is a Japanese textile artist based in Bridgetown, Nova Scotia, Canada. She is best known for her work with large-scale textile structures, especially "textile playgrounds" for children, brightly colored net-like structures of crocheted and knotted nylon.

Crochet Playgrounds by Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam





Chloe Zhao, winner of the awards for best picture and director for "Nomadland," poses in the press room at the Oscars on Sunday, April 25, 2021, at Union Station in Los Angeles.

Chloé Zhao's "Nomadland," a wistful portrait of itinerant lives on open roads across the American West, won best picture Sunday at the 93rd Academy Awards, where the China-born Zhao became the first woman of color to win best director and a historically diverse group of winners took home awards.

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Chloé Zhao's history-making Oscars sweep, winning best director and best picture, is being met with a muted response in her country of birth, and even censorship.



FRANCES MCDORMAND howled like a wolf when she collected the Best Picture award at the Oscars 2021 last night. The unexpected reaction was in tribute to a friend who died.



“Nomadland” star Frances McDormand said in a statement, **“Wolf recorded our heart beats. Our every breath. For me, he is ‘Nomadland.’”**

A statement released on behalf of the entire cast and crew of “Nomadland,” reads, “While our hearts break with Wolf’s loss, we hope it is a comfort to know that his spirit will live forever in every laugh he recorded, every breeze, and every gallop of a horse. He was part of our little movie family and his kind soul touched us all. Wolf truly brought life to our film. We send our condolences to his family on behalf of the entire ‘Nomadland’ company. See you down the road, sweet friend.”

Mar 6, 2021 2:05pm PT

‘Nomadland’ Production Sound Mixer Michael Wolf Snyder Dies at 35



It was during her acceptance speech for the latter accolade that she paid tribute to Michael Wolf Snyder, who was the sound mixer on the movie.

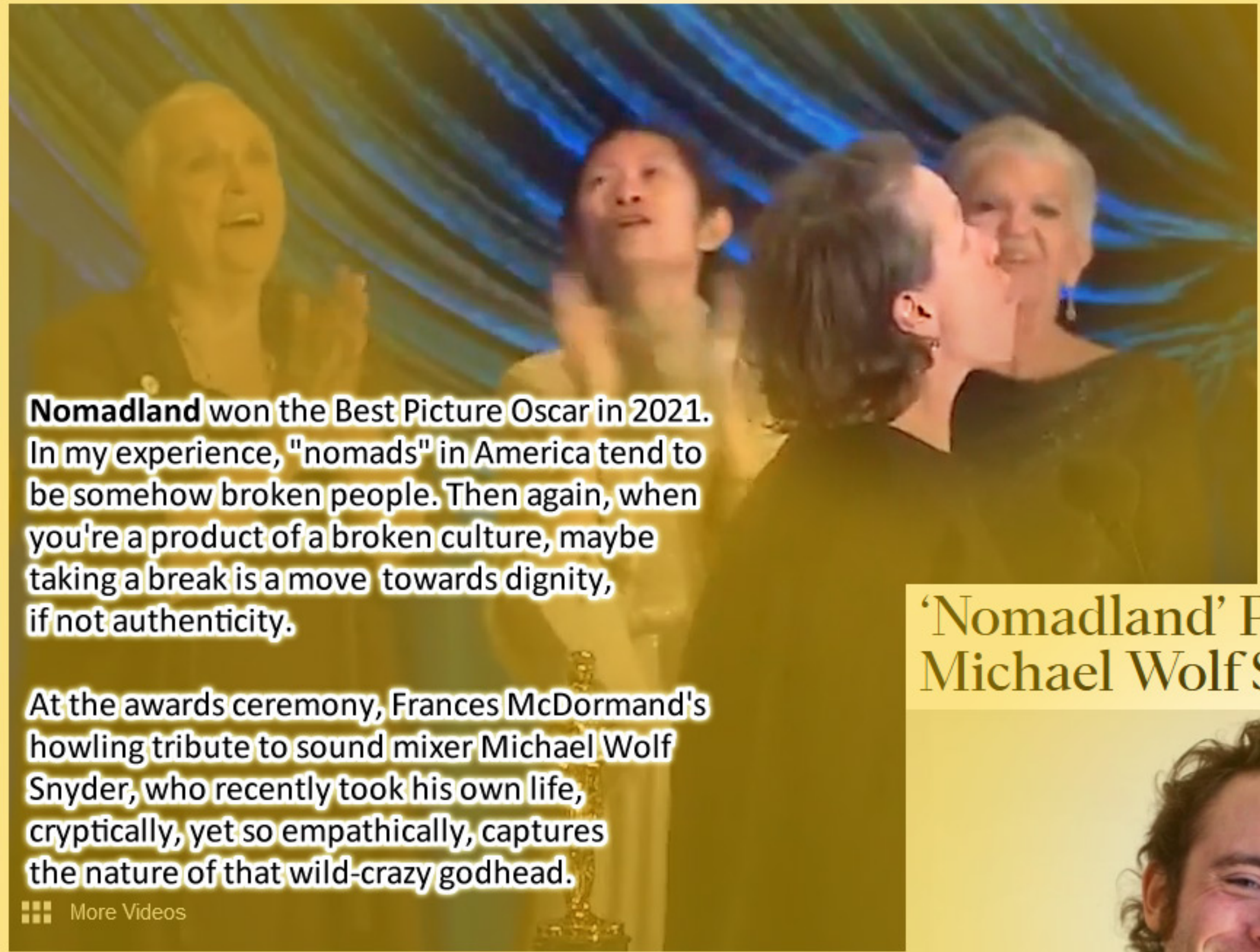
He died earlier this year at the age of 35.

“We give this one to our wolf,” the 63-year-old told viewers.

She then let out a wolf-like howl at the glamorous event.

“Nomadland” production sound mixer Michael Wolf Snyder has died by suicide, according his father, David Snyder. He was 35.

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Mar 6, 2021 2:05pm PT

Nomadland won the Best Picture Oscar in 2021. In my experience, "nomads" in America tend to be somehow broken people. Then again, when you're a product of a broken culture, maybe taking a break is a move towards dignity, if not authenticity.

At the awards ceremony, Frances McDormand's howling tribute to sound mixer Michael Wolf Snyder, who recently took his own life, cryptically, yet so empathically, captures the nature of that wild-crazy godhead.

More Videos

‘Nomadland’ Production Sound Mixer Michael Wolf Snyder Dies at 35



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JOSEFINA VIZCAINO ← JV Barber Shop
MAY 2018

JV Barber Shop

3207 Thorn St, San Diego, CA

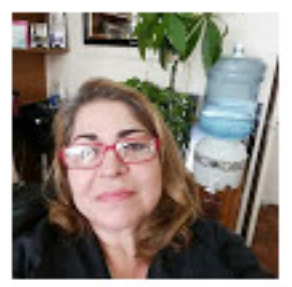
Write a review

4.7 ★★★★★ 20 reviews

JOSEFINA VIZCAINO
2 reviews · 2 photos

★★★★★ 2 years ago

Thank you so much for coming to the shop. Thank you so much for continue coming to JV Barbershop our days to be open is Tuesday through Saturday from 10 to 6 and Fridays from 11 to 6 Sunday and Monday are closed in major holidays to or cell phone number is 619 517- 4226



1

Jane Armstrong
3 reviews

★★★★★ 3 years ago

Best cut in town!

1

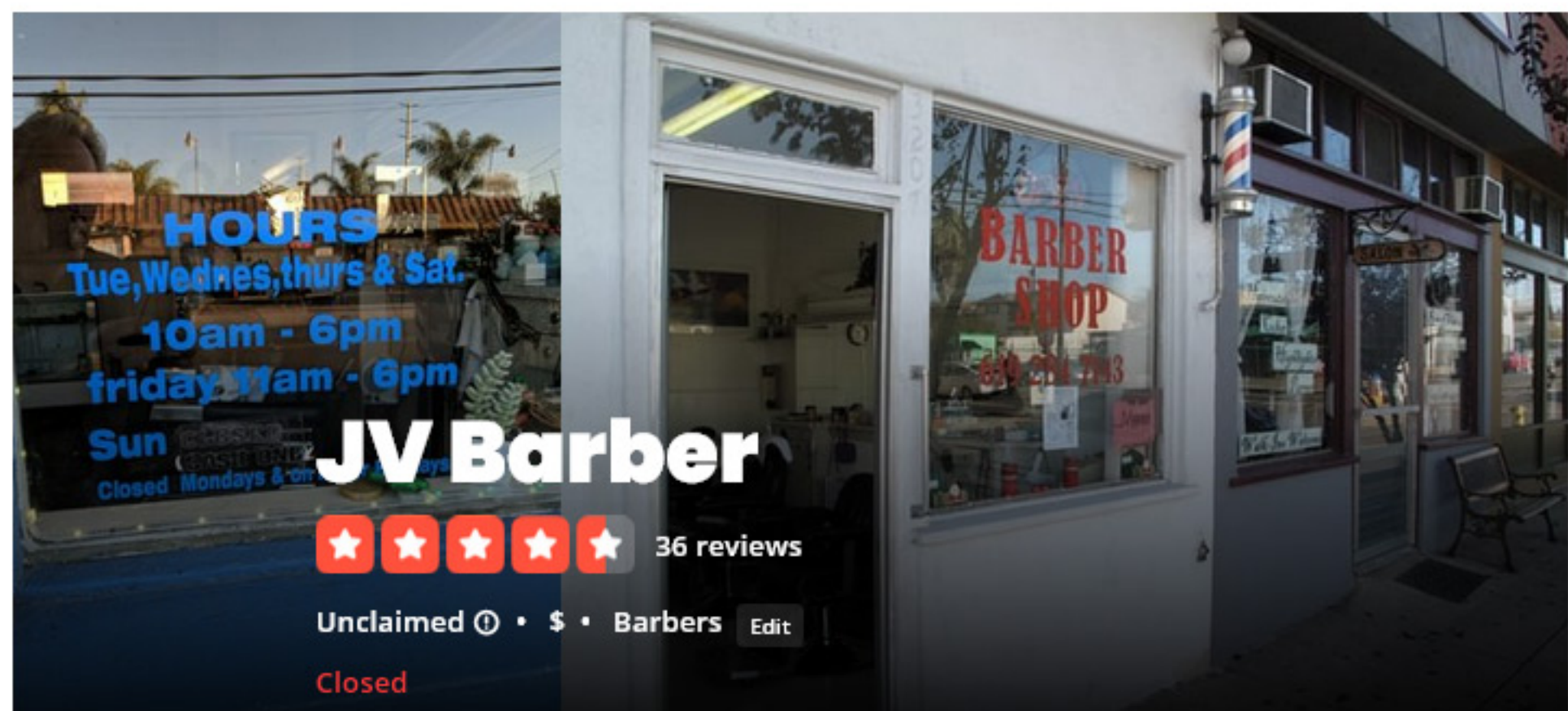
From the business

History
Established in 2009.
It was a barber shop be

Meet the Business Owner

Josefina V.
Business Owner

It's my person who owns the business ,and I need to see now is it to a business and love what I do





QAnon hasn't gone away – it's alive and kicking in states across the country

April 26, 2021 8:13am EDT

Sophie Bjork-James, Vanderbilt University

QAnon demonstrators protest during a rally to reopen California and against stay-at-home directives on May 1, 2020, in San Diego. Photo by Sandy Huffaker/AFP via Getty Images

By this point, almost everyone has heard of QAnon, the conspiracy spawned by an anonymous online poster of enigmatic prophecies. Starting with an initial promise in 2017 that Hillary Rodham Clinton would be imminently arrested, a broad group of interpreters divined a conspiracy that saw President Donald Trump's Democratic opponents as a global cabal of Satanic pedophiles.

Perhaps the greatest success of the conspiracy is its ability to create a shared alternate reality, a reality that can dismiss everything from a decisive election to a deadly pandemic. The QAnon universe lives on – now largely through involvement in local, not national, Republican politics.

Moving on from contesting the election, the movement's new focus is vaccines. The influence of QAnon on pandemic denialism is significant, though the spread of Q in local politics is a source of conflict in many states.

Tug of war

The conspiracy may have begun on an obscure web forum, but it is now influencing the Republican Party at all levels.

A recent Daily Kos/Civiqs poll found that 55% of Republicans believe some element of the conspiracy is true.

And in many parts of the country, QAnon supporters are winning elections. From local school boards to city councils, QAnon now has dozens of advocates at nearly every level of local government. While many of these positions hold sway far outside Washington, D.C., the breadth of this movement shows its influence is not likely to wane any time soon.

Not going away

Yotam Ophir, a communications scholar at the University at Buffalo, has studied QAnon. He told me that he doesn't "see a reason to believe the conspiracy will go away anytime soon."

Part of this is that QAnon has deep historical roots in a variety of other conspiracies, including a centuries-old anti-Semitic conspiracy of a blood libel. The flexibility of the conspiracy has also proved resilient within a shifting political landscape.

[Over 100,000 readers rely on The Conversation's newsletter to understand the world. [Sign up today.](#)]

Perhaps the biggest threat posed by QAnon is articulated by Lindsay Schubiner, a program director at the Western States Center in Portland, Oregon, which works to support democracy and challenge white nationalism.

"Bigoted conspiracy theories like QAnon have an enormous influence on the context in which local government operates," Schubiner told me. "Democratic governance is hard to achieve if we don't live in a shared reality, and that's as true on the local level as it is on the national level."



Republicans Democrats Donald Trump Anti-Semitism GOP QAnon

Gavin Newsom COVID-19 Lockdown mask mandates Vaccine passports

Meet Orrin Heatlie, the ex-cop leading the push to recall California Gov. Gavin Newsom

Kathleen Ronayne Associated Press

Published 9:15 a.m. PT Apr. 1, 2021



Orrin Heatlie was recovering from a back procedure and browsing social media in 2019 when he found a video of California Gov. Gavin Newsom instructing immigrants in the country illegally not to open their doors to law enforcement unless officers had a warrant.

The 52-year-old retired county sheriff's sergeant was incensed, believing the Democrat's message was an insult to his profession. It was an unsurprising reaction for a Republican who built a 25-year career in law enforcement.

What Heatlie did next would eventually slingshot the political neophyte to the center of California's political world: He started researching a recall campaign. Twenty-one months later, 2.1 million signatures have been gathered and it's now a near certainty that Californians will choose later this year whether to remove Newsom from office.


Heatlie said his police background gave him the organizational skills to pull off what would be only the second recall election for a governor in state history.

Retired Yolo County deputy sheriff Orrin Heatlie leading recall effort against CA Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Yolo County includes the Greater Sacramento metropolitan area and is located in the Sacramento Valley.

California recall has enough signatures to make ballot

Tuesday, April 27, 2021



An election is likely in the fall and voters would face two questions: Should Newsom be recalled and who should replace him? The votes on the second question will only be counted if more than half say yes to the first.

If Newsom survives the recall he will be up for reelection in 2022. Republicans running to replace Newsom include former San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer and reality TV star and former Olympic decathlon champion [Caitlyn Jenner](#), who has never run for elected office. Businessman John Cox, who lost badly to Newsom in 2018, and former Congressman Doug Ose, also are running.

This former Yolo deputy compared immigrants to animals. Now he's leading the Newsom recall

BY THE SACRAMENTO BEE EDITORIAL BOARD

MARCH 19, 2021 05:00 AM



Heatlie, a Folsom native who spent 25 years with the Yolo County Sheriff's Department, initiated the recall campaign against Newsom. Its unexpected success — organizers say they'll have the nearly 1.5 million signatures needed to put a recall on the ballot — has put a bright spotlight on Heatlie.

That spotlight has already revealed a disturbingly racist and anti-immigrant statement Heatlie posted on Facebook last April.

"Microchip Illegal Aliens. It Works! Just Ask Animal Control," wrote Heatlie in a [post first reported by Politico in November](#).

Let's unpack this a bit. First, Heatlie — who has said he won't get the COVID vaccine — suggests implanting microchips into immigrants in violation of their human rights. He also goes out of his way to slam them as "illegal aliens," which is the outdated term for undocumented immigrants preferred by bigots everywhere.

OPINION

Then, just to make sure everyone understands his clear intention to dehumanize immigrants, Heatlie adds the "animal control" line. Heatlie, who used to wear a badge and gun on our streets, apparently sees immigrants as more akin to stray cats and dogs than human beings.

Sadly, it comes as no surprise that a law enforcement officer would harbor such feelings towards the immigrants on whom California's economy depends. But the fact that Heatlie is a leader in the movement to recall Newsom tells you everything you need to know about who is actually behind this effort.

The recall comes at a time when [hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are on the rise](#) and our society is reckoning with its legacy of systemic racism. By allowing a sicko racist cop to lead the recall, the effort's organizers have handed Newsom's team an amazing gift by completely undermining its credibility.

Heatlie dismissed his anti-immigrant post as "hyperbole," but that doesn't mean it's not racist. It's chilling to think that this man spent 25 years in law enforcement. We can't help but wonder how his racist attitude toward immigrants manifested in his role as a Yolo deputy sheriff.

Republican leaders, including the three running for governor against Newsom, must condemn Heatlie's remarks and demand his resignation from the recall campaign. Otherwise, we'll have to assume that they find his views agreeable.

United States

U.S. census hands more House seats to Republican strongholds Texas, Florida

Joseph Ax April 26, 2021

Texas, Florida and North Carolina are among the states that will gain congressional seats based on new population data from the U.S. census, a shift that could boost Republican chances of recapturing the U.S. House of Representatives from Democrats in next year's midterm elections.

The overall U.S. population stood at 331,449,281, the Census Bureau said on Monday, a 7.4% increase over 2010 representing the second-slowest growth of any decade in history.

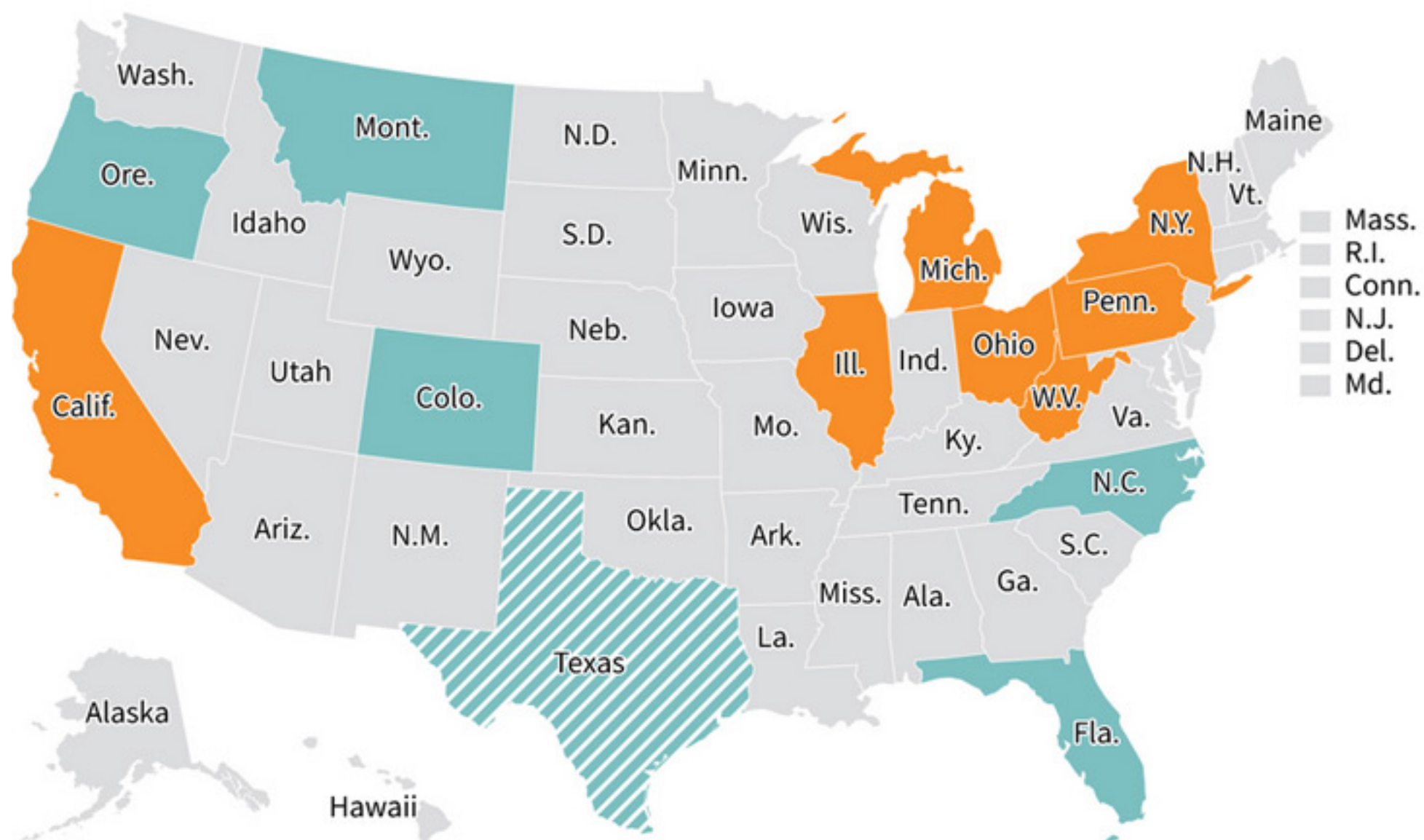
Under the U.S. Constitution, the 435 seats in the House and the votes in the Electoral College that select the president every four years are divided among the 50 states based on population, with every state receiving at least one congressional seat.

The seats are reallocated every 10 years following the decennial census count.

Changes to the number of U.S. House seats

The United States Census Bureau released state-level population estimates for 2020 that will determine the reallocation of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Under the U.S. Constitution, the 435 seats are divided among the 50 states following the census count every 10 years. Six states will gain seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and seven states will lose seats according to the new figures.

Gain 1 seat Gain 2 seats Lose 1 seat No change



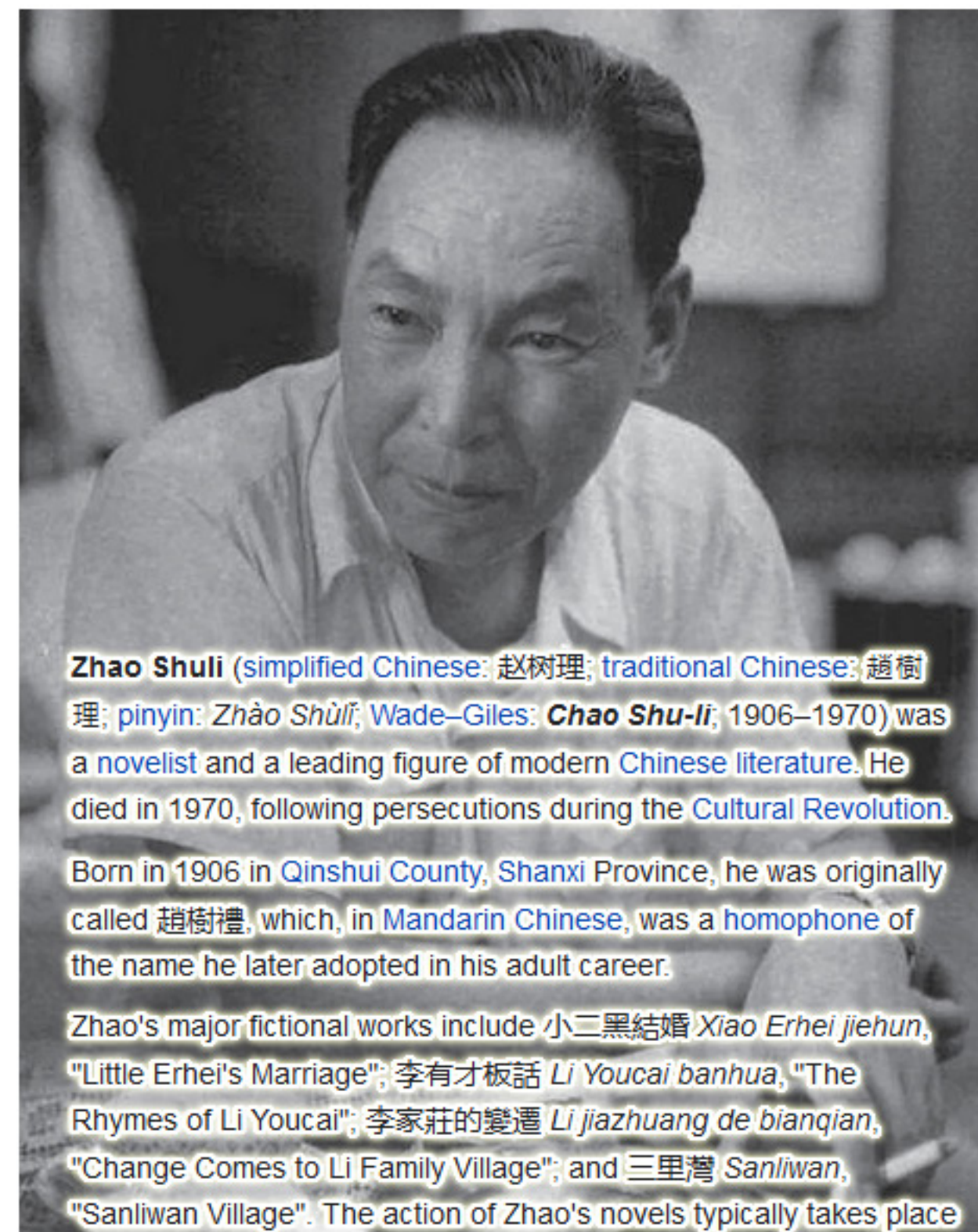
Note: An earlier version of this map showed Virginia gaining one seat instead of North Carolina.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Zhao Shuli (1906—1970), formerly known as Zhao Shuli, was born in Yuchi Village, Qinshui County, Shanxi, and was born in a peasant family. His grandfather was slightly educated, so he became literate, then went to high school from a private school, and finally went to a normal school equivalent to a technical secondary school. Because of the influence of his family and living environment since childhood, he is very familiar and fond of folk literature and art. Literary writing began in the late 1920s. At first, the style was "new literature". However, because of disagreement and hope that what he did could be accepted by the public, he determined to take the road of "popularity", saying that he did not want to enter the literary world and only wanted to go to the street stall.

In detail, in 1949, he entered two "cities". One is the actual tangible city-Beiping. One is an invisible city, the literary world, whose regulations are still meticulous although invisible and intangible. In front of the two cities, Zhao Shuli was an outsider and needed to adapt.

For "contemporary" literary history, Zhao Shuli's criticism is a phenomenon worthy of reflection. If the criticism is due to "changes" in Zhao Shuli, things are a different matter; however, he has not changed, and everything is the same as he was more than ten years ago-then, what has changed?

The birth and status of Zhao Shuli in the history of literature have a lot to do with the praise of the revolutionary ideology. But if we take this writer's interpretation entirely from the revolutionary ideology, we won't use our brains. His value, value, and immortality lies in the fact that he is the first person in history to truly express the peasants from the peasant standard, bringing pure peasant feelings, peasant culture, and peasant language into Chinese literature; and, through the use of literature, people, and language. The unity of behavior provides a cultural ethical symbol for farmers. In this regard, he has eternity, using moments and places to interpret him, not only takes him as a phenomenon superficially, but also prevents us from understanding this period of history.



Zhao Shuli (simplified Chinese: 赵树理; traditional Chinese: 趙樹理; pinyin: *Zhào Shùlǐ*; Wade-Giles: **Chao Shu-li**; 1906–1970) was a novelist and a leading figure of modern Chinese literature. He died in 1970, following persecutions during the Cultural Revolution.

Born in 1906 in Qinshui County, Shanxi Province, he was originally called 趙樹禮, which, in Mandarin Chinese, was a homophone of the name he later adopted in his adult career.

Zhao's major fictional works include 小二黑結婚 *Xiao Erhei jiehun*, "Little Erhei's Marriage"; 李有才板話 *Li Youcai banhua*, "The Rhymes of Li Youcai"; 李家莊的變遷 *Li jiazhuang de bianqian*, "Change Comes to Li Family Village"; and 三里灣 *Sanliwan*, "Sanliwan Village". The action of Zhao's novels typically takes place

in the countryside of Northern China. In this setting, Zhao explores the dilemmas and conflicts of villagers who are facing growing social upheaval. Zhao was renowned for achieving nuanced portrayals of the diverse cast of human characters which were to be found in provincial life. Zhao became known as a leader of the Shanyaodan (White Potato) rural realists (山藥蛋派), one of the most influential literary movements in mid-20th century China.

Zhao was a member of the executive committee of the Chinese Writers Union and also served as the director of the Society of Chinese Authors, the president of the Society of Chinese Poets, and an editor of the journals 曲藝 *Quyì* (Performing Arts) and 人民文學 *Renmin Wenxue* (People's Literature). He was also appointed a representative to the Eighth National Congress of the Communist Party of China, and a deputy in the first, second, and third sessions of the National People's Congress.

He died in 1970, having fallen victim to the persecutions that were launched against intellectuals, artists, and other "undesirables" during the Cultural Revolution.

Handsome Young Married

October 28, 1945, the "new culture" inaugural issue published Zhao Shuli's novel "Handsome Young Married." The novel depicts a young peasant black and young women of the same village tie free love, being both parents against. The two black* father Zhuge letter superstition, said they are "fire grams of gold, fortune tellers right not to get married to his son received a 70-year-old fled girl child bride. Xiao Qin Niang Xiang just for the sake of money, bringing her to marry a dead wife's reactionary retired military officers, and one night, Xiao Qin, two black discuss in a hole caves registered on the next day to the area, and sneak regime institutions bullies Jinwang brothers suddenly rushed Zhuojian the. They Xiao Qin, two black tied up, seized and turned over to the district office already understand the things Mayor Jinwang brothers charge up and do the marriage formalities for Xiao Qin, two black, but also for their parents criticism and education. The plain language of the novel, people, characters vivid and true, full of rich local flavor.



*In Chinese culture the color black is used to signify evil, wicked, or negative aspects in life.

Zhao Shuli (simplified Chinese: 赵树理; traditional Chinese: 趙樹理; pinyin: *Zhào Shùlǐ*; Wade-Giles: *Chao Shu-li*; 1906–1970) was a novelist and a leading figure of modern Chinese literature. He died in 1970, following persecutions during the Cultural Revolution.

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Fear, lack of funding hurt census in Sun Belt, advocates say

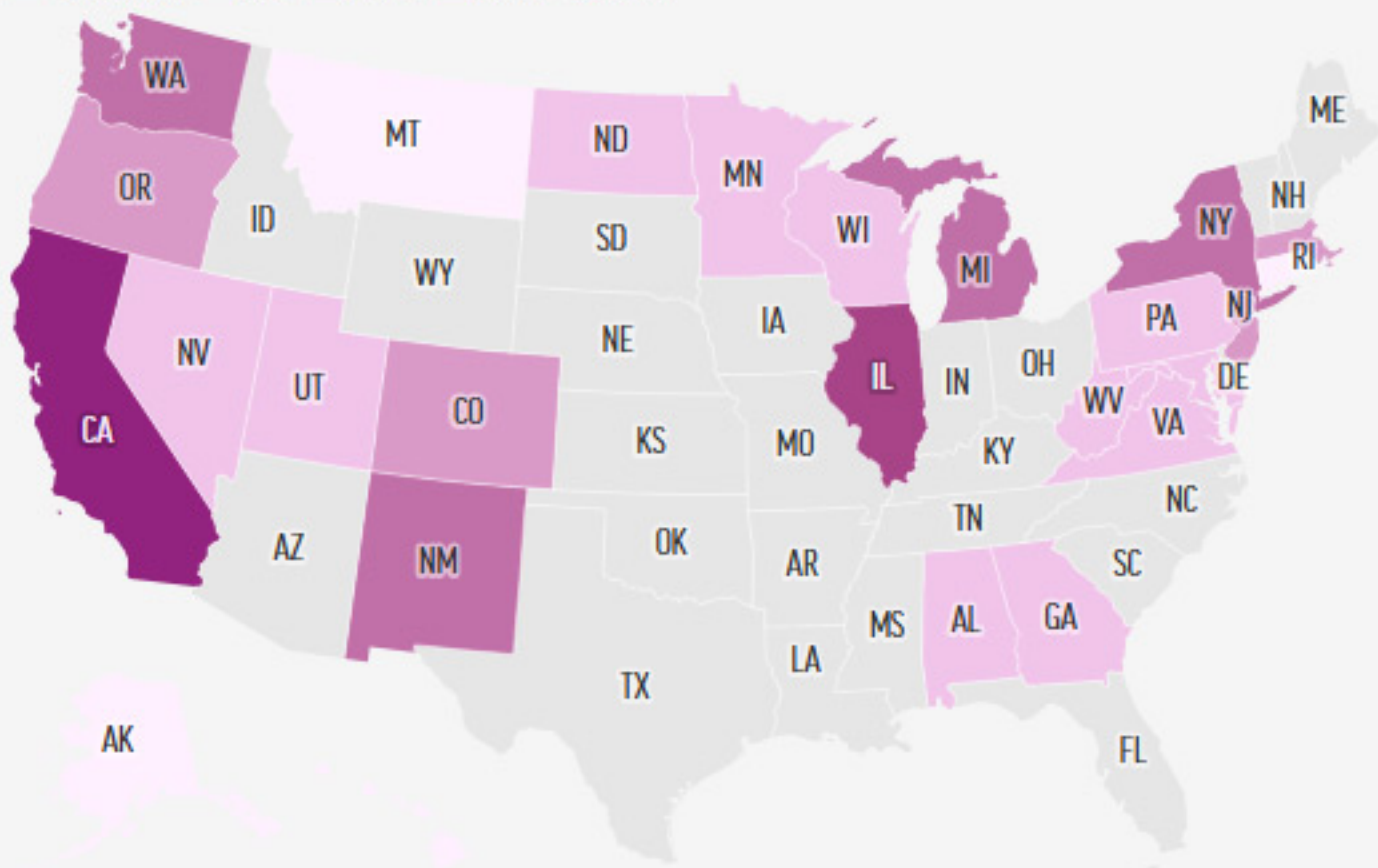
By ACACIA CORONADO, NICHOLAS RICCARDI and MIKE SCHNEIDER Wednesday, April 28, 2021



Which states funded the census outreach

By mid 2020, 26 states had spent money on census outreach. 24 states at that time had spent no money at all, including Arizona, Florida and Texas, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Legend: <\$1 million, \$1-5, \$6-10, \$11-20, More



Source: National Conference of State Legislatures.

AP

“I smell smoke,” Vargas said. “We will have to wait a few months to see what kind of fire there is.”

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — According to the new census, the booming Sun Belt isn’t booming quite like the experts thought.

Population counts released Monday came as a shock to many demographers and politicians who expected to see growth that could add numerous congressional seats to a region that’s apparently been gaining people rapidly all decade. Instead, the census found more modest growth that added only three seats total in Florida and Texas. Arizona, the second-fastest growing state in 2010, didn’t add a seat at all.

The questions that advocacy groups and officials are now asking are whether all the new subdivisions and shopping centers are a mirage; whether those states erred in not investing more in encouraging residents to fill out census forms — and whether Latinos in particular were reluctant to trust the Trump administration with their information.

Many demographers caution it’s too early to conclude that the nation’s once-a-decade count missed any specific population groups. That won’t be known until more local data is released later this year and the Census Bureau has completed an independent survey measuring the accuracy of the 2020 head count.

But one thing is indisputable — when compared to the most recent population estimates, the three Sun Belt states underperformed during the count used for determining how many congressional seats and Electoral College votes each state gets. Texas got two extra seats instead of three; Florida added only a single new seat instead of two, and Arizona failed to gain the seat it was expecting to add.

China Says It Has Ended Poverty. Is That True?

The government has declared victory over poverty. NPR talks to the people who've been moved from poor rural villages to brand-new apartment buildings to see how they're now faring.

April 27, 2021 · 7:27 AM ET



EMILY FENG



Apartments in Qixingguan, a new district in Bijie, China, were built for the residents of poor, remote villages. A patriotic slogan on one building says: "Resettlement to a new home. Thank the Communist Party for a happy, peaceful new home."

BIJIE, China – The Qixingguan community is designed to look like a socialist paradise. Identical rows of dozens of yellow apartment buildings, emblazoned with slogans expressing gratitude toward China's Communist Party, provide free living quarters for people once isolated in remote, mountainous villages. Near the complex, small garment factories were supposed to create jobs, and one of China's biggest real estate companies built two elementary schools.

But many of the complex's [some 32,000](#) residents say they are still waiting for the life they were promised when the community launched in 2018.

"We were tricked," said Luo Beiling, who relocated her family to Qixingguan, a new district in Bijie, a city scattered in between mountains in Guizhou province, in 2018. She and other residents say commitments to provide good jobs never materialized, revealing how the sticky legacy of inequality – between China's affluent urban centers and its more rural outposts – remains.

Luo looked into moving back to her old house in the mountains, a three-hour drive away, where water was free and she could grow her own produce, but she found the village entirely demolished. "Now we are stuck here," she says, gesturing toward Qixingguan.



Resettled villagers sun themselves outside Qixingguan. Many older residents have had a difficult time adjusting to life away from their fields.

So it's not the government, but rather people such as the exuberant Sun who are now looking for ways to lift local incomes – and to keep people from sliding back into poverty.

ENERGY

California's 'White Gold' Rush: Lithium In Demand Amid Surge In Electric Vehicles

April 28, 2021 · 5:00 AM ET

BENJAMIN PURPER



Rod Colwell, CEO of Controlled Thermal Resources, is among many hoping to transform the area around California's Salton Sea into a domestic source of lithium for electric car batteries.

Benjamin Purper/KVCR

As demand for electric vehicles heats up, there's concern about a shortage of the key minerals needed to make them. The Biden administration has called for boosting domestic production of such minerals, including lithium for the lithium-ion batteries used in electric-vehicles. And that has many hoping for big business in a desolate spot of California's Imperial Valley.

A few miles from the shores of California's Salton Sea, a construction crew is at work on the future site of [Hell's Kitchen Lithium and Power](#). It's a geothermal facility, meaning it uses the Earth's natural heat to create electricity.

That alone has fueled investment here for years. This facility, run by the Australian company [Controlled Thermal Resources](#), will someday produce enough geothermal energy to power 1.1 million homes. But once it's fully operational, it will also be able to extract lithium from the geothermal brine under the ground.

"The sea has been receding for up to about 20-40 yards a month in the shallow lands down here," explains CEO Rod Colwell, pointing out the change on a windy day in Calipatria, near the man-made lake's southern edge.

This has created a public health issue, as the exposed lakebed subjects nearby communities to [toxic dust rising up from its surface](#). But "it's been exposing some of the best known lithium and geothermal resources on the planet," Colwell says. "It's a really interesting crossroads in time."



BUSINESS

[As Auto Industry Goes Electric, Can It Avoid A Battery Bottleneck?](#)

It's also a boon for geothermal and lithium companies like his. [Bill Gates](#) and [Michael Bloomberg](#) are among the many investors also hoping for pay-off with projects around the Salton Sea.

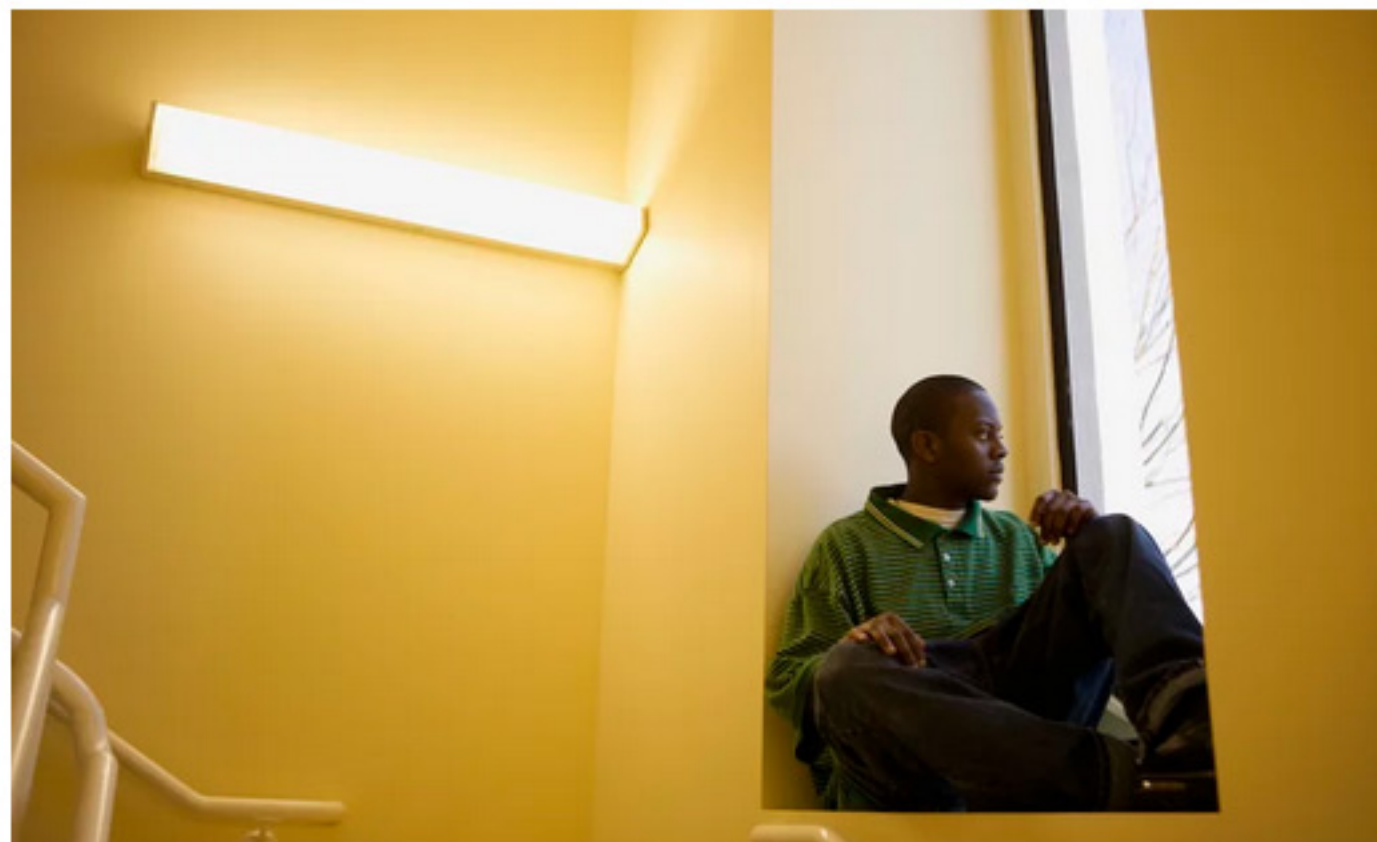
The best part, according to Colwell, is that geothermal lithium is environmentally benign, and produces very few carbon emissions.

"It's 100 per cent green," he says.

There Is Growing Segregation In Millennial Wealth

April 27, 2021 · 6:30 AM ET

GREG ROSALSKY



Non-college-educated and Black millennials are still lagging way behind. About 80% of Black millennials with at least a bachelor's degree still have student loan debt, compared with about half of white millennials.

A few years ago, as everyone focused incessantly on millennials' apparent obsession with avocado toast, a team of researchers at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis got to work investigating something much more serious: millennial wealth. They found that the typical millennial household, as of 2016, had only about \$28,000 in net worth — putting them 40% behind what previous generations had in wealth at the same age (in inflation-adjusted terms). The data suggested we millennials were becoming a "lost generation," destined to be poorer than the generations that preceded us.

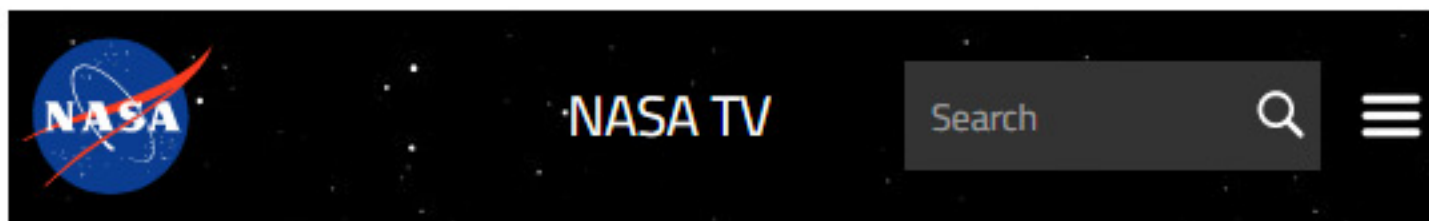
Baby boomers and Gen Xers have faced their fair share of calamities — stagflation, the double-dip recession of the 1980s, disco — but millennials have had it really rough. Millennials who got college degrees exited school deep in debt and entered a job market ravaged

by the Great Recession. Millennials who didn't get college degrees found it harder to get a well-paying, blue-collar job, after trade and automation closed avenues that past generations had used to get to the middle class. We saw our child-rearing and first-home-buying years — not to mention our ability to work face-to-face — interrupted by a pandemic. And all the while we've slogged through an economy muddied by growing inequality, stagnation and a [fading American dream](#).

The research team at the St. Louis Fed recently got its hands on some fresher data, which the team crunched to reveal what had happened to millennials in the years since 2016. The team found shockingly different trends within our generation. Some of us have rebounded dramatically in recent years. Others have fallen further behind. Black millennials have had it worst of all: They aren't just falling further and further behind white millennials in building wealth for their families — they're falling further and further behind what previous Black generations amassed in wealth.

About 80% of Black millennials with at least a bachelor's degree still have student loan debt, compared with about half of white millennials. White millennials are also [more likely](#) to own assets like stocks and homes, which have ballooned in value in recent years. While about two-thirds of white millennials own homes, less than a third of Black millennials own homes.

"I think it's clear in the data that there is a segregated America," Kent says. That has always been true. But the troubling story is that, despite racial progress in politics and culture, most Black Americans have yet to see tangible wealth gains. Moreover, we should highlight, this data was all collected before the pandemic, which has [made racial inequality even worse](#).



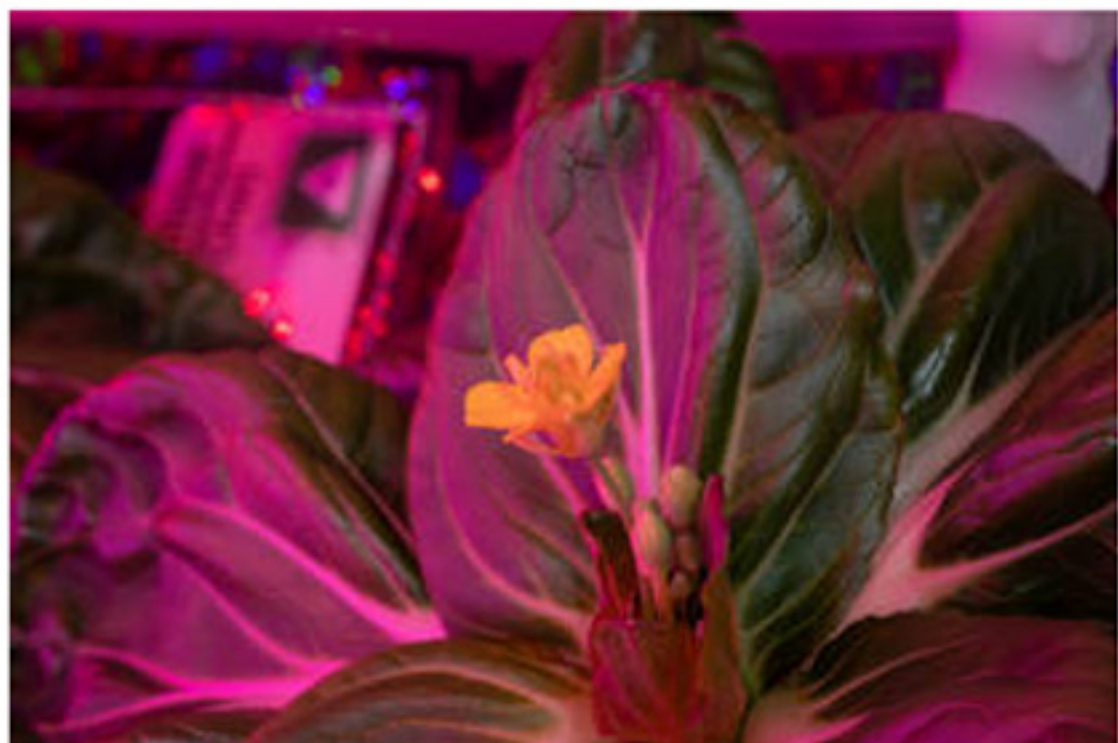
Apr 27, 2021

NASA Astronaut Paints a Picture of Success Growing Plants in Space



NASA astronaut and Expedition 64 flight engineer Michael Hopkins smells 'Extra Dwarf' pak choi plants growing aboard the International Space Station on March 26, 2021. The plants were grown for the Veggie study, which is exploring space agriculture as a way to sustain astronauts on future missions to the Moon or Mars.

Credits: NASA



As part of the VEG-03K and VEG-03L experiments, the plants grew for 64 days, the longest leafy greens have grown on the space station.

On Jan. 4, Hopkins initiated two experiments, [VEG-03I](#), which involved the [first successful plant transplants in space](#), and [VEG-03J](#), which featured the use of new [seed film](#) developed at Kennedy. He harvested both experiments on Feb. 2. Less than a week later, he began growing VEG-03K and VEG-03L.

"He has been a huge advocate from the get-go," said Kennedy Life Sciences Plant Scientist Gioia Massa, adding that NASA astronaut Kate Rubins also has been involved in the Veggie experiments. "We have such passionate and enthusiastic astronauts who are incredibly supportive of this research."

Growing these crops has been challenging at times. During VEG-03I, two plant pillows containing 'Outredgeous' Red Romaine and 'Dragoon' lettuce seeds were growing far slower than the other plants and would not have caught up by harvest time. With guidance from Veggie program scientists at Kennedy, Hopkins transplanted extra sprouts from the thriving plant pillows into two of the struggling pillows. The scientists were pleasantly surprised to learn microgravity appeared to benefit the plants, paving the way for potential future development.

The 'Extra Dwarf' pak choi, which had been grown in Veggie twice previously with less favorable results, flourished this time around. Its success is shared by middle school and high school students, who selected the plant as a result of the [Growing Beyond Earth](#) program. The classroom-based science project operates in partnership with NASA to test numerous candidate plant varieties in schools throughout the country.

"This variety (of pak choi) was sent specifically because the students tested it and found that it worked really well," Massa said. "Now it's being grown and eaten – and enjoyed – by astronauts. That's not something that happens to most students. They are shaping NASA research."

The [Biological and Physical Sciences Division](#) of NASA's Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters in Washington led development of Veggie and the APH, and regularly solicits research investigations to be performed in them.

Navy SEALs to shift from counterterrorism to global threats

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Wednesday, April 28, 2021



FILE - This May 4, 2020, photo provided by the U.S. Navy shows SEAL candidates participating in "surf immersion" during Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) training at the Naval Special Warfare (NSW) Center in Coronado, Calif. U.S. Navy SEALs are undergoing a major transition to improve leadership and expand their commando capabilities. (MC1 Anthony Walker/U.S. Navy via AP)

The new plan cuts the number of SEAL platoons by as much as 30% and increases their size to make the teams more lethal and able to counter sophisticated maritime and undersea adversaries. And there will be a new, intensive screening process for the Navy's elite warriors, to get higher-quality leaders after scandals that rocked the force and involved charges of murder, sexual assault and drug use.

Rear Adm. Hugh Howard, top commander for the SEALs, laid out his plans in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press. He said the Navy's special operations forces have been focused on counterterrorism operations but now must begin to evolve beyond those missions. For the past two decades, many have been fighting in the deserts of Iraq and mountains of Afghanistan. Now they are focused on going back to sea.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ten years after they found and killed Osama bin Laden, U.S. Navy SEALs are undergoing a major transition to improve leadership and expand their commando capabilities to better battle threats from global powers like China and Russia.

That decision reflects the broader Pentagon strategy to prioritize China and Russia, which are rapidly growing their militaries and trying to expand their influence around the globe. U.S. defense leaders believe that two decades of war against militants and extremists have drained resources, causing America to lose ground against Moscow and Beijing.



California Drought-hit California moves to halt Nestlé from taking millions of gallons of water

Nestlé, accused of taking millions more gallons than it is entitled to, receives draft cease-and-desist order from state officials

Maanvi Singh in San Francisco

[@maanvissingh](#)

Tue 27 Apr 2021 08:14 EDT

California water officials have moved to stop Nestlé from siphoning millions of gallons of water out of California's San Bernardino forest, which it bottles and sells as Arrowhead brand water, as drought conditions worsen across the state.



'Water warriors': the US women banding together to fight for water justice

[→ Read more](#)

The draft cease-and-desist order, which still requires approval from the California Water Resources Control Board, is the latest development in a protracted battle between the bottled water company and local environmentalists, who for years have accused **Nestlé** of draining water supplies at the expense of local communities and ecosystems.

Nestlé has maintained that its rights to California spring water dates back to 1865. But a 2017 **investigation** found that Nestlé was taking far more than its share. Last year the company drew out about 58m gallons, far surpassing the 2.3m gallons per year it could validly claim.

Nestlé has sucked up, on average, 25 times as much water as it may have a right to, according to the Story of Stuff Project, an environmental group that has been fighting to stop the bottled water company's pumping in California for years.

Strawberry Creek, which Nestlé has been pumping from, is a tributary of the Santa Ana river, which provides drinking water for about about 750,000 residents. The region's watersheds also provide a habitat for deer, fox and mountain lions, and threatened Alameda whipsnakes.

The draft order comes two months after Nestlé, which is based in Switzerland, sold its US- and Canada-based water brands to equity firms One Rock Capital Partners and Metropoulos for \$4.3bn.

The company's fight water in California mirrors similar fights in Oregon, Pennsylvania, Maine and Michigan. Across the US, conservationists have accused Nestlé of leveraging vast lobbying funds to **bend** local and federal officials to its will.

"The forests that Nestlé is draining - they're our forests, supported by every US taxpayer," said Amanda Frye, an activist who provided state officials with documents and research going back at least a century to show Nestlé did not have the right to the water it was pumping.

Prior to its sale this year, Nestlé Waters North America was the largest bottled water company in the US - its brands include Poland Spring and Zephyrhills. It paid the Forest Service a permit fee of \$2,100 per year, but had been pumping water for free.

Biden Order To Require New Cybersecurity Standards In Response To SolarWinds Attack

April 29, 2021 · 5:01 AM ET



DINA TEMPLE-RASTON



Anne Neuberger, the deputy national security advisor for cyber and emerging technology, says an upcoming executive order will strengthen U.S. cybersecurity, from setting up new ways to investigate cyberattacks to developing standards for software.

Saul Loeb/AFP via Getty Images

The Biden administration is putting the final touches on an executive order aimed at helping the U.S. defend itself against sophisticated cyberattacks like the one Russian hackers recently leveled against Texas software maker SolarWinds.

The order, as now written, lays out a series of new requirements for companies that do business with the government. The initiative includes plans for more systematic investigations of cyber events and standards for software development. The idea is to use the federal contracting process to force changes that will eventually trickle down to the rest of the private sector.

"So essentially, federal government procurement allows us to say, if you're doing business with the federal government, here's a set of things you need to comply with in order to do business with us," Anne Neuberger, the deputy national security advisor for cyber and emerging technology at the White House, told NPR in an exclusive interview.

She says the executive order will "set the goal, give it a timeline and then establish the process to work out the details" on a handful of cybersecurity initiatives, from setting up new ways to investigate cyberattacks to developing standards for software.

But all this is easier said than done.

"The key is going to be in how each of these elements of the executive order are executed," Todt said. "And really how government is going to bring industry in to perform the functions to really look pre-event, middle of event, post event and how we take those lessons learned and integrate them."

And while you may have never heard of SolarWinds or been affected by that attack, the connected world is increasingly vulnerable. And that is one of the messages the administration is trying to send.

"Cyber threats loom large in a way that Americans feel," Neuberger said. "Can we trust our water, our power to be resilient? We see small companies being forced to pay a ransom to get their business back up and running. We see school systems' networks down due to criminals. So, those risks touch everyday Americans' lives."

The Biden administration has already leveled sanctions against Russia for the SolarWinds attack. And the White House has said there would be more "seen" and "unseen" responses to the breach. The unseen responses — for example, whether the Biden administration is preparing a reprisal attack against Moscow in cyberspace — was not something Neuberger was willing to talk about.

Mayday

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The "mayday" procedure word was conceived as a distress call in the early 1920s by Frederick Stanley Mockford, officer-in-charge of radio at Croydon Airport, London. He had been asked to think of a word that would indicate distress and would easily be understood by all pilots and ground staff in an emergency. Since much of the air traffic at the time was between Croydon and Le Bourget Airport in Paris, he proposed the term "mayday", the phonetic equivalent of the French m'aidez ("help me") or m'aider (a short form of venez m'aider, "come [and] help me"). The term is unrelated to the holiday May Day.

Following tests, the new procedure word was introduced for cross-Channel flights in February 1923. The previous distress call had been the Morse code signal SOS, but this was not considered suitable for voice communication, "[o]wing to the difficulty of distinguishing the letter 'S' by telephone". In 1927, the International Radiotelegraph Convention of Washington adopted the voice call "mayday" as the radiotelephone distress call in addition to the SOS radiotelegraph (Morse code) signal.

Frederick Stanley Mockford

| | |
|---------------|--|
| BIRTH | 1897 |
| DEATH | 1 Mar 1962 (aged 64–65) England |
| BURIAL | <u>Selmeston Churchyard</u> Selmeston, Wealden District, East Sussex, England |



The Pilgrims' attack on a May Day celebration was a dress rehearsal for removing Native Americans

April 29, 2021 8:22am EDT

Peter C. Mancall, USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

Ever since the ancient Romans decided to honor the agricultural goddess Flora with lewd spectacles in the Circus Maximus, the beginning of May has signaled the coming of spring, a time of revival after a long, dark winter.

In Europe, the holiday – usually celebrated on May 1 – became known as May Day. Though traditions varied by country and culture, celebrants often erected maypoles and decorated them with long colorful ribbons. Townspeople, while indulging in food and drink, would frolic for hours. These rituals continue today in parks and on college campuses across the U.S. and Europe.

The Puritans saw May Day celebrations as a test from God. Universal History Archive/Universal Images



The Pilgrims' attack on a May Day celebration was a dress rehearsal for removing Native Americans

April 29, 2021 8:22am EDT

Peter C. Mancall, USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences



Revelers dance around a maypole in Germany in the 16th century. Print Collector/Getty Images

Throughout history, millions have embraced the holiday – except for the Puritans of early modern England. Though we tend to lump them together, the term “Puritans” included different groups of religious dissenters. Among them were the Pilgrims, who eventually decided to migrate to North America to create new communities according to their religious vision.

It is tempting to attribute the Pilgrims' hostility toward the holiday to the doom-and-gloom stereotype of the Puritans as humorless and overly pious – the same tendencies that led them to ban Christmas festivities. But their attack on a maypole in Plymouth Colony in 1628 reveals much about their approach toward those who didn't conform to their vision for the world.

Thomas Morton saw no harm in having a little fun. A small group of these colonists moved about 25 miles northwest of Plymouth. A lawyer named Thomas Morton, who had arrived in New England in 1624 or 1625, eventually became the unofficial leader of this camp, which came to be known as Merrymount. In 1628, with Morton's blessing, the colonists set up an 80-foot maypole crowned with deer antlers in preparation for May Day.

Since they believed in predestination, the conviction that everything that occurs is part of a divine plan, they must have figured that God had sent Morton to test them. By exiling him and destroying the maypole, they confirmed what they saw as the righteousness of their cause.

A decade later, with tensions rising between colonists and Indigenous people, the Pilgrims of Plymouth, along with the Puritans of Massachusetts, saw themselves confronting a new test. This time the threat came not from a maypole, but instead from a Native American community that seemed, as Bradford wrote – using language that echoed his condemnation of Morton – “proud and insulting.”

The consequences in 1637 were far worse than at Merrymount. The colonists set a Pequot town aflame and shot those who tried to escape. Historians estimate that at least 400 Native Americans lost their lives in a single night.

Like other English colonizers, the Pilgrims believed they needed to displace Native Americans to create their own communities. But before they did so, they had to get their own houses in order. They could not tolerate any who crossed them, attacking those deemed a threat.

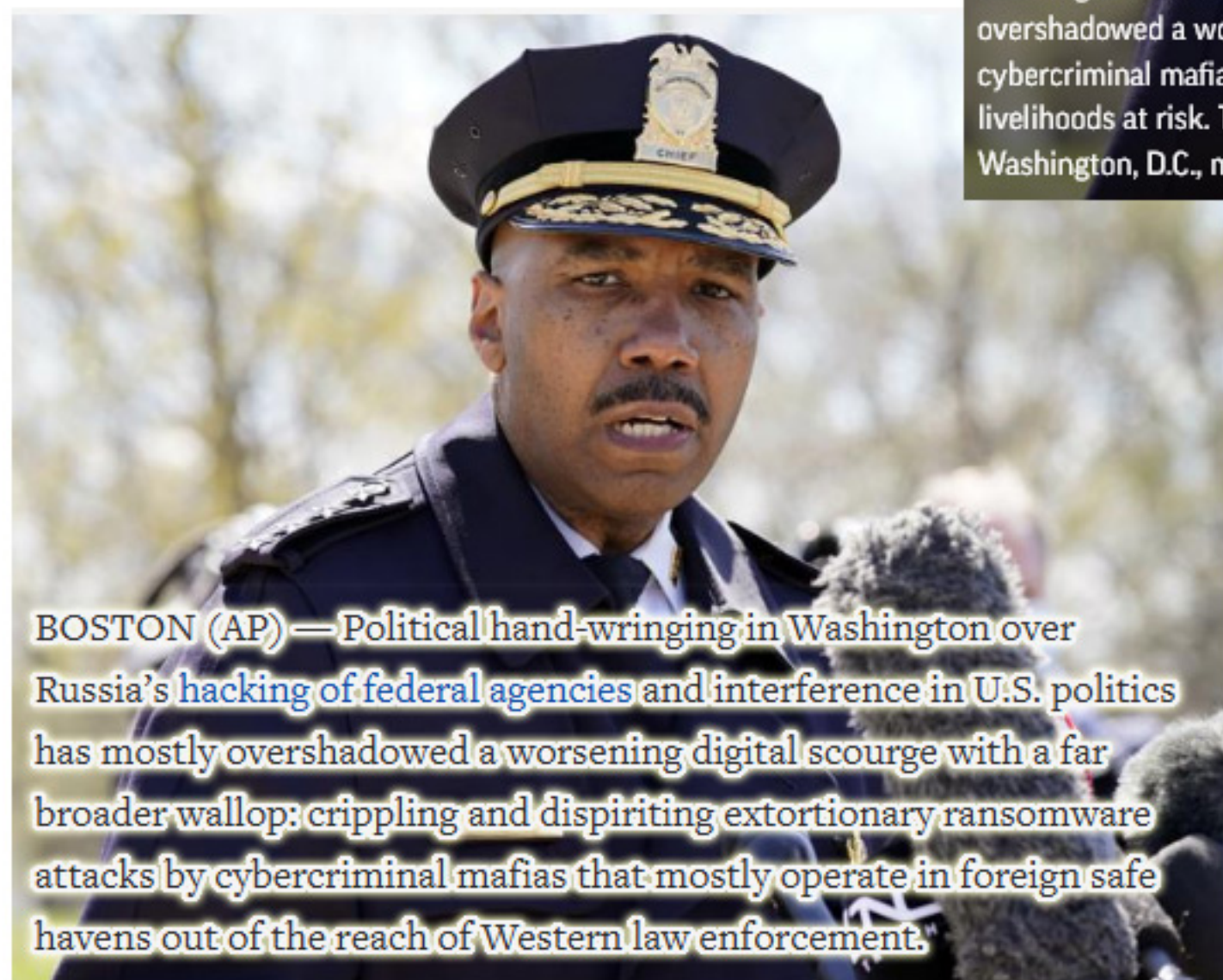
Colonial leaders like Winthrop and Bradford believed any sign of disobedience had to be punished. Clearing Merrymount of its maypole was a dress rehearsal for what was to come.

Church of England Native Americans Pilgrims Mayflower May Day
puritans Plymouth colony

EXPLAINER: No ransomware silver bullet, crooks out of reach

By [FRANK BAJAK](#) an hour ago Thursday, April 29, 2021

FILE - In this April 2, 2021, file photo, Washington Metropolitan Police Department chief Robert Contee speaks during a news conference in Washington. Political hand-wringing in Washington over Russia's hacking of federal agencies and meddling in U.S. politics has mostly overshadowed a worsening digital scourge with a far broader wallop: crippling and dispiriting extortionary ransomware attacks by cybercriminal mafias. All the while, ransomware gangsters have become more brazen and cocky as they put more and more lives and livelihoods at risk. This week, one syndicate threatened to make available to local criminal gangs data they say they stole from the Washington, D.C., metro police on informants. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)



BOSTON (AP) — Political hand-wringing in Washington over Russia's [hacking of federal agencies](#) and interference in U.S. politics has mostly overshadowed a worsening digital scourge with a far broader wallop: crippling and dispiriting extortionary ransomware attacks by cybercriminal mafias that mostly operate in foreign safe havens out of the reach of Western law enforcement.

Stricken in the United States alone last year were more than 100 federal, state and municipal agencies, upwards of 500 health care centers, 1,680 educational institutions and untold thousands of businesses, [according to the cybersecurity firm Emsisoft](#). Dollar losses are in the tens of billions. Accurate numbers are elusive. Many victims shun reporting, fearing the reputational blight.

All the while, ransomware gangsters have become more brazen and cocky as they put more and more lives and livelihoods at risk. This week, one syndicate threatened to make available to local criminal gangs data they say they stole from the Washington, D.C., [metro police](#) on informants. Another recently offered to share data purloined from [corporate victims](#) with Wall Street inside traders. Cybercriminals have even reached out directly to people whose personal info was harvested from third parties to pressure victims to pay up.

The multi-pronged response to ransomware proposed by the task force will require the kind of concerted diplomatic, legal and law enforcement cooperation with key allies that the Trump administration shunned, displacing what the authors call the current “uncoordinated, disjointed” response.

“There is no silver bullet, but if we’re going to shift the trajectory of this type of attack the U.S. government has got to get at this with some speed,” said task force co-chair Philip Reiner, executive director of the nonprofit Institute for Security and Technology.

Ransomware developers and their affiliates should be named and shamed (they are not always easy to identify) and regimes that enable them punished with sanctions, the report urges.

It calls for mandatory disclosure of ransom payments and a federal “response fund” to provide financial assistance to victims — in hopes that, in many cases, it will prevent them from paying ransoms. And it wants stricter regulation of cryptocurrency markets to make it more difficult for criminals to launder ransomware proceeds.

The task force also calls for something potentially controversial: amending the U.S. Computer Fraud and Abuse Act to let private industry actively block or limit online criminal activity, including of botnets, the networks of hijacked zombie computers that ransomware criminals use to sow infections.

The odds of successfully stifling ransomware are high, the report’s authors acknowledge: “The old adage that a cybercriminal only has to be lucky once, while a defender has to be lucky every minute of every day, has never been more true.”

AP

Texas special election poses test for anti-Trump Republicans

MANSFIELD, Texas (AP) — Adam Kinzinger came to Texas this week to hunt unicorns.

The Illinois congressman was looking for Republicans who, like him, see former President Donald Trump as a scourge on their party and a threat to democracy. Kinzinger met privately with one sympathetic Republican, former President George W. Bush, on his first day in the state. And on the second, he had lunch with Michael Wood, the only openly anti-Trump Republican competing on Saturday in a crowded special election for a seat in Congress.

Kinzinger, a 43-year-old Air Force pilot who flew missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, is positioning himself as a leading antagonist to Trump in a party that is largely refusing to move on from the former president. The congressman's nascent political organization, Country First, has endorsed every House Republican who voted to impeach Trump for inciting the deadly Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol. And as Kinzinger eyes a potential run for higher office himself, he came to Texas to test how many other Republicans share his outlook.

Kinzinger's hope lies in Wood, another fresh-faced combat veteran, who is fighting to stand out in a field of 23. If none of the candidates on Saturday's ballot earns 50% of the vote, the top two will compete in a runoff election later in the spring.

"The Trump thing, it's got nowhere to go but down. It's not growing," Kinzinger said during his lunch with Wood at the Fork in the Road cafe in the Dallas suburbs. "But it took a lot of time for the Republican Party to be what it is today. It may take a lot of time to bring it back."

In his campaign to reject Trumpism, the Illinois congressman is outmatched by every measurable metric. Polls suggest that as many as 8 in 10 Republicans continue to support Trump. And while Kinzinger's political team celebrated raising \$2.2 million last quarter, Trump's political operation is sitting on at least \$85 million.

Yet Wood has also drawn financial and moral support from a handful of other Trump critics in Congress, including Reps. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo.; David Valadao, R-Calif.; and Peter Meijer, R-Mich. Like Kinzinger, all three voted to impeach Trump.

Kinzinger said he was drawn to Wood by the 34-year-old former Marine infantry officer's political courage. Wood has been booed at Republican campaign events for saying that the GOP has devolved into a "cult of personality." The first line of campaign literature he hands to voters declares, "The Republican Party has lost its way..."

In an interview, Wood, who earned two Purple Hearts for his service in Afghanistan and now runs a small business, compared Trump to a "less intelligent, lazy and disorganized" autocrat like Roman emperor Julius Caesar. He warned that freedom itself is at risk if Trump and what he stands for aren't soundly rejected.

"I don't want to go to Congress if I have to lick Donald Trump's boots to get there," he said.



1 of 9

Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., left, shakes hands with Grant Goodyear, right, as Texas congressional candidate Michael Wood, center, shakes hands with Linda Thomas Tuesday, April 27, 2021, in Arlington, Texas. Wood is considered the anti-Trump Republican Texas congressional candidate that Kinzinger has endorsed in the May 1st special election for the 6th Congressional District. (AP Photo/LM Otero)

America Reckons With Racial Injustice

Can A Teacher Fly A Black Lives Matter Flag At School? A Florida Court Will Consider

April 30, 2021 · 8:14 AM ET

SYDNEY BOLES



Amy Donofrio stands in front of Robert E. Lee High School in Jacksonville, Fla. She was suspended from teaching duties after she refused to take down a Black Lives Matter flag from outside her classroom.

Robert E. Lee High School in Jacksonville, Fla., was segregated — whites only — until the 1971-1972 school year. Its school colors are blue and gray, the colors of the Confederacy, and its sports teams are called the Generals.

But a lot has changed since the 1970s: Now, the student body is 70% Black. Students run an [Instagram page](#) to document racism they experience at school. And a [student group](#) called the EVAC Movement, focused on reframing Black youth in Jacksonville from "at risk" to "at hope," met with then-President Barack Obama in 2016 and presented before the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

In January 2020, a former member of the EVAC Movement, Reginald Boston, was [killed by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office](#).

That fall, Amy Donofrio, an English teacher at Lee and co-founder of the EVAC Movement, hung a Black Lives Matter flag outside her classroom to mark it as a safe space for students to process Boston's death.

"His life mattered. Period," Donofrio said. "Walking beside his family, his mom, and seeing what it looks like in real life, there's no possible way that you can't stand by the belief that Black lives matter."

This March, Jacksonville's public school district told Donofrio to take the flag down, saying it violated district policy on political speech by employees.

Donofrio said no. So she was taken out of the classroom and reassigned to non-teaching duties.

Donofrio is now represented by the Southern Poverty Law Center in a lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida. The suit alleges the flag's removal was a violation of her First Amendment rights.

Donofrio alleges that the school district consistently undermined the EVAC program by demoting it from a class to a club to an informal group, turning down private funding and blocking her from using non-teaching days to take students on field trips. It felt like the school didn't support its Black students. The conflict over the flag was just the final straw.

"It's a question of whether or not this is a matter of great public significance, whether or not this speech is protected," said Cathleen Scott, a civil rights attorney who is representing Donofrio alongside the Southern Poverty Law Center. "Ms. Donofrio was speaking out against racism. And that's a very important value."

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Amy Donofrio (center) and former students stand outside Robert E. Lee High. Donofrio is wearing a shirt that reads "Black Lives Matter at school." She was reassigned to non-teaching duties after refusing to take down a Black Lives Matter flag she had put up outside her classroom.

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For Amiyah Jacobs, a senior at Robert E. Lee High, the Black Lives Matter flag was comforting and she felt the school taking it down was disrespectful. She said she missed seeing Donofrio at school.

"Since we are a Title I school, not everybody has access to the right resources. So she helps out with kids who need hygiene or food or even help applying to college," Jacobs said. "She was just very sweet. And she cared for the students. It wasn't always just about 'Do your work.' "

Jacobs is one of more than 16,000 people who have signed a [student-led petition](#) to bring the teacher back to the classroom.

Donofrio said it's stressful to sue her employer, but it also feels like a relief.

"There are educators all over this country that want to stand with our children, that are advocating for our children, and are being retaliated against and pushed back against as a result. And so my goal, my hope, is that by doing this, we can empower more educators to stand beside our kids."

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American cities have long struggled to reform their police – but isolated success stories suggest community and officer buy-in might be key

Thaddeus L. Johnson, *Georgia State University* and Natasha N. Johnson



Gayle Rogers, *University of Pittsburgh*



Chris Knoester, *The Ohio State University* and Richard J. Petts, *Ball State University*



Sam Purkis, *University of Miami*

Getting police and community on board with reforms is crucial for success. Stephen Maturen/Getty Images

American cities have long struggled to reform their police – but isolated success stories suggest community and officer buy-in might be key

April 30, 2021 8.16am EDT

Thaddeus L. Johnson, Georgia State University, Natasha N. Johnson

Resisting change

After the shooting death in Missouri of unarmed teen Michael Brown in 2014, police in Ferguson agreed to a reform program that included anti-bias training and an agreement to end stop, search and arrest practices that discriminate on the basis of race.

But five years into the process, a report by the nonprofit Forward Through Ferguson found the reforms had done little to change policing culture or practice. This was backed up by a Ferguson Civilian Review Board report in July 2020 that found the “disparity in traffic stops between black and white residents appears to be growing.”

Similarly, concerns over the quality of Baltimore’s police services persist despite federal oversight and reforms brought in after the death of Freddie Gray in police custody in 2015.

Commentators have pointed to a resistance to change among officers and an inability to garner community buy-in as reasons for the slowdown in progress in Baltimore.

Part of the problem, as seen with Baltimore, is that federal intervention does not appear to guarantee lasting change. Research shows that Department of Justice regulations aimed at reform only slightly reduce police misconduct. There is also no evidence that national efforts targeting the use of force alone mitigate police killings.

A 2018 study of traffic stops in Fayetteville, North Carolina, found that redirecting enforcement away from minor infractions – such as broken taillights and expired tags – toward the more serious violations of speeding and running traffic lights resulted in reduced crime and a narrowed racial gap in stops and searches.

Removing the trigger

Low-level infractions have often been the triggers for police interventions that end in citizen deaths. Eric Garner – who died in 2014 after a New York police officer put him in a banned chokehold – was stopped for selling loose cigarettes.

Devoting less time to policing such activity would also free up officers’ time to devote to such endeavors as analyzing crime trends, conducting wellness checks on elderly residents and mentoring community youth. I (Thaddeus Johnson) felt this as a police officer on the street, and I see it as a criminal justice scholar now.

The examples of Cincinnati, Ferguson and Baltimore show that getting community buy-in is crucial if attempts to improve policing are to be successful. We believe that evaluating officers’ performance and rewarding them based on community-oriented activities – rather than just the number of stops and arrests – could foster the support necessary for lasting reform.



Policing

Ferguson

Community policing

Police reform

US police

Cincinnati

Racial bias in policing

Overpolicing

George Floyd

Minneapolis

Derek Chauvin

Derek Chauvin trial

Getting police and community on board with reforms is crucial for success. Stephen Maturen/Getty Images

American cities have long struggled to reform their police – but isolated success stories suggest community and officer buy-in might be key

April 30, 2021 8.16am EDT

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Community-led reform

One beacon of hope is the Cincinnati Police Department. Twenty years ago, residents in Cincinnati experienced events similar to what many cities have faced in more recent years. An unarmed Black man, Timothy Thomas, was shot dead by officers in 2001, sparking widespread unrest. It led Cincinnati to enter into a different model of reform: a collaborative agreement.



After the death of Timothy Thomas in 2001, Cincinnati erupted. Mike Simons/Newsmakers via Getty Images

Touted by former U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch as a national model for community-led police reform, the collaborative agreement saw the police department, civic government, police unions and local civil rights groups act in partnership for a reform program backed by court supervision.

The resulting changes to use-of-force policies, a focus on community-based solutions to crime, and robust oversight brought about improved policing. A 2009 Rand evaluation of the collaborative agreement found it resulted in a reduction in crime, positive changes in citizens' attitudes toward police and fewer racially biased traffic stops. There were also fewer use-of-force incidents and officer and arrestee injuries under the collaborative agreement.

But it isn't perfect. Cincinnati's Black residents continue to be disproportionately arrested – likely owing to the concentration of crime, service calls and police deployments in predominantly Black neighborhoods. Figures from 2018 show Black Cincinnati residents were roughly three times as likely to be arrested as their white counterparts.

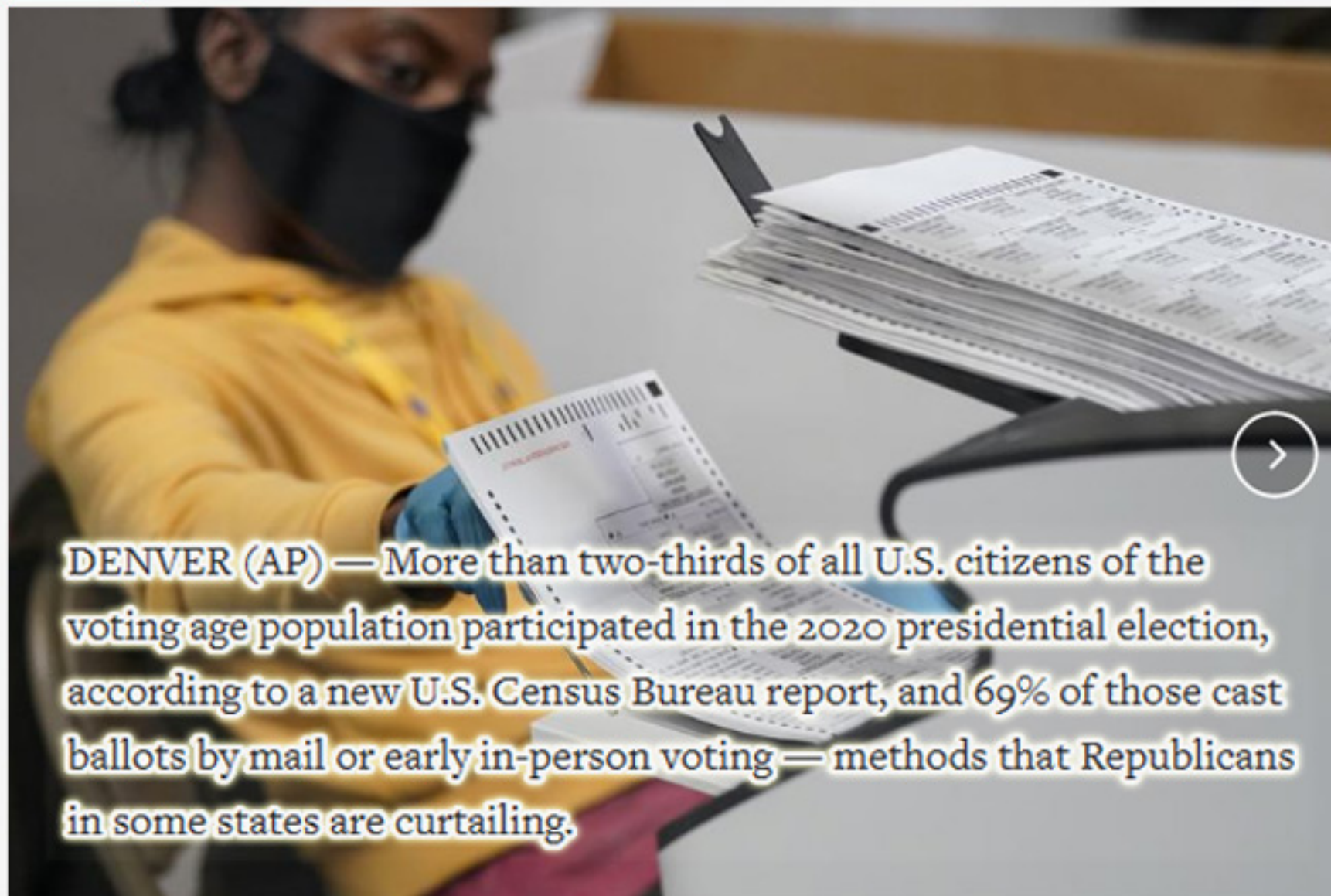
Cincinnati's collaborative agreement contained a number of elements that experts say are needed if police reforms are to be successful: strong leadership, flexible, goal-oriented approaches, effective oversight and externally regulated transparency.

Moreover, it depended on police officials' ability to cultivate community investment and overcome resistance from police officers and police unions.

Community confidence is critical to police reform and community safety. When citizens view police as legitimate and trustworthy, they are more likely to report crimes, cooperate during police investigations, comply with directives and work with police to find solutions to crime.

Census Bureau: 70% of voters cast ballots early or by mail

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI Friday, April 30, 2021



DENVER (AP) — More than two-thirds of all U.S. citizens of the voting age population participated in the 2020 presidential election, according to a new U.S. Census Bureau report, and 69% of those cast ballots by mail or early in-person voting — methods that Republicans in some states are curtailing.

That's an explosion in the use of mail and early voting compared to four years earlier, when just 40% of voters cast ballots that way. The change was in part a result of the pandemic, which prompted health officials to urge voters to stay away from crowded in-person polling places.

The figures are part of a Census Bureau survey of voters, released Thursday, that offers new details about the extraordinary turnout in the 2020 presidential race between Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden. In some experts' estimates, the election posted the highest turnout rate since 1900, before women had the right to vote.

Trump pointed to the high mail voting and early voting numbers to suggest that the election was rife with fraud and irregularities. Those false claims are now driving a GOP effort in several states to make mail voting harder and to trim the number of early voting days.

CNN: Lawmakers in 47 states have introduced bills that would make it harder to vote.

Lawmakers in all but three states have introduced bills aimed at restricting ballot access, according to a new tally by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York ...

Brookings Institution: Georgia's voter suppression bill is an assault on our democracy

Just three short months ago, a violent mob overran our nation's Capitol Building to revolt against certifying Joe Biden as the winner of the 2020 presidential ...

NBC News: Florida passes voting law that includes restrictions on vote-by-mail and drop boxes

Florida's Legislature passed an election bill Thursday that includes restrictions on drop boxes and voting by mail over the concerns of Democrats and voting ...

U.S. News & World Report: How Voting Laws Suppress the 'New South'

GOP-backed proposals to restrict voting are steadily gaining traction across the Sun Belt, aiming to slow the effects of ongoing demographic shifts that favor ...

CalMatters: In California, voter suppression starts in high school

If we care about young people having a voice in elections, schools can start taking their students' role in our democracy seriously.

Kenyon Collegian: Ohio lawmakers propose voter suppression legislation

Legislation circulated among Ohio lawmakers last Thursday would overhaul the state's voting system. The bill includes banning off-site ballot drop boxes, ...

Kansas City Star: Kansas Gov. Kelly vetoes GOP election bills, says they're 'designed to disenfranchise'

Kansas Governor Laura Kelly rejected bills altering election laws, claiming they constituted voter suppression. There has been no evidence of KS voter fraud.

The Detroit News: Detroit Charter Commission: Lack of funding to share proposal is 'voter suppression'

Detroit — Charter commissioners are accusing Detroit's elected leaders of "voter suppression" on claims they've failed to properly fund the distribution of a ...

CNN: Virginia governor approves bill aimed at preventing voter suppression and discrimination in elections

Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam on Wednesday approved the Voting Rights Act of Virginia, which aims to eliminate voter suppression and intimidation in the ...

KXAN.com: State of Texas: Voter suppression or election integrity? Lawmakers clash over voting bills

A bill that could lead to new restrictions on early voting passed the Texas Senate.



MSNBC:

Advocates says challenging voter suppression is 'the fight of our lives'

LaTosha Brown and Lauren Groh-Wargo join Lawrence O'Donnell to discuss Republican-backed efforts to suppress the right to vote ...
8 hours ago

'The Captain' challenges impoverished youth to love France

By ELAINE GANLEY Saturday, May 01, 2021



PIERREFITTE-SUR-SEINE, France (AP) — The man they call “the Captain” runs a tight ship, reaching into his years of military service to inculcate confidence, courage and a love of France in his proteges, youths from poor French suburbs,.

But first they must learn how to wake up on time and brush their teeth, says Nourouddine Abdoulhousen, a former member of the 8th Marine Infantry Parachute Regiment, who heads an association called Laissez Les Servir (Let Them Serve) with a unique approach to integration.

In his own way, the white-bearded, 53-year-old Abdoulhousen is working to uplift some of France’s battalions of impoverished youth, often from heavily immigrant housing projects known for unemployment and delinquency, and to restore French values to create “the citizens of tomorrow.”

Abdoulhousen, a Muslim originally from India, has no sympathy for complainers.

Founder of 'Laissez Les Servir' (Let Them Serve) Nourouddine Abdoulhousen speaks during an interview with the Associated Press in Pierrefitte-sur-Seine, north of Paris, Thursday, April 29, 2021. Nourouddine Abdoulhousen, a former member of the 8th Marine Infantry Parachute Regiment, runs a tight ship, reaching into his years in the military to inculcate in his proteges, youths from poor French suburbs, confidence, courage and love of France. To the youth in (Let Them Serve) the white-bearded 53-year-old leader with the booming voice is “the Captain.” (AP Photo/Thibault Camus)

“I, too, have a background,” he said. “I crossed the seas to come here. I lived the problem of integration. I know how it feels to have people stare at you because you behave differently. Or people look at you because you look different.”



An Artist And A Scientist Take On The Stigma Of Addiction



JON HAMILTON

May 1, 2021 - 7:01 AM ET

William Stoehr is a prominent artist whose sister died of an overdose. Dr. Nora Volkow is the director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse at the National Institutes of Health. Together, the artist and the scientist are on a mission to let people know that drug addiction is a disease, not a moral failing. "Prevention and treatment and recovery can't take place until we get rid of the stigma and people are willing to seek help," Stoehr says. "If we do not address stigma, we can bring all of the science of the world [and] it will not be utilized," adds Volkow. It's a team effort. Volkow, a painter herself, has brought Stoehr to speak about his art with scientists at the NIH. Stoehr, until COVID-19 arrived, was handing out pamphlets about stigma at his exhibits. And he incorporates what he has learned about brain science into his portraits of people who've been affected by addiction. The events that brought artist and scientist together began more than a decade ago, when Stoehr saw how the shame associated with addiction was affecting his sister. "She said once that she was evil," Stoehr says. "Well, she's not evil. She had a disease."



Artist William Stoehr says he wants his portraits to show that addiction affects everyone, and to prompt the sort of conversations that people began having about HIV/AIDS decades ago.

William Stoehr

William Stoehr

My large portraits start with an ambiguous expression, shared gaze and uncertain context calculated to provoke you into creating the narrative. I begin with a live model and then work from reference photographs. I suggest certain features and realistically detail others. I use a limited pallet of acrylic paint along with metallic and iridescent colors that produce changing patterns with changes in lighting and view angle. Likeness is secondary.

Working freely, I drip, brush, pour, scrub and scrape paint while applying a variety of lines, dots and other adjustments. I often paint multi-views or facial features slightly out of alignment. I frequently paint vaguely different expressions for each side of the face. These variations might make my images appear more real as time, half remembered memories, and prior experiences affect your perception.

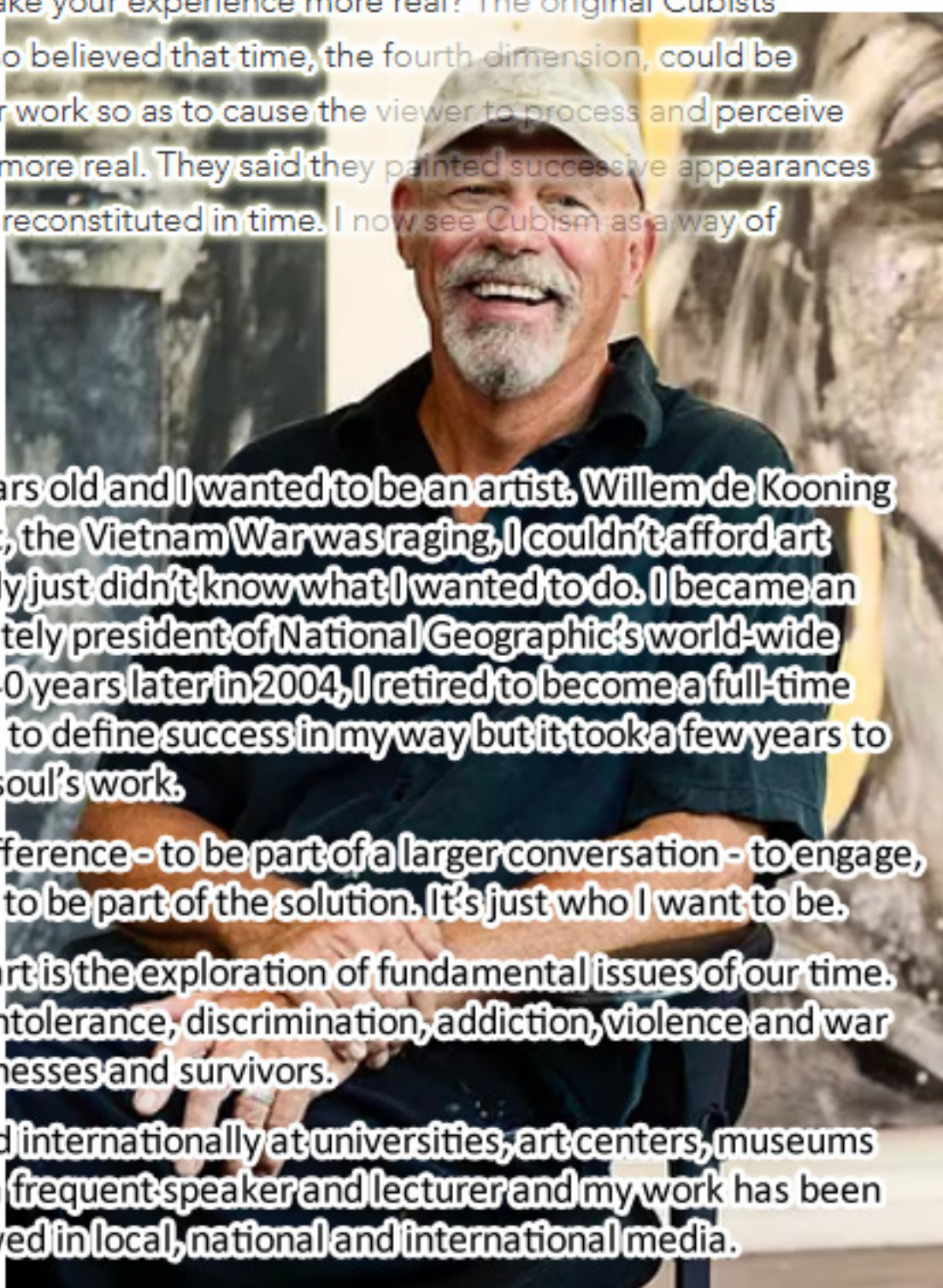
I look to cause changes in visual perception and emotional response. Do these changes serve to make your experience more real? The original Cubists thought so. They also believed that time, the fourth dimension, could be incorporated in their work so as to cause the viewer to process and perceive their cubist work as more real. They said they painted successive appearances in to a single image reconstituted in time. I now see Cubism as a way of perceiving reality.

In 1964 I was 16 years old and I wanted to be an artist. Willem de Kooning was my art hero but, the Vietnam War was raging, I couldn't afford art school and I probably just didn't know what I wanted to do. I became an engineer and ultimately president of National Geographic's world-wide mapping business. 40 years later in 2004, I retired to become a full-time artist. I could afford to define success in my way but it took a few years to find my voice – my soul's work.

I paint to make a difference - to be part of a larger conversation - to engage, motivate and heal - to be part of the solution. It's just who I want to be.

The essence of my art is the exploration of fundamental issues of our time. I explore injustice, intolerance, discrimination, addiction, violence and war with its victims, witnesses and survivors.

My work is exhibited internationally at universities, art centers, museums and galleries. I am a frequent speaker and lecturer and my work has been featured and reviewed in local, national and international media.



I have more than 300,000 social media followers. It is always interesting to see where my work receives the most attention. I have more followers in Mexico than in any other country. There is also considerable following in Northern Africa, the Middle East, the Asian Subcontinent and of course the USA. Italy stand out in Europe.

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A major Chinese bitcoin mining hub is shutting down its cryptocurrency operations

PUBLISHED TUE, MAR 2 2021 1:32 AM EST UPDATED FRI, APR 9 2021 11:55 AM EDT



Arjun Kharpal
@ARJUNKHARPAL

KEY POINTS

- China's Inner Mongolia region plans to ban new cryptocurrency mining projects and shut down existing activity in a bid to cut down on the energy-consuming operation.
- Bitcoin mining consumes an estimated 128.84 terrawatt-hour per year of energy, more than entire countries such as Ukraine and Argentina.
- Inner Mongolia alone accounts for around 8% of all bitcoin mining globally, more than the United States which accounts for 7.2%.

GUANGZHOU, China — China's Inner Mongolia region plans to ban new cryptocurrency mining projects and shut down existing activity in a bid to cut down on energy-consumption.

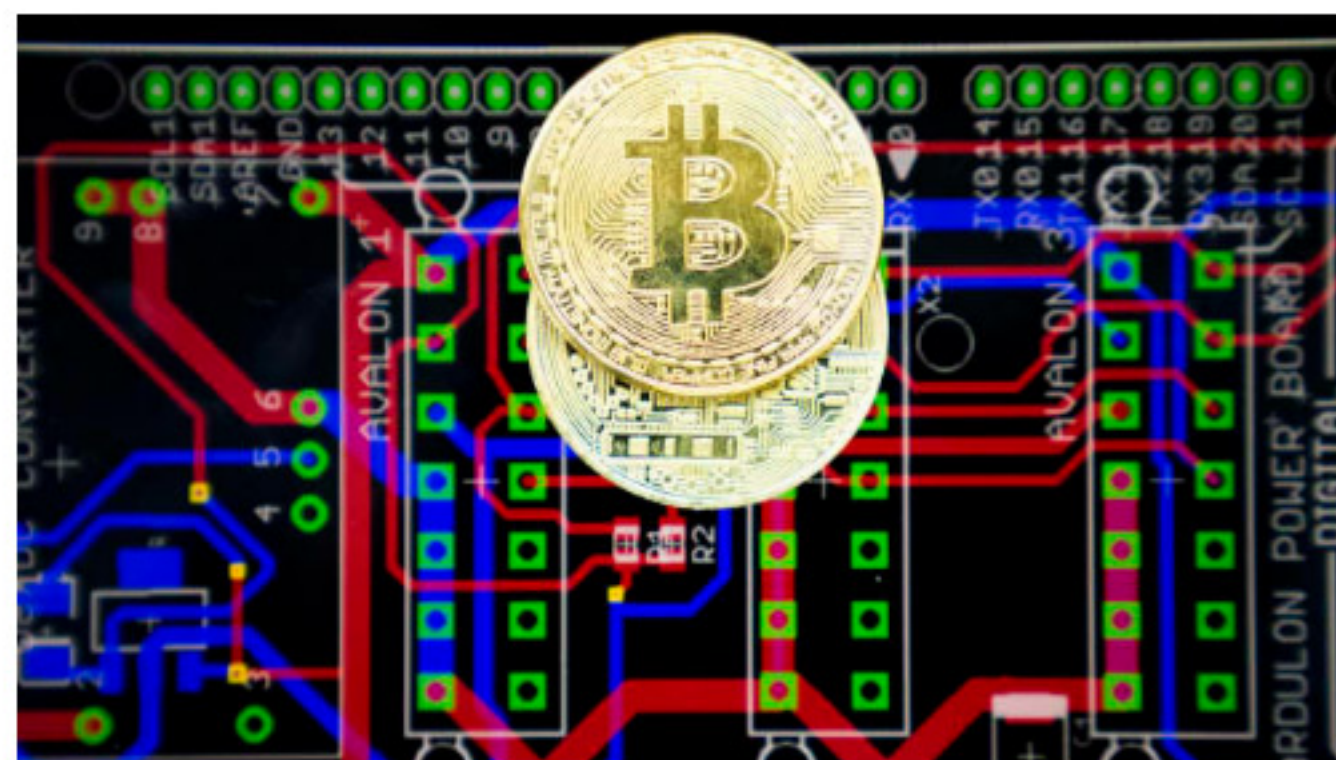
Bitcoin is based on a decentralized network, which means it's not issued by a single entity like a central bank. Transactions, recorded on a public ledger called the blockchain, need to be "verified" by miners.

[These miners run purpose-built computers to solve complex mathematical puzzles](#) that effectively allow a bitcoin transaction to happen. The miners receive bitcoin as a reward and that is the incentive.

Part of those plans involve shutting down existing cryptocurrency mining projects by April 2021 and not approving any new ones. They also involve reassessing other energy-intensive industries like steel and coal.

While the Chinese government has backed the development of bitcoin's underlying blockchain technology, it has looked to crack down on digital currencies themselves. In 2017, [Beijing banned initial coin offerings](#), a way to issue digital tokens and raise money. The government has also [cracked down on businesses involved in cryptocurrency operations](#), such as exchanges.

China is also pushing to become more environmentally friendly. [President Xi Jinping said last year](#) that the country is targeting peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by the year 2060.



A visual representation of the cryptocurrency bitcoin.

S3studio | Getty Images

Watching a coral reef die as climate change devastates one of the most pristine tropical island areas on Earth

April 29, 2021 10:38am EDT

 **Sam Purkis**, *University of Miami*

The Chagos Archipelago

Research shows marine heat waves are now about 20 times more likely than they were just four decades ago, and they tend to be hotter and last longer. We're at the point now that some places in the world are anticipating coral bleaching every couple of years.

That increasing frequency of heat waves is a death knell for reefs. They don't have time to recover before they get hit again.



Noduled sea stars are among the reef's diverse species. Ken Marks/Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation



Kijini Primary School students learn to float, swim and perform rescues on Oct. 25, 2016, in the Indian Ocean at Muyuni, Zanzibar. "It was phenomenal to watch their facial expressions and body language shift from total fear and utter trepidation to peaceful, and then to what ultimately revealed itself as confidence and joy," says photographer Anna Boyiazis, who won one of this year's awards.



"Running has been my absolute passion and my stability. [M]y track coach told me I would just be another stupid Indian runner with no chance in the real running world. I let those words motivate and push me until I earned the fastest times in the school," says Hannah Tomeo of the Colville, Yakima, Nez Perce, Sioux and Samoan Nations.

Matika Wilbur



Elena, age 9, lives in Harlem with her mother and grandmother. Zusman made Brighton Beach the backdrop of her project: photographing kids of color and then taking note of how they reacted to their photos. The idea was to give the children the chance to respond and make the work more collaborative, "feeding on each other's energy."

Karen Zusman

Man United fans storm stadium, force game to be called off

By ROB HARRIS yesterday Monday, May 03, 2021



MANCHESTER, England (AP) — Anti-ownership protests by Manchester United fans forced the postponement of a Premier League game on Sunday against Liverpool after the stadium was stormed and thousands more supporters blocked access into Old Trafford as they demanded the Glazer family sell the club.

The unprecedented cancellation of a game in the world's richest soccer league due to fan protests is the culmination of long-running anger against the American owners that began with a 2005 leveraged takeover that loaded debt onto the club. But the wrath of supporters has boiled over in the two weeks since the New York Stock Exchange listed club was part of the failed European Super League breakaway that collapsed amid a groundswell of condemnation.

Supporters wore green-and-gold scarves and also set off flares in the colors of the club's 1878 formation. It was a club without any debt until the Glazers arrived and the latest half-year accounts showed it had soared 16% year-on-year to 455.5 million pounds (around \$630 million). Payments on interest, debt and dividends to the Glazers have cost United more than 1 billion pounds.

The Glazers, who also own the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers, have declined to engage with fans or media since buying United in 2005.

Former Manchester United defender Gary Neville, who was inside Old Trafford preparing to commentate on the game for Sky Sports, called on the Glazers to put the club up for sale.

"There's huge discontent, not just across Manchester United fans, but I think for football fans up and down the country and I think they are just saying enough is enough," Neville said. "The Glazer family have been resilient and stubborn for many, many years. I think they are struggling to meet the financial demands that this club needs and have done for some time.

"This stadium, if you go behind the scenes, is rusty and rotting. The training ground is probably not even in the top five in this country."

Although co-owner Joel Glazer pledged on the club website two weeks ago that he was "committed to rebuilding trust with our fans," there is no sign of that happening yet.

"They have never met the fans once," 33-year-old fan Jack Evans said. "It's time for them to go."

US begins reuniting some families separated at Mexico border

By ELLIOT SPAGAT an hour ago Monday, May 03, 2021

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Biden administration said Monday that four families that were separated at the Mexico border during Donald Trump's presidency will be reunited in the United States this week in what Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas calls "just the beginning" of a broader effort.

Two of the four families include mothers who were separated from their children in late 2017, one Honduran and another Mexican, Mayorkas said, declining to detail their identities. He described them as children who were 3 years old at the time and "teenagers who have had to live without their parent during their most formative years"

Parents will return to the United States on humanitarian parole while authorities consider other longer-term forms of legal status, said Michelle Brane, executive director of the administration's Family Reunification Task Force. The children are already in the U.S.

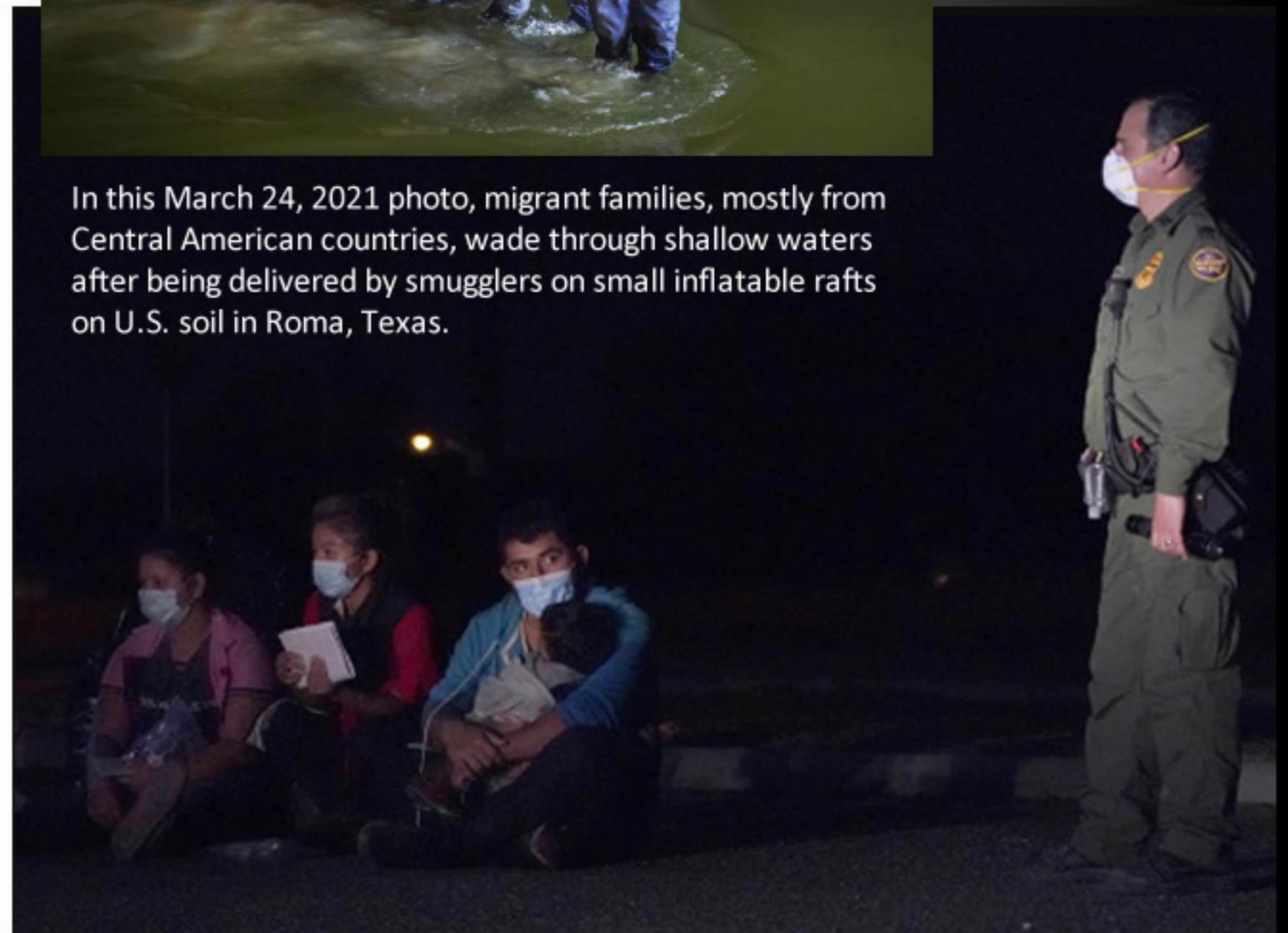
Exactly how many families will reunite in the United States and in what order is linked to negotiations with the American Civil Liberties Union to settle a federal lawsuit in San Diego, but Mayorkas said there were more to come.

The average stay for an unaccompanied child in Border Patrol custody has plummeted to about 20 hours, below the legal limit of 72 hours and down from 133 hours in late March, Mayorkas said. There are 677 unaccompanied children in Border Patrol custody, down from more than 5,700 in late March.

Health and Human Services opened 14 [emergency intake centers](#), raising capacity to nearly 20,000 beds from 952 when the Federal Emergency Management Agency was dispatched March 13, Mayorkas said. About 400 asylum officers from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services have been assigned as case managers to speed the release of children to sponsors. As of Thursday, Health and Human Services had 22,557 children in its care.

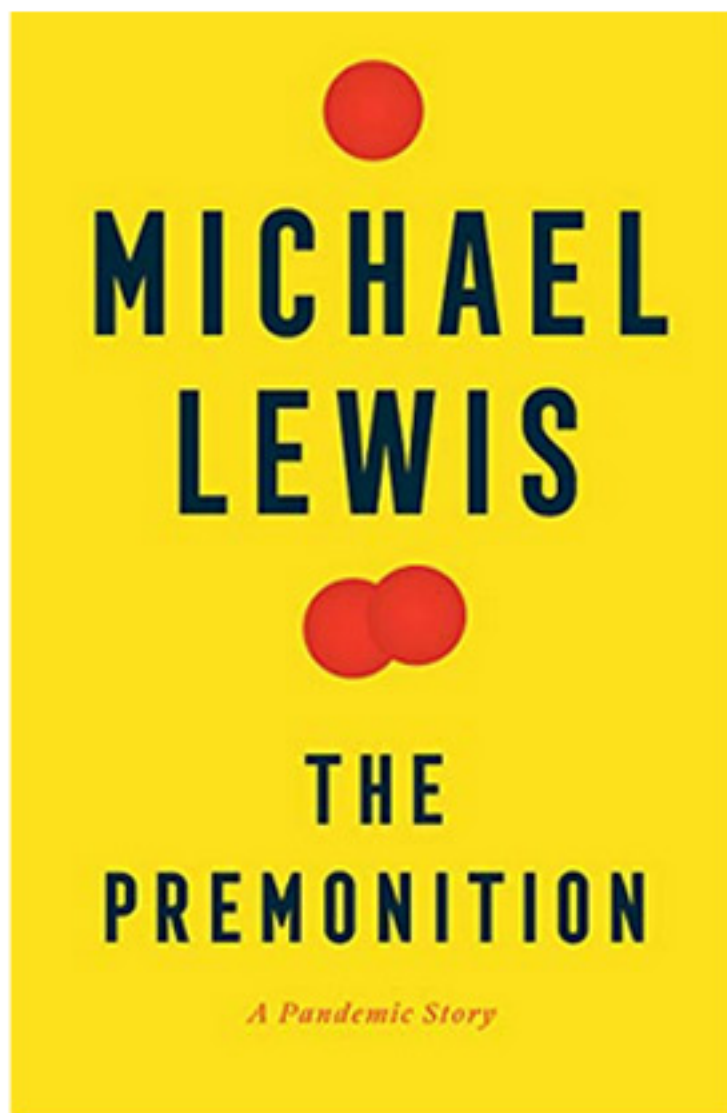


In this March 24, 2021 photo, migrant families, mostly from Central American countries, wade through shallow waters after being delivered by smugglers on small inflatable rafts on U.S. soil in Roma, Texas.



In this March 24, 2021 photo, a migrant man, center, holds a child as he looks at a U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent at an intake area after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, early Wednesday, March 24, 2021, in Roma, Texas. The Biden administration said Monday that four families that were separated at the Mexico border during Donald Trump's presidency will be reunited in the United States this week in what Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas calls "just the beginning" of a broader effort. (AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Biden administration said Monday that four



Michael Lewis



Michael Lewis, the best-selling author of *The Undoing Project*, *Liar's Poker*, *Flash Boys*, *Moneyball*, *The Blind Side*, *Home Game* and *The Big Short*, among other works, lives in Berkeley, California, with his wife, Tabitha Soren, and their three children.

Doctors, scientists who warned officials about oncoming pandemic focus of new Michael Lewis book

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/michael-lewis-premonition-60-minutes-2021-05-02/>

In his new book, Michael Lewis profiles people who tried to sound the alarm about COVID-19 as officials failed to act.

60 Minute Correspondent John Dickerson | 2021 May 02

Michael Lewis: There are times ... where the world has collapsed and you find these people who are actually not just predicting collapse but actually describing exactly how it was gonna collapse 'cause they actually understood it. And they aren't the people you'd expect. I chose my story, my characters, to dramatize those pockets of deficiency in our society so we could see them. Cause they saw them. I just followed the characters. There were pockets of success. Charity Dean helped convince Governor Gavin Newsom to shut down California on March 19, the first state to do so. The Wolverine (a guerilla disease fighting operation -- that takes things into their own hands 'cause there was nobody to stop the invading force) whose analysis drove the group was Dr. Carter Mecher, an unassuming former ICU doctor who worked as a senior medical adviser for the VA in Atlanta.

Dr. Carter Mecher: The frustration was when the pandemic virus emerges anywhere in the world, it's a threat to everyone everywhere. And the messages that we were hearing at the time when we're, you know, looking at the outbreak in China was that this was not a threat to the American public. The CDC wasn't just slow to respond. It bungled the most important tool required in the fight: testing for the virus. UC-San Francisco biochemist Joe DeRisi decided to build his own testing lab to help California. They built the lab in eight days. It could produce COVID test results in 24 hours and they offered its services for free to county public health offices across California, which is when DeRisi discovered how starved for resources public health offices were. To push for action, Charity Dean employed her whiteboard, Carter Mecher his redneck epidemiology. DeRisi employed fancier tools. He worked at something called the biohub for the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative.

Michael Lewis' 'The Premonition' Is A Sweeping Indictment Of The CDC

<https://www.npr.org/2021/05/03/991570372/michael-lewis-the-premonition-is-a-sweeping-indictment-of-the-cdc>

"Redfield is a particularly egregious example, but he's an expression of a much bigger problem. And if you just say, 'oh, it's the Trump administration' or 'oh, it's Robert Redfield,' you're missing the bigger picture," Lewis says. "And the bigger picture is we as a society have allowed institutions like the CDC to become very politicized. And this is a larger pattern in the U.S. government. Charity Dean said the great shame of their behavior was they waited so long that we were never in a position to contain it. They pretended it wasn't important until it was too late. That it could have been contained the way it was contained, say, by Australia. The pandemic has created a kind of selective pressure on our public health officers, and it's removed the brave ones. The brave ones have all got their heads chopped off. So it's sort of institutionalized a cowardice that we're going to need to face up to so that this business of punishing people who are doing their damndest to try to save us from ourselves has got to stop."

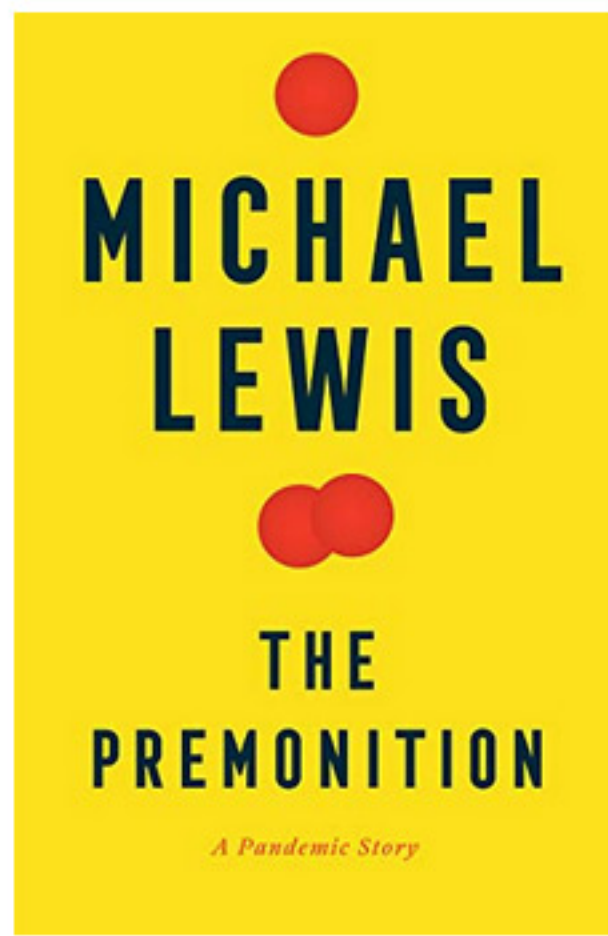
The Premonition: A Pandemic Story

<https://www.amazon.com/Premonition-Pandemic-Story-Michael-Lewis-ebook/dp/B08V91YY8R>

For those who could read between the lines, the censored news out of China was terrifying. But the president insisted there was nothing to worry about.

Fortunately, we are still a nation of skeptics. Fortunately, there are those among us who study pandemics and are willing to look unflinchingly at worst-case scenarios. Michael Lewis's taut and brilliant nonfiction thriller pits a band of medical visionaries against the wall of ignorance that was the official response of the Trump administration to the outbreak of COVID-19.

The characters you will meet in these pages are as fascinating as they are unexpected.



Michael Lewis



Michael Lewis, the best-selling author of *The Undoing Project*, *Liar's Poker*, *Flash Boys*, *Moneyball*, *The Blind Side*, *Home Game* and *The Big Short*, among other works, lives in Berkeley, California, with his wife, Tabitha Soren, and their three children.



Dr. Charity Dean

The characters you will meet in these pages are as fascinating as they are unexpected.

Dr. Charity Dean

@drcharitydean

It's just math and microbiology. We know what the virus will do. What we don't know is what the humans will do. CEO & Co-Founder @ThePubHealthCo. MD/MPH @Tulane

📍 Santa Barbara, CA 🔗 ThePublicHealthCo.com 📅 Joined March 2016

1,039 Following 1,992 Followers



Dr. Carter Mecher

Carter Mecher, M.D.

(Planning Committee Member), is the Director for Medical Preparedness Policy on the White House Homeland Security Council. He supports the development of federal policies to enhance public health, biodefense, and pandemic preparedness. He served as a member of the White House National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Writing and Implementation Team. He has served as the chief medical officer of the VA's Southeast Network since 1996. As chief medical officer, Dr. Mecher was responsible for all VA health care services in Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina. Dr. Mecher received his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois and his medical degree from Chicago Medical School. He completed a medicine residency and fellowship in critical care medicine at Los Angeles County-University of Southern California.

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Joe DeRisi

Joseph DeRisi

Molecular biologist

Joseph DeRisi is an American biochemist, specializing in molecular biology, parasitology, genomics, virology, and computational biology.

Born: 1969 (age 52 years), [United States](#)

Field: [Biology](#)

Academic advisor: [Patrick O. Brown](#)

Awards: [MacArthur Fellowship](#)

Education: [Stanford University](#), [University of California Santa Cruz](#)

24 States Mount Legal Fight To Block Sackler Bid For Opioid Immunity

May 3, 2021 · 5:00 AM ET

BRIAN MANN



David (left) and Kathe Sackler, members of the family that owns Purdue Pharma, the maker of Oxycontin, testified via video to a House Oversight Committee hearing on Dec. 17, 2020. Sackler family members have acknowledged the drug had a role in the opioid crisis but have stopped short of apologizing or admitting wrongdoing.

House Television via AP

For months, members of the Sackler family who own Purdue Pharma, the maker of Oxycontin, have portrayed their bid for immunity from future opioid lawsuits as a kind of *fait accompli*, a take-it-or-leave-it fix to a legal morass.

In exchange for what amounts to a legal firewall for the Sacklers and their remaining empire, members of the family have offered to forfeit control of their bankrupt drug company and [pay \\$4.2 billion from their private fortunes](#).

Judge Robert Drain, who is presiding over the case in White Plains, N.Y., has suggested such a deal may be desirable and achievable along these broad lines.

The Sacklers who served on the company's board of directors have denied any wrongdoing and have never faced criminal charges. Spokespeople for branches of the Sackler family didn't respond to a request for interviews or comment.

Late last week, 24 state attorneys general as well as the attorney general for Washington, D.C., [filed a new brief](#) describing the proposed settlement as "unprecedented," "unjust" and "unconfirmable as a matter of law."

"The bankruptcy system should not be allowed to shield non-bankrupt billionaires," said Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey in an interview with NPR.

"It would set a terrible precedent. If the Sacklers are allowed to use bankruptcy to escape the consequences of their actions, it would be a roadmap for other powerful bad actors."

State AGs aren't alone in objecting to the deal. In recent weeks, attorneys representing local and state governments, native tribes and opioid activists filed briefs raising legal and ethical concerns about the plan.

A division of the Justice Department that oversees bankruptcy cases also [filed a brief](#) questioning whether the bankruptcy court has the "authority and jurisdiction" to approve such a plan.

Seeking bankruptcy-like protection without filing for bankruptcy

The Purdue Pharma case is dauntingly complex, involving what may be the nation's worst man-made public health crisis, but the central legal dispute now hinges on a simple fact: The Sacklers are seeking bankruptcy-like protections from the court without actually filing for bankruptcy.

U.S.-Mexico Efforts Targeting Drug Cartels Have Unraveled, Top DEA Official Says

Updated May 3, 2021 · 9:51 PM ET

Heard on All Things Considered

BRIAN MANN

A senior Drug Enforcement Administration official told NPR efforts to target drug cartels operating inside Mexico have unraveled because of a breakdown in cooperation between law enforcement agencies and militaries in the two countries.

"We're willing to share [intelligence] with our counterparts in Mexico, but they themselves are too afraid to even engage with us because of repercussions from their own government if they get caught working with DEA," said Matthew Donahue, the DEA's deputy chief of operations.



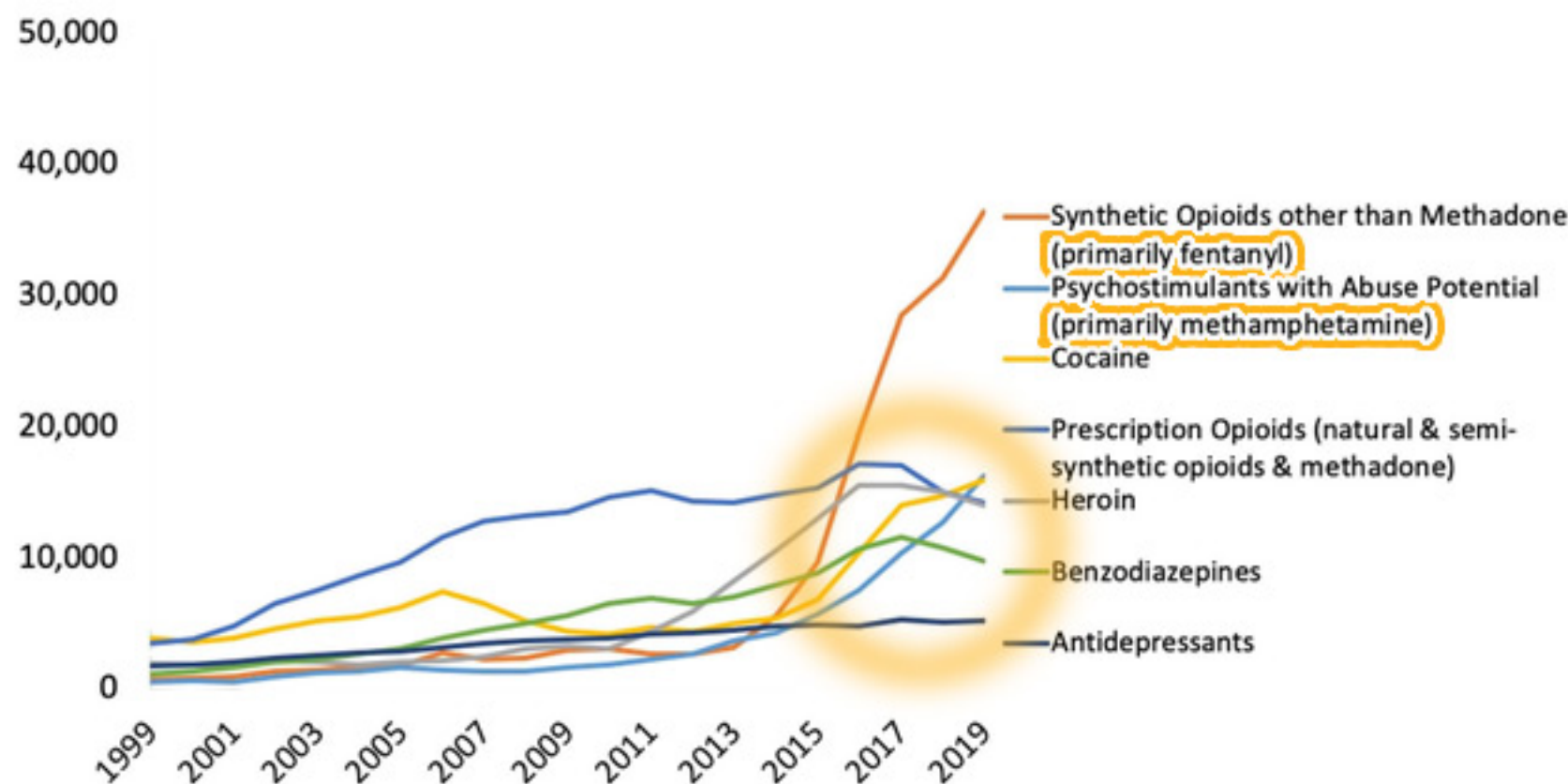
SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Overdose Deaths Surged In Pandemic, As More Drugs Were Laced With Fentanyl

The collapse of joint drug interdiction efforts has occurred at a time when cartels are manufacturing huge quantities of fentanyl and methamphetamines in illegal labs inside Mexico.

U.S. officials say those illicit drugs are being smuggled into communities across the United States, driving an explosion in overdose deaths that took more than 90,000 American lives last year.

Figure 2. National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths*, Number Among All Ages, 1999-2019



*Includes deaths with underlying causes of unintentional drug poisoning (X40-X44), suicide drug poisoning (X60-X64), homicide drug poisoning (X85), or drug poisoning of undetermined intent (Y10-Y14), as coded in the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2019 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 12/2020.

But Cecilia Farfán-Méndez, an expert on organized crime and U.S.-Mexico security cooperation at the University of California, San Diego, told NPR restoring trust and cooperation won't be easy. She noted Mexican officials are focused on domestic politics with midterm elections coming next month.

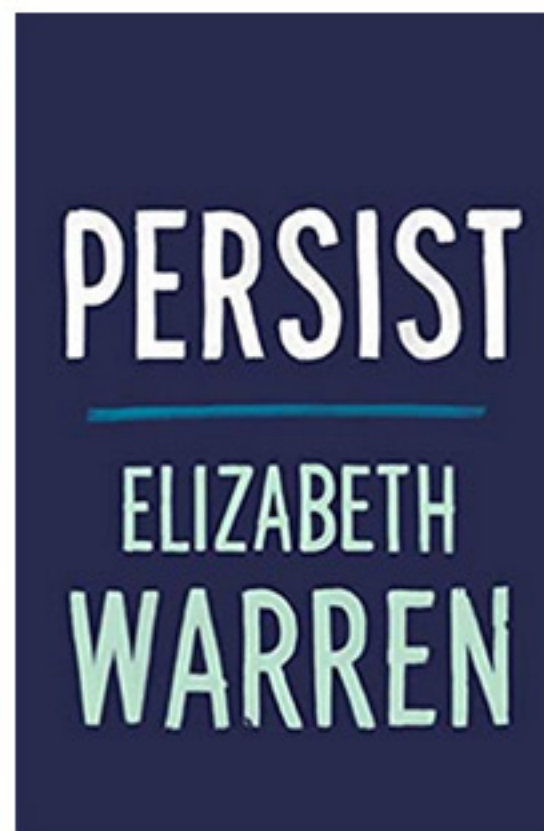
"It's my expectation is that there's not going to be a lot of attention to what the U.S. would like to do and how to enhance that cooperation," she told NPR.

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, meanwhile, has voiced skepticism of the old drug war model that targeted cartel kingpins.

While that strategy led to arrests of high-level traffickers and produced splashy headlines, critics in the U.S. and Mexico said it never significantly slowed the flow of drugs into the United States.

Elizabeth Warren Stitches The Stories She Says 'Help Us Learn To Persist'

May 4, 2021 · 5:06 AM ET



"I tell [the story] in part for every woman who has already been there or who may run into this just around the corner," she says. "It's the stories that we now make public that is also a part of making change. It's the stories that help us learn to persist."

In her new book, *Persist*, Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren returns to the call for transformational change that was her rallying cry in the 2020 Democratic presidential primaries. It's a book, she tells NPR's *Morning Edition*, she has been unwittingly writing her whole life.

"I've been writing it through every battle, through every fall, every stumble, everything I got wrong and had to come back and try to fix later on," she says.

In the interview and in the book, she details some of those battles, including her experience with gender discrimination and sexual harassment. When a senior colleague at the University of Houston Law Center [made sexual advances](#), Warren says she felt powerless and vulnerable. Ultimately, she very publicly described what had happened — at the colleague's funeral, where she spoke at his request. Warren says she realized then that she had moved through it and had regained her power over it and him.

The inspiring, influential senator and bestselling author mixes vivid personal stories with a passionate plea for political transformation.

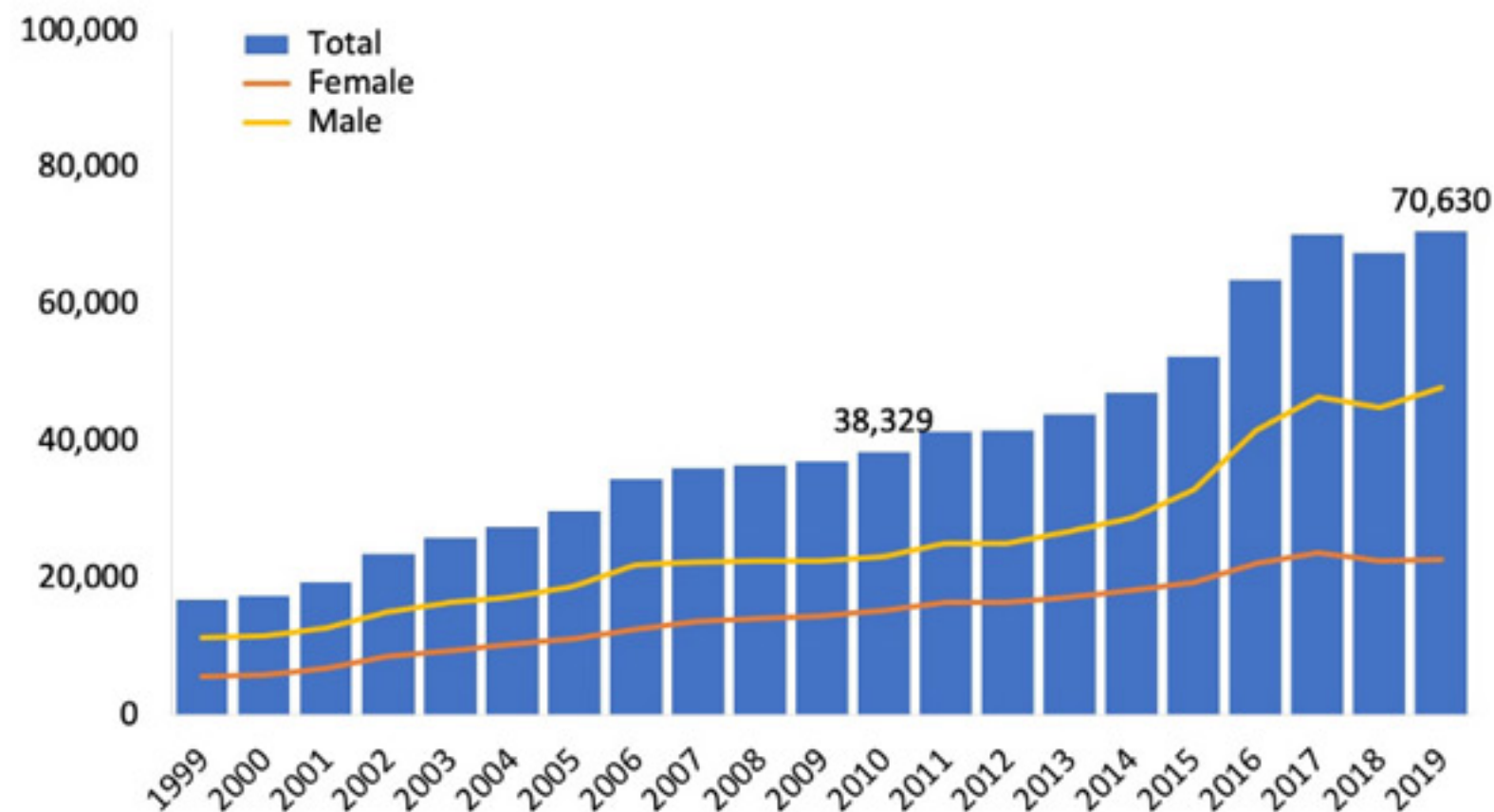
Elizabeth Warren is a beacon for everyone who believes that real change can improve the lives of all Americans. Committed, fearless, and famously persistent, she brings her best game to every battle she wages.

In *Persist*, Warren writes about six perspectives that have influenced her life and advocacy. She's a mother who learned from wrenching personal experience why child care is so essential. She's a teacher who has known since grade school the value of a good and affordable education. She's a planner who understands that every complex problem requires a comprehensive response. She's a fighter who discovered the hard way that nobody gives up power willingly. She's a learner who thinks, listens, and works to fight racism in America. And she's a woman who has proven over and over that women are just as capable as men.

Candid and compelling, *Persist* is both a deeply personal book and a powerful call to action. Elizabeth Warren—one of our nation's most visionary leaders—will inspire everyone to believe that if we're willing to fight for it, profound change is well within our reach.

Figure 1. National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths—Number Among All Ages, by Gender, 1999-2019. More than 70,000 Americans died from drug-involved overdose in 2019, including illicit drugs and prescription opioids. The figure above is a bar and line graph showing the total number of U.S. drug overdose deaths involving any illicit or prescription opioid drug from 1999 to 2019. The bars are overlaid by lines showing the number of deaths by gender from 1999 to 2018 (Source: CDC WONDER).

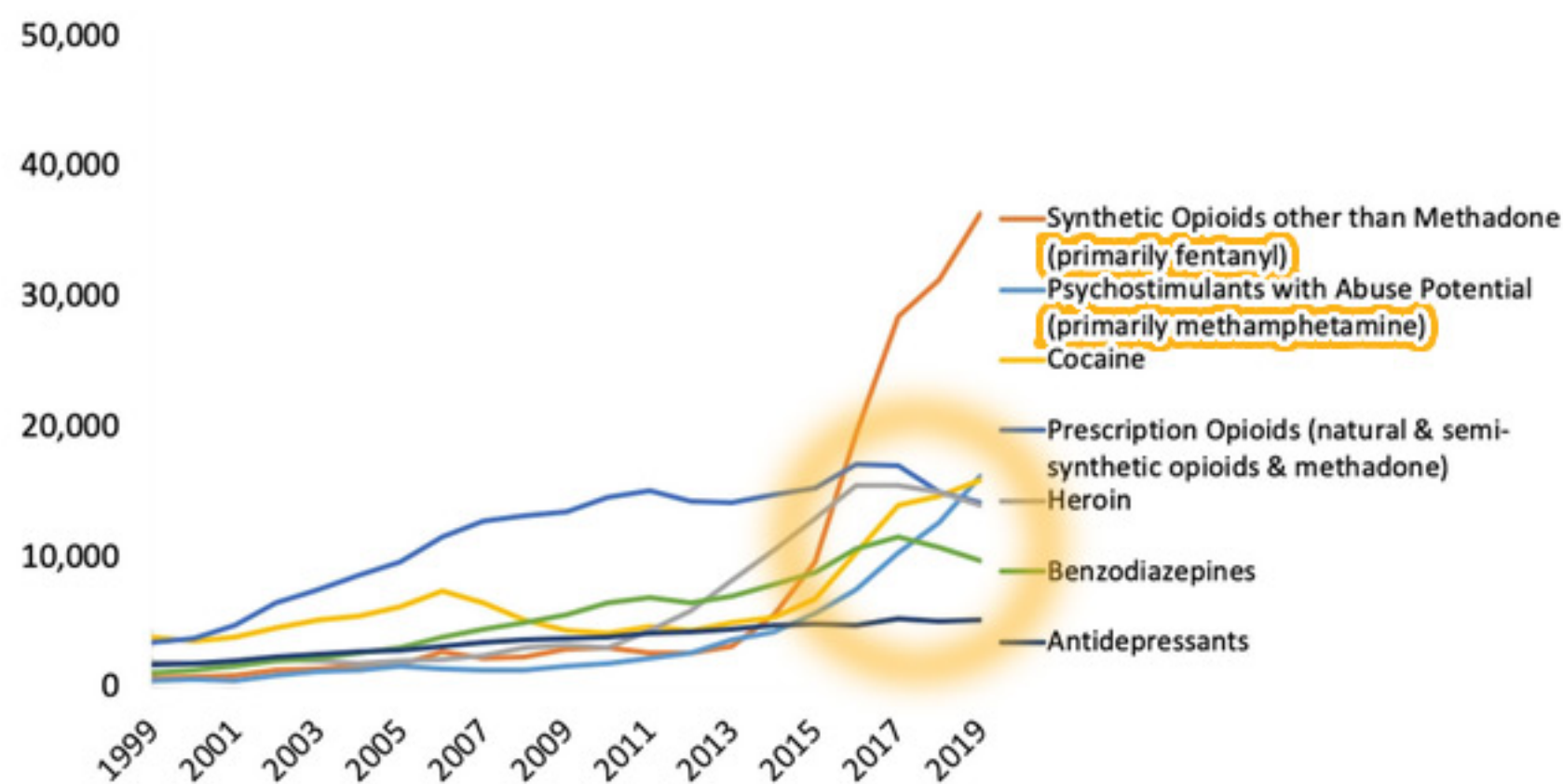
**Figure 1. National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths*
Number Among All Ages, by Gender, 1999-2019**



*Includes deaths with underlying causes of unintentional drug poisoning (X40–X44), suicide drug poisoning (X60–X64), homicide drug poisoning (X85), or drug poisoning of undetermined intent (Y10–Y14), as coded in the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2019 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 12/2020.

Figure 2. National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths by Specific Category—Number Among All Ages, 1999-2019. Overall, drug overdose deaths rose from 2018 to 2019 with 70,630 drug overdose deaths reported in 2019. Deaths involving other synthetic opioids other than methadone (primarily fentanyl) continued to rise with more than 36,359 overdose deaths reported in 2019. Those involving psychostimulants with abuse potential (primarily methamphetamine) also continued to increase (Source: CDC WONDER).

**Figure 2. National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths*,
Number Among All Ages, 1999-2019**



*Includes deaths with underlying causes of unintentional drug poisoning (X40–X44), suicide drug poisoning (X60–X64), homicide drug poisoning (X85), or drug poisoning of undetermined intent (Y10–Y14), as coded in the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2019 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 12/2020.

Two classes of trans kids are emerging – those who have access to puberty blockers, and those who don't



May 4, 2021 8:16am EDT

Travers, Professor of Sociology, Simon Fraser University



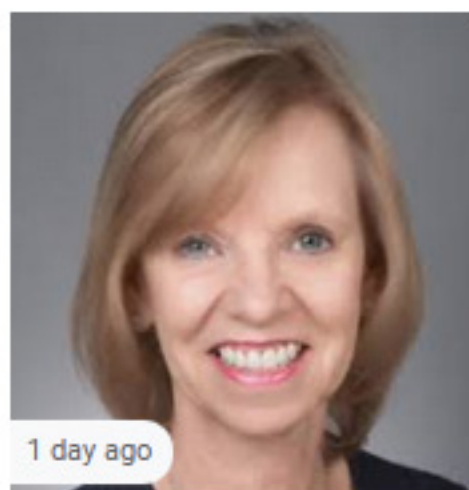
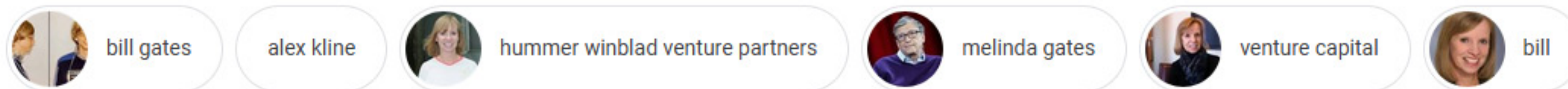
Four friends who are transitioning from male to female hang out together.



Transitioning is possible after going through puberty, but it's much more difficult for trans people to look the way they want to look. Elena Medvedeva/Getty Images

Bill Gates had an arrangement with his current soon to be ex wife Melinda Gates that he and Winblad could keep one vacation tradition alive from their dating years. Every spring, as they had done for over a decade, Gates would spend a long weekend with Winblad at her beach cottage on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, where they would ride dune buggies, hang-glide, walk on the beach, and share their thoughts about the world and themselves.^{[12][13]} Ann is married to San Francisco private investigator Edward Alex Kline, the younger brother of actor Kevin Kline.

Sleuthing in San Francisco by Diane Manuel | July/August 2000
<https://stanfordmag.org/contents/sleuthing-in-san-francisco>
He skates to work and chases clues on the net: **Alex Kline** is a new breed of private eye.



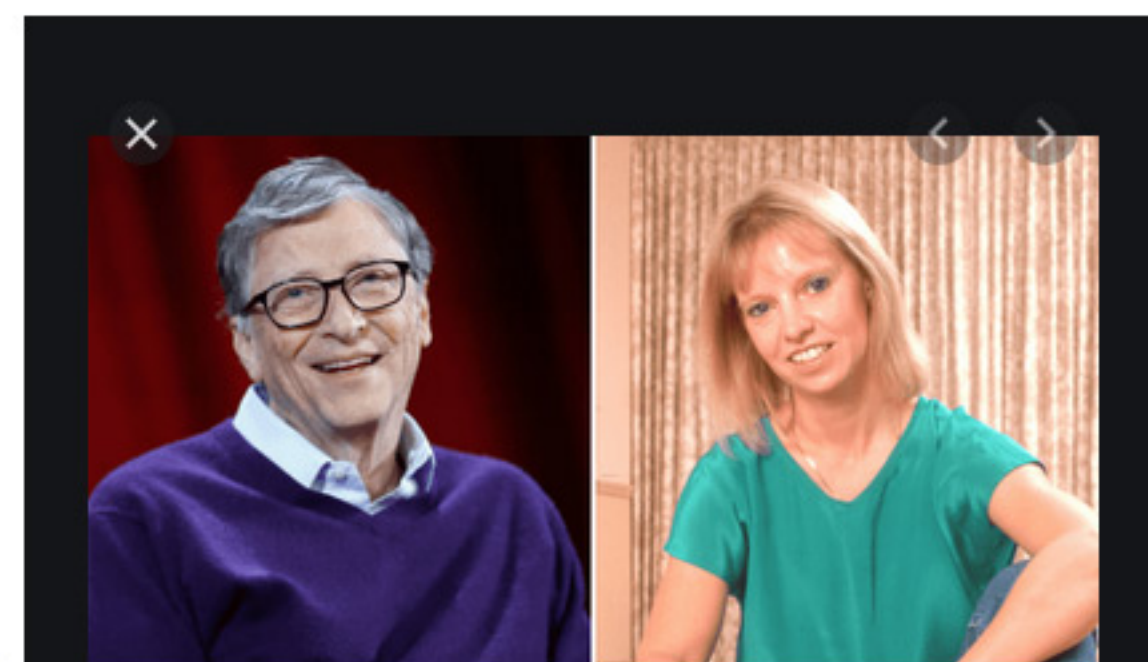
Ann Winblad Net Worth (202...
fullcelebs.com



Ann Winblad - Wikipedia
en.wikipedia.org



Ann Winblad: Bill Gates' ex-girlfriend ...
foxbusiness.com



23 hours ago

MEAWW

Is Bill Gates getting back with ex Ann Winb

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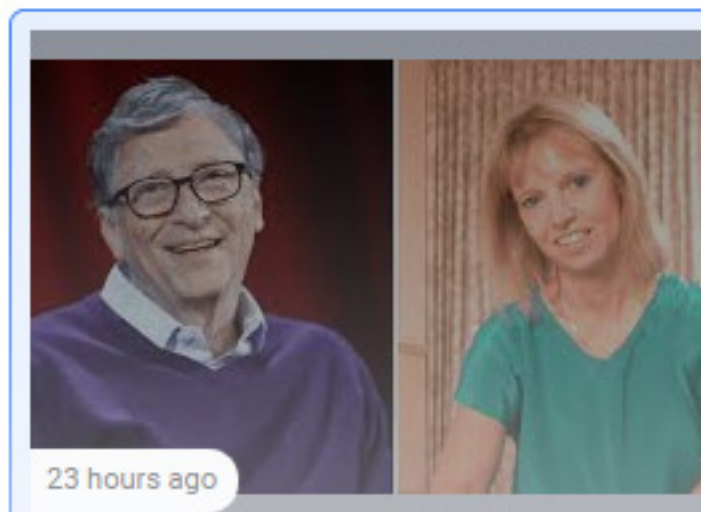
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Ann Winblad: Bill Gates' ex-girlfriend ...
foxbusiness.com



How Bill Gates dated venture capitalist ...
dailymail.co.uk



Is Bill Gates getting back with ex Ann ...
meaww.com

Another of Gates' vacation companions is Ann Winblad, the software entrepreneur and venture capitalist he dated during the 1980s. They met in 1984 at a Ben Rosen-Esther Dyson computer conference and started going on "virtual dates" by driving to the same movie at the same time in different cities and discussing it on their cell phones. For a few years she even persuaded him to stop eating meat, an experiment he has since resolutely abandoned.

They were kindred minds as well as spirits. On a vacation to Brazil, he took James Watson's 1,100-page textbook, *Molecular Biology of the Gene*, and they studied bioengineering together. On another vacation, to a Santa Barbara, California, ranch, she took tapes of Richard Feynman's lectures at Cornell, and they studied physics. And on a larger excursion with friends to central Africa, which ended at some beach cottages on an island off Zanzibar, among their companions was anthropologist Donald Johanson, known for his work on the human ancestor Lucy, who helped teach them about human evolution. In the evenings on each trip they would go to the beach with four or five other couples for bonfires, Hood Canal-style games and a tradition they called the sing-down, where each team is given a word and has to come up with songs that feature it. Winblad remembers Gates disappearing on a dark beach after his group had been given the word sea, and then slowly emerging from the mist singing a high-pitched solo of Puff, the Magic Dragon.

Facebook board upholds Trump suspension

By MATT O'BRIEN and BARBARA ORTUTAY 35 minutes ago Wednesday, May 05, 2021

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Former President Donald Trump won't return to Facebook — at least not yet.

The social network's quasi-independent Oversight Board voted to uphold his ban from the platform after his account was suspended four months ago for inciting violence that led to the deadly Jan. 6 Capitol riot. But in a statement, it faulted Facebook for the way it made the decision and called its "indefinite" suspension of Trump unreasonable and unworkable.

The board said Facebook sought to avoid its responsibilities by applying "a vague, standardless penalty" and then referring the case to the board to resolve.

"Indefinite penalties of this sort do not pass the international smell test," oversight board co-chair Michael McConnell said in a conference call with reporters. "We are not cops, reigning over the realm of social media."

"We love you. You're very special," he said to the rioters in the first post. In the second, he called them "great patriots" and told them to "remember this day forever." Those violated Facebook's rules against praising or supporting people engaged in violence, the board said.

Helle Thorning-Schmidt, a former Danish prime minister who sits on the board, said in the call that Facebook shirked its responsibility to enforce its own rules. "Facebook should either permanently disable Trump's account or impose a suspension for a specific period of time," she said.

Thorning-Schmidt said Facebook can't just invent "new unwritten rules" for special users when it suits the company while everybody else has to follow their standards. "They did get it right, but they can't have a penalty that's indeterminate because that's not in their own rules," she said.



The New York Times

Trump Ban From Facebook Upheld by Oversight Board

2 hours ago



CNN

Facebook Oversight Board upholds Donald Trump's suspension from the platform

1 hour ago



FOX NEWS

Trump launches new communications platform months after Twitter, Facebook ban

13 hours ago

EXCLUSIVE: Former President Trump launched a communications platform on Tuesday, which will serve as "a place to speak freely and safely," and will eventually give him the ability to communicate directly with his followers, after months of being banned from sites like Twitter and [Facebook](#).

The platform, "[From the Desk of Donald J. Trump](#)" appears on www.DonaldJTrump.com/desk.

The technology appears to be powered by Campaign Nucleus—the "digital ecosystem made for efficiently managing political campaigns and organizations," created by his former campaign manager, Brad Parscale.

The space allows Trump to post, and allows followers to share the former president's posts to Twitter and Facebook, however, the new platform does not have a feature to allow users to "reply" or engage with Trump's posts.

"This is just a one-way communication," one source familiar with the space told Fox News. "This system allows Trump to communicate with his followers."



About Narratively

Narratively is a storytelling platform and production company that celebrates humanity through diverse, authentic, high-quality content. Our human-centric work spans longform writing, digital video, podcasts, TV and film and our platform, [Narratively.com](https://narratively.com) (one of TIME's "50 Best Websites"), is the creative engine behind much of that storytelling. It is home to thousands of true, original human-interest stories fueled by Narratively's highly-vetted global network of journalists and storytellers who come to us with their passion projects that are too unique, too quirky, too in-depth, or too evergreen for mainstream media.

Our focus on diverse, untold human stories extends from Narratively.com to [Narratively Studios](#), our rapidly growing TV and film division, which is powered and inspired by Narratively's vast library of true storytelling and develops and produces scripted and unscripted television and films with top industry partners including Warner Bros. Television, Amazon Studios, Blumhouse, ABC, CBS and the CW. Additionally, our branded content studio, [Narratively Creative](#), creates high-quality video, animation, podcasts and writing for leading brands, agencies and publishers; and [Narratively Podcasts](#) develops and produces ultra-engaging audio for Narratively's own distribution and with the top platforms.

We're always on the lookout for fresh new voices. Have a story the world needs to know about? Please [consider pitching us here](#).



Noah Rosenberg

Founder, CEO, and Editor-in-Chief

Noah comes from a long line of artists and storytellers, ranging from the professional to those who simply embrace the great gift of gab. (Noah proudly falls into both of these camps.) In dedicating his career to storytelling, Noah has had an unwavering appreciation for the underdog, routinely steering away from the big headlines in search of the powerful human backstory. Noah is grateful to be able to champion this approach at Narratively. Prior to launching the company in 2012, he freelanced full-time for The New York Times as a writer, photographer and video journalist, and he also contributed in those mediums to The Wall Street Journal and GQ, and worked as a product manager for Univision Interactive Media. Noah began his career at CBS News Productions, working on documentaries, news and reality shows for CBS and outlets including Discovery, Current TV, Food Network and the History Channel. He went on to become Digital Director of The Queens Courier newspaper group, where he pioneered the company's use of video and multimedia and founded and edited Long Island City Courier Magazine. Noah's work has also been featured by Salon, New York magazine, Channel One News and New York Public Radio, among other outlets, and he was a 2012 fellow at the City University of New York's Tow-Knight Center for Entrepreneurial Journalism.



Brendan Spiegel

Co-Founder & Editorial Director

A New York City native, Brendan got his start in journalism as a political reporter and editor at Congressional Quarterly in Washington, D.C. His musings on food, travel, politics, news and humans have appeared frequently in The New York Times, as well as The Washington Post, Wired, New York magazine, Travel + Leisure, The Village Voice and many other publications. But the only thing that really impresses most people he meets is that when he was 12 he appeared on an episode of PBS' "Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego?" and caught Carmen in Africa.

About Narratively

Narratively is a storytelling content. Our human-centered (one of TIME's "50 Best Workplaces") original human-interest stories us with their passion projects.

Our focus on diverse, untold film division, which is powerful and unscripted television ABC, CBS and the CW. As podcasts and writing for 1 engaging audio for Narratively.

We're always on the lookout for

...wing TV and produces scripted os, Blumhouse, o, animation, ces ultra-

...itching us here.

Fugitive QAnon Fan Runs Up \$10,000 Diner Tab—and Bails

HEAVY ON THE LETTUCE

QAnon promoter **Richard Potcner** urged National Guard soldiers in the Capitol to order on his tab at a local diner, then crowdsourced to pay the bill. But he stopped paying.



Will Sommer
Politics Reporter

Published May. 05, 2021 3:34AM ET

An unlikely partnership between a QAnon influencer and a Washington, D.C. diner popular with lawmakers has ended in chaos, with the diner's owner claiming she's owed \$10,000 and the conspiracy theorist wanted for arrest in two states on unrelated charges.

QAnon promoter Richard Potcner's relationship with Pete's Diner owner Gum Tong started in late January, when Potcner claimed in a video posted to social media platform Telegram that he had established an "open tab" at the diner. Potcner urged National Guard soldiers guarding the Capitol in the aftermath of the Jan. 6 riot to order meals on his tab at the Capitol Hill diner, once a frequent breakfast spot for former Speaker of the House John Boehner.

As the bills piled up, Potcner asked his 200,000 Telegram followers to send him money so he could pay Tong for the meals. For months after that, Potcner posted videos of himself settling his tab with donated money from his fans. When Potcner's tab would run out, Tong would continue to serve the meals, only to be paid back later by Potcner.

One day, though, Potcner stopped visiting the restaurant to pay his bill, according to Tong. Tong claims Potcner now owes her \$10,000 on an outstanding bill for the meals.

"He got the money from the people," Tong said, referring to Potcner's donors. "But we didn't get the money from him."



© Christopher Oquendo for DailyMail.com

Trump supporter and veteran, Richard Potcner has taken up the cause to help feed National Guard Troops Stationed at the US Capitol

Gunmen kill former TV presenter then escape in Afghanistan

RAHIM FAIEZ 46 minutes ago

Thursday, May 06, 2021



1 of 2

The body of Nimat Rawan, a former Afghan TV presenter, lies in morgue at a hospital in Kandahar, Afghanistan, Tuesday, May 6, 2021. Gunmen killed Rawan on Thursday as he was traveling in the southern city of Kandahar, a provincial official said, adding to fears for press freedom in the war-wrecked country. (AP Photo/Sidiqullah Khan)



In a statement, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid warned Afghan journalists against giving “one-sided news in support of Afghanistan’s intelligence,” or otherwise “face the consequences.”

Afghanistan is considered one of the most dangerous countries in the world to be a journalist. Since 2006, as many as 76 journalists have been killed in Afghanistan, according to UNESCO.

Last year alone at least 15 were killed, and earlier this year, three women employed by media outlets were killed in eastern Afghanistan. The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for some of the killings, including that of the three women. The majority of the targeted journalists have been women.

The government blames a resurgent Taliban — who now control or hold sway over half the country — for many of the targeted killings. The insurgents, meanwhile, claim the Afghan intelligence service is carrying out these attacks so as to blame the Taliban.

Saint-Philippe is a commune in the French overseas department of Réunion, located in south-eastern Reunion. Area: 59.44 mi² Population: 5,115

an·ti·pode

/ˈan(t)əˌpōd/

noun

the direct opposite of something else.
"the pole and its antipode"

Antipodes



In geography, the antipode of any spot on Earth is the point on Earth's surface diametrically opposite to it. A pair of points antipodal to each other are situated such that a straight line connecting the two would pass through Earth's center. Antipodal points are as far away from each other as possible.

Antipode of San Diego, United States

The opposite side of the world to San Diego is **Saint-Philippe, Réunion, Reunion**.



Leaflet | © OpenStreetMap

San Diego

United States

Continent: America

Coordinates: 32.716, -117.165

Antipodal point

Opposite side in the world

Continent: America

Coordinates: -32.716, 62.835

Saint-Philippe

Reunion

Saint-Philippe is the closest city to San Diego's antipodal point (1,439 km).

The antipodal city to San Diego is Saint-Philippe. This means that, among all the populated locations in the world, the farthest city from San Diego is Saint-Philippe.

The distance from San Diego to Saint-Philippe is about **19,000 kilometers**. A direct flight would take around **21 hours**, but there aren't commercial routes between these cities.

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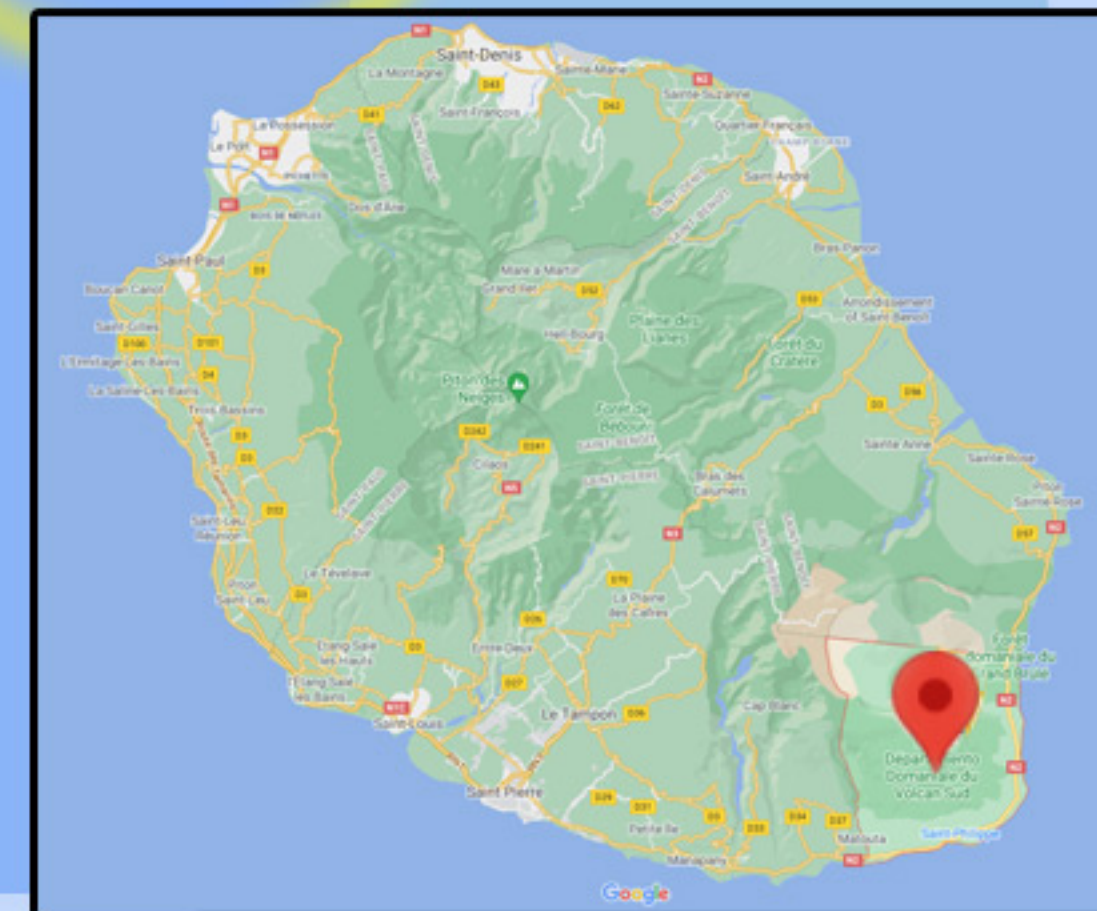
Piton de la Fournaise is a shield volcano on the eastern side of Réunion island in the Indian Ocean. It is currently one of the most active volcanoes in the world.

Antipode of San Diego, United States

The opposite side of the world to San Diego is **Saint-Philippe, Réunion, Reunion**.



A notable event in the Saint-Philippe commune's history was in 1897, when the British troopship RIMS Warren Hastings ran aground in the middle of the night. Two seamen died as a result, the crash sparked by a compass malfunction resulting from the eruption of the Piton de la Fournaise. On board the ship was some electricity, for which the village of Tremblet would have to wait until 1984 to finally receive.



Netflix series signals racial breakthrough in Italian TV

By COLLEEN BARRY 20 minutes ago Thursday, May 06, 2021



Author and screenwriter Antonio Dikele Distefano, right, and actor Giuseppe Dave Seke walk in Milan, Italy, Tuesday, April 27, 2021. The Netflix series “Zero,” which premiered globally last month, is the first Italian TV production to feature a predominantly black cast, a bright spot in an otherwise bleak television landscape where the persistent use of racist language and imagery is sparking new protests. (AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)

MILAN (AP) — The Netflix series “Zero,” which premiered globally last month, is the first Italian TV production to feature a predominantly Black cast, a bright spot in an otherwise bleak Italian television landscape where the persistent use of racist language and imagery is sparking new protests.

Even as “Zero” creates a breakthrough in Italian TV history, on private networks, comedy teams are asserting their right to use racial slurs and make slanty-eye gestures as satire. The main state broadcaster RAI is under fire for attempting to censor an Italian rapper’s remarks highlighting homophobia in a right-wing political party. And under outside pressure, RAI is advising against — but not outright banning — the use of blackface in variety skits.

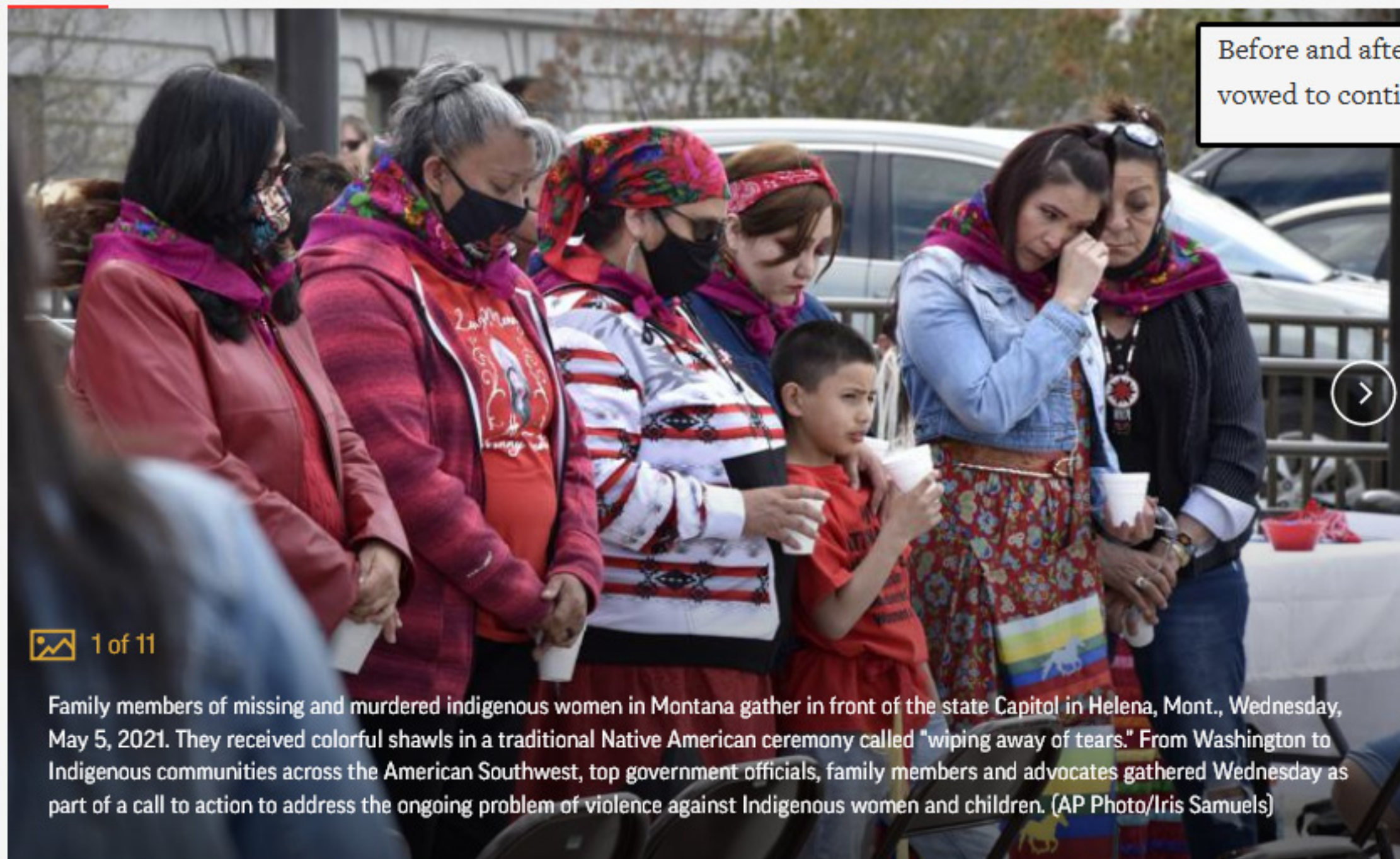
With cultural tensions heightened, the protagonists of “Zero” hope the series — which focuses on second-generation Black Italians and is based on a novel by the son of Angolan immigrants — will help accelerate public acceptance that Italy has become a multicultural nation.

“I always say that Italy is a country tied to traditions, more than racist,” said Antonio Dikele Distefano, who co-wrote the series and whose six novels, including the one on which “Zero” was based, focus on the lives of the children of immigrants to Italy.

Vigils, rallies mark day of awareness for Indigenous victims

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN and FELICIA FONSECA

Thursday, May 06, 2021



Before and after a moment of silence, officials from various agencies vowed to continue working with tribes to address the problem.

1 of 11

Family members of missing and murdered indigenous women in Montana gather in front of the state Capitol in Helena, Mont., Wednesday, May 5, 2021. They received colorful shawls in a traditional Native American ceremony called "wiping away of tears." From Washington to Indigenous communities across the American Southwest, top government officials, family members and advocates gathered Wednesday as part of a call to action to address the ongoing problem of violence against Indigenous women and children. (AP Photo/Iris Samuels)

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Some shared agonizing stories of frustration and loss. Others prayed and performed ceremonies. All called for action.

Across the U.S. on Wednesday, family members, advocates and government leaders commemorated a day of awareness for the crises of violence against Indigenous women and children. They met at virtual events, vigils and rallies at state capitols and raised their voices on social media.

In Washington, a gathering hosted by U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and other federal officials started with a prayer asking for guidance and grace for the Indigenous families who have lost relatives and those who have been victims of violence.

Bryan Newland, principal assistant secretary for Indian Affairs at the Interior Department, said staffing at the Bureau of Indian Affairs unit will go from a team of 10 to more than 20 officers and special agents with administrative and support staff it previously didn't have.

He also said the federal government has started distributing funding under the American Rescue Plan Act, including \$60 million for public safety and law enforcement in Indian Country.

"We're really looking to build upon many of the things that have been done, to expand them and bring focus to them," Newland said.

Alex Canter

Alex is a restaurant industry innovator, in-demand speaker, and passionate advocate for restaurant operators and workers. He was raised in the kitchen of the world-famous Canter's Deli in Los Angeles, where he and his team invented Ordermark. A fourth-generation restaurateur, the restaurant business has been in Alex's blood for over 90 years. In addition to being the visionary and leader of Ordermark, Alex is active with the Techstars network and enjoys mentoring other restaurant technology entrepreneurs and occasional angel investing. He is a 2019 recipient of the Forbes 30 Under 30 and Fast Casual Executive's Top 25. Alex previously led several technology ventures and most recently, Ordermark announced the close of its \$120M Series C funding round led by Softbank.

Paul Allen

Paul is a seasoned business leader and entrepreneur with over 25 years experience spanning technology sales, marketing, and product development with teams at Intel, Motorola, Adobe, Autodesk, the States of Connecticut, Colorado, Ohio and dozens of technology startups. He has been a founder, investor, and board member of numerous venture-backed technology companies and led two tech startup accelerators, including one backed by Dan Gilbert, founder, and chairman of Quicken Loans.



Chief Executive Officer
Alex Canter



Co-Founder and President
Paul Allen



Chief Growth Officer
Geoff Madding



Chief Operating Officer
Johnny Drozdek




Chief Technical Officer
Arpan Desai



General Manager
Lara Hoyem



Forbes
30 UNDER 30
Are you with a restaurant? 

Comedian George Lopez Launching Delivery-Only Taqueria in San Diego

George Lopez Tacos gets underway on June 8

by Candice Woo | May 5, 2021, 9:13am PDT



George Lopez | Greg Cahill

The same company that backed HotBox by Wiz, a virtual restaurant fronted by rapper Wiz Khalifa, has partnered with actor and comedian George Lopez on a new delivery-only taqueria that's launching nationwide on June 8 and will include San Diego among its participating cities.

Lopez, who is perhaps best known for his eponymous sitcom that aired for six seasons on ABC, is also a restaurateur. The entertainer runs several locations of Chingon Kitchen in California and Arizona, including an outpost at a Los Angeles food hall.

The virtual restaurant, called George Lopez Tacos, will offer a menu that includes street tacos filled with carnitas, chicken tinga, and beef ranchero verde as well as chips and salsa and churro bites, all available via third-party delivery sites.

In these challenging times for brick-and-mortar restaurants, Nextbite is looking for local kitchens that are interested in becoming fulfillment partners for the pop-up, which could help drive much-needed revenue through the off-premise dining model.

nextbite



Our Mission

We're on a mission to revolutionize the restaurant business by meeting consumers where they are: **online.**

Our goal is to ensure every kitchen with extra capacity is not only surviving, but thriving. By helping commercial kitchens add smart, online food delivery concepts to their line-up, we can usher in a new era of prosperity for the restaurant industry.

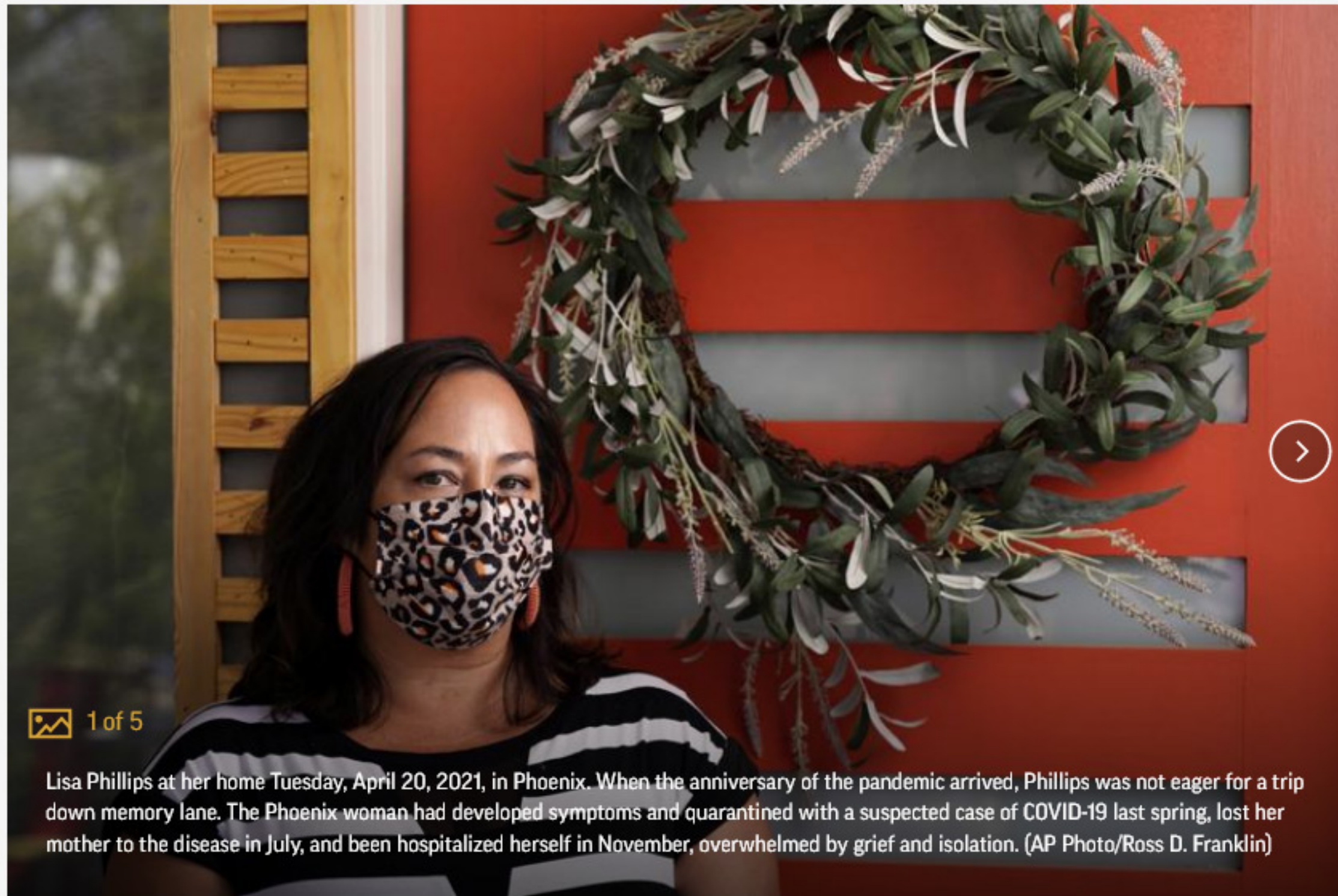


Are you with a restaurant? 🍴



On social media, memories pop up from a pandemic still going

By KANTELE FRANKO Thursday, May 06, 2021



Lisa Phillips at her home Tuesday, April 20, 2021, in Phoenix. When the anniversary of the pandemic arrived, Phillips was not eager for a trip down memory lane. The Phoenix woman had developed symptoms and quarantined with a suspected case of COVID-19 last spring, lost her mother to the disease in July, and been hospitalized herself in November, overwhelmed by grief and isolation. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

“In certain ways — not all ways — we have more in common with more people on the planet than we probably have in any other year,” says Jamil Zaki, a Stanford University psychologist who researches empathy.

People’s circumstances vary widely, and the pandemic has exposed lots of inequities, disproportionately impacting communities of color. “But at some level,” Zaki says, “many of us are dealing with a very similar type of anxiety, uncertainty, mourning and loss.”

Zaki, too, thinks the pandemic is worth remembering — not only because of what it caused, but because of what it revealed about the loneliness, depression and anxiety that people increasingly felt even before it descended.

“I really hope we don’t forget this time and don’t just snap back into [whatever normal was before](#), because normal before was not that normal. ... We were fracturing as a culture. Trust was diminishing,” Zaki says. “And I think that in a lot of ways the pandemic, like other disasters, exposes some deep truths about who we are, what we need and who we can be.”

AP

Republicans promote pandemic relief they voted against



FILE - In this April 15, 2021, file photo, Rep. Nicole Malliotakis, R-N.Y., speaks during a House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington. Every Republican in Congress voted against the \$1.9 trillion "American Rescue Plan," which President Joe Biden signed into law three months ago. But ever since, Republicans from New York and Indiana to Texas and Washington state have promoted elements of legislation that would not exist if they had their way. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh, Pool, File)

GOP lawmakers have been especially bullish about promoting the rescue plan's [Restaurant Revitalization Fund](#), which devoted \$28.6 billion to the struggling industry. Applications for the program opened this week.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., topped a group of at least eight Republicans who have encouraged constituents to apply in recent days. The others included Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., and Reps. Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y.; Greg Pence, R-Ind.; Jaime Herrera Beutler, R-Wash.; Beth Van Duyne, R-Texas; Troy Balderson, R-Ohio; and Anthony Gonzalez, R-Ohio.

The politics of the Republican position are complicated.

The GOP ultimately benefited politically after uniting against the massive economic stimulus package signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2009. Republicans scored massive gains in the House and Senate the following year. While the GOP is optimistic it will retake the House majority in 2022, it's far from clear whether the stimulus vote will help it get there.

NEW YORK (AP) — Rep. Nicole Malliotakis, R-N.Y., said it pained her to vote against the [\\$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan](#).

But in the weeks that followed, the first-term Republican issued a news release celebrating more than \$3.7 million from the package that went to community health centers in her district as one of her "achievements." She said she prided herself on "bringing federal funding to the district and back into the pockets of taxpayers."



Our communities stand united against racism. Hate against Asian American Pacific Islander communities has risen during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Together, we can stop it.**

ACT NOW

Report a hate incident in:

Select language





Stop AAPI Hate is a nonprofit social organization that runs the Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center which tracks incidents of discrimination, hate and xenophobia against [Asian Americans](#) and [Pacific Islanders](#) (AAPI) in the United States. The organization was formed in 2020 in response to increased [racially motivated violence](#) against [Asian people](#) as a result of the [COVID-19 pandemic](#) in the United States.

Stop AAPI Hate



stopaapihate.org

Founded: March 19, 2020

Stop AAPI Hate was founded by a consortium of three groups: the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON), [Chinese for Affirmative Action](#) (CAA), and the Asian American Studies Department (AAS) at the [San Francisco State University](#).^[1] The consortium began its action in January 2020 as a response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Asian Americans, specifically news accounts of incidents of racially motivated violence. The group takes a [grassroots](#) approach to gathering data and providing these data to the general public and other advocacy groups.^[2]

The group began its focus on incidents occurring in California. Their researchers initially analyzed data from the end of January 2020 through the end of February 2020 from news sources reporting on [xenophobia](#) and COVID-19. The group then approached the [governor of California](#) and the state's Attorney General's Office requesting that state agencies respond to the increasing threat of discrimination. Although the governor and others in government decried the racism, they did not form a reporting center. Stop AAPI Hate subsequently formed a non-governmental community-based reporting system called the Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center.^{[3][4]}

On February 23, 2021, the California legislature enacted the AB 85 law which includes funding of \$1.4 million specifically to support Stop AAPI Hate's website, analysis and research.^{[5][6]}

The group operates a website which allows users to report an incident.^[7] The website also is a clearinghouse for reports and press releases with data generated from the reporting.^[8]

Leadership

Manjusha P. Kulkarni, Executive Director of A3PCON

Cynthia Choi, Co-Executive Director of CAA

Russell Jeung PhD, Professor, Asian American Studies Department, San Francisco State University

Founding Organizations

Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON) is a coalition of more than 40 community-based organizations that serve and represent the 1.5 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the greater Los Angeles area, with a particular focus on low-income, immigrant, refugee, and other vulnerable populations.

Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA) advocates for systemic change that protects immigrant rights, promotes language diversity, and remedies racial and social injustice.

Asian American Studies Department, San Francisco State University uses interdisciplinary approaches in teaching, community service, and research to address the structural and ideological forces that shape the lives of Asian Americans.

National Report

5/6/21 – This report covers the 6,603 incident reports to Stop AAPI Hate from March 19, 2020 to March 31, 2021. The number of hate incidents reported to our center increased significantly from 3,795 to 6,603 during March 2021. These new reports include incidents that took place in both 2020 and 2021. **Types of Discrimination**

- Verbal harassment (65.2%) and shunning (18.1%) – i.e., the deliberate avoidance of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders – continue to make up the two largest proportions of the total incidents reported.
- Physical assault (12.6%) comprises the third largest category of total reported incidents.
- Civil rights violations – e.g., workplace discrimination, refusal of service and being barred from transportation – account for 10.3% of the total incidents.
- Online harassment makes up 7.3% of total incidents.

National Trends

- A large percentage of incidents take place in public streets and parks (37.8% of incidents) and in businesses (32.2% of incidents).
- Gender, language, and religion are cited as motivating factors for discrimination in 21.7% of incidents.
- Hate incidents reported by women make up 64.8% of all reports.
- Youth (0 to 17 years old) report 11.0% of incidents and seniors (60 years old and older) report 6.6% of the total incidents.
- Chinese individuals have reported more hate incidents (43.7%) than other race or ethnic groups, followed by Koreans (16.6%), Filipinx (8.8%) and Vietnamese (8.3%).

[Read the national report in its entirety here. \(PDF file\)](#)

Far From The Internet, These Big, Benevolent Trolls Lure Humans To Nature

May 6, 2021 · 5:00 AM ET



ELIZABETH BLAIR



"Recycle art activist" Thomas Dambo makes these gentle giants from scrap wood, old pallets, twigs and debris. Above, Marit in *It Sounded Like a Mountain Fell* in Wulong, China.

Jacob Keinicke/Thomas Dambo

Troll hunter alert in Boothbay, Maine: This summer five ginormous monsters are [taking up residence at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens](#), courtesy of artist [Thomas Dambo](#). These gentle giants are the newest additions to his tribe of dozens of trolls now inhabiting mountains, forests and parks around the world, from China to Puerto Rico. Think *Where the Wild Things Are* meets *Three Billy Goats Gruff* — the 15-30 foot high sculptures made out of scrap wood have earned Dambo the [title](#) "one of the most prominent recycle artists in the world."



Thomas Dambo



Danish visual artist

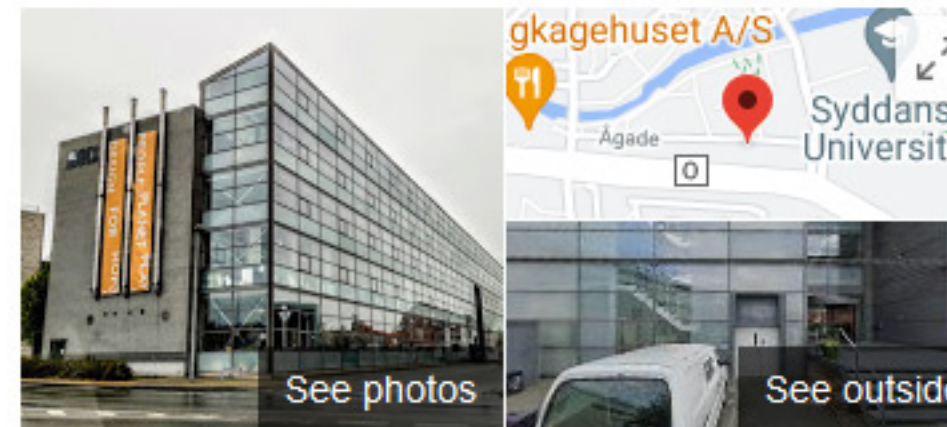


thomasdambo.com

Born: 1979 (age 42 years), Odense, Denmark

Nationality: Danish

Education: [Design School Kolding](#) (2012)



Design School Kolding

University in Kolding, Denmark

Design School Kolding is a design school located in Kolding, Denmark. It delivers undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in the areas of fashion, textiles, communication design, industrial design, accessory design, and design for people, design for planet and design for play. [Wikipedia](#)

Address: Ågade 10, 6000 Kolding, Denmark

Phone: +45 76 30 11 00

Founded: 1967

Far From The Internet, These Big, Benevolent Trolls Lure Humans To Nature

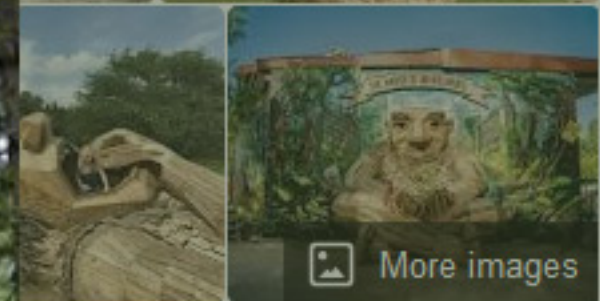
May 6, 2021 · 5:00 AM ET

 ELIZABETH BLAIR  



Jacob Keinicke/Thomas Dambo

Troll hunter alert in Boothbay, Maine: This summer five ginormous monsters are taking up residence at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, courtesy of artist **Thomas Dambo**. These gentle giants are the newest additions to his tribe of dozens of trolls now inhabiting mountains, forests and parks around the world, from China to Puerto Rico. Think *Where the Wild Things Are* meets *Three Billy Goats Gruff* — the 15-30 foot high sculptures made out of scrap wood have earned Dambo the title "one of the most prominent recycle artists in the world."



ambo 
o.com
(years), Odense, Denmark
chool Kolding (2012)



Far From The Internet, These Big, Benevolent Trolls Lure Humans To Nature

May 6, 2021 · 5:00 AM ET



recycle artists in the world."

Founded: 1967



[Isak Heartstone](#), a troll in Breckenridge, Colo., was ultimately a victim of his own success — the town voted to dismantle him after locals got fed up with the thousands of tourists coming for troll selfies.

Julian Lynch/Thomas Dambo

Anti-Olympic petition gains tens of thousands of signatures

In this March 25, 2021, file photo, a "No Olympics" banner is placed by protesters in Tokyo during a demonstration against the going ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. An online petition calling for the Tokyo Olympics to be canceled has gained ten of thousands of signatures since being launched in Japan just a few days ago. The rollout comes with Tokyo, Osaka and several other areas under a state of emergency with coronavirus infections rising — particularly new variants.



Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid tasked with forming a government

President Reuven Rivlin chooses another candidate to build a government after Benjamin Netanyahu fails to meet deadline

Oliver Holmes in Jerusalem

Wed 5 May 2021 13.42



Born 5 November 1963 (age 57)
Tel Aviv, Israel

▲ 'After two years of political paralysis, Israeli society is hurting,' Lapid said in a statement Photograph: Sebastian Scheiner/AP

Israel's president has tasked the head of the opposition, Yair Lapid, with forming a government after Benjamin Netanyahu **failed to do so**, leaving the country's longest-serving leader facing a fresh challenge to his historic hold on power.

Netanyahu's rightwing Likud party won the most seats in a March election and **was given 28 days to build a majority coalition government**. But that deadline passed on Tuesday, allowing Reuven Rivlin to choose another candidate.

| Ministerial roles | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2013–2014 | Minister of Finance |
| Faction represented in the Knesset | |
| 2013–2019 | Yesh Atid |
| 2019–2020 | Blue and White |
| 2020– | Yesh Atid |

Yesh Atid is a centrist political party in Israel. Founded by Yair Lapid in 2012, it seeks to represent what it considers the centre of Israeli society: the secular middle class. It focuses primarily on civic, socio-economic, and governance issues, including government reform and ending military c



Yair Lapid (Hebrew: יאיר לפיד; born 5 November 1963) is an Israeli politician and former journalist serving as chairman of the **Yesh Atid** party and **opposition leader** in the **Knesset**. He served as **Minister of Finance** from 2013 to 2014. Before entering politics in 2012, Lapid was an author, TV presenter and news anchor. The centrist Yesh Atid party, which he founded, became the second-largest party in the **Knesset** by winning 19 seats in its first **legislative election** in 2013. The greater-than-anticipated results contributed to Lapid's reputation as a leading centrist.

In March 2013, following his coalition agreement with **Likud**, Lapid was appointed to be **Minister of Finance** and member of the Security Cabinet. In 2013, Lapid ranked first on the list of the "Most Influential Jews in the World" by *The Jerusalem Post*.^[1] He was also recognized in 2013 as one of the leading Foreign Policy Global Thinkers,^[2] and ranked as one of TIME Magazine's 100 "Most Influential People in the World".^[3]

On 17 May 2020, Lapid became the **Leader of the Opposition**, after the **thirty-fifth government of Israel** was sworn in.^[4]

Lapid serves on the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and the Sub-Committee on Intelligence and the Security Services.^[5]

On 5 May 2021, Lapid was entrusted with the second mandate to form a new government, after the incumbent Israeli prime minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** failed to do so with the first mandate.^[6]

Lapid was born in **Tel Aviv**. His father was journalist and politician **Yosef "Tommy" Lapid**, who served as Justice Minister, and his mother is novelist and playwright **Shulamit (Giladi) Lapid**.^{[7][8]} He has a sister, Merav, who is a clinical psychologist. Another sister, Michal, died in a car accident in 1984.^[9] Both of his grandmothers were alive when his parents moved to Israel.^[10] His great-grandmother Hermione Lampel was arrested in Serbia and sent to **Auschwitz**, where she was murdered in a gas chamber.^{[11][12]}

Lapid grew up in **Tel Aviv** and **London**. His childhood home in Tel Aviv was in the **Yad Eliyahu** neighborhood, in a residential building known as the Journalists' Residence, as several prominent journalists lived there. He attended high school at the **Herzliya Hebrew Gymnasium**, but struggled with learning disabilities and dropped out without earning a **bagrut certificate**.^{[9][13]} He began his mandatory military service in the **Israel Defense Forces** in the **500th Brigade** of the **Armored Corps**. During the **1982 Lebanon War**, Lapid suffered an **asthma** attack after inhaling dust kicked up by a helicopter, and was pulled from the Corps. He then served as a military correspondent for the IDF's weekly newspaper, *Bamahane* ("In the base camp").^[14] After completing his military service, he began working as a reporter for *Maariv* and published poetry in literary journals. He also had a career as an amateur boxer.^[15]

In the mid-1980s, Lapid married Tamar Friedman. They later divorced, and he moved to **Los Angeles**, where he worked in the television industry. He later returned to Israel, where he resumed his journalism career.

He is married to journalist Lihi Lapid,^[16] and lives in the **Ramat Aviv Gimel** neighborhood of **Tel Aviv**.^[17] He and his wife have two children, and he has another son, Yoav (born 1987), from his first marriage.^[18] He attends the **Daniels Centers for Progressive Judaism**, a **Reform** synagogue in Tel Aviv.^[19]



3710637
Yair Lapid in the early 1980s, while serving as a military correspondent for the IDF's weekly newspaper

'A historic surge': Anti-Asian American hate incidents continue to skyrocket despite public awareness campaign

N'dea Yancey-Bragg USA TODAY

Published 6:43 p.m. ET May 6, 2021 | Updated 6:50 a.m. ET May 7, 2021



Violence against Asian Americans and Asians has grown despite increased national attention and political action against anti-Asian hate, experts said.

There was a more than 164% increase in anti-Asian hate crime reports to police in the first quarter of 2021 in 16 major cities and jurisdictions compared with last year, according to [a report](#) from the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino.

More than 6,600 hate incidents have been reported in the year after the pandemic began in the United States, Stop AAPI Hate announced this week. More than a third of those incidents were reported this March alone, according to the organization founded last year in response to increased targeting of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders during the pandemic.

The new [data](#) comes after several [high-profile attacks](#). A man was arrested Tuesday for allegedly [stabbing two Asian women](#) in an unprovoked attack in downtown San Francisco. Over the weekend, [two Asian women were attacked in New York City](#) by a woman who demanded they remove their masks, then struck one of them in the head with a hammer, according to police.

The assaults are the latest in a series of brutal crimes against Asians and Asian Americans, including [the fatal shootings in March of eight people in Atlanta](#), that left six women of Asian descent dead.

'Stop killing us': [Attacks on Asian Americans highlight rise in hate incidents amid COVID-19](#)

Faces of those America is leaving behind in Afghanistan

May 7, 2021 8.42am EDT

 [Brian Glyn Williams](#), *University of Massachusetts Dartmouth*

The schoolgirls

After five years of being denied the right to an education by the Taliban, these middle school girls in the town of Sheberghan in 2005 were excited to return to school. One girl, third from the right, was crying: She had just told me the story of how the Taliban had killed her parents.

She fretted, “The day the Americans leave the Taliban will return and execute us girls if we try to learn to read and write, which is forbidden for females by their law.”



A young Afghan girl sits with her younger brother in 2007. Brian Glyn Williams, CC BY-ND

This cherubic nine-year-old girl at left was charged with babysitting her little brother while her parents worked in the fields in a remote desert region. I have no idea what her fate was, but many impoverished girls like her do not get the opportunity to get an education and are married off in arranged marriages when they are young.



After the Taliban were driven out of their area, these Afghan girls, pictured in 2005, were allowed to attend school. Brian Glyn Williams, CC BY-ND

Faces of those America is leaving behind in Afghanistan

May 7, 2021 8:42am EDT

 Brian Glyn Williams, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

The warlord

In this photograph from 2003, General Abdul Rashid Dostum, an Uzbek Mongol cavalry commander, rides his prized war stallion Surkun.

Dostum, a legendary military leader who fought alongside the Soviets in the 1980s to extend modernity to Afghanistan and has faced accusations of war crimes against the Taliban which he denies, is a friend and the focus of my 2013 book, “The Last Warlord: The Afghan Warrior who Led US Special Forces to Topple the Taliban Regime.” In 2001 he rode Surkun into combat alongside horse-mounted U.S. Special Forces Green Berets to overthrow his northern Turkic-Mongol people’s historic foes, the ethnic Aryan Pashtun Taliban regime.

Hundreds of his riders were killed in the desperate mountain campaign against their Taliban enemies, as seen in the 2019 Hollywood blockbuster “12 Strong: The True, Declassified Story of the Horse Soldiers of Afghanistan,” which was in part based on my book.

The Taliban

I interviewed several dozen Taliban members, who had been captured by General Dostum’s forces, in a fortress-like prison in the northern deserts of Afghanistan. One of the captives told me a common Taliban mantra: “You Americans may have the watches, but we have the time... We will outlast you.”



Uzbek Mongol cavalry commander General Abdul Rashid Dostum, nicknamed ‘The Taliban Killer,’ rides his prized war stallion Surkun in 2003. Brian Glyn Williams, CC BY-ND



The people of Afghanistan that the author encountered live very different lives from Americans. Brian Glyn Williams, CC BY-ND

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28186008/>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/31/us/covid-death-rates.html>
<https://www.sidgilreath.com/learn/medical-malpractice-death-statistics.html#infographic>

Their latest estimate found that approximately 251,000 lives are claimed each year because of medical error - about **9.5 percent** of all **deaths** annually in the United States. This staggering number is higher than **deaths caused** by stroke, accidents or Alzheimer's.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE DEATHS 17 YEARS OF STATISTICS

Earlier this year, a new study regarding medical malpractice deaths made waves in the legal and medical communities, but this wasn't the first study of its kind. Previous studies in 1999 and 2013 also contained some concerning numbers.

Alarming Findings in 2016

Medical malpractice is the **3RD LEADING CAUSE** of death in the US



AS MANY AS 21% of patients receive some form of negative care

Top 5 Causes of Death



Estimated Preventable Deaths Per Day
700 OR 30 DEATHS PER HOUR

Covid-19 was the third leading cause of death in the United States in 2020, displacing unintentional injuries and trailing only heart disease and cancer, federal health researchers reported on Wednesday.

The coronavirus was the cause of death for 345,323 Americans in a year that exacted a steep price in lives lost. In roughly 30,000 additional cases, death certificates cited Covid-19 but it was not deemed the cause of death, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

Some 3,358,814 Americans died of all causes in 2020, a 15 percent increase in the age-adjusted death rate over that in 2019, when 2,854,838 Americans died. In addition to Covid-19, heart disease claimed higher numbers of lives than expected last year, as did Alzheimer's and diabetes — a phenomenon statisticians refer to as excess deaths.

Is the Problem Growing?

Number of Deaths Caused Annually by Medical Error

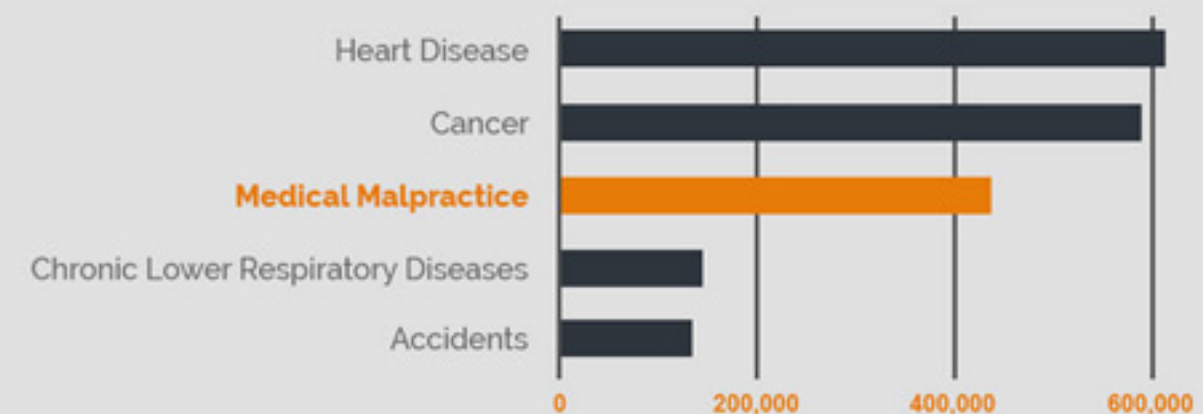


*Numbers are approximations

While this is possibly attributed to differences in how data was gathered for the studies, the fact remains that the medical error is responsible for an unacceptable number of patient deaths

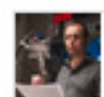
Could the number be even higher than we thought?

Top 5 Causes of Death in the US Assuming the 440k Estimate

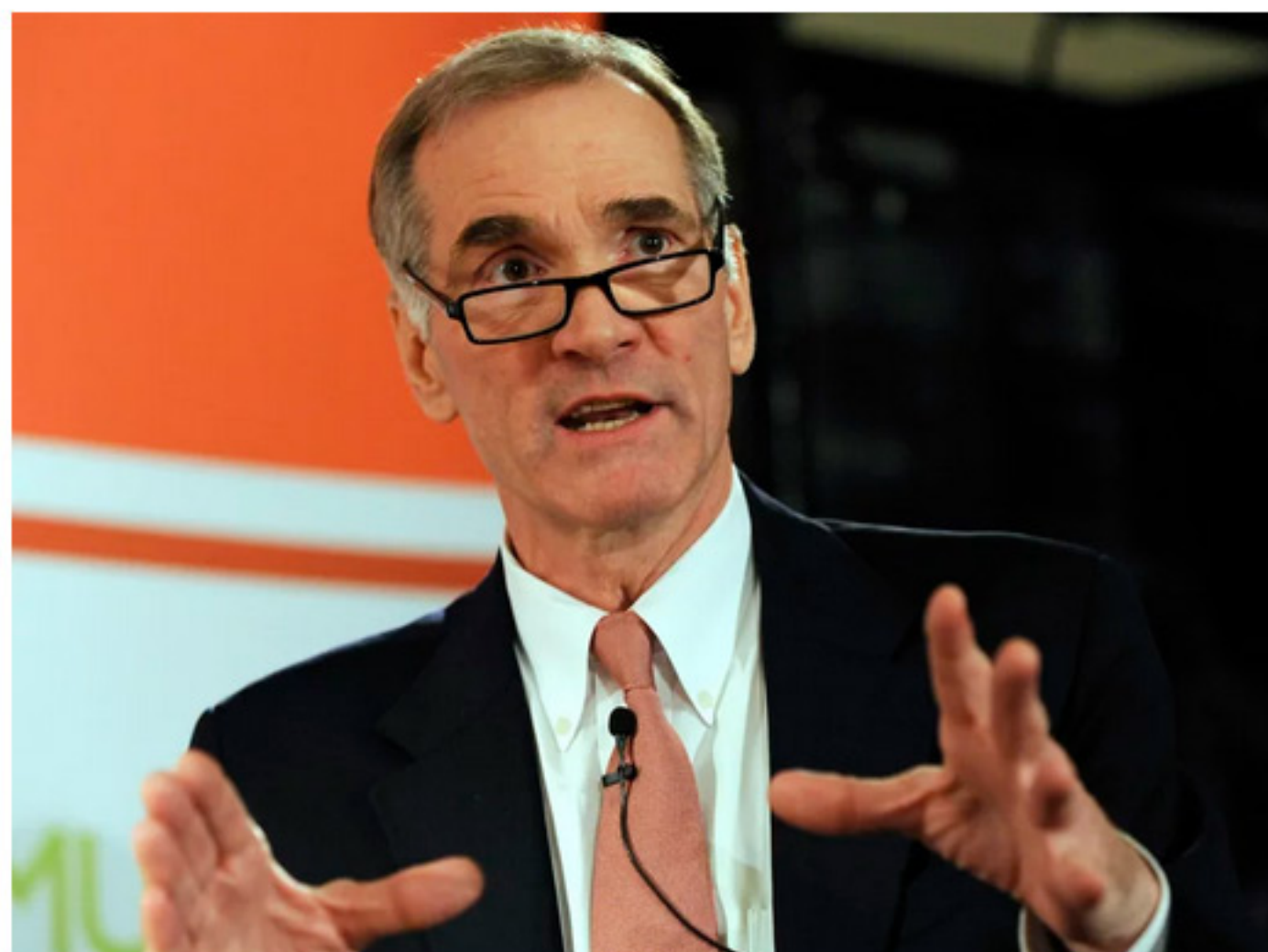


David Swensen, The Greatest Investor You Maybe Never Heard Of, Leaves Powerful Legacy

May 8, 2021 · 7:17 AM ET



CHRIS ARNOLD



David Swensen speaks in 2012 at an event honoring Jack Bogle, who created the first index fund. Like Bogle, Swensen was a champion of the every-day investor who he thought should invest in low-fee index funds and steer clear of actively managed mutual funds with higher fees.

A pioneering investor who ran Yale University's endowment, David Swensen, died this week at the age of 67 after a years-long battle with cancer. Swensen revolutionized the way many colleges invest, infusing some schools and nonprofits with vastly more resources to pay for things like financial aid for students and research.

Swensen was widely regarded by other investors as one of the greatest in the world. Case in point: He grew Yale's endowment from \$1 billion in 1985 to \$31 billion last year.

But he's not a household name. And that's maybe because he didn't make those billions for himself — even though, with his track record, he almost certainly could have if he'd started his own hedge fund.

On the side, Swensen taught a popular class about investing at Yale for decades. (He was teaching a mere two days before he died.) He came across to people less like a titan of investing and more like a very likeable high school or college math teacher.

But pretty soon, this unassuming man was revolutionizing the way universities invest their money.

Instead of buying just a simple mix of stocks and bonds, Swensen sought out the very best boutique investment outfits, and through them, invested in all kinds of things: real estate, timber, shampoo and soap companies in Asia. He put seed money into technology startup companies.

His great insight was that — if done right — an endowment made more money with less risk by hiring very talented money managers to invest in many different types of assets.

Basically, he built a table with 10 legs: very stable even if a few legs get wobbly or fall off.



David Swensen served on President Barack Obama's Economic Recovery Advisory Board after the financial crisis hit. He's seen here in 2010 with the president and former SEC Chairman William Donaldson, second from right at White House.



Today the shoreline of Lake Malawi is open, not forested the way it was before ancient humans started modifying the landscape. Jessica Thompson, CC BY-ND

Early humans used fire to permanently change the landscape tens of thousands of years ago in Stone Age Africa

May 5, 2021 2:06pm EDT

👤 Jessica Thompson, Yale University, David K. Wright, University of Oslo, Sarah Ivory, Penn State

Harnessing fire to manage resources

The mud in the core also contains a record of fire history, in the form of tiny fragments of charcoal. Those little flecks told us that around 85,000 years ago, something strange happened around Lake Malawi. **Charcoal production spiked, erosion increased and, for the first time in more than half a million years, rainfall did not bring forest recovery.**

At the same time this charcoal burst appears in the drill core record, our sites began to show up in the archaeological record – eventually becoming so numerous that they formed one continuous landscape littered with stone tools. Another drill core immediately offshore showed that as site numbers increased, more and more charcoal was washing into the lake. Early humans had begun to make their first permanent mark on the landscape.

Fire use is a technology that stretches back at least a million years. Using it in such a transformative way is human innovation at its most powerful. Modern hunter-gatherers use fire to warm themselves, cook food and socialize, but many also deploy it as an engineering tool. Based on the wide-scale and permanent transformation of vegetation into more fire-tolerant woodlands, we infer that this was what these ancient hunter-gatherers were doing.

By converting the natural seasonal rhythm of wildfire into something more controlled, people can encourage specific areas of vegetation to grow at different stages. This so-called “pyrodiversity” establishes miniature habitat patches and diversifies opportunities for foraging, kind of like increasing product selection at a supermarket.

Most people associate human impacts with a time after the Industrial Revolution, but paleo-scientists have a deeper perspective. With it, researchers like us can see that wherever and whenever humans lived, we must abandon the idea of “pristine nature,” untouched by any human imprint. However, we can also see how humans shaped their environments in sustainable ways over very long periods, causing ecosystem transformation without collapse.



Many people around the world still rely on fire for warmth, cooking, ritual and socializing – including the research crew when doing fieldwork. Jessica Thompson, CC BY-ND

<https://youtu.be/wKpZuHdhUA>

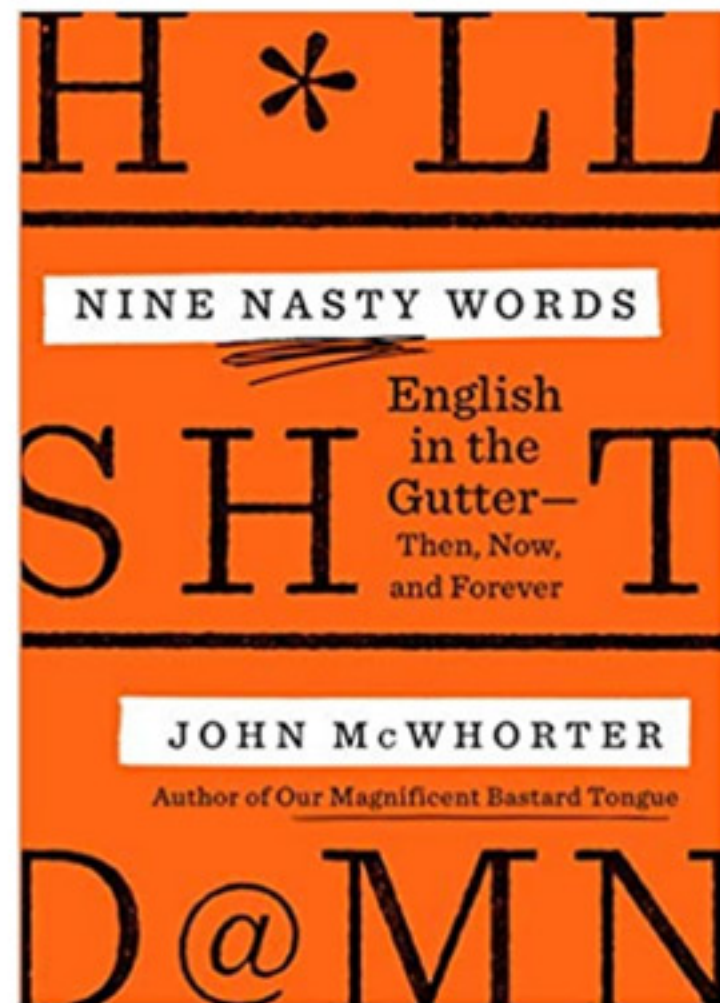


[John McWhorter \(@JohnHMcWhorter\) · Twitter](#)

Just back from taping Bill Maher. Methinks that ten minutes is going to make me a lot of friends and a lot of enemies. I had a blast.

Twitter · 19 hours ago

John Hamilton McWhorter V (/məkˈhwɔːrtər/^[1] born October 6, 1965) is an American linguist and [associate professor](#) of English and comparative literature at [Columbia University](#), where he teaches [linguistics](#), [American studies](#), [philosophy](#), and [music history](#).^[2] He is the author of a number of books on language and on [race relations](#), and his writing has appeared in many prominent magazines. His research specializes on how [creole languages](#) form, and how language grammars change as the result of sociohistorical phenomena.



McWhorter was born and raised in [Philadelphia](#). His father, John Hamilton McWhorter IV (1927–1996)^[3] was a college administrator, and his mother Schelysture Gordon McWhorter (1937–2011) taught social work at [Temple University](#).^{[4][5]} He attended [Friends Select School](#) in [Philadelphia](#), and after [tenth grade](#) was accepted to [Simon's Rock College](#), where he earned an [A.A. degree](#). Later, he attended [Rutgers University](#) and received a [B.A. in French](#) in 1985. He received a [master's degree](#) in [American Studies](#) from [New York University](#) and a [Ph.D. in linguistics](#) in 1993 from [Stanford University](#).

In a 2001 article, McWhorter wrote that black attitudes, rather than white racism, were what held black people back. According to McWhorter, "victimology, separatism, and anti-intellectualism underlie the general black community's response to all race-related issues," and "it's time for well-intentioned whites to stop pardoning as 'understandable' the worst of human nature whenever black people exhibit it."^[21]

In April 2015, McWhorter appeared on [NPR](#) and said that the use of the word "thug" was becoming code for "the [N-word](#)" or "black people ruining things" when used by whites in reference to criminal activity.^{[22][23]} He added that use by [President Obama](#) and former Baltimore Mayor [Stephanie Rawlings-Blake](#) (for which she later apologized) could not be interpreted in the same way, given that the black community's use of "thug" may positively connote admiration for black self-direction and survival. McWhorter clarified his views in an article in the *Washington Post*.^[23]

McWhorter has debated in favor of the proposition that [anti-racism](#) has become as harmful in the United States as [racism](#) itself.^{[24][25]} He has also described anti-racism as a "religious movement" as early as December 2018.^[26]

The concept of [microaggression](#) has been criticized by McWhorter,^[27] as has what he regards as the overly casual conflation of [racial bias](#) with [white supremacy](#),^[28] and he has argued that [software algorithms](#), by themselves, cannot be racist since they lack intention as humans do. He has further argued that unless the human engineers behind a [technological](#) product intend for it to discriminate against black people, any unintentional bias should be seen as a [software bug](#) that needs to be fixed ("an obstacle to achievement") rather than an issue of racism.^[29]

McWhorter criticized the 2018 book *White Fragility* following its resurgence in sales during the [George Floyd protests](#) beginning in May 2020, arguing that it "openly infantilized Black people" and "simply dehumanized us," and "does not see fit to address why all of this agonizing soul-searching [for residual racism by white people] is necessary to forging change in society. One might ask just how a people can be poised for making change when they have been taught that pretty much anything they say or think is racist and thus antithetical to the good."^[30]



John McWhorter

American linguist

John Hamilton McWhorter V is an American linguist and associate professor of English and comparative literature at Columbia University, where he teaches linguistics, American studies, philosophy, and music history. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: October 6, 1965 (age 55 years), [Philadelphia, PA](#)

Parents: [John Hamilton McWhorter IV](#)

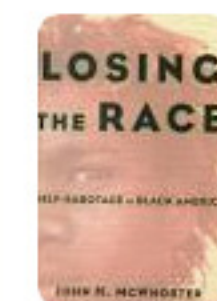
Education: [Bard College at Simon's Rock](#), [Friends Select School](#), [Stanford University](#), [New York University](#), [Rutgers University](#)

Nominations: [NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work – Nonfiction](#), [Audie Award for Non-Fiction](#)

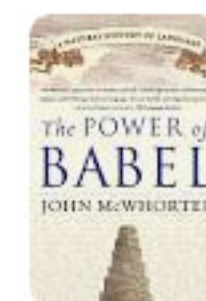
Siblings: [Holly McWhorter](#)

Books

[View 20+ more](#)



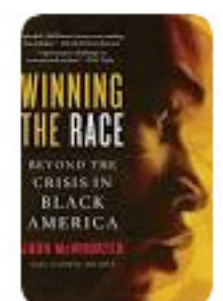
[Losing the Race: Self-Sab...](#)
2000



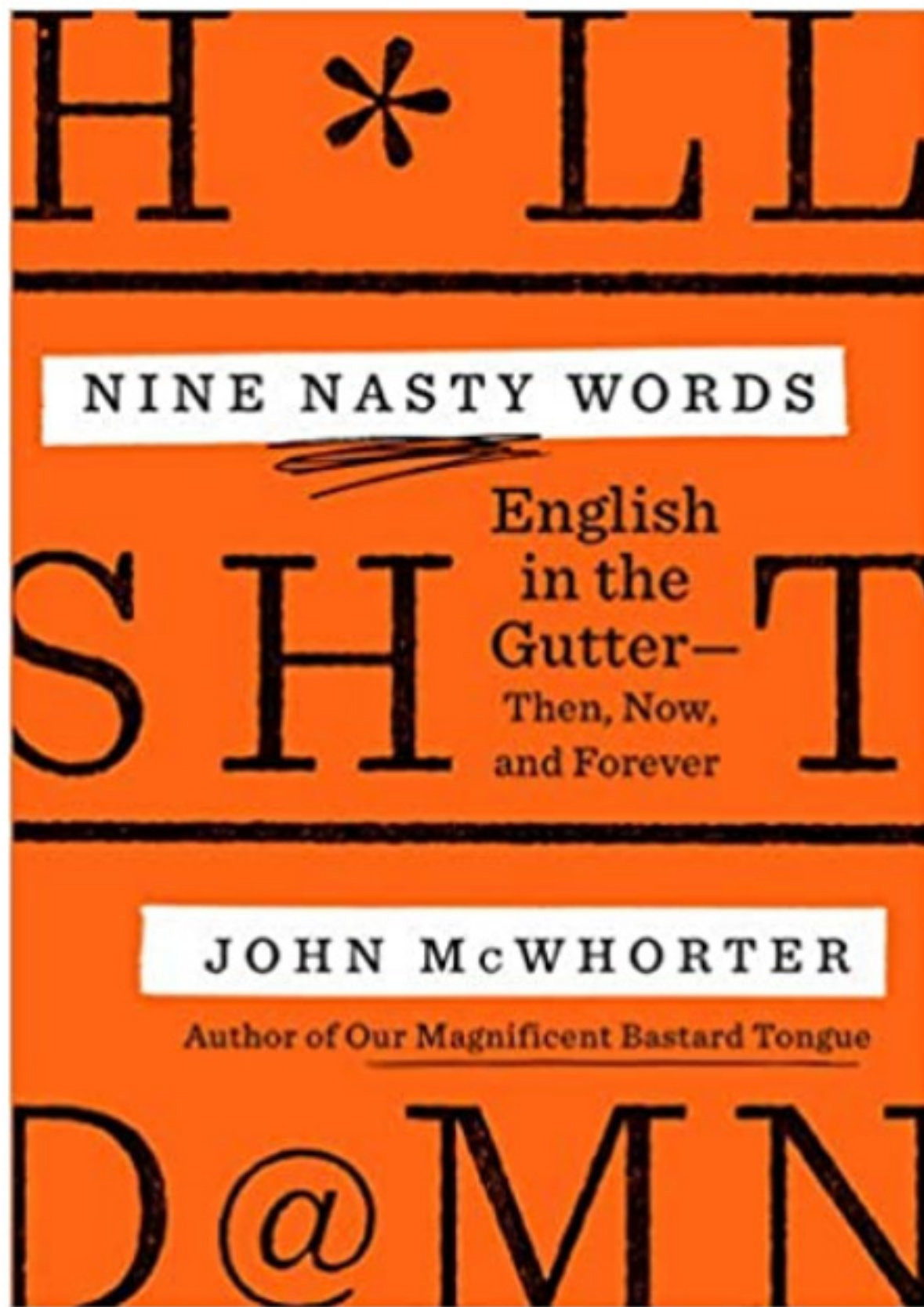
[The Power of Babel](#)
2001



[Our Magnificent Bastard...](#)
2008



[Winning the Race: Beyond t...](#)
2005



Nine Nasty Words: English in the Gutter: Then, Now, and Forever Hardcover – May 4, 2021

by [John McWhorter](#) (Author)

★★★★★ 5 ratings

#1 Best Seller in Humor Essays

One of the preeminent linguists of our time examines the realms of language that are considered shocking and taboo in order to understand what imbues curse words with such power--and why we love them so much.

Profanity has always been a deliciously vibrant part of our lexicon, an integral part of being human. In fact, our ability to curse comes from a different part of the brain than other parts of speech--the urgency with which we say "f&*k!" is instead related to the instinct that tells us to flee from danger.

Language evolves with time, and so does what we consider profane or unspeakable. *Nine Nasty Words* is a rollicking examination of profanity, explored from every angle: historical, sociological, political, linguistic. In a particularly coarse moment, when the public discourse is shaped in part by once-shocking words, nothing could be timelier.



John McWhorter teaches linguistics, philosophy, and music history at Columbia University, and writes for various publications on language issues and race issues such as *Time*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Daily Beast*, *CNN*, and the *Atlantic*. he told his mother he wanted to be a "book writer" when he was five, and is happy that it worked out.

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ABOUT

THE FUTURE OF FUSION

WHAT IS PLASMA?

GLOSSARY

What is Plasma?

Plasma is superheated matter - so hot that the electrons are ripped away from the atoms forming an ionized gas. It comprises over 99% of the visible universe. In the night sky, plasma glows in the form of stars, nebulas, and even the auroras that sometimes ripple above the north and south poles. That branch of lightning that cracks the sky is plasma, so are the neon signs along our city streets. And so is our sun, the star that makes life on earth possible.

Plasma is often called "the fourth state of matter," along with solid, liquid and gas. Just as a liquid will boil, changing into a gas when energy is added, heating a gas will form a plasma - a soup of positively charged particles (ions) and negatively charged particles (electrons).

Because so much of the universe is made of plasma, its behavior and properties are of intense interest to scientists in many disciplines. Importantly, at the temperatures required for the goal of practical fusion energy, all matter is in the form of plasma. Researchers have used the properties of plasma as a charged gas to confine it with magnetic fields and to heat it to temperatures hotter than the core of the sun. Other researchers pursue plasmas for making computer chips, rocket propulsion, cleaning the environment, destroying biological hazards, healing wounds and other exciting applications.

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WHAT IS PLASMA?

GLOSSARY

The Future of Fusion

The fundamental features of fusion – inexhaustible fuel and large power density – would allow it to provide carbon-free energy at a scale needed to address climate change. Making clean, safe and economical fusion energy available to our society is a grand challenge of 21st century science and engineering. There is no known science stopping us from developing fusion energy; in fact the fundamental conditions needed to make fusion, such as achieving temperatures of 100 million degrees, have mostly been achieved, including in laboratories at MIT. Nonetheless many people wonder if fusion will be available in a timely manner since it has been long promised, but slow to become reality. Fusion has been delayed because its science was more complex than first imagined, and due to the large sizes of experimental facilities needed to explore fusion.

However, exploiting newly available technologies and science can accelerate the development of fusion energy. A host of new technologies, such as high-temperature superconductors and 3-D printing, provide exciting new opportunities to build small fusion devices, while fundamental understanding of the fusion science through advanced computing and measurement is providing greater confidence in the performance of fusion power plants. Bringing together these new opportunities in an integrated manner, all while training a new generation of fusion scientists, lies at the heart of our fusion energy mission at the PSFC.

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Look inside this lab where scientists are recreating the energy of the sun to produce nearly unlimited clean energy

Published Fri, Apr 30 2021 11:34 AM EDT



Catherine Clifford

@CATCLIFFORD



The TAE Technologies fusion machine, Norman, in the company's lab in Foothill Ranch, California. Norman was built from the middle of 2016 to mid-2017 and cost \$150 million to build. It is 22 feet high, 80 feet long and weighs 60,000 pounds. Photo courtesy TAE Technologies

Recreating in a lab the nuclear [reaction that powers the sun and other stars](#) — which is called nuclear fusion — is a feat as complex as it sounds.

Fusion has the potential to create massive amounts of carbon-free or clean energy. So though no scientists have quite accomplished creating usable energy from fusion just yet, a handful of companies are working at it.

The machines being built by scientists to accomplish this are called reactors, and they are massively heavy, cost tens of millions of dollars and represent the culmination of decades of scientific research.

[TAE Technologies](#), headquartered in Foothill Ranch, California, is a fusion company using a unique reactor design, and it recently reached a key milestone in the quest for usable energy from fusion. TAE Technologies shared this virtual tour of its lab to explain the potential of fusion technology.

How to get to 50 million degrees Celsius

To re-create fusion on Earth, first, a lighter atom such as hydrogen has to be heated until it gets to the fourth state of matter, plasma. (The first three states are solid, then liquid, then gas.)

Gas must be "superheated" to create plasma, says [TAE Technologies CEO Michl Binderbauer](#).

Then, the superheated plasma has to be sustained for a long enough [amount of time](#) and in a stable enough condition to [release energy](#).

The future of fusion

"Our game plan, the one we have been executing to, is to bring a demonstration power plant online by the late part of the '20s, so then you go into commercialization," Binderbauer says.

But one of the common criticisms of fusion is that it is going to take too long to be realized to be helpful with climate change.

"Fusion has great potential to contribute to a clean energy future," says Jonathan Cobb, senior analyst at the [World Nuclear Association](#). But even if net energy is achieved in the 2020s, "widespread deployment of fusion is somewhat off."

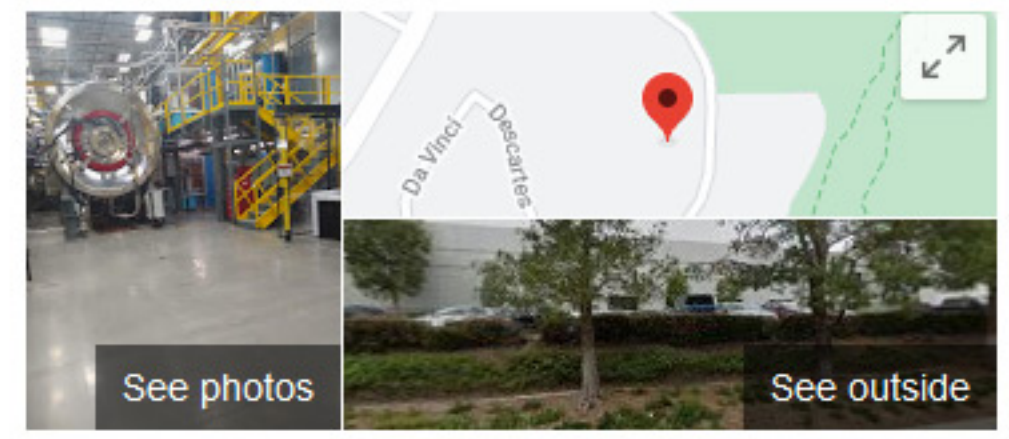


TAE Technologies, formerly Tri Alpha Energy, is an American company based in Foothill Ranch, California, created for the development of aneutronic fusion power. The company's design relies on a field-reversed configuration (FRC), which combines features from other fusion concepts in a unique fashion.

The company was founded in 1998, and is backed by private capital. They operated as a stealth company for many years, refraining from launching its website until 2015. The company did not generally discuss progress nor any schedule for commercial production. However, it has registered and renewed various patents. It regularly publishes theoretical and experimental results in academic journals with over 150 publications and posters at scientific conferences over the last five years. TAE has a research library hosting these articles on their website.

TAE Technologies, Inc.

Table with 2 columns: Field (Formerly, Type, Industry, Founded, Founders, Headquarters, Key people, Number of employees, Subsidiaries, Website) and Value (Tri Alpha Energy, Inc., Private, Fusion Power, April 1998; 23 years ago, George Sealy, Harry Hamlin, Andrew Conrad, Foothill Ranch, California, United States, Norman Rostoker, Michl Binderbauer (CEO and President), Toshiki Tajima (CSO), Jeff Immelt (Board member), 150, TAE Life Sciences, www.tae.com)



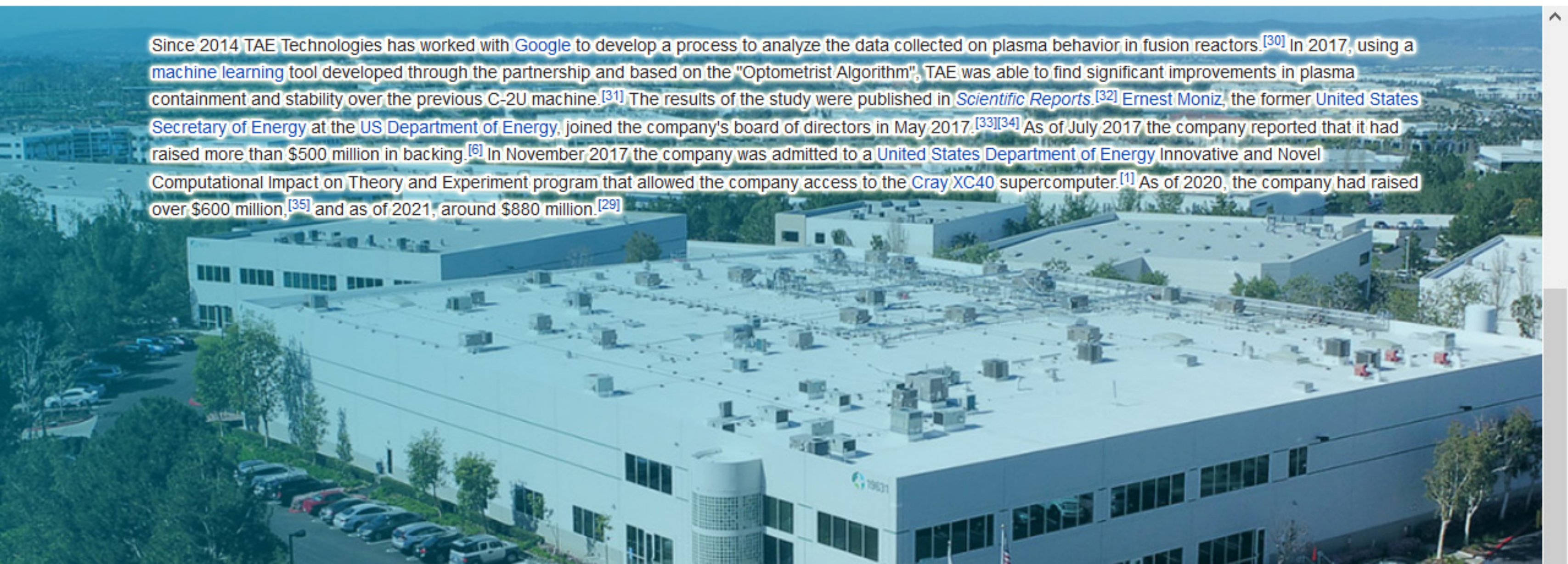
TAE Technologies

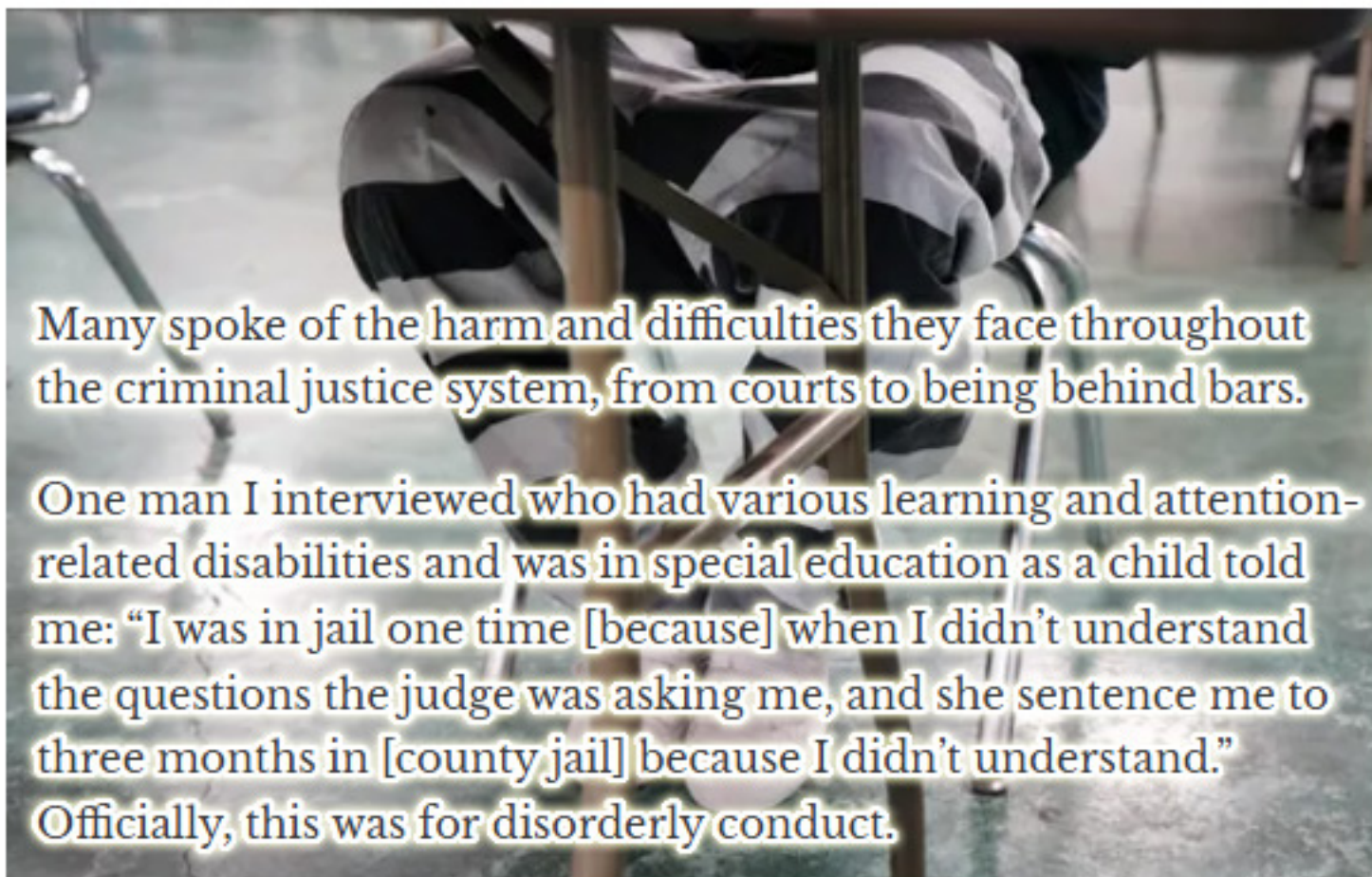
Research and product development in Lake Forest, California

Address: 19631 Pauling, Foothill Ranch, CA 92610

Phone: (949) 830-2117

Since 2014 TAE Technologies has worked with Google to develop a process to analyze the data collected on plasma behavior in fusion reactors. In 2017, using a machine learning tool developed through the partnership and based on the "Optometrist Algorithm", TAE was able to find significant improvements in plasma containment and stability over the previous C-2U machine. The results of the study were published in Scientific Reports. Ernest Moniz, the former United States Secretary of Energy at the US Department of Energy, joined the company's board of directors in May 2017. As of July 2017 the company reported that it had raised more than \$500 million in backing. In November 2017 the company was admitted to a United States Department of Energy Innovative and Novel Computational Impact on Theory and Experiment program that allowed the company access to the Cray XC40 supercomputer. As of 2020, the company had raised over \$600 million, and as of 2021, around \$880 million.





Many spoke of the harm and difficulties they face throughout the criminal justice system, from courts to being behind bars.

One man I interviewed who had various learning and attention-related disabilities and was in special education as a child told me: “I was in jail one time [because] when I didn’t understand the questions the judge was asking me, and she sentence me to three months in [county jail] because I didn’t understand.” Officially, this was for disorderly conduct.

The rate of intellectual disabilities is disproportionately high among incarcerated populations. Spencer Platt/Getty Images

US prisons hold more than 550,000 people with intellectual disabilities – they face exploitation, harsh treatment

May 7, 2021 8:44am EDT

Jennifer Sarrett, Emory University

Nearly one in four prisoners has a cognitive disability

Cognitive disability describes medical conditions that affect mental tasks such as problem-solving, reading and paying attention.

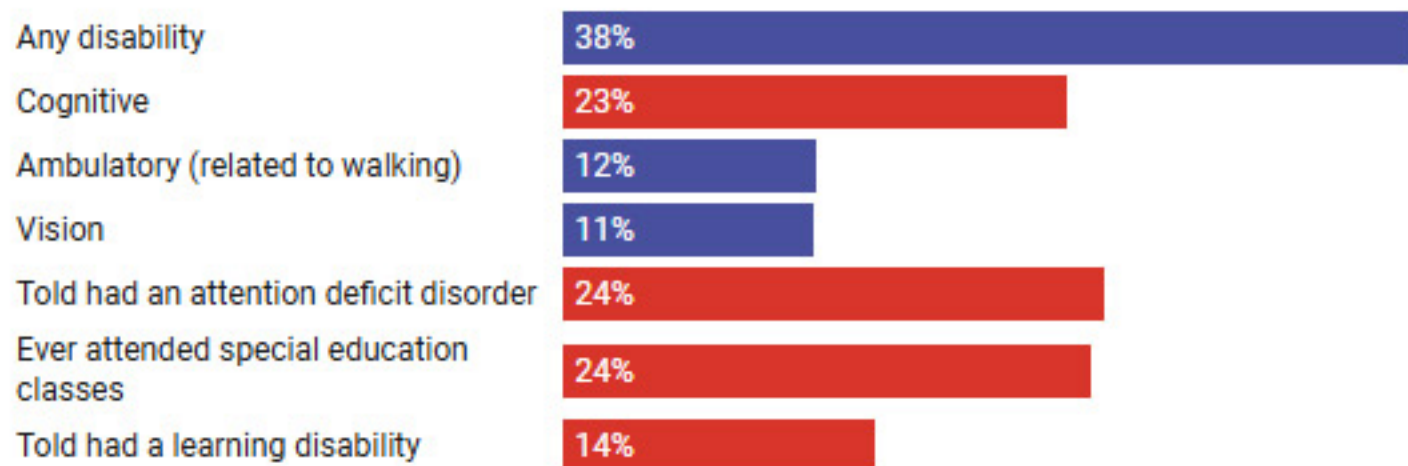


Chart: The Conversation CC-BY-ND • Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics • Get the data

Prison life in the U.S. is tough. But when you have an intellectual, developmental or cognitive disability – as hundreds of thousands of Americans behind bars do – it can make you especially vulnerable.

In March, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the federal agency tasked with gathering data on crime and the criminal justice system, published a report that found roughly two in five – 38% – of the 24,848 incarcerated people they surveyed across 364 prisons reported a disability of some sort. Across the entire incarcerated population, that translates to some 760,000 people with disabilities living behind bars.

Around a quarter of those surveyed reported having a cognitive disability, such as difficulty remembering or making decisions. A similar proportion reported at some point being told they had attention deficit disorder, and 14% were told they had a learning disability.

We could also explore strategies to divert people with intellectual, learning and cognitive disabilities away from the criminal justice system. Cities are increasingly exploring alternatives to police for responding to mental health crises, like the CAHOOTS model in Oregon in which a medic and mental health expert are deployed as first responders. Additionally, there could be more attention to these disabilities in mental health courts, which combine court supervision with community-based services. They have been shown to be somewhat effective at reducing recidivism, but which seem to focus on people with schizophrenia, bipolar, major depression or PTSD.

But before that, awareness about the presence of disability in incarcerated settings needs to be higher. The plight of incarcerated prisoners with intellectual disabilities has long been an issue lost amid America’s sprawling prison network.



Compassion Is The True Test Of A Person In 'Second Place'

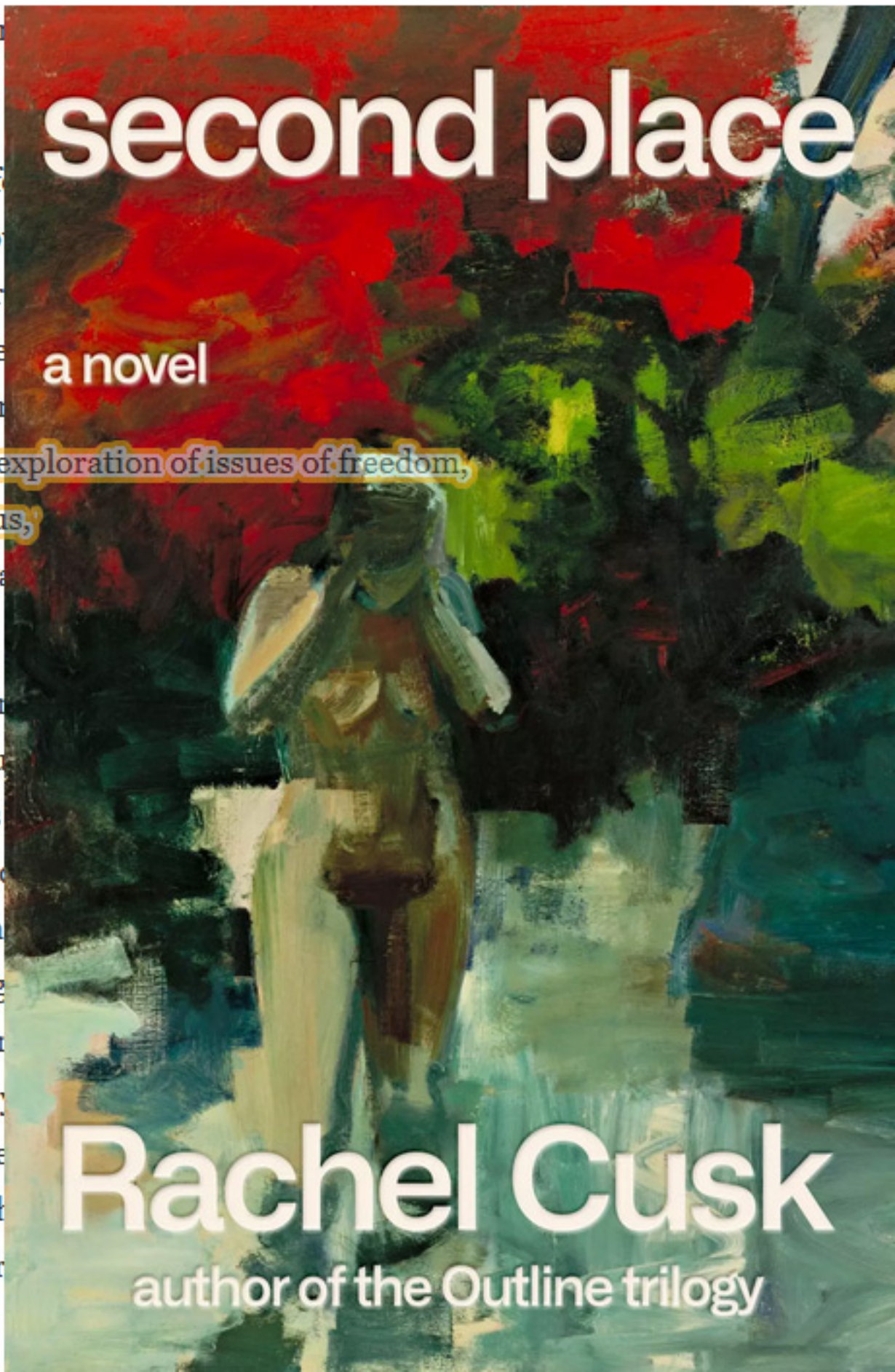
May 8, 2021 - 5:00 AM ET

HELLER MCALPIN

Rachel Cusk's *Outline* trilogy, which so brilliantly pushed against the confines of fiction to explore the power of narrative, left us wondering what she would write next. Would she go back to her earlier, more conventional satires of the stresses of family life? Or would she continue to probe questions about the connection between freedom and gender and art and art-making in conversations with strangers?

The *Outline* trilogy is a hard act to follow, but *Second Place* is an excellent next step. A writer we know from her earlier monologue relaying the story of her daughter, now dubbed L. Unlike the trilogy, it is not a novel about a mother. Essentially, it's a domestic novel about a mother, which Cusk continues her cerebral exploration of issues of freedom, how art can both save and destroy us, and self-definition in motherhood, and happiness.

Second Place traces the arc of M's first marriage, beginning with the moment, as an unrepentant mother on the brink of rebellion, "she first saw his face." Later on, she tells L she was so struck by the landscapes emitted that they gave her a sense of freedom. But instead of freedom after leaving her first husband, the immediate result was the loss of her first child. A year later, her daughter, then just four years old, was somewhat akin to Cusk's experience with her first marriage, which she chronicled with her first novel, *Outline*, garnering harsh opprobrium, in part for her unrepentant domestic stance.)



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202-505-4MAC

Robert Mac (born Robert Matthew Matz on January 26, 1968) is an American comedian.



clever jokes for clever folks



Robert Mac



Mac at Laffs Comedy Caffe in June 2011

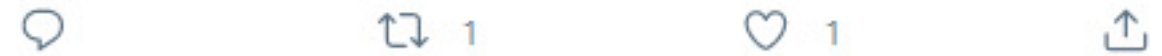
| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Born | January 26, 1968 (age 53) Detroit, Michigan, U.S. |
| Medium | Stand-up, television |
| Years active | 1993 – present |
| Website | Official Website |

← **robertmac**
1,070 Tweets

Follow

 **robertmac** @RobertMaction · 19h
 #WOW #WaitOneWeek to catch me standupping LIVE in @CityofFairfaxVA.
 @VisitFairfax
robertmac.com/live



Robert Mac was born in [Detroit, Michigan](#) in 1968, but moved with his family to [Tucson, Arizona](#) in 1972. He graduated from [Salpointe Catholic High School](#) in 1986 and attended the [University of Arizona](#) from 1986 to 1991, where he graduated with a dual major of [Bachelor of Arts, Magna cum laude in Creative Writing](#) and [Bachelor of Fine Arts, Magna cum laude & Honors in Media Arts](#).

Mac began stand-up comedy at Laff's Comedy Club in Tucson in 1993, although he was a Top Ten Finalist in [Billy Crystal's Mr. Saturday Night](#) comedy contest in 1992.

robert mac
@RobertMaction

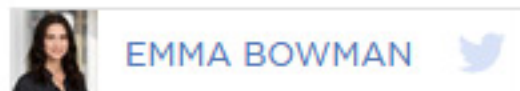
Save the planet or laugh trying.

📍 Washington, DC robertmac.com 📅 Joined April 2009

60 Following 482 Followers

California Man Arrested In Suspected Fake COVID-19 Vaccine Card Operation

May 8, 2021 - 12:38 AM ET



COVID-19 vaccination cards in what's believed to be the first thwarted scheme of its kind.

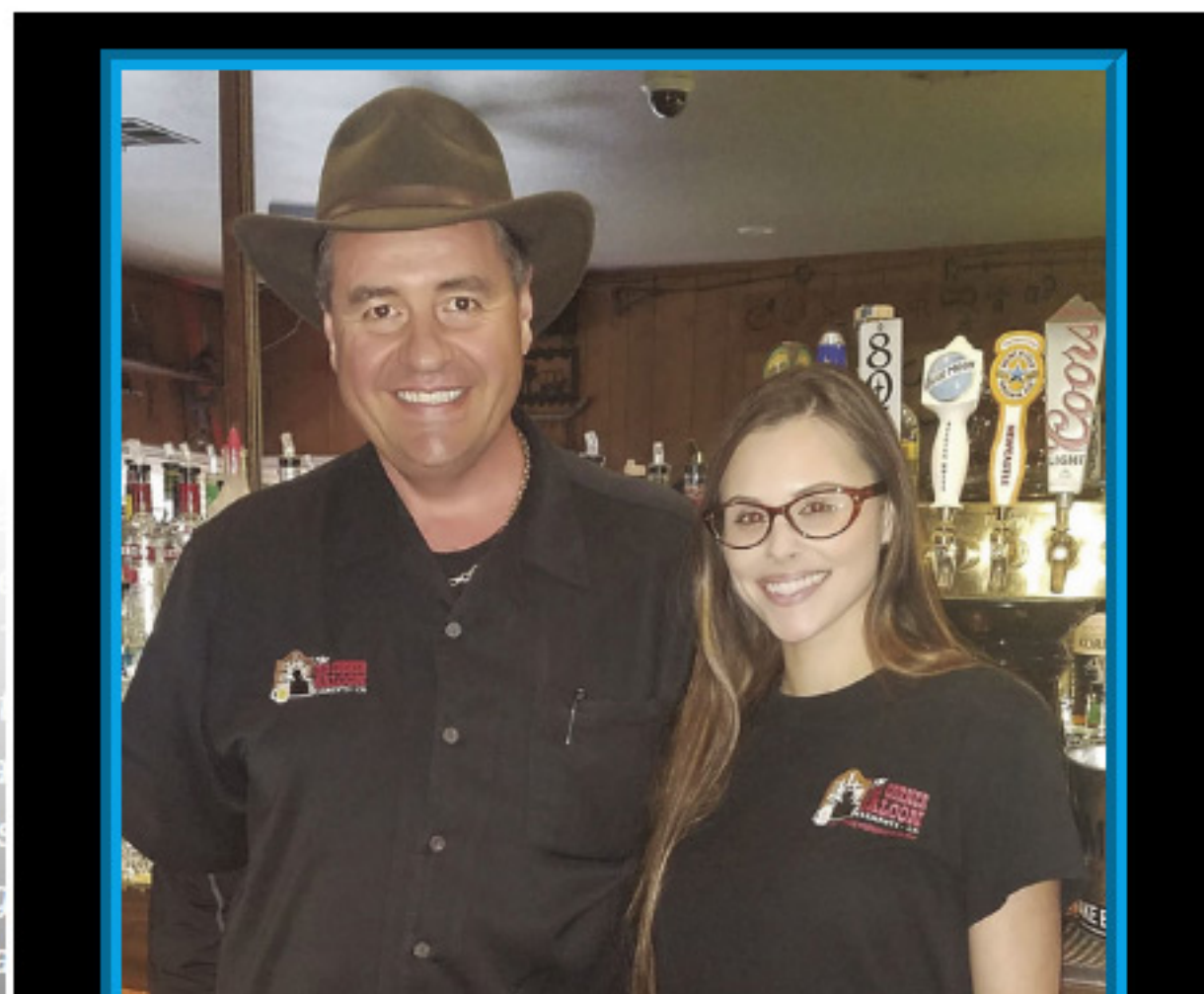
Undercover agents with the state's Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control bought the bogus cards for \$20 each during multiple visits to the Old Corner Saloon in Clements, a small town in San Joaquin County.

The agents were told to write their names and birth dates on sticky notes and watched as employees cut the cards, added phony vaccination dates and laminated them, the [Associated Press reported](#).

"On the back where they put the two dates when you were vaccinated, they used two different color pens to make it look like it was two different times," supervising agent Luke Blehm told the AP. "So they went to some effort to make it look authentic."

The owner, Todd Anderson, was arrested on Tuesday and charged with identity theft, forging government documents, falsifying medical records and having a loaded unregistered handgun, San Joaquin County District Attorney Tori Verber Salazar [said in a statement](#) this week.

"It is disheartening to have members in our community show flagrant disregard for public health in the midst of a pandemic. Distributing, falsifying or purchasing fake COVID-19 vaccine cards is against the law and endangers yourself and those around you," Salazar said.



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Although the cards are easy to fake, the actual vaccination records stored in state databases aren't as easy to hack. One state, New York, has [adopted digital vaccine verification](#) using that data, but other states have been slow to embrace proof-of-vaccination mechanisms.



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Todd Anderson (owner/operator) The Old Corner Saloon and 'bartenderess' Melissa

History of The Old Corner Saloon

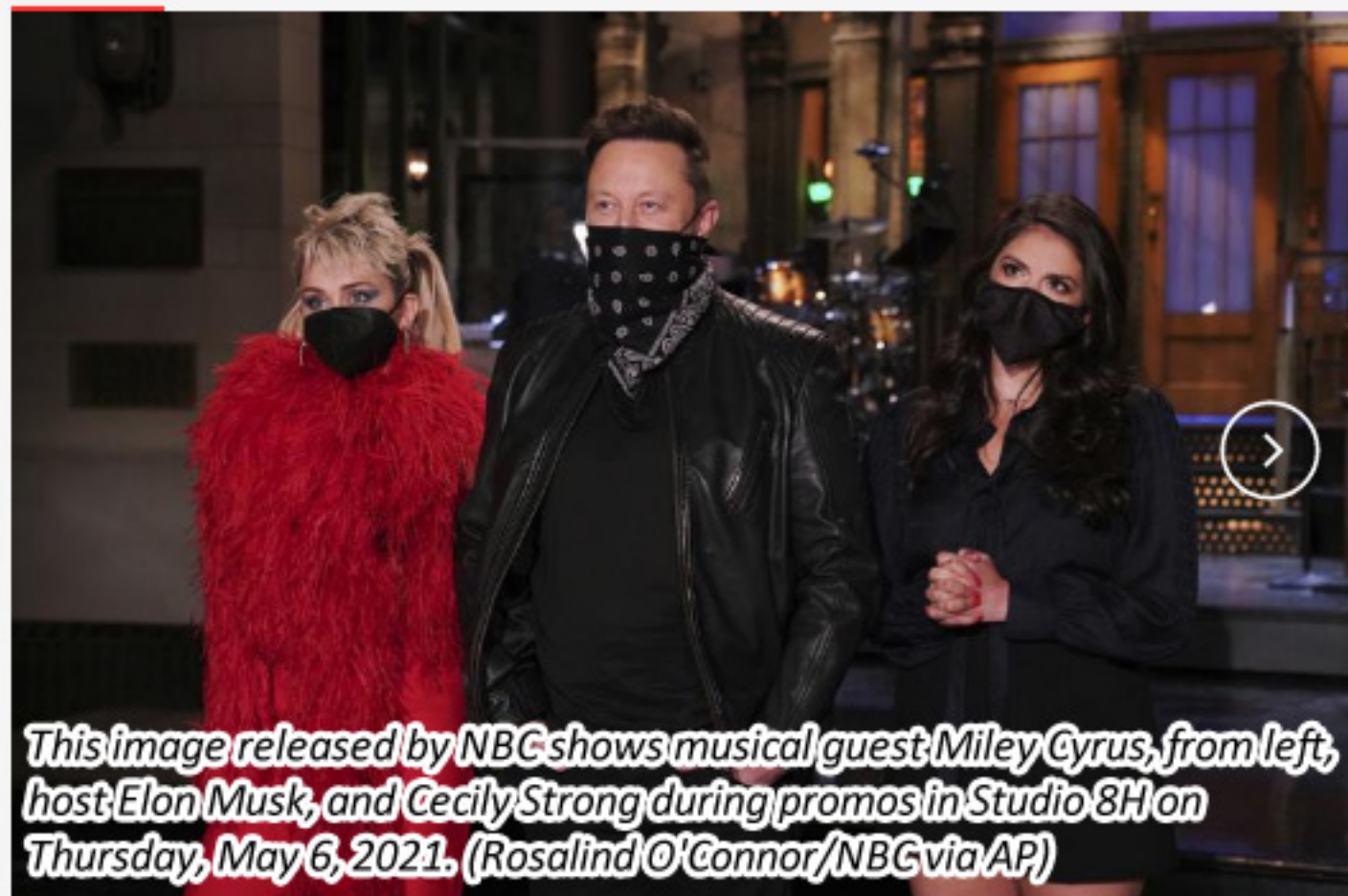
providing... biker get-togethers are scheduled frequently at the saloon

"It's a clean, safe place to come have fun and it still has the old country saloon atmosphere," Anderson said. "It's the finest drinking establishment in the west; that's my tag line."

Todd Anderson and staff have taken the bar on to great success where "old friends return." With the same industrious, inventive and congenial spirit of the original builders of the town of Clements from over 130 years ago, the Anderson legacy continues to improve upon one of the founding enterprises left: The Old Corner Saloon, a real tribute to society.

Elon Musk shows humility and hubris as 'SNL' host

By ANDREW DALTON today Sunday, May 09, 2021



Elon Musk showed a combination of humility and hubris as he opened his highly anticipated hosting gig on "Saturday Night Live."

The 49-year-old Tesla CEO, SpaceX founder and one of the world's richest men opened his monologue by mocking his monotonal speaking style, saying no one can tell when he's joking.

"It's great to be hosting 'Saturday Night Live,' and I really mean it," said Musk standing on the stage in a black suit with a black T-shirt. "Sometimes after I say something, I have to say that I mean it."

He added, in explanation, that he is the first person with Asperger's syndrome to host the show. "Or at least the first person to admit it," he said.

It may have been the first time Musk has publicly said he has the mild form of autism.

Musk also joked about his Twitter account, which has more than 50 million followers, and the tweets that led some critics to object to his being invited to host the show.

"Look, I know I sometimes say or post strange things, but that's just how my brain works," he said.

Then Musk added a boast that got his biggest laugh of the night, and an applause break from the studio audience.

"To anyone who's been offended, I just want to say I reinvented electric cars, and I'm sending people to Mars in a rocket ship," Musk said. "Did you think I was also going to be a chill, normal dude?"



A Photographer Captures Her Journey Reconnecting With Her Mother

May 9, 2021 - 6:12 AM ET

MHARI SHAW



Great grandma Uranie (left), 1940s; Mom (right), 2021

Gabby Jones

A Photographer Captures Her Journey Reconnecting With Her Mother

May 9, 2021 - 6:12 AM ET

MHARI SHAW

Many families in Western society have been personally affected by divorce. In fact, 40% to 50% of marriages in the U.S. end in divorce, according to the [American Psychological Association](#).

This is something photojournalist [Gabby Jones](#) has experienced firsthand. Growing up as the child of divorced parents, Jones felt a sense of resentment and instability. As the divorce was finalized, the custody agreement arranged for Jones to live with her mother. However, as she got older, she realized that she and her mother didn't see eye to eye and were having a hard time understanding one another.



My mom broke her foot tripping up the step she's sitting on. On our way out one afternoon, she told me she would wait on the stoop for me to pull the car around. I found her like this: feeding SlowMo, the turtle who lives in our front yard, leftover pizza.

Gabby Jones

The island of Saint Thomas holds a great deal of importance to Jones' family history, but Jones had rejected that part of her family heritage. It was an important part of her mother's life growing up, and as Jones got older, she began to realize the importance it could hold in her life as well.

MS: What images or moments mean the most to you?

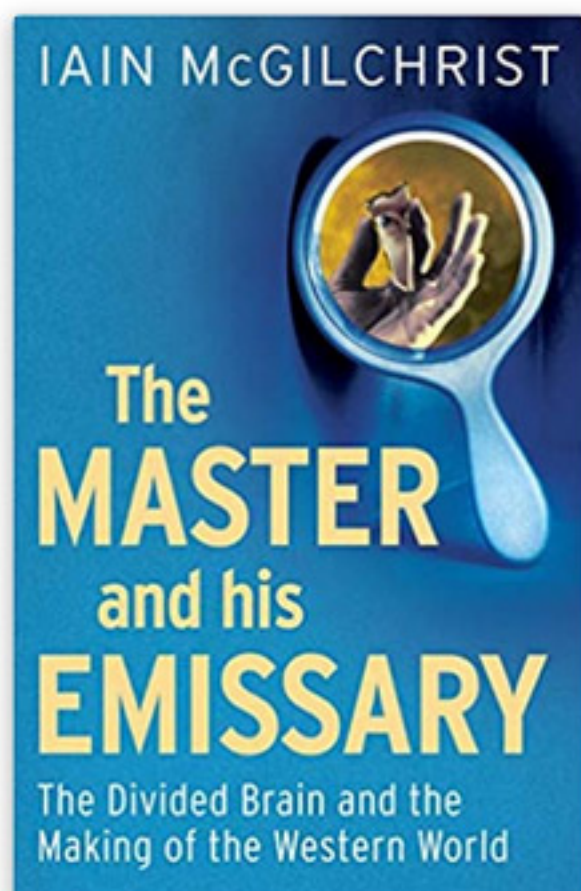
GJ: There is one where my mom is crying. We were just sitting on the beach and I was stressing about leaving New York for so long. My mom said something like, this has been the best two weeks for her, and she started to cry, and I started crying too. So, that moment really means a lot to me.

Having this time with each other, removed from daily life and other influences, showed me another side of her that I was never willing to accept or see.



Two weeks into our trip, I told my mom I felt irresponsible for leaving work in New York for so long. She looked at me with tears in her eyes and said, "if it means anything, these last two weeks have been the best two weeks of my life."

Gabby Jones



The Master and His Emissary: The Divided Brain and the Making of the Western World

Paperback – October 9, 2012

by Iain McGilchrist (Author)

★★★★☆ 742 ratings

Kindle

\$14.39

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Paperback

\$63.30

9 Used from \$30.91
6 New from \$59.95

In a book of unprecedented scope—now available in a larger format—Iain McGilchrist presents a fascinating exploration of the differences between the brain's left and right hemispheres, and how those differences have affected society, history, and culture. McGilchrist draws on a vast body of recent research in neuroscience and psychology to reveal that the difference is profound: the left hemisphere is detail oriented, while the right has greater breadth, flexibility, and generosity. McGilchrist then takes the reader on a journey through the history of Western culture, illustrating the tension between these two worlds as revealed in the thought and belief of thinkers and artists from Aeschylus to Magritte.

"A landmark new book. . . . It tells a story you need to hear, of where we live now."—Bryan Appleyard, *Sunday Times*

"A very remarkable book. . . . McGilchrist, who is both an experienced psychiatrist and a shrewd philosopher, looks at the relation between our two brain-hemispheres in a new light, not just as an interesting neurological problem but as a crucial shaping factor in our culture . . . splendidly thought-provoking. . . . I couldn't put it down."—Mary Midgley, *The Guardian*

Iain McGilchrist



McGilchrist in 2018

Born 1953
Nationality British
Occupation Psychiatrist, writer, lecturer
Known for The book *The Master and His Emissary*

Iain McGilchrist (born 1953)^[1] is a [psychiatrist](#), writer, and former [Oxford](#) literary scholar.^[2] McGilchrist came to prominence after the publication of his book *The Master and His Emissary*, subtitled *The Divided Brain and the Making of the Western World*.^[2]

McGilchrist read English at [New College, Oxford](#), but having published *Against Criticism* in 1982,^[3] he later retrained in [medicine](#) and has been a [neuroimaging](#) researcher at [Johns Hopkins University](#) in Baltimore and a Consultant Psychiatrist at the [Maudsley Hospital](#) in south London.^[3] McGilchrist is a Fellow of the [Royal College of Psychiatrists](#), and has three times been elected a Fellow of [All Souls College, Oxford](#).^[3]

According to his web site in 2009, at the time *The Master and His Emissary* was published, McGilchrist worked privately as a consultant psychiatrist in London. He still lives on the [Isle of Skye](#), off the coast of [Scotland](#) and continues to write, and to deliver many lectures and interviews.^[4]

In 2019 it was reported that McGilchrist has been working on a new book of [epistemology](#) and [metaphysics](#), *The Matter With Things*, which will be published by [Penguin Random House](#).^{[5][6]}

Is Modern Society Schizophrenic?

<https://youtu.be/F6ZJB80QbZI>

Dr McGilchrist discusses the 'devitalization' of society, in which people are described as machines or zombies, and whether this is similar to schizophrenia.



Death toll soars to 50 in school bombing in Afghan capital

By RAHIM FAIEZ 17 minutes ago Sunday, May 09, 2021

A man cries over the body of a victim of deadly bombings on Saturday near a school, at a cemetery west of Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, May 9, 2021. The Interior Ministry said Sunday the death toll in the horrific bombing at the entrance to a girls' school in the Afghan capital has soared to some 50 people, many of them pupils between 11 and 15 years old, and the number of wounded in Saturday's attack has also climbed to more than 100. (AP Photo/Mariam Zuhaib)



KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Grieving families buried their dead Sunday following a horrific bombing at a girls' school in the Afghan capital that killed 50 people, many of them pupils between 11 and 15 years old.

The number of wounded in Saturday's attack climbed to more than 100, said Interior Ministry spokesman Tariq Arian. In the western neighborhood of Dasht-e-Barchi, families buried their dead amid angry recriminations at a government they said has failed to protect them from repeated attacks in the mostly Shiite Muslim neighborhood.

"The government reacts after the incident, it doesn't do anything before the incident," said Mohammad Baqir, Alizada, 41, who had gathered to bury his niece, Latifa, a Grade 11 student the Syed Al-Shahda school.

Three explosions outside the school entrance struck as students were leaving for the day, said Arian. The blasts targeted Afghanistan's ethnic Hazaras who dominate the Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood, where the bombings occurred. Most Hazaras are Shiite Muslims. The Taliban denied responsibility, condemning the attack and the many deaths.

In this same neighborhood in 2018, a school bombing killed 34 people, mostly students. In September 2018 a wrestling club was attacked killing 24 people and in May 2020 a maternity hospital was brutally attacked killing 24 people, including pregnant women and infants. And in October 2020, the Kawsar-e-Danish tutoring center was attacked, killing 30 people.

Most of the attacks were claimed by the Islamic State affiliate operating in Afghanistan.

The radical Sunni Muslim group has declared war on Afghanistan's Shiites. Washington blamed IS for a vicious attack last year in a maternity hospital in the same area that killed pregnant women and newborn babies.

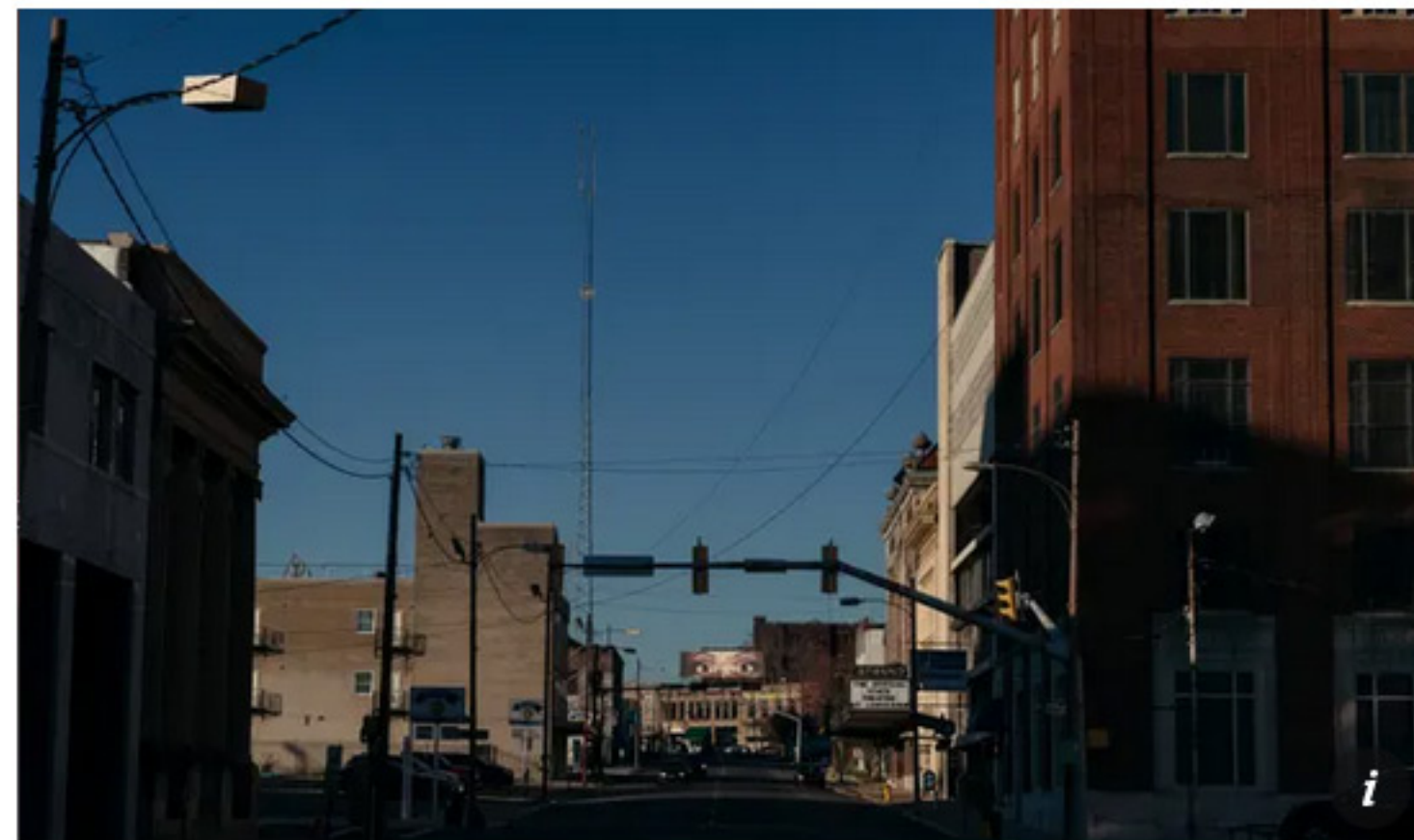
Most of the dozens of injured brought to the EMERGENCY Hospital for war wounded in the Afghan capital, "almost all girls and young women between 12 and 20 years old," said Marco Puntin, the hospital's programme coordinator in Afghanistan.

In a statement following the attack, the hospital, which has operated in Kabul since 2000 said the first three months of this year has seen a 21 per cent increase in war-wounded.

Even as the IS has been degraded in Afghanistan, according to government and US officials, it has stepped-up its attacks particularly against Shiite Muslims and women workers.

The attack comes days after the remaining 2,500 to 3,500 American troops officially began leaving the country. They will be out by Sept. 11 at the latest. The pullout comes amid a resurgent Taliban, who control or hold sway over half of Afghanistan.

The top U.S. military officer said Sunday that Afghan government forces face an uncertain future and possibly some "bad possible outcomes" against Taliban insurgents as the withdrawal accelerates in the coming weeks.



America's dirty divide

Bill seeks to make Louisiana 'fossil fuel sanctuary' in bid against Biden's climate plans

Republicans and Democrats are introducing bills to push against Biden's new restrictions on oil and gas companies

Sara Sneath in Baton Rouge

Sun 9 May 2021 05.30 EDT

Just south of Oil City, where Louisiana representative Danny McCormick is from, is the predominantly Black city of Shreveport. Residents there breathe some of the **most toxic air in the country**. Oil refineries owned by **UOP** and **Calumet** contribute to the town's toxic emissions, according to the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory.

But McCormick, a Republican, introduced a bill at the Louisiana capitol last week that would protect oil companies and not residents in his district who have to breathe in that air. **The bill** would establish Louisiana as a "fossil fuel sanctuary state" and ban local and state employees from enforcing federal laws and regulations that negatively impact petrochemical companies.

The idea for the bill, McCormick said, came about after President Joe Biden began putting new restrictions on oil and gas companies, including a pause on new oil and gas leases on federal lands and waters. "Look at what they did to the coal industry," he said at a **Louisiana** house committee hearing. "We already know what the game plan is. They already picked off coal. Now they're going after oil and gas."

But Velma White, 71, who lives in McCormick's district said she's concerned about the proposed legislation. "It's going to hurt the people," she said of McCormick's bill. "I don't think it's right to the people."

In January, White received an offer to **settle her 20-year-old claim** against the oil companies for \$2,500. She's experienced nausea, breathing difficulties and a miscarriage in 1987, according to E&E News.

"That's what they offered me," she said. "I'm just dumbfounded."

White believes that federal regulators should take steps that would force companies to lower emissions. But if McCormick's bill became law the state would not be able to enforce those regulations.

McCormick's bill was tabled because of concerns that the current language could cause the US Environmental Protection Agency to revoke the state's authority to enforce federal rules. But his colleagues still offered their support. The chairman of the Louisiana House Natural Resources and the Environment Committee, Jean-Paul P Coussan (R-Lafayette), said he would work with McCormick to resolve issues with the bill that could give the federal government more power over oil and gas companies in Louisiana.

"You're not going to find a bigger support of oil and gas in his legislature than maybe you and I," Coussan said to McCormick at the committee hearing. "We can tighten this up so all our oil and gas constituents can be proud of the bill. The intent is to help industry not to end up in court just for a headline."

Major US pipeline halts operations after ransomware attack

By ALAN SUDERMAN and ERIC TUCKER Sunday, May 09, 2021



WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal government is working with the Georgia-based company that shut down a major pipeline transporting fuel [across the East Coast](#) after a ransomware attack, the White House says.

The government is planning for various scenarios and working with state and local authorities on measures to mitigate any potential supply issues, officials said Saturday. The attack is unlikely to affect gasoline supply and prices unless it leads to a prolonged shutdown, experts said.

[Colonial Pipeline](#) did not say what was demanded or who made the demand. Ransomware attacks are typically carried out by criminal hackers who scramble data, paralyzing victim networks, and demand a large payment to decrypt it.

The private cybersecurity firm FireEye said it's been hired to manage the incident response investigation.

What We Know About Scripps Health Cyberattack

One of San Diego's main health care systems, Scripps Health, had its technology servers hacked on May 1

By **NBC 7 Staff** • Published May 8, 2021 • Updated on May 8, 2021 at 5:43 pm



What to Know

- 1** The California Department of Public health calls the cyberattack "ransomware attacks"
- 2** Scripps did not provide any information on how the cyberattack occurred but later determined that the outage was due to a security incident involving malware on its computer networks
- 3** The cyberattack caused rescheduled appointments, affected Scripps email servers, and suspended access to patient portals and other tech applications

One of San Diego's main health care systems, Scripps Health, had its technology servers hacked on May 1 in what has been [deemed a ransomware attack by the California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#).

And, although the incident has disrupted access to patient information, affected the ability of health care workers to do their jobs and led to a lack of communication with patients, Scripps Health has provided little details about the cyberattack.

A Constitutional Quirk Inspired Stacey Abrams' New Thriller, 'While Justice Sleeps'

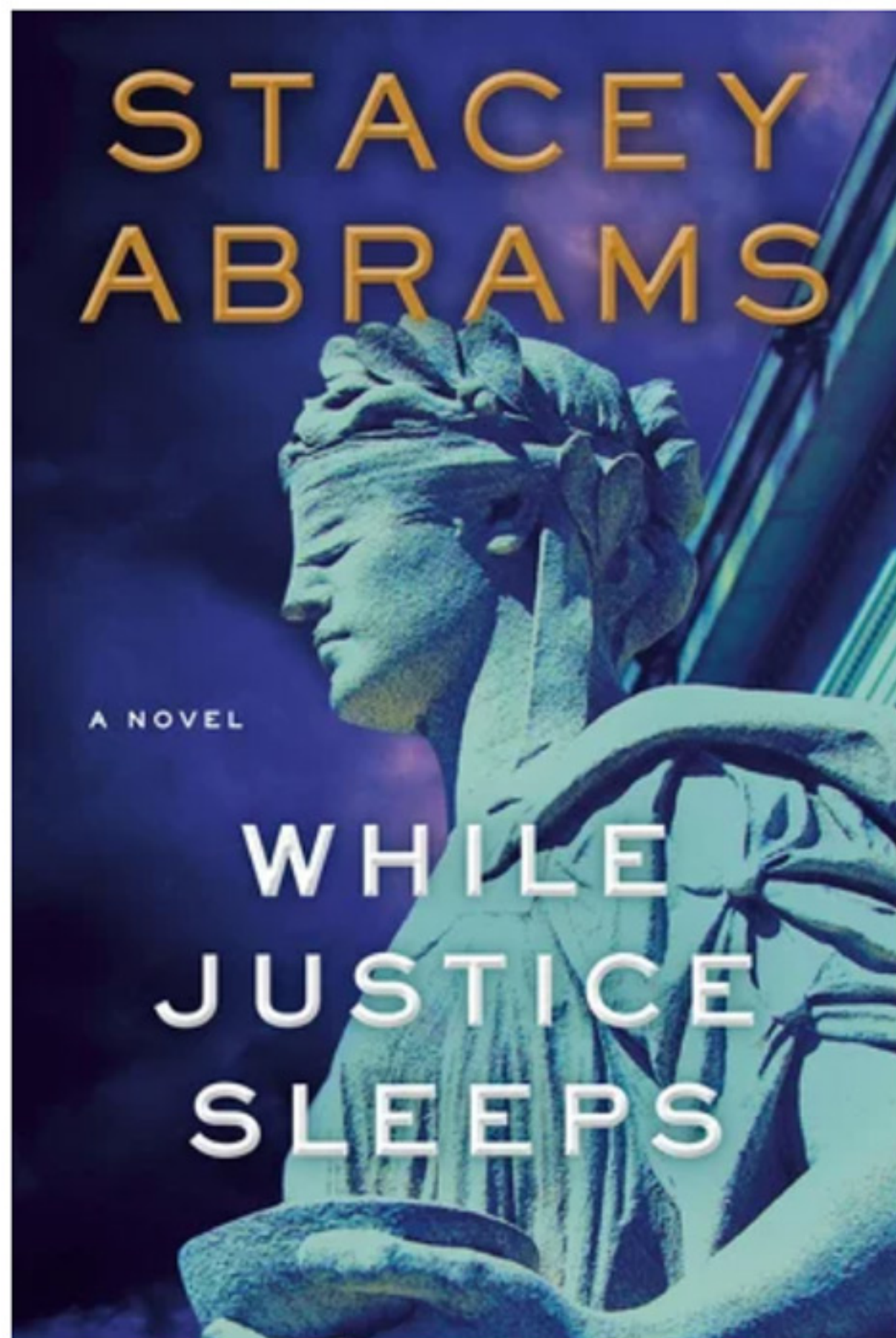
May 9, 2021 - 5:00 AM ET



LULU GARCIA-NAVARRO



Article Three of the Constitution gives Supreme Court justices lifetime appointments — but doesn't cover what to do if they become incapacitated. For Abrams, that was the spark for an exciting story.



A Supreme Court justice is gravely ill, ideological control of the court hangs in the balance — throw in a ruthless president and an international conspiracy, and what you have is the plot of Stacey Abrams's new novel, *While Justice Sleeps*. Yes, that Stacey Abrams, the Georgia politician, and she's written a thriller ripped straight from the headlines — inspired by a conversation over lunch with her mentor.

On what political thrillers say about the nature of government



I am not a conspiracy theorist. I am someone who recognizes that fiction, good fiction relies on getting as close to the truth as possible and then twisting it into suspense, fear.

Stacey Abrams

On the viral video of her response to Senator John Kennedy, and the possibility of being underestimated

I can't speak to Senator Kennedy's intent, what he expected of me in terms of my performance. My hope is that what people saw and what they respond to is that I'm not simply engaging in hyperbolic denunciation of these laws, that I know what I'm talking about. And I think for especially for women and women of color in particular, we are expected to know what we're talking about with a degree of specificity that is often not expected always of our counterparts.

When you are fighting for something, when there are those in power who do not want you to have it, you have a superior obligation to try to demonstrate the importance of change. And I find that the best way to do that is to have all the information at my disposal and to tell a good story about why it needs to be done differently.

Celebrities Push For Vaccine Equity At 'Vax Live' Benefit Concert

May 8, 2021 · 11:39 PM ET



EMMA BOWMAN



Jennifer Lopez and her mother Guadalupe Rodríguez perform onstage during Global Citizen's "Vax Live: The Concert To Reunite The World," at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, Calif.

Kevin Winter/Getty Images for Global Citizen VAX LIVE

Selena Gomez, who hosted the concert special, sent an urgent plea to viewers.

"If you're on the fence about getting vaccinated, if you don't think you need it to protect yourself, I'm not going to lecture you. I'm going to beg you. Please get vaccinated — for your family, your neighbors, and every single person you come in contact with," the singer said.

Also appearing on stage were Chrissy Teigen, David Letterman, Ben Affleck, Jimmy Kimmel, Sean Penn and Olivia Munn.

Musical acts included the Foo Fighters — with a surprise guest AC/DC's Brian Johnson — along with Eddie Vedder, J Balvin and H.E.R.

A benefit concert leveraged major star power in a Saturday broadcast to address the latest obstacles to resolving the pandemic: vaccine inequity and vaccine hesitancy.

Amazon blocked 10 billion listings in counterfeit crackdown

By JOSEPH PISANI

2 hours ago

Monday, May 10, 2021



NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon, which has been under pressure from shoppers, brands and lawmakers to crack down on counterfeits on its site, said Monday that it blocked more than 10 billion suspected phony listings last year before any of their offerings could be sold.

The numbers were released in Amazon's first report on its anti-counterfeiting efforts since it announced new tools and technologies in 2019. The number of blocked phony listings last year was up about 67% from the year before.

The Seattle-based e-commerce behemoth said the number of counterfeiters attempting to sell on the site rose as scammers tried to take advantage of shoppers who were buying more online during the pandemic.

Amazon has been wrestling with counterfeits for years. But since 2019, it has warned investors in government filings that the sale of phony goods poses a risk to the company and its image. Brands may not want to sell their items on the site if they know there are fake versions being offered. And knock-offs could cause shoppers to lose their trust in Amazon.

Amazon said it can stop counterfeiters before they can sell anything thanks to machine-learning technology, which automatically scans listings to remove suspected counterfeits. The company also gives brands a way to remove fake items from the site themselves, rather than reporting them to Amazon and waiting for it to do something.

The company's efforts comes as lawmakers are looking at ways to reduce counterfeits online. Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana and Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois re-introduced the INFORM Consumers Act this year. It would require third-party sellers to be verified and to disclose their name and address to shoppers. The bill was introduced last year, but wasn't voted on.

Amazon and smaller online stores, such as eBay and Etsy, oppose the bill for reasons including concerns it could discourage people from starting a small business and selling online. But groups that represent big-box physical retailers, such as Home Depot and Lowe's, support it because they say it levels the playing field, since physical retailers already make sure their shelves are free of fakes.

Amazon said it spent more than \$700 million last year on its anti-counterfeiting efforts and has 10,000 people working on it. The company has also been filing joint lawsuits with brands, including one earlier this year with Salvatore Ferragamo against counterfeiters who were selling knock-offs of the high-end brand's belts on the site.

Opioid Crisis: Filmmaker Details The Medical System's 'Crime Of The Century'

May 10, 2021 · 5:09 AM ET



RACHEL MARTIN



PHIL HARRELL



H.J. MAI

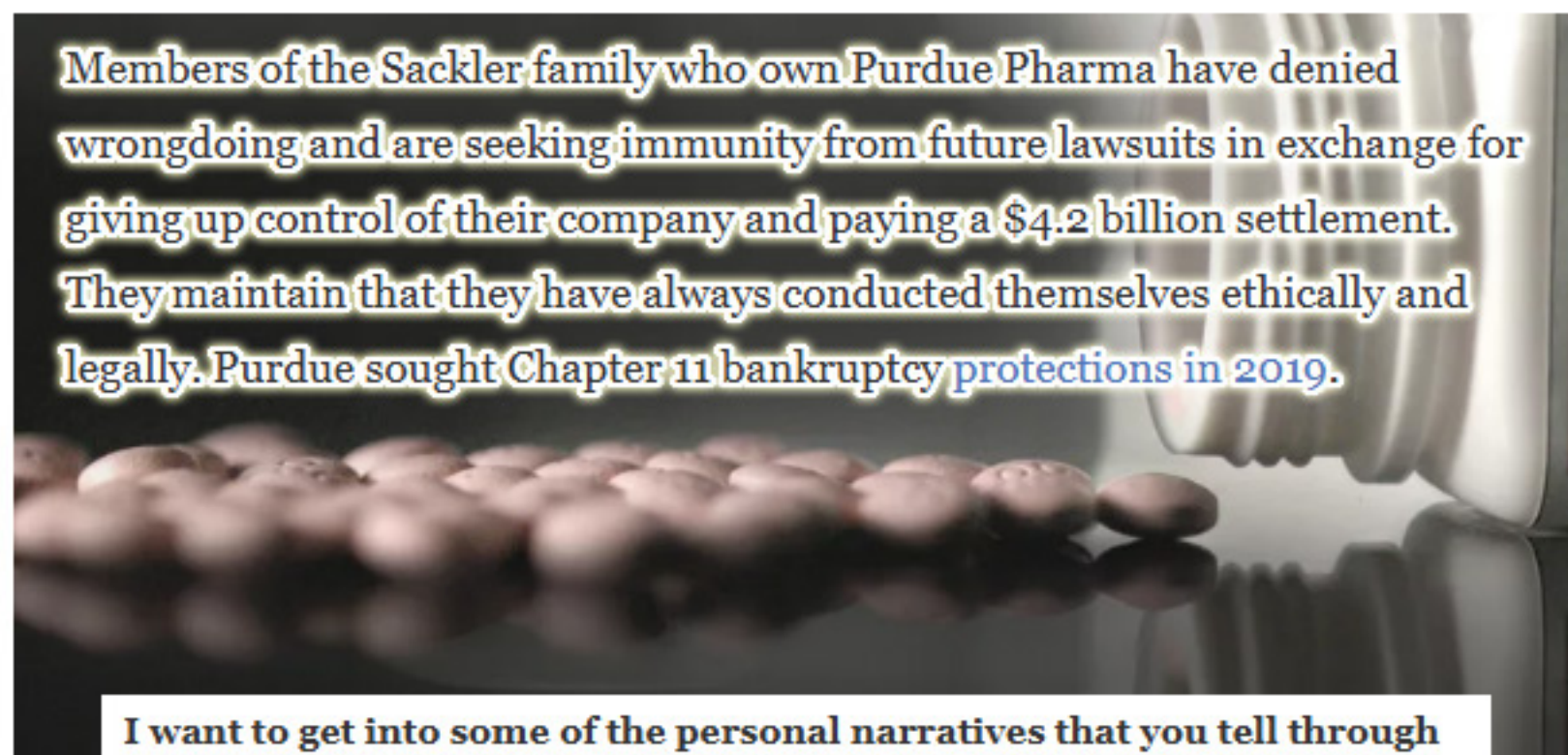
*It's not just a crisis destroying communities and plunging countless people into addiction, but a crime, says documentary filmmaker Alex Gibney. His new documentary on HBO is called *The Crime of the Century*.*

That may be morally reprehensible to a lot of people, but was any of that illegal?

Well, it depends. Purdue the company did [plead guilty](#) to a felony of misbranding. And there was a rather robust prosecution memo from the Department of Justice, which we were able to obtain a copy of, which actually was prepared to indict a number of Purdue executives for a series of felonies, including fraud, misrepresentation and conspiracy to commit fraud.

You allege that it was essentially covered up, shelved for political reasons?

Yes, we don't know exactly. I mean, we tried very hard to find out exactly how it happened. But we do know that a number of senior prosecutors in the Department of Justice found this 120-page prosecution memo extremely convincing. And so they were shocked and surprised when the Department of Justice itself, after pressure from representatives of Purdue, notably, former U.S. DOJ officials like Mary Jo White and Rudy Giuliani, decided not to prosecute the executives and to work out a deal that essentially held Purdue [the company] criminally responsible. A number of executives pled guilty to misdemeanors. A fine was paid. But most importantly, the key evidence in the [prosecution memo](#) was never revealed. It was buried. We contend in the film that hundreds of thousands of lives were lost as a result of that burying of evidence.



Members of the Sackler family who own Purdue Pharma have denied wrongdoing and are seeking immunity from future lawsuits in exchange for giving up control of their company and paying a \$4.2 billion settlement. They maintain that they have always conducted themselves ethically and legally. Purdue sought Chapter 11 bankruptcy protections in 2019.

I want to get into some of the personal narratives that you tell through this film, specifically of a woman named Carol Bosley who died of an opioid overdose in 2009. Her doctor was a man named Lynn Webster. Can you tell us about him?

Lynn Webster was kind of a [key opinion leader](#). He received speaking fees from a number of key pharmaceutical companies, including Purdue. And he was one of these pain opinion leaders who was trying to preach the gospel of the opioid: the idea that no dose was too high, that pain was really the issue, not addiction. And he ran a pain clinic, the Lifetree Pain Clinic in Salt Lake City.

And one of his patients was a woman named Carol Bosley, who had suffered a terrible neck injury as a result of a car accident. And he was treating her for pain. She became terribly addicted to opioids as a result of prescription of a number of narcotics. Her husband became terribly concerned and she died of an overdose not too long after.

Dr. Webster maintains that he did nothing wrong. All over the country, we should say, doctors were doing this. He wasn't the only one by any stretch of the imagination. He believed that he was helping, didn't he?

I think he did. I think that one of the problems that enters into this equation that's even bigger than the opioid crisis is the problem of economic incentives in medicine. And nowhere is that more evident than in the opioid crisis — where the incentive, whether you internalize it, whether you recognize it consciously or not, is to prescribe more and more and more because you're making more money. But I think that what's disconcerting is that [many] people died of overdoses at Webster's clinic. And so many people were dying that it caused the medical examiner to look into it and ultimately caused the DEA raid on the place.

New White House panel aims to separate science, politics

By SETH BORENSTEIN an hour ago



In this March 2, 2010, file photo, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, chief, Jane Lubchenco looks out from the waterfront as she speaks to fisherman in Gloucester, Mass. A new 46-person federal scientific integrity task force with members from dozens of government agencies will meet for the first time Friday,

May 14, 2021. “We want people to be able to trust what the federal government is telling you, whether it’s a weather forecast or information about vaccine safety or whatever,” said Lubchenco, the deputy director for climate and environment at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. (AP Photo/Mary Schwalm, File)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eager to turn the page on the Trump years, the Biden White House is launching an effort to unearth past problems with [the politicization of science within government](#) and to tighten scientific integrity rules for the future.

A new 46-person federal scientific integrity task force with members from more than two dozen government agencies will meet for the first time on Friday. Its mission is to look back through 2009 for areas where [partisanship interfered](#) with what were supposed to be decisions based on evidence and research and to come up with ways to keep politics out of government science in the future.

Rice University historian Douglas Brinkley said the Biden administration is trying hard but isn’t approaching the task of restoring science quite right.

“It’s impossible to keep politics out of science,” Brinkley said. “But you can do your best to mitigate it.”

He said that only looking as far back as the Obama and Trump administrations will doom the task force’s efforts not to be politicized itself and looked at in a partisan way.

What’s really needed, Brinkley said, is to “get to the root of things” and look back as far as 1945. Both Presidents Dwight Eisenhower, a Republican, and John F. Kennedy, a Democrat, elevated science efforts and tried to keep out the politics. But Brinkley said that with the onset of the environmental movement, the distraction of the Vietnam War and corporations seeing science as leading to too much regulation during the Reagan era, a unified public admiration for science fell apart.

Harvard’s Oreskes said her research indicated Ronald Reagan was “the first president in the modern era to exhibit disregard and at times even contempt for scientific evidence.”

The new task force will focus more on the future than the past, Nelson said.

“Every agency is being asked to really demonstrate that they are making decisions that are informed by the best available research evidence,” Nelson said.

One of the four task force co-chairs is Francesca Grifo, scientific integrity officer for the Environmental Protection Agency since 2013. She clashed with the Trump EPA, which would not allow her to testify at a 2019 congressional hearing about scientific integrity.

The others are Anne Ricciuti, deputy director for science at the Education Department’s Institute of Education Sciences; Craig Robinson, director of the Office of Science Quality and Integrity at the U.S. Geological Survey; and Jerry Sheehan, deputy director of the National Library of Medicine.

Pierre 'Pete' du Pont IV dies; ran for president in 1988

By The Associated Press yesterday Monday, May 10, 2021

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Among the moneyed du Ponts, who preferred the privacy of their elegant homes and the offices and plants of the chemical company that bore their name, Pierre S. “Pete” du Pont IV was a bit of a rebel.

Du Pont, who died Saturday at age 86 after a long illness, according to his former chief of staff, broke with family tradition by leaving the family business for a career in law and politics.

That led du Pont to multiple elected offices and an unsuccessful bid in the 1987-88 Republican presidential primary race.

The du Ponts, big-money establishment industrialists, were among the nation’s wealthiest families. That wasn’t a problem for du Pont when he ran for statewide office in Delaware.

After one term in the Delaware state House and three terms in Congress, du Pont was elected governor in 1976 and set about working to restore the state’s financial stability.

However, his elite background turned out to be a problem for him in his race for national office.

“I was born with a well-known name and genuine opportunity. I hope I have lived up to both,” du Pont said in announcing his longshot presidential bid in September 1986. As a little-known governor of a small state, du Pont had to distinguish himself from the rest of the Republican field - including Vice President George Bush and Sen. Bob Dole.

He did that by questioning sacrosanct social programs that his better-known rivals feared to address, such as doing away with farm subsidiaries.

After a four-year stint in the Navy, he obtained a law degree from Harvard University in 1963.



As governor, du Pont fought successfully to restore financial integrity to a state he had declared “bankrupt” shortly after his 1977 inauguration. He presided over two income tax cuts; constitutional amendments restricting state spending and requiring three-fifths votes in the legislature to raise taxes; and establishment of an independent revenue forecasting panel.

After a rocky start with Democratic legislators, including an embarrassing override of a 1977 budget veto, du Pont forged successful relationships with lawmakers from both parties to tackle thorny issues including prison overcrowding and corruption and school desegregation. He was re-elected in a landslide in 1980, winning a record 71 percent of the vote and becoming the first two-term governor in Delaware in 20 years.

In his second term, du Pont signed landmark legislation that loosened Delaware’s banking laws, including removing the cap on interest rates that banks could charge customers. The Financial Center Development Act made Delaware a haven for some of the country’s largest credit card issuers.

Under du Pont’s leadership, Delaware also established a nonprofit employment counseling and job placement program for Delaware high school seniors not bound for college. It served as the model for a national program adopted by several other states.

Du Pont is survived by his wife of over 60 years, the former Elise R. Wood; a daughter and three sons; and 10 grandchildren.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, a memorial service will be held at a later date, according to Bob Perkins, his former chief of staff.

A Look At The GOP From Inside A Matt Gaetz, Marjorie Taylor Greene Rally

May 10, 2021 · 5:01 AM ET



DANIELLE KURTZLEBEN



There's a sort of time warp going on at The Villages, the enormous retirement community in Florida.

The Villages isn't in Gaetz's district, or even Greene's state. But it is full of their people, which is to say, Trump's people. The three counties that make up The Villages voted for him last year at rates around 60% or more.

One such Republican is Linda Murphy Griffaw, who came to the rally in a red dress with "Make America Great Again" emblazoned across the bodice. She voted for neither Obama nor McCain in 2008, nor did she vote for Obama or Romney in 2012. But Trump fired her up.

"I never vote unless I truly believe in the party I'm voting for," she said. "And I truly believe that he wanted the best for us."

If there are enough voters like Murphy Griffaw, it lends weight to South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham's argument that the Republican Party can't "move forward" without Trump.

But then the question is what comes of the Cheneys and Romneys. On NBC's Meet the Press, Louisiana Sen. Bill Cassidy said Sunday the party can win only if all of those Republicans come together.

"For us to win in 2022 and 2024, we need everybody," he said. "We need those who feel as Liz. We need those who feel as Lindsey."

It's not clear, however what coexistence might look in the long term between Republicans like Cheney, who reject Trump, and Republicans who have built their identities as Republicans around Trump.

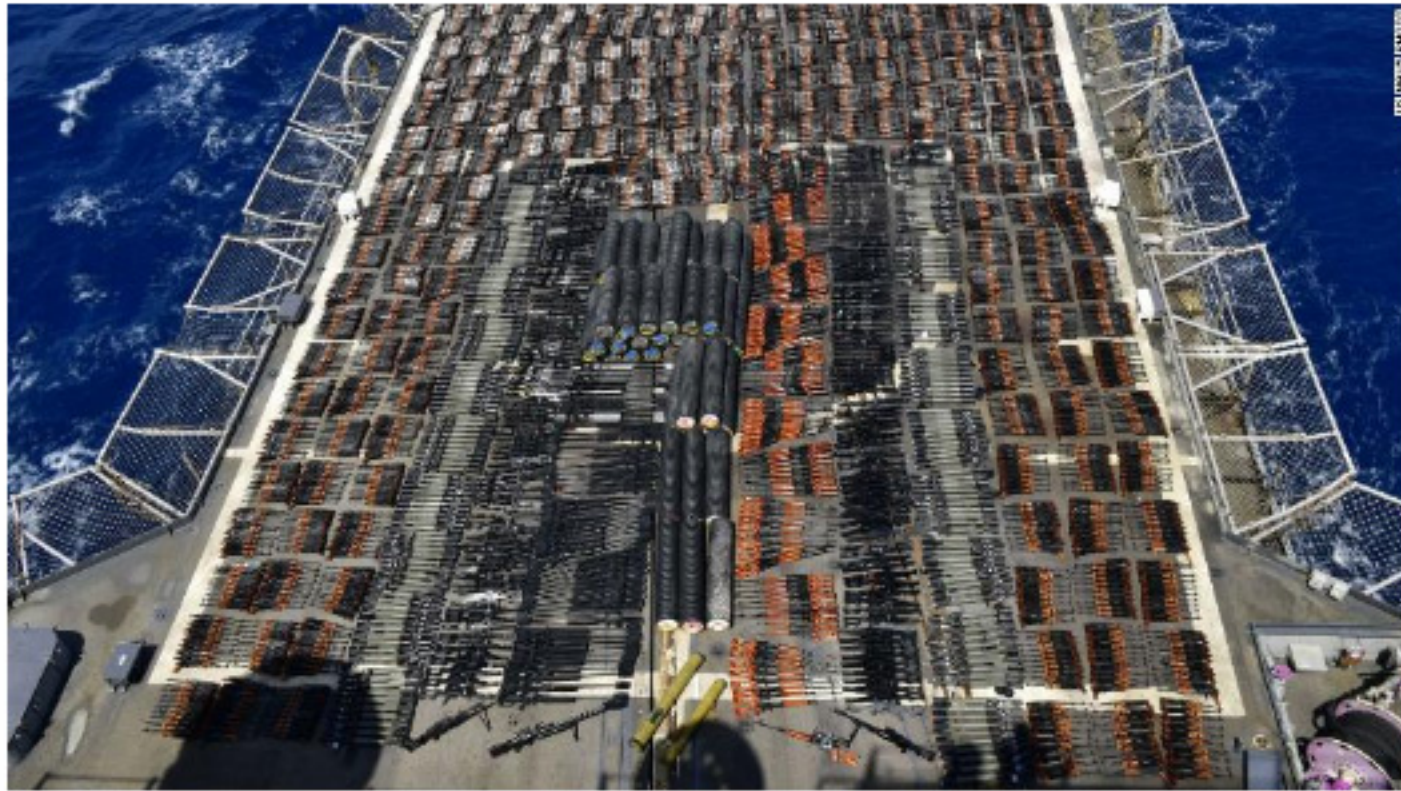


Villages resident Linda Murphy Griffaw poses before the Gaetz-Greene rally on Friday. Danielle Kurtzleben/NPR

The weapons seizure so big it covered the rear deck of a 567-foot US warship

By Brad Lendon, CNN

Updated 5:53 AM ET, Mon May 10, 2021



Thousands of illicit weapons seized from a stateless dhow are displayed on the rear deck of the guided-missile cruiser USS Monterey on May 8, 2021.

(CNN) — A joint US Navy and Coast Guard team seized thousands of illicit weapons last week after stopping a small ship in the North Arabian Sea, the Navy said in a statement.

The cruiser USS Monterey stopped the stateless dhow on May 6 during a routine operation to verify its registry, the Navy said.

A US Coast Guard Advanced Interdiction Team deployed on the Navy ship then boarded the dhow and found the weapons stash.

The massive arms haul covered much of the rear flight deck of the 567-foot (173-meter) US warship after it was transferred over in what the Navy said was a two-day operation.

"The cache of weapons included dozens of advanced Russian-made anti-tank guided missiles, thousands of Chinese Type 56 assault rifles, and hundreds of PKM machine guns, sniper rifles and rocket-propelled grenade launchers. Other weapon components included advanced optical sights," the Navy statement said.

On February 12, the guided-missile destroyer USS Winston Churchill stopped two dhows off the coast of Somali, which were carrying weapons including rocket-propelled grenade launchers, crew-served weapons and small arms.

On February 9, 2020, the cruiser USS Normandy stopped a dhow in the Arabian Sea and seized missile components.

And on November 25, 2019, the destroyer USS Forrest Sherman found missile components on a dhow it stopped in the Arabian Sea.

The Navy also said the weapons seized last week will remain in US custody while the investigation is ongoing.

After the dhow stopped last week was deemed seaworthy and its crew was questioned, they were provided with food and water and released, according to the statement.



An SH-60 Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to the guided-missile cruiser USS Monterey flies above a stateless dhow interdicted with a shipment of illicit weapons in international waters of the North Arabian Sea on May 6, 2021.

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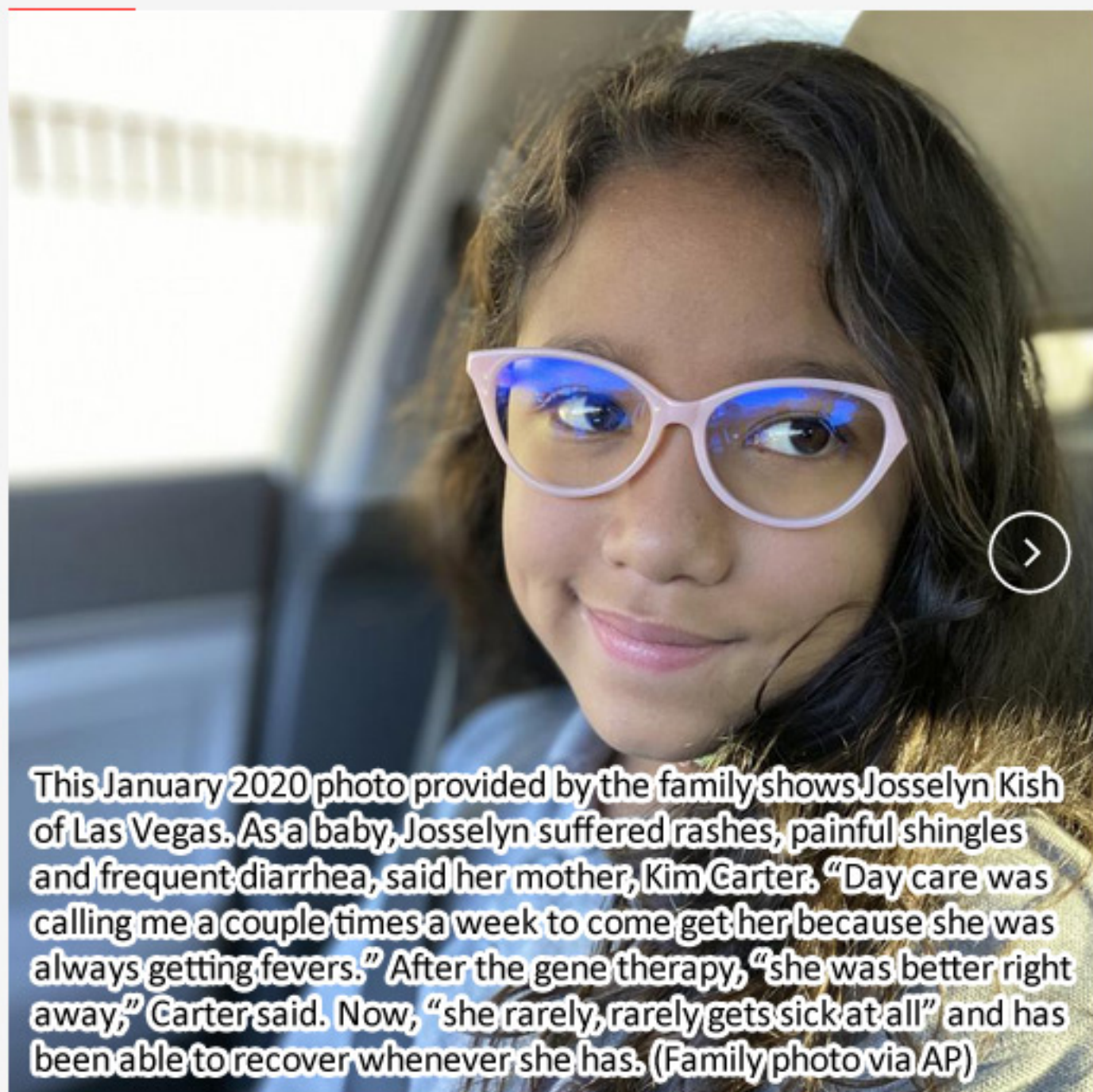
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Missing: forget! | Must include: forget!

AIDS virus used in gene therapy to fix 'bubble baby' disease

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE an hour ago Tuesday, May 11, 2021



This January 2020 photo provided by the family shows Josselyn Kish of Las Vegas. As a baby, Josselyn suffered rashes, painful shingles and frequent diarrhea, said her mother, Kim Carter. "Day care was calling me a couple times a week to come get her because she was always getting fevers." After the gene therapy, "she was better right away," Carter said. Now, "she rarely, rarely gets sick at all" and has been able to recover whenever she has. (Family photo via AP)

A gene therapy that makes use of an unlikely helper, the AIDS virus, gave a working immune system to 48 babies and toddlers who were born without one, doctors reported Tuesday.

Results show that all but two of the 50 children who were given the experimental therapy in a study now have healthy germ-fighting abilities.

"We're taking what otherwise would have been a fatal disease" and healing most of these children with a single treatment, said study leader Dr. Donald Kohn of UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital.

"They're basically 'free range' -- going to school, doing normal things," without the worry that any infection could become life-threatening, he said.

The other two children who weren't helped by the gene therapy later had successful bone marrow transplants. Doctors say it will take longer to know if any of the 50 are cured, but they seem to be well so far.

The children had severe combined immunodeficiency syndrome, or SCID, which is caused by an inherited genetic flaw that keeps the bone marrow from making healthy versions of the blood cells that form the immune system. Without treatment, it often kills in the first year or two of life.

It became known as "bubble boy disease" because of a case in the 1970s involving a Texas boy who lived for 12 years in a protective plastic bubble to isolate him from germs. It's now called "bubble baby disease" because roughly 20 different gene defects, including some that affect girls as well as boys, can cause it.

A bone marrow transplant from a genetically matched sibling can cure the disorder, but most kids lack a suitable donor and the treatment is risky -- the Texas boy died after one.

Results of the UCLA-led study were published Tuesday by the New England Journal of Medicine and presented at an online American Society of Gene & Cell Therapy conference. Grants from U.S. and British government health agencies and the tax-supported California Institute for Regenerative Medicine paid for the work. Kohn is an inventor of the treatment and an adviser to the company now developing it, London-based Orchard Therapeutics.

California expands drought emergency to large swath of state

By DON THOMPSON Tuesday, May 11, 2021



In this April 21, 2021, file photo, California Gov. Gavin Newsom holds a news conference in the parched basin of Lake Mendocino in Ukiah, Calif., where he announced he would proclaim a drought emergency for Mendocino and Sonoma counties. Gov. Gavin Newsom on Monday, May 10, 2021, declared a drought emergency for most of California, extending a previous order that affected two counties to 41 counties throughout much of the state.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Monday expanded a drought emergency to a large swath of the nation's most populous state while seeking more than \$6 billion in multiyear water spending as one of the warmest, driest springs on record threatens another severe wildfire season across the American West.

The Democratic governor said he is acting amid "acute water supply shortages" in northern and central parts of California as he called again for voluntary conservation. Yet the state is in relatively better shape than it was when the last five-year drought ended in 2017, he said, as good habits have led to a 16% reduction in water usage.

His emergency declaration now includes 41 of 58 counties, covering 30% of California's nearly 40 million people, and he said a further expansion is likely as conditions worsen. The U.S. Drought Monitor shows most of the state and the American West is in extensive drought just a few years after California emerged from the last punishing multiyear dry spell.

The governor's fellow Democrats, who control the Legislature, have until June 15 to pass a spending plan.

Vatican warns US bishops over get-tough Communion proposals

By DAVID CRARY yesterday Tuesday, May 11, 2021



1 of 2

FILE - In this Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021 file photo, President-elect Joe Biden and his wife, Jill Biden, attend Mass at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle during Inauguration Day ceremonies in Washington. When U.S. Catholic bishops hold their next national meeting in June 2021, they'll be deciding whether to send a tougher-than-ever message to President Joe Biden and other Catholic politicians: Don't partake of Communion if you persist in public advocacy of abortion rights. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

The head of the Vatican's doctrine office is warning U.S. bishops to deliberate carefully and minimize divisions before proceeding with a possible plan to rebuke Roman Catholic politicians such as President Joe Biden for receiving Communion even though they support abortion rights.

The strong words of caution came in a letter from Cardinal Luis Ladaria, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, addressed to Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The USCCB will convene for a national meeting June 16, with plans to vote on drafting a document on the Communion issue

There is division among the bishops, with some pressing for Biden and other Catholic public figures to be excluded from Communion over their abortion stance, and other bishops warning that such a move would be politically polarizing.

Among the leaders of the campaign to rebuke Biden is Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco, who recently issued a pastoral letter arguing that Catholic politicians who support abortion rights should not receive Communion. A few days later, Bishop Robert McElroy of San Diego published an essay saying such an initiative "will bring tremendously destructive consequences."

Vatican warns US bishops over get-tough Communion proposals

By DAVID CRARY yesterday



1 of 2

FILE - In this Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021 photo, Pope Francis presides at the Inauguration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris in Washington. In June 2021, they'll be deciding whether to partake of Communion if you per



In this Sunday, April 12, 2020 photo, San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone celebrates Easter Mass, which was live streamed, at St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco. Cordileone hopes his fellow bishops, at their upcoming national meeting in June, will agree to send a strong message of disapproval to Catholic politicians who advocate for abortion rights. (AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

The head of the Vatican's department of relations with other churches has a possible plan to rebuke Rome's bishops over a

The strong words of caution were addressed to Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin at a meeting June 16, with plans

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How China turned a prize-winning iPhone hack against the Uyghurs

An attack that targeted Apple devices was used to spy on China's Muslim minority—and US officials claim it was developed at the country's top hacking competition.

by **Patrick Howell O'Neill**

May 6, 2021

In March 2017, a group of hackers from China arrived in Vancouver with one goal: Find hidden weak spots inside the world's most popular technologies.

Google's Chrome browser, Microsoft's Windows operating system, and Apple's iPhones were all in the crosshairs. But no one was breaking the law. These were just some of the people taking part in Pwn2Own, one of the world's most prestigious hacking competitions.

It was the 10th anniversary for Pwn2Own, a contest that draws elite hackers from around the globe with the lure of big cash prizes if they manage to exploit previously undiscovered software vulnerabilities, known as "zero-days." Once a flaw is found, the details are handed over to the companies involved, giving them time to fix it. The hacker, meanwhile, walks away with a financial reward and eternal bragging rights.

For years, Chinese hackers were the most dominant forces at events like Pwn2Own, earning millions of dollars in prizes and establishing themselves among the elite. But in 2017, that all stopped.

"I think it is not only a venue for China to get zero-days but it's also a big recruiting venue," says Scott Henderson, an analyst on the cyber espionage team at FireEye, a major security company based in California.

Tianfu's links to Uyghur surveillance and genocide show that getting early access to bugs can be a powerful weapon. In fact, the "reckless" hacking spree that Chinese groups launched against Microsoft Exchange in early 2021 bears some striking similarities.

**One of China's elite hacked an iPhone....
Virtually overnight, Chinese intelligence used it as a weapon against a besieged minority ethnic group, striking before Apple could fix the problem.
It was a brazen act performed in broad daylight.**

In an unexpected statement, the billionaire founder and CEO of the Chinese cybersecurity giant Qihoo 360—one of the most important technology firms in China—publicly criticized Chinese citizens who went overseas to take part in hacking competitions. In an interview with the Chinese news site Sina, Zhou Hongyi said that performing well in such events represented merely an "imaginary" success. Zhou warned that once Chinese hackers show off vulnerabilities at overseas competitions, they can "no longer be used." Instead, he argued, the hackers and their knowledge should "stay in China" so that they could recognize the true importance and "strategic value" of the software vulnerabilities.

Beijing agreed. Soon, the Chinese government banned cybersecurity researchers from attending overseas hacking competitions. Just months later, a new competition popped up inside China to take the place of the international contests. The Tianfu Cup, as it was called, offered prizes that added up to over a million dollars.

In that case, a Taiwanese researcher uncovered the security flaws and passed them to Microsoft, which then privately shared them with security partners. But before a fix could be released, Chinese hacking groups started exploiting the flaw all around the world. Microsoft, which was forced to rush out a fix two weeks earlier than planned, is investigating the potential that the bug was leaked.

These bugs are incredibly valuable, not just in financial terms, but in their capacity to create an open window for espionage and oppression.

Google researcher Ian Beer said as much in the original report detailing the exploit chain. "I shan't get into a discussion of whether these exploits cost \$1 million, \$2 million, or \$20 million," he wrote. "I will instead suggest that all of those price tags seem low for the capability to target and monitor the private activities of entire populations in real time." **T**

China adds few babies, loses workers as its 1.4B people age

By JOE McDONALD and HUIZHONG WU 2 hours ago Tuesday, May 11, 2021



A man and child wearing masks visit Tiananmen Gate near the portrait of Mao Zedong in Beijing on May 3, 2021. China's population growth is falling closer to zero as fewer couples have children, the government announced Tuesday, May 11, 2021, adding to strains on an aging society with a shrinking workforce. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

BEIJING (AP) — The number of working-age people in China fell over the past decade as its aging population barely grew, a census showed Tuesday, complicating Chinese leaders' efforts to create a more prosperous and influential nation. The total population rose to 1.411 billion people last year, up 72 million from 2010, according to the once-a-decade census. Slow growth fell closer to zero as fewer couples had children.

That adds to challenges for Chinese leaders who want to create a richer society and increase its global influence by developing technology industries and self-sustaining economic growth based on consumer spending. The ruling Communist Party has enforced birth limits since 1980 to restrain population growth but worries the workforce is shrinking. It has eased birth limits, but couples are put off by high costs, cramped housing and job discrimination against mothers.

The population of potential workers aged 15 to 59 fell to 894 million last year, the National Bureau of Statistics reported. That would be down 5% from a 2011 peak of 925 million. The percentage of children in the population edged up compared with 2010, but the group aged 60 and older grew faster.

The latest data put China closer to be overtaken by India as the most populous country, which is expected to happen by 2025. India's population last year was estimated by the U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs at 1.38 billion, or 1.5% behind China. The agency says India should grow by 0.9% annually through 2025.

The Latest: Taiwan tracing new cases, restricts gatherings

By The Associated Press to Tuesday, May 11, 2021



1 of 6

Monks and nuns pray together during Buddha's Birthday celebrations at the Lin Chi Temple in Taipei, Taiwan, Sunday, May 9, 2021. Buddha's birthday is celebrated in East Asia on the eighth day of the fourth month in the Chinese lunar calendar. (AP Photo/Chiang Ying-ying)



TAIPEI, Taiwan — Taiwan reported seven domestic COVID-19 cases with the source of six of the infections still under investigation, its Central Epidemic Command Center said Tuesday. Five cases were discovered in a gaming cafe in Yilan county on Taiwan's eastern coast. Another was found in New Taipei City, just outside the capital. None of the cases had any history of international travel. Health authorities are doing contact tracing to determine the source of the infection. The seventh was a person already in quarantine who had been in contact with a cluster discovered in recent weeks after pilots working for Taiwan's China Airlines tested positive. Over 30 cases have been discovered so far.

In response, health authorities said they will ban indoor gatherings of more than 100 people and ban outdoor gatherings of more than 500 people.

Taiwan has been a success story throughout the pandemic, keeping deaths and cases to a minimum with strict border controls and a mandatory two-week quarantine for arrivals. It has counted 1,210 cases of COVID-19 to date, with the vast majority imported and some cases of domestic transmission.



Nothing demonstrates our reliance on each other like a highly contagious disease. Al Seib/Los Angeles Times via Getty Images

COVID-19 upended Americans' sense of individualism and invited us to embrace interconnectedness – an idea from Greek philosopher Epicurus

May 10, 2021 2:51pm EDT

👤 [Kristin Girten](#), *University of Nebraska Omaha*

The ability to lift oneself up by their own bootstraps has long been celebrated in the United States. This admiration of self-reliance derives from the 17th-century English philosopher John Locke, who argued that individuals are fully accountable for themselves because they alone own their bodies – a kind of “self-ownership.”

Locke's theory of self-ownership continues to inform how individuals in modern societies perceive themselves as capable of choosing and acting freely and independently, motivated by their own intentions.

However, as a scholar of 18th-century British literature and culture, I am aware that some of Locke's contemporaries challenged his portrayal of the fixed and ownable self, arguing that individuals are made up of constantly moving atoms and therefore fluid and prone to being transformed.

This idea, which came from the ancient Greek philosopher Epicurus, may prove valuable and persuasive as societies struggle to recover from the devastation of COVID-19.

‘We are each other's business’

Ironically, at the same time that the pandemic has required people to socially distance and remain within their “bubbles” or “pods,” it has also obliged individuals to recognize how profoundly connected they are to others. Nothing attests to humans' porous nature like a highly contagious disease.

A person's ability to evade the virus is tied to their community's willingness to wear masks and be vaccinated, as well as address underlying inequities such as in housing and health care. There's also new recognition of how hard it is for people to pull themselves together when it feels like the world is falling apart around them.

It is likely that people will nevertheless cling to John Locke's idea of selfhood as self-ownership, so fundamental it is to American democracy. However, for societies to be better prepared not only to cope with future disasters but also to recover from this one, I believe a different view of the self is needed – one that takes into account just how much one's own health depends on the health of others.

Like it or not, humans are atomically entangled with their environments and with one another. As the American poet Gwendolyn Brooks writes in a poem about singer, actor and activist Paul Robeson, “We are each other's harvest. We are each other's business. We are each other's magnitude and bond.”

TECHNOLOGY

How One Man's Fight Against An AOL Troll Sealed The Tech Industry's Power

May 11, 2021 · 5:00 AM ET



In 1995, an online troll impersonated Ken Zeran on AOL, posting tasteless ads with his phone number. Zeran sued AOL, and lost. The person behind the ads has never been identified.

Jovelle Tamayo for NPR

'The most important Internet law ruling ever'

To fix what's become known as "the moderator's dilemma," Section 230 did two things. First, it said websites cannot be sued for what users post. Second, it let companies dictate what would be allowed on, and what would be taken down from, their websites. Enforcing those rules would be up to the companies.

"The judge made a huge mistake," Zeran said. "Because by removing responsibility, they created chaos."

"People register their cars and they get a license," before they drive, Zeran said. "There should be a registration process for the web, too."

Why Support For Refugees Is Higher Than You Might Think In Parts Of 'Trump Country'

May 11, 2021 · 5:07 AM ET

KIRK SIEGLER



Even amid the global pandemic, Idaho's unemployment rate has been hovering around 3%. In the capital city, Boise, for-hire signs are posted at grocery stores, restaurants, and at Pete Amador's home health care agency.

His latest ad even offers a thousand dollar signing bonus. Amador could easily hire 50 more people right now, if they would apply. There is a long wait list of elderly clients.

"People are calling hourly asking for help," he says.

About 70% of Amador's caregivers are refugees. He says his business would not be what it is today without them. First of all, locals don't usually apply for these jobs. As a Medicaid provider, he can only offer around \$11 an hour to start. For refugees though, it's usually their first employment in the U.S. They work hard and want to move up, he says.

"Without the refugees coming in, it has created a shortage for my company and our ability to provide great care to our clients," Amador says.

President Biden has promised to lift a Trump-era cap on the number of refugees allowed to resettle in the United States. And there are signs of growing support for refugees in unlikely places: largely rural, conservative states where the former president and his far-right immigration policies were popular.

Fear in refugee communities

But some refugees said they're worried about lasting damage from all the racism coming out in the open in recent years. Luma Jasim and her family resettled in Idaho after fleeing Baghdad in 2008. Last year, she told them they'd have to move to another state if Trump was reelected.

She noticed while walking along popular bike paths and in other areas, some people's usually friendly faces changing. There were fewer "hellos" and "how are you doing" from friendly strangers that is typical in rural states like Idaho.

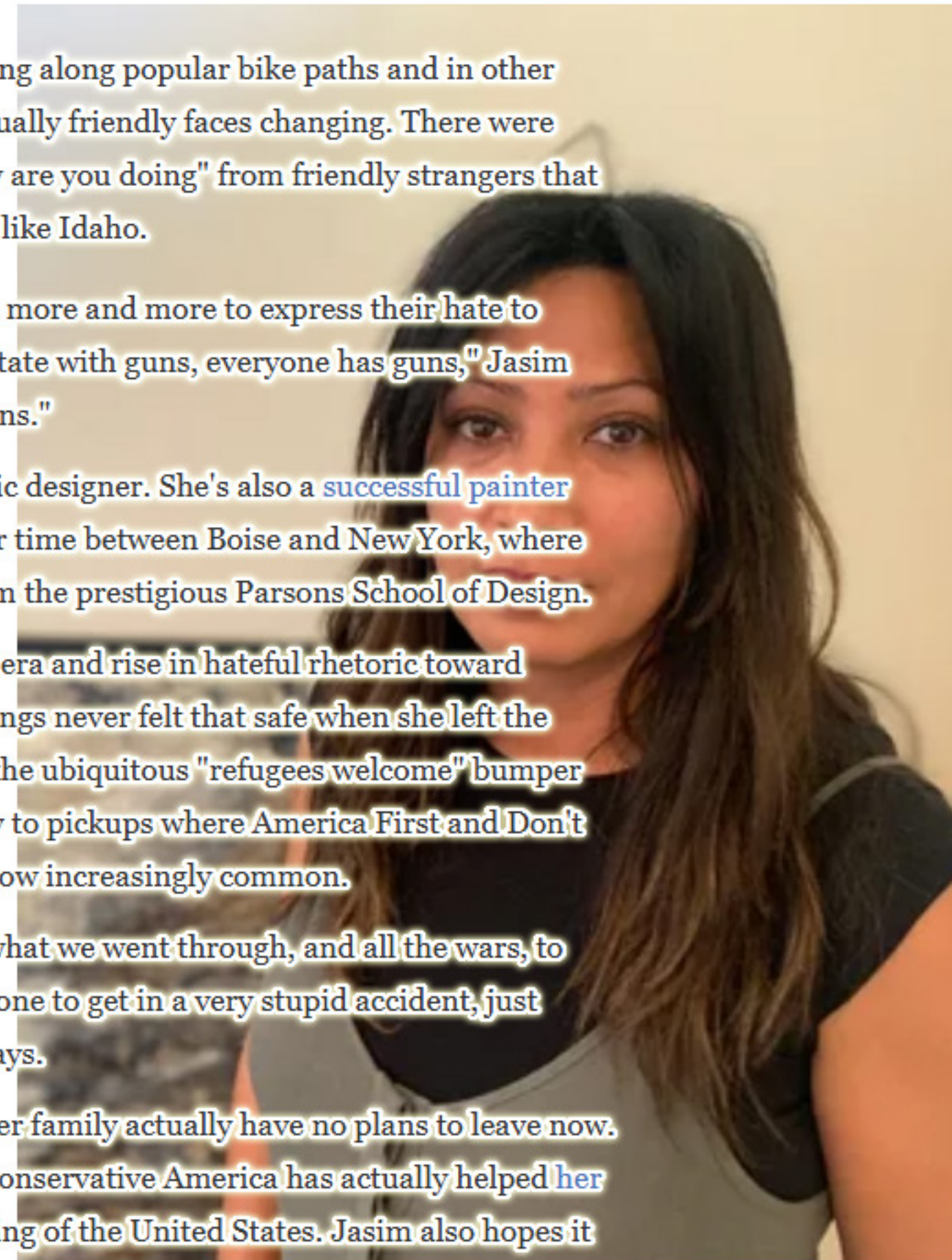
"People are encouraged more and more to express their hate to refugees. And this is a state with guns, everyone has guns," Jasim says. "We don't have guns."

Jasim works as a graphic designer. She's also a [successful painter and artist](#) who splits her time between Boise and New York, where she got her masters from the prestigious Parsons School of Design.

Even before the Trump era and rise in hateful rhetoric toward refugees, Jasim says things never felt that safe when she left the center of Boise. There, the ubiquitous "refugees welcome" bumper stickers start giving way to pickups where America First and Don't Tread on Me flags are now increasingly common.

"I don't want, after all what we went through, and all the wars, to have my brother or anyone to get in a very stupid accident, just because, hate," Jasim says.

Still, she said she and her family actually have no plans to leave now. Living and working in conservative America has actually helped [her art](#) and her understanding of the United States. Jasim also hopes it will continue to change minds and stereotypes about who refugees really are.



Boise artist Luma Jasim and her family resettled in Idaho in 2008 after fleeing war in Iraq.

Kirk Siegler/NPR

The utopian community modeled on the industrialist's principles lasted only two years. Corbis Historical/Getty Images

Robert Owen, born 250 years ago, tried to use his wealth to perfect humanity in a radically equal society

May 11, 2021 8:50am EDT

Richard Gunderman, *Indiana University*

Do you have a work schedule that leaves you with enough time off the clock to rest up and handle your other responsibilities?

If so, you might owe something to Robert Owen, a wealthy industrialist who was born in Wales on May 14, 1771.

Owen is widely credited with being the first person to advocate for a universal “eight hours labor, eight hours recreation, eight hours rest” approach to work-life balance. He experimented with this concept at his own factories and urged employers everywhere to adopt this management ethos as part of the socialist ideology he embraced decades before Karl Marx.

In the early 19th century, many U.S. and European factory workers worked up to 18 hours a day, six days a week.

Once a year, I travel with 15 fellows enrolled in a leadership program to New Harmony. It's the site of Owen's greatest experiment, a “cooperative community” he founded in southern Indiana on the banks of the Wabash River. Far more radical than limiting labor to eight-hour workdays, the utopia Owen envisioned ran up against human nature.



Welsh social reformer Robert Owen, portrayed about a decade after his experimental community in Indiana collapsed. National Library of Wales

Owen's legacy doesn't just live on in the nine-to-five schedules that became the norm starting in the early 20th century. It's also in the broad notion of social welfare behind everything from public schools to paid sick leave – including the expansion of government benefits the Biden administration is proposing.

Visitors to New Harmony, where about 750 people reside today, can wander around its many historical sites and learn about its one-time owner and most famous resident, who devoted his fortune and his life to improving the human condition.

US schools fight to keep students amid fear of dropout surge

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH 58 minutes ago Tuesday, May 11, 2021



“When students drop out, they typically look for an out, an opportunity to leave. And this has provided that, unfortunately,” Sandy Addis, chairman of the National Dropout Prevention Center, said recently, referring to the pandemic. His group believes the dropout rate has spiked this year and will remain high for years.

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) — U.S. educators are doing everything they can to track down high school students who stopped showing up to classes and to help them get the credits needed to graduate, amid an anticipated surge in the country’s dropout rate during the coronavirus pandemic.

There isn’t data available yet on how the pandemic has affected the nation’s overall dropout rate — 2019 is the last year for which it is available — and many school officials say it’s too early to know how many students who stopped logging on for distance learning don’t plan to return. But soaring numbers of students who are **failing classes** or are chronically absent have experts fearing the worst, and schools have been busy tracking down wayward seniors through social media, knocking on their doors, assigning staff to help them make up for lost time and, in some cases, even relaxing graduation requirements.

“The pandemic was extraordinarily difficult on families — emotionally, economically, and physically,”
Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia district spokeswoman Lucy Caldwell

How the Texas Top 10% Plan failed to attract more students to the state's flagship colleges

May 11, 2021 8:50am EDT

▼ [Kalena E. Cortes](#), *Texas A&M University*, [Daniel Klasik](#), *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

The big idea

A 22-year-old Texas initiative – meant to broaden the pool of high schools whose graduates attend public universities after affirmative action was banned – has made little difference in who enrolls at Texas' two flagship public universities, according to our new research.

The [Texas Top 10% Plan](#) guarantees college admission to any four-year public Texas institution for students who graduate in the top 10% of their high school class. [Our recent study](#), currently undergoing peer review, found that in high schools with no history of sending students to [Texas A&M](#) or the [University of Texas at Austin](#), only about half sent a student to either flagship campus in the five-year period after the plan started in 1998.

However, there was some progress at certain types of high schools. Rural high schools in Texas were about 8 percentage points more likely to send students to the flagship campuses after the policy started than they were before. Also, students who attended high schools designated for [special scholarships](#) established in line with the Top 10% Plan were more likely to attend the flagship campuses.

And even though the absolute percentage of Black and Hispanic students [increased by 1.6 percentage points at the flagship campuses](#) four years after the Top 10% plan started, research has shown that these gains were more closely related to demographic changes in the state, rather than the [effectiveness](#) of the plan itself.

Why it matters

The Texas Top 10% Plan was established in the wake of Texas' 1996 [ban on race-conscious affirmative action in higher education](#).

Black and Hispanic student representation on the flagship campuses [fell from 18.1%](#) in the year before the ban to 13.4% in the year after. One main goal of the plan was to recover this lost diversity in a "[race-neutral](#)" way.

The initial appeal of the Top 10% Plan stems from its simplicity. All students would be admitted to the state's public colleges based on the same criterion: namely, class rank. Since the policy doesn't take a student's high school or test scores into account, the idea was that it would become easier for students from all schools – even those that don't have a history of regularly sending students to the state's flagship campuses – to get in.

Our study suggests that, much like the racial and ethnic diversity goal, the geographical diversity goal was not met, either, at least in the case of the two selective flagship campuses.

What still isn't known

While our study focuses on gaining access to the selective Texas flagship campuses, it is possible that the Top 10% Plan increased the geographical diversity of high schools that sent students to the nonflagship campuses. Given that students often prefer to enroll in colleges [closer to home](#), students living farther away from the flagship locations may have instead used the Top 10% Plan to go to four-year Texas colleges that were closer to where they reside.

That said, attendance at the flagship campuses is important because the financial resources that these campuses provide often result in more students [graduating](#). Also, perhaps more importantly, flagship graduates, on average, [earn more](#) than students who don't attend flagships. For these reasons, making the state's flagship institutions more accessible is an important part of opening opportunities for social mobility.



An orchard near Kettleman City in California's San Joaquin Valley on April 2, 2021. Frederic J. Brown/AFP via Getty Images

Water wells are at risk of going dry in the US and worldwide

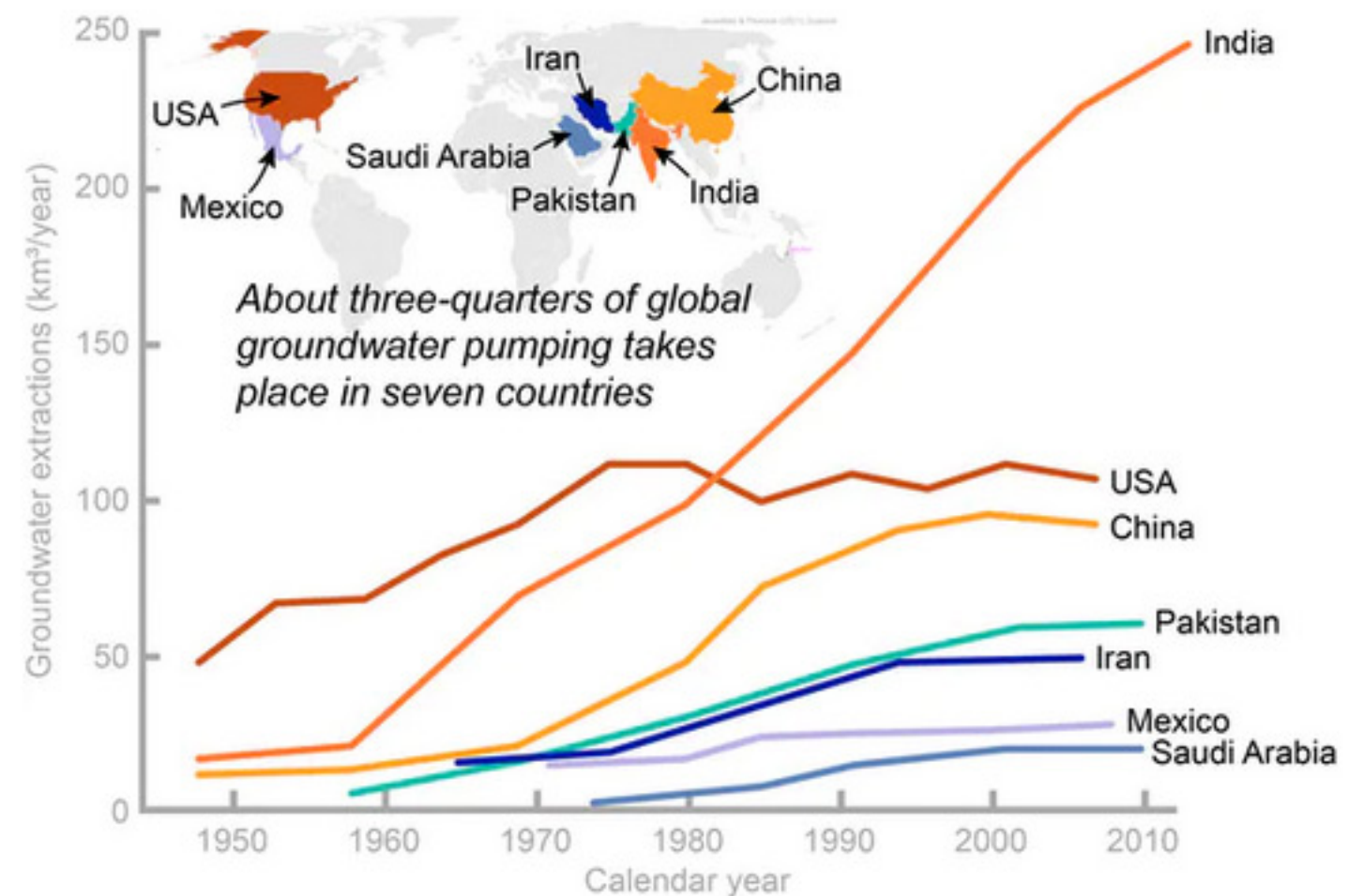
May 10, 2021 8:30am EDT

Debra Perrone, Scott Jasechko, University of California Santa Barbara

As the drought outlook for the Western U.S. becomes increasingly bleak, attention is turning once again to groundwater – literally, water stored in the ground. It is Earth's most widespread and reliable source of fresh water, but it's not limitless.

Wells that people drill to access groundwater supply nearly half the water used for irrigated agriculture in the U.S. and provide over 100 million Americans with drinking water. Unfortunately, pervasive pumping is causing groundwater levels to decline in some areas, including much of California's San Joaquin Valley and Kansas' High Plains.

We are a water resources engineer with training in water law and a water scientist and large-data analyst. In a recent study, we mapped the locations and depths of wells in 40 countries around the world and found that millions of wells could run dry if groundwater levels decline by only a few meters. While solutions vary from place to place, we believe that what's most important for protecting wells from running dry is managing groundwater sustainably – especially in nations like the U.S. that use a lot of it.



The U.S. has one of the highest national groundwater use rates in the world. Jasechko and Perrone, 2021, CC BY-ND

State and local agencies can distribute groundwater permits in ways that help stabilize falling groundwater levels over the long run, or in ways that prioritize certain water users. Enacting and enforcing policies designed to limit groundwater depletion can help protect wells from running dry. While it can be difficult to limit use of a resource as essential as water, we believe that in most cases, simply drilling deeper is not a sustainable path forward.

UN experts: Islamic State committed genocide against Yazidis

By EDITH M. LEDERER today



In this Tuesday, July 22, 2014, file photo, a motorist passes by a flag of the Islamic State group in central Rawah, 175 miles (281 kilometers) northwest of Baghdad, Iraq, nearly six weeks since a Sunni militant blitz led by the Islamic State extremist group seized large swaths of northern and western Iraq. The head of a United Nations team investigating atrocities in Iraq says it has found “clear and compelling evidence” that Islamic State extremists committed genocide against the Yazidi minority in 2014. (AP Photo/File)

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The head of a U.N. team investigating atrocities in Iraq announced Monday it has found “clear and compelling evidence” that Islamic State extremists committed genocide against the Yazidi minority in 2014 and said the militant group successfully developed chemical weapons and used mustard gas.

Karim Khan told the Security Council the team also concluded war crimes were committed by the Islamic State group against predominantly Shiite unarmed cadets and personnel from the Tikrit Air Academy who were captured, tortured and subjected to mass execution in June 2014. He said an Islamic State video released in July 2015 showing the killings “constitutes a direct and public incitement to commit genocide against Shia Muslims.”

The Security Council voted unanimously in September 2017 to ask the U.N. to establish an investigative team to help Iraq preserve evidence and promote accountability for what “may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide” committed by Islamic State extremists, both in Iraq and the Levant, which includes Syria.

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Nadia Murad, a Yazidi forced into sexual slavery by IS fighters who killed her mother and six brothers, urged the Security Council to refer the genocide against her people to the International Criminal Court or establish a court to prosecute those responsible for the atrocities.

“I ask you to start a new chapter -- legal accountability for ISIS crimes would dramatically impact every action of my community’s recovery,” she said. “It is time for the international community to do, more than listen. It is time to act. If world leaders have the political will to act on this evidence, then justice is truly within reach.”

EU court scraps Amazon's \$303M EU tax order

Fox Business · 1 hour ago

- Amazon wins court appeal as it battles the EU over a \$300 million tax bill

CNBC · 40 minutes ago

[View Full Coverage](#)



EU court rejects an order for Amazon to pay back \$300 million in taxes

PUBLISHED WED, MAY 12 2021-5:31 AM EDT · UPDATED 2 HOURS AGO



Silvia Amaro
@SILVIA_AMARO

KEY POINTS

- The EU's general court said that the commission, the EU's executive arm, failed to prove that there was an illegal tax advantage given to Amazon by Luxembourg.
- The latest court ruling is the second one in the space of less than a year, where the outcome says the commission has not proven any tax advantage.
- Back in July, the EU's general court said that the EU's team led by Margrethe Vestager failed to prove that the Irish government had given a tax advantage to Apple.
- The commission had ordered Apple to repay some 13 billion euros in unpaid taxes in 2016.

Amazon is suing to stop SMS raffle scams

No, you didn't win Amazon AirPods

By Sean Hollister | @StarFire2258 | May 12, 2021, 12:20am EDT



Photo by Natt Garun / The Verge

Ever get a text message informing you that you've won a prize — from Amazon itself? I certainly have, and I've even known a person or two who fell for those scams. Now, Amazon is attempting to hunt those scammers down, [with a new lawsuit](#) aimed at unmasking 50 unknown defendants in federal court.

Blackstone Group to buy 66 apartment complexes in San Diego for more than \$1 billion



The purchase of 5,800 units from the Conrad Prebys Foundation makes Blackstone one of San Diego's biggest landlords

By PHILLIP MOLNAR
MAY 11, 2021 4:48 PM PT

One of the apartment complexes sold to Blackstone on Conrad Drive in Spring Valley

Private equity giant Blackstone Group plans to purchase 66 residential complexes in San Diego County for more than \$1 billion in one of the biggest real estate transactions in local history.

New York-based Blackstone is purchasing roughly 5,800 apartment units from the Conrad Prebys Foundation. It said it intends to spend \$100 million to improve the new assets.

The deal makes Blackstone one of the biggest real estate holders in San Diego County. It already owns \$4.5 billion in assets here — including Legoland and the Hotel del Coronado. The transaction, which also includes Los Angeles-based investment firm TruAmerica as a partner, is expected to close in the next few weeks.

The Blackstone Group Inc. is an American alternative investment management company based in [New York City](#). In 2019, Blackstone converted from a publicly traded [partnership](#) into a [corporation](#).^[3]

Blackstone's private equity business has been one of the largest investors in [leveraged buyouts](#) in the last three decades, while its real estate business has actively acquired commercial real estate. As of 2020, the company's total assets under management were approximately [US\\$619 billion](#).^[1]

Blackstone was founded in 1985 as a [mergers and acquisitions](#) firm by [Peter G. Peterson](#) and [Stephen A. Schwarzman](#), who had previously worked together at [Lehman Brothers](#).

United Nations condemnation of the Invitation Homes project and lobbying efforts [\[edit \]](#)

In 2019, a United Nations report found that Blackstone's massive purchasing of single-family homes after the [financial crisis of 2007–2008](#) had "devastating consequences."^[155] The report alleged that Blackstone had abused tenants with exorbitant fees, rent hikes, and aggressive eviction practices, and that Blackstone's real estate practices had a disproportionate impact on communities of color, in part because the company targeted foreclosures resulting from subprime loans.

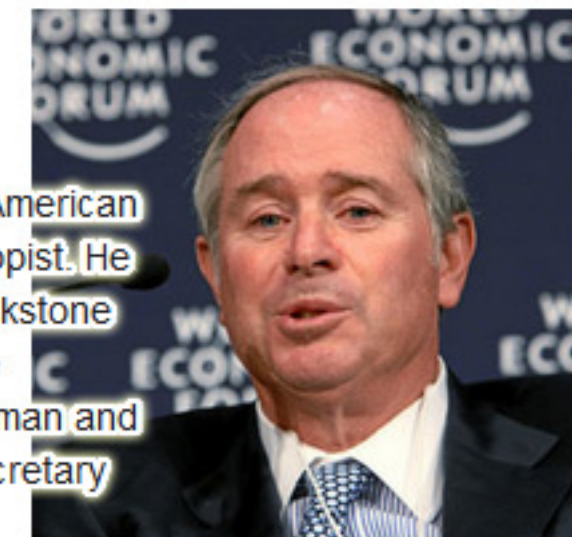
The report also condemned Blackstone for "using its significant resources and political leverage to undermine domestic laws and policies that would in fact improve access to adequate housing." Blackstone spent at least \$6.2 million to defeat California's Proposition 10, which would have allowed cities to enact rent control. Blackstone is a member of the Real Estate Roundtable, a special interest group which spends millions on lobbying and political donations every year.^[156]

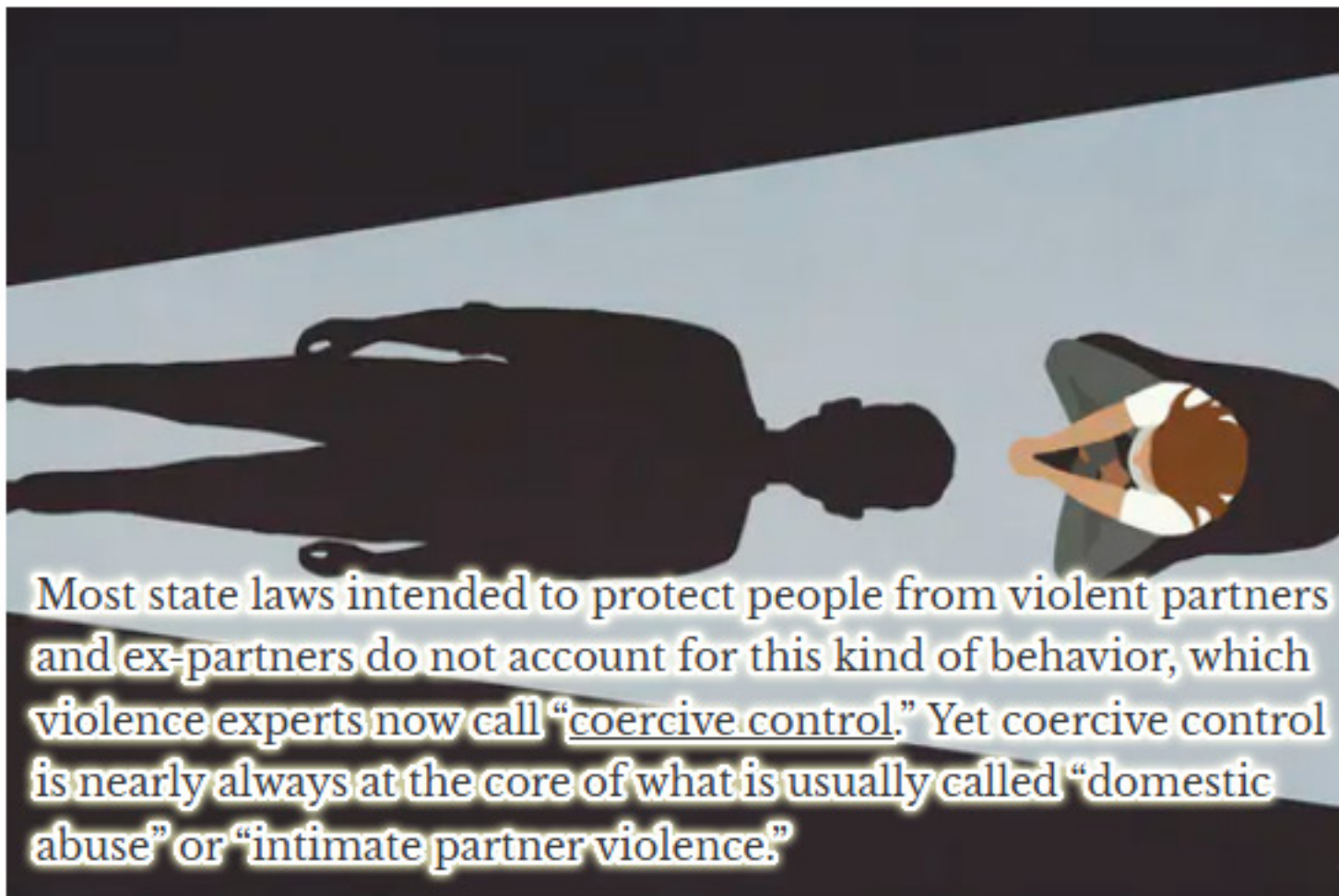
United Nations housing [rapporteur Leilani Farha](#) and Surya Deva, chair of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, criticized Blackstone's business practices, including frequent rent increases and "aggressive" evictions, for contributing to the global housing crisis. Blackstone disputed these claims.^[157]

Peter George Peterson was an American investment banker who served as United States Secretary of Commerce from February 29, 1972, to February 1, 1973, under the Richard Nixon administration. Before serving as Secretary of Commerce, Peterson was a



Stephen Allen Schwarzman is an American businessman, investor and philanthropist. He is the chairman and CEO of The Blackstone Group, a global private equity firm he established in 1985 with former chairman and CEO of Lehman Brothers and US Secretary of Commerce Peter G. Peterson.





Most state laws intended to protect people from violent partners and ex-partners do not account for this kind of behavior, which violence experts now call “coercive control.” Yet coercive control is nearly always at the core of what is usually called “domestic abuse” or “intimate partner violence.”

Intimate partner abuse isn't about just physical violence. It's about domination and control. Maite Mueller/Getty

Domestic violence isn't about just physical violence – and state laws are beginning to recognize that

May 12, 2021 8:46am EDT

👤 [Lisa Aronson Fontes](#), *University of Massachusetts Amherst*

Three or more U.S. women are murdered every day by their current or former intimate partner.

That may in part be due to a failure of state laws to capture the full range of behavior that constitutes domestic abuse. The law continues to treat intimate partner violence like a bar fight – considering only what happened in a given incident and not all the prior abuse history, such as intimidation and entrapment.

Research shows, however, that domestic abuse is not about arguments, short tempers and violent tendencies. It's about domination and control.

Men who kill their female partners usually dominate them first – sometimes without physical violence. Indeed, for 28% to 33% of victims, the homicide or attempted homicide was the first act of physical violence in the relationship.

Some states are stepping up to incorporate coercive and controlling behavior, not just episodes of violence, into laws that protect victims. These laws make clear: Intimate partner abuse isn't about just physical violence.

State Sen. Alex Kasser based Connecticut's proposed Bill 1091 on California's but added additional examples of common coercive control tactics.

Her bill includes “forced sex, sexual threats and threats to release sexualized images” as well as a section on vexatious litigation, which Kasser defines as “how abusers use the legal system to harass their victims, dragging them to court repeatedly to drain their resources and make them lose their jobs, homes, savings and sometimes their children.”

Kasser emphasizes that the Connecticut bill would also protect the children of an abused parent. The bill would establish the physical and emotional safety of the child as the first of 17 factors to be considered in custody decisions. The bill passed the Connecticut Judiciary Committee in April 2021 with bipartisan support and is awaiting further consideration and votes.

The New York State Senate's proposed Bill 5650 would establish coercive control as a Class E felony, meaning that a person convicted of coercive control could serve up to four years in jail for the crime. This is more in line with the laws in the U.K. and some other European countries.

While it is still too early to know whether coercive-control laws will predominate in U.S. civil or criminal law, it seems pretty clear that times are changing. I believe victims of coercive-control partner abuse will soon have access to legal protections in many more states across the country.

Piles of ancient poop reveal 'extinction event' in human gut bacteria

By **Andrew Curry** | May. 12, 2021 , 11:00 AM

Every meal you eat is digested with the help of the bountiful bacteria thronging your intestines. When you're done digesting, those bacteria are also part of what's excreted. Now, 1000-year-old piles of dried-out poop are offering insights into how the billions-strong bacterial ecosystems in the human gut have been altered by sanitation, processed foods, and antibiotics.

In a study published today in *Nature*, researchers analyzed ancient DNA from coprolites, or preserved feces, found at the back of rock shelters in Utah and Mexico. The data give scientists their **first good look at ancient gut bacterial communities**, says Stanford University biologist Justin Sonnenburg. "These paleofeces are the equivalent of a time machine."

They suggest that over the past millennium, the human gut has experienced an "extinction event," losing dozens of species and becoming significantly less diverse, says lead author and Harvard Medical School microbiologist Aleksandar Kostic. "These are things we don't get back."

Previous studies have used the gut bacteria of today's hunter-gatherers and herders as a proxy for the ancient microbiome. Their microbial diversity far exceeds that of people in industrial societies, and researchers have linked low diversity to higher rates of "diseases of civilization," including diabetes, obesity, and allergies. But it wasn't clear how much today's nonindustrial people have in common with ancient humans. "We really wanted to be able to go back in time and see when those changes [in the modern gut microbiome] came about, and what's causing them," says Harvard University geneticist Christina Warinner, a co-author on the paper. "Is it food itself? Is it processing, is it antibiotics, is it sanitation?"

An international team analyzed eight ancient coprolites preserved by dryness and stable temperatures in three rock shelters in Mexico and the southwestern United States. Researchers radiocarbon dated the samples, some of which were excavated almost 100 years ago and stored in a museum, to between 0 C.E. and 1000 C.E. Meradeth Snow, a molecular anthropologist at the University of Montana, Missoula, then rehydrated tiny bits of feces, recovering longer DNA strands than previous paleofeces analyses.

Earlier attempts to analyze the ancient gut microbiome had been thwarted by the challenge of sorting ancient gut bacterial DNA from that of microbes invading from the surrounding soil, says Marsha Wibowo, a Ph.D. student at Harvard's Joslin Diabetes Center, who analyzed the DNA. She singled out the ancient gut species by focusing on DNA that had been damaged by time, and on sequences from bacteria known to be associated with the mammalian gut. Some of the ancient DNA was unfamiliar, however, evidently representing never-before-seen kinds of extinct bacteria.

The coprolites yielded 181 genomes that were both ancient and likely came from a human gut. Many resembled those found in nonindustrial gut samples today, including species associated with high-fiber diets. Bits of food in the samples confirmed that the ancient people's diet included maize and beans, typical of early North American farmers. Samples from a site in Utah suggested a more eclectic, fiber-rich "famine diet" including prickly pear, ricegrass, and grasshoppers.

The new data from old poop show no one on the planet today has been spared changes to their microbiome. "Nonindustrial populations, including their microbiomes, shouldn't be considered proxies for our ancestors," says Massachusetts Institute of Technology geneticist Mathieu Groussin.

The findings also suggest we've lost a lot of microbial helpers in the recent past, and our bodies may not have had time to adapt. "This study gives us a gold standard to check on what species we've lost," Sonnenburg says.

Because feces aren't considered human remains under U.S. law, Warinner says, there was little discussion early on about the ethics of the research. But when the group reached out to several dozen tribes in the Southwest, some said the samples were a link to their ancestors and were upset they hadn't been consulted earlier. The study now includes an ethics statement, a first for a paleofeces paper.

University of California, San Diego, geneticist Keolu Fox says the team didn't go far enough. Insights into the ancient gut could someday inform commercial efforts to reshape modern microbiomes, he says. That raises complex questions of who owns such data. "It's supposedly waste, but it contains DNA and profiles of microbial diversity. Maybe that poop is literally gold," Fox says. "We're getting into a whole new gray area."

Microsoft Outlook bug prevents viewing or creating email worldwide

By [Lawrence Abrams](#)

May 11, 2021

05:01 PM

74



A Microsoft Outlook update released today for the desktop client introduced bugs that prevent users from creating or viewing mail.

Today, Microsoft released Outlook version 2104 build 13929.20372, and after installing the update, users of the click-to-run desktop client found that they could no longer properly view emails or create new ones.

In an incident status message in the Microsoft 365 Admin Center titled 'EX255650: Issue affecting viewing email content in Outlook', Microsoft states that they have identified the root cause of the issue and released a fix.

How to fix the Microsoft Outlook issues

If you are experiencing this issue in Microsoft Outlook, users have reported that you can fix the bug by rolling back to a previous Microsoft Outlook version.

BleepingComputer has tested this method, and it resolved the problems in our Outlook desktop client.

Australian Navy finds 2 dead whales while berthing in San Diego



by: [Brittney Donovan](#)

Posted: May 11, 2021 / 12:25 PM PDT / Updated: May 11, 2021 / 03:22 PM PDT

SAN DIEGO — Two dead whales were found as a Royal Australian Navy ship berthed at Naval Base San Diego.

The Australian Department of Defence told FOX 5 that HMAS Sydney was berthing alongside Naval Base San Diego when the dead whales dislodged from her hull beneath the surface.

Newsom visits San Diego to announce \$12 billion in funding to tackle homelessness

Posted: May 11, 2021

Updated: 12:47 PM by [KUSI Newsroom](#)

SAN DIEGO (KUSI) – Gov. Gavin Newsom visited San Diego Tuesday to unveil a \$12 billion plan to tackle the state’s homelessness crisis — part of his proposed \$100 billion California Comeback Plan.

The investment is intended to provide 65,000 people with housing placements, more than 300,000 people with housing stability and create 46,000 new housing units.

Newsom’s plan includes an expansion of Homekey — a program that provided shelter from COVID-19 to 36,000 Californians and created 6,000 affordable housing units — and other similar strategies to get housing up and running quickly.

“Within a year, Homekey did more to address the homelessness and affordable housing crisis than anything that’s been done in decades and became a national model,” Newsom said. “Now is the time to double down on these successful efforts.”

The plan focuses on those with the most acute needs, with at least 28,000 new beds and housing placements for clients with behavioral health needs and seniors at the highest risk of homelessness.

It also comes with “greater accountability and transparency measures,” Newsom said, to make sure investments are put toward effective solutions and money is well spent.

The state will seek to functionally end family homelessness within five years through \$1.85 billion in new housing for homeless families and \$1.6 billion in rental support and homelessness prevention for families.

The plan made headlines Monday when Newsom revealed the first portion of the \$100 billion proposal — \$600 stimulus checks to Californians earning under \$75,000 annually and another \$500 for families. He said it would impact around two-thirds of all Californians.

He also proposed an additional \$1.5 billion investment to clean public spaces near highways and transform public spaces through arts and cultural projects. Newsom said the initiative is expected to create an estimated 15,000 jobs, including for people experiencing or exiting homelessness, at-risk youth, veterans and formerly incarcerated individuals.

Newsom, facing a recall election later this year, received criticism from two local gubernatorial candidates Tuesday.

“Homelessness has skyrocketed by 10,000 people since Gavin Newsom took office,” former San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer said. “No amount of money will solve this crisis without a leader who has the political will to buck the status quo and take bold actions to get people off the streets and indoors to receive the help they need.”

Faulconer touted his own record in San Diego, where homelessness declined during his tenure, and said he could do the same for the state writ large.

John Cox, a Rancho Santa Fe businessman and Newsom’s Republican challenger in the 2018 gubernatorial race, also spoke in San Diego on Tuesday. In tow was Tag, a 1,000-pound Kodiak bear in a revival of a stunt that stoked controversy from animal rights activists when he was trotted out for Cox’s campaign last week in Sacramento.

“California is losing population for the first time in our history,” Cox said. “The pretty boy politicians like Gavin Newsom are failing our state. It’s time to make beastly changes to shake up Sacramento and save California.”

Newsom bested Cox in 2018 by nearly three million votes.

The field of Republican challengers also includes reality TV star and Olympic decathlete Caitlyn Jenner and former Rep. Doug Ose.

'A huge moment': U.S. gives go-ahead for its first major offshore wind farm

PUBLISHED WED, MAY 12 2021 5:10 AM EDT

Anmar Frangoul

The U.S. offshore wind sector took a major step forward Tuesday after authorities gave the green light for the construction and operation of the 800 megawatt (MW) Vineyard Wind 1 project.

In a statement, the U.S. Department of the Interior described the development, which will be located in waters off the coast of Massachusetts, as "the first large-scale, offshore wind project in the United States."

The Vineyard Wind project, it said, was expected to generate 3,600 jobs and "provide enough power for 400,000 homes and businesses."

The DOI added that a Record of Decision had granted Vineyard Wind "final federal approval to install 84 or fewer turbines off Massachusetts as part of an 800-megawatt offshore wind energy facility."

According to the Vineyard Wind team, the facility will use GE Renewable Energy's huge Haliade-X turbines, which will mean only 62 will actually be required.

Vineyard Wind is a 50-50 joint venture between Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners and Avangrid Renewables. The latter is a subsidiary of [Avangrid](#), which is part of the Iberdrola Group, a major utility headquartered in Spain.

[Iberdrola](#) says investment in the project will amount to 2.5 billion euros (\$3.03 billion). If all goes to plan, it could enter into service in 2023.



This image shows one of the wind turbines at the Block Island Wind Farm, located in waters off Rhode Island.

Don Emmert | AFP | Getty Images

If this target is realized it would represent a significant expansion for the U.S. While America is home to a well-developed onshore wind industry, the country's first offshore wind facility, the 30 MW Block Island Wind Farm, [only started commercial operations in late 2016](#).

Preliminary figures from the U.S. Energy Information Administration show that, for 2020, wind's share of utility-scale electricity generation came to 8.4%.

By contrast, natural gas and coal's shares were 40.3% and 19.3% respectively. Overall, fossil fuels had a 60.3% share while nuclear and renewables had shares of 19.7% and 19.8%.

Looking at the global picture for offshore wind, the U.S. still has a ways to go before it catches up with more mature markets, such as the one found in Europe.

Last year, the sector there [attracted over 26 billion euros \(around \\$31.5 billion\) of investment](#), a record amount, according to figures from industry body WindEurope. In 2020, 2.9 GW of offshore wind capacity was installed in Europe.

88-year-old artist finishes year of pandemic 'daily doodles'

By HOLLY RAMER Wednesday, May 12, 2021

WESTMORELAND, N.H. (AP) — Much like the round clock faces, gears and planets that often populate his artwork, Robert Seaman has come full circle.

Seaman, 88, has been drawing since he was a boy, and at age 60, left a real estate career to pursue his hobby professionally. But it took the coronavirus pandemic to fully return him to his passion.

"As a kid, I kept lurching between being a loner and being an extrovert," he said. "But in my introvert phase, I would love to go up to my room where I had a drawing table kind of desk and I'd spend hours up there drawing pictures. That's what I'm doing now."

Tuesday marked one year since Seaman started churning out "daily doodles" from his small, one-room apartment at the Maplewood Assisted Living facility in Westmoreland, New Hampshire. He spends about six hours a day working on his intricate, fanciful illustrations, starting with pencil sketches and finishing with ink, colored pencil and watercolor.

A doodle a day, keeps the doctor away... Doodling my way through quarantine!

About a year ago my entry into an assisted living facility coupled with the rising Covid 19 pandemic told me that long days of isolation were ahead for me. And for a lot of friends and family too. Somehow the idea of a "Daily Doodle" popped into my head as a way of dispelling the monotony of isolation and unvarying routine and might give others, the Doodles", a little something to look forward to as well. It's not a big thing but it's something. Feedback suggests this is so., and feedback is what keeps me going. The challenge is of course thinking up the doodles...well...so far so good. Ideas just kind of pop up and expand as I do them. I'm lucky. I Love to draw. Drawing is not a team sport. I've always had a bit of the loner streak in me and can be content in my own company hours, even days, on end. I am really glad that the list of people who get a little enjoyment out of these things seems to be getting larger and larger.

Selling originals + prints to support Covid research through my Etsy shop



88-year-old artist finishes year of pandemic 'daily doodles'

By HOLLY RAMER Wednesday, May 12, 2021

WESTMORELAND, N.H. (AP) — Planets that often populate his

Seaman, 88, has been drawing since his estate career to pursue his hobby. The pandemic to fully return him to his

"As a kid, I kept lurching between art and business," Seaman said. "But in my introvert phase, I had a drawing table kind of deal. That's what I'm doing now."

Tuesday marked one year since he moved from his small, one-room apartment in Westmoreland, New Hampshire, to an assisted living facility. He spent the year on his intricate, fanciful illustrations, drawing with ink, colored pencil and watercolor.

A doodle a day, keep the pandemic away

Doodling my way through the pandemic

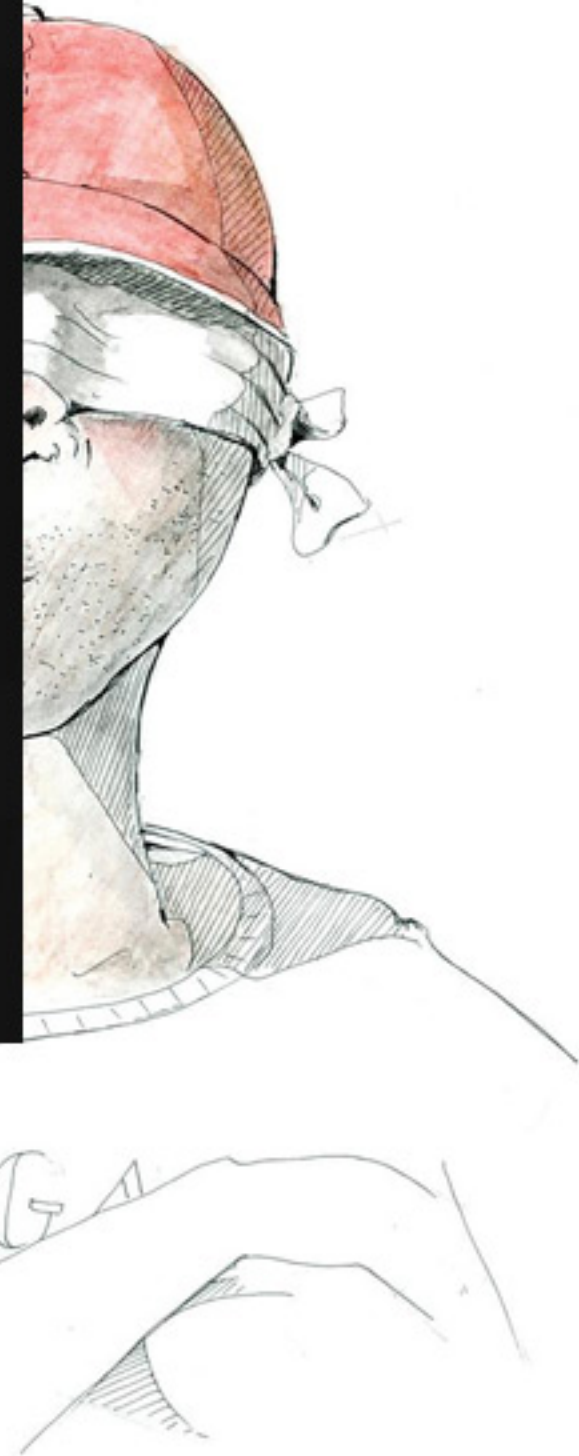
About a year ago my entry into the rising Covid 19 pandemic told me. And for a lot of friends and family, "Doodle" popped into my head. It's a combination of my love of drawing and my need for routine and structure. It's something to look forward to as we move back suggests this is so., and it's

is of course thinking up the doodles...well...so far so good. Ideas just kind of pop up and expand as I do them. I'm lucky. I Love to draw. Drawing is not a team sport. I've always had a bit of the loner streak in me and can be content in my own company hours, even days, on end. I am really glad that the list of people who get a little enjoyment out of these things seems to be getting larger and larger.

Selling originals + prints to support Covid research through my Etsy shop



Artist Robert Seaman poses in his room at an assisted living facility Monday, May 10, 2021, in Westmoreland, N.H. Seaman, who moved into the facility weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown his outside world in 2020, recently completed his 365th daily sketch, or what he calls his "Covid Doodles", since being isolated due to the virus outbreak. (AP Photo/Charles Krupa)



Meet America's Newest Chess Master, 10-Year-Old Tanitoluwa Adewumi

May 11, 2021 - 6:04 PM ET



MARY LOUISE KELLY



KAREN ZAMORA



Tanitoluwa Adewumi, pictured in 2019, just became the newest national chess master in the U.S. at age 10.

Dia Dipasupil/Getty Images

Tanitoluwa Adewumi, a 10-year-old in New York, just became the country's newest national chess master.

At the Fairfield County Chess Club Championship tournament in Connecticut on May 1, Adewumi won all four of his matches, bumping his chess rating up to 2223 and making him the 28th youngest person to become a chess master, according to [US Chess](#).

"I was very happy that I won and that I got the title," he says, "I really love that I finally got it."

"Finally" is after about three years — the amount of time that Adewumi has been playing chess. When he started, Adewumi and his family were living in a homeless shelter in Manhattan after fleeing religious persecution by the Islamist militant group Boko Haram in their home country of Nigeria.

Now, Adewumi practices chess "every day" after school for "10, 11 hours" — and still manages to get some sleep.

His hours of practice have paid off. As a chess player, he describes himself as a bit of an every man, "aggressive" or "calm" when he needs to be, and always thinking ahead.

Since the last time NPR spoke with Adewumi, his family moved out of the shelter and he's written a book about his life called *My Name Is Tani . . . and I Believe in Miracles*. That book has been optioned for a Trevor Noah-produced film adaptation with a script by *The Pursuit of Happyness* screenwriter Steven Conrad.



Follow

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

@AOC
US Representative, NY-14 (BX & Queens). In a modern, moral, & wealthy society, no American should be too poor to live. 100% People-Funded, no lobbyist \$. She/her.
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Thursday, May 13, 2021

Pinned Tweet

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez @AOC · Dec 11, 2020

Last January I was sworn in for my first term in Congress. So, what have we accomplished since then? Let's take 2(ish) minutes to review.

swing-district Democrats

0:46 10.4M views

36.5K 30.9K 201K

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Retweeted

Ilhan Omar @IlhanMN · May 10

Many will tell you Israel has a right to defend itself, to safety and security, but are silent on whether Palestinians have those rights too.

Until we can defend the rights of Palestinians just as we do Israelis, we have no leg to stand on when it comes to justice or peace.

3.4K 17.9K 77.6K



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Marjorie Taylor Greene

@mtgreenee

Congresswoman for Georgia's 14th CD, Christian, Wife, Mom, Small Business Owner, Proud American, 100% Pro-Life, Pro-Gun, Pro-Trump #MAGA Likes =/= Endorsements

Georgia, USA Joined January 2017

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Marjorie Taylor Greene @mtgreenee · Jan 7

RT if you still have @realDonaldTrump's back!

61.4K 80.9K 145.5K



Marjorie Taylor Greene @mtgreenee · 13h

Trump was right

#BuildTheWall twitter.com/BillFOXLA/stat...

This Tweet is unavailable.

746 1K 4.6K



Marjorie Taylor Greene @mtgreenee · 11h

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee."

PRAY FOR ISRAEL

PSALM 122:6

1.1K 1.8K 8.7K



Marjorie Taylor Greene @mtgreenee · 15h

Just talked to @AOC again.

You chickened out bc you are too scared to debate me about your Socialist Green New Deal.

You are also a hate-America terrorist sympathizer.

#JihadSquad

Members of Congress do NOT support terrorism & shouldn't be afraid to debate their legislation.

2.2K 5.1K 17.1K

Marjorie Taylor Greene Chased AOC Around Congress Screaming About Terrorism, Says Report

HEY ALEXANDRIA!

Jamie Ross News Correspondent Published May. 13, 2021 4:54AM ET

There's nothing Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) loves more than running after people while shouting unhinged allegations at them and then declaring it as some kind of moral victory when they ignore her. First she did it with Parkland school-shooting survivor David Hogg, and now she's repeated the lame stunt with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY). According to *The Washington Post*, Greene tried to confront the congresswoman outside the House chamber Wednesday, at first trying—but failing—to catch Ocasio-Cortez's attention by yelling: "Hey, Alexandria!" When she was ignored, Greene reportedly pursued AOC and started screaming about antifa and Black Lives Matter. "You don't care about the American people," Greene reportedly shouted. "Why do you support terrorists and antifa?" According to the *Post*, AOC's only reaction was to throw up her hands "in an exasperated motion" at one point. In a later statement, Ocasio-Cortez's office urged congressional leadership to take steps to help make Capitol Hill "a safe, civil place for all Members and staff."

Read it at [The Washington Post](#)



Justices consider hearing a case on 'most offensive word'

By JESSICA GRESKO 2 hours ago



In this Jan. 22, 2020, file photo, night falls on the Supreme Court in Washington. The Supreme Court is considering whether to hear the case of a Black man who says he suffered discrimination because the N-word was carved into the wall of the hospital elevator where he worked. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Robert Collier says that during the seven years he worked as an operating room aide at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, white nurses called him and other Black employees “boy.” Management ignored two large swastikas painted on a storage room wall. And for six months, he regularly rode an elevator with the N-word carved into a wall.

Collier ultimately sued the hospital, but lower courts dismissed his case. Now, however, at a private conference Thursday, the Supreme Court will consider for the first time whether to hear [his case](#). Focusing on the elevator graffiti, Collier is asking the justices to decide whether a single use of the N-word in the workplace can create a hostile work environment, giving an employee the ability to pursue a case under Title VII of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Supreme Court itself has yet to squarely address the issue. The justices have said that the “mere utterance of an ethnic or racial epithet” doesn’t allow a person to sue under the Civil Rights Act’s Title VII. But in a 1998 case, the court suggested that a single, “extremely serious” incident could.

The hospital’s lawyers, for their part, have urged the court not to take Collier’s case. Parkland, the hospital where President John F. Kennedy was taken in 1963 after he was fatally shot, says the case’s “factual record ... is neither strong nor clear.” And Collier himself previously said that the racial graffiti he saw “had no appreciable effect on his job performance.”

In a statement to The Associated Press, hospital spokesman Michael Malaise noted that there is no evidence “that any Parkland employee was responsible for the alleged graffiti or that it was directed specifically at Mr. Collier.” Over 70% of hospital staff members self-identify as minorities and the hospital’s “diversity is one of our strongest assets,” he said.

Collier was fired by the hospital in 2016 after a conflict with a supervisor. He brought his lawsuit after he was fired. His attorney, Georgetown law professor Brian Wolfman, declined an interview request on his client’s behalf. During a 2018 deposition, however, Collier talked about how seeing the elevator graffiti made him feel.

“I would say it was something I noticed and complained about,” Collier said. “And that every time I would have to catch that elevator by not seeing anything done about it ... it was upsetting ... Because I would have wanted to see it gone away pretty much instantly.”



Gettyimages.

Protests by Palestinian citizens in Israel signal growing sense of a common struggle

May 13, 2021 8:34am EDT

▼ Maha Nassar, University of Arizona

The world's attention has turned again to deadly scenes of Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip and the launching of rockets by the militant group Hamas into Israel. It follows two weeks of protests in East Jerusalem against attempts to forcibly displace Palestinians from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah and Israeli police raids on worshippers in the al-Aqsa mosque compound.

But in towns across Israel, another important – and underreported – development is taking place. And it could change how we talk about Palestinians and Israelis.

Since May 9, 2021, thousands of Palestinian citizens of Israel, numbering some 1.9 million people and often referred to as “Arab Israelis,” have taken to the streets to express support for their fellow Palestinians in Gaza and Jerusalem. Protests are taking place in both mixed Arab-Jewish cities like Haifa, Jaffa and Lydd, as well as in predominantly Palestinian cities and towns like Nazareth and Umm al-Fahm.

The size and scope of the demonstrations have surprised many political analysts who usually discuss these Palestinians as part of the Israeli social and political fabric, separate from Palestinians elsewhere.

Fragmented no more?

The current protests suggest that Israeli government attempts to isolate Palestinian citizens of Israel from Palestinians in the occupied territories and in exile and to integrate them into the Israeli state have failed. And any heavy-handed reaction to demonstrators could only serve to further alienate Palestinian citizens from the state of Israel.

Scenes of police violently breaking up peaceful protests, Israeli security forces being deployed into Palestinian neighborhoods inside the country, and armed Israeli Jewish vigilantes attacking Palestinians in mixed cities could also, I believe, further reinforce the image of Israel as a colonial power in the minds of not only its marginalized Palestinian minority, but also their international supporters as well.

What could result is a new type of Palestinian mobilization, one that belies the idea of a fragmented people and unites all Palestinian people in a joint struggle.

📍 [Israel](#) [Middle East](#) [Gaza](#) [Hamas](#) [Middle Eastern Conflict](#) [Jerusalem](#)
[Palestinians](#) [Occupied Palestinian Territory](#) [Middle East peace process](#)

Muslims Mark End Of Ramadan, But COVID Subdues Celebrations For A Second Year

May 13, 2021 · 12:54 PM ET

SCOTT NEUMAN



MICHELE ABERCROMBIE

In India, with a Muslim population second only to Indonesia, the festival takes place against the backdrop of an unprecedented surge in coronavirus cases and COVID-19 deaths. Many infections have been traced to a massive Hindu festival along the banks of the Ganges River.



Some 1.8 billion Muslims around the world are marking Eid al-Fitr, the festival ending the holy month of Ramadan, but the celebration is muted for a second year in a row due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Muslims Mark End Of Ramadan, But COVID Subdues Celebrations For A Second Year

May 13, 2021 - 12:54 PM ET

SCOTT NEUMAN 

MICHELE ABERCROMBIE



Iranian women wearing protective face masks perform the Eid al-Fitr prayer and pray for Palestinians at Shah Abdol-Azim Shrine amid the coronavirus pandemic in Tehran, Iran on Thursday.
Fatemeh Bahrami/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images

In the country with the largest Muslim population, Indonesia, worshippers wore masks as they joined in communal prayers, but in some areas considered at high risk for transmission of the coronavirus, mosques — including Southeast Asia's largest, the Istiqlal Grand Mosque in the capital Jakarta — closed their doors as a precaution, according to [The Associated Press](#).



Muslims perform the Eid al-Fitr prayer at Jamacadaha Football Stadium on Thursday in Mogadishu, Somalia.
AFP via Getty Images



Muslims celebrate in front of the Dome of the Rock mosque in Jerusalem's Old City.
Ahmad Gharabli/AFP via Getty Images

data through Fri May 14, 2021

San Diego Monthly Average Cases/Day:

4/14/2020 = 77
 5/14/2020 = 120
 6/14/2020 = 134
 7/14/2020 = 409
 8/14/2020 = 416
 9/14/2020 = 285
 10/14/2020 = 281
 11/14/2020 = 429
 12/14/2020 = 1420
 01/14/2021 = 3010
 02/14/2021 = 1697
 03/14/2021 = 506
 04/14/2021 = 280
 05/14/2021 = 166

| Date | New | 7-Day |
|----------|-------|-------|
| 01/07/21 | 4,550 | 3,570 |

POPULATIONS (2019/million)

Los Angeles 10.04
 San Diego 3.34
 Riverside 3.26
 Orange 3.18
 San Bernardino 2.16

* today

| County | Total Cases | Total Deaths | Total Tests |
|------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| California Total | 3,767,834 | 62,654 | 62,941,545 |
| Los Angeles | 1,236,988 | 24,101 | 6,623,713 |
| Riverside | 299,793 | 4,594 | 3,031,100 |
| San Bernardino | 297,165 | 4,721 | 3,029,536 |
| San Diego | 278,852 | 3,732 | 4,850,532 |
| Orange | 271,194 | 5,030 | 3,796,712 |

| Country, Other | Total Cases | New Cases | Total Deaths | New Deaths | Total Recovered | Active Cases | Serious, Critical | Tot Cases/ 1M pop | Deaths/ 1M pop | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| World | 163,160,711 | +625,828 | 3,382,973 | +11,803 | 142,565,141 | 17,212,597 | 103,081 | 20,932 | 434.0 | |
| USA State | Total Cases | New Cases | Total Deaths | New Deaths | Total Recovered | Active Cases | Tot Cases/ 1M pop | Deaths/ 1M pop | Total Tests | Tests/ 1M pop |
| USA Total | 33,695,363 | +25,089 | 599,839 | +488 | 27,097,598 | 5,997,926 | 101,798 | 1,812 | 465,224,944 | 1,405,502 |
| California | 3,767,834 | +751 | 62,654 | +27 | 2,010,784 | 1,694,396 | 95,359 | 1,586 | 62,941,545 | 1,592,964 |
| Texas | 2,933,529 | +890 | 51,170 | +39 | 2,799,013 | 83,346 | 101,171 | 1,765 | 29,325,733 | 1,011,376 |
| Florida | 2,289,522 | +3,319 | 36,065 | +58 | 1,878,129 | 375,328 | 106,600 | 1,679 | 28,457,137 | 1,324,960 |
| New York | 2,133,236 | +1,694 | 53,200 | +4 | 1,598,532 | 481,504 | 109,658 | 2,735 | 53,807,488 | 2,765,945 |
| Illinois | 1,365,020 | +1,513 | 24,770 | +45 | 1,255,633 | 84,617 | 107,721 | 1,955 | 23,761,576 | 1,875,151 |
| Pennsylvania | 1,189,690 | +1,737 | 26,862 | +24 | 1,090,321 | 72,507 | 92,930 | 2,098 | 13,607,610 | 1,062,929 |
| Georgia | 1,115,072 | +743 | 20,505 | +23 | 962,247 | 132,320 | 105,023 | 1,931 | 9,095,172 | 856,627 |
| Ohio | 1,090,276 | +919 | 19,528 | | 1,044,375 | 26,373 | 93,273 | 1,671 | 12,842,936 | 1,098,710 |
| New Jersey | 1,010,490 | +646 | 25,952 | +20 | 831,509 | 153,029 | 113,766 | 2,922 | 14,009,521 | 1,577,260 |
| North Carolina | 989,338 | | 12,862 | | 950,929 | 25,547 | 94,330 | 1,226 | 12,846,681 | 1,224,883 |
| Michigan | 976,339 | +1,491 | 19,790 | +112 | 755,119 | 201,430 | 97,762 | 1,982 | 13,981,958 | 1,400,036 |

San Diego Coronavirus: (NEW) Seven Day Average

| 92104 Positives | New | 7-Day | Date | Positives | New | 7-Day | Hospitalizations | New | 7-Day | Deaths | New | 7-Day |
|-----------------|-----|-------|----------|-----------|-----|-------|------------------|-----|-------|--------|-----|-------|
| 2,813 | 2 | 3 | 04/27/21 | 275,820 | 136 | 27 | 15,187 | 13 | 0 | 3,698 | 6 | 2 |
| 2,812 | -1 | 2 | 04/28/21 | 275,960 | 140 | 7 | 15,195 | 8 | -3 | 3,700 | 2 | 2 |
| 2,824 | 12 | 2 | 04/29/21 | 276,156 | 196 | 151 | 15,231 | 36 | 13 | 3,702 | 2 | 3 |
| 2,825 | 1 | 3 | 04/30/21 | 276,336 | 180 | 155 | 15,239 | 8 | 11 | 3,706 | 4 | 3 |
| 2,825 | 0 | 3 | 05/01/21 | 276,520 | 184 | 158 | 15,248 | 9 | 12 | 3,712 | 6 | 3 |
| 2,830 | 5 | 3 | 05/02/21 | 276,692 | 172 | 165 | 15,257 | 9 | 13 | 3,712 | 0 | 3 |
| 2,832 | 2 | 2 | 05/03/21 | 276,878 | 186 | 171 | 15,264 | 7 | 13 | 3,713 | 1 | 3 |
| 2,834 | 2 | 3 | 05/04/21 | 277,097 | 219 | 182 | 15,276 | 12 | 13 | 3,716 | 3 | 3 |
| 2,838 | 4 | 3 | 05/05/21 | 277,323 | 226 | 195 | 15,283 | 7 | 13 | 3,716 | 0 | 2 |
| 2,840 | 2 | 4 | 05/06/21 | 277,533 | 210 | 197 | 15,293 | 10 | 9 | 3,718 | 2 | 2 |
| 2,842 | 2 | 2 | 05/07/21 | 277,759 | 226 | 203 | 15,313 | 20 | 11 | 3,725 | 7 | 3 |
| 2,844 | 2 | 2 | 05/08/21 | 277,949 | 190 | 204 | 15,319 | 6 | 10 | 3,725 | 0 | 2 |
| 2,856 | 12 | 3 | 05/09/21 | 278,182 | 233 | 213 | 15,327 | 8 | 10 | 3,725 | 0 | 2 |
| 2,860 | 4 | 4 | 05/10/21 | 278,307 | 125 | 204 | 15,331 | 4 | 10 | 3,725 | 0 | 2 |
| 2,861 | 1 | 4 | 05/11/21 | 278,401 | 94 | 186 | 15,333 | 2 | 8 | 3,729 | 4 | 2 |
| 2,862 | 1 | 4 | 05/12/21 | 278,591 | 190 | 181 | 15,340 | 7 | 8 | 3,729 | 0 | 2 |
| 2,830 | -32 | 3 | 05/13/21 | 278,852 | 261 | 188 | 15,342 | 2 | 7 | 3,732 | 3 | 2 |
| 2,875 | 45 | 5 | 05/14/21 | 278,990 | 138 | 176 | 15,345 | 3 | 5 | 3,737 | 5 | 2 |

Alice Neel's Paintings Meet The Moment At The Met

May 14, 2021 · 5:00 AM ET



SUSAN STAMBERG

Alice Neel made it to the Met! At last. Born in 1900, she painted all her life, often in obscurity. In the 1970s, feminists discovered and lauded her. She got attention. Right now visitors are crowding a big retrospective of paintings by this remarkable artist, feminist, champion of justice, Communist, radical, mother.

And wouldn't she love it? People coming to see HER people — portraits she made when very few others were making them, in that macho Age of Abstract Expressionism. Anyway, none of those guys would have done anything like this:

When Alice Neel was young, she was beautiful. When she was 80, she was fearless. "She's stripped of pretenses," says Metropolitan Museum of Art co-curator Kelly Baum. The droops, the sags. She's showing it like it is. But her face is unwrinkled. And not haunted, interestingly enough. Not like the pictures she made of other people.



Alice Neel, *Self-Portrait*, 1980

National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C./The Estate of Alice Neel

Alice Neel's Paintings Meet The Moment At The Met

May 14, 2021 · 5:00 AM ET



SUSAN STAMBERG

Nancy was Neel's then-daughter-in-law. Look at her eyes. Also the baby's. "That baby is alive," Baum says. "Also willful." The new mother shows, "the labor of motherhood," the work and demands of being a parent. I see desperation in the eyes of both mother and baby:

"What do I do with her?"

"What is she doing with me?"

Whoever painted a mother and child this way?

Alice Neel called her work "pictures of people. She didn't like the word "portrait." Co-curator Randall Griffey says, "she thought she was doing history," telling the story of the twentieth century through the people she painted. The title of this Met show is "Alice Neel: People Come First." In a 1979 NPR interview she talked about why. You'll get a real sense of her quirky chattiness from this clip.



Nancy and Olivia, 1967

Collection of Diane and David Goldsmith/© The Estate of Alice Neel

Alice Neel's Paintings Meet The Moment At The Met

May 14, 2021 · 5:00 AM ET

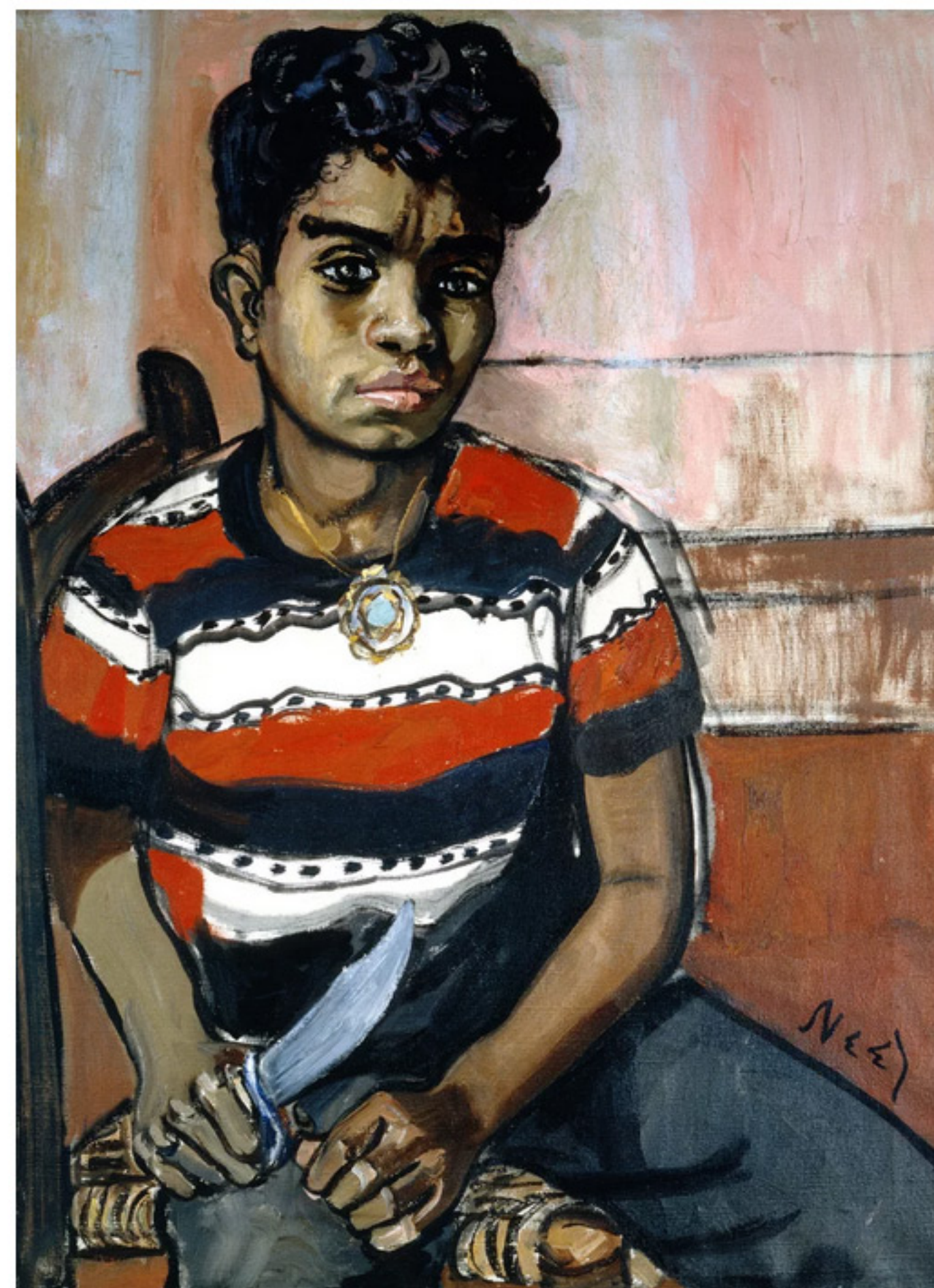


SUSAN STAMBERG



Two Girls, Spanish Harlem, 1959

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Gift of Barbara Lee/© The Estate of Alice Neel



Georgie Arce No. 2, 1955

Collection of Lonti Ebers/© The Estate of Alice Neel

Alice Neel's Paintings Meet The Moment At The Met

May 14, 2021 · 5:00 AM ET



SUSAN STAMBERG



Elenka, 1936

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Gift of Richard Neel and Hartley S. Neel, 1987 /© The Estate of Alice Neel

Alice Neel's Paintings Meet The Moment At The Met

May 14, 2021 · 5:00 AM ET



SUSAN STAMBERG

She stopped him, asked if she could paint his picture. They agreed there would be two sittings. While Mr. Hunter posed, he told Neel he'd been drafted, and was waiting to go to Vietnam. They worked for several hours. Neel got this much done that day. But never saw Hunter again. No one knows why, and the painting was never completed. Kelly Baum says it was "left unfinished by circumstance," not by choice. As time passed Neel decided it was complete, and put it in a big exhibition of her work at the Whitney Museum. The circumstance, and the decision, changed Neel's style. She began to do unfinished, under-painted works. "Clearly she learned something about the power of an unfinished style."

But what of James Hunter? He must have gotten called up. Was he killed in Vietnam? Did he come home, move out of the city, forget about the painting? Efforts to find him failed. His name isn't engraved on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Curator Randall Griffey sees the mystery in the piece itself. "You do have the feeling of him evaporating into thin air." Unfinished, James Hunter "is in the process of vanishing."

The story, the painting, are so powerful. And once seen, Alice Neel's portrait fixes Hunter in the mind's eye forever.



Vaccines and Preventable Diseases

What is the success rate of the shingles vaccine?

In adults 50 to 69 years old who got two doses, Shingrix was 97% effective in preventing shingles; among adults 70 years and older, Shingrix was 91% effective. In adults 50 to 69 years old who got two doses, Shingrix was 91% effective in preventing PHN; among adults 70 years and older, Shingrix was 89% effective.

Shingles Vaccination

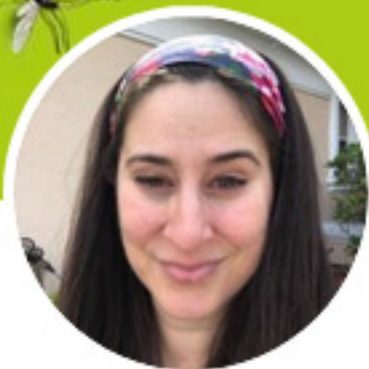
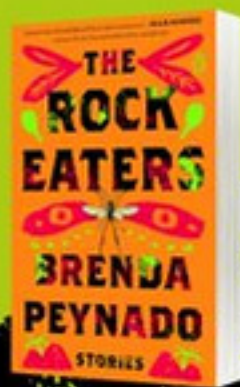
What Everyone Should Know about the Shingles Vaccine (Shingrix)

Shingles vaccination is the only way to protect against shingles and [postherpetic neuralgia](#) (PHN), the most common complication from shingles. CDC recommends that healthy adults 50 years and older get two doses of the shingles vaccine called Shingrix (recombinant zoster vaccine), separated by 2 to 6 months, to prevent shingles and the complications from the disease. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you Shingrix as a shot in your upper arm.

Shingrix provides strong protection against shingles and PHN. Two doses of Shingrix is more than 90% effective at preventing shingles and PHN. Protection stays above 85% for at least the first four years after you get vaccinated.

"A genre-bending sociopolitical commentary with prose that shines."

—THE WASHINGTON POST



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Dominican-American, germophobe, stories in O. Henry Prize, Pushcart Prize, Nelson Algren Award, Best American SFF. THE ROCK EATERS from Penguin in May 2021!

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Te-Ping Chen @tepingchen · May 11

A very happy pub day to @BrendaPeynado, whose gorgeous book THE ROCK EATERS is out today! heartily recommended bit.ly/3bCuyDR

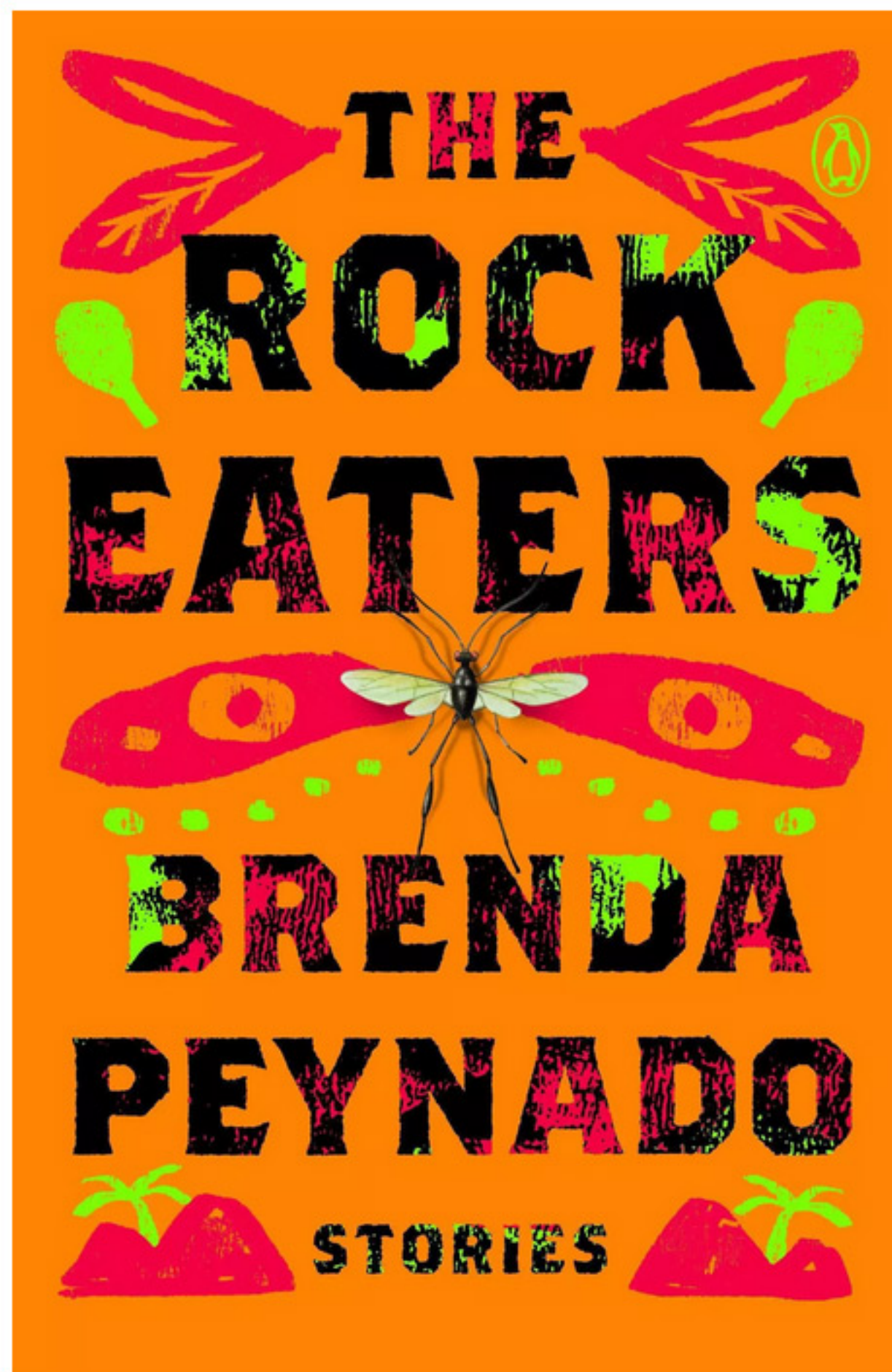
Was a treat to chat w/her earlier this year about magic, politics & Slaughterhouse-Five:



Resisting the Easy Impulse: Te-Ping Chen in Conversation with Brenda P...
I also love the way that surreality and exaggeration can work in short stories in ways that they don't often in novels. The wilder the conceit, th...
themillions.com

1 4 11

"We were the first generation to leave our island country. We were the ones who developed a distinct float to our walk on the day we came of age," begins *The Rock Eaters'* title story. Peynado is Dominican American; however, she's not speaking of the Dominican Republic, at least not literally. Instead, these islanders trek beyond their mythic homeland not by floating in boats, but via their newfound ability to walk on air. In the author's fabulist hands, the grotesque ritual of eating of rocks becomes a symbol of assimilation and diaspora itself.



To navigate the dangers of the web, you need critical thinking – but also critical ignoring

May 14, 2021 8.37am EDT

 [Sam Wineburg](#), *Stanford University*

The web is a treacherous place. A website's author may not be its author. References that confer legitimacy may have little to do with the claims they anchor. Signals of credibility like a dot-org domain can be the artful handiwork of a Washington, D.C., public relations maven. Unless you possess multiple Ph.D.'s – in virology, economics and the intricacies of immigration policy – often the wisest thing to do when landing on an unfamiliar site is to ignore it.

Learning to ignore information is not something taught in school. School teaches the opposite: to read a text thoroughly and closely before rendering judgment. Anything short of that is rash. Transparent, research-based, written by experts – and always free. But on the web, where a witches' brew of advertisers, lobbyists, conspiracy theorists and foreign governments conspire to hijack attention, the same strategy spells doom. Online, critical ignoring is just as important as critical thinking.

Spending a few moments vetting the site by drawing on the awesome powers of the open web, we regain control and with it our most precious resource: Our attention.

Kids can be taught to read the web critically. Os Tartarouchos/Moment/Getty Images



Newsom's spending binge reshapes California recall election

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD Saturday, May 15, 2021



FILE - In this Tuesday, May 11, 2021, file photo, California Gov. Gavin Newsom joins a cleanup effort in Los Angeles. Newsom on Tuesday proposed \$12 billion in new funding to get more people experiencing homelessness in the state into housing and to "functionally end family homelessness" within five years. A fading coronavirus crisis and an astounding windfall of tax dollars have reshuffled California's emerging recall election, allowing Democratic Gov. Newsom to talk of a mask-free future and propose billions in new spending for schools and businesses as he looks to fend off Republicans who depict him as a foppish failure. (AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez, File)

Thad Kousser, a political science professor at the University of California, San Diego, said a lot will change by the time voters go to the polls. Will the massive investment in homelessness make a change? Will Newsom suffer another self-inflicted wound like his trip to the French Laundry?

"Right now the recall is not in the hands of the governor or its backers. This is all about the direction of the state," he said. "What really matters is where we are in the fall."

What The New Mask Guidance Means For Unvaccinated Kids — And Their Parents

May 14, 2021 · 6:54 PM ET



LAUREL WAMSLEY



For vaccinated parents, it's okay to remove your masks, Landon says: "As long as everybody in your family, including yourself, are low-risk, it's probably fine for you to have an unmasked lifestyle now."

But she says parents might want to keep wearing a mask when they're out with their kids, to set a good example for them.



A girl and her father wear facemasks while they push their bikes last summer in Hermosa Beach, Los Angeles. There aren't yet coronavirus vaccines approved in the U.S. for kids under 12 — which means they should keep masking, according to the CDC.

Apu Gomes/AFP via Getty Images

New teachers face complex cultural challenges – the stories of 3 Latina teachers in their toughest moments

As these three accounts indicate, teachers in their first year of teaching must navigate various concerns – and sometimes concerns that conflict – among parents, students and administrators. Knowing this in advance can help teachers better prepare for the various cultural dilemmas they are likely to face in today’s classroom and beyond.

May 14, 2021 8.46am EDT

 [Teresa Sosa, IUPUI](#)



Identity and race play significant factors in the first-year experiences of Latina teachers in the U.S.

The Latest Target In China's Crackdown On Entrepreneurs Is An Outspoken Billionaire

May 15, 2021 · 6:01 AM ET



EMILY FENG



BAODING, HEBEI, CHINA — Billionaire Sun Dawu built an agriculture empire just outside Beijing. To accommodate approximately 9,000 employees and their families, he created a self-contained company town replete with free hospitals, schools and a sports stadium, all named after himself. Now his conglomerate, the Dawu Agricultural and Animal Husbandry Group, is slipping out of his control, as he faces trial next week over what appear to be politically motivated charges.

In late April, local authorities arrested Sun and 20 employees — many of them his own family members — after a minor property dispute turned violent. They already had been in detention for half a year over a common administrative issue, for which Sun now faces eight criminal charges, including illegal mining and "seeking quarrels and provoking trouble." He denies them all. Over the years, the 67-year-old farmer turned tycoon has defiantly befriended and supported Chinese political dissidents. Now he may become one himself. His businesses are temporarily in government hands.



In January 1929, Dr. L.E. Bensom of Los Angeles used his vacation to mush to native villages in Alaska. At the close of a particularly hard day on the trail, he found himself with 70 patients on his hands, all suffering from smallpox. There were 100 people in the village with no medical facilities.

Bettmann/Getty Images



Dr. Sergen Saracoglu (left) and nurse Yilzdz Ayten (center) arrive at the village of Guneyyamac in Turkey on Feb. 15 as part of an expedition to vaccinate residents 65 years and over with Sinovac's CoronaVac COVID-19 vaccine.

Bulent Kilic/AFP via Getty Images



In 1900, a young cow is tied onto a table waiting for the extraction of pox sore to be used for vaccines for smallpox.

Berliner Illustrations Gesellschaft/ullstein bild via Getty Images



Left: Thousands of New Yorkers, on an appeal by government officials, came to city hospitals and health stations to get vaccinated against smallpox. Here a crowd lines up outside a Bronx hospital in April 1947. Right: In an aerial view from a drone, cars line up for a mass COVID-19 vaccination event in January in Denver.

Bettmann/Getty Images; Michael Ciaglo/Getty Images



Left: A West German Navy vessel hands over vaccines to the U.S. transport General Patch in July 1957 for people sick with the Asiatic flu. The ship was anchored off Bremerhaven, West Germany, after a flu outbreak. Right: Health workers use a speedboat to make their way to vaccinate Quilombo communities against COVID-19 in Oriximiná, Brazil, in February.

Henry Brueggemann/AP; Tarso Sarraf/AFP via Getty Images



Left: A drawing of a human with a cow head holding a needle menacingly toward a child as he administers a tainted smallpox vaccination was meant to sow distrust of smallpox vaccines.

Right: Protesters against COVID-19 vaccinations hold a rally in Sydney in February.

Bettman/Getty Images; Brook Mitchell/Getty Images



Boys stand in line to be vaccinated through the smallpox eradication and measles control program in West Africa in 1968. While smallpox has been eradicated, measles remains a leading cause of death among young children, even though a safe and cost-effective vaccine is available, the World Health Organization says.

Smith Collection/Gado/Getty Images



People wait to see if they have a reaction after receiving COVID-19 vaccines at a vaccination center in February at Salisbury Cathedral in Salisbury, England.

Dan Kitwood/Getty Images



Marie Josette Francou (right), a Red Cross nurse, vaccinates a child against cholera in 1953 in Indochina (now Vietnam).

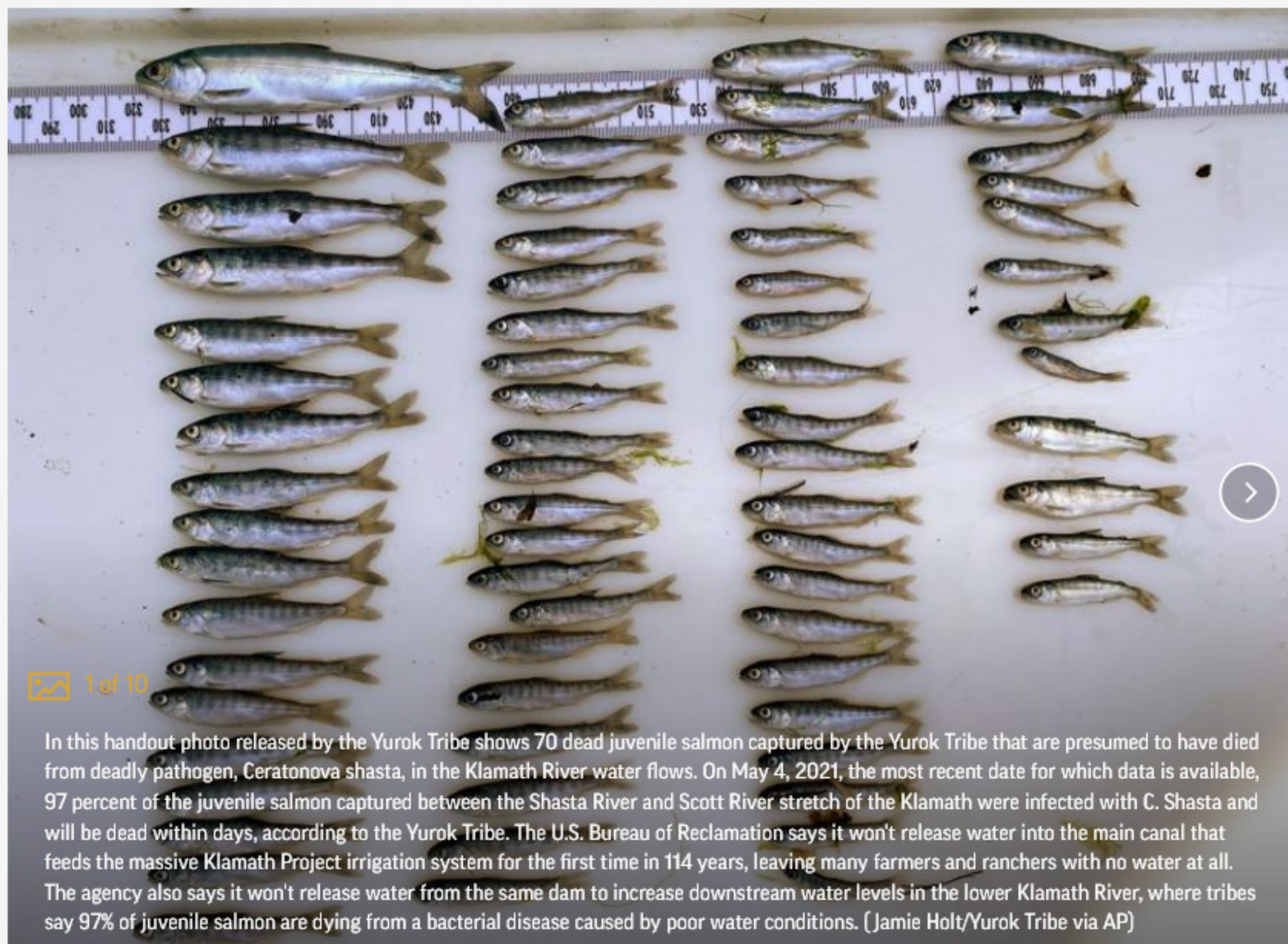


Two men, wearing personal protective equipment, visit the grave of a relative in a public cemetery, reserved for suspected COVID-19 victims, in December in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Ulet Ifansasti/Getty Images

Water crisis 'couldn't be worse' on Oregon-California border

By GILLIAN FLACCUS Saturday, May 15, 2021



In this handout photo released by the Yurok Tribe shows 70 dead juvenile salmon captured by the Yurok Tribe that are presumed to have died from deadly pathogen, *Ceratonova shasta*, in the Klamath River water flows. On May 4, 2021, the most recent date for which data is available, 97 percent of the juvenile salmon captured between the Shasta River and Scott River stretch of the Klamath were infected with *C. Shasta* and will be dead within days, according to the Yurok Tribe. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation says it won't release water into the main canal that feeds the massive Klamath Project irrigation system for the first time in 114 years, leaving many farmers and ranchers with no water at all. The agency also says it won't release water from the same dam to increase downstream water levels in the lower Klamath River, where tribes say 97% of juvenile salmon are dying from a bacterial disease caused by poor water conditions. (Jamie Holt/Yurok Tribe via AP)

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The water crisis along the California-Oregon border went from dire to catastrophic this week as federal regulators shut off irrigation water to farmers from a critical reservoir and said they would not send extra water to dying salmon downstream or to a half-dozen wildlife refuges that harbor millions of migrating birds each year.

In what is shaping up to be the worst water crisis in generations, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation said it will not release water this season into the main canal that feeds the bulk of the massive Klamath Reclamation Project, marking a first for the 114-year-old irrigation system. The agency announced last month that hundreds of irrigators would get dramatically less water than usual, but a worsening drought picture means water will be completely shut off instead.

The entire region is in extreme or exceptional drought, according to federal monitoring reports, and Oregon's Klamath County is experiencing its driest year in 127 years.

The situation in the Klamath Basin was set in motion more than a century ago, when the U.S. government began draining a network of shallow lakes and marshlands, redirecting the natural flow of water and constructing hundreds of miles of canals and drainage channels to create farmland. Homesteads were offered by lottery to World War II veterans.

Russian Show 'Fake News' Wages Lone Battle Against The Kremlin's TV Propaganda

May 15, 2021 · 7:00 AM ET



Although Russians can tune out via dozens of entertainment and sports networks, there is almost no news alternative to government propaganda on Russian television — save for one channel, Dozhd, also known as TV Rain.

"We don't choose our topics, our friends at state television do. We talk about what they talk about," Borzunova says after taping the show at TV Rain's studios in a converted Moscow factory. "Propaganda isn't just about fake news or outright lies," she says. "State media can also tell just that part of the truth that's convenient for the government."

Fake News has picked up a loyal following on YouTube, where a weekly episode can easily get more than half a million views.

Editor's note: The fight against disinformation has become a facet of nearly every story NPR international correspondents cover, from vaccine hesitancy to authoritarian governments spreading lies. This and other stories by correspondents around the globe focus on different tactics to combat disinformation, the impacts they've had and what other countries might learn from them.



Journalist Masha Borzunova during a taping of the show Fake News in TV Rain's Moscow studios.

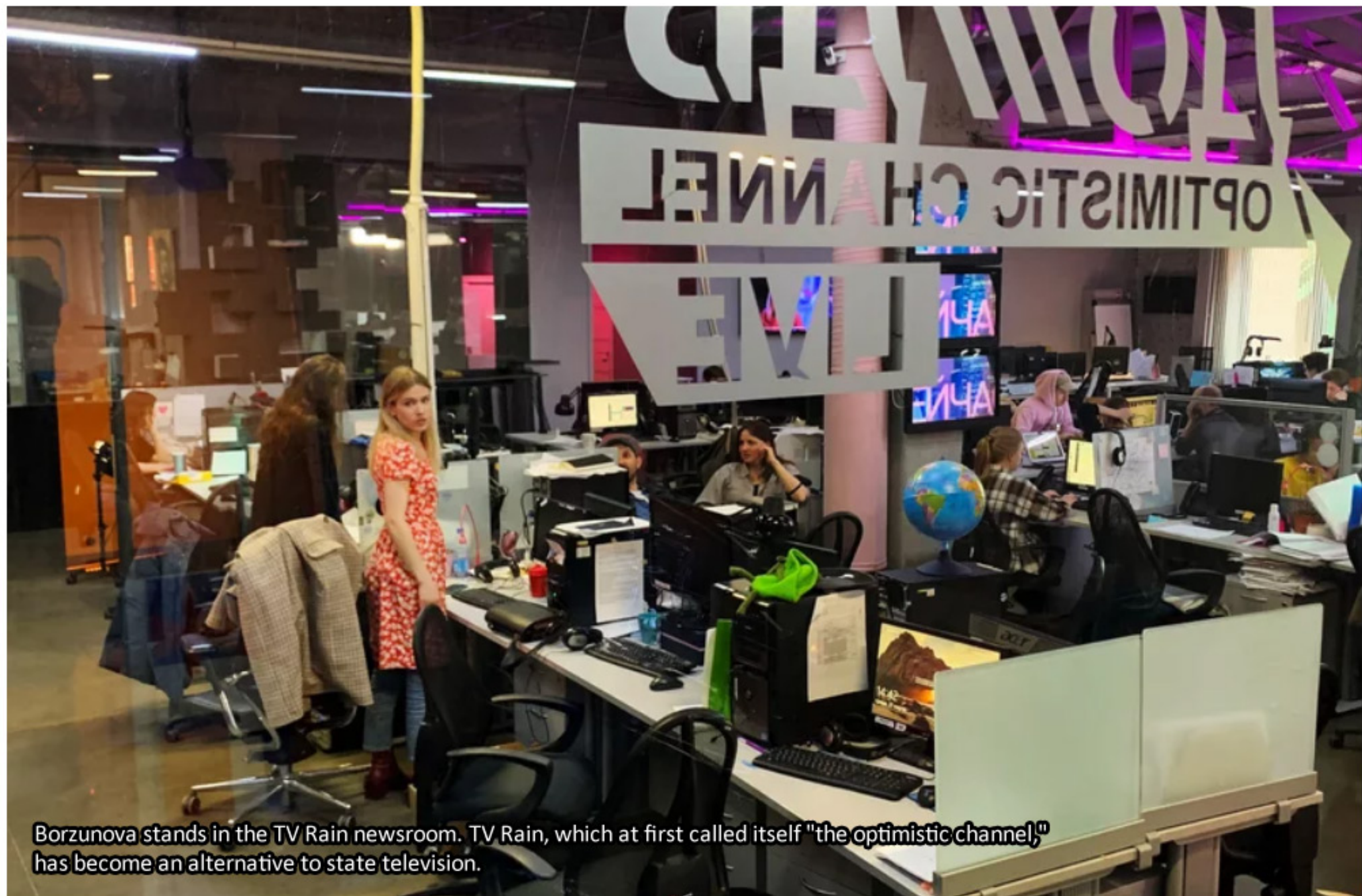
Russian Show 'Fake News' Wages Lone Battle Against The Kremlin's TV Propaganda

May 15, 2021 · 7:00 AM ET



Disinformation in Russia is worse now than during the communist era, according to Sindeyeva. In Soviet times, people understood that government media lied, she says, but today there are so many sources of information that people don't know what to believe anymore.

"Our job is to give people the chance to make up their own minds," she says. "As long as there are free spaces on the Internet, people should decide for themselves if they want to be deceived."



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Borzunova stands in the TV Rain newsroom. TV Rain, which at first called itself "the optimistic channel," has become an alternative to state television.

Israeli Strike In Gaza Destroys Building That Housed AP, Other Media

Updated May 15, 2021 - 8:50 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A building housing various international media, including The Associated Press, collapses after an Israeli airstrike on Saturday in Gaza City.

AP

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — An Israeli airstrike destroyed a high-rise building in Gaza City that housed offices of The Associated Press and other media outlets on Saturday, **the latest step by the military to silence reporting from the territory amid its battle with the militant group Hamas.**

The strike came nearly an hour after the military ordered people to evacuate the building, which also housed Al-Jazeera, other offices and residential apartments. The strike brought the entire 12-story building down, collapsing with a gigantic cloud of dust. There was no immediate explanation for why it was attacked.

The strike came hours after another Israeli air raid on a densely populated refugee camp in Gaza City killed at least 10 Palestinians from an extended family, mostly children, in the deadliest single strike of the current conflict. Both sides pressed for an advantage as cease-fire efforts gathered strength.

The latest outburst of violence began in Jerusalem and has spread across the region, with Jewish-Arab clashes and rioting in mixed cities of Israel. There were also widespread Palestinian protests Friday in the occupied West Bank, where Israeli forces shot and killed 11 people.

The tensions began in east Jerusalem earlier this month, with Palestinian protests against the Sheikh Jarrah evictions and Israeli police measures at Al-Aqsa Mosque, a frequent flashpoint located on a mount in the Old City revered by Muslims and Jews.

Hamas fired rockets toward Jerusalem late Monday, in an apparent attempt to present itself as the champion of the protesters.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed that Hamas will "pay a very heavy price" for its rocket attacks as Israel has massed troops at the frontier. U.S. President Joe Biden has expressed support for Israel while saying he hopes to bring the violence under control.

Hamas has fired some 2,000 rockets toward Israel since Monday, according to the Israeli military. Most have been intercepted by anti-missile defenses, but they have brought life to a standstill in southern Israeli cities, caused disruptions at airports and have set off air raid sirens in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

The building housing the offices of The Associated Press and other media in Gaza City collapses after it was hit by an Israeli airstrike Saturday, May 15, 2021. The attack came roughly an hour after the Israeli military warned people to evacuate the building, which also housed Al-Jazeera and a number of offices and apartments. There was no immediate explanation for why the building was targeted. (AP Photo/Hatem Moussa)



A woman reacts while standing on the rubble of a building that was destroyed by an Israeli airstrike on Saturday that housed The Associated Press, broadcaster Al-Jazeera and other media outlets, in Gaza City, Sunday, May 16, 2021. (AP Photo/Adel Hana)



A Palestinian man carries a dead child taken out of the rubble of a destroyed residential building following Israeli airstrikes in Gaza City, Sunday, May 16, 2021. The Israeli airstrikes flattened three buildings and killed at least 26 people Sunday, medics said. (AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)



Halston: The glittering rise – and spectacular fall – of a fashion icon

May 14, 2021 8:46am EDT

👤 Jennifer Gordon, Sara Marcketti, Iowa State University

Walk into any department store, and you'll get a sense of the powerful brands built by high-end American designers: Calvin Klein, Michael Kors, Ralph Lauren, Donna Karan. They created veritable fashion empires by leveraging their names to create lower-priced lines and sign profitable licensing agreements. But before them all, there was Roy Halston Frowick – better known by the singular appellation Halston. Halston became one of the earliest American designers to extend his brand to multiple price points. In doing so, he made designs that were normally out of reach for everyday Americans available to the masses. But as fashion historians, we'll often tell Halston's story as a cautionary one. Though he made style seem effortless, his relationship with the fashion industry was anything but uncomplicated.

Halston with the Halstonettes – a group of models who were part of his entourage – at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City in 1980.



First lady Jacqueline Kennedy donned one of Halston's iconic pillbox hats on Inauguration Day in 1961.

42% In The U.S. Can't Name A Single Prominent Asian American, A Survey Finds

May 16, 2021 · 9:38 PM ET

DUSTIN JONES 

A recent survey found that nearly 80% of Asian Americans don't feel respected and say they are discriminated against by their fellow Americans. Additionally, a significant portion of respondents of multiple races said they were unaware of an increase in hate crimes and racism against Asian Americans over the past year.

The [survey](#), commissioned by the new nonprofit Leading Asian Americans to Unite for Change (LAAUNCH), was based on responses from 2,766 U.S. residents between March 29 and April 14.

Other results found 90% of Black Americans and 73% of Hispanic/Latino Americans say they are discriminated against in the U.S.

The survey found 55% of respondents that identify as Republican said Asian Americans are either treated fairly or better than others. Conversely, 77% of those who identified as Democrats believe Asian Americans are discriminated against.

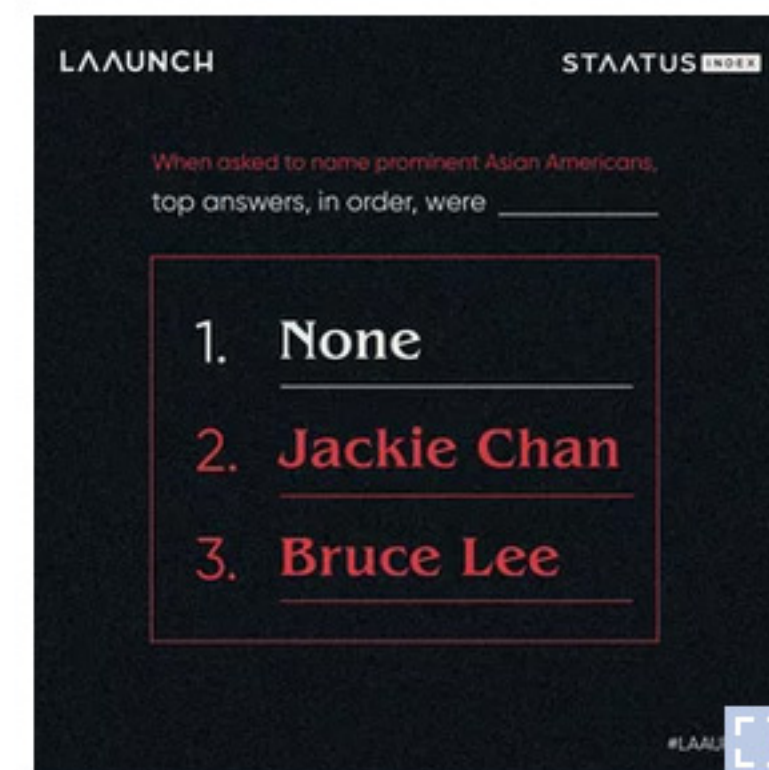
Hate crimes against Asian Americans, ranging from verbal abuse to violent attacks, increased in several cities in 2020 from 2019. And six Asian American women were killed on March 16 in [spa shootings in Atlanta](#).

According to the survey, 37% of white Americans, 30% of Black Americans, 24% of Hispanic Americans and 13% of Asian Americans said they are unaware of an uptick in hate crimes against Asian Americans.



A recent study indicates that approximately 80% of Asian Americans feel a lack of respect and a sense of discrimination from fellow Americans.

LAAUNCH



When asked if they could name a prominent Asian American in the United States, 42% of respondents couldn't name one. Other top answers were Jackie Chan and Bruce Lee.

LAAUNCH

The survey also asked about how people perceive Asian Americans in television and movies.

"Most Asian Americans are still in stereotypical roles — waiters, sex workers, kung fu guys — the roles are always one dimensional and stereotypical," Chen says. "Our data just really reinforced the opportunity for us to create well-rounded, prominent characters in movies and TV."

Chen says this is the first survey of American sentiments regarding Asian Americans in 20 years. The organization plans to conduct the survey every year to track progress of attitudes toward Asian Americans.

"The trajectory of Asian American sentiment is going in a direction that we don't want to see," Chen says. "We want to shape that trajectory in a more favorable direction. We can have more role models of Asian Americans for people to see and emulate."

STUDENT PODCAST CHALLENGE

The Best Student Podcasts: An 8th-Grade Homage To A School's Unsung Heroes

When these Kentucky students needed a subject for their podcast, they looked to the bright blue office around the corner, where their school's buildings and grounds team is based.

▪ **'Be Proud Of Where You Come From': An Indian-American Teen's Winning Podcast**



Eighth-graders Braeden Collett (left), Bo Porter, Brennan Williams and Dominique Jannat explored the "various things that get done behind the scenes" to make their campus run smoothly in their winning podcast "Whodunnit?"

Arden Barnes for NPR



Frederic J. Brown=/AFP via Getty Images

GOATS AND SODA

Coronavirus FAQ: Should I Get My Antibodies Checked After I Get Vaccinated?

The short answer is — no. Immunology experts say there is little to be gained, for now, from an antibody test, for a number of reasons.

THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Houses Of Worship Grapple With The Vaxxed And Unvaxxed Divide

WPLN NEWS

Congregations are figuring out how to safely meet in person now that the COVID-19 vaccine is more widely available. But vaccination remains divisive even as it allows them to come together again.



Blake Farmer/WPLN News

Sharks use Earth's magnetic field as a GPS, scientists say



In this Sept. 2015 photo taken by Colby Griffiths on the North Edisto River in South Carolina, scientist Bryan Keller holds a bonnethead shark. Keller is among a group of scientists that found sharks use the Earth's magnetic field as a sort of natural GPS when they navigate journeys that take them thousands of miles

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Sharks use the Earth's magnetic field as a sort of natural GPS to navigate journeys that take them great distances across the world's oceans, scientists have found.

Researchers said their marine laboratory experiments with a small species of shark confirm long-held speculation that sharks use magnetic fields as aids to navigation — behavior observed in other marine animals such as sea turtles.

Their study, published this month in the journal [Current Biology](#), also sheds light on why sharks are able to traverse seas and find their way back to feed, breed and give birth, said marine policy specialist Bryan Keller, one of the study authors.

“We know that sharks can respond to magnetic fields,” Keller said. “We didn’t know that they detected it to use as an aid in navigation ... You have sharks that can travel 20,000 kilometers (12,427 miles) and end up in the same spot.”

The question of how sharks perform long-distance migrations has intrigued researchers for years. The sharks undertake their journeys in the open ocean where they encounter few physical features such as corals that could serve as landmarks.

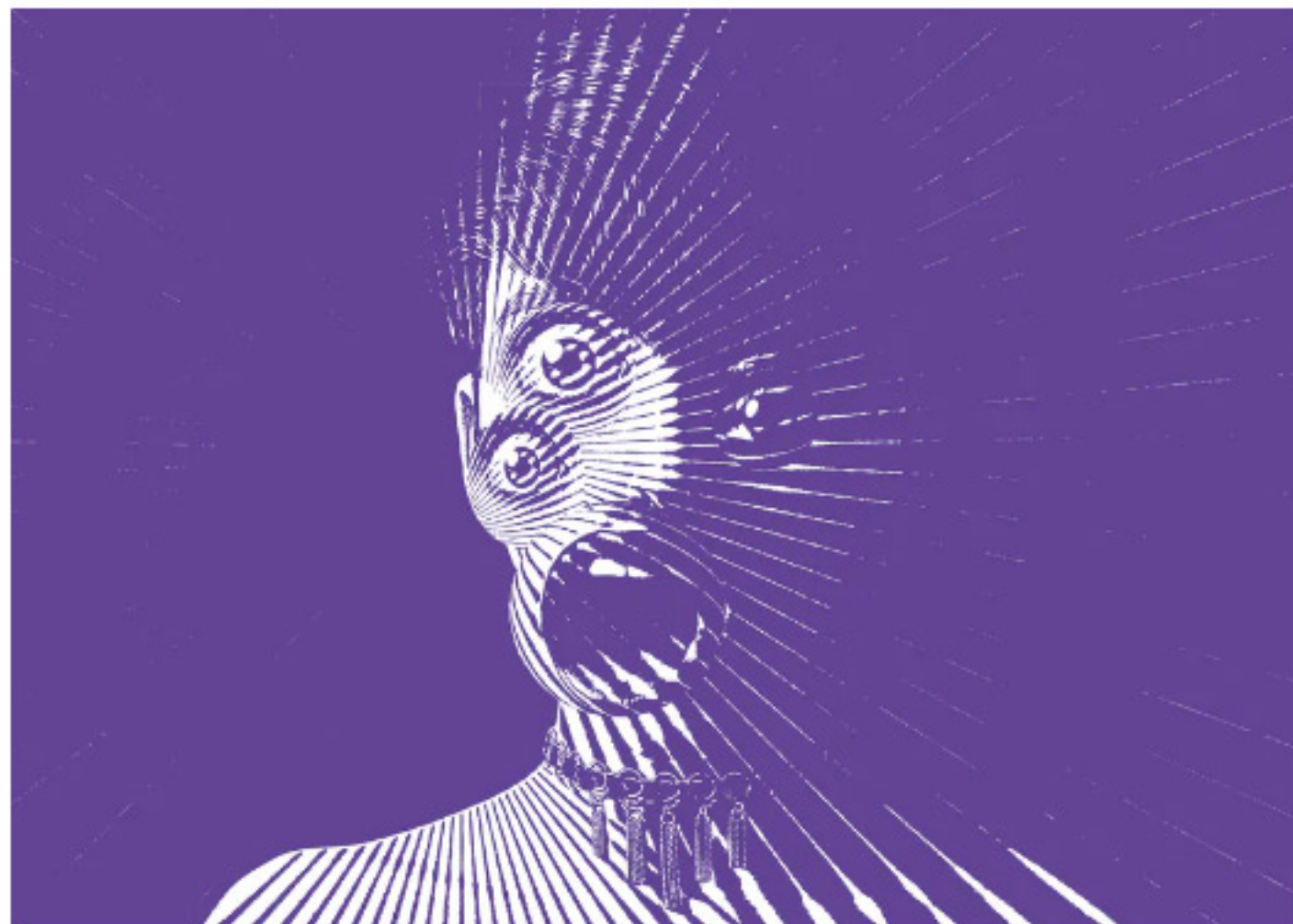
Looking for answers, scientists based at Florida State University decided to study bonnethead sharks — a kind of hammerhead that lives on both American coasts and returns to the same estuaries every year.

Researchers exposed 20 bonnetheads to magnetic conditions that simulated locations hundreds of kilometers (miles) away from where they were caught off Florida. The scientists found that the sharks began to swim north when the magnetic cues made them think they were south of where they should be.

Why do we hate the sound of our own voices?

May 17, 2021 8:26am EDT

Neel Bhatt, University of Washington



Your voice, when played back to you, can sound unrecognizable. GeorgePeters/Getty Images

As a surgeon who specializes in treating patients with voice problems, I routinely record my patients speaking. For me, these recordings are incredibly valuable. They allow me to track slight changes in their voices from visit to visit, and it helps confirm whether surgery or voice therapy led to improvements.

Yet I'm surprised by how difficult these sessions can be for my patients. Many become visibly uncomfortable upon hearing their voice played back to them.

"Do I really sound like that?" they wonder, wincing.

(Yes, you do.)

The discomfort we have over hearing our voices in audio recordings is probably due to a mix of physiology and psychology.

For one, the sound from an audio recording is transmitted differently to your brain than the sound generated when you speak.

When listening to a recording of your voice, the sound travels through the air and into your ears – what's referred to as "air conduction." The sound energy vibrates the ear drum and small ear bones. These bones then transmit the sound vibrations to the cochlea, which stimulates nerve axons that send the auditory signal to the brain.

However, when you speak, the sound from your voice reaches the inner ear in a different way. While some of the sound is transmitted through air conduction, much of the sound is internally conducted directly through your skull bones. When you hear your own voice when you speak, it's due to a blend of both external and internal conduction, and internal bone conduction appears to boost the lower frequencies.

For this reason, people generally perceive their voice as deeper and richer when they speak. The recorded voice, in comparison, can sound thinner and higher pitched, which many find cringeworthy.

So if the voice in your head castigates the voice coming out of a recording device, it's probably your inner critic overreacting – and you're judging yourself a bit too harshly.

Your voice, when played back to you, can sound unrecognizable. *GeorgePeters/Getty Images*



<https://www.npr.org/2021/05/14/996680203/underground-railroad-is-a-hard-but-beautiful-reflection-on-black-pain>

<https://www.npr.org/2021/05/13/996578434/the-underground-railroad-is-a-brutal-yet-beautiful-ride>

'The Underground Railroad' Is A Brutal Yet Beautiful Ride

May 17, 2021 - 12:01 AM ET



GLEN WELDON



ERIC DEGGANS



JOELLE MONIQUE

BEDATRI D. CHOUDHURY



'Underground Railroad' Is A Hard But Beautiful Reflection On Black Pain

May 14, 2021 - 6:51 AM ET



ERIC DEGGANS



The new Amazon series *The Underground Railroad* is the latest project from Barry Jenkins, who directed *Moonlight* and *If Beale Street Could Talk*. It's the story of Cora, a runaway slave in the antebellum South, who escapes a vicious Georgia plantation and sets off on a journey toward freedom aboard the mysterious and entirely literal underground railroad. It's many contradictory things at once: lyrical yet brutal, luminous yet horrifying.



Barry Jenkins served as showrunner, executive producer, writer and director to the 10-part Amazon series, *The Underground Railroad*.

Author John Green Explores How To Live In Uncertainty In 'The Anthropocene Reviewed'

May 18, 2021 · 11:45 AM ET

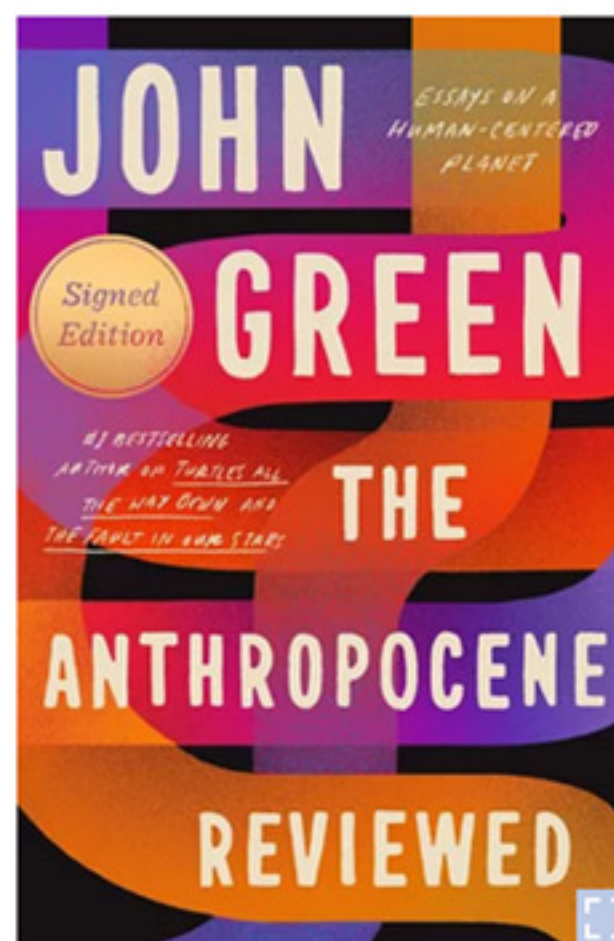
ADAM FRANK

For most of human existence, things didn't change much within a single lifetime.

If you lived a thousand years ago, the tools you used were probably the same ones as your great grandparents. And other than big events like a volcano, the physical world didn't change much either.

Not anymore. Now we live in the Great Acceleration, also known as the Anthropocene, where even the Earth gets updates to its apps. Change (like global warming and pandemics) is the hallmark of this new era. How to live in the midst its uncertainty without falling into despair is *the* open question. In his new book, *The Anthropocene Reviewed*, John Green uses humor, wisdom and a keen sense of connections to offer us something like an answer.

Green begins by pointing out a unique feature of our cultural moment. "In the years since I'd been a book reviewer," he writes, "everyone had become a reviewer and everything a subject of review." Driving with his brother through Badlands National Park, he checks its Google reviews to find "Not enough mountain." Later he discovers a review of a bench in Amsterdam, made famous via a scene in the movie version of *The Fault In Our Stars*. "It's a bench," says the reviewer. Green takes the absurdist quality of these judgments to heart by building a book made of more than 40 short essays, each acting as a "review" of some aspect of our lives in the Anthropocene.



In the essay "Human Temporal Range" Green uses the idea of species longevity (i.e., their temporal range) to muse on Anthropocene dread and the fear of our own extinction. He notes that species have always been coming and going. We humans haven't even been around very long. We're are younger than coyotes, blue whales and turtles, so would the Earth really miss us that much if we go? While this gives him some helpful perspective, Green does, of course, want us to go on. "What scares me about the end of humanity is the end of all those memories..." Green laments, "if no one is around to play Billie Holiday records those songs won't make a sound anymore. We've caused a lot of suffering, but we've also caused much else."

So, by way of hope, Green gives "human temporal range" 4 stars out 5.

What Green is really telling us with these unexpected stories about Sycamore Trees, Canada Geese and Dr. Pepper is how much there is to love in the world and why that love is worth the effort. As he writes, "To fall in love with the world isn't to ignore or overlook suffering both human and otherwise We all know how loving ends. But I want to fall in love anyway, to let it crack me open." The point, says Green — giving us Maurice Sendak's final words — is simple even in, and perhaps especially because of, these challenging times: "Live your life, live your life, live your life."

Adam Frank is an astrophysics professor at the University of Rochester and author of [Light of the Stars: Alien Worlds and the Fate of the Earth](#). You can find more from Adam here: [@adamfrank4](#).



An·thro·po·cene

adjective

relating to or denoting the current geological age, viewed as the period during which human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and the environment.

"we've become a major force of nature in this new Anthropocene epoch"

noun

"some geologists argue that the Anthropocene began with the Industrial Revolution"

Author John Green Explores How To Live In Uncertainty In 'The Anthropocene Reviewed'

May 18, 2021 · 11:45 AM ET

ADAM FRANK

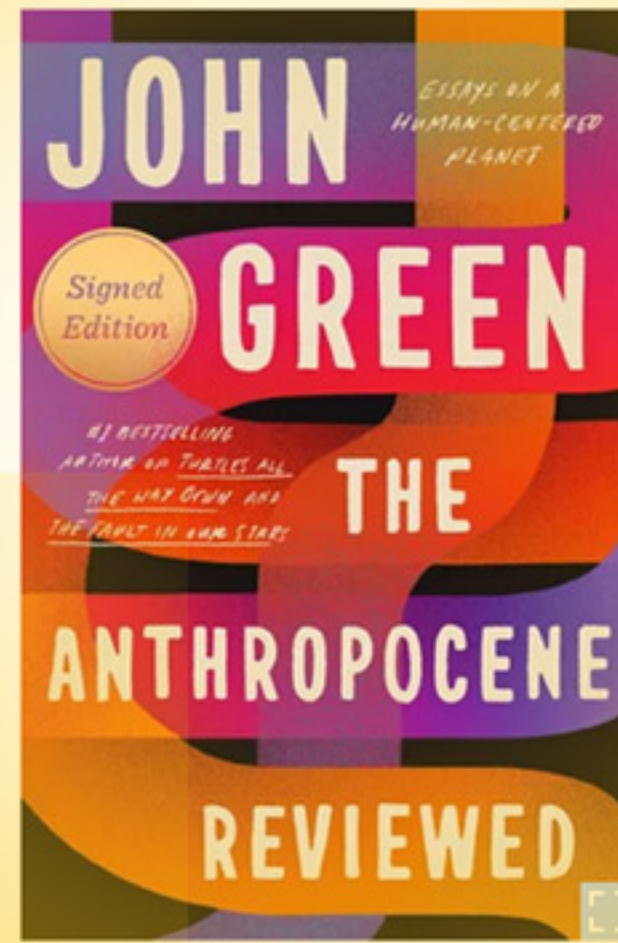
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And so it goes. *Jurassic Park's* computer generated velociraptors get just 3 stars because while Green loves them, the real ones were much shorter and probably not very scary. CNN, and all of cable news, get just 2 stars for hindering our chances of dealing with the complex issues of the Anthropocene. The Internet gets 3 stars for being, well, the Internet. "Plague" unsurprisingly gets 1 star (though the essay is an easy 5). And Googling strangers, deservedly, gets 4.

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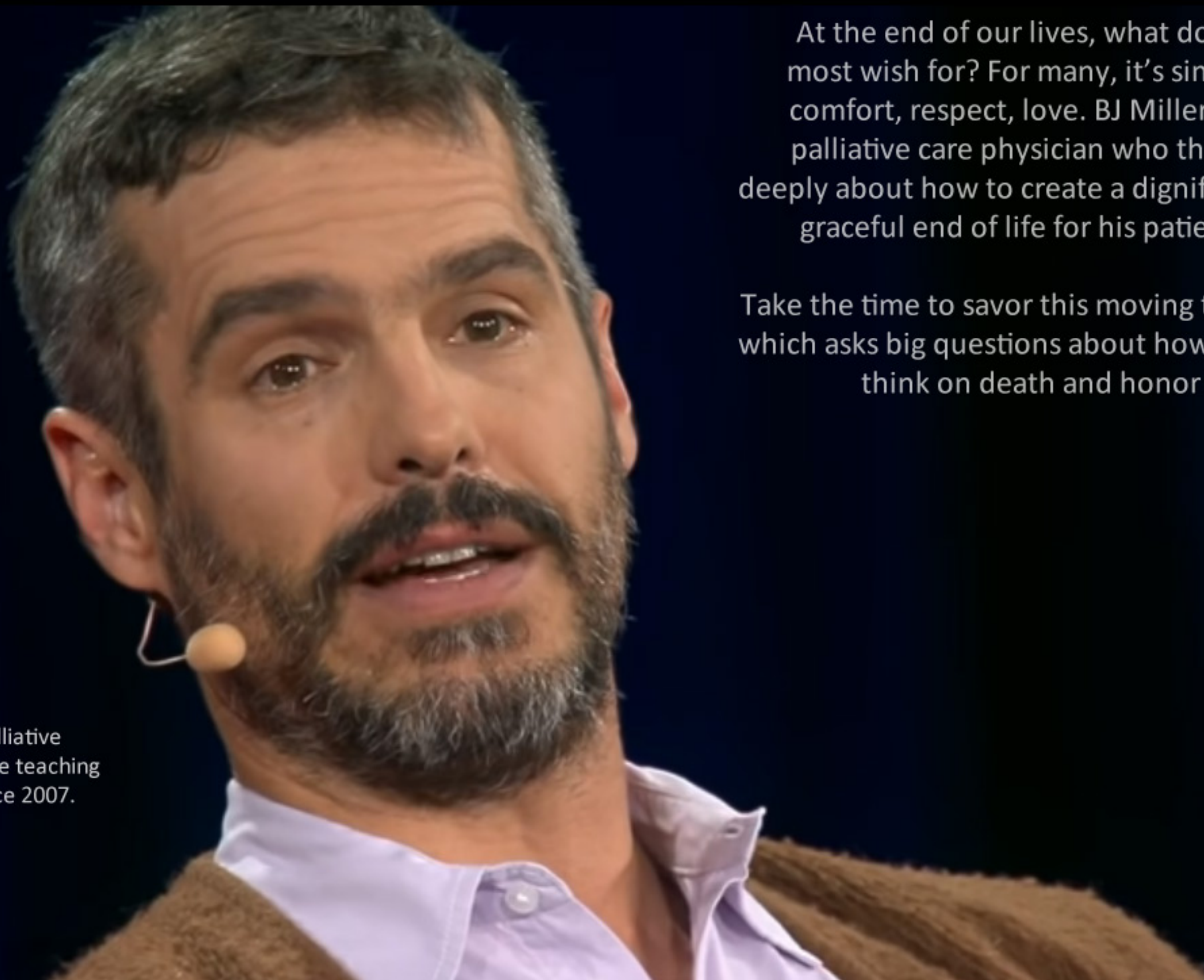
noun

"some geologists argue that the Anthropocene began with the Industrial Revolution"

What really matters at the end of life | BJ Miller



<https://youtu.be/apbSs1Ulh28>



At the end of our lives, what do we most wish for? For many, it's simply comfort, respect, love. BJ Miller is a palliative care physician who thinks deeply about how to create a dignified, graceful end of life for his patients.

Take the time to savor this moving talk, which asks big questions about how we think on death and honor life.

BJ Miller is a practicing hospice and palliative medicine physician and has been on the teaching faculty at UCSF School of Medicine since 2007.

Play (k)



10:35 / 19:07

BJ Miller - Dying and Living in a Plague Year

Jun 26, 2020



<https://youtu.be/5YDbq7vBT-A>

Michael Lerner and hospice and palliative care physician and educator BJ Miller about grief, public versus personal health, managing social distance while keeping the felt world alive, self-deliverance, and what to look for on the other side of the pandemic.

TNS The New School at
COMMONWEAL

Presents: BJ Miller:
Living and Dying
in a Plague Year



BJ Miller, MD
Hospice & Palliative Care Physician, Educator

Michael Lerner
President, Commonweal

88% of children covered by monthly payments starting in July

By JOSH BOAK today



President Joe Biden speaks about distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, in the East Room of the White House, Monday, May 17, 2021, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)



NATIONAL

What The New Monthly Child Tax Credits Mean For You And Your Family

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Treasury Department said Monday that 39 million families are set to receive monthly child payments beginning on July 15.

The payments are part of President Joe Biden's [\\$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package](#), which expanded the child tax credit for one year and made it possible to pre-pay the benefits on a monthly basis. Nearly 88% of children are set to receive the benefits without their parents needing to take any additional action.

"This tax cut sends a clear and powerful message to American workers, working families with children: Help is here," Biden said in remarks at the White House.

Qualified families will receive a payment of up to \$300 per month for each child under 6 and up to \$250 per month for children between the ages of 6 and 17. The child tax credit was previously capped at \$2,000 and only paid out to families with income tax obligations after they filed with the IRS.

"For working families with children, this tax cut sends a clear message: Help is here," said President Biden in a [Monday statement](#).

But for this year, couples earning \$150,000 or less can receive the full payments on the 15th of each month, in most cases by direct deposit. The benefits total \$3,600 annually for children under 6 and \$3,000 for those who are older. The IRS will determine eligibility based on the 2019 and 2020 tax years, but people will also be able to update their status through an online portal. The administration is also setting up another online portal for non-filers who might be eligible for the child tax credit.

The president has proposed an extension of the increased child tax credit through 2025 as part of his [\\$1.8 trillion families plan](#). Outside analysts estimate that the payments could essentially halve child poverty. The expanded credits could cost roughly \$100 billion a year.

COVID vaccines can block variant hitting Asia, lab study finds

Assays using live SARS-CoV-2 offer hope that the vaccines made by Pfizer and Moderna will protect against a viral strain first seen in India.

Nidhi Subbaraman

Tuesday, May 18, 2021



A health worker gives a second dose of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine to Maria Valdemar in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Credit: Joseph Prezioso/AFP/Getty

Gold-standard experiments on two COVID-19 vaccines suggest that they confer immunity against a subtype of the SARS-CoV-2 variant tearing through India. But the research also hints that this subtype is more resistant to antibodies than are other forms of the virus.

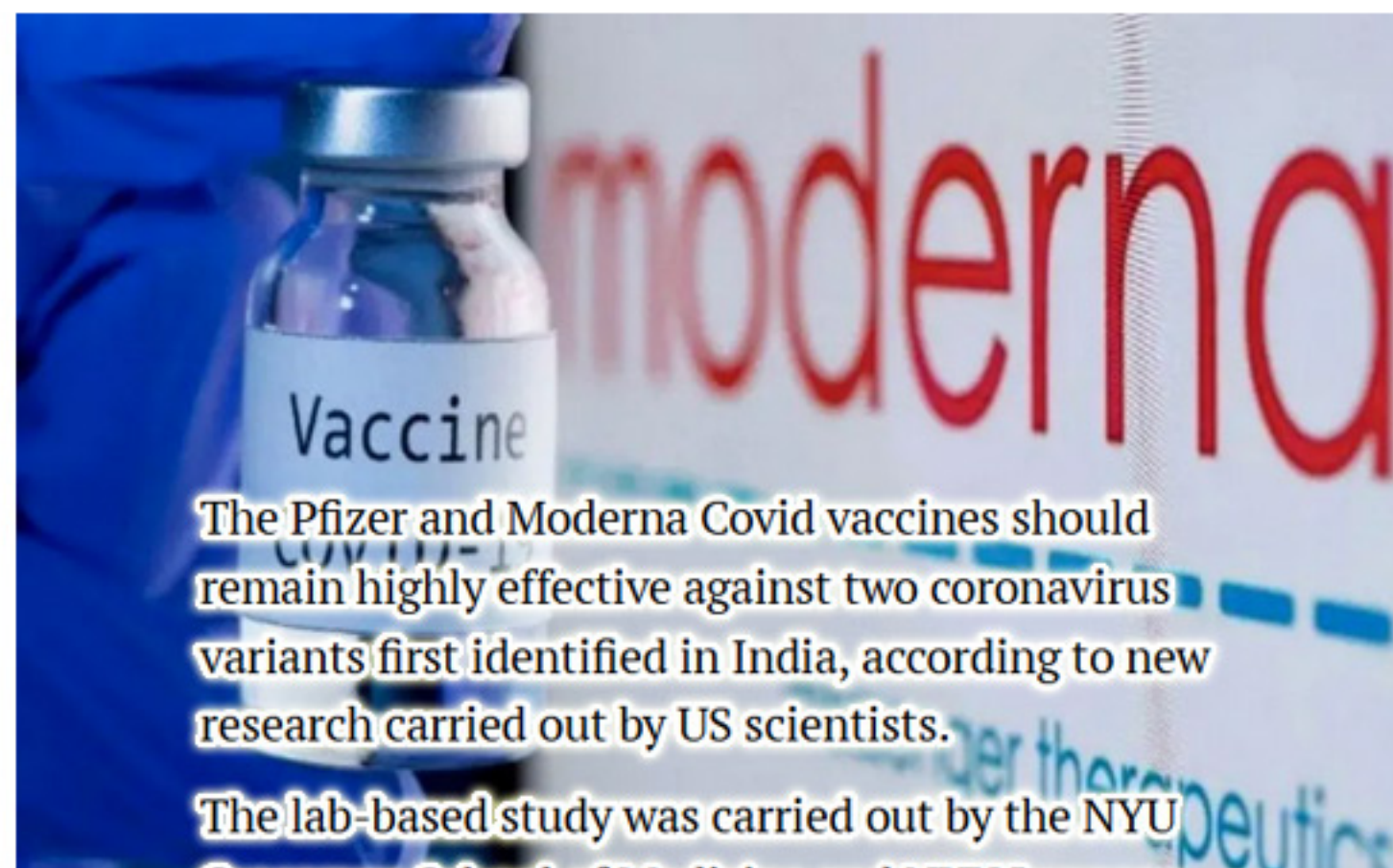
"These vaccines are working," says Mehul Suthar, an immunologist at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, who led the research¹. Still, the results underscore the need to continue monitoring vaccine response to SARS-CoV-2 mutations, which often affect the all-important spike protein that the virus uses to infect cells. "Because of the spectrum of mutations that have accumulated within the spike protein, the antibodies just don't work as well," says Suthar.

Pfizer, Moderna vaccines effective against Indian variants: study



By Agence France-Presse

Published May 17, 2021



The Pfizer and Moderna Covid vaccines should remain highly effective against two coronavirus variants first identified in India, according to new research carried out by US scientists.

The lab-based study was carried out by the NYU Grossman School of Medicine and NYU Langone Center and is considered preliminary because it has not yet been published in a peer-reviewed journal.

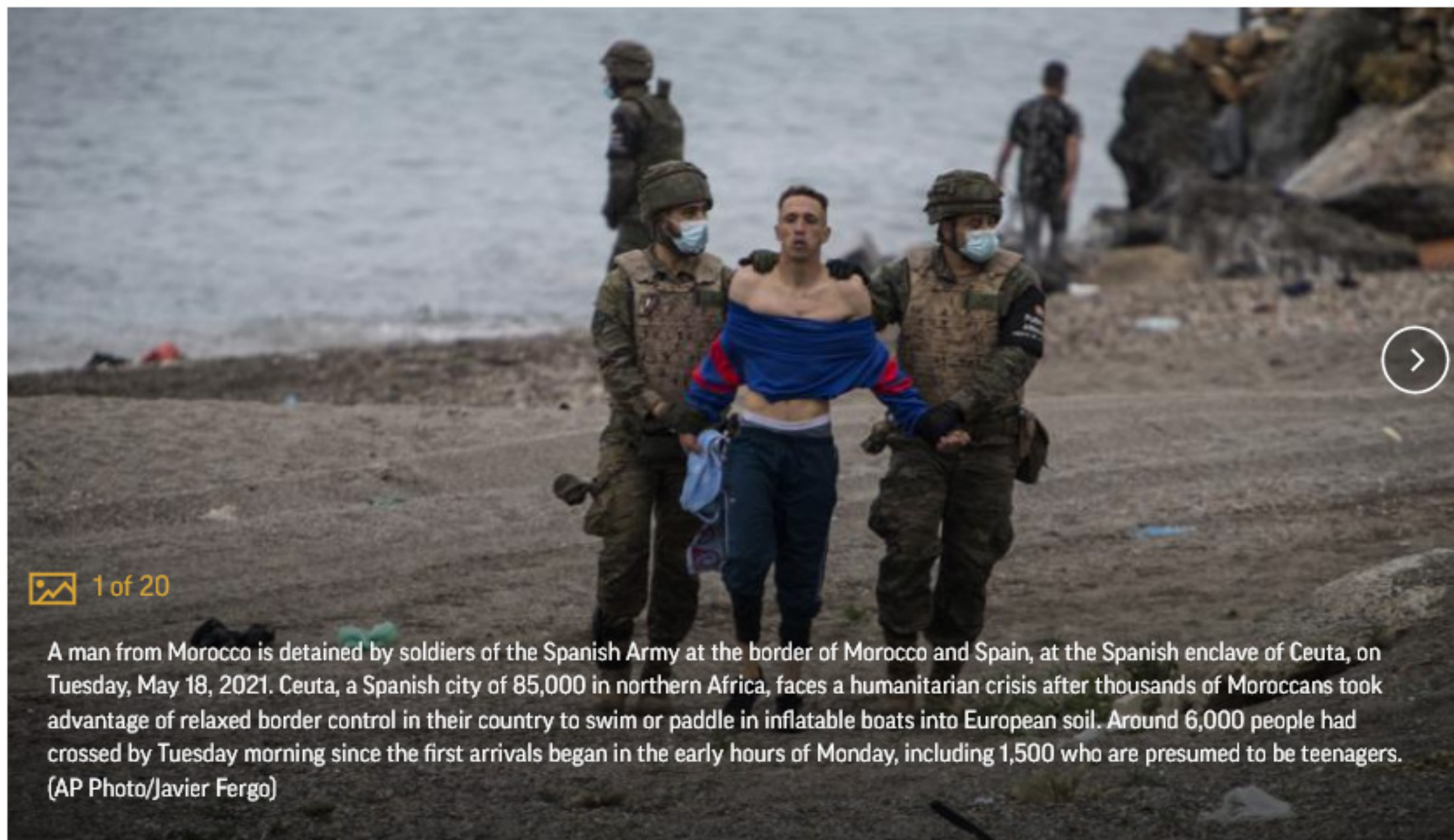
"What we found is that the vaccine's antibodies are a little bit weaker against the variants, but not enough that we think it would have much of an effect on the protective ability of the vaccines," senior author Nathaniel "Ned" Landau told AFP on Monday.

"Our results lend confidence that current vaccines will provide protection against variants identified to date," the team concluded.

However, they do not preclude the possibility that newer variants that are more resistant to vaccines will emerge -- highlighting the importance of widespread vaccination at the global level.

Spain, Morocco square off after 6,000 migrants arrive by sea

By RENATA BRITO and ARITZ PARRA 41 minutes ago



A man from Morocco is detained by soldiers of the Spanish Army at the border of Morocco and Spain, at the Spanish enclave of Ceuta, on Tuesday, May 18, 2021. Ceuta, a Spanish city of 85,000 in northern Africa, faces a humanitarian crisis after thousands of Moroccans took advantage of relaxed border control in their country to swim or paddle in inflatable boats into European soil. Around 6,000 people had crossed by Tuesday morning since the first arrivals began in the early hours of Monday, including 1,500 who are presumed to be teenagers. (AP Photo/Javier Fergo)

Many African migrants regard Ceuta and nearby Melilla, another Spanish territory, as a gateway into Europe. In 2020, 2,228 chose to cross into the two enclaves by sea or land, often risking injuries or death.

CEUTA, Spain (AP) — Spain deployed its military to the Moroccan border Tuesday as thousands of migrants jumped fences or swam onto European soil for the second day in a row after Rabat loosened border controls amid a deepening diplomatic spat.

Overwhelmed soldiers separated the adults from the young and carried children in their arms while Red Cross workers helped an endless trickle of migrants who were emerging from the water shivering and exhausted. One unconscious woman laid on the sand before she was carried away on a stretcher.

The sudden influx of migrants has fueled the diplomatic spat between Rabat and Madrid over the disputed Western Sahara region and created a humanitarian crisis for Ceuta, the Spanish city of 85,000 in North Africa on the Mediterranean Sea, separated from Morocco by a double-wide, 10-meter (32-foot) fence.

Video cameras captured how some people rushed up the hills surrounding the city and jumped over the double fence.

Definition of green chemistry

Green chemistry is the design of chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use or generation of hazardous substances. Green chemistry applies across the life cycle of a chemical product, including its design, manufacture, use, and ultimate disposal. Green chemistry is also known as sustainable chemistry.

Green chemistry:

- Prevents pollution at the molecular level
- Is a philosophy that applies to all areas of chemistry, not a single discipline of chemistry
- Applies innovative scientific solutions to real-world environmental problems
- Results in [source reduction](#) because it prevents the generation of pollution
- Reduces the negative impacts of chemical products and processes on human health and the environment
- Lessens and sometimes eliminates hazard from existing products and processes
- Designs chemical products and processes to reduce their intrinsic hazards

Green chemistry's 12 principles

These principles demonstrate the breadth of the concept of green chemistry:

- 1. Prevent waste:** Design chemical syntheses to prevent waste. Leave no waste to treat or clean up.
- 2. Maximize atom economy:** Design syntheses so that the final product contains the maximum proportion of the starting materials. Waste few or no atoms.
- 3. Design less hazardous chemical syntheses:** Design syntheses to use and generate substances with little or no toxicity to either humans or the environment.

4. Design safer chemicals and products: Design chemical products that are fully effective yet have little or no toxicity.

5. Use safer solvents and reaction conditions: Avoid using solvents, separation agents, or other auxiliary chemicals. If you must use these chemicals, use safer ones.

6. Increase energy efficiency: Run chemical reactions at room temperature and pressure whenever possible.

7. Use renewable feedstocks: Use starting materials (also known as feedstocks) that are renewable rather than depletable. The source of renewable feedstocks is often agricultural products or the wastes of other processes; the source of depletable feedstocks is often fossil fuels (petroleum, natural gas, or coal) or mining operations.

8. Avoid chemical derivatives: Avoid using blocking or protecting groups or any temporary modifications if possible. Derivatives use additional reagents and generate waste.

9. Use catalysts, not stoichiometric reagents: Minimize waste by using catalytic reactions. Catalysts are effective in small amounts and can carry out a single reaction many times. They are preferable to stoichiometric reagents, which are used in excess and carry out a reaction only once.

10. Design chemicals and products to degrade after use: Design chemical products to break down to innocuous substances after use so that they do not accumulate in the environment.

11. Analyze in real time to prevent pollution: Include in-process, real-time monitoring and control during syntheses to minimize or eliminate the formation of byproducts.

12. Minimize the potential for accidents: Design chemicals and their physical forms (solid, liquid, or gas) to minimize the potential for chemical accidents including explosions, fires, and releases to the environment.

Soon, You Could Be Wearing Mushroom Leather. But Will It Be Better For The Environment?

Brands are starting to embrace fungi-based leather as an alternative to animal skin. Does it live up to the sustainability claims?

By Leslie Nemo | Feb 2, 2021 8:30 AM



A bag made from mycelium leather, which is sourced from mushrooms. (Credit: Yulia.Panova/Shutterstock)

It may look and feel like leather, but the material working its way into select handbags, clothes and shoes these days isn't from animals — it's from fungus.

Engineers and new brands are looking for more sustainable products that still resemble traditional, livestock-produced counterparts. And when it comes to replacement leathers, versions made of mushroom are leading the way. Start-ups around the world are growing and shaping their version of the flat, flexible fungus mats, and producing better versions all the time. One from the company Bolt Threads has even **attracted interest from luxury fashion designers** and other high-end labels.

But, while it's tempting to assume a bag made of microbes is inherently better for the planet, mushroom leather might have some of the same sustainability issues as its animal leather counterparts.

While fungal leathers could harm the environment less than normal leather, the difference hinges on the choices manufacturers make along the way. "It depends on logistics," Hildebrandt says. "How you harvest it, how you ship it, how you mulch it, how you refine it," even how the product needs to get treated to withstand other microbes that latch on. Each step makes a difference.

The intended use of the final product changes the sustainability math, too. Some plant leathers would have to be more durable — and maybe receive a range of treatments that come with their own environmental trade-offs — if they were to replace animal skins. Fungus-based boots worn daily might need weatherproofing, unlike, say, a luxury handbag that owners tote around once every few months.

Some of the fungus leather modifications that increase the product sustainability might be surprising. When assessing other vegan leathers in their study, including versions made from plant husks, Hildebrandt and his team compared products designed as substitute leather chair upholstery. The team found that vegan leathers coated with a fossil-fuel based strengthening agent — and destined for a landfill or incinerator — had a lower environmental impact than versions not treated and compostable. The protective treatment would stretch the fake leather lifespan long enough to outweigh the benefits of compostable chair upholstery, which owners would replace more often.

The result of this comparison could mean that consumers might find themselves facing suspicious mushroom leather sustainability claims, Hildebrandt says. A manufacturer might want to bill their product as "compostable" because the concept appeals to customers. But being able to market on buzzwords like compostability doesn't necessarily mean the item for sale is as sustainable as it could be. And any efforts towards long-term durability of mushroom leather would struggle in the fast fashion industry, which **relies on customers constantly replacing their wardrobe** with short-lived items.

Ultimately, some applications of mushroom leather — and all leathers — might reach their peak sustainability levels by simply lasting a long time. Durability or design to make products repairable has faded away in many areas of manufacturing, a problem that could be solved with "a cultural change in how we approach the use phase," Hildebrandt says. Items built to last and clarity in marketing claims might be what serves mushroom leather, or any so-called sustainable product, best.

agriculture

environment

microbes & viruses

pollution



Try This One Weird Trick Russian Hackers Hate

May 17, 2021

In a **Twitter** discussion last week on ransomware attacks, KrebsOnSecurity **noted** that virtually all ransomware strains have a built-in failsafe designed to cover the backsides of the malware purveyors: They simply will not install on a **Microsoft Windows** computer that already has one of many types of virtual keyboards installed – such as Russian or Ukrainian. So many readers had questions in response to the tweet that I thought it was worth a blog post exploring this one weird cyber defense trick.

DarkSide, like a great many other malware strains, has a hard-coded do-not-install list of countries which are the principal members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) – former Soviet satellites that all currently have favorable relations with the Kremlin, including Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Romania, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The full exclusion list in DarkSide (published by **Cybereason**) is below:

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Russian - 419 | Azerbaijani (Latin) - 42C | Uzbek (Latin) - 443 | Uzbek (Cyrillic) - 843 |
| Ukrainian - 422 | Georgian - 437 | Tatar - 444 | Arabic (Syria) - 2801 |
| Belarusian - 423 | Kazakh - 43F | Romanian (Moldova) - 818 | |
| Tajik - 428 | Kyrgyz (Cyrillic) - 440 | Russian (Moldova) - 819 | |
| Armenian - 42B | Turkmen - 442 | Azerbaijani (Cyrillic) - 82C | |

Simply put, countless malware strains will check for the presence of one of these languages on the system, and if they're detected the malware will exit and fail to install.



The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) more or less matches the exclusion list on an awful lot of malware coming out of Eastern Europe.

[Side note. Many security experts have pointed to connections between the DarkSide and REvil (a.k.a. "Sodinokibi") ransomware groups. REvil was previously known as **GandCrab**, and one of the many things GandCrab had in common with REvil was that **both programs barred affiliates from infecting victims in Syria**. As we can see from the chart above, Syria is also exempted from infections by DarkSide ransomware. And DarkSide itself proved their connection to REvil this past week **when it announced it was closing up shop after its servers and bitcoin funds were seized.**]

CAVEAT EMPTOR

Will installing one of these languages keep your Windows computer safe from all malware? Absolutely not. There is plenty of malware that doesn't care where in the world you are. And there is no substitute for adopting a defense-in-depth posture, and avoiding risky behaviors online.

But is there really a downside to taking this simple, free, prophylactic approach? None that I can see, other than perhaps a sinking feeling of capitulation. The worst that could happen is that you accidentally toggle the language settings and all your menu options are in Russian.

Windows 10 has a built-in ransomware block, you just need to enable it

By Paul Lilly about 23 hours ago

Turns out there is a mechanism in Windows Defender that can protect your files from ransomware.

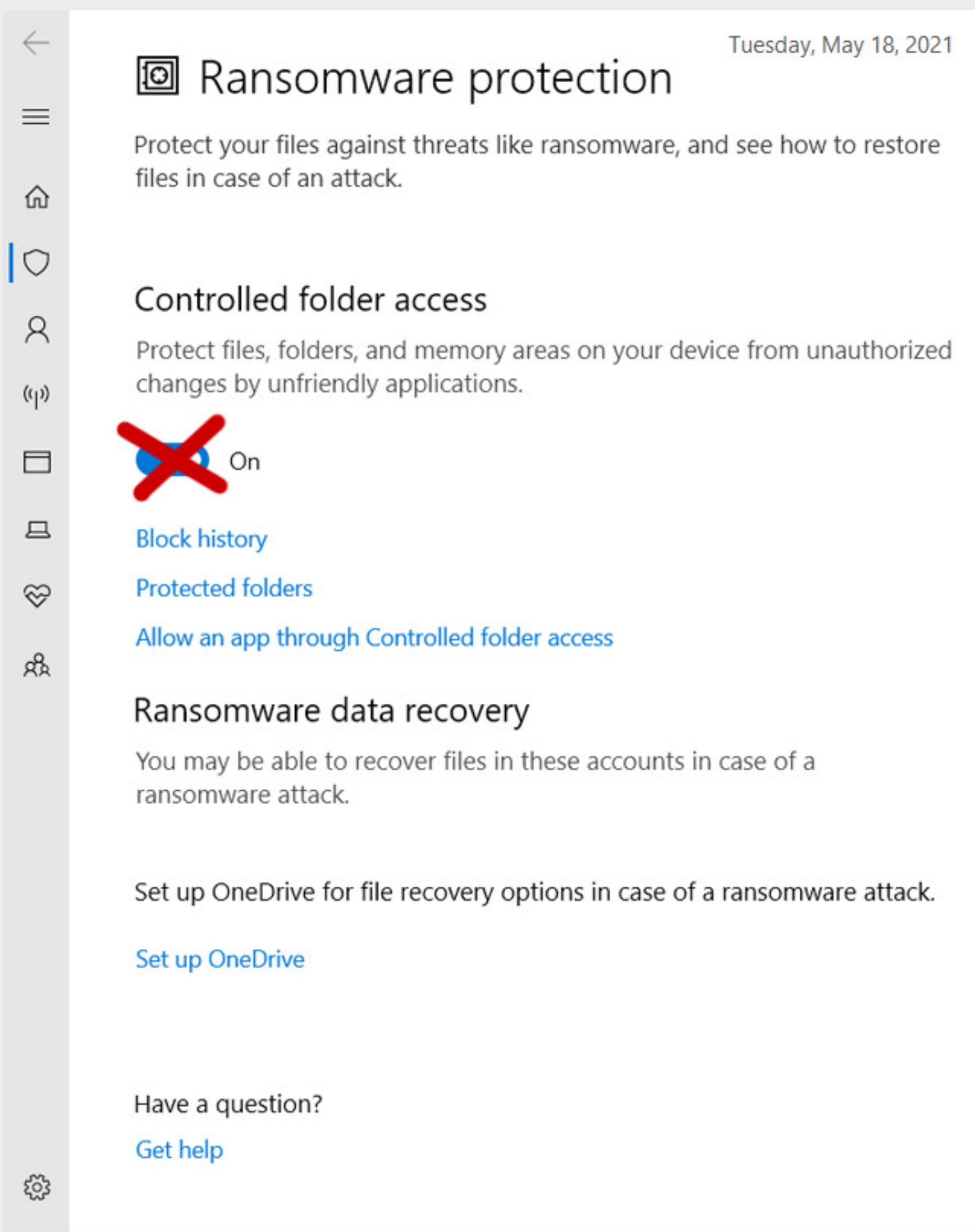
Windows 10 comes with its own baked-in antivirus solution called Windows Defender, and it is enabled by default when setting up a new PC. At the very least, that affords you some basic protection against the many malware threats out in the wild. But did you know there is an added optional layer that can keep your pictures, videos, work documents, and other files safe in the event of a ransomware infection? The caveat is that you have to manually enable ransomware protection in Windows 10.

Or more specifically, a feature called '[Controlled folder access](#).'

A big hat-tip to [Forbes](#) for pointing this out, because this is not something I was aware existed. To enable it, type '[Ransomware protection](#)' in the Windows search bar, or take the long way by navigating to Settings > Update & Security, click on Open Windows Security, click on Virus & threat protection, then scroll down and click on Manage ransomware protection.

The Controlled folder access toggle is set to 'off' by default (or at it least it was on my PCs). Turning it on designates specific folders that only trusted apps have permission to access, and you can add folders beyond the ones that are selected by default. There's also a section to grant specific apps permission to access your protected folders, if need be.

***Problem is: when I turned on the Ransomware protection I could no longer save new files to my picture folder, so I turned it back off.**



Genesis 1:28 > King James Version

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

In Judaism, Christianity, and some other Abrahamic religions, the cultural mandate is the divine injunction found in Genesis 1:28, in which God, after having created the world and all in it, ascribes to humankind the tasks of filling, subduing, and ruling over the earth. The cultural mandate includes the sentence "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the Earth." The cultural mandate was given to Adam and Eve.

In the interpretation of some denominations of Christianity, adherents should actively work to fulfill the mandate. Within Christianity in general, the cultural mandate is most elaborately developed in the West by Neo-Calvinism, which explores the implications for modern, pluralistic society, of this Calvinistic assertion.

The Book of Genesis is the first book of the Hebrew Bible and the Christian Old Testament. In Judeo-Christian traditions it is viewed as an account of the creation of the world, the early history of humanity, Israel's ancestors, and the origins of the Jewish people. Its Hebrew name is the same as its first word, Bereshit ("In the beginning"). In Judaism, the theological importance of Genesis centres on the covenants linking God to his chosen people and the people to the Promised Land. Christianity has interpreted Genesis as the prefiguration of certain cardinal Christian beliefs, primarily the need for salvation (the hope or assurance of all Christians) and the redemptive act of Christ on the Cross as the fulfilment of covenant promises as the Son of God.

Tradition credits Moses as the author of Genesis, as well as the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and most of Deuteronomy, but modern scholars, especially from the 19th century onward, see them as being written hundreds of years after Moses is supposed to have lived, in the 6th and 5th centuries BC

This leaves the question of when these works were created. Scholars in the first half of the 20th century concluded that the Yahwist is a product of the monarchic period, specifically at the court of Solomon, 10th century BC, and the Priestly work in the middle of the 5th century BC (with claims that the author is Ezra), but more recent thinking is that the Yahwist is from either just before or during the Babylonian exile of the 6th century BC, and the Priestly final edition was made late in the Exilic period or soon after.

As for why the book was created, a theory which has gained considerable interest, although still controversial, is "Persian imperial authorisation." This proposes that **the Persians of the Achaemenid Empire**, after their conquest of Babylon in 539 BC agreed to grant Jerusalem a large measure of local autonomy within the empire but required the local authorities to produce a single law code accepted by the entire community. The two powerful groups making up the community—the priestly families who controlled the Temple and who traced their origin to Moses and the wilderness wanderings, and the major landowning families who made up the "elders" and who traced their own origins to Abraham, who had "given" them the land—were in conflict over many issues, and each had its own "history of origins", but the Persian promise of greatly increased local autonomy for all provided a powerful incentive to cooperate in producing a single text.

Genesis is an example of a creation myth, a type of literature telling of the first appearance of humans, the stories of ancestors and heroes, and the origins of culture, cities and so forth. The most notable examples are found in the work of Greek historians of the 6th century BC: their intention was to connect notable families of their own day to a distant and heroic past, and in doing so they did not distinguish between myth, legend, and facts. Professor Jean-Louis Ska of the Pontifical Biblical Institute calls the basic rule of the antiquarian historian the "law of conservation": everything old is valuable, nothing is eliminated. Ska also points out the purpose behind such antiquarian histories: antiquity is needed to prove the worth of Israel's traditions to the nations (the neighbours of the Jews in early Persian Palestine), and to reconcile and unite the various factions within Israel itself.

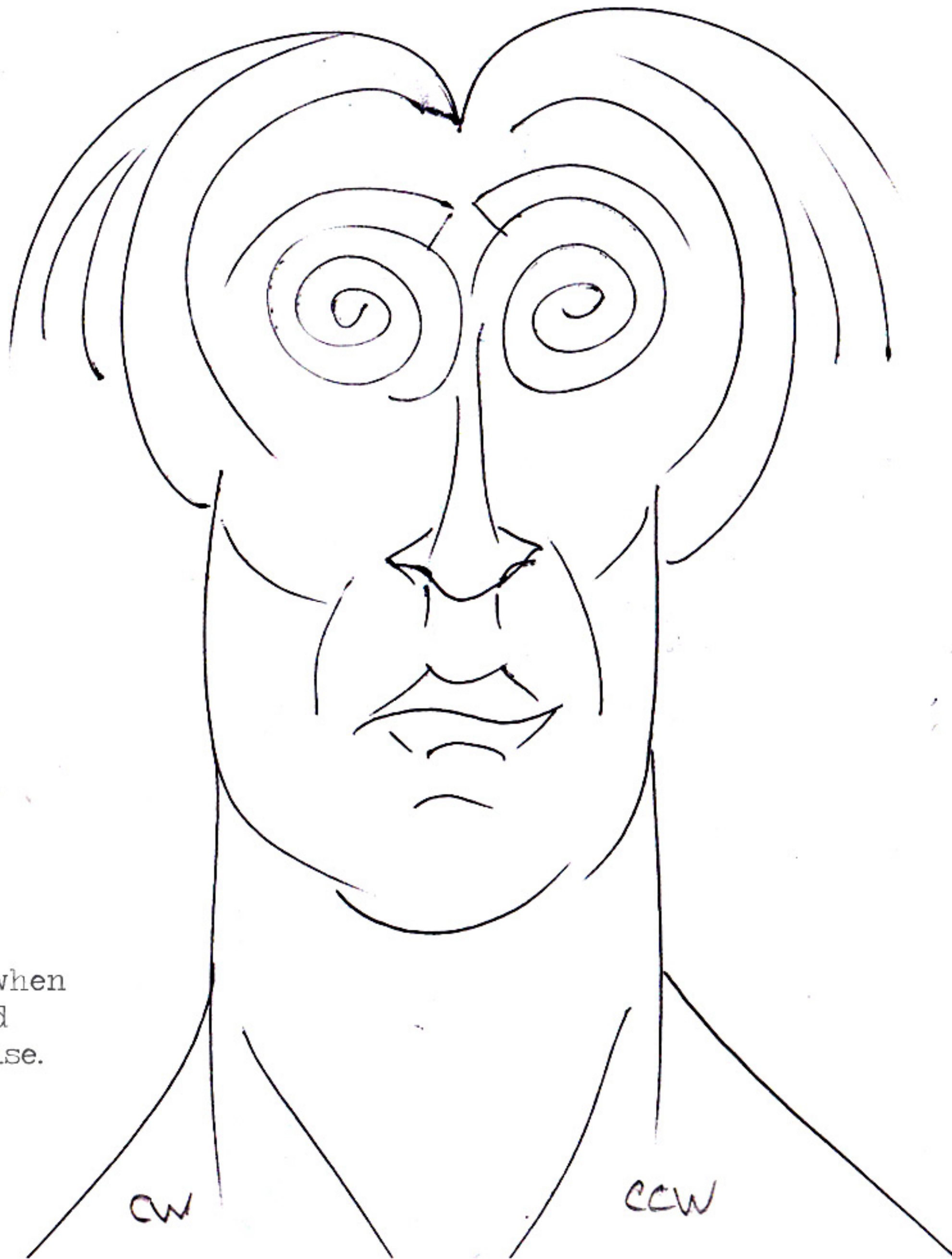


Abram's Journey from Ur to Canaan
(József Molnár, 1850)



The **Achaemenid Empire**, also called the **First Persian Empire**, was an ancient Iranian empire that was based in Western Asia and founded by the king Cyrus the Great. The empire reached its greatest extent under king Xerxes I, who conquered most of Northern and Central Greece, including





You know you're past Post-Absurdism when
your right eye spirals clockwise and
your left eye spirals counterclockwise.

20 Companies Are Behind Half Of The World's Single-Use Plastic Waste

May 18, 2021 · 1:29 PM ET

JASON BRESLOW



The study identifies 20 companies as the source of 55% of the world's single-use plastic waste, while the top 100 companies account for more than 90%.

Nearly all the single-use plastic manufactured by these companies — 98% according to the report — is made from " 'virgin' (fossil-fuel-based) feedstocks" rather than recycled materials.



A worker operates a forklift to move household waste at a facility that stores recyclable materials in Seoul, South Korea. In 2019, more than 130 million metric tons of single-use plastics were thrown away, according to a new report.

In 2019, more than 130 million metric tons of single-use plastics were thrown away, with most of that waste burned, buried in a landfill or dumped directly into the ocean or onto land. Now, a new report finds that just 20 companies account for more than half of all single-use plastic waste generated worldwide.

The report, published Tuesday by Australia's Minderoo Foundation, offers one of the fullest accountings, to date, of the companies behind the production of single-use plastics that researchers believe could account for as much as 10% of global greenhouse emissions by 2050.

At the top of what the foundation calls its "Plastic Waste Makers Index" is the energy giant Exxon Mobil, followed by the Dow Chemical Co. and China's Sinopec. The report found that Exxon Mobil was responsible for 5.9 million metric tons of such waste in 2019, while Dow and Sinopec contributed 5.6 million and 5.3 million, respectively. Taken together, the three companies account for 16% of all waste from single-use plastics such as bottles, bags and food packaging, according to the report.

The report also traced the money invested in the production of single-use plastics, finding that 20 institutional asset managers hold shares worth close to \$300 billion in the parent companies that make up the foundation's rankings. The top three investors are U.S.-based Vanguard Group, BlackRock and Capital Group, which according to the report have an estimated \$6 billion invested in the production of single-use plastics.

The report warned that in the next five years, the global capacity to produce the materials needed for single-use plastics could grow by more than 30%.

"An environmental catastrophe beckons: much of the resulting single-use plastic waste will end up as pollution in developing countries with poor waste management systems," according to the report.

Solving the issue will require drastic changes from producers, investors and banks, the authors wrote. The report said that producers of polymers — known as the building blocks of plastics — should begin disclosing their single-use plastic waste "footprint," while banks and investors should move to "phase out entirely" any financing that goes toward the production of single-use plastics.

But confronting the challenge will also require "immense political will," according to the authors, who noted that roughly 30% of the sector, by value, is state-owned.

Prom send-offs celebrate Black girls and their communities

May 19, 2021 8.25am EDT

👤 Aja D. Reynolds, Wayne State University



Tonayvia Turner, 18, celebrating 2020 prom send-off in the backyard as her younger sister, Cece, fixes the train on her gown. Jovan Garvi, Author provided

The Upside of Down: Catastrophe, Creativity, and the Renewal of Civilization

1st Edition

by Thomas Homer-Dixon

★★★★☆ 55 ratings

Environmental disasters. Terrorist wars. Energy scarcity. Economic failure. Is this the world's inevitable fate, a downward spiral that ultimately spells the collapse of societies? Perhaps, says acclaimed author Thomas Homer-Dixon - or perhaps these crises can actually lead to renewal for ourselves and planet earth.

The Upside of Down takes the reader on a mind-stretching tour of societies' management, or mismanagement, of disasters over time. From the demise of ancient Rome to contemporary climate change, this spellbinding book analyzes what happens when multiple crises compound to cause what the author calls "synchronous failure." But, crisis doesn't have to mean total global calamity. Through catagenesis, or creative, bold reform in the wake of breakdown, it is possible to reinvent our future.

Drawing on the worlds of archeology, poetry, politics, science, and economics, The Upside of Down is certain to provoke controversy and stir imaginations across the globe. The author's wide-ranging expertise makes his insights and proposals particularly acute, as people of all nations try to grapple with how we can survive tomorrow's inevitable shocks to our global system. There is no guarantee of success, but there are ways to begin thinking about a better world, and The Upside of Down is the ideal place to start thinking.

Commanding Hope: The Power We Have to Renew a World in Peril Hardcover – September 1, 2020

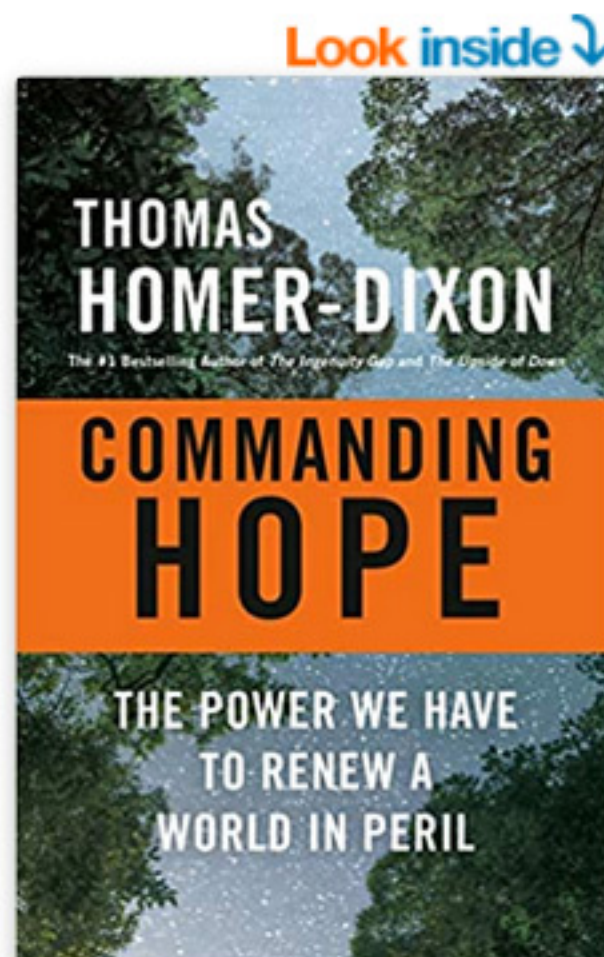
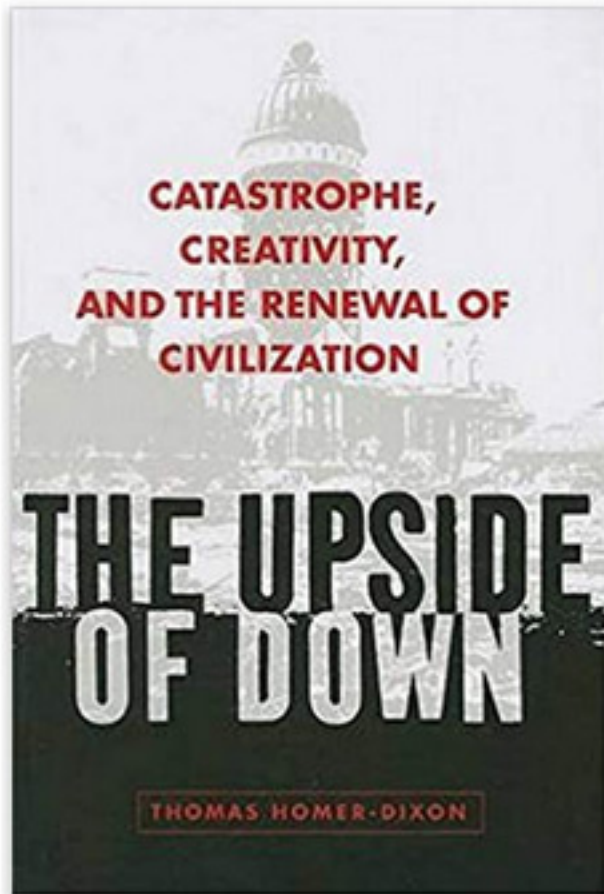
by Thomas Homer-Dixon (Author)

★★★★☆ 22 ratings

Today just about everything we've known and relied on (our natural environment, economy, societies, cultures and institutions) is changing dramatically--too often for the worse. Without radical new approaches, our planet will become unrecognizable as well as poorer, more violent, more authoritarian.

In his fascinating long-awaited new book (dedicated to his young children), he calls on his extraordinary knowledge of complexity science, of how societies work and can evolve, and of our capacity to handle threats, to show that we can shift human civilization onto a decisively new path if we mobilize our minds, spirits, imaginations and collective values.

Commanding Hope marshals a fascinating, accessible argument for reinvigorating our cognitive strengths and belief systems to affect urgent systemic change, strengthen our economies and cultures, and renew our hope in a positive future for everyone on Earth.



Thomas Homer-Dixon

Canadian political scientist

homerdixon.com

Thomas Homer-Dixon is a Canadian political scientist and University Research Chair at the University of Waterloo in the Faculty of Environment, and a professor at the Balsillie School of International Affairs in Waterloo, Canada. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: 1956 (age 65 years), [British Columbia, Canada](#)

Movies: [Escape from Suburbia](#)

Books

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The Ingenuity Gap
2000



The Upside of Down
2006



Comman...
Hope: The Power W...
2020



Environ...
Scarcity, and Viol...
1999

Reports: Trump Organization CFO under criminal tax investigation

 Rebecca Falconer



Former President Trump and Trump Organization chief financial officer Allen Weisselberg at Trump Tower in New York City in 2017. Photo: Timothy A. Clary/AFP via Getty Images

The New York attorney general's office has begun a criminal tax investigation into Trump Organization chief financial officer Allen Weisselberg, [CNN first reported](#) Wednesday.

Why it matters: Weisselberg has not been accused of any wrongdoing, but investigators are pushing for him to cooperate with them in their investigation into former President Trump's organization, per CNN and the [New York Times](#).

- The office of New York Attorney General Letitia James (D) announced on Tuesday [a criminal investigation](#) into the Trump Organization, working with the Manhattan district attorney's office while also keeping open its civil inquiry into the company's financial records.
- The investigation is [looking into potential](#) bank, tax and insurance fraud.

The big picture: Investigators from the Manhattan District Attorney's Office last month reportedly [seized financial records](#) from Jennifer Weisselberg, the former daughter-in-law of Allen Weisselberg.

- James' investigators are looking at "whether taxes were paid on fringe benefits" from Trump gave him, "including cars and tens of thousands of dollars in private school tuition for at least one" of Weisselberg's grandchildren, the Times reports.
- Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance's office is examining the CFO's Trump Organization role, personal finances and benefits allegedly given to his son Barry Weisselberg, who is also a Trump Organization employee, according to CNN.



Crowds gather Tuesday at the Israeli Consulate in Los Angeles, in solidarity with a general strike by Palestinians in Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Justin L. Stewart/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images



People hold a rally Monday in Tucson, Ariz., in support of Palestinians.

Ross D. Franklin/AP



A woman cries as the names of Palestinian children killed in the fighting in Gaza are read during a protest Tuesday in front of the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP via Getty Images



Pro-Palestinian demonstrators rally Tuesday in New York City's Times Square.

Drew Angerer/Getty Images



Pro-Israel demonstrators gather outside the Federal Building in Los Angeles last week.

Jae C. Hong/AP



Protesters objecting to U.S. policy toward Israel gather Tuesday at Lapeer Park in Dearborn, Mich., during a visit by President Biden to a nearby Ford Motor Co. plant.

Seth Herald/AFP via Getty Images



Ido Shalev, 12, joins other pro-Israel demonstrators last week outside the Federal Building in Los Angeles.

Jae C. Hong/AP Photo





Crowds gather during a pro-Palestinian rally last week at Copley Square in Boston.

Joseph Prezioso/AFP via Getty Images

EXPLAINER: How did Hamas grow its arsenal to strike Israel?

By ISABEL DEBRE an hour ago



An Israeli firefighter walks next to cars hit by a missile fired from Gaza Strip, in the southern Israeli town of Ashkelon, Tuesday, May 11, 2021. (AP Photo/Ariel Schalit)

“The Iranian narrative is that they kick-started all the missile production in Gaza and gave them the technical and knowledge base, but now the Palestinians are self-sufficient, said Fabian Hinz, an independent security analyst focusing on missiles in the Middle East. “Today, most of the rockets we’re seeing are domestically built, often with creative techniques.”

In a September documentary aired by the Al-Jazeera satellite news network, rare footage showed Hamas militants reassembling Iranian rockets with ranges of up to 80 kilometers (50 miles) and warheads packed with 175 kilograms (385 pounds) of explosives. Hamas militants opened unexploded Israeli missiles from previous strikes to extract explosive materials. They even salvaged old water pipes to repurpose as missile bodies.

To produce rockets, Hamas chemists and engineers mix propellant from fertilizer, oxidizer and other ingredients in makeshift factories. Key contraband is still believed to be smuggled into Gaza in a handful of tunnels that remain in operation.

Hamas has publicly praised Iran for its assistance, which experts say now primarily takes the form of blueprints, engineering know-how, motor tests and other technical expertise. The State Department reports that Iran provides \$100 million a year to Palestinian armed groups.

THE ARSENAL ON DISPLAY

The Israeli military estimates that before the current round of fighting, Hamas had an arsenal of 7,000 rockets of varying ranges that can cover nearly all of Israel, as well as 300 anti-tank and 100 anti-aircraft missiles. It also has acquired dozens of unmanned aerial vehicles and has an army of some 30,000 militants, including 400 naval commandos.

In this latest war, Hamas has unveiled new weapons like attack drones, unmanned submarine drones dispatched into the sea and an unguided rocket called “Ayyash” with a 250-kilometer (155-mile) range. Israel claims those new systems have been thwarted or failed to make direct strikes.

The Israeli military says its current operation has dealt a tough blow to Hamas’ weapons research, storage and production facilities. But Israeli officials acknowledge they have been unable to halt the constant barrages of rocket fire.

Unlike guided missiles, the rockets are imprecise and the vast majority have been intercepted by Israel’s Iron Dome defense system. But by continuing to frustrate Israel’s superior firepower, Hamas may have made its main point.

“Hamas is not aiming for the military destruction of Israel. Ultimately, the rockets are meant to build leverage and rewrite the rules of the game,” Hinz said. “It’s psychological.”

More Stories From NPR



HISTORY

A Symphony of Resistance

SUPREME COURT NOTEBOOK: Justice Thomas remembers 'rapid' RBG

By JESSICA GRESKO Thursday, May 20, 2021



1 of 3

FILE - In this Oct. 3, 2019 file photo, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg gestures to students before she speaks at Amherst College in Amherst, Mass. In her last years on the Supreme Court, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg moved slowly. She was always the last justice to exit the courtroom, with Justice Clarence Thomas helping her down the steps from the Supreme Court bench. But Ginsburg, who died in September at age 87, was known for her speed at something: writing opinions. (AP Photo/Jessica Hill)

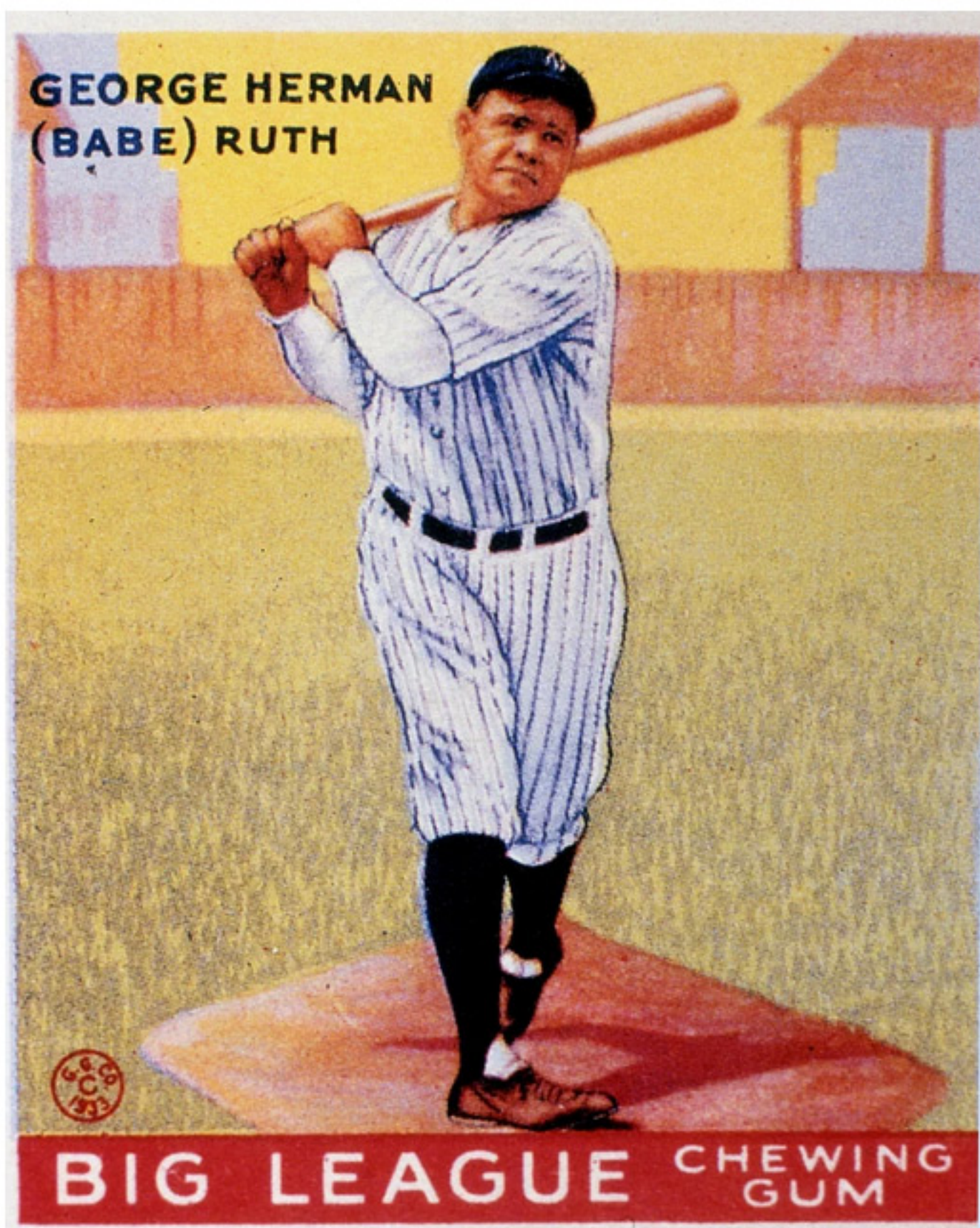
WASHINGTON (AP) — In her last years on the Supreme Court, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg moved slowly. She was always the last justice to exit the courtroom, with Justice Clarence Thomas helping her down the steps from the Supreme Court bench. But Ginsburg, who died in September at age 87, was known for her speed at something: writing opinions.

In a new, short remembrance for The Supreme Court Historical Society, Thomas says Ginsburg's "efficiency became a source of humorous banter as well as a thing of legend" among her colleagues.

Ginsburg described herself as "Rapid Ruth" when it came to opinion writing. And because she was so fast in writing her own opinions and so speedy in responding to draft opinions circulated by colleagues, other justices always got back to her as quickly as possible, said Thomas, who served with Ginsburg longer than any other justice.

Iconic Mint-Condition 1933 Babe Ruth Baseball Is Expected To Shatter Auction Records

May 20, 2021 - 11:06 PM ET



In addition to the rare 1933 Babe Ruth card, Memory Lane Inc. says the sale will feature more than 1,000 items including "some of the finest known examples of other Hall of Fame players including Ty Cobb, Lou Gehrig, Honus Wagner, Ted Williams and Cy Young, as well as World Series program books dating back to 1903."

Transcendental Graphics/Getty Images

As a 10-year-old in the 1950s Thomas Newman did what other boys his age did: he collected baseball cards.

Over a couple of years Newman assembled a treasured collection that was not equally prized by his mother, who thought of the cards as garbage and tossed them out. The loss inspired a decades-long passion to recoup what he'd lost. And then some.

"My dad began collecting in the early 1980s starting with baseball cards from 1957 and 1959 when he was ten to twelve years old," his son Stewart Newman said. "Those were replacements for the treasured cards of his youth that he kept in shoeboxes as a youngster and that his mom later threw out."

Eventually Newman, who died from COVID-19 in January, traveled the country piecing together an extensive stockpile of baseball and other sports memorabilia that auctioneers estimate is now worth about \$20 million. And next month, they'll be up for auction via Memory Lane Auctions from June 21 through July 10.

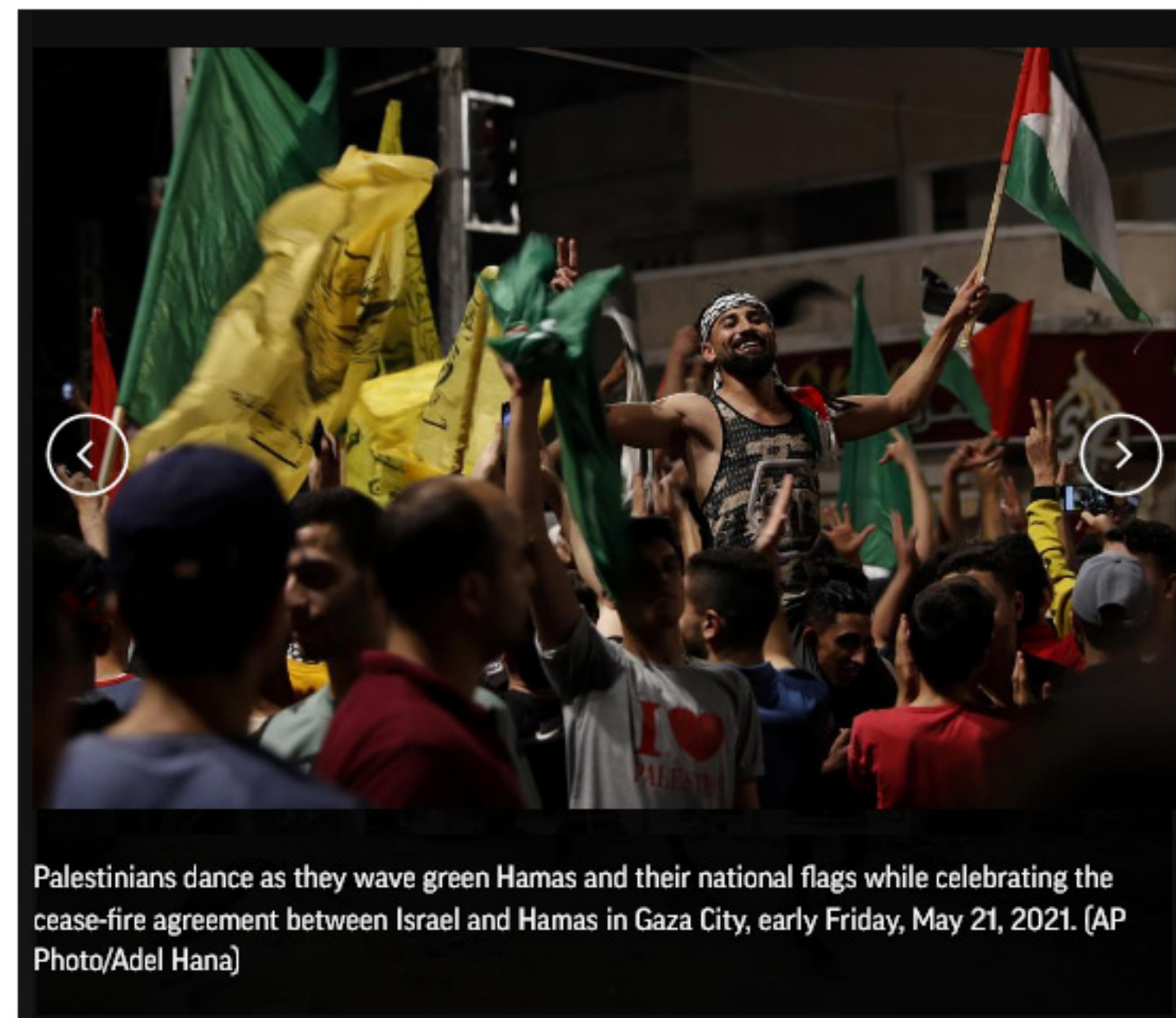
The sale will include an mint-condition 1933 Babe Ruth card that could become the most expensive of all time. Memory Lane Auctions President JP Cohen described the "Sultan of Swat" card, one of four in the world, as "the finest known of its kind."

Palestinians see victory in Gaza truce as Israel warns Hamas

By FARES AKRAM and JOSEPH KRAUSS 42 minutes ago Friday, May 21, 2021

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Palestinians rallied by the thousands early Friday after a cease-fire took effect in the latest Gaza war, with many viewing it as costly but clear victory for the Islamic militant group Hamas. Israel vowed to respond with a “new level of force” to any further hostilities.

The 11-day war left more than 200 dead — the vast majority Palestinians — and brought widespread devastation to the already impoverished Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip. But the rocket barrages that brought life to a standstill in much of Israel were seen by many Palestinians as a bold response to perceived Israeli abuses in Jerusalem, the emotional heart of the conflict.



Palestinians dance as they wave green Hamas and their national flags while celebrating the cease-fire agreement between Israel and Hamas in Gaza City, early Friday, May 21, 2021. (AP Photo/Adel Hana)



Palestinians on a horse cart loaded with belongings, pass by destroyed homes, to which they returned following a cease-fire reached after an 11-day war between Gaza's Hamas rulers and Israel, in town of Beit Hanoun, northern Gaza Strip, Friday, May 21, 2021. (AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)

At least 243 Palestinians were killed, including 66 children and 39 women, with 1,910 people wounded, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not break the numbers down into fighters and civilians. Twelve people in Israel, including a 5-year-old boy and 16-year-old girl, were killed.

We've Been Evolving For Millions Of Years, So Why Are Our Bodies So Flawed?

May 21, 2021 · 6:40 AM ET

BARBARA J. KING

We can grasp the main idea Bezzerrides wants to get across by focusing on eyes and backs.

Our eyes evolved originally in the ocean, where ancestral vertebrates dwelled and needed to see underwater. Around 375 million years ago, when they ventured to land, their eyes were already 100 million years old. Gradually, eyes in this lineage became land-adapted, but these organs have retained fluids and, as a result, never achieved the type of light refraction that would result in consistent sharpness of image on land. Light travels more slowly through water than it does through air, but to our advantage in modern times, even more slowly through glass. "Many of us take advantage of this fact by placing glass in front of our eyes to compensate for the imperfect job our corneas and lenses do in bending the light."

Bezzerrides offers nifty evolutionary explanations too for why we can distinguish more shades of green than any other color, and why our night vision is poor. He clarifies that it's not only our evolution that makes for vision troubles today, but also our current behavior. Most of us spend way too much time in spaces that lack natural light. "Children who spend greater chunks of their day outside have a lesser risk of developing myopia than children who spend their days inside," he writes. Kids don't even have to be doing healthy things out there, it turns out, because it's the light and not the activity that makes the difference.



Back trouble, the leading cause of disability globally, is directly traceable to primates' leaving the trees for open areas more than 4 million years ago, Bezzerrides notes. The move to the forest floor was "a pressure cooker" that caused human ancestors' center of gravity to shift. For the first time, a primate could balance on only two feet; the human spine is shaped quite differently from that of our ape cousins', with curves that cause a "precarious" structure. For example, "The inward, or lordotic, lumbar curve needs to be far enough inward to place the position of the spine under the head and to get the center of gravity above the hips," Bezzerrides writes. Back pain, and even intervertebral disc pain, happens all too readily with slight misalignments.

Cultural factors come into play with backs just as much as eyes. People whose work requires them to lift heavy objects may be at higher risk, and those who work hard to maintain core-body strength may offset the worst of back pain. But, Bezzerrides warns, for almost all of us, back pain is in the cards.

Thanks a lot, evolution.

Cooks, nurses guard inmates with US prisons down 6K officers

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and MICHAEL BALSAMO 2 hours ago Friday, May 21, 2021

Nearly one-third of federal correctional officer jobs in the United States are vacant, forcing prisons to use cooks, teachers, nurses and other workers to guard inmates.

At a federal penitentiary in Texas, prisoners are locked in their cells on weekends because there are not enough guards to watch them. Elsewhere in the system, fights are breaking out, [several inmates have escaped in recent months](#) and, in Illinois, at one of the most understaffed prisons in the country, five inmates have died in homicides or suicides since March 2020.



Aaron McGlothlin, union president at the Federal Correctional Institution at Mendota, stands in front of the prison during a protest against staffing shortages, near the prison entrance in Mendota, Calif., Monday, May 17, 2021. (AP Photo/Gary Kazanjian)

The Justice Department budgeted for 20,446 full-time correctional officer positions in 2020, but the agency that runs federal prisons said it currently employs 13,762 officers. The Bureau of Prisons insists that many of its facilities still have a full complement of officers who focus solely on maintaining order.



Special investigative services Lt. Armando Cervantes, right, films protesters at the Federal Correctional Institution at Mendota during a demonstration over staffing shortages, near the prison entrance in Mendota, Calif., Monday, May 17, 2021. (AP Photo/Gary Kazanjian)

The staffing situation in Beaumont is so severe that prison officials have turned to just locking inmates in their cells on weekends because officials do not have enough officers to guard the prisoners. Visiting at the prison has been suspended until further notice.

AP's firing of journalist following tweets prompts outcry

By DAVID BAUDER yesterday Saturday, May 22, 2021

NEW YORK (AP) — The Associated Press is being criticized for firing a young journalist over her social media activity, with some suggesting the news agency bowed to a political pressure campaign over her pro-Palestinian views from when she was in college.

Emily Wilder, 22, had started at the AP on May 3 as a news associate for the Western U.S., based in Phoenix. On Wednesday, just over two weeks later, the AP informed her that she was being terminated for violations of its social media policy that took place after she became an employee.

In the days before her firing, Wilder had been targeted in conservative media for her pro-Palestinian rights activism while a student at Stanford University, where she graduated in 2020.

AP spokeswoman Lauren Easton would not say what Wilder had written that violated the policy. Wilder said she wasn't given specifics.

Her Twitter feed since joining the AP contains a few retweets that appear sympathetic to Palestinians in the current Gaza conflict, including a video clip of demonstrators chanting, "Free, free Palestine!"

On Sunday, she tweeted: "'objectivity' feels fickle when the basic terms we use to report news implicitly take a claim. using 'israel' but never 'palestine,' or 'war' but not 'siege and occupation' are political choices — yet media make those exact choices all the time without being flagged as biased."

AP prohibits employees from openly expressing their opinions on political matters and other public issues for fear that could damage the news organization's reputation for objectivity and jeopardize its many reporters around the world.

"We have this policy so the comments of one person cannot create dangerous conditions for our journalists covering the story," Easton said. "Every AP journalist is responsible for safeguarding our ability to report on this conflict, or any other, with fairness and credibility, and cannot take sides in public forums."

On Monday, two days before her firing, a Twitter post from Stanford Republicans had criticized Wilder, who is Jewish, as an "anti-Israel agitator" while on campus. They posted a 2019 article she had written in the college newspaper referring to conservative media figure Ben Shapiro as "a little turd." Shapiro has been fiercely critical of the Palestinians.

On Tuesday, an article in the Washington Free Beacon was headlined, "AP Hires Anti-Israel Activist as News Associate. AP's Objectivity in Question Amid Revelations it Shared Office Space with Hamas." It was picked up in other forums, including the Fox News website.

Janine Zacharia, Wilder's journalism professor at Stanford and a former Jerusalem bureau chief for The Washington Post, said she could not understand why the AP didn't just discuss concerns about the tweets with Wilder instead of firing her.

Zacharia said she believes that Wilder's activism in college was the real issue and worries about the message that the AP is sending. Many one-time activists put their passion into journalism, as Wilder did as an intern at The Arizona Republic, she said.

"What happens if you were a college activist and then decide that you want to become a journalist?" she said. "Does this mean that you can't?"

Social media and the generation that has grown up with it have posed challenges at news organizations as they try to uphold standards of objectivity. The AP maintains doing so is important for an organization whose calling card is fairness.

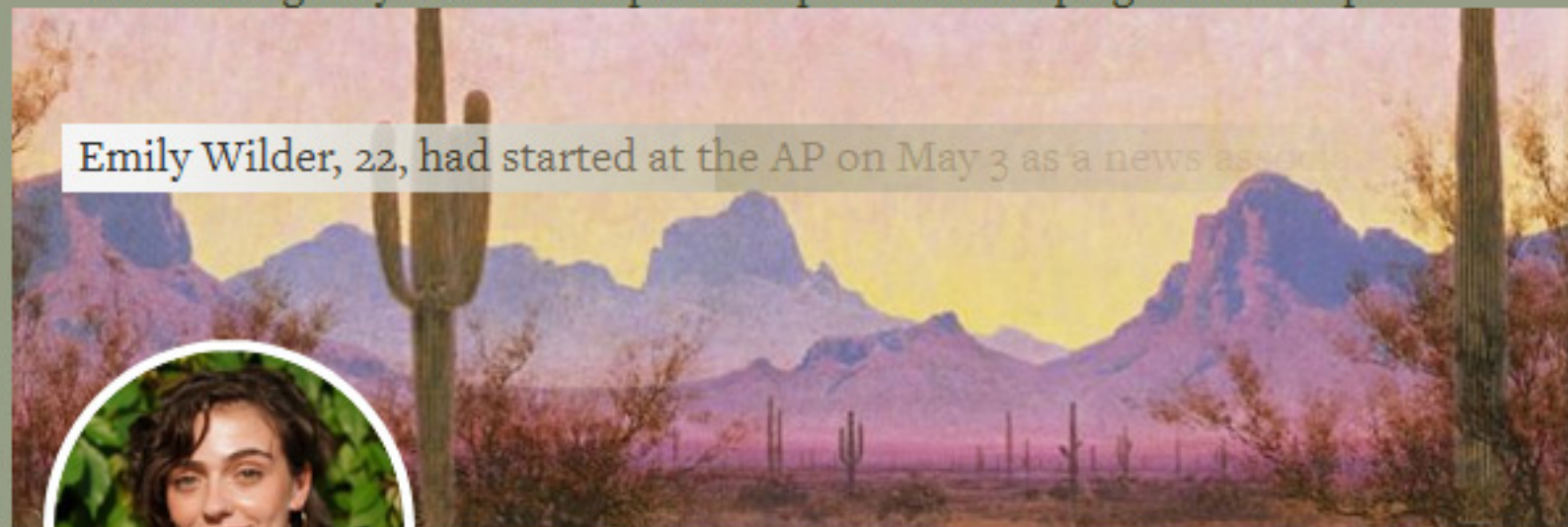
The AP stressed that the firing was based on what Wilder had done while employed at the news organization.

As for the news organization's use of terminology, the AP Stylebook urges against references to "Palestine" because it is not a fully independent, unified state. The AP has made references to Israeli occupation and said that Gaza -- and Israel — have been under siege during the latest fighting.

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Emily Wilder, 22, had started at the AP on May 3 as a news as...



emily wilder

@w1lder

previously: @azcentral @mlk_institute | @stanford history 2020 | Black lives matter | איה/her

📍 phoenix, arizona 🌐 emwilder.com 📅 Joined May 2020

510 Following 32.2K Followers

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On Sunday, she tweeted: “‘objectivity’ feels fickle when the basic terms we use to report news implicitly take a claim. using ‘israel’ but never ‘palestine,’ or ‘war’ but not ‘siege and occupation’ are political choices — yet media make those exact choices all the time without being flagged as biased.”



dbauder @dbauder

Media writer at The Associated Press, and also music. Married with daughter Sophie and son Ben. Long-suffering Mets and Syracuse fan.

536 Following 2,955 Followers

emily wilder @w1lder · May 16

“objectivity” feels fickle when the basic terms we use to report news implicitly stake a claim. using “israel” but never “palestine,” or “war” but not “siege and occupation” are political choices—yet media make those exact choices all the time without being flagged as biased

258 4.2K 12.7K

On Monday, two days before her firing, a Twitter post from Stanford

“Because I have an opinion about an issue that is deeply political and personal doesn’t mean that I am incapable of fact-based, contextual and fair journalism,” she said.

Snapiro as “a little turd; Snapiro has been mercilessly critical of the Palestinians.



On Tuesday, an article in “AP Hires Anti-Israel Activist, Question Amid Revelations” picked up in other forums

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She also said: “There’s no question that this was all precipitated by an onslaught of harassment against me.”

during the latest fighting.

emily wilder Retweeted



Tom Gara @tomgara · May 17

Extraordinary photo from Gaza on the front page of The Guardian today - six year old Suzy Eshkuntana pulled alive from the rubble 7 hours after an Israeli air strike that killed her mom and all four of her siblings



1.1K 12.5K 26.5K

Show this thread



Tom Gara @tomgara

through meditation i program my heart to beat breakbeats and hum basslines upon exhalation. (works at @facebook, views my own, etc)

1,632 Following 61.4K Followers



▲ Six-year old Suzy Eshkuntana is rescued from the rubble of her home after being trapped for seven hours. A pre-dawn strike by Israeli forces killed her mother and all four of her siblings; she was later reunited with her father in Shifa hospital, Gaza City PHOTOGRAPH: ASHRAF AMRA/ANADOLU AGENCY/GETTY

Food, shelter, beatings: Border city divided over migrants

By RENATA BRITO and BERNAT ARMANGUÉ 2 hours ago Saturday, May 22, 2021



The women said the migrants could be their children — and that their plight brought memories of past times when the migrant flow was in the opposite direction.

Moroccans, including many that have been in the Spanish enclave of Ceuta since before the border crisis, wait at the border to return voluntarily to their home country, Thursday, May 20, 2021. (AP Photo/Bernat Armangué)

But Fouad and others directed their anger at the Moroccan government for using them as pawns in the diplomatic impasse with Spain.

The government in Rabat has denied that it loosened border control to allow the migrants to cross, blaming it on the weather and the post-Ramadan “exhaustion” of its border guards. It has also criticized Spain for providing COVID-19 treatment to Brahim Ghail, the head of the Polisario Front that is fighting to make Western Sahara independent of Morocco, which annexed it in the 1970s.

“This was not improvised, it was planned. Morocco benefits by sending us,” said an 18-year-old Moroccan who crossed into Ceuta and feared deportation if his identity was published. “We are Morocco’s experiment, we are like lab rats.”

CEUTA, Spain (AP) — Residents of Spain’s multi-ethnic city of Ceuta are used to being in the news every time the fragile alliance between Spain and Morocco shakes up.

For many “Ceutis,” as locals are known, that comes with being a speck of a European nation in North Africa. The city is culturally closely intertwined with Morocco, with Muslims making over 40% of its population, but also separated from it by high perimeter fences that set apart the two extremes of poverty and prosperity.

But when relations hit a two-decade low this week over Spain’s help to one of Morocco’s top enemies, “Ceutis” confronted the sudden arrival of thousands of African migrants with sympathy, concern and in some cases hostility.

The sudden influx of migrants has fueled the diplomatic spat between Rabat and Madrid over the disputed Western Sahara region and

created a humanitarian crisis on the double-wide, 10-mile

The man told how he had lost his mother years ago in a stampede at the Ceuta border, where many women earned their living as porters before authorities closed the border.

Video cameras capturing the surrounding the city

Many from Morocco said they wanted to reach mainland Spain to find work and stability. Yaser, a 26-year-old from Tetouan, said those he knew brought skills and education with them.

“We have boys with lots of education, baccalaureates, lots of diplomas, but they don’t have work,” he said. “That is the basis of all the problems, work, rights, good life ... that is all people want.”



California will require Uber, Lyft drivers to transition to electric cars

Electric vehicles must account for 90 percent of ride-hailing vehicle miles traveled in California by 2030.

By Joseph Guzman | May 21, 2021



- California's clean-air regulator on Thursday unanimously approved new rules for ride-sharing companies Thursday.
- The companies will have to begin the electrification of their fleets in 2023.
- Both Uber and Lyft have already committed to converting their fleets entirely to electric vehicles by 2030.

California is requiring ride-sharing companies such as Uber and Lyft to transition from gasoline to electric vehicles (EVs) in their networks by the end of this decade.

The state's clean-air regulator on Thursday unanimously approved the Clean Miles Standard mandating that EVs account for 90 percent of ride-hailing vehicle miles traveled in California by 2030.

The ride-share companies will have to begin the electrification of their fleets in 2023.

The move by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is part of California's effort to phase out gas-powered vehicles and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and become carbon neutral by 2045. Gov. Gavin Newsom (D-Calif.) last year signed an executive order requiring all new cars and passenger trucks sold in the state of nearly 40 million residents be zero-emission by 2035.

How The Biden White House Learned To Drop The Masks And Stop Worrying

May 22, 2021 · 8:01 AM ET



TAMARA KEITH



The White House has held a couple bigger events this week following new guidance that fully vaccinated individuals don't need to wear masks or social distance. One such event was the signing of the Hate Crimes Act on Thursday.

Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images

Asked how the White House is tracking vaccinations among those who attend events at the White House or press briefings, Psaki said, "That's not the role we're going to play." She said the guidance from the CDC was about how people can protect themselves, and vaccinated people are protected from COVID-19, no mask needed.

"The real question is how will people who are not yet vaccinated protect themselves?" Psaki said.



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

[The CDC Is Gambling On Relaxed Mask Rules To Get More People Vaccinated](#)

U.S. authorities have confiscated roughly \$90,000 from a Utah man who sold footage of a woman being fatally shot during the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol by supporters of former President Donald Trump, according to court filings.

Prosecutors also have filed additional criminal charges against the man, John Earle Sullivan, a self-described political activist who is accused of entering the Capitol building and participating in the riot, the filings unsealed on Thursday showed. Sullivan now faces a total of eight criminal counts, including weapons charges, related to the riot.

According to the court filings, Sullivan portrayed himself as an independent journalist who was reporting on the chaos, but actually encouraged other participants to "burn" the building and engage in violence. Sullivan recorded video of the confrontation between rioters and police just outside the U.S. House of Representatives chamber that included the shooting of protester Ashli Babbitt and, according to court filings, boasted to an unnamed witness that "my footage is worth like a million of dollars, millions of dollars."

Sullivan sold that footage to several news outlets for a total of \$90,000, according to a seizure warrant. The news outlets were redacted from the warrant.

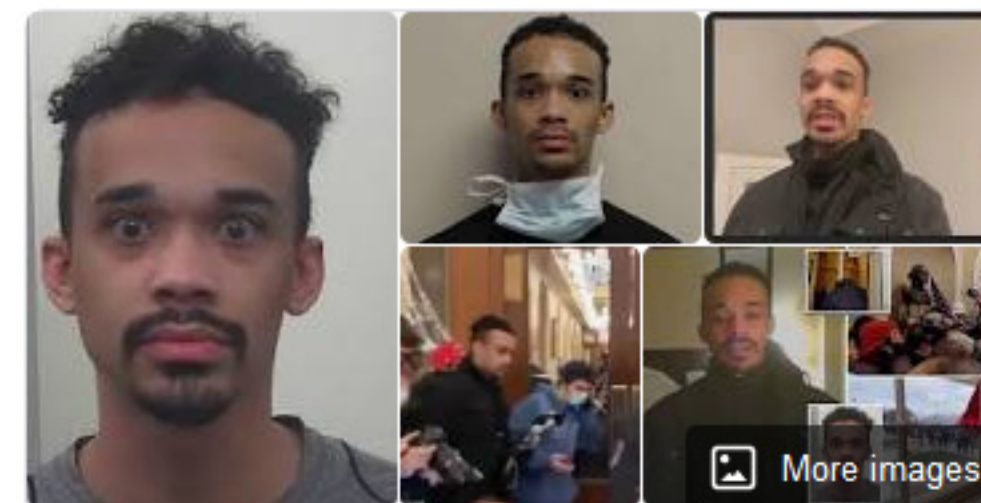
According to media reports, Sullivan participated in Black Lives Matter protests last year. Other Black Lives Matter activists in his home state have disavowed him.

John Earle Sullivan (born July 18, 1994^[1]), also known as **Jayden X**,^[2] **Activist John**,^[3] or **John Sullivan**, is a political activist and photojournalist from **Sandy**, a suburb of **Salt Lake City**.^[4] After the **2021 storming of the United States Capitol** where Sullivan was present, some on the political right accused him of being affiliated with **antifa**, though federal authorities had not identified him as such and he has stated that he has no relationship to the antifa movement.^[5]

Sullivan was adopted and grew up in **Stafford, Virginia**.^[3] His family was conservative and **Mormon**.^{[6][3][7]} They moved to Utah around 2013. Sullivan got involved in **speed skating**, despite never having skated on ice before moving to Utah. By 2016 he was driving for **Uber**, leading to a 2016 television commercial blog post on Uber's site, describing him as "searching for a way to earn money that fit with his busy training schedule".^[8]

He trained at the **Kearns, Utah**, speed-skating rink and participated in the 2018 Olympic trials but failed to qualify for the Olympic team, though he has claimed to have "competed in the 2018 Olympic Games".^{[6][2][3][9]}

His father was a **lieutenant colonel**, and **John Earle Sullivan's brother, James, leads Civilized Awakening, part of the greater far-right Patriot movement**.^[7] James has stated that John was conservative until recently.^[3]



John Earle Sullivan

John Earle Sullivan, also known as Jayden X, Activist John, or John Sullivan, is a political activist and photojournalist from Sandy, a suburb of Salt Lake City. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: July 18, 1994 (age 26 years)

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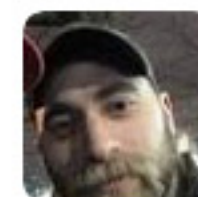
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Also please check out JoyVilla @ www.JoyVilla.com and support the amazing common sense public figures like her.



At least 92,000 K-12 students in the U.S. were paddled or spanked at school in the 2015-2016 school year.

Video shows students still get paddled in US schools

May 21, 2021 8:24am EDT

▼ [F. Chris Curran](#), *University of Florida*

The image of a teacher paddling or spanking a student at school may seem to belong in a history book – as archaic a practice as the dunce cap. However, for thousands of students across America each year, the use of corporal punishment for violating school rules is still a routine part of their education.

Surprising to many, corporal punishment in schools remains legal in 19 states nationwide. In the 2015-2016 school year, more than 92,000 public school students were paddled or spanked at the hands of school personnel, with most of these incidents concentrated in fewer than 10 states, mostly in the South.

Corporal punishment has again captured national attention following the release of a video in May 2021 of a Florida principal paddling a young girl. The video, secretly captured by the student's mother, shows the principal striking the student with a wooden paddle in response to her damaging a computer. While a violation of district policy, the principal's actions were deemed legal by both the local sheriff's office and the state attorney's office.

Many who have viewed the video have questioned how this practice remains legal and in use in the United States. As an educational researcher who studies school discipline – and as a former teacher who has seen other teachers use this practice – I have found that the answer to this question is complex.

There are alternative approaches to corporal punishment and suspension that offer promise for eliminating the practice of paddling students while also ensuring that students remain in school to learn. Restorative practices and positive behavior interventions are such examples. These approaches focus on addressing student trauma, building relationships and rewarding positive behavior.

Restorative justice (RJ) is a term that has a long and well-documented history that began before its implementation in schools in the United States. There is no one definition for the term. Generally, RJ practices are based on principles that establish a voice for victims, offenders, and community in order to address offender accountability for the harm caused (rather than the act itself) and to develop a plan to repair relationships. In the United States, RJ was introduced into schools as an alternative to traditional punitive, and often exclusionary, approaches to discipline.

In general, the research evidence to support RJ in schools is still in a nascent state. Despite the exponential growth of RJ in U.S. schools, and some evidence of its effectiveness abroad,¹⁵ the evidence in the United States to date is limited, and nearly all of the research that has been published lacks the internal validity necessary to exclusively attribute outcomes to RJ. However, the preliminary evidence does suggest that RJ may have positive effects across several outcomes related to discipline, attendance, graduation, climate, and culture. And evidence from a more rigorous assessment suggests that RJ has positive effects on exclusionary discipline rates, discipline disparities, and school climate (Augustine et al., 2018).

The Evolution of Discipline Practices: School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports

George Sugai PhD & Robert Horner PhD

Pages 23-50 | Published online: 07 Sep 2008

In response to public requests to improve the purpose and structure of discipline systems, schools have increased their emphases on “school-wide” positive behavior support. The thesis of this paper is that the current problem behavior of students in elementary and middle schools requires a preventive, whole-school approach. The foundation for such an approach lies in the emerging technology of positive behavior support. The features of positive behavior support are defined, and their application to whole-school intervention articulated. Finally, the steps that have been used to implement school-wide positive behavior support in over 500 schools across the nation are described.

What The Rise Of Amazon Has To Do With The Rise Of Trump

May 23, 2021 · 7:41 AM ET



DANIELLE KURTZLEBEN



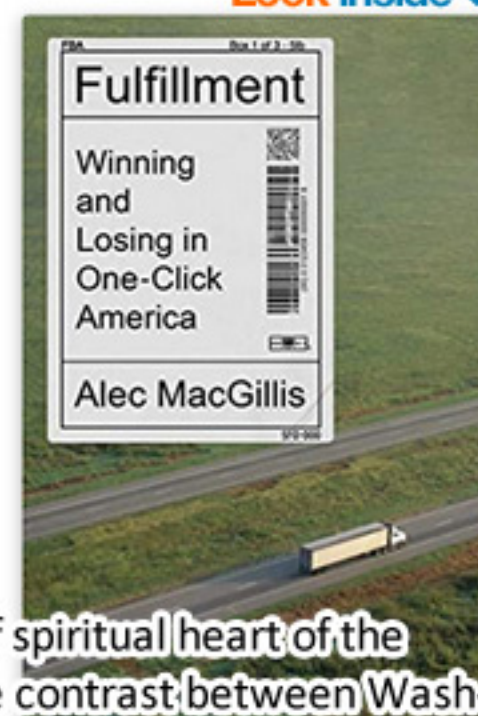
Members of the Workers Assembly Against Racism gather across from an Amazon-owned Whole Foods Market in New York City as part of a nationwide solidarity event with Amazon workers seeking to unionize in Bessemer, Ala., on Feb. 20.

Erik McGregor/LightRocket via Getty Images

Amazon was already an economic behemoth before the start of the coronavirus pandemic. But when many Americans ramped up their shopping from home, the company saw explosive growth. In short, ProPublica journalist Alec MacGillis writes in *Fulfillment*, its fortunes diverged from the nation's economic fortunes.

The book looks at the American economy through the lens of Amazon — the forces that made it, the trends it accelerated, and the inequality that he argues has resulted from the growth of Big Tech. The NPR Politics Podcast spoke to him about America's "winning" and "losing" cities, what Amazon has to do with former President Donald Trump's election and how much it matters when consumers decide to boycott huge companies like Amazon.

Look inside ↓



The sort of spiritual heart of the book is the contrast between Washington [and] Baltimore, these two cities that are just 40 miles apart. I've moved between these cities now for the last 20 years, working and living in both places. And it's just been so striking to watch the gap growing between them, and to me, just really upsetting and disheartening to watch that happening.

You have one city that's become just incredibly unaffordable for so many people, where it costs, you know, seven, eight, nine hundred thousand dollars to buy a row house, if not more. All these people, longtime residents, mostly longtime black residents, being displaced by the thousands. And then just up the road in Baltimore, you have such deep population decline that you have rowhouses, that are going for seven or eight hundred thousand dollars down the road, being demolished by the hundreds.

That just is not good for people in either sort of city, and Amazon is really at the core of that. They chose Washington as their headquarters.

Fulfillment: Winning and Losing in One-Click America

Hardcover – March 16, 2021

by Alec MacGillis (Author)

★★★★★ 126 ratings

Alec MacGillis's *Fulfillment* is not another inside account or exposé of our most conspicuously dominant company. Rather, it is a literary investigation of the America that falls within that company's growing shadow. As MacGillis shows, Amazon's sprawling network of delivery hubs, data centers, and corporate campuses epitomizes a land where winner and loser cities and regions are drifting steadily apart, the civic fabric is unraveling, and work has become increasingly rudimentary and isolated.

Ranging across the country, MacGillis tells the stories of those who've thrived and struggled to thrive in this rapidly changing environment. In Seattle, high-paid workers in new office towers displace a historic black neighborhood. In suburban Virginia, homeowners try to protect their neighborhood from the environmental impact of a new data center. Meanwhile, in El Paso, small office supply firms seek to weather Amazon's takeover of government procurement, and in Baltimore a warehouse supplants a fabled steel plant. *Fulfillment* also shows how Amazon has become a force in Washington, D.C., ushering readers through a revolving door for lobbyists and government contractors and into CEO Jeff Bezos's lavish Kalorama mansion.

With empathy and breadth, MacGillis demonstrates the hidden human costs of the other inequality—not the growing gap between rich and poor, but the gap between the country's winning and losing regions. The result is an intimate account of contemporary capitalism: its drive to innovate, its dark, pitiless magic, its remaking of America with every click.

Vatican issues a street art stamp, ends up getting sued

By NICOLE WINFIELD today Tuesday, May 25, 2021

"Just Use It"

her hallmark heart

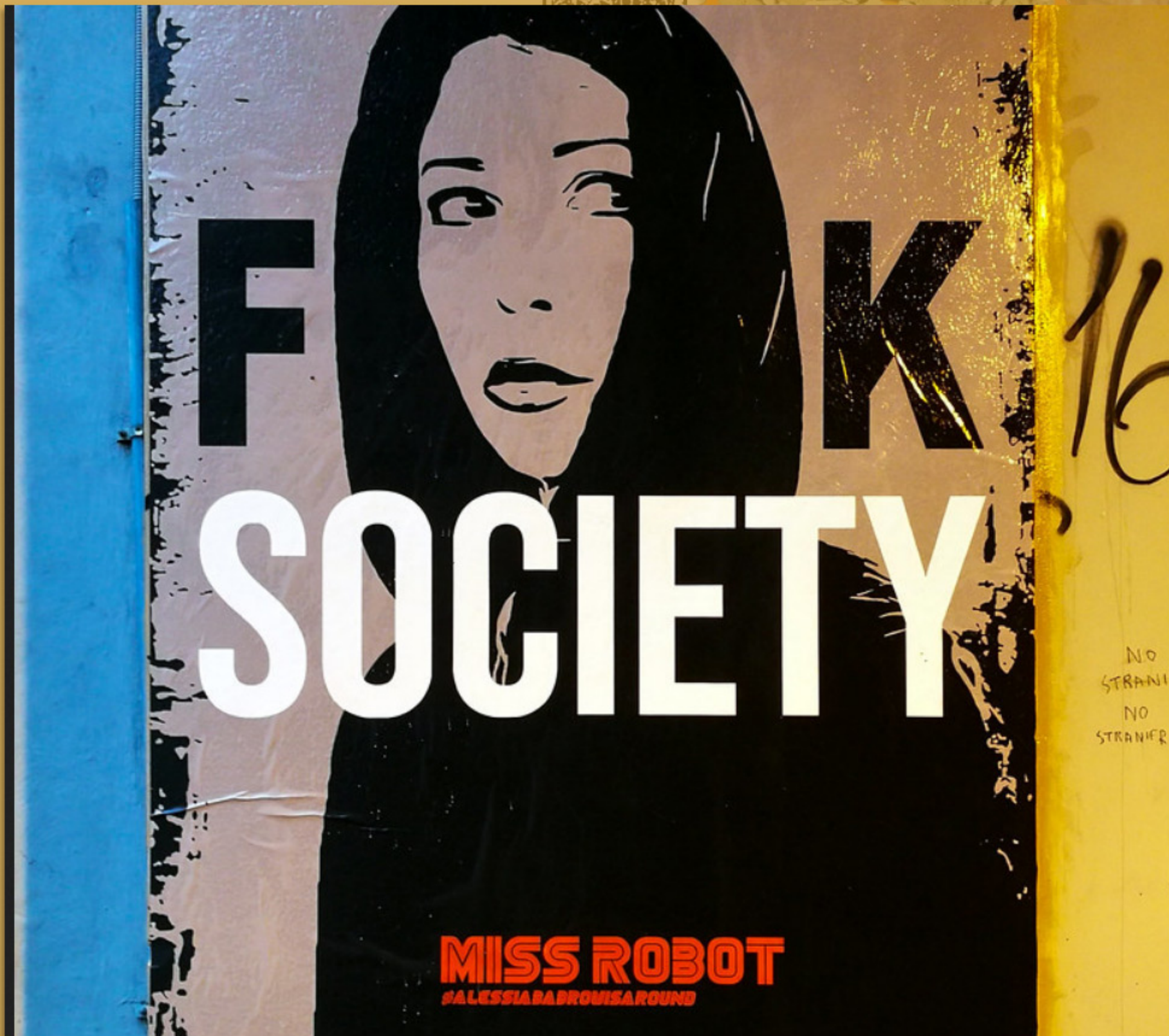


1 of 6

Artist Alessia Babrow holds the Vatican stamps next to her street art during an interview with the Associated Press, at the Vatican, Friday, May 14, 2021. One night in early 2019, Rome street artist Babrow glued a stylized image of Christ she had made to a bridge near the Vatican. A year later, she was shocked to learn that the Vatican had used her image, featuring her hallmark heart emblazoned across Christ's chest, as its 2020 Easter postage stamp. (AP Photo/Andrew Medichini)

Vatican issues a street art stamp, ends up getting sued

By NICOLE WINFIELD today



Friday, May 14, 2021. One
er, she was shocked to
e stamp. (AP

*If Little Richard was born white, there would be no Elvis.
But then Little Richard would've had no soul.*

*If Bob Dylan was shy,
you'd never know it.*

*You can take the man out of the culture, but
you can't take the culture out of the man.*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Brown_\(poet\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Brown_(poet))



William Clifford Brown (September 30, 1920 – August 30, 1980), who went by the name **Big Brown**, was a mid-twentieth century American street poet, performer, and recording artist. **Prominent among the Beats in New York City from the late 1950s to the late 1960s, his distinctive language and style influenced a number of artists and musicians, including Bob Dylan, who declared Brown's to be the best poetry he had ever heard.** Brown also influenced the later genres of hip hop and rap. In 1973, after moving to California, he recorded an album, *The First Man of Poetry, Big Brown: Between Heaven and Hell*, produced by Rudy Ray Moore. Brown was murdered in Los Angeles seven years later.

Brown was born in Michigan. According to one report, he was raised in an orphanage in Georgia. Known for his eloquence and voice and also for his physical size and strength, Brown made a career as a boxer in the 1940s. One obituary asserted that "Brown was at one time a professional heavyweight contender." Beat Movement and Greenwich Village

In the late 1950s and into the 1960s, Brown performed in Greenwich Village, where he closely associated with other Beat Generation poets, artists, and writers, including Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, and Larry Rivers. In 1960, a presidential election year, the Beats formed a political party, the "Beat Party," and held a mock nominating convention to announce a presidential candidate: Brown, referred to in newspaper accounts as "Big Brown, of Detroit," won a majority of votes on the first ballot but fell short of the eventual nomination. The Associated Press reported, "Big Brown's lead startled the convention. Big, as the husky negro is called by his friends, wasn't the favorite son of any delegation, but he had one tactic that apparently earned him votes. In a chatterbox convention, only once did he speak at length, and that was to read his poetry."

Bob Dylan has several times remarked on Brown's influence on his music. Dylan, who saw Brown perform in Washington Square Park in the early 1960s, later recalled, "All these black guys would come up from south of the border and recite poetry in the park. Now they'd call them rappers. The best was a guy named Big Brown, who had long poems, each one was about 15 minutes long, and they were long, drawn-out bad man stories, romance, politics, just about everything you can imagine was thrown into his stuff. I always thought this was the best poetry I ever heard."

In another interview, Dylan credited the entire genre of rap to Brown. "Nothing is new," Dylan said. "Even rap records. I love that stuff but it's not new, you used to hear that stuff all the time ... there was this one guy, Big Brown, he wore a jail blanket, that's all he ever used to wear, summer and winter. John Hammond would remember him too—he was like Othello, he'd recite epics like some grand Roman orator, really backwater stuff though, Stagger Lee, Cocaine Smitty, Hattiesburg Hattie. Where were the record companies when he was around?" [7] Influence on other writers, musicians, and artists

Brown moved to Los Angeles sometime between 1969 and 1971. Brown was killed in 1980, at the age of fifty-nine, in Venice Beach in a hit-and-run. Cecil Davis, a Santa Monica municipal employee, was arrested and arraigned for murder. The police reported that "efforts to locate Brown's family have been unsuccessful."

Legacy: Like many street performers whose influence on later musicians and musical forms has been overlooked, Brown's career has long been obscure. In 2015, Brown's daughter, the artist Adrianna Alty, and the historian Jill Lepore collaborated on a three-part audio story, "The Search for Big Brown," for *The New Yorker Radio Hour*.

Discography: *The First Man of Poetry, Big Brown: Between Heaven and Hell*, Kent Records, 1973.

Big Brown, the poet, in Washington Square Park in 1965



Less Packaging, More Smiles

From cardboard boxes to flexible mailers, we're rapidly working to improve the sustainability of our packaging. We're shrinking packages to fit what customers order more often, increasing the amount of recycled content that goes into making them, and using less material overall. We're also reinventing our packaging options and introducing new types of packaging, like the fully recyclable paper padded mailer.

Improving Our Packaging

Sustainable packaging is a top priority at Amazon. Our goal is to deliver products undamaged to customers while minimizing our environmental impact. To do this, we use a science-based approach that combines lab testing, machine learning, materials science, and manufacturing partnerships to scale sustainable change.

Recyclable Paper Padded Mailer

The recyclable paper padded mailer was created to protect products during shipping while taking up less space in transit. This ensures customer deliveries arrive undamaged and in recyclable packaging with a lower carbon footprint.

Frustration-Free Packaging

Our Frustration-Free Packaging (FFP) Programs encourage vendors to package their products in easy-to-open packaging that is 100% recyclable and ready to ship to customers without additional Amazon boxes. To certify products under Amazon's FFP Programs, we help vendors innovate and improve their packaging functionality. Since 2015, we have reduced the weight of outbound packaging by 33% and eliminated more than 1 million tons of packaging material, the equivalent of 2 billion shipping boxes.

Machine Learning

Machine learning is used to optimize packaging selection and choose the least wasteful packaging type. For example, machine learning identifies items that can be packed in a flexible mailer, which is 75% lighter than a similar-sized box. Mailers also conform around products, taking up 40% less space than a box during shipping.

Packaging Partnerships

We are working across the packaging industry, using new analytics and test methods, new materials, and new ways to build enclosures that protect customer products.

Amazon Second Chance

Pass it on, trade it in, give it a second life.

Look below for options to give your stuff a second chance

Recycle packaging

Learn how to recycle your Amazon packaging.



Recycle & trade in electronics

Trade-in, recycle or return your items.



Repair items

Get the most use and joy out of the things you buy.



Shop pre-owned items

Shop rentals, open-box and certified refurbished products at a great price.



Learn more about sustainability at Amazon

Visit the Amazon Sustainability website.



6 Charts That Dismantle The Trope Of Asian Americans As A Model Minority

May 25, 2021 - 10:16 AM ET

CONNIE HANZHANG JIN 

Myth: Asian Americans are a single monolithic group

Many Ethnicities Fall Under The Asian American Umbrella

 = 100,000 people Ethnicities with fewer than 100,000 people not shown.

EAST ASIAN: 8.6 MILLION PEOPLE



SOUTHEAST ASIAN: 7.6 MILLION PEOPLE



SOUTH ASIAN: 5.3 MILLION PEOPLE



PACIFIC ISLANDER: 1.5 MILLION PEOPLE



Myth: Asian Americans are high-earning and well-educated

Asian Americans have an average median household income of around \$78,000 a year, which is higher than the national median of about \$66,000. However, that overall statistic obscures large differences between different Asian origin groups.

Indian households are the highest earning group, with a median household income of \$127,000 a year. On the other end of the scale, Burmese households are the lowest earning group, with a median household income of \$46,000 a year.

Myth: Asian Americans face less systemic racism and discrimination

Myth: Asian Americans are fairly represented in leadership positions

Asian Americans Are The Most Politically Underrepresented Group

Myth: Asian Americans immigrate to the U.S. in the 'right' way

A Large Number Of Asian Americans Are Unauthorized Immigrants

These numbers have risen rapidly in recent years. The Asian population is the fastest growing racial or ethnic group in the U.S., [growing by 81% from 2000 to 2019](#). The Hispanic population saw the second fastest growth, followed by Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders at 70% and 60% respectively. The white population only grew by 1% in that time.

3,000

A Diverse Africa

There are over 3,000 different **ethnic groups** speaking more than 2,100 different languages in all of **Africa**. The people there practice a variety of religions, including Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and traditional religions specific to their **ethnic group**. Sep 21, 2020



A wide variety of languages are spoken throughout **Asia**, comprising different language families and some unrelated isolates. The major language families include **Austroasiatic**, **Austronesian**, **Caucasian**, **Dravidian**, **Indo-European**, **Afroasiatic**, **Turkic**, **Sino-Tibetan** and **Kra-Dai**. Most, but not all, have a long history as a written language.

<https://study.com> > Courses > Social Science Courses

Ethnic Groups in Africa - Video & Lesson Transcript | Study.com



View all

160 culturally

There are some 160 culturally distinct **groups in Europe**, including a number of **groups** in the Caucasus region that have affinities with both Asia and **Europe**.

<https://www.britannica.com> > place > Europe > People

Europe - People | Britannica

Demographics of Asia

Ethnicities [edit]

- Central Asian peoples: Turkic peoples, Iranian peoples
- East Asian peoples: List of Chinese ethnic groups (historical), Sino-Tibetan peoples, Japanese people, Koreans, Mongols
- South Asian peoples: Ethnic groups of India, Ethnic groups in Pakistan, Dravidians, Indo-Aryans, Munda people
- Southeast Asian peoples: Austronesian peoples, Tai peoples; List of ethnic groups in Cambodia, ethnic groups in Indonesia, List of ethnic groups in Laos, Ethnic groups of the Philippines, List of ethnic groups in Vietnam
- West Asian peoples: Arab people, Jews, Samaritans, Druze, Peoples of the Caucasus (transcontinental), Ethnic minorities in Iran, Ethnic minorities in Iraq; Iranian peoples, Turkmen, Turks

Human Language Families

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| ■ Uninhabited | - Indo-European |
| - Afro-Asiatic | ■ Albanian |
| ■ Semitic | ■ Armenian |
| ■ Mongolic | ■ Germanic |
| ■ Tungusic | ■ Greek |
| ■ Turkic | ■ Indic |
| ■ Austro-Asiatic | ■ Iranian |
| ■ Austronesian | ■ Slavic |
| ■ Caspian | ■ Kartvelian |
| ■ Chukotko-Kamchatkan | ■ Koreanic |
| ■ Dené-Yeniseian | ■ Nivkh (isolate) |
| ■ Dravidian | ■ Pontic |
| ■ Eskimo-Aleut | - Sino-Tibetan |
| ■ Hmong-Mien | ■ Sinitic |
| ■ Japonic | ■ Tibeto-Burman |
| | ■ Tai-Kadai |
| | ■ Trans-New Guinea |
| | - Uralic |
| | ■ Finno-Ugric |
| | ■ Samoyedic |
| | ■ Yukaghir |



Language families of Asia

The First Thing George Floyd's Daughter Said When She Met Biden

The family visited with Biden and Vice President Harris at the White House on Tuesday and also met with congressional leaders in Washington, D.C.



Gianna Floyd, George Floyd's daughter, walks out of the West Wing door at the White House after meeting Tuesday with President Biden and Vice President Harris.

Evan Vucci/AP

Biden said that the first thing Floyd's daughter, Gianna, did was to run over to him and give him a hug. "She said, 'I'm really hungry. Do you have any snacks?' "

Acknowledging that his wife might be upset, Biden said he listed off some of the available snacks — including ice cream and Cheetos, and possibly chocolate milk.

Jeff Bezos

In February 2021, Bezos announced that in the [third quarter](#) of 2021 he would step down from his role as CEO of Amazon, to become the Executive Chair of the Amazon Board. He will be replaced as CEO by [Andy Jassy](#).^[81] On February 2, 2021, Bezos sent an email^[82] to all Amazon employees, telling them the transition would give him "the time and energy [he] need[s] to focus on the [Day 1 Fund](#), the [Bezos Earth Fund](#), [Blue Origin](#), [The Washington Post](#), and [his] other passions."^[5]

Day 1 Fund

Through his Day 1 Families' Fund, Bezos issues annual leadership awards to organizations and civic groups doing "compassionate, needle-moving work to provide shelter and hunger support to address the immediate needs of young families". Its vision statement comes from the inspiring Mary's Place in Seattle: "no child sleeps outside".^[126]

"Day 1" Management Philosophy

Day 1: [start up](#)

Day 2: [stasis](#)

Day 3: [irrelevance](#)

Day 4: "excruciating, painful decline"

Day 5: [death](#)

Bezos has stated "it is always Day 1" to describe his [growth mindset](#).^{[155][156]}

In February 2020, Bezos pledged \$10 billion to [combat climate change](#) through the Bezos Earth Fund.^{[274][275][276]} Later that year, in November, Bezos announced \$791M of donations to established, well-known groups, with \$100M each going to [Environmental Defense Fund](#), [Natural Resources Defense Council](#), [The Nature Conservancy](#), [World Resources Institute](#) and [World Wildlife Fund](#), and the remainder going to 11 other groups.^{[277][278][279]} In April 2020, early in the [COVID-19 pandemic](#), Bezos donated \$100 million to food banks through [Feeding America](#).^{[11][280][281]}

In 1986, Bezos graduated summa cum laude from Princeton University with a 4.2 GPA and a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree (B.S.E.) in electrical engineering and computer science; he was also a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Jeff Bezos announced he will formally step down as Amazon CEO on July 5, 2021.

Jeff Bezos



Bezos at the opening of [Amazon Spheres](#) in Seattle, January 2018

Born Jeffrey Preston Jorgensen
January 12, 1964 (age 57)
[Albuquerque, New Mexico, U.S.](#)

Education [Princeton University](#) (BSE, EECS, 1986)

Occupation [Businessman](#) · [media proprietor](#)
· [investor](#) · [computer engineer](#)



Bezos and [Rob Meyerson](#) (fifth from left) giving [NASA Deputy Administrator Lori Garver](#) (fourth from left) a tour of [Blue Origin's crew capsule](#) in 2011



U.S. Secretary of Defense [Ash Carter](#) meets with Bezos in 2016 at [The Pentagon](#)

In September 2000, Bezos founded [Blue Origin](#), a [human spaceflight startup](#).^[83] Bezos has long expressed an interest in space travel and the development of [human life in the solar system](#).^[34] He was the [valedictorian](#) when he graduated from high school in 1982. His speech was followed up with a [Miami Herald](#) interview in which he expressed an interest to build and develop hotels, amusement parks, and colonies for human beings who were in orbit.^[84] The 18-year-old Bezos stated that he wanted to preserve Earth from overuse through [resource depletion](#).^[85] [Rob Meyerson](#) led Blue Origin from 2003 to 2017 and served as its first president.^[86]

After its founding, Blue Origin maintained a low profile until 2006 when it purchased a large tract of land in [West Texas](#) for a launch and test facility.^[87] After the company gained the public's attention during the late 2000s, Bezos additionally indicated his interest in reducing the [cost of space travel](#) for humans while also increasing the safety of extraterrestrial travel.^[88] In September 2011, one of the company's unmanned prototype vehicles crashed during a short-hop test flight. Although the crash was viewed as a setback, news outlets noted how far the company went from its founding-to-date in advancing [spaceflight](#).^[89] After the crash, Bezos has been superstitiously wearing his "lucky" Texas [Cowboy boots](#) to all rocket launches.^[90] In May 2013, Bezos met with [Richard Branson](#), chairman of [Virgin Galactic](#), to discuss commercial spaceflight opportunities and strategies.^[91] He has been compared to Branson and [Elon Musk](#) as all three are billionaires who prioritize spaceflight among their business interests.^[92]

Women Left Their Jobs To Be Caregivers. A Business Coalition Wants Companies To Help

May 26, 2021 - 5:05 AM ET

Heard on Morning Edition



RACHEL MARTIN



JAMES DOUBEK



About 400,000 more women than men have left the workforce since the start of the coronavirus pandemic. They shoulder the bulk of caregiving duties, which are especially difficult if employers are not supportive.

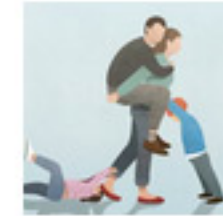
Mayur Kakade/Getty Images

The coronavirus pandemic has been especially tough on women, who are still bearing the brunt of the demands of child care and housework.

About **400,000 more** women than men have left the workforce since the start of the pandemic. The **percentage of women** in the paid labor force has not recovered from the steep drop in the spring of 2020.

Many had to leave their jobs last year to take care of their children when schools closed.

A new business coalition wants companies to take the lead in creating better options for child care and elder care, as well as push the federal government to create a minimum standard of federally funded family and medical leave. The group also advocates better working conditions for people who work as caregivers.



ENOUGH ALREADY: HOW THE PANDEMIC IS BREAKING WOMEN

[Stuck-At-Home Moms: The Pandemic's Devastating Toll On Women](#)

The Care Economy Business Council was created by the Time's Up advocacy group, which advocates for gender equality in the workplace.

"The pandemic has really, really just exposed to everyone how critical the need is to have caregiving in this country," says Tina Tchen, the CEO of Time's Up.

Google, McDonald's, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Verizon, PayPal, Uber and Spotify are among the **some 200 companies** that have already signed on to the council. Tchen says the group asks its members to be committed to caregiving for their workers. The council plans to regularly meet with its members and advocate for the issue in Congress.

President Biden **has proposed** hundreds of billions of dollars to help people afford child care in the American Families Plan.

Tchen talked with Rachel Martin on *Morning Edition* about the role of the private sector in child care. Here are extended web-only excerpts of the interview:

Can you just get granular, explain the connection between women leaving the workforce and the lack of child care?

The pandemic, I think, has made it even worse with schools out,

Passenger attacks attendant on a flight from Sacramento to San Diego



By: Mimi Elkalla

Posted at 5:15 PM, May 26, 2021 and last updated 5:35 PM, May 26, 2021

SAN DIEGO (KGTV)- A flight attendant had two of her teeth knocked out and suffered injuries to her face when a passenger attacked her on a Southwest Airlines flight from Sacramento to San Diego Sunday morning.

San Diego resident, Michelle Manner, captured part of the incident on camera as she was sitting two rows away.

In the video, you see a woman, now identified as Vyvianna Quinonez, punching the flight attendant repeatedly until a man gets in the way to stop her.

“I was shocked at what was going on,” said Manner. “I could tell that her teeth were loose when she was back in the cubby, and her face was bleeding pretty bad.”

Manner said it first started with a verbal argument between the attendant and Quinonez. She claims a bit later, things got heated when the flight attendant was getting too close to Quinonez and also enforcing the mask mandate. Manner said the attendant was reaching over Quinonez while speaking with another passenger in the same row.

“Both parties were wrong in my opinion; they both did not handle this the way it should have been handled,” said Manner. “She was asked three times at least by the passenger before she got hit to ‘stop, back up, get off me.’”

Lyn Montgomery is the president of TWU Local 556, the union representing Southwest flight attendants. She wrote an open letter to the airline’s CEO calling for more to be done to protect the crews on board these flights.

She said **from Apr. 8 to May 15, there were 477 passenger misconduct incidents on Southwest flights.**

“I believe most of the problems are pandemic related, and the wearing of the masks has been a constant challenge for flight attendants to enforce,” said Montgomery.



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NATIONAL

The FAA Has Received An Increasing Number Of Unruly Passenger Reports This Year

With more people boarding planes as the pandemic eases, verbal abuse and violence against flight attendants have increased, caused in part by disputes over the ongoing federal mask mandate.

Saturday, May 29, 2021



Ted S. Warren/AP

between the attendant and Quinonez. She claims a bit later, things got heated when the flight attendant was getting too close to Quinonez and also enforcing the mask mandate. Manner said the attendant was reaching over Quinonez while speaking with another passenger in the same row.

"Both parties were wrong in my opinion; they both did not handle this the way it should have been handled," said Manner. "She was asked three times at least by the passenger before she got hit to 'stop, back up, get off me.'"

According to the Federal Aviation Administration, from Jan. 1 through May 24, there were roughly 2,500 reports of unruly behavior by passengers, including about 1,900 reports of people contravening the federal mask mandate, which is still in place.

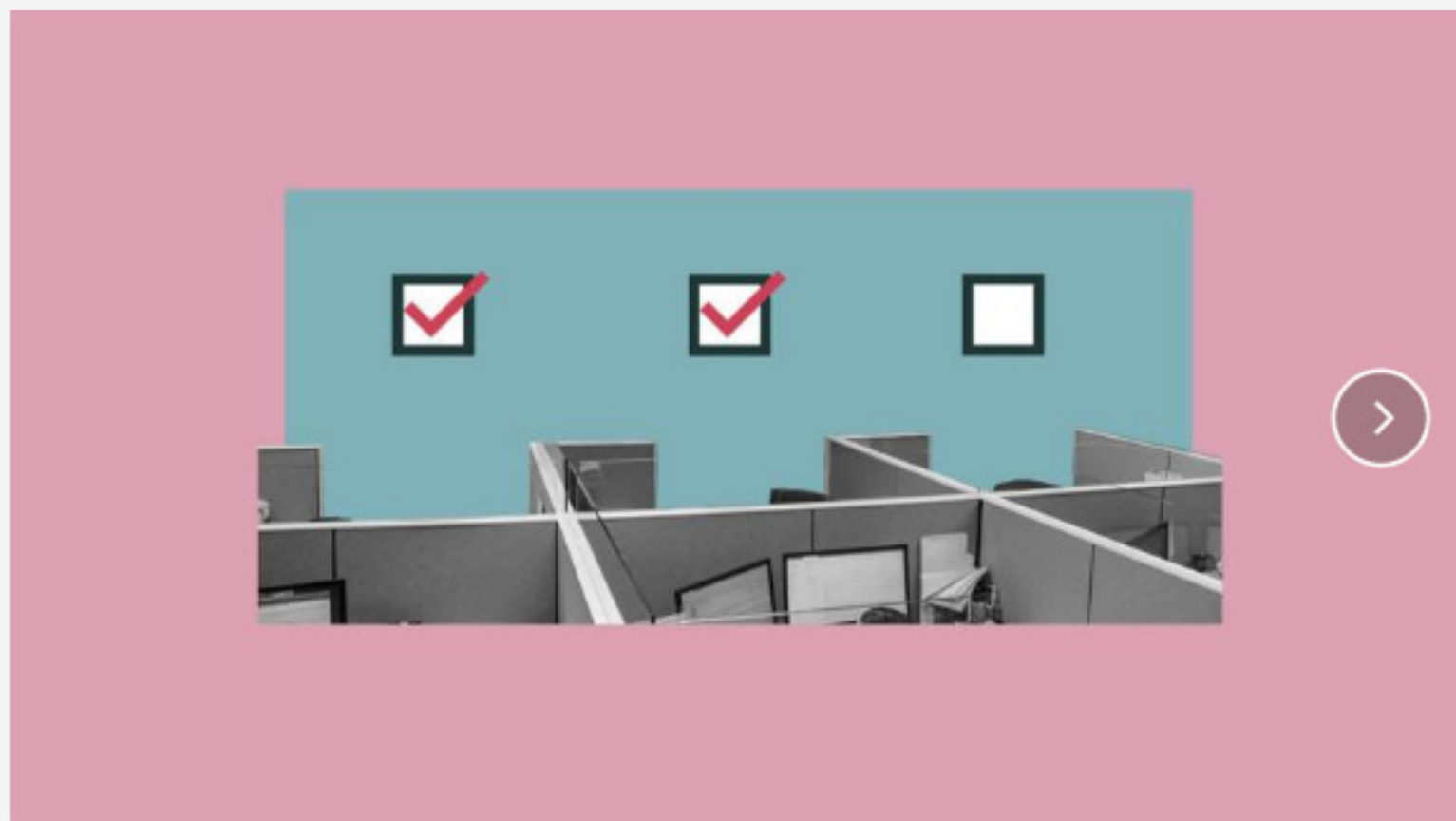
SWA FLIGHT ATTENDANT ASSAULTED

What is the origin of the phrase "the bee's knees"?

The [phrase](#) was first recorded in the late 18th century, when it was used to mean 'something very small and [insignificant](#)'. Its current meaning dates from the 1920s, at which time a whole [collection](#) of American [slang](#) expressions were [coined](#) with the meaning 'an [outstanding](#) person or thing'. Examples included *the flea's eyebrows*, *the canary's tusks*, and one that still survives – *the cat's whiskers*. The switch in meaning for *the bee's knees* probably [emerged](#) because it was so similar in [structure](#) and [pattern](#) to these other phrases.

Can employers make COVID-19 vaccination mandatory?

By MAE ANDERSON Thursday, May 27, 2021



Can employers make COVID-19 vaccination mandatory?

Yes, with some exceptions.

Experts say U.S. employers can require employees to take safety measures, including vaccination. That doesn't necessarily mean you would get fired if you refuse, but you might need to sign a waiver or agree to work under specific conditions to limit any risk you might pose to yourself or others.

"Employers generally have wide scope" to make rules for the workplace, said Dorit Reiss, a law professor who specializes in vaccine policies at the University of California Hastings College of the Law. "It's their business."

"Employers generally have wide scope" to make rules for the workplace, said Dorit Reiss, a law professor who specializes in vaccine policies at the University of California Hastings College of the Law. "It's their business."

Rules will vary by country. But the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has allowed companies to mandate the flu and other vaccines, and has indicated they can require COVID-19 vaccines.

There are exceptions. For example, people can request exemptions for medical or religious reasons. Some states have proposed laws that restrict mandating the vaccines because of their "emergency use" status, but that may become less of an issue since Pfizer has applied for full approval and others are likely to follow.

How employers approach the issue will vary. Many might not want to require vaccination because of the administrative burden of tracking compliance and managing exemption requests, noted Michelle S. Strowhiro, an employment adviser and lawyer at McDermott Will & Emery. Legal claims could also arise.

As a result, many employers will likely strongly encourage vaccination without making it mandatory, Strowhiro said.

Walmart, for example, is offering a \$75 bonus for employees who provide proof they were vaccinated.

Why hurricanes devastate some places over and over again – a meteorologist explains

May 27, 2021 8:04am EDT

 Athena Masson, University of Florida

Every coastline in the North Atlantic is vulnerable to tropical storms, but some areas are more susceptible to hurricane destruction than others.

To understand why as the region heads into what's forecast to be another busy hurricane season, let's look more closely at how tropical storms form and what turns them into destructive monsters.

Ingredients of a hurricane

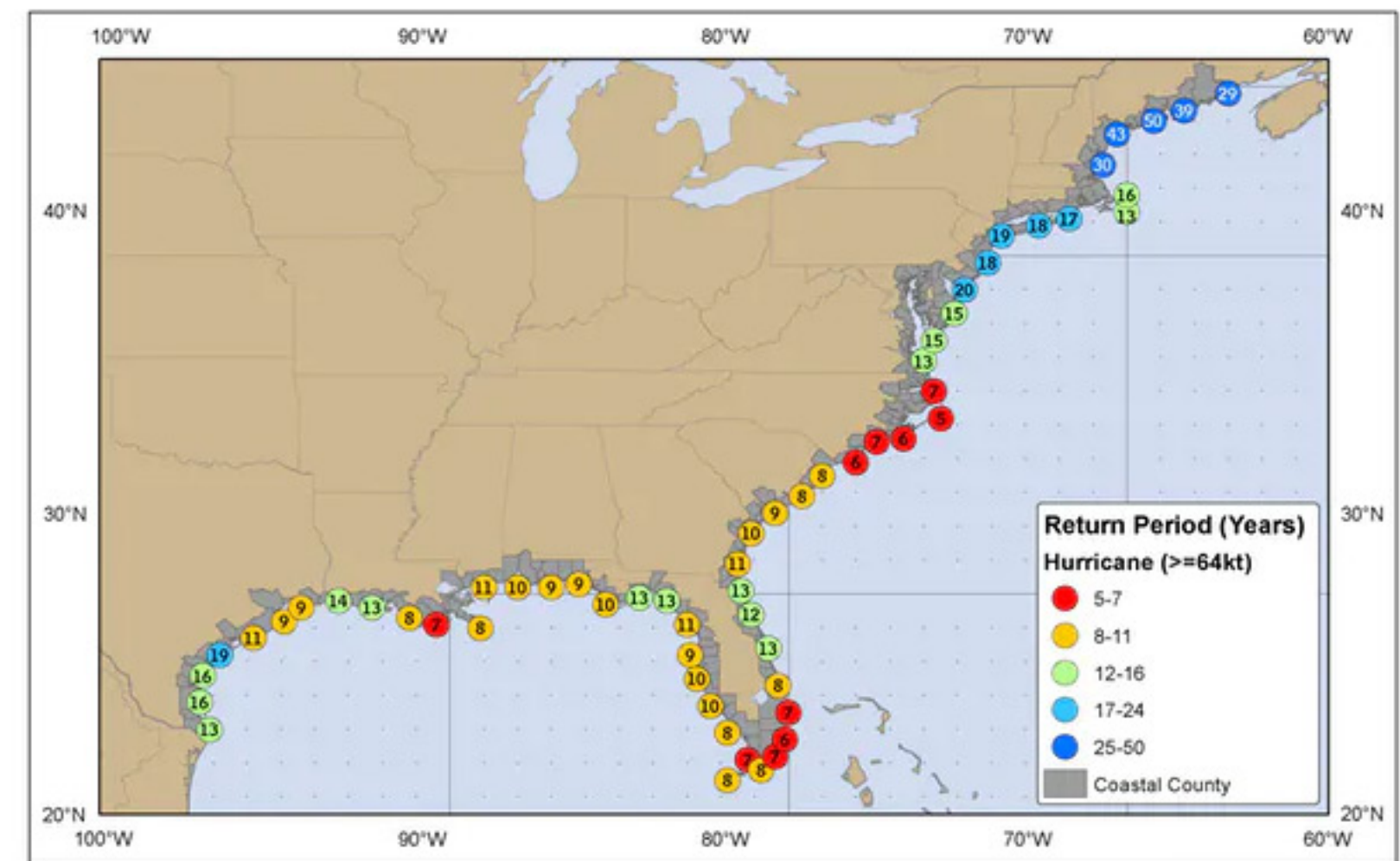
Three key ingredients are needed for a hurricane to form: warm sea surface water that's at least about 80 degrees Fahrenheit (26.5 C), a thick layer of moisture extending from the sea surface to roughly 20,000 feet and minimal vertical wind shear so the thunderstorm can grow vertically without interruption.

These prime conditions are often found in the tropical waters off the west coast of Africa.



Twenty-five years of Atlantic tropical storm tracks, ranging from tropical depressions in dark blue to hurricanes in yellows and reds. Nilfanion

Hurricanes can also form in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean, but the ones that start close to Africa have thousands of miles of warm water ahead that they can draw energy from as they travel. That energy can help them grow into powerful hurricanes.



The numbers shown here reflect how often a hurricane would be expected within 50 nautical miles. The red dots suggest a hurricane every five to seven years. NOAA

What Instagram really learned from hiding like counts

One-size-fits-all solutions are making us miserable

By Casey Newton | @CaseyNewton | May 27, 2021, 7:00am EDT



In April 2019, amid growing questions about the effects of social networks on mental health, Instagram announced [it would test a feed without likes](#). The person posting an image on the network would still see how many people had sent it a heart, but the total number of hearts would remain invisible to the public.

“It’s about young people,” Instagram chief Adam Mosseri said [that November](#), just ahead of the test arriving in the United States. “The idea is to try and depressurize Instagram, make it less of a competition, give people more space to focus on connecting with people that they love, things that inspire them. But it’s really focused on young people.”

After more than two years of testing, today Instagram announced what it found: removing likes doesn’t seem to meaningfully depressurize Instagram, for young people or anyone else, and so likes will remain publicly viewable by default. But all users will now get the ability to switch them off if they like, either for their whole feed or on a per-post basis.

“What we heard from people and experts was that not seeing like counts was beneficial for some, and annoying to others, particularly because people use like counts to get a sense for what’s trending or popular, so we’re giving you the choice,” the company said in [a blog post](#).

“IT DID END UP BEING PRETTY POLARIZING.”

At first blush, this move feels like a remarkable anticlimax. The company invested more than two years in testing these changes, with Mosseri himself telling *Wired* he spent “a lot of time on this personally” as the company began the project. For a moment, it seemed as if Instagram might be on the verge of a fundamental transformation — away from an influencer-driven social media reality show toward something more intimate and humane.

“It ended up being that the clearest path forward was something that we already believe in, which is giving people choice,” he said this week. “I think it’s something that we should do more of.”

For Native Americans, Harvard and other colleges fall short

By PHILIP MARCELO Thursday, May 27, 2021

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — When Samantha Maltais steps onto Harvard’s campus this fall, she’ll become the first member of the Aquinnah Wampanoag tribe to attend its prestigious law school. It’s a “full-circle moment” for the university and the Martha’s Vineyard tribe, she says.

More than 350 years ago, [Caleb Cheeshahteaumuck](#), an Aquinnah Wampanoag man, became the first Native American to graduate from the Cambridge, Massachusetts, university — the product of its 1650 charter calling for the education of “English and Indian youth of this country.”

“Coming from a tribal community in its backyard, I’m hyper aware of Harvard’s impact,” said Maltais, the 24-year-old daughter of her tribe’s chairwoman. “It’s a symbol of New England’s colonial past, this tool of assimilation that pushed Native Americans into the background in their own homelands.”

Maltais will arrive on campus at a time when Native American tribes, students and faculty are pushing the Ivy League institution and other colleges to do more for Indigenous communities to atone for past wrongs, much in the way [states](#), [municipalities](#) and [universities](#) are weighing and, in some cases, [already providing](#) reparations for slavery and discrimination against Black people.

Students and alumni are also pushing Harvard to formally acknowledge that it stands on land once inhabited by Indigenous peoples, Van Dyke said. It’s a basic, initial step many colleges have taken, including [MIT](#) and the [University of California, Davis](#).

“We’re nowhere near where other colleges are at,” Van Dyke said.

Harvard spokespeople declined to comment on the concerns, but Joseph Gone, an anthropology professor who heads the school’s Native American program, said the university is in preliminary talks with local tribes to develop a land acknowledgement statement.



Samantha Maltais, of New Bedford, Mass., an incoming Harvard Law student, stands for a photograph, Tuesday, May 25, 2021, in New Bedford. When Maltais steps onto Harvard’s campus this fall, she’ll become the first member of the Aquinnah Wampanoag tribe to attend its prestigious law school. “Coming from a tribal community in its backyard, I’m hyper aware of Harvard’s impact,” said Maltais, the 24-year-old daughter of her tribe’s chairwoman. (AP Photo/Steven Senne)

A member of the Gros Ventre Tribe in Montana, Gone also argues Harvard has made strides since his days as an undergraduate in the 1990s. He’s one of three tenured Native American professors and roughly 10 Native American courses are now offered each semester.

The Dartmouth graduate, who recently served in the Peace Corps in Tonga, also supports the idea of free or discounted tuition for Native students, but stresses that shouldn’t be the only solution.

“Not everyone needs a fancy degree,” she said. “Sometimes the only reparation for land is land.”

<https://www.npr.org/2021/05/25/1000175441/conduct-unbecoming>
<https://www.nicole-xu.com/>

Nicole Xu is a freelance illustrator who was born in Shanghai, grew up in Vancouver, Canada, and is now based in Portland, Oregon. She graduated from Rhode Island School of Design with a BFA in illustration and is represented by RapplArt.

📌 Pinned Tweet



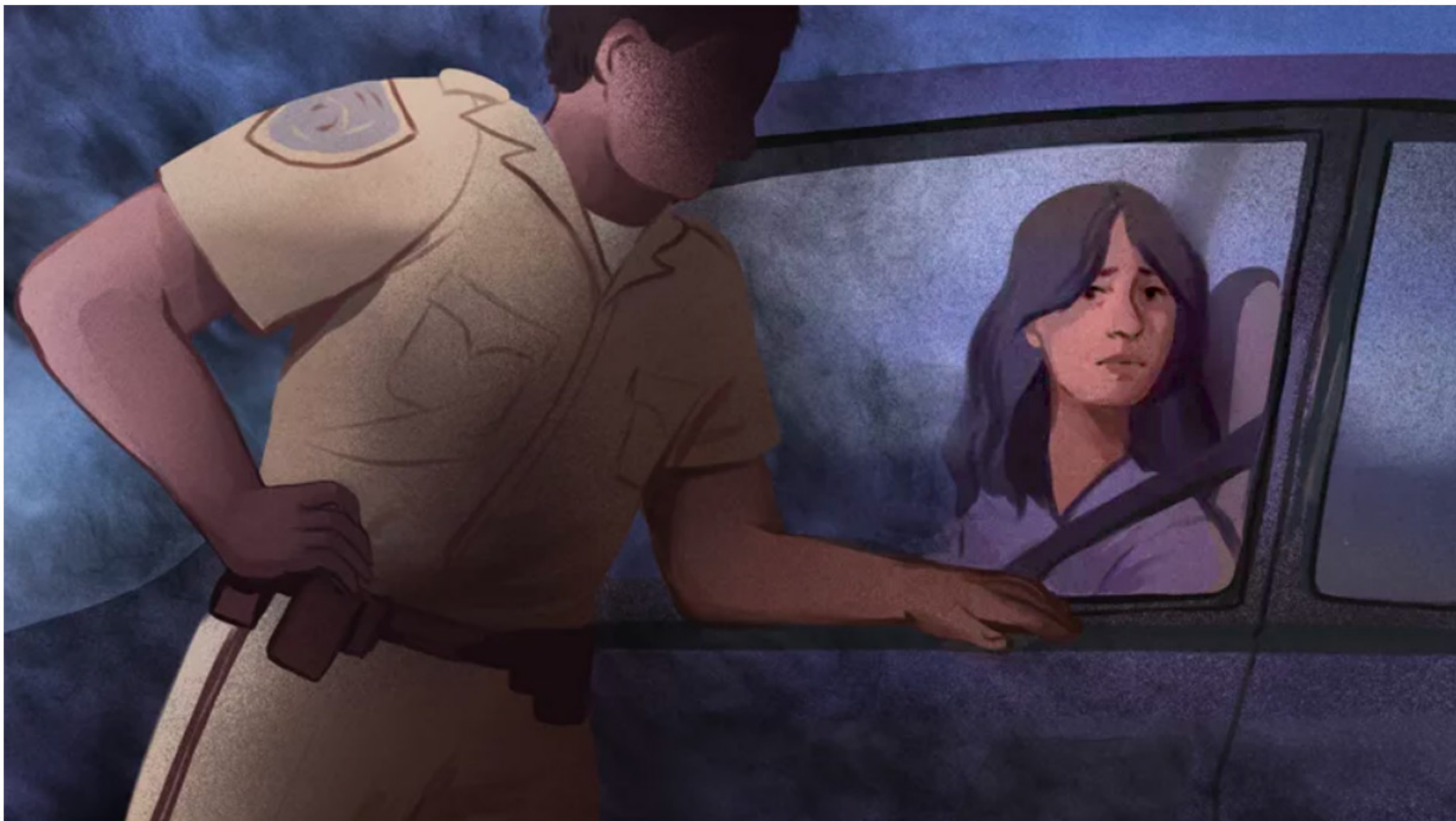
Nicole Xu @nicolexu_ · Jun 23, 2020

Hi #VisibleWomen! I'm Nicole, I'm a freelance illustrator who works in editorial, publishing, and children's lit!



Nicole Xu
@nicolexu_

Illustrator with a pup



A Worker-Owned Cooperative Tries to Compete With Uber and Lyft

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/28/technology/nyc-uber-lyft-the-drivers-cooperative.html>

About 2500 drivers in New York are organizing to create what they say is a better deal for drivers than what is offered by ride-hailing giants.



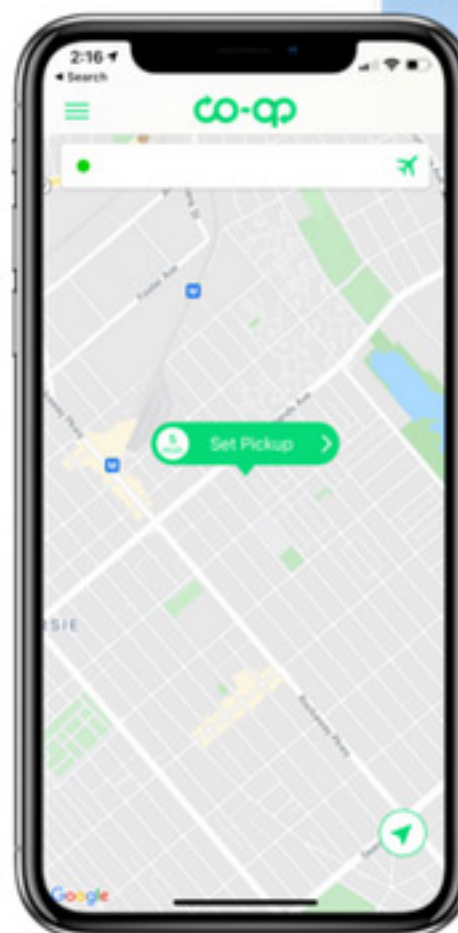
The Drivers Cooperative

[About Us](#) [Drive with Us](#) [Ride With Us](#) [Press](#) [Contact](#) [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [Donate](#)

Drivers steer our company.

We are a driver-owned ridehailing cooperative in New York City.

[Drive with Us](#)



Support us as we build the 100% worker-owned rideshare company of the future.

“While Uber and Lyft make their money for Wall Street and Silicon Valley investors, we will be a co-operative. So any profits will go back to the drivers.”

Ken Lewis, The Drivers Cooperative

A Worker-Owned Cooperative Tries to Compete With Uber and Lyft

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/28/technology/nyc-uber-lyft-the-drivers-cooperative.html>

About 2500 drivers in New York are organizing to create what they say is a better deal for drivers than what is offered by ride-hailing giants.

New York City Drivers Cooperative Aims to Smash Uber's Exploitative Model

By AnalyticsWeek News Feed

162 0



“While Uber and Lyft make their money for Wall Street and Silicon Valley investors, we will be a co-operative. So any profits will go back to the drivers.”

Ken Lewis, The Drivers Cooperative

Ken Lewis grew up on the island of Grenada, and witnessed the progressive aftermath of its 1979 revolution. “I remember the power of cooperatives, people getting land, turning places that were barren into productive places,” he says. That image stayed with him after he moved to New York City for grad school and started driving a taxi on the side. Now, several decades later, Lewis is finally getting a chance to put the power of cooperatives into practice, in service of the drivers he worked with for so long.

He is one of three cofounders of The Drivers Cooperative (TDC), which aims to realize a long-held dream of socially conscious New Yorkers in a hurry: a ridesharing app that you can feel good about. When it rolls out to the public early next year, TDC will become New York City’s first worker-owned ridesharing platform—owned by the drivers themselves, rather than by big investors and executives. Its founders’ brazen idea is that TDC can actually gain a competitive advantage over Uber and Lyft—saving money and funneling those savings back to drivers—by doing away with the most exploitative practices of that dominant duopoly. “The way the [Uber] model is organized is extractive. It takes out the money and doesn’t give back much. Imagine a company that doesn’t have any profits, but has created billionaires,” Lewis says. “That money comes from drivers.”

Erik Forman, a veteran labor activist and organizer, became intimately acquainted with the dark side of that extractive model when he was working as a staff member at the Independent Drivers Guild, a union-affiliated group that organizes rideshare drivers in New York. Companies that operate in the industry regularly push much of the risk of employment onto the drivers by classifying them as “independent contractors” rather than employees. But they also push the costs of the job onto the workers, forcing them to pay for their own car and maintenance (not to mention things like healthcare benefits). Instead of being paid to work, in other words, ridesharing apps—like other “gig economy” companies?

Donate

Raymond Kelly, S.P.S. (born 25 April 1953) is an Irish Catholic priest best known for his interpretation of popular songs. He is the priest of St. Brigid's & St. Mary's parish at Oldcastle, County Meath, Ireland, and a member of Saint Patrick's Society for the Foreign Missions.

Kelly became famous in 2014 after a video of him singing Leonard Cohen's song "Hallelujah" while officiating at a couple's wedding became a YouTube sensation. The words were modified to suit the occasion by 10-year-old bridesmaid Lucy Pitts O'Connor. By 2020, it had received more than 75 million hits.^[1]

Original Big surprise for Bride and Groom...Chris and Leah Wedding 5 April 2014

80,053,614 views • Apr 7, 2014

 464K  13K  SHARE  SAVE ...



Massive bitcoin mine discovered in UK after police raid suspected cannabis farm

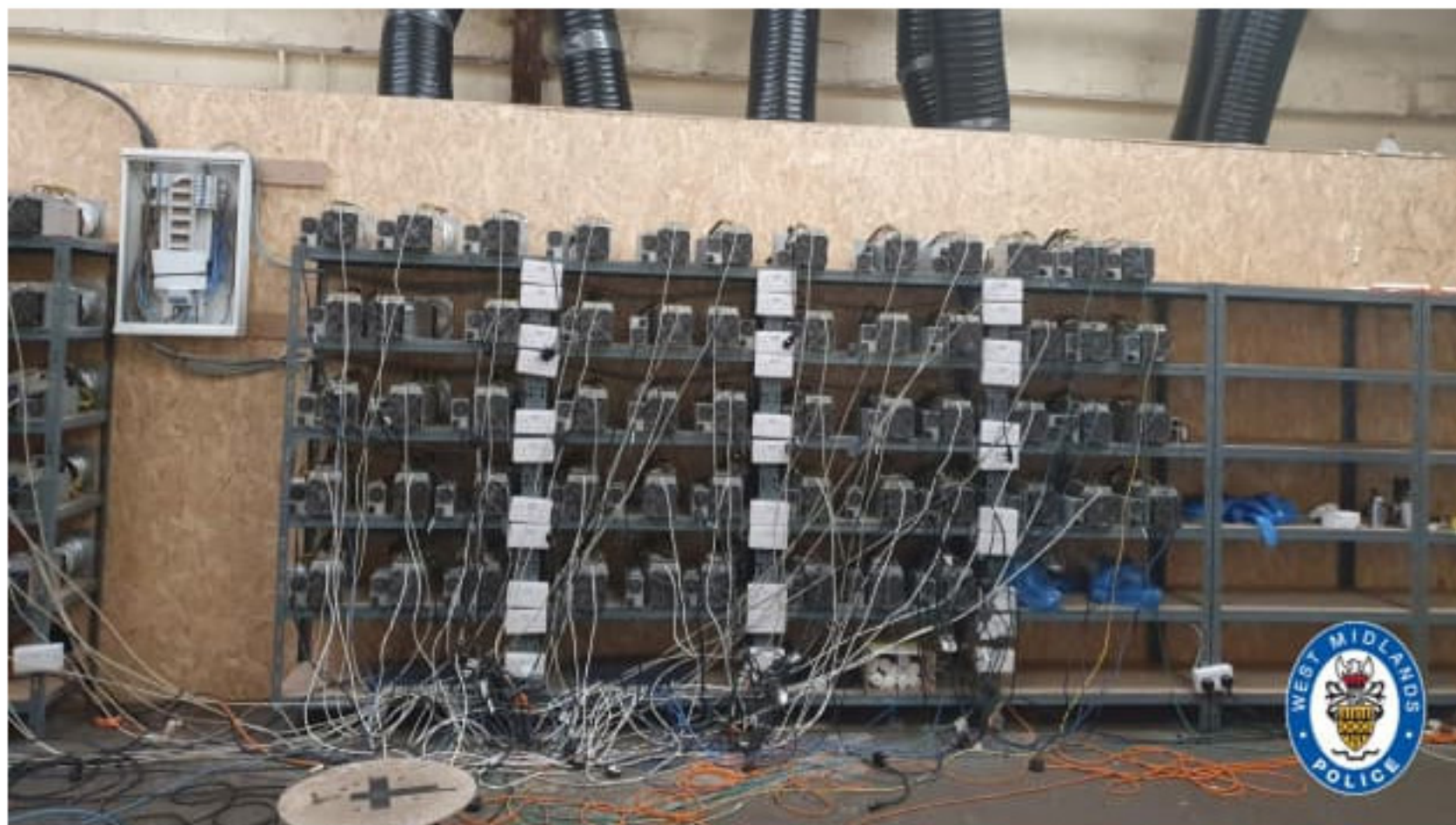
PUBLISHED FRI, MAY 28 2021-9:17 AM EDT UPDATED FRI, MAY 28 2021-2:29 PM EDT

Sam Shead

@SAM_L_SHEAD

KEY POINTS

- The mine was stealing thousands of pounds worth of electricity from the mains supply, police said.
- Police searched the unit on May 18 on the back of intelligence that led them to believe it was being used as a cannabis farm.
- These are all “classic signs” of a cannabis farm, police said. However, officers found a bank of around 100 computers and zero cannabis on entering the building.



Bitcoin mine uncovered during Black Country industrial unit raid that was stealing thousands of pounds worth of electricity from the mains supply.

Source: West Midlands Police

“It’s certainly not what we were expecting,” said Sandwell police sergeant, Jennifer Griffin. “It had all the hallmarks of a cannabis cultivation set-up and I believe it’s only the second such crypto mine we’ve encountered in the West Midlands. My understanding is that mining for cryptocurrency is not itself illegal but clearly abstracting electricity from the mains supply to power it is.”

LONDON — An illegal bitcoin mine has been found by police in the U.K. who were looking for a cannabis farm.

The mine — located in an industrial unit on the outskirts of the English city of Birmingham — was stealing thousands of pounds worth of electricity from the mains supply, [West Midlands Police said](#) Thursday.

Police searched the unit in Sandwell on May 18 on the back of intelligence that led them to believe it was being used as a cannabis farm.

Many people were visiting the unit at various points of the day, police said, adding there were numerous wiring and ventilation ducts visible. A police drone also detected a lot of heat coming from the building.



Bitcoin mine uncovered during Black Country industrial unit raid that was stealing thousands of pounds worth of electricity from the mains supply.

Source: West Midlands Police

'Unthinkable' discovery in Canada as remains of 215 children found buried near residential school

By Paula Newton, CNN

Updated 8:34 PM ET, Fri May 28, 2021



The former Kamloops Indian Residential School on Thursday, May 27, in Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada. The remains of 215 children have been found buried on school's grounds, which closed in 1978.

(CNN) — The gruesome discovery took decades and for some survivors of the Kamloops Indian Residential School in Canada, the confirmation that children as young as 3 were buried on school grounds crystallizes the sorrow they have carried all their lives.

"I lost my heart, it was so much hurt and pain to finally hear, for the outside world, to finally hear what we assumed was happening there," said Harvey McLeod, who attended the school for two years in the late 1960s, in a telephone interview with CNN Friday.

"The story is so unreal, that yesterday it became real for a lot of us in this community," he said.

The Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc community in the southern interior of British Columbia, where the school was located, [released a statement](#) late Thursday saying an "unthinkable loss that was spoken about but never documented" was confirmed.



Harvey McLeod attended Kamloops in the late 1960s. He said the school scarred generations of First Nation members.

Community leaders say the investigation will continue in conjunction with the British Columbia Coroner's Office and that community and government officials will ensure the remains are safeguarded and identified. Chief coroner Lisa Lapointe [issued a statement](#) saying that her office is early in the process of gathering information.

"We recognize the tragic, heartbreaking devastation that the Canadian residential school system has inflicted upon so many, and our thoughts are with all of those who are in mourning today," she said.

In 2015 [Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) released a report detailing the damaging legacy of the country's residential school system. Thousands of mostly indigenous children were separated from their families and forced to attend residential schools.

The report detailed decades of physical, sexual and emotional abuse suffered by children in government and church run institutions.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA has released a stunning new picture of our galaxy's violent, super-energized "downtown."

It's a composite of 370 observations over the past two decades by the orbiting Chandra X-ray Observatory, depicting billions of stars and countless black holes in the center, or heart, of the Milky Way. A radio telescope in South Africa also contributed to the image, for contrast.

Astronomer Daniel Wang of the University of Massachusetts Amherst said Friday he spent a year working on this while stuck at home during the pandemic.

"What we see in the picture is a violent or energetic ecosystem in our galaxy's downtown," Wang said in an email. "There are a lot of supernova remnants, black holes, and neutron stars there. Each X-ray dot or feature represents an energetic source, most of which are in the center."

This busy, high-energy galactic center is 26,000 light years away.

His work appears in the June issue of the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Launched in 1999, Chandra is in an extreme oval orbit around Earth.

This false-color X-ray and radio frequency image made available by NASA on Friday, May 28, 2021 shows threads of superheated gas and magnetic fields at the center of the Milky Way galaxy. X-rays detected by the NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory are in orange, green, blue and purple, and radio data from the MeerKAT radio telescope in South Africa are shown in lilac and gray. The plane of the galaxy is horizontal, in the center of this vertical image. Astronomer Daniel Wang of the University of Massachusetts Amherst said Friday he spent a year working on this, while stuck at home during the pandemic. (NASA/CXC/UMass/Q.D. Wang, NRF/SARAO/MeerKAT via AP)



RACE

Spain's New Postage Stamps Were Meant To Call Out Racism. Instead They Drew Outrage

Spain's postal service issued a set of four stamps in different skin-colored tones. The darker the stamp, the lower the price. The controversial effort was meant to highlight racial inequality.

MADRID — Spain's postal service is feeling a backlash from its attempt to highlight racial inequality.

State-owned Correos España this week issued a set of four stamps in different skin-colored tones. The darker the stamp, the lower the price. The lightest color costs 1.60 euros (\$1.95). The darkest one costs 0.70 euros (\$0.85).

The postal service's initiative has divided Spanish anti-racism activists. While the national SOS Racism Federation backed it, the organization's Madrid section poured scorn on the effort.

SOS Racismo Madrid said the campaign helps conceal the structural nature of racism and perpetuate the notion of Black inferiority.

Any racially aware person would have identified what was wrong with the campaign, it said, adding that the blunder proved the need for more racially aware people in decision-making positions at companies.

The campaign also received criticism on social media.

This isn't the first time the Spanish postal service has sought to make a statement on social issues. Last June, to coincide with LGBT Pride Month, it issued a special stamp and painted its delivery vans and mail boxes in rainbow colors.



Correos/AP

eNewsletter from the desk of Mayor Todd Gloria

Sat 5/29/2021 4:07 AM

City and County of San Diego Award \$5 million for Behavioral Health Services

I announced the first projects of the \$25 million County-City Behavioral Health Impact Fund. We are investing in proven nonprofits like [La Maestra Circle of Care](#) to provide access to housing and mental health services to assist our most vulnerable. Ensuring that our mental health providers are equipped to meet the needs of San Diegans looking to receive services is a priority for my administration. The \$5 million allocation will be used to purchase new crisis care team vehicles, provide new technology to help people connect to telehealth services and build 21 transitional housing units through our County-City Behavioral Health Impact Fund.



**LA MAESTRA
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS**
City Heights · El Cajon · National City · Lemon Grove

About La Maestra

Mission: *"To provide quality healthcare and education, improve the overall well-being of the family, bringing the underserved, ethnically diverse communities into the mainstream of our society, through a caring, effective, culturally and linguistically competent manner, respecting the dignity of all patients."*

La Maestra Community Health Centers

4060 Fairmount Ave, San Diego, CA

2.7 ★★★★★ 131 reviews

Joe Connector Kennedy
Local Guide · 289 reviews · 391 photos
★★★★★ 4 years ago

Wait is very long make sure you take half a day off or go in early. Don't love it but the doctors are nice and seem knowledgable. If you don't mind being a number.

4

Aries Soto
1 review
★★★★★ 2 months ago

This facility has made fun of a lady who was just trying to go to an appointment the staff is not professional, you should have common manners if your health professionals

3



First Clinic, opened 1990



LEED Certified Gold Health Center, opened 2010

eNewsletter from the desk of Mayor Todd Gloria

Sat 5/29/2021 4:07 AM

I was able to celebrate the first anniversary of PATH's Cooks Mobile program by helping prepare fresh, healthy meals for delivery to vulnerable San Diegans. The partnerships with 211, United Way of San Diego and Door Dash made this program a success. To date the program has surpassed 25,000 meals served - an incredible milestone!



I am Homeless and Need Assistance

[FIND MY PATH HOME >](#)

I Want to Join the PATH Community

[VOLUNTEER >](#)

[WORK AT PATH >](#)

I Want to Partner with PATH

[BECOME A SUPPORTER >](#)

OUR MISSION

PATH is ending homelessness for individuals, families, and communities. We do this by building affordable housing and providing supportive services throughout California.

FOOD: PATH Cooks Mobile

PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) | <http://www.epath.org>

At this time it is critical that all of PATH's clients receive a healthy hot meal at least once a day in order to keep their immune systems strong and spirits up. This program is being launched in direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic and not only will the impact be felt by the clients, but also staff will be able to focus on other essential duties that they can not get to when they are delivering meals.

As a volunteer, you will pick up 10-20 meals at the downtown PATH facility. You will be assigned a delivery route then will deliver hot meals to clients that are staying at hotels and unable to access food any other way using your personal vehicle. The shifts will be 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. This will be a no contact drop off, "Knock, drop, walk."

PATH will be accepting applications and performing DMV background checks on all applicants as long as is needed to keep our most vulnerable population safe.

Project Requirements & Important Notes

- **Attire:** Comfortable clothing
- **Physical Requirements:** Lifting 20 pounds, bending, able to go up and down stairs
- **Note:** All volunteers must be available for the duration of the shift, 11:30am to 2:00pm

About PATH (People Assisting the Homeless)

PATH's mission is to end homelessness for individuals, families and communities. They do this by building affordable housing and providing supportive services throughout California.

1.0 Terrible Management

☆☆☆☆☆

[Housing Specialist](#) (Former Employee) - [San Diego, CA](#) - February 24, 2021

PATH management is not the best and they are not trained to do their job. They say that they are there for you and that is a lie. Staff is out doing all the work while management complains. I do not recommend working here if you are looking for a career job. There is no room for growth at PATH.

✓ **Pros**

None

✗ **Cons**

Management, high stress and low pay

1.0 Management

☆☆☆☆☆

[Program Supervisor](#) (Current Employee) - [San Diego, CA](#) - October 15, 2020

The management in San Diego have a very condescending, power tripping, want to treat people bad Regional officer. They need to look into how he is treating people and how he speaks to them.

ISSUE AREA(S)

Hunger & Homelessness, Health & Wellness

POPULATION SERVED

Homeless, Low-income communities, People with Disabilities, People with Health-based Concerns

ACTIVITY TYPE

Disaster Services

REQUIREMENTS

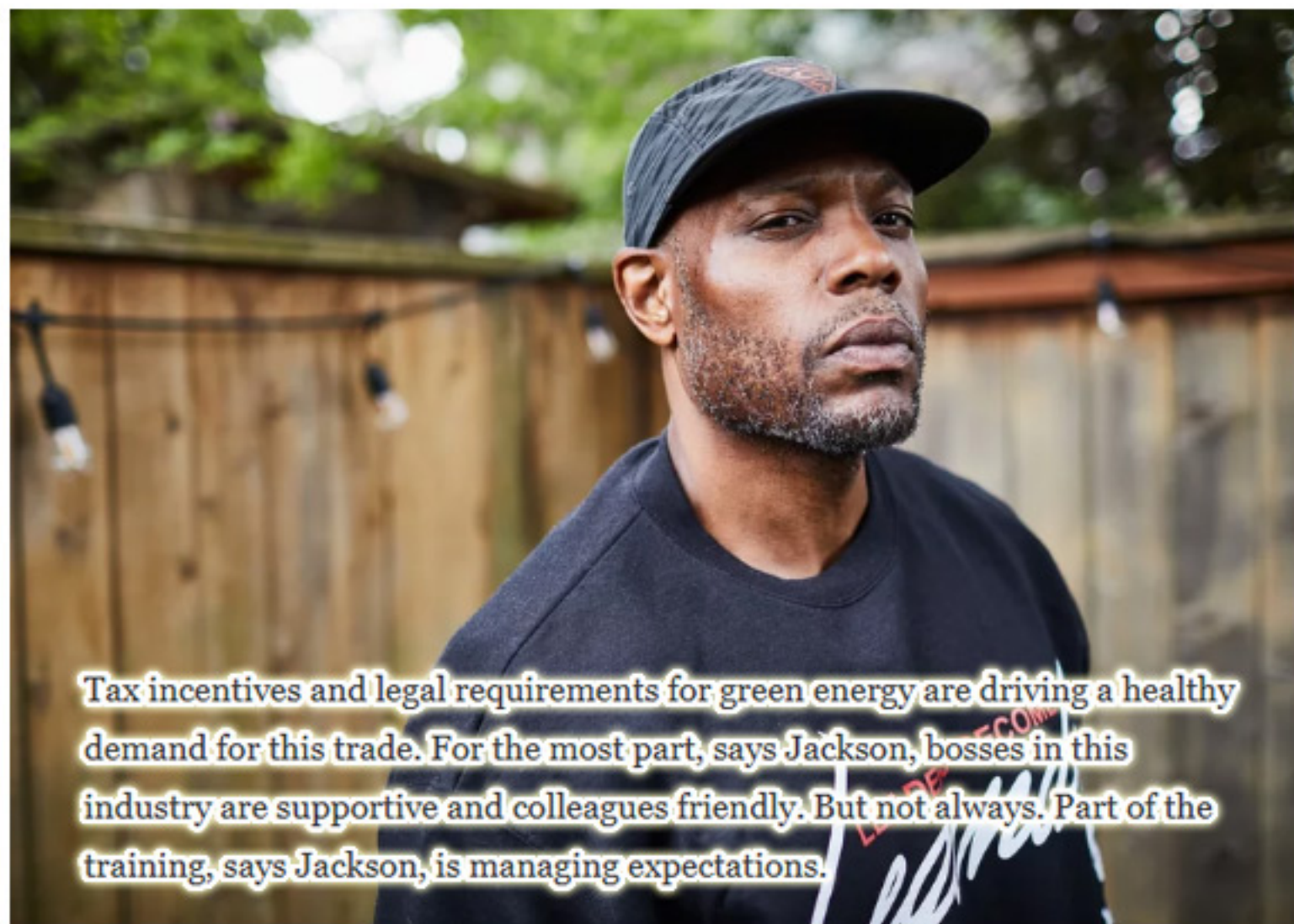
Age Minimum (with Adult): 10+, Minimum Age:18+

Startup Helps Those Affected By Gangs And Gun Violence Find A Way Out

May 29, 2021 · 7:01 AM ET

Heard on [Weekend Edition Saturday](#)

KATIA RIDDLE



Tax incentives and legal requirements for green energy are driving a healthy demand for this trade. For the most part, says Jackson, bosses in this industry are supportive and colleagues friendly. But not always. Part of the training, says Jackson, is managing expectations.

Bretto Jackson runs a program called Leaders Become Legends in Portland, Ore. He and a partner mentor people involved in gun violence and help them get jobs in green energy.

Bretto Jackson hated many things about federal prison, but not everything. It gave him access to people he never would have encountered otherwise.

"The thing about prison is, you're all wearing the same thing," he says.

"Everyone has the same \$40 New Balances on." Even, for example, the Wall Street criminals at Rikers Island. "These dudes were just sitting across from me, drinking their coffee, reading their Wall Street Journals."

Jackson's fellow inmates opened his eyes to the concepts of investing and the tools of finance, a universe away from the robbery related charge that landed him in prison for 61 months. He became a *Wall Street Journal* reader too.

After leaving prison, Jackson wanted to use his new financial acumen to empower others like himself to find legal paths to making money.

Today, he and a partner run a small startup in Portland, Ore., called Leaders Become Legends. They mentor people involved with gun violence and connect them with companies who are hiring for green jobs, like solar panel installation companies and recycling facilities.

Unlike minimum wage or fast food gigs, this work pays well. Starting wages can be close to \$20 an hour. A living wage, says Jackson, is critical to finding a way out of gun violence.

"You might see a swastika tattoo on one of these guys, you might see a Trump sign, a Make America Great Again sticker on one of these bumpers of these trucks," Jackson says. He cautions participants against letting it distract them. "Think about your children," he tells them.

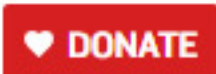
"Our total mission is to not let them go back to prison, or be dead," Jackson says. "As well as dealing with our trauma from just being so called Black in America."

This trauma is sometimes less dramatic than arrests or shooting. On a recent day at the solar panel site, another program participant, Tay'Andre Churn, arrives late to the work site after being pulled over on his way into this affluent suburb.

"I think he saw a black dude, and it went down from there," Churn says. Getting pulled over, he says, is "an almost every day type thing."

Despite their frequency, the police stops never get easier. Between these encounters and the violence in his community, Churn acknowledges that he lives with a lot of fear and deep sense of injustice.

But with two kids to feed, he says, he doesn't have time to dwell on it. Instead he straps on his safety harness and gets to work.



POP CULTURE

'Charlie Bit Me' Will Remain On YouTube After NFT Auction Switcheroo

May 30, 2021 - 6:24 AM ET



EMMA BOWMAN



Search



Charlie, then 1 year old, bites Harry, 3, in the original 2007 YouTube video — which isn't going anywhere, it turns out.

HDCYT/YouTube

"Charlie Bit Me" won't be taken down from YouTube after all.

The 2007 viral video was auctioned off as a nonfungible token (NFT) this week, with its seller saying that it would be [deleted from the website](#) to be "memorialized" on the blockchain. The decision to remove the original YouTube clip came as a twist for the blockchain market of meme memorabilia, and no doubt attracted more bidders to bump its value at auction.

Instead, the father of the video's stars, Howard Davies-Carr, now says the clip will stay up on the video platform after it's NFT version sold for about \$761,000 on Sunday — a purchase value that surpassed that of other [recent sales of NFTs](#) in the meme genre.

"After the auction we connected with the buyer who ended up deciding to keep the video on Youtube," Davies-Carr said in an emailed statement. "The buyer felt that the video is an important part of popular culture and shouldn't be taken down. It will now live on Youtube for the masses to continue enjoying as well as memorialized as an NFT on the blockchain."

The buyer is 3F Music, a music studio based in Dubai, which also [won the auction for Disaster Girl](#) and other meme NFTs.

Davies-Carr said in an [interview with Quartz](#) that his family offered to delete the original clip from YouTube in order to increase the sale price.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_OBlgSz8sSM

Charlie bit my finger - again ! - Waiting on NFT decision

885,328,072 views

2.3M

273K

SHARE

SAVE



Demonstrators gather outside Nashville hat store that offered 'not vaccinated' yellow Star of David badges

By [Melissa Alonso](#) and [Andy Rose](#), CNN

Updated 7:29 AM ET, Sun May 30, 2021

(CNN) — The owner of a Nashville hat store is being accused of anti-Semitism after announcing the sale of yellow Star of David badges, similar to the ones Nazis forced Jews to wear during the Holocaust, which read "NOT VACCINATED."

Nashville's hatWRKS posted a photo on Instagram on Friday announcing the sale of a Star of David patch that says "NOT VACCINATED," according to CNN affiliates WZTV and WSMV. The post has since been removed.

The caption on the post read: "patches are here!! they turned out great. \$5ea. strong adhesive back we'll be offering trucker caps soon."

CNN has made several attempts to reach the store's owner, [Gigi Gaskins](#), but has not heard back.

After the post was removed, another hatWRKS post from Friday said, "people are so outraged by my post? but are you outraged with the tyranny the world is experiencing? if you don't understand what is happening, that is on you, not me."

Western apparel maker [Stetson](#) announced Saturday evening it was cutting ties with the store.

"As a result of the offensive content and opinions shared by hatWRKS in Nashville, Stetson and our distribution partners will cease the sale of all Stetson products," the [company](#) said on Twitter.

Stetson announced its decision to stop selling its products to hatWRKS hours after tweeting it was investigating the complaints.

"Along with our distribution partners, Stetson condemns antisemitism and discrimination of any kind," the company said.

The website for hatWRKS showed [dozens of styles of Stetson hats](#) for sale Saturday evening, with many listed at more than \$200.

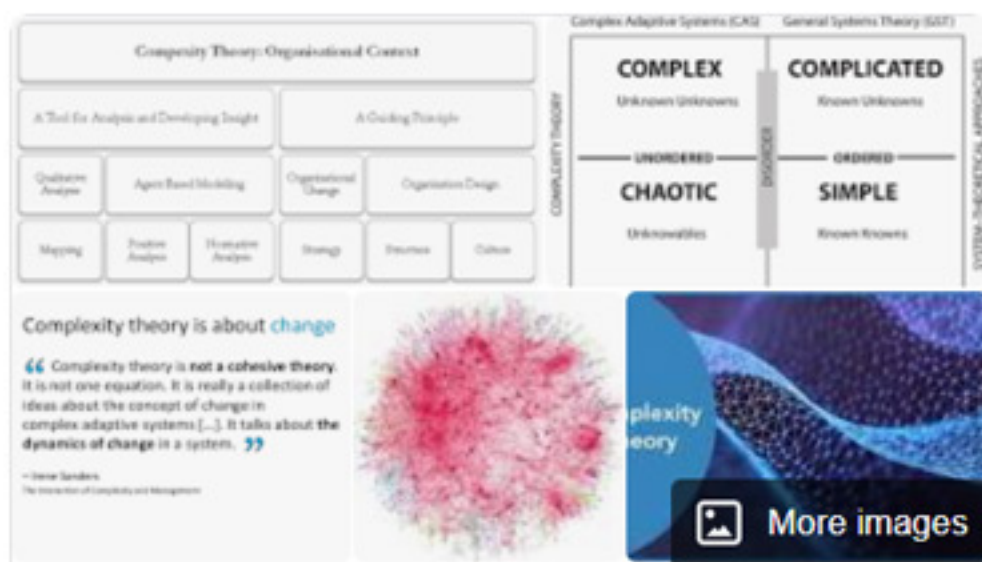


An anti-vaxxer patch recently promoted by a Tennessee hat shop, as seen on the Facebook page of store owner Gigi Gaskins (L), and in a now-deleted post on the shop's Instagram (R). © Facebook / Gigi Gaskins / screenshot; Twitter / @INTLmischief / screenshot

"This is not about vaccine or anti-vaccine. People are free to make their own decisions," Rivlin added. "Jews didn't have a choice whether to wear that star or not. They were forced to wear that star and that led to their eventual death," said Rivlin.

"It's a terrible idea. It's a terrible thing," Roger Abramson, an attorney from Brentwood, Tennessee, told WSMV.

"There's no way you could reasonably associate choosing to go without vaccinations for Covid ... and assuming that you're in the same spot as a Jewish person in Nazi Germany," Abramson said.



Complexity theory and organizations

Complexity theory and organizations, also called complexity strategy or complex adaptive organizations, is the use of the study of complexity systems in the field of strategic management and organizational studies. It draws from research in the natural sciences that examines uncertainty and non-linearity. [Wikipedia](#)

Complexity characterises the behaviour of a [system](#) or [model](#) whose components [interact](#) in multiple ways and follow local rules, meaning there is no reasonable higher instruction to define the various possible interactions.^[1]

The term is generally used to characterize something with many parts where those parts interact with each other in multiple ways, culminating in a higher order of [emergence](#) greater than the sum of its parts. The study of these complex linkages at various scales is the main goal of [complex systems theory](#).

[Science](#) as of 2010 takes a number of approaches to characterizing complexity; Zayed *et al.*^[2] reflect many of these. [Neil Johnson](#) states that "even among scientists, there is no unique definition of complexity – and the scientific notion has traditionally been conveyed using particular examples..." Ultimately Johnson adopts the definition of "complexity science" as "the study of the phenomena which emerge from a collection of interacting objects"^[3]

Neil Fraser Johnson is a professor of physics notable for his work in complexity theory and complex systems, spanning quantum information, econophysics, and condensed matter physics. He is currently Professor of Physics at George Washington University in Washington D.C. where he



In several scientific fields, "complexity" has a precise meaning:

In computational complexity theory, the amounts of resources required for the execution of algorithms is studied.

In algorithmic information theory, the Kolmogorov complexity (also called descriptive complexity, algorithmic complexity or algorithmic entropy) of a string is the length of the shortest binary program that outputs that string.

In information theory, information fluctuation complexity is the fluctuation of information about information entropy.

In physical systems, complexity is a measure of the probability of the state vector of the system.

In dynamical systems, statistical complexity measures the size of the minimum program able to statistically reproduce the patterns (configurations) contained in the data set (sequence)

In mathematics, Krohn–Rhodes complexity is an important topic in the study of finite semigroups and automata.

In Network theory complexity is the product of richness in the connections between components of a system, and defined by a very unequal distribution of certain measures (some elements being highly connected and some very few, see [complex network](#)).

In software engineering, programming complexity is a measure of the interactions of the various elements of the software.

In abstract sense – Abstract Complexity, is based on visual structures perception

Other fields introduce less precisely defined notions of complexity:

A complex adaptive system has some or all of the following attributes:

The number of parts (and types of parts) in the system and the number of relations between the parts is non-trivial –

however, there is no general rule to separate "trivial" from "non-trivial";

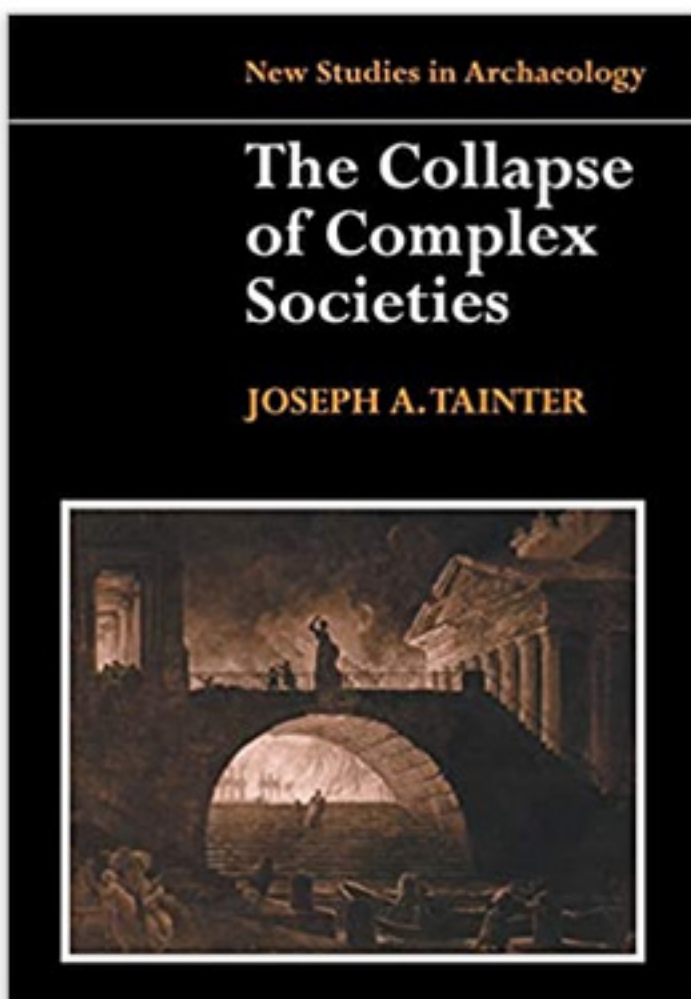
The system has memory or includes feedback;

The system can adapt itself according to its history or feedback;

The relations between the system and its environment are non-trivial or non-linear;

The system can be influenced by, or can adapt itself to, its environment;

The system is highly sensitive to initial conditions.



Political disintegration is a persistent feature of world history. **The Collapse of Complex Societies**, though written by an archaeologist, will therefore strike a chord throughout the social sciences. Any explanation of societal collapse carries lessons not just for the study of ancient societies, but for the members of all such societies in both the present and future. Dr. Tainter describes nearly two dozen cases of collapse and reviews more than 2000 years of explanations. He then develops a new and far-reaching theory that accounts for collapse among diverse kinds of societies, evaluating his model and clarifying the processes of disintegration by detailed studies of the Roman, Mayan and Chacoan collapses.

According to Tainter's Collapse of Complex Societies, societies become more complex as they try to solve problems. Social complexity can be recognized by numerous differentiated and specialised social and economic roles and many mechanisms through which they are coordinated, and by reliance on symbolic and abstract communication, and the existence of a class of information producers and analysts who are not involved in primary resource production. Such complexity requires a substantial "energy" subsidy (meaning the consumption of resources, or other forms of wealth).

When a society confronts a "problem," such as a shortage of energy, or difficulty in gaining access to it, it tends to create new layers of bureaucracy, infrastructure, or social class to address the challenge. Tainter, who first identifies seventeen examples of rapid collapse of societies, applies his model to three case studies: The Western Roman Empire, the Maya civilization, and the Chaco culture.[3]:Chapter 1

For example, as Roman agricultural output slowly declined and population increased, per-capita energy availability dropped. The Romans "solved" this problem by conquering their neighbours to appropriate their energy surpluses (as metals, grain, slaves, other materials of value). However, as the Empire grew, the cost of maintaining communications, garrisons, civil government, etc. grew with it. Eventually, this cost grew so great that any new challenges such as invasions and crop failures could not be solved by the acquisition of more territory.

Intense, authoritarian efforts to maintain cohesion by Domitian and Constantine the Great only led to an ever greater strain on the population. The empire was split into two halves, of which the western soon fragmented into smaller units. The eastern half, being wealthier, was able to survive longer, and did not collapse but instead succumbed slowly and piecemeal, because unlike the western empire it had powerful neighbors able to take advantage of its weakness.

It is often assumed that the collapse of the western Roman Empire was a catastrophe for everyone involved. Tainter points out that it can be seen as a very rational preference of individuals at the time, many of whom were actually better off. Tainter notes that in the west, local populations in many cases greeted the barbarians as liberators.



Joseph Tainter

American anthropologist

Joseph Anthony Tainter is an American anthropologist and historian. [Wikipedia](#)

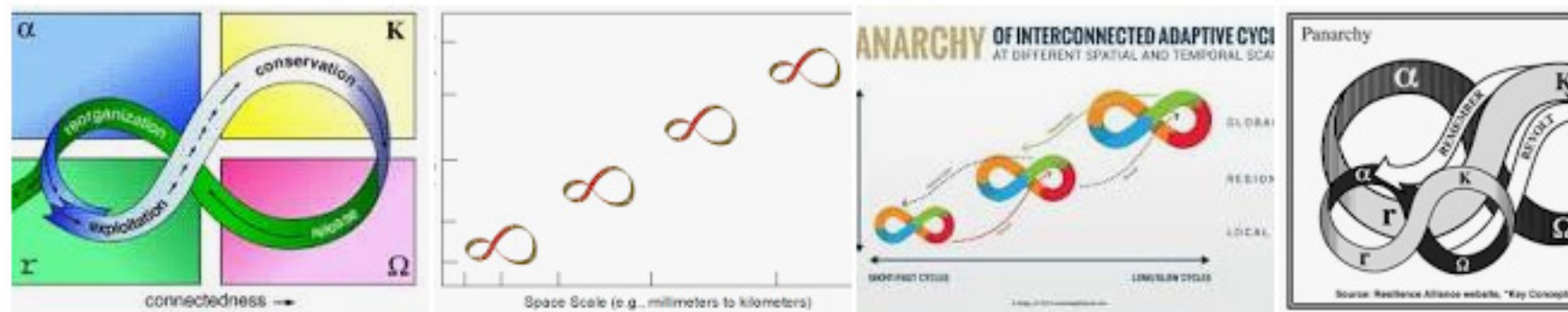
Place of birth: San Francisco, CA

Children: Emmet Bagley Tainter

Movies: [The 11th Hour](#), [Blind Spot](#), [Fall and Winter](#), [Critical Mass](#), [Collapse: Based on the Book by Jared Diamond](#)

Edited works: [Ecology, Diversity, and Sustainability of the Middle Rio Grande Basin](#), [MORE](#)

Education: [University of California, Berkeley](#) (2001–2005), [Northwestern University](#)



Panarchy is the structure in which systems, including those of nature (e.g., forests) and of humans (e.g., capitalism), as well as combined human-natural systems (e.g., institutions that govern natural resource use such as the Forest Service), are interlinked in continual adaptive cycles of growth, accumulation, ...

James P. Sewell and Mark B. Salter in their 1995 article "Panarchy and Other Norms for Global Governance" define panarchy as "an inclusive, universal system of governance in which all may participate meaningfully." They romanticize the term by mentioning the "playful Greek god Pan of sylvan and pastoral tranquillity, overseer of forests, shepherd of shepherds and their flocks. It thus connotes an archetypal steward of biospheric well-being."^[9]

David Ronfeldt and John Arquilla, in their work on *Netwar*, which they describe as an emergent form of low intensity conflict, crime, and activism, that: "The design is a *heterarchy*, but also what might be termed a 'panarchy.'"^[10]

A **heterarchy** is a system of organization where the elements of the organization are unranked (non-hierarchical) or where they possess the potential to be ranked a number of different ways. Definitions of the term vary among the disciplines: in social and information sciences, heterarchies are



Systems theory is an interdisciplinary field of science which studies the nature and processes of complex systems of the physical and social sciences, as well as in information technology. Lance Gunderson and C. S. Holling, in their book *Panarchy: Understanding Transformations in Systems of Humans and Nature* coopted the term, saying:

The term [panarchy] was coined as an antithesis to the word hierarchy (literally, sacred rules). Our view is that panarchy is a framework of nature's rules, hinted at by the name of the Greek god of nature, Pan.^[12]

The publisher describes the book's theory thus:

Panarchy, a term devised to describe evolving hierarchical systems with multiple interrelated elements, offers an important new framework for understanding and resolving this dilemma. Panarchy is the structure in which systems, including those of nature (e.g., forests) and of humans (e.g., capitalism), as well as combined human-natural systems (e.g., institutions that govern natural resource use such as the Forest Service), are interlinked in continual adaptive cycles of growth, accumulation, restructuring, and renewal.^[13]

In *Panarchy*, Gunderson and Holling write:

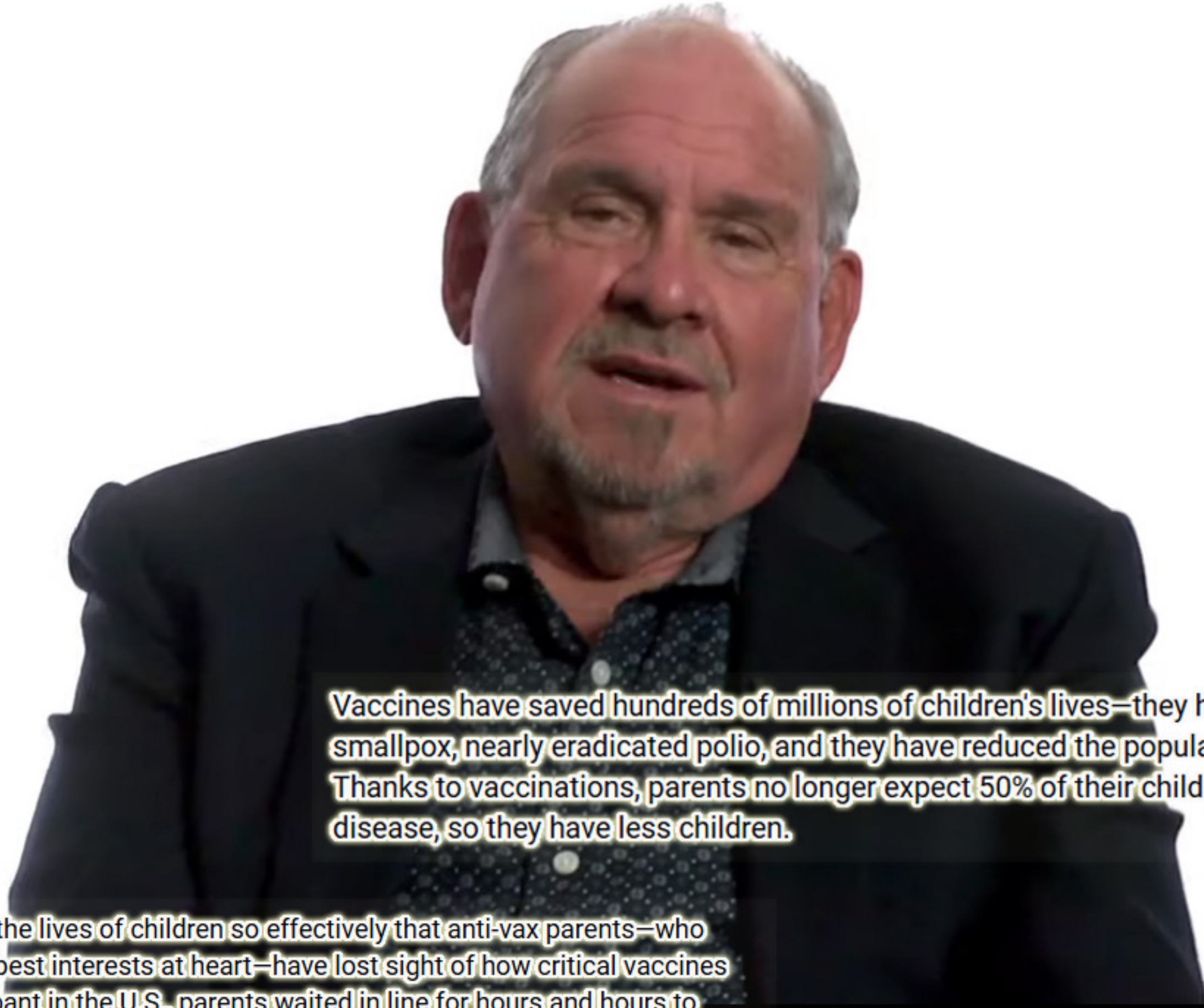
The cross-scale, interdisciplinary, and dynamic nature of the theory has led us to coin the term panarchy for it. Its essential focus is to rationalize the interplay between change and persistence, between the predictable and unpredictable.^[14]

The notion of panarchy and adaptive cycles has become an important theoretical lens to describe the resilience of ecological systems and, more recently, social-ecological systems. Although panarchy theory originated in ecology, it has found widespread applications in other disciplines. For example in management, Wieland (2021) describes a panarchy that represents the planetary, political-economic, and supply chain levels.^[15]

Why vaccines are absolutely necessary | Larry Brilliant | Big Think



"Autism is caused by a lot of factors that we don't fully understand," says epidemiologist Dr. Larry Brilliant, "but vaccines are not one of those factors."



Vaccines have saved hundreds of millions of children's lives—they have eradicated smallpox, nearly eradicated polio, and they have reduced the population explosion. How? Thanks to vaccinations, parents no longer expect 50% of their children to die from disease, so they have less children.

Vaccines have protected the lives of children so effectively that anti-vax parents—who only have their children's best interests at heart—have lost sight of how critical vaccines are. When polio was rampant in the U.S., parents waited in line for hours and hours to have their children vaccinated. Safety changes our mental calculus, but vaccinations must continue to ensure that safety lasts.



Long Now Foundation 
@longnow



Larry & Girija Brilliant at Khyber Pass with the Hog Farm bus in 01971; and Wavy in the 01960s. Photos appear in [@larrybrilliant's](#) book.

8:30 AM · Feb 22, 2017 · Twitter for iPad

Brilliant is married to Girija (formerly Elaine) and has three children: Joe, Jon, and Iris Brilliant. Girija holds a PhD in public health administration and is an equal partner in many of her husband's enterprises. Co-founder of [Seva Foundation](#),^[17] she was instrumental in the [World Health Organization's](#) smallpox eradication program.

Girija Brilliant has an MPH and Ph.D. in social epidemiology and extensive experience in global health. She and her husband were co-founders of the Seva Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to prevention of blindness primarily in Asia. To date, Seva has helped restore sight to over 3 million people worldwide.



In Mexico, cartels are hunting down police at their homes

By MARK STEVENSON an hc Sunday, May 30, 2021



MEXICO CITY (AP) — The notoriously violent Jalisco cartel has responded to Mexico’s “hugs, not bullets” policy with a policy of its own: The cartel kidnapped several members of an elite police force in the state of Guanajuato, tortured them to obtain names and addresses of fellow officers and is now hunting down and killing police at their homes, on their days off, in front of their families.

It is a type of direct attack on officers seldom seen outside of the most gang-plagued nations of Central America and poses the most direct challenge yet to President Andrés Manuel López Obrador’s policy of avoiding violence and rejecting any war on the cartels.

But the cartel has already declared war on the government, aiming to eradicate an elite state force known as the Tactical Group which the gang accuses of treating its members unfairly.

“If you want war, you’ll get a war. We have already shown that we know where you are. We are coming for all of you,” reads a professionally printed banner signed by the cartel and hung on a building in Guanajuato in May.

“Unfortunately, organized crime groups have shown up at the homes of police officers, which poses a threat and a greater risk of loss of life, not just for them, but for members of their families,” according to the decree.

“They have been forced to quickly leave their homes and move, so that organized crimes groups cannot find them,” it reads.

State officials refused to describe the protection measures, or comment on whether officers were to be paid to rent new homes, or if there were plans to construct special secure housing compounds for them and their families.

“This is an open war against the security forces of the state government,” Saucedo noted.

López Obrador campaigned on trying to deescalate the drug conflict, describing a “hugs, not bullets” approach to tackle the root causes of crime. Since taking office in late 2018, he has avoided openly confronting cartels, and even released one capo to avoid bloodshed, saying he preferred a long-range policy of addressing social problems like youth unemployment that contribute to gang membership.

But former U.S. Ambassador Christopher Landau said in April that López Obrador views the fight against drug cartels “as a distraction ... So he has basically adopted an agenda of a pretty laissez-faire attitude towards them, which is pretty troubling to our government, obviously.”

In post-pandemic Europe, migrants will face digital fortress

By DEREK GATOPOULOS and COSTAS KANTOURIS Monday, May 31, 2021

PEPLO, Greece (AP) — As the world begins to travel again, Europe is sending migrants a loud message: Stay away!

Greek border police are firing bursts of deafening noise from an armored truck over the frontier into Turkey. Mounted on the vehicle, the long-range acoustic device, or “sound cannon,” is the size of a small TV set but can match the volume of a jet engine.

It’s part of a vast array of physical and experimental new digital barriers being installed and tested during the quiet months of the coronavirus pandemic at the 200-kilometer (125-mile) Greek border with Turkey to stop people entering the European Union illegally.

A new steel wall, similar to recent construction on the U.S.-Mexico border, blocks commonly-used crossing points along the Evros River that separates the two countries.

Nearby observation towers are being fitted with long-range cameras, night vision, and multiple sensors. The data will be sent to control centers to flag suspicious movement using artificial intelligence analysis.

“We will have a clear ‘pre-border’ picture of what’s happening,” Police Maj. Dimonsthenis Kamargios, head of the region’s border guard authority, told the Associated Press.

The EU has poured 3 billion euros (\$3.7 billion) into security tech research following the refugee crisis in 2015-16, when more than 1 million people — many escaping wars in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan — fled to Greece and on to other EU countries.

The automated surveillance network being built on the Greek-Turkish border is aimed at detecting migrants early and deterring them from crossing, with river and land patrols using searchlights and long-range acoustic devices.

Key elements of the network will be launched by the end of the year, Kamargios said. “Our task is to prevent migrants from entering the country illegally. We need modern equipment and tools to do that.”

Ella Jakubowska, of the digital rights group EDRI, argued that EU officials were adopting “techno-solutionism” to sideline moral considerations in dealing with the complex issue of migration.

“It is deeply troubling that, time and again, EU funds are poured into expensive technologies which are used in ways that criminalize, experiment with and dehumanize people on the move,” she said.

Migration flows have slowed in many parts of Europe during the pandemic, interrupting an increase recorded over years. In Greece, for example, the number of arrivals dropped from nearly 75,000 in 2019 to 15,700 in 2020, a 78% decrease.

But the pressure is sure to return. Between 2000 and 2020, the world’s migrant population rose by more than 80% to reach 272 million, according to United Nations data, fast outpacing international population growth.

At the Greek border village of Poros, the breakfast discussion at a cafe was about the recent crisis on the Spanish-Moroccan border.

Many of the houses in the area are abandoned and in a gradual state of collapse, and life is adjusting to that reality.

Cows use the steel wall as a barrier for the wind and rest nearby.

Panagiotis Kyrgiannis, a Poros resident, says the wall and other preventive measures have brought migrant crossings to a dead stop.

“We are used to seeing them cross over and come through the village in groups of 80 or a 100,” he said. “We were not afraid. ... They don’t want to settle here. All of this that’s happening around us is not about us.”

Greek - Turkish border, Greece, Friday, May 21, 2021: an automated hi-tech surveillance network being built on the Greek-Turkish border aiming at detecting migrants early and deterring them from crossing, with river and land patrols using searchlights and long-range acoustic devices.

A police officer patrols alongside a steel wall at Evros river, near the village of Poros. Police drone operator Thanassis Kyriakidis pilots a drone during a patrol at Evros river, near the village of Feres. A police officer works inside the operation center at the village of Nea Vyssa. Police officer Dimitris Bistinas operates a long range acoustic device, (LRAD), attached on a police vehicle, during a patrol near the town of Feres, Greece.



More US citizens apprehended for moving drugs over border

By SUMAN NAISHADHAM today

PHOENIX (AP) — An increasing number of American citizens have been apprehended as they have tried to smuggle illegal drugs into the U.S. since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, an uptick that's come amid travel restrictions at the border with Mexico.

For more than a year, the closure of the southern border to nonessential traffic has sharply limited the number of foreign citizens entering the U.S. by land. The rules have been extended until at least June 21, but Mexican authorities have allowed most U.S. citizens to walk or drive south across the border with relative ease.

Law enforcement officials and drug trafficking experts say the border rules — put in place in April 2020 to curb the spread of the coronavirus — and their lopsided enforcement are driving the rise in U.S. citizens involved in borderland drug busts. Mexican traffickers, however, have long recruited Americans for the job.

U.S. citizens were apprehended nearly seven times more often than Mexican citizens between October 2020 and March 31 for trying to smuggle drugs in vehicles, U.S. Customs and Border Protection data shows. In the 2018 and 2019 fiscal years, Americans were caught roughly twice as often as Mexicans.



U.S. citizens had been apprehended about 2,400 times by late March for drug smuggling during inspections of vehicles crossing those checkpoints. In comparison, just 361 such apprehensions during the same period involved Mexican citizens, who are generally second — behind Americans — for drug trafficking arrests at ports of entry.

Arrests of U.S. citizens who bring drugs through in their bodies also have risen. In the first four months of the 2021 fiscal year, 505 Americans were arrested with drugs concealed in their bodies at southern checkpoints, compared with just 35 people from all other countries during the same period.

Yatziri Barboza was one. In March, the 24-year-old from Houston was arrested after an X-ray and further inspection at a port of entry in Laredo, Texas, uncovered nearly 127 pounds (58 kilograms) of liquid methamphetamine concealed in the gas tank of the SUV she was driving, court documents said.

Barboza told law enforcement officials that she was to drive the shipment to an undisclosed location in Houston in exchange for \$10,000, according to a criminal complaint.



FILE - In this March 20, 2020 file photo a woman adjusts her hat and mask as she arrives from Tijuana, Mexico, crossing by foot at the San Ysidro port of entry in San Diego. An increasing number of American citizens have been apprehended as they have tried to smuggle illegal drugs into the U.S. since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, an uptick that's come amid travel restrictions at the border with Mexico. (AP Photo/Gregory Bull, File)

Why A Zimbabwean Photographer Asked Her Subjects To Pose In Victorian Garb

May 31, 2021 · 6:32 AM ET

DIANE COLE

27-year old Zimbabwe-based photographer Tamary Kudita series titled "African Victorian" juxtapositions of Africa's colonial history, seen in the blend of Victorian fashion with African culture. The series has been exhibited in galleries in Zimbabwe and New York, and in April, one of the images won a 2021 Sony World Photography Award.

Vessel, Tamary Kudita. This headdress was inspired by the children's book "The Lady With A Ship on Her Head," says Kudita. The ship, she says, is a reminder of the transport of slaves but also can provide passage to a future free of oppression.



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In *That Evening Sun Goes Down*, two women stir a large cooking pot — an African vessel still used to prepare food for large gatherings.

Tamary Kudita

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EXPLAINER: How Texas Republicans aim to make voting harder

By ACACIA CORONADO yesterday Monday, May 31, 2021



Gary Bledsoe, president of the Texas NAACP, speaks at a news conference at the Capitol on Sunday May 30, 2021, against Senate Bill 7, known as the Election Integrity Protection Act. New restrictions on voting in Texas are one step away from the governor's desk. Republicans in the Texas Senate early Sunday muscled through a sweeping measure that would eliminate drive-thru voting and empower partisan poll watchers. It would also impose new limits on Sunday voting, when many Black churchgoers head to the polls. (Jay Janner/Austin American-Statesman via AP)

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas took a major step Sunday toward becoming the nation's largest state where the GOP is making voting harder following the 2020 elections, with the Senate approving a bill that would empower poll watchers, create criminal penalties and add new restrictions on where, when and how to vote.

Advocates say the changes would disproportionately affect minorities and people with disabilities.

The legislation still has two remaining steps before it becomes the law in Texas: a final vote of approval in the GOP-controlled House that was expected Sunday, which would send the bill to Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, who is expected to sign off.

America's largest red state already has some of the tightest voting restrictions in the country and is regularly cited by nonpartisan groups as a state where voting is especially difficult. It was one of the few states that did not make it easier to vote by mail during the coronavirus pandemic, instead [sending droves of voters](#) to the polls to cast their ballots in-person.

Walkout by Democrats in Texas House keeps sweeping voting restrictions bill from passing

CBS News · 37 minutes ago

- Texas Democrats leave House floor, effectively blocking passage of restrictive voting bill for now

CNN · 25 minutes ago

- Vote on Texas bill to make voting tougher blocked by no quorum

Yahoo News · 21 hours ago



HOW DID THE LEGISLATION GET HERE?

Republican lawmakers in Texas are looking to add restrictions similar to those their GOP colleagues in Florida, Georgia and Arizona made into law using former President Donald Trump's unsubstantiated claims of election fraud to justify new rules in the name of election security.

(Elections experts say election fraud is exceedingly rare.)

In Texas, the GOP has insisted that the changes are needed to restore confidence in the voting process, and not a response to Trump's false assertions. Republicans in Texas continued seeing their margins of victory shrink in November but still won up and down the ballot.

Originally, GOP members of each chamber had submitted their own omnibus voting legislation just before the state's filing deadline. Sunday's combined legislation added 12 additional pages of new restrictions. The latest version also deleted language that would [allow election officials](#) to have poll watchers removed if they breach the peace.

PROBLEMS WITH TRANSPARENCY

The final version of the bill was hashed out behind closed doors by a 10-person, bipartisan committee of lawmakers from both chambers before it was sent back to the full House and Senate for final votes. Known as a conference committee, the panel is majority Republican, so the party that proposed the restrictions remained in control.

Voting rights advocates were alarmed that the committee met without making its negotiations public. And some Democratic members of the committee said they had little to no input on the final contents of the bill.

China confirms world's first human case of H10N3 bird flu but says it's highly unlikely to spread widely among people

JUNE 1, 2021 / 7:28 AM / AFP

China reported the world's first human infection of the H10N3 bird flu strain on Tuesday but said the risk of it spreading widely among people was low.

A 41-year-old man was admitted to a hospital with fever symptoms in the eastern city of Zhenjiang on April 28 and was diagnosed with H10N3 a month later, China's National Health Commission (NHC) said in an online statement.

"The risk of large-scale spread is extremely low," the NHC said, adding that the man was in a stable condition and his close contacts had reported no "abnormalities."

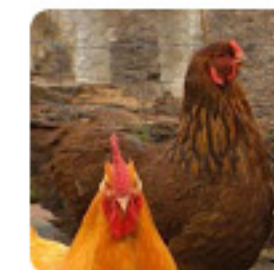
No information was provided about how the man contracted the illness.

It described H10N3 as low pathogenic -- less likely to cause death or severe illness -- in birds.

The NHC said there had been no human cases of H10N3 previously reported in the world.

China confirms world's first human case of H10N3 bird flu but says it's highly unlikely to spread widely among people

CBS News · 2 hours ago 



Several strains of bird flu have been found among animals in China but mass outbreaks in humans are rare.

The last human epidemic of bird flu in China occurred in late 2016 to 2017, with the H7N9 virus.

The H7N9 has infected 1,668 people and claimed 616 lives since 2013, according to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization.

Following recent avian flu outbreaks in Africa and Eurasia, the head of China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention last week urged stricter surveillance in poultry farms, markets and wild birds.



A Slight Change of Plans | Hosted by Dr. Maya Shankar (Podcast Trailer)

842 views • May 18, 2021

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Pushkin Industries
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Dr. Maya Shankar is a cognitive scientist who studies how our minds work and how we change. There are few things in life that are as complex and messy—and potentially magical—as change. On *A Slight Change of Plans*, you'll hear intimate conversations that give an unvarnished look into how people navigate changes of all kinds and use that change to ultimately grow. Maya uncovers little-known personal stories and reflections from familiar names like Hillary Clinton, Tiffany Haddish and Kacey Musgraves, and extraordinary stories from real-life inspirations, like a young cancer researcher in the throes of a stage 4 diagnosis and a Black jazz musician who convinced hundreds of KKK members to leave the Klan. Their stories and circumstances couldn't be more different, but they all share one thing in common: life threw them a (slight) change of plans.

ABOUT DR. MAYA SHANKAR

Maya Shankar is a cognitive scientist who served as a Senior Advisor in the Obama White House, where she founded and served as Chair of the White House Behavioral Science Team. She also served as the first Behavioral Science Advisor to the United Nations under Ban Ki-moon, and as a core member of Pete Buttigieg's debate preparation team during his presidential run. Maya has a postdoctoral fellowship in cognitive neuroscience at Stanford, a Ph.D. from Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship, and a B.A. from Yale. She has been profiled by *The New Yorker* and has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Scientific American*, and *Forbes*. She's also been the featured guest on NPR's *All Things Considered*, *Freakonomics*, and *Hidden Brain*. She's a former private violin student of Itzhak Perlman and graduate of The Juilliard School's pre-college program. Maya is currently a Senior Director of Behavioral Economics at Google.

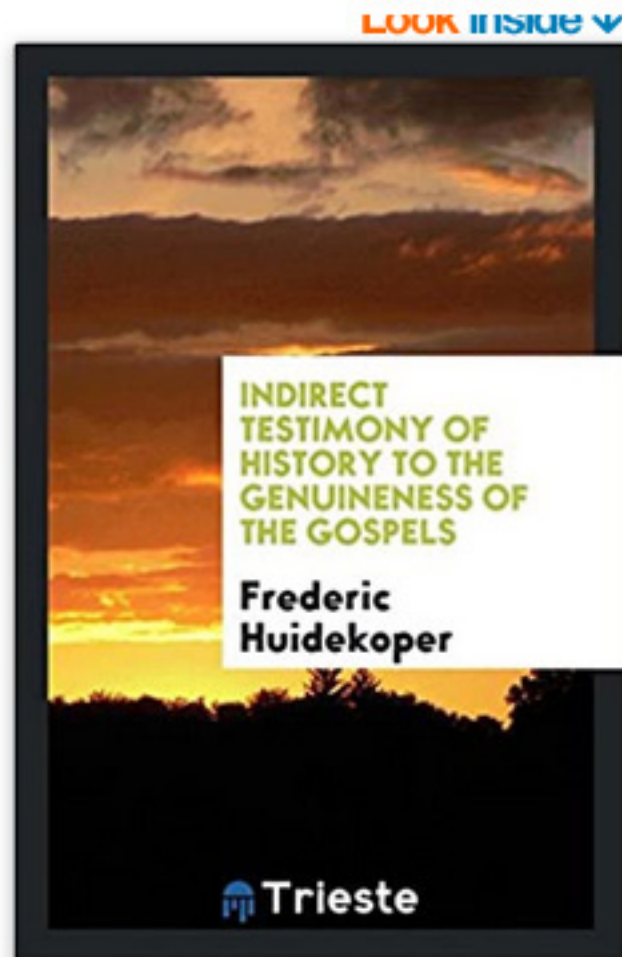


ABOUT PUSHKIN INDUSTRIES

Pushkin Industries is the audio production company co-founded by Malcolm Gladwell and Jacob Weisberg in 2018. Pushkin produces Gladwell's *Revisionist History* and has launched seven new shows into the top 10 on the Apple Podcast charts: *Against the Rules*, hosted by bestselling author and journalist Michael Lewis; *Cautionary Tales* from Financial Times columnist Tim Harford; *The Happiness Lab*, hosted by Dr. Laurie Santos; *The Last Archive*, hosted by Jill Lepore; *Deep Cover*, *Solvable* and *Lost Hills*, a true crime podcast hosted by the *New Yorker*'s Dana Goodyear which recently hit #1. Pushkin's audiobooks include the bestselling audiobook version of Gladwell's *Talking to Strangers* (Hachette Audio, 2019), Michael Specter's #1 bestseller *Fauci* and Gladwell's latest audiobook *The Bomber Mafia*. With all our projects, we strive to challenge listeners, encourage curiosity, and inspire joy.

Frederick Huidekoper--Indirect Testimony of History to the Genuineness of the Gospels (1878).

https://books.google.com/books/about/Indirect_Testimony_of_History_to_the_Gen.html?id=gF8NAAAAYAAJ



Indirect Testimony of History to the Genuineness of the Gospels Paperback – May 17, 2018

by Frederic Huidekoper (Author)

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\$9.90

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from \$35.75

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About the Book

Books about Jesus, the Gospels and the Acts discuss a number of aspects surrounding study of the Bible of the New Testament, comprising the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The many titles in this category include: A Brief Exposition of St Paul's Epistle to the Romans, A Commentary on St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians, A Commentary on the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, A Commentary on the Gospel of S. Mark, An exposition of the Gospel of St. Luke: consisting of an analysis of each chapter and of a commentary, critical, exegetical, doctrinal, and moral, Der Sogenannte Historische Jesus und der Geschichtliche, Biblische Christus, How is the Divinity of Jesus Depicted in the Gospels and Epistles?, Indirect Testimony of History to the Genuineness of the Gospels, The Epistle of Paul to the Romans, and The Epistle to the Hebrews, Its Doctrine and Significance.

PREFACE.

THE history of mankind evinces that civilization has been highest in communities where conscience and hopefulness have been most developed.¹ It further shows that these have been most developed in communities having most faith in a Moral Ruler of the universe, to whom mankind are responsible, and in whom they can trust.² Yet further: no community without belief in revelation has ever believed in such a Ruler.

If we now turn to the question of revelation we find at least two communications, one through Moses and a later one through Jesus, which claim to be from God, and the evidence for which, internal or external, claims respectful attention. The one through Moses is so buried in a remote antiquity as to furnish us with little or no external evidence save what we find in the Old Testament and in the influence which Judaism exercised on Greek civilization. The other, through Jesus, is at a date when

¹ See *Judaism at Rome*, pp. 364, 367-371, 382-386.

² See *Judaism*, pp. 367, 370, 386.

Frederick Huidekoper:

☑ Belief of the First Three Centuries Concerning Christ's Mission to the Underworld (1854)

https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Belief_of_the_First_Three_Centuries.html?id=CfhAAAcAAJ

The Belief of the First Three Centuries Concerning Christ's Mission to the Underworld 1854

Frederic Huidekoper

P R E F A C E.

THE following treatise was commenced nearly three years ago, under the supposition that it could be finished in three or four days, and with no further intention than that of translating some passages on the subject of which it treats, as one evidence among many that the Gospels did not originate in the opinions of the Early Christians. It grew on the writer's hands, led to investigations which he had not anticipated, and was delayed by other duties.

The size to which it has grown is not, probably, disproportionate to the place held by its subject among early Christian views; and if we are ever to have a satisfactory picture of their theology, it must be by giving to each feature its due proportions. The man who should treat of Millerism by ransacking its productions for every casual allusion to the Atonement, Original Sin, or Predestination, and should spread the result of his labors over volumes, while he barely hinted at a belief by the Millerites of the Second Coming, would give a very disproportioned picture of his subject. Yet such a picture would not be more faulty than many a portraiture of the early centuries. The writings of the Fathers have been searched for their opinions on points concerning which they scarcely thought at all, whilst subjects of great interest to them have been neglected. Such of their expressions as could be made to bear on modern controversies have been extracted from their own systems of thought, and reconstructed into modern systems. The process has resembled that of a man who should reconstruct the fragments of Grecian statuary and temples into crucifixes and Gothic churches, and should expect by a treatise on each fragment to convey a good idea of the original design. A reproduction of the original work would be simpler, and answer the purpose better.

That a subject so prominent among the Early Christians as the Underworld Mission should have been passed by without a word, or with scarcely a word, by leading Ecclesiastical Historians, is singular. The elaborately terse work of Gieseher does not allude to it. Neander, who is regarded as having penetrated deeply into the spirit of the ancient Church, has written what makes, in Torrey's Translation, a large and closely printed volume, on the first three centuries. Of this, three hundred and twenty pages are devoted to Catholic and Heretical doctrines, without, I believe, any but an insufficient allusion to the Underworld Mission (Vol. I. p. 654), and a mention of Marcion's peculiarity (Ibid. p. 471), although the statement (Ibid. p. 641) that Christ gave himself to the Evil One as a ransom for mankind seems to require some expla-



Millerism

Following

The Millerites were the followers of the teachings of William Miller, who in 1831 first shared publicly his belief that the Second Advent of Jesus Christ would occur in roughly the year 1843–1844. [Wikipedia](#)

'Oh my God, I just pushed a bear:' Viral video shows teenage girl protecting dogs from bear attack

Girl pushed bear off wall

BRADBURY, Calif. – Whether it was bravery or just plain instincts, a teenage girl was able to fight off a bear that was attacking her dogs with her bare hands.

Viral video shows the mother bear and her cubs climbing over a wall to get into 17-year-old Hailey Morinico's backyard in Bradbury, California.



"Honestly, I did not know it was a bear until right after I pushed it. I didn't register in my head that it was a bear. I was like, 'It's an animal and it's taking my child,' and I pushed the bear and I was like, 'Oh my God, I just pushed a bear.'"





New technologies that can clean salty or polluted water could help meet growing water needs. Science Photo Library/Getty Images

A new way to remove salts and toxic metals from water

June 3, 2021 8:24am EDT

Adam Uliana, University of California, Berkeley

How effective is ion-capture electro dialysis?

Once our team had successfully made these membranes, we needed to test them. The first test I ran used membrane filters embedded with mercury-capturing absorbents to purify water from three sources that contained both mercury and salts: groundwater, brackish water and industrial wastewater. To our team's excitement, the membranes captured all the mercury in every test. Additionally, the membranes were also great at getting rid of salt – over 97% was removed from the dirty water. After just one pass through our new electro dialysis machine, the water was perfectly drinkable. Importantly, further experiments showed that no mercury can pass through the filter until nearly all the absorbent particles in the filter are used up.

My colleagues and I then needed to see whether our ion-capture electro dialysis process would work on other common harmful metals. I tested three membrane filters that contained absorbents for copper, iron or boron. Every filter was a success. Each filter captured all of the target contaminants without any detectable amount passing into the brine, while simultaneously removing over 96% of salts from the water, purifying the water to usable conditions.

In my team's modified process, called ion-capture electro dialysis, our hope was that the membranes packed with the tiny metal-absorbing particles would capture toxic metals instead of allowing them to move into the brine. This would achieve three benefits at the same time in an energy-efficient manner: Salts and metals would be removed from the water; the toxic metals would be captured in a small, easily disposable membrane – or even potentially be reused; and the salty waste stream would be nontoxic.

Remaining challenges

Our results show that our new water purification method can selectively capture many common contaminants while also removing salt from water. But there are still other technological challenges to figure out.

First, the highly selective absorbent particles – the porous aromatic frameworks – that my colleagues and I mixed into the membrane are too expensive to put into mass-produced filters. It is probably possible to place cheaper – but lower-quality – absorbents into the filters instead, but this might worsen the water purification performance.

Second, engineers like me still also need to test ion-capture electro dialysis on scales larger than those used in the laboratory. Issues can often come up in new technologies during this transition from the laboratory into industry.

Finally, water treatment plant engineers would need to come up with a way to pause the process right before the membrane absorbents are maxed out. Otherwise, the toxic contaminants would start to leak through the filter into the brine wastewater. The engineers could then restart the process after replacing the filter or after removing the metals from the filter and collecting them as separate waste.

We hope our work will lead to new methods that can efficiently and effectively purify water sources that are more abundant – yet more contaminated – than fresh water. The work really is worth it. After all, the effects of water scarcity are gigantic, on both a social and worldwide level.



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← **Adam Uliana**
7 Tweets



Adam Uliana
@AdamUliana


Chemical engineering PhD student in @LongLabCal at @UCB_Chemistry

📍 Berkeley, CA 📅 Joined April 2021


78 Following 101 Followers

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 **Mercedes Taylor** @MercedesKTaylor · Apr 16

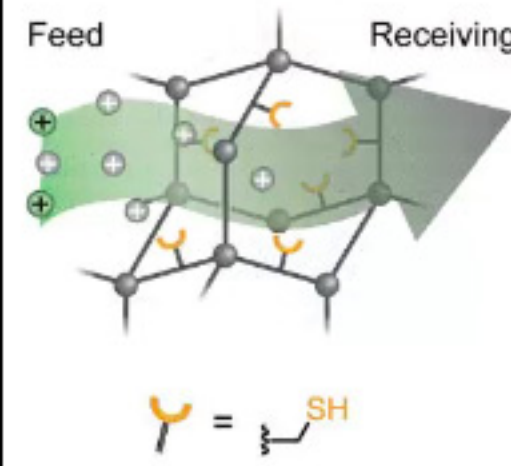
Plz read our new paper on desalination and selective ion capture (below), out now in Science Magazine. I'm proud to be part of this awesome team. Congrats @AdamUliana and welcome to twitter 🎉

 **Adam Uliana** @AdamUliana · Apr 15

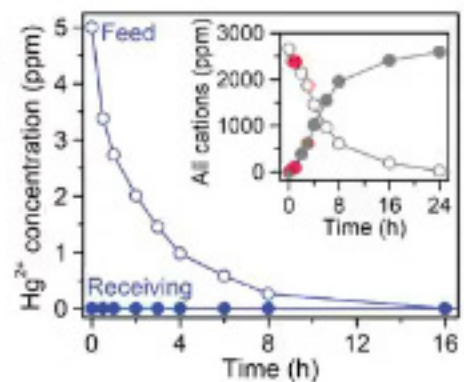
Motivation to finally make a Twitter! Excited to say our paper with @LongLabCal is now out in @ScienceMagazine. bit.ly/3tiwat3 We developed water purification processes that can desalinate water and capture targeted solutes (like heavy metals) at the same time. (1/3)

[Show this thread](#)

PAF adsorbent in cation exchange polymer



Desalination: >99%



Legend:
 ⊕ = Hg²⁺
 ⊕ = Na⁺, Mg²⁺, Ca²⁺, Ba²⁺, etc.

GIF

2 3 41

getting rid of salt – over 97% was re After just one pass through our new water was perfectly drinkable. Imp showed that no mercury can pass t all the absorbent particles in the fil My colleagues and I then needed to capture electrodesialysis process would harmful metals. I tested three men absorbents for copper, iron or boron Each filter captured all of the target contaminants without any detectable amount passing into the brine, while simultaneously removing over 96% of salts from the water, purifying the water to usable conditions.

 **Mercedes Taylor**
@MercedesKTaylor

Chemistry prof @UofMaryland starting July 2021. PhD in @LongLabCal at @UCB_Chemistry. @ifthenshecan Ambassador. she/her. views my own.

163 Following 290 Followers

both a social and worldwide level.



Adam Uliana

Graduate Student, [University of California, Berkeley](#)
Verified email at [berkeley.edu](#)

Chemical engineering senior, Adam Uliana, spent his spring and summer months conducting water research abroad in search of new, low-cost techniques capable of providing aid to developing nations.



11/02/2016

For many college students summer is a time for relaxation, part-time jobs, and internship experiences, but for chemical engineering senior, **Adam Uliana**, the summer of 2016 was filled with international travel ventures and research studies aimed to advance water purification techniques around the globe.

Uliana spent his spring and summer months as a participant in [EuroScholars](#), a program designed to provide motivated undergraduate students from the United States and Canada with international research opportunities. As a EuroScholar, Uliana spent several months at KU Leuven in Leuven, Belgium, where he worked with students and researchers from around the world to discover new water treatment methods aimed to protect the environment against emerging chemical containments.

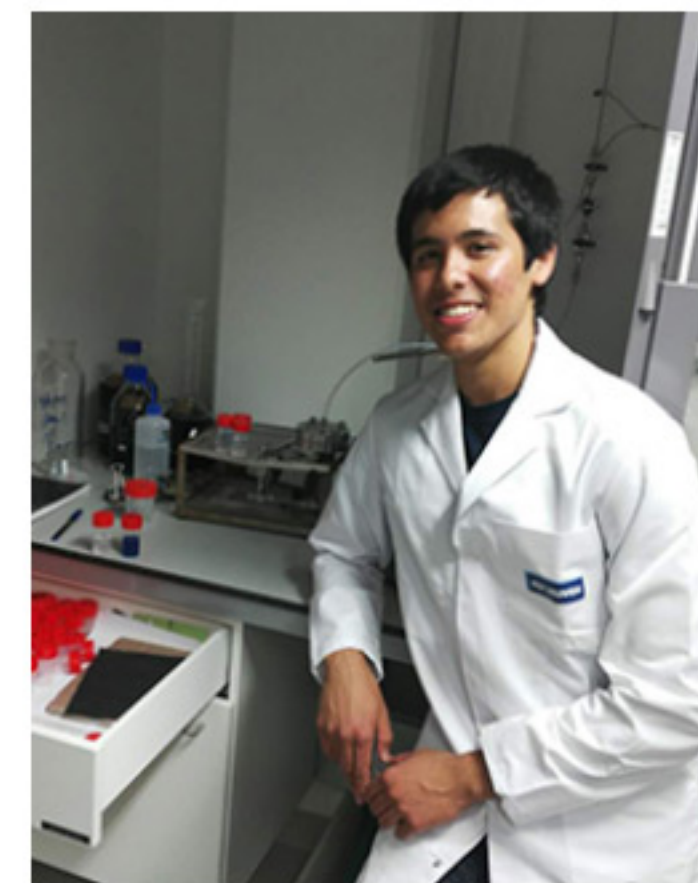
"I never thought that studying abroad would be something I would do. It seemed a little out of my comfort zone—but I am so glad that I did," said Uliana. "As an aspiring chemical engineer, I feel the need and desire to help protect our environment. There is often a misconception that individuals in the chemical industry only contribute to the world's mounting pollution challenges rather than offering solutions to solve them. My personal goal is to correct those mistakes and change the conversation."

"Our research work in Rwanda was a very eye-opening experience. They didn't have clean running water available so the work processes were much different than what I have experienced in the past. It made me realize how privileged we are in that regard," said Uliana

Before heading back to Happy Valley to begin his senior year, Uliana was able to enjoy some personal travel time as well. He visited over half a dozen European countries and spent time hiking, sightseeing, and enjoying new experiences. "Not too bad for someone who, at the beginning of the year, had never traveled outside of the country," he joked.

Uliana's plans for the future include earning a Ph.D. and continuing work in water purification and environmental remediation, preferably in a research or academic setting. He is hopeful that he will stay in contact with his international peers and collaborators and one day return to the sites that have inspired his career path.

"One thing that really surprised me, and that I've learned constantly throughout my international research work, is that people around the globe really aren't that different," Uliana said. "We all have important things that unite us such as jokes, stories, and family—those similarities really help build trust and friendships and, in my opinion, that's where real collaboration is born."



Adam Uliana conducts water purification research at KU Leuven in Leuven, Belgium. As a EuroScholar, Uliana worked with over 20 researchers from around the globe to engineering new water-cleansing membranes using nanomaterials.



Drought ravages California's reservoirs ahead of hot summer

By **ADAM BEAM**
today

Thursday, June 03, 2021

OROVILLE, Calif. (AP) — Each year Lake Oroville helps water a quarter of the nation's crops, sustain endangered salmon beneath its massive earthen dam and anchor the tourism economy of a Northern California county that must rebuild seemingly every year after unrelenting wildfires.

But now the mighty lake — a linchpin in a system of aqueducts and reservoirs in the arid U.S. West that makes California possible — is shrinking with surprising speed amid a severe drought, with state officials predicting it will reach a record low later this summer.



Dry banks rise above water in Lake Oroville on Sunday, May 23, 2021, in Oroville, Calif. At left are trees scorched in the 2020 North Complex Fire. At the time of this photo, the reservoir was at 39% of capacity and 46% of its historical average. (AP Photo/Noah Berger)



Empty boat docks sit on dry land at the Browns Ravine Cove area of drought-stricken Folsom Lake, currently at 37% of its normal capacity, in Folsom, Calif., Saturday, May 22, 2021. (AP Photo/Josh Edelson)



Kayakers make a long trek to the water's edge at a drought-stricken Lake Mendocino, currently at 29% of normal capacity, in Ukiah, Calif., Sunday, May 23, 2021. (AP Photo/Josh Edelson)

Low lake levels haven't stopped tourists from coming yet. With coronavirus restrictions lifting across the state, Wright — the state parks official for Northern California — said attendance at most parks in his area is double what it normally is this time of year.

"People are trying to recreate and use facilities even more so (because) they know they are going to lose them here in a few months," he said.



Drought ravages California's reservoirs ahead of hot sum...



A buoy sits on dry land that had been under water, at a drought-stricken Lake Mendocino, currently at 29% of its normal capacity, in Ukiah, Calif., on Sunday, May 23, 2021. (AP Photo/Josh Edelson)

George P. Bush running for attorney general in Texas

By PAUL J. WEBER Thursday, June 03, 2021



George P. Bush with his family: father Jeb, mother Columba, wife Amanda, and sons Jack, Prescott and George P.

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — George P. Bush on Wednesday launched his next political move: a run for Texas attorney general in 2022 that puts the scion of a Republican dynasty against a GOP incumbent shadowed by securities fraud charges and an FBI investigation.

Bush, who has served as Texas' land commissioner since 2015, is the son of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and the nephew and grandson of two former presidents. He is the last of the Bush family still in public office — and was the first to break with them over supporting former President Donald Trump, who has mocked the family that was once the face of the Republican Party.

He is now launching the first major challenge against embattled Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who has spent six years in office under felony indictment over accusations of defrauding investors, and more recently was accused of bribery by his own former top aides.



Bush welcomes President Donald Trump to the International Union of Operating Engineers International Training and Education Center in Crosby, Texas on April 10, 2019

Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush, center, talks with the media at a kick-off rally where he announced he will run for Texas Attorney General, Wednesday, June 2, 2021, in Austin, Texas. (AP Photo/Eric Gay)

Bride dies of heart attack at wedding. Sister marries the groom with her body in next room.

Asha C. Gilbert USA TODAY

Published 10:56 a.m. ET Jun. 3, 2021 | Updated 1:50 p.m. ET Jun. 3, 2021



In a series of unfortunate events, a groom married the sister of his bride after she collapsed and died earlier in the wedding ceremony.

The incident happened in Uttar Pradesh, India when a woman named Surabhi and man named Mangesh Kumar were tying the knot in a Hindu ceremony on May 27, [Times of India](#) reported.

During the jaimala, the exchanging of garlands by the bride and the groom in an Indian wedding, Surabhi collapsed and a doctor was called to treat her after she suffered a heart attack, [News 18](#) reported.

After the doctor pronounced the bride dead, the families of the bride and groom agreed the bride's younger sister, Nisha, would wed the groom.

In India, the majority of marriages are arranged, [an estimated 90%](#).

Radha Patel, founder of South Asian matchmaking site [Single to Shaadi](#), said it's likely the families arranged for the sister to marry the groom because "they wanted to keep it in the family."

Patel said her mother was in a similar situation when her aunt died in childbirth and there was an idea for her mother to marry her brother-in-law.

"So much vetting goes into matching families in marriages and it is natural for the families to want to stay together," Patel said.

Her mother was unmarried and young, but her parents accepted her denial of the idea.



The bride died of a heart attack near the beginning of the ceremony.

Tahir Ibn Manzoor

<https://youtu.be/MsPlyMrD9Gk>



These incredible frontline nurses earned a Golden Buzzer from Howie Mandel! The Northwell Health Nurse Choir


With more than 30 million people infected and 550,000 dead, the U.S. is among the nations hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. From job loss to housing insecurity to mental distress, the social, psychological and economic hardships brought on by the pandemic are extensive and likely to outlast the pandemic itself.

To better understand the breadth and depth of the pandemic's impact on American lives, I worked with colleagues at the USC Dornsife Center for Economic and Social Research to develop an index of "pandemic misery." We found that though few U.S. residents have survived the pandemic unscathed, hardship isn't equally distributed across groups.

Full pandemic recovery for all Americans will require interventions that address systemic inequality.

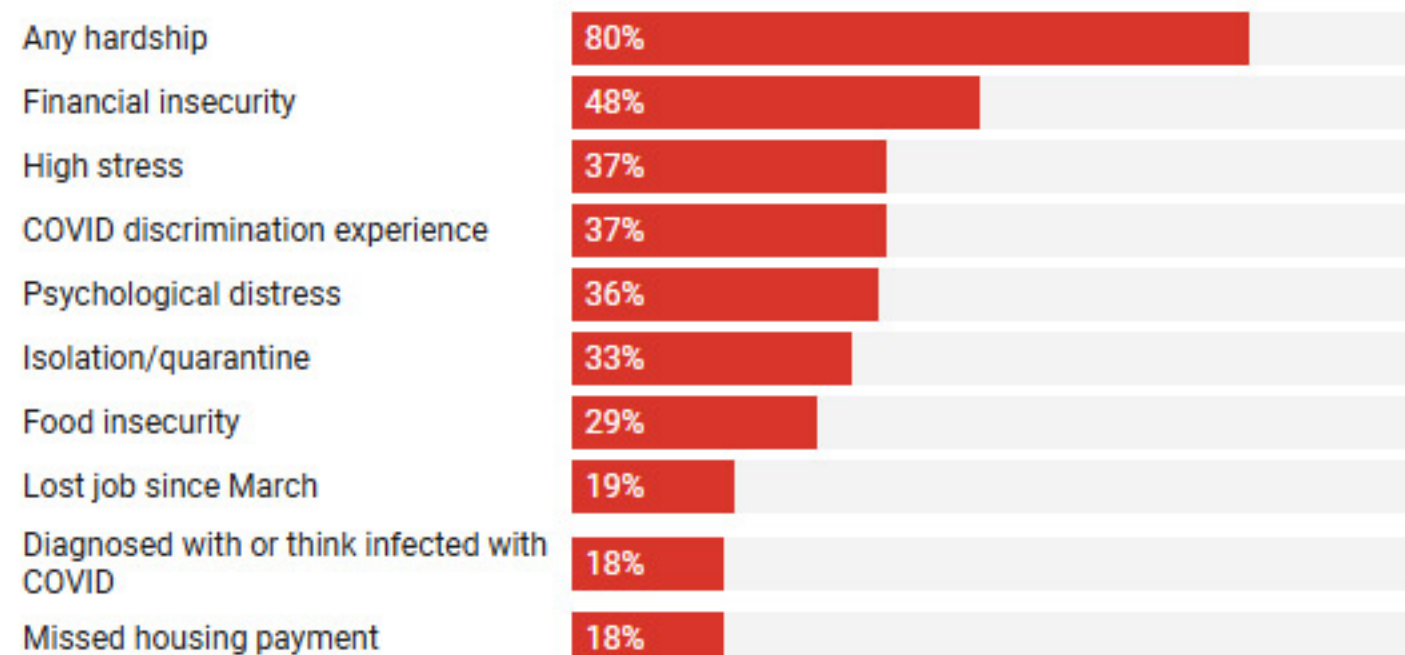
Pandemic misery index reveals far-reaching impact of COVID-19 on American lives, especially on Blacks and Latinos

June 1, 2021 3:10pm EDT

 **Kyla Thomas**, USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

Hardships experienced by U.S. adults during the pandemic

The majority of U.S. adults experienced at least one serious hardship between April 2020 and March 2021, a sign of the pandemic's strong hit on American pockets and health.



Data for the U.S. Pandemic Misery Index comes from the Understanding Coronavirus in America Study, which surveyed 6,000 U.S. adults throughout the pandemic.

Pandemic hit Latinos and Blacks hardest

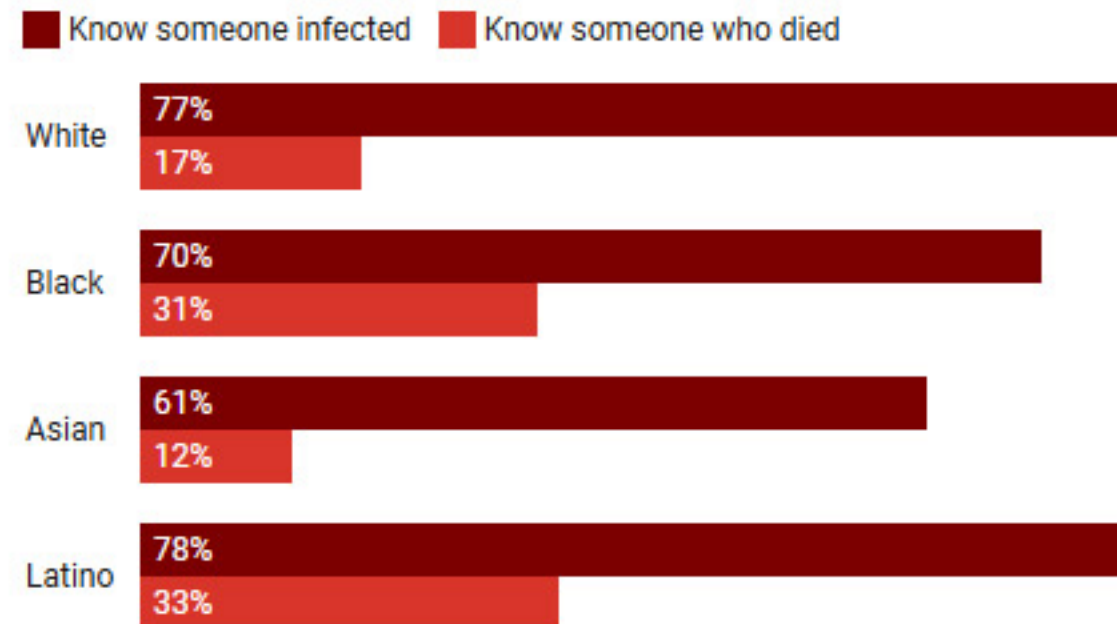
Compared to other racial and ethnic groups, Blacks and Latinos were more likely to report experiencing at least one serious hardship as a result of the pandemic.



Data for the U.S. Pandemic Misery Index comes from the Understanding Coronavirus in America Study, which surveyed 6,000 U.S. adults throughout the pandemic.

Personal Loss due to COVID-19 higher in Blacks and Latinos

Racial and ethnic disparities among U.S. adults during the pandemic extend to personal loss, with Blacks and Latinos reporting knowing someone who was infected or died from COVID at a higher rate than other groups.



Data for the U.S. Pandemic Misery Index comes from the Understanding Coronavirus in America Study, which surveyed 6,000 U.S. adults throughout the pandemic.

Chart: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND • Source: Thomas et al. • [Get the data](#)

The burden of pandemic misery also continues to fall disproportionately on communities of color. While our index shows that the gap has narrowed between whites and Asians, Latino and Black people continue to face hardship at higher rates and will likely face a more difficult path to recovery from the pandemic.

Altogether, these findings underscore the multidimensional nature of the pandemic's impact on people's lives. For many Americans, especially Black and Latino Americans, the path to pandemic recovery will require more than a vaccine appointment or a one-off stimulus check. It will require sustained financial assistance, food and housing assistance, and mental health support.

about -81 degrees F.

Temperatures on **Mars** average about -81 degrees F. However, temperature's range from around -220 degrees F. in the wintertime at the poles, to +70 degrees F. over the lower latitudes in the summer.

<https://www.weather.gov/fsd/mars>

The Planet Mars - National Weather Service

The **atmosphere of Venus** is very thick and is about 90 times more massive than Earth's **atmosphere**. It is mostly carbon dioxide gas (about 96%), with some nitrogen (about 3%) and a very small amount of water vapor (0.003%). **Venus** also has a thick layer of sulfuric acid clouds. the **pressure** is 93 bar (1,350 psi), roughly the **pressure** found 900 m (3,000 ft) underwater on Earth.

The maximum body **temperature** a **human can survive** is 108.14°F. At higher **temperatures** the body turns into scrambled eggs: proteins are denatured and the brain gets damaged irreparably. Cold water draws out body heat. In a 39.2°F cold lake a **human can survive** a maximum of 30 minutes.

<https://www.thieme.com/resources-for-students/1014-...>

What can a person survive? The ... - Thieme Medical Publishers



about 900 degrees Fahrenheit

It appears that the surface **temperature ranges** from about 820 degrees to nearly 900 degrees F. The average surface **temperature** is 847 degrees F., hot enough to melt lead.

<https://www.weather.gov/fsd/venus>

The Planet Venus - National Weather Service



Like Earth, **Mars** has an **atmosphere** and weather, but both differ greatly from what we experience on Earth. ... **Mars' atmosphere** however is 95% carbon dioxide, 3% nitrogen, 1.6% argon, and it has traces of oxygen, carbon monoxide, water, methane, and other gases, along with a lot of dust.

At ground level the **Martian atmosphere** has a **pressure** of 6.518 millibars or 0.095 psi as compared to the Earth's sea level **atmospheric pressure** of 14.7 psi.

Weight stigma is a burden around the world – and has negative consequences everywhere

June 1, 2021 3:05pm EDT

Rebecca Puhl, University of Connecticut



Weight stigma occurs in many developed countries, not just the U.S. and often has devastating consequences. SIPhotography/Getty Images

A persistent American bias

Among U.S. adults, weight stigma is a common experience, with as many as 40% reporting past experiences of weight-based teasing, unfair treatment and discrimination. These experiences are most prevalent for people with high body mass indexes or those with obesity and for women. For youth, body weight is one of the most prevalent reasons for teasing and bullying.

The fact that more than 40% of Americans have obesity has not softened public attitudes toward people in this group. Although societal attitudes toward other stigmatized groups have become less prejudiced in recent decades, there has been little change in weight bias. In some cases it's worsening.



A majority of Americans believe it is time to add body weight as a protected category to existing state civil rights laws, alongside categories like race and age. Thomas Barwick/Stone via Getty

Our research shows broad and substantial public support for policies to tackle weight discrimination. In a series of national studies, we found that more than 70% of Americans support adding body weight as a protected category, alongside categories like race and age, to existing state civil rights laws. They also support new legislation to make it illegal for employers to discriminate against employees based on weight.

This would legitimize weight stigma as both a social injustice and a public health issue.

I believe broad and collective action is needed to address this problem, both in and outside the U.S. While this may sound challenging, fundamentally it is actually quite simple: it's about respect, dignity and equal treatment for people of all body weights and sizes.

'Dead end': German cardinal offers to quit over church abuse

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER and NICOLE WINFIELD an hour ago Friday, June 04, 2021



BERLIN (AP) — A leading German cardinal and confidante of Pope Francis, Cardinal Reinhard Marx, offered to resign Friday over the Catholic Church's mishandling of clergy sexual abuse cases, declaring in an extraordinary public gesture that the church had arrived at "a dead end."

The archdiocese of Munich and Freising, where Marx serves as archbishop, published his resignation letter to the pope online, in multiple languages, and the cardinal said Francis had given him permission to make it public.

"It is important to me to share the responsibility for the catastrophe of the sexual abuse by Church officials over the past decades," the 67-year-old Marx wrote in the letter. But he also issued a challenge of sorts for his fellow bishops to use the opportunity of the scandal to save the church and reform it.

There was no immediate comment from the Vatican, where Marx sits on powerful financial and political bodies. A Vatican spokesman said that information about resignations is announced in a daily bulletin, and Friday's edition did not mention Marx. The German cardinal noted that Francis had told him to "keep performing my service as bishop until his decision is made."

Marx, who led the German Bishops' Conference from 2014 until 2020, wrote that investigations during the last decade showed there had been "a lot of personal failures and administrative mistakes but also institutional or 'systemic' failure."

In this Feb. 22, 2019 file photo, Cardinal Reinhard Marx, left, listens to sex abuse survivor Jean-Marie Fuerbringer, from Switzerland, as he meets member of the ECA (Ending Clergy Abuse), in Rome, Italy. One of Germany's most prominent Catholic archbishops, in a letter Marx has offered his resignation to Pope Francis. He cited the church's handling of sexual abuse scandals as one reason he wants to step down and said the church had arrived at "a dead point." (AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)

The head of the German Bishops' Conference, Limburg Bishop Georg Baetzing, expressed respect for Marx's decision.

"His resignation offer makes clear that the church in Germany needs to continue the Synodal Path," Baetzing said in a written statement. "The Synodal Path was created to look for systemic answers to the crisis. The basic, theological discussions which determine the Synodal Path are therefore a significant and important part of this process."

Other top cardinals and bishops previously offered to resign for more direct involvement in abuse-related failings, only to see Francis sit on the decision for some time.

French Cardinal Philippe Barbarin offered to resign in 2019 after a French court convicted him of failing to report a pedophile priest. Francis refused to accept the resignation pending the outcome of Barbarin's appeal, though he eventually accepted it the following year, by which time Barbarin had been acquitted.

Francis allowed Australian Cardinal George Pell, his economics minister, to take an extended leave of absence in 2017 to return home to face trial for old sexual abuse charges. Pell's conviction was overturned by Australia's High Court last year, but by that time, Pell was just a year shy of retirement age and Francis had already named a successor.

Mexico Is Holding Its Largest Elections Ever. They're Also One Of Its Deadliest

June 4, 2021 · 9:04 AM ET



CARRIE KAHN



MEXICO CITY — Mexicans go to the polls this Sunday in the [largest elections](#) Mexico has every held, in sheer numbers of posts to fill. This has also become one of the most violent campaign seasons. Organized crime gangs are mainly taking the blame for the killings of 35 candidates so far.



Alma Denisse Sánchez Barragán at her mother's grave near her ranch outside the city of Moroleón. Her mother, Alma Rosa Barragán Santiago, was a candidate who was killed by gunmen at a campaign rally. The daughter has taken her mother's place as a candidate.

This election cycle is seeing more political parties, more politicians and more criminal gangs all wrangling for power.

There have been hundreds of attacks and 35 candidates killed since last September, [according to Etellekt Consultores](#). If you add political aides, workers and campaign officials, the number rises to 89.

Organized crime gangs and drug trafficking cartels are growing in numbers and infiltrating further into politics in even more parts of Mexico. Politics and crime have long been intertwined in Mexico. "The difference now is that you have a greater amount of criminal actors out there all trying to push into the state, which provides lots of points of frictions and causes and explains why the competition over the state has become so overly voracious these days," says Falko Ernst, a Mexico City-based analyst with the International Crisis Group.



NATIONAL SECURITY

[U.S.-Mexico Efforts Targeting Drug Cartels Have Unraveled, Top DEA Official Says](#)

Mexican and U.S. officials estimate that now more than 200 crime gangs operate in Mexico. And crime gangs want their candidates in power so they can control police forces and institutions that might affect their trafficking or their ability to extort businesses. But politicians also use cartels to fund their campaigns so they can get themselves in power and manipulate local contracting to enrich themselves, friends and relatives.



POLITICS

How The GOP Is Adjusting To A Less Religious America

For the first time, a majority of Americans are not church members, according to a recent poll. That could have long-term consequences for Republicans, long affiliated with more religious voters.

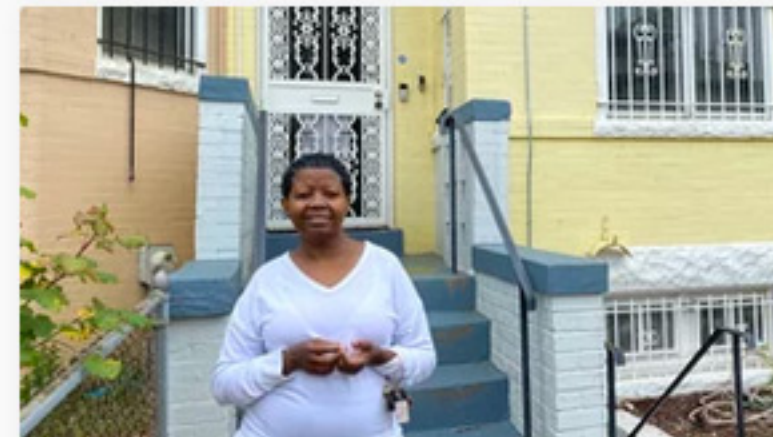


Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

▶ LISTEN · 5:05 + PLAYLIST <>



THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS
Hiring Picked Up Last Month, A Relief For An Economy Desperate For Workers



THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS
Millions Of Women Haven't Rejoined The Workforce — And May Not Anytime Soon



NATIONAL
Doughnut Or Donut? Discuss



POLITICS
After 2-Year Legal Fight, Ex-Trump Aide Will Testify On Russia Investigation



THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS
During The Pandemic Lockdown, Traffic Deaths Soared To The Highest Level In 13 Years



STORYCORPS
Klansmen Brutally Killed Their Father. They Now Say His Legacy Is Larger Than Life



This photo, from Cape Coast, Ghana, is titled "Carrying Her Future." It's one of the honorees from this year's All About Photo Awards.

Andrea Torrell/All About Photo Awards



"We are surrounded by water and have nowhere to run to. People are dying of hunger, and the floods are to blame," says Nyakeak Rambon, 70, as she walks outside Wanchot Primary School in South Sudan, which has seen catastrophic flooding. Rambon is sheltering in a classroom. She stepped out to stretch her legs — and pose for a photo — but quickly went inside so she wouldn't lose her sleeping spot.

Peter Caton/All About Photo Awards



Thousands of commuters and travelers board a train in Tongi, Bangladesh. There aren't enough seats — or trains — for the thousands of travelers. So people look for any way to ride and get home, grabbing onto the outside of the train and even standing on the roof.

Azim Khan Ronnie/All About Photo Awards



First prize went to this image of a porter in Kolkata. Photographer Tom Price took the image, then created a different backdrop: an empty, unidentified landscape emphasizing the loneliness of the migrant worker.

Tom Price/All About Photo Awards



In this photo from Indonesia, taken on April 18, 2020, the body of someone suspected of dying from COVID-19 is wrapped in plastic to reduce the chance of viral spread — although current thinking is that the risk of contracting the coronavirus from a corpse is minimal.

Joshua Irwandi/All About Photo Awards



Jorge, age 40, plays with his 8-year-old daughter Ángeles in their house near Buenos Aires, Argentina. Asked what it is like to live through a pandemic, Jorge answered, "I was born without legs and without arms. I know very well what despair is, I have been living my own pandemic and isolation ever since. This is nothing new to me."

Constanza Portnoj/All About Photo Awards



Javier Vergara
Chile
Chile Resists



An old Pratika camera and a 7-year-old French girl who fell in love with photography is how the *All About Photo Awards* contest started. That little French girl, **Sandrine Hermand-Grisel**, is all grown up and, with the help of her "entrepreneurial soul-mate" (husband Fabien), created the All About Photo website* (a resource guide for anyone interested in photography) and the annual All About Photo Awards.

Hermand-Grisel, who comes from an artistic family that spent weekends exploring art museums, says the website and the contest are part of a path she was meant to take from the first time she held that camera.

"As a girl, I took my camera everywhere," says Hermand-Grisel, who is 47 and lives in San Diego. "I covered my bedroom walls with pictures of the masters of photography. My room became a photography museum unlike my friends who had posters of their favorite actors or music bands."

This year's contest theme, *The Mind's Eye* — a reference to the essay of the same name by famed photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson** — drew more than 6,000 entries from 700 photographers across 23 countries and five continents. Hermand-Grisel says she chose the theme to draw photo submissions "that last and engage our minds and our souls," that you can "look at over and over again."

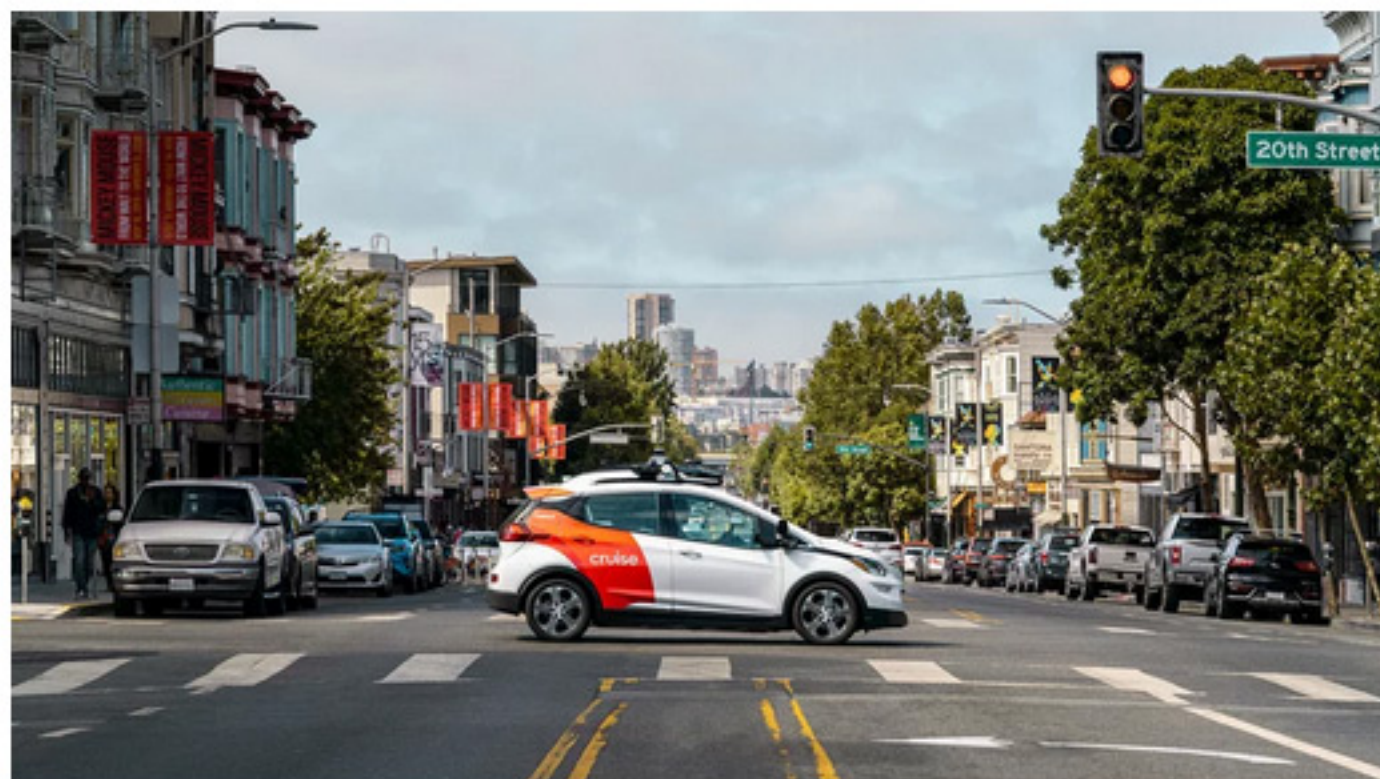
*<https://www.all-about-photo.com/> | <https://www.all-about-photo.com/all-about-photo-contest.php?cid=24>

** <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1318621>

California Approves Pilot Program For Driverless Rides

June 5, 2021 · 7:23 PM ET

DUSTIN JONES



Cruise, a self-driving car service out of San Francisco, was granted a driverless vehicle permit for the state's autonomous vehicle pilot program.

Cruise, LLC

The California Public Utilities Commission announced Friday that Cruise, a self-driving car service out of San Francisco, has been authorized to participate in the state's first pilot program to provide driverless ride services to the public.

The company is not allowed to charge passengers for rides.

Eight companies have permits for testing driverless vehicles in California, but Cruise is the only company approved for giving rides to passengers without a safety driver on board. However, the vehicles still have to have a link to a remote safety operator.

So far, Cruise says its autonomous cars have logged more than **2 million miles** driven in California. The company also has more than 300 all-electric autonomous vehicles operating in San Francisco and in Phoenix.

Cruise was acquired by General Motors in 2016 and has had big investments from Softbank, Honda, T. Rowe Price, Microsoft and Walmart.

Many vehicles on the road today already implement some level of automation technology, which the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration breaks down into **various levels**.

Despite the rise of automated vehicle technology, an American Automobile Association survey conducted in January found most drivers are hesitant to get in a self-driving car. The **study suggests** that only 14% of drivers trust a car to do all the driving, 54% are too afraid to try it and the remaining 32% are unsure.

G-7 back steps to deter tax dodging by multinational firms

By KELVIN CHAN and DAVID McHUGH Saturday, June 05, 2021



From left, EU's Economy Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni, Eurogroup President Paschal Donohoe, World Bank President David Malpass, Italy's Finance Minister Daniele Franco, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire, Canada's Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Chancellor Rishi Sunak, Managing Director of the IMF Kristalina Georgieva, Germany's Finance Minister Olaf Scholz, **U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen**, Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Mathias Cormann, Japan's Finance Minister Taro Aso pose for a family photo as finance ministers from across the G7 nations meet at Lancaster House in London, Saturday, June 5, 2021 ahead of the G7 leaders' summit. (Henry Nicholls/Pool Photo via AP)

LONDON (AP) — The Group of Seven wealthy democracies agreed Saturday to support a global minimum corporate tax of at least 15% to deter multinational companies from avoiding taxes by stashing profits in low-rate countries.

G-7 finance ministers meeting in London also endorsed proposals to make the world's biggest companies - including U.S.-based tech giants - pay taxes in countries where they have lots of sales but no physical headquarters.

British Treasury chief [Rishi Sunak](#), the host, said the deal would “reform the global tax system to make it fit for the global digital age and crucially to make sure that it’s fair, so that the right companies pay the right tax in the right places.”

U.S. Treasury Secretary [Janet Yellen](#) said the agreement “provides tremendous momentum” for reaching a global deal that “would end the race-to-the-bottom in corporate taxation and ensure fairness for the middle class and working people in the U.S. and around the world.”

At home, Biden is proposing a 21% U.S. tax rate on companies' overseas earnings, an increase from the 10.5%-13.125% enacted under former President Donald Trump. Even if the U.S. rate winds up higher than the global minimum, the difference would be small enough to eliminate most room for tax avoidance. Biden's proposal requires congressional approval.

KPMG's Corwin said the final statement was silent on several key points, including exactly which of the “largest and most profitable” multinationals would be covered by the proposal and how companies would be protected from double-billing if countries disagree on who has the right to tax them. Those complexities are fodder for the G-20 talks and the ongoing Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development talks in Paris.

“The devil is in the details,” Corwin said.

The Group of 7 is an informal forum among Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the United States. European Union representatives also attend. Its decisions are not legally binding, but leaders can use the forum to exert political influence.

Wisconsin priest digs in to refuse bishop's demand to resign

By TODD RICHMOND and DAVID CRARY Saturday, June 05, 2021



MADISON, Wis. (AP) — The Rev. James Altman calls himself “a lowly priest” serving a blue-collar city in western Wisconsin. But when his bishop demanded his resignation – after a series of divisive remarks about politics and the pandemic – Altman refused to oblige and has since raised more than \$640,000 from his conservative supporters to defend himself.

“You cannot be Catholic and be a Democrat,” said Altman, admonishing people to “repent of your support of that party and its platform or face the fires of hell.”

This June 2, 2021 photo shows St. James the Less parish in La Crosse, Wis. The Rev. James Altman who heads the parish, announced during a homily on May 23, that Diocese of La Crosse Bishop Patrick Callahan had asked for his resignation. (Marilyn J. Richmond via AP)

David Cloutier, a professor of moral theology at the Catholic University of America, said via email that Altman “is clearly far out of bounds in the extent to which he is no longer articulating specific Catholic teaching.”

“He has instead become a conservative commentator on cultural issues on which there is either no specifically ‘Catholic’ position or where the priest might well be at odds with Catholic principles,” Cloutier added.

Harris Heads To Guatemala And Mexico As Part Of A 'Buzz Saw' Assignment

June 6, 2021 · 7:00 AM ET



TAMARA KEITH



CARRIE KAHN



When Vice President Kamala Harris arrives in Guatemala on Sunday for her first foreign trip in office, she'll follow the same politically treacherous path President Joe Biden took when he was in the role. The mission: to help solve deep-seated problems driving tens of thousands of Central American people to try to seek asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border. "She is really picking up where then-Vice President Biden left off," said Symone Sanders, press secretary to Harris.

The record number of migrants has created a humanitarian challenge, as well as massive political headache for the Biden administration. Biden asked Harris to take on the problem — though not all of it. Her portfolio, like his in 2014 and 2015, is to try to address the root causes of the migration crisis. Republicans have criticized Harris for not visiting the border, taking their own trips to draw attention to conditions there.

On her trip, Harris will meet with the Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei, as well as civil society groups and business leaders.

"We have the capacity to give people hope," Harris said at a recent White House event to promote business investments in the region. "And hope, in particular in this case, that if they stay, help is on the way."

Harris' focus is on countries known as the Northern Triangle: Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. They've been hit by natural disasters and have problems with violence, corruption and poverty that go back decades. The pandemic has only made matters worse. Six years ago, then-Vice President Biden was in Guatemala talking about some of the very same problems.

"Let me be frank: some in my own government and in the U.S. Congress have asked me, 'How do we know this isn't just going to be business as usual? How is this any different than anything that's come before?'" Biden said on that trip, back in 2005. "Well, the president and I believe that this is the time that it will be different."

But it wasn't different. The leaders have changed, but the problems in the region persist.

The top priority for the United States is getting tough on corruption and anti-democratic practices by governments in the region, said Ricardo Zúñiga, the State Department's special envoy to Central America.

"This is not us imposing the United States, or imposing U.S. values, or imposing U.S. laws," Zúñiga told NPR. "All we are saying is, comply with law that is on the books and comply with local demands for accountability."

The message may not go over well. U.S.-Mexico relations have hit some bumps lately, especially when it comes to sharing security intelligence, and U.S. funding of Mexican free speech groups.

López Obrador had a good working relationship with former President Donald Trump, who was focused on Mexico stopping Central American migrants from getting to the U.S. border, but otherwise stayed out of Mexico's affairs, said Carlos Heredia, a Mexican economist at the Center for Research and Teaching in Economics.

"So now it is different. And the president of Mexico does not feel comfortable dealing with a neighbor that is opinionated and has a lot to say about issues that should be of common interest," Heredia said.

Mexico's approach to the migration issue continues to rely heavily on the police and military, said Tonatiuh Guillen Lopez, a researcher at the National Autonomous University of Mexico who resigned as head of Mexico's Immigration Institute after López Obrador sent in the military to stop migrants.

"We still have the control, police, migration plan that was imposed on Mexico by President Trump," Guillen said.

Despite still enjoying high popularity, López Obrador is facing rising criticism for his attacks on the media, defunding independent institutions and publicly criticizing judges who rule against his populist policies. But Mariana Aparicio Ramirez of the Binational Mexico-United States Relationship Observatory said she expects the meeting will focus more on cooperation than U.S. concerns over these issues.

Harris Heads To Guatemala And Mexico As Part Of A 'Buzz Saw' Assignment

June 6, 2021, 7:00 AM ET

Failed state?

It would take substantial political will – and a lot of money – to fix Salvadoran poverty, gang violence, the education system and limited upward mobility. Gender-based violence is a pervasive social disease; El Salvador's femicide rate is one of the highest in the world.

On top of that, climate change-fueled storms have destroyed homes and livelihoods. That problem requires an international solution.

Salvadoran president Nayib Bukele promised voters change. Instead, he seems to be reviving El Salvador's authoritarian past. Camilo Freedman/SOPA Images/LightRocket via Getty Images

El Salvador's façade of democracy crumbles as president purges his political opponents

June 4, 2021 8:18am EDT

 **Mneesha Gellman**, Emerson College

El Salvador is in crisis after President Nayib Bukele on May 1 fired five Salvadoran supreme court justices and the attorney general.

The court and attorney general's office were among the only checks on presidential power remaining since Bukele's Nuevas Ideas party won a supermajority in Congress in March 2021, with more than 65% of votes. During the pandemic, the Salvadoran judiciary repeatedly ruled that the president's uses of emergency powers were unconstitutional; Bukele defied the courts and ultimately dismissed the justices and the attorney general.

Salvadoran lawmakers supported Bukele's purge of his perceived opponents. And recent polls show more than 90% of Salvadorans still support the president.

But the move drew sharp criticism from other countries.

"An independent judiciary is essential to democratic governance," the U.S. State Department said of the justices' dismissal.

Bukele came to power in 2019 on a tide of voters exhausted by the Salvadoran status quo – deep inequality, chronic violence and endemic corruption. Voters were hopeful for something different. Soon after, the authoritarian power grabs began.



Soldiers patrol historic downtown San Salvador in March 2021 – a common sight in militarized El Salvador.

Bukele – who at 37 was the world's youngest president and belonged to neither major party – pledged to tackle all these problems.

But life for most Salvadorans has not improved under his leadership. People are still fleeing El Salvador en masse. Last year, during the pandemic, 12,590 Salvadorans were deported by U.S. immigration enforcement; in 2019, nearly 19,000 were.

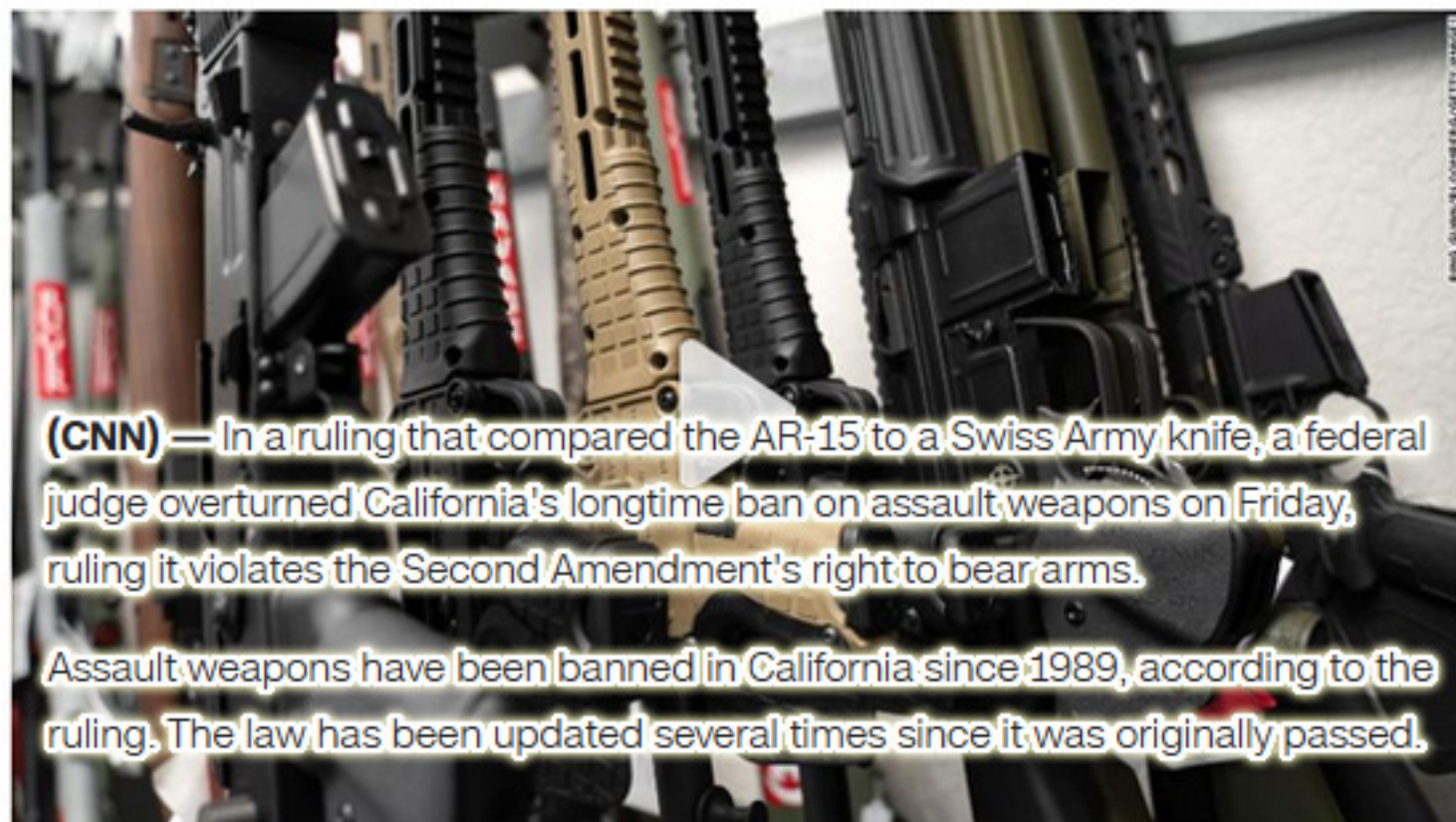
Some analysts consider El Salvador a "failed state," while others have labeled it a "flawed democracy."

In my analysis, Nayib Bukele's presidency has simply removed the façade that El Salvador ever became a full democracy. Free and fair elections aside, its regime is a work in progress. Under Bukele's leadership, El Salvador is inching back toward its authoritarian past, while Salvadorans continue to hope for change.

A federal judge, who compares an AR-15 to a Swiss Army knife, overturns California's ban on assault weapons

By Alexandra Meeks and Josh Campbell, CNN

Updated 7:06 AM ET, Sat June 5, 2021



(CNN) — In a ruling that compared the AR-15 to a Swiss Army knife, a federal judge overturned California's longtime ban on assault weapons on Friday, ruling it violates the Second Amendment's right to bear arms.

Assault weapons have been banned in California since 1989, according to the ruling. The law has been updated several times since it was originally passed.

According to the ruling by U.S. District Judge Roger Benitez of San Diego, the assault weapons ban deprives Californians from owning assault-style weapons commonly allowed in other states. Benitez issued a permanent injunction Friday so the law cannot be enforced.

"Like the Swiss Army Knife, the popular AR-15 rifle is a perfect combination of home defense weapon and homeland defense equipment," Benitez said in the ruling. "Firearms deemed as 'assault weapons' are fairly ordinary, popular, modern rifles."

AR-15 style weapons have been used in mass shootings

In his ruling, the judge also criticized the news media, writing, "One is to be forgiven if one is persuaded by news media and others that the nation is awash with murderous AR-15 assault rifles. The facts, however, do not support this hyperbole, and facts matter."

However, as CNN has previously reported, AR-15 style rifles have been the weapon of choice for numerous mass shooters, including in a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, the Route 91 Harvest musical festival in Las Vegas, a massacre at a church in Texas, the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, the high school in Parkland, Florida, and the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, among others.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom criticized the ruling Friday, calling AR-15's a "weapon of war."

He said in a statement that the comparison made by the judge between a Swiss Army Knife and the AR-15 "completely undermines the credibility of this decision and is a slap in the face to the families who've lost loved ones to this weapon."

Newsom added: "We're not backing down from this fight, and we'll continue pushing for common sense gun laws that will save lives."

Judicial opinions

In 2019, Benitez granted summary judgment in a lawsuit against California's ban on large capacity magazines.^[6] The opinion addressed the lengthy history of firearms and self-defense rights in America, and the roots in English history. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra appealed the ruling to the 9th Circuit. In 2020, a three-judge panel affirmed Benitez's grant of summary judgment in a 2-1 decision authored by Judge Kenneth Lee.^[7] The attorney general requested an en banc rehearing of the case,^[8] and on February 25, 2021, the court stated that it would rehear the case.^[9]

In 2021, Benitez presided in a lawsuit against California's assault weapons ban.^[10] The trial began on February 3. In June 2021, Benitez overturned the three-decade old ban. He ruled that "the state's definition of illegal military-style rifles unlawfully deprives law-abiding Californians of weapons commonly allowed in most other states".^[11] He issued a permanent injunction against enforcement of the law but stayed it for 30 days to give state Attorney General Rob Bonta time to appeal.^[12] Benitez states that the AR-15 is akin to a "swiss-army knife", both being "home-defense weapon[s] and homeland defense equipment".^[13]

Roger Benitez



Senior Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California

Incumbent

Assumed office
December 31, 2017

Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California

In office
June 21, 2004 – December 31, 2017

Appointed by George W. Bush

Preceded by Seat established by 116 Stat. 1758

Succeeded by vacant

Magistrate Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California

In office
2001–2004

Judge of the California Superior Court

In office
1997–2001

Personal details

Born Roger Thomas Benitez^{[1][2]}
December 30, 1950
(age 70)^[2]
Havana, Cuba^[2]
Spouse(s) Cathryn C. Carr^[2]
Education Imperial Valley College (AA)
San Diego State University (BA)
Western State University College of Law (JD)

"Tank Man"



"Tank Man" temporarily stops the advance of a column of tanks on June 5, 1989, in Beijing. This photograph (one of four similar versions) was taken by [Jeff Widener](#) of the [Associated Press](#).

Nationality [Chinese](#) (presumed)

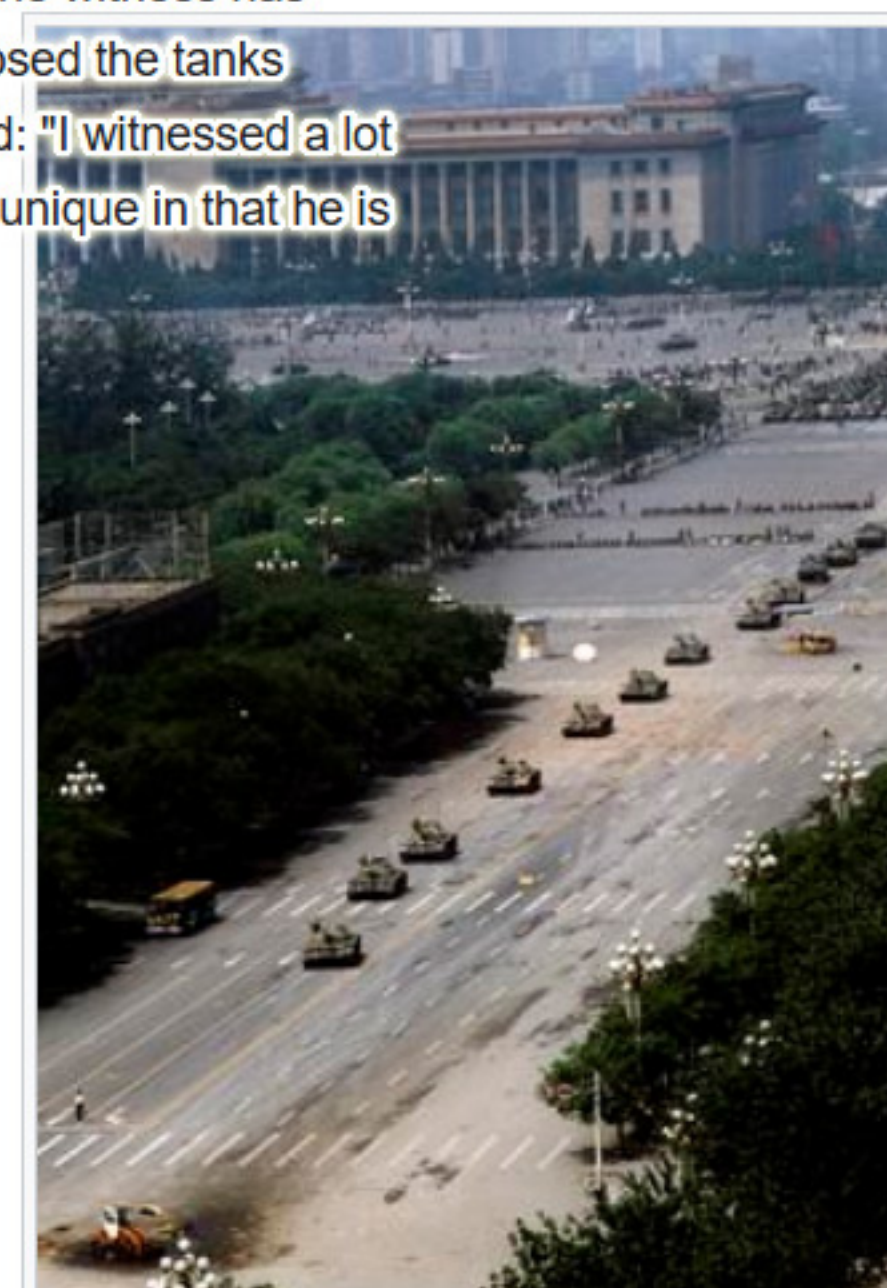
Other names [Unknown Protester](#)
[Unknown Rebel](#)
[Wang Weilin](#) (alleged)

Known for [Iconic photo](#) of him obstructing tanks during the aftermath of the [Tiananmen Square Protests](#)



Tank Man (also known as the **Unknown Protester** or **Unknown Rebel**) is the nickname of an unidentified Chinese man who stood in front of a column of tanks leaving [Tiananmen Square on June 5, 1989](#) the day after the [Chinese military had suppressed the Tiananmen Square protests](#). As the lead tank maneuvered to pass by the man, he repeatedly shifted his position in order to obstruct the tank's attempted path around him. The incident was filmed and shared to a worldwide audience. Internationally, it is considered one of the most iconic images of all time.^{[1][2][3]} Inside China, the image and the accompanying events are subject to censorship.^[4]

There is no reliable information about the identity or fate of the man; the story of what happened to the tank crew is also unknown.^[5] At least one witness has stated that "Tank Man" was not the only person who had opposed the tanks during the protest. Shao Jiang, who was a student leader, said: "I witnessed a lot of the people standing up, blocking the tanks."^[6] Tank Man is unique in that he is the only one who was photographed and recorded on video.



Wider shot by [Stuart Franklin](#) showing a column of tanks approaching Tank Man, who is shown near the lower-left corner.

Growing Desperation Forces Record Number Of Venezuelans To Cross U.S. Border

WLRN 91.3 FM | By [Tim Padgett](#)

Published June 1, 2021 at 6:00 AM EDT

As doors close to them in South America – and as they misconstrue TPS in the U.S. – Venezuelan refugees are flocking to the U.S.-Mexico border and South Florida.

The U.S.-Mexico border is suddenly seeing a lot of that Venezuelan trauma. U.S. immigration officials estimate more than 6,000 Venezuelans crossed the frontier just last month, through the desert or the Rio Grande. In the past decade, fewer than a thousand Venezuelans crossed the border on foot *each year*.

Venezuelans are adding to the border crisis because, as Raquel points out, their own crisis is only deepening. Venezuela's economy is still in free fall – the worst humanitarian crisis in modern South American history – and its socialist government is as repressive as ever. Because of the pandemic, countries like Colombia that had previously opened their doors to Venezuelan refugees can't be as generous now.

So those who haven't yet left Venezuela – almost a fifth of its population already has in recent years – are setting their sights on the U.S. in an unprecedented surge.

"They think that TPS will be open for them," she said. "But of course that's wrong."

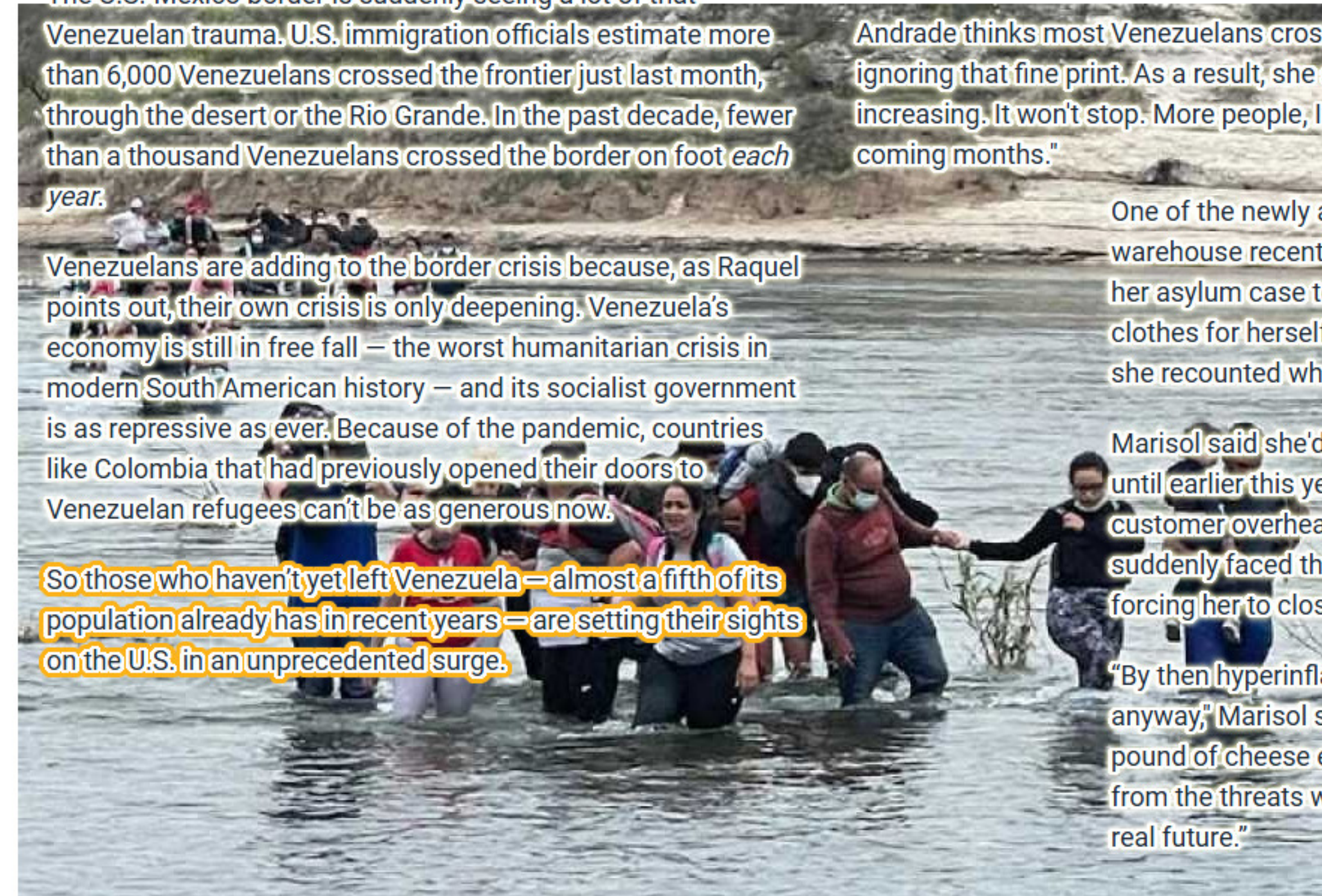
TPS is Temporary Protected Status. It lets undocumented migrants from crisis-torn countries live and work legally in the U.S for 18 months and usually renewed – often for years. President Biden recently granted TPS to Venezuelans – but only those who were in the U.S. before March 8. Anyone who's come after that date is not eligible.

Andrade thinks most Venezuelans crossing the border now are ignoring that fine print. As a result, she says, "This will be increasing. It won't stop. More people, I think, will come in the coming months."

One of the newly arrived refugees visiting the Raíces warehouse recently was Marisol (not her real name, either, as her asylum case too is pending). As she picked out donated clothes for herself and her son and daughter, ages 12 and 9, she recounted what drove them to the U.S. border.

Marisol said she'd co-owned a mechanic shop in Maracaibo – until earlier this year, when she says a pro-government customer overheard her badmouth the regime – and she suddenly faced threats of violence and community backlash, forcing her to close her business.

"By then hyperinflation had reduced my salary to nothing anyway," Marisol said. "So I could stay and struggle to buy a pound of cheese every week or take my savings, save my kids from the threats we faced from regime thugs and get them a real future."



Venezuelans crossing a shallow patch of the Rio Grande into Del Rio, Texas in April.



Yen Nee Lee
@YENNEE_LEE

Corporate tax rates around the world in 2020



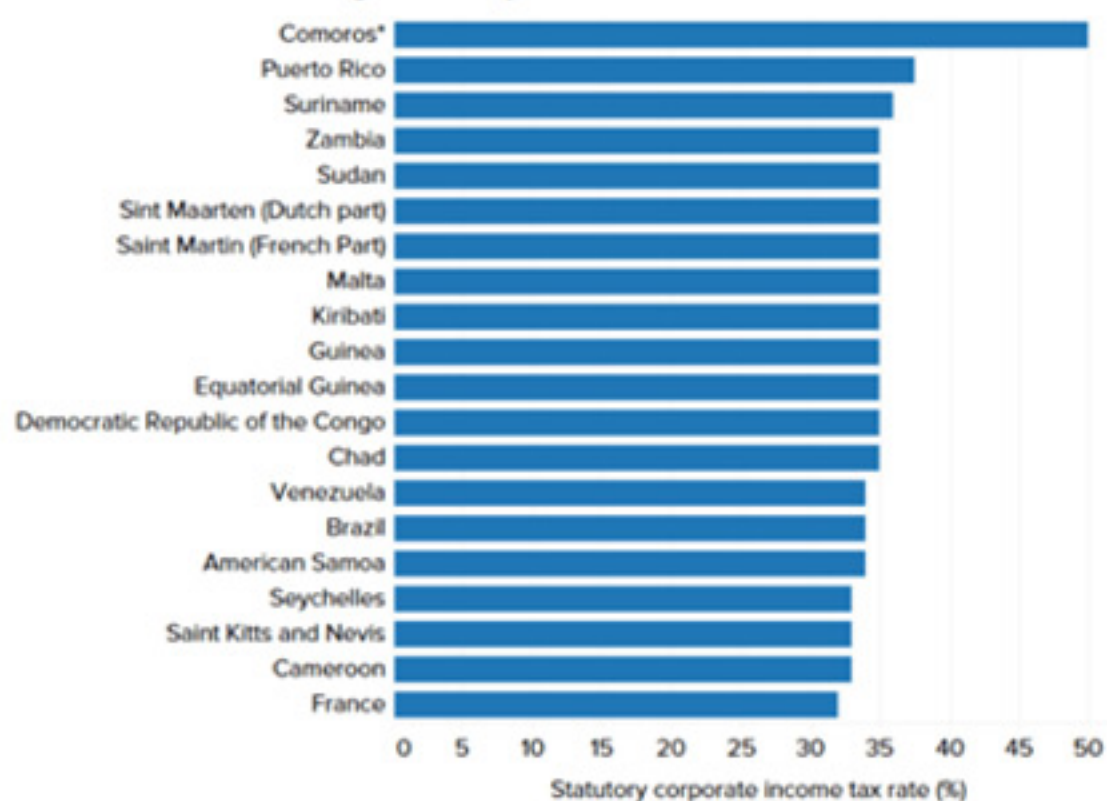
- Finance ministers from the Group of Seven advanced nations agreed on Saturday to back a minimum global corporate tax rate of at least 15%.
- The G-7 agreement feeds into a broader global effort to update tax rules around the world and will be discussed further at a Group of Twenty (G-20) meeting next month.

Around 15 countries do not impose a general corporate income tax, the data showed. That includes island nations such as Bermuda, Cayman Islands and British Virgin Islands, which are widely known as offshore “tax havens” — jurisdictions where large companies shift profits to in order to pay less taxes. Those territories benefit from jobs created to serve multinational companies, such as legal and accounting services. Tax havens also make money from fees paid by large companies to create subsidiaries there.

Daniel Bunn, vice president for global projects at Tax Foundation, said low-tax jurisdictions facilitate investments in other countries with higher taxes. So, applying a global minimum tax rate would increase the costs of those investments and could result in a “little bit of economic blowback,” he told CNBC. Bunn said many questions remain on how that minimum tax rate will be applied and which parts of corporate income to tax. He added that tax havens may not go away entirely.

“It’s unclear where things will settle in a few years,” he said. “There may still be opportunities for evasion or avoidance or different countries changing the rules in ways that are preferential to their jurisdictions.”

Jurisdictions with highest corporate tax rates in 2020



Places with lowest corporate tax rates in 2020



Joan Baez, singer and peacemaker, finally honored by Kennedy Center

Jun 5, 2021

by [Colman McCarthy](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Culture](#) | [People](#)



Joan Baez singing to a sold-out audience in Albany, New York, at the Egg Performing Arts Center in 2016. (Wikimedia Commons/Jim Gilbert)

More than a decade ago, I wrote to the chair of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, expressing my hope that that year, 2010, would be the one in which Joan Baez would be one of the honorees for the center's annual award for the performing arts. In my letter, I shared with David M. Rubenstein that I came to know Baez in the early 1970s when I was a columnist and editorial writer for The Washington Post. We would meet when she was passing through Washington on her way home to California from concert tours in Latin America, Europe and Asia. During those meetings, she would give me information about political prisoners she met in places like Chile, Northern Ireland, Poland, Turkey or the Middle East. With the documentation — always sound — I wrote columns about the prisoners and their mistreatment.



Colman McCarthy

Colman McCarthy directs the Center for Teaching Peace, a Washington non-profit. He is the author of *I'd Rather Teach Peace* and has written for NCR since 1965.



Native American Floyd Red Crow Westerman, protest singer Joan Baez, actor Martin Sheen and the Rev. Cecil Williams, pastor of the Glide Church, join in protest during an anti-war march in San Francisco Jan. 18, 2003. (CNS/Reuters)



Vocalist Joan Baez performs at a civil rights march on Aug. 28, 1963, in Washington, D.C. (Wikimedia Commons/U.S. Information Agency/Press and Publications Service/Rowland Scherman)

DC Police Officer Mike Fanone was Joan Baez's guest of honor at the ceremony after the singer reached out to the family in wake of the January 6 insurrection.

Updated: 8:46 PM EDT June 4, 2021

WASHINGTON — The ugliness of January 6 was only matched by the brutality of the mob that turned on law enforcement defending the US Capitol – including DC Police Officer Mike Fanone.

“I’ve got kids,” Fanone can be heard screaming on his body cam video, obtained by WUSA9 through a source. Prosecutors say Fanone suffered a concussion and heart attack at the hands of at least 5 separate attackers.

But Fanone now says from those dark moments he found support through an unexpected source. It came from iconic singer, songwriter, Kennedy Center Honors recipient Joan Baez.

“Well, after I’d heard ‘Thank you, (expletive) you for being here’ I knew that was my guy,” Baez said in a phone interview with WUSA9.

The reference was a response Fanone gave in an interview shortly after the siege on the Capitol when asked about rioters who pulled him from the mob after being assaulted.

“Thank you, but (expletive) you for being here,” Fanone said.

But it was the way Fanone reacted at the moment that struck Baez.

“My understanding from talking to her was that despite being out in the crowd and having my life threatened that I chose not to use deadly force,” Fanone said. “And, you know, I think that resonated with her.”

The friendship was born when one of Fanone’s family member’s saw an online image of a painting Baez did of Fanone defending the Capitol.

“It was probably just a continuation of the complete shock of what had happened,” Baez said. “And, you know, a relief that I could do my little piece in relation to it.”

Fanone’s family reached out to a staff member at the art gallery to find out more about the piece and they were shocked when Baez asked to speak with the Fanone family.

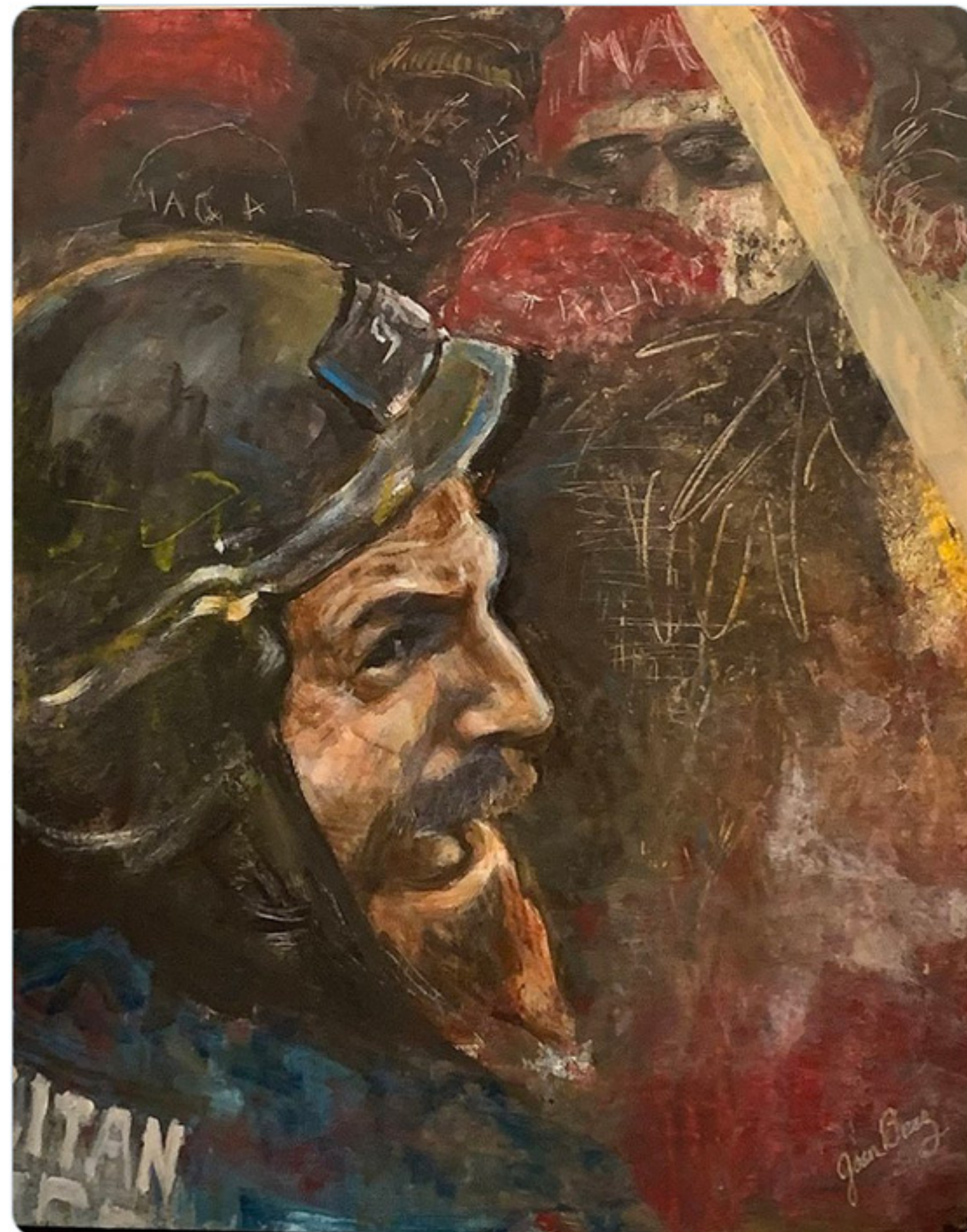
That painting now sits in Fanone’s living room, a gift to the officer. When Baez came to D.C. for the taping of the Kennedy Center Honors, she made Fanone her guest of honor.



Joan Baez

@joanbaez

“Thank you, but fuck you for being there.” On January 6th, 2021, D.C. Metropolitan police officer Michael Fanone was dragged down the steps of the U.S. Capitol building....(read more) [facebook.com/OfficialJoanBa...](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialJoanBaez/)



8:17 AM · Jan 19, 2021 · Twitter Web App

37 Retweets 8 Quote Tweets 216 Likes



Kennedy Center honoree Joan Baez forges an unlikely frie...

Fanone's jaw dropped when one of his favorite musicians, Sturgill Simpson, walked on stage. In fact, it was Simpson's music that Fanone says helped get him through some of his most difficult moments after the Jan. 6 insurrection. "To be able to like, share that with Joan Baez was a pretty amazing experience," Fanone said. "And then I ended up meeting Sturgill Simpson. And now, you know, like, we've struck up a friendship."

"I thought what an interesting combination," Baez said, "A pacifist and a policeman. And, you know, a Country Western singer."

From right: DC Police Officer Mike Fanone, Sturgill Simpson, Joan Baez, Gabe Harris (Baez son)



Credit: Rebecca Kntler

Joan Baez's painting of DC Police Officer Mike Fanone Defending the US Capitol



Laura Di Bella @LauraDiBella15 · 15h

Joan Baez, DC Police Officer Mike Fanone forge unlikely bond | [wusa9.com](https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/n...)
[wusa9.com/article/news/n...](https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/n...) I thought it was him but I had to Google to make sure



1 1 9

VP Kamala Harris to meet Guatemalan & Mexican presidents in first international trip

Vice President Harris is set to meet with Mexican President **Andrés Manuel López Obrador** Tuesday on her first international trip as the Biden administration's point person on the root causes of the migrant crisis. Harris will meet Obrador after a day in Guatemala, where she will speak with President Alejandro Giammattei Monday. The vice president's office said that Harris and Obrador will discuss how to "cooperate to bolster efforts in the Northern Triangle" and "economic and security issues." The focus on the Northern Triangle, which refers to the three Central American countries of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, comes as Harris and President Biden continue to emphasize what they call the "root causes" of illegal immigration – squalor and violence in those countries – over border security.

The Mexican president Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador once called the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" policy, which separated families found crossing the U.S.-Mexico border illegally, "arrogant, racist and inhuman."

Obrador said earlier this year, contrary to repeated claims from the Biden administration, that the new president during his campaign seemed to signal to migrants that conditions for them to come to the United States would be better once he was in office.

"Expectations were created that with the government of President Biden there would be a better treatment of migrants," Obrador said in March, "and this has caused Central American migrants, and also from our country, wanting to cross the border thinking that it is easier to do so," Obrador added.

According to the White House, Kamala Harris has spoken with Obrador on at least three separate occasions. After an April 7 call, the White House said that Harris thanked "Obrador for his cooperation on migration issues" and that they agreed to "address the root causes of migration from the Northern Triangle countries."

According to a tweet from Obrador, the U.S. will give Mexico one million Johnson & Johnson vaccines. Obrador said that he expressed appreciation on behalf of his country. The gathering this week, which will likely happen on June 8, will be the first time the two leaders meet in person.



Reuters

VP Kamala Harris targeting corruption, immigration on trip to Guatemala, Mexico

CNN

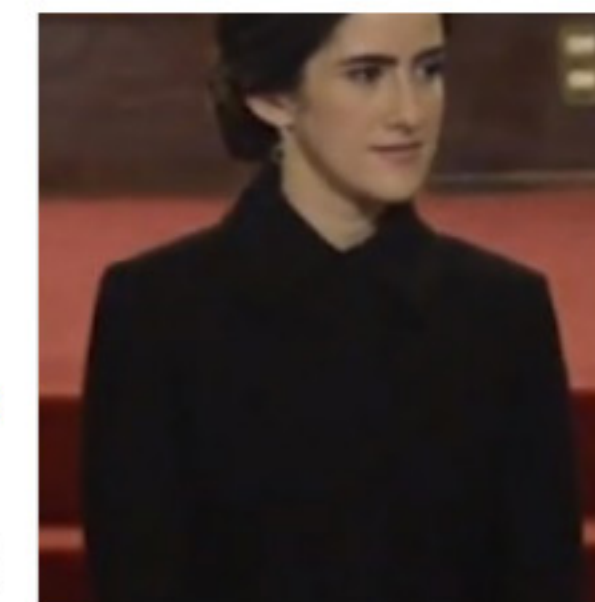
Why Kamala Harris is heading to Guatemala and Mexico

Alejandro Eduardo Giammattei Falla

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

Ana Marcela Dinorah

Giammattei Cáceres is a Guatemalan politician and lawyer serving as current First Lady of Guatemala since January 2020. Giammattei is daughter of President Alejandro Giammattei and Rosana Cáceres.



Giammattei became the presidential candidate for the Vamos party in the 2019 presidential elections. He placed second in the first round behind Sandra Torres on June 16, 2019 with 13.95% of the vote, but won the second round against the latter on August 11, 2019 with 57.96% of the vote.

On January 14, 2020, Giammattei assumed office as president of the Republic of Guatemala, succeeding Jimmy Morales.

Guatemala experienced a political crisis in **November 2020**, following the adoption of a controversial budget. Most of the funds are earmarked for privately managed infrastructure and neglect the fight against poverty and child malnutrition, which affects nearly half of all children under five, while generating an increase in public debt. Congress was burnt down following the repression of a demonstration by the police, while the **Vice President, Guillermo Castillo Reyes, calls on Alejandro Giammattei to resign for "the good of the country"**. This crisis came at a time when the government was also facing criticism for its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, as hospitals quickly became saturated and the Ministry of Health was accused of withholding information about the pandemic.

Alejandro Giammattei married Rosana Cáceres on February 11, 1989 and they have three children: Marcela, Estéfano and Alejandro Giammattei.[8] Alejandro and Rosana were separated by the time Alejandro launched his presidential campaign in 2019.[17][18] As result of the divorce, Marcela serves as First Lady of Guatemala.[1][2] He cites Mahatma Gandhi as his most admired world figure.[19] Giammattei suffers from multiple sclerosis and uses crutches in order to walk.[20]

In September 2020, President Giammattei became ill with the coronavirus and has since recovered.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Retweeted



Cori Bush @CoriBush · 17h

Trump did this to protesters in DC last year. It was unacceptable then, and it's unacceptable now.

@POTUS, your administration has an obligation to protect Indigenous organizers and their allies. Not corporate interests.

Stop the violence. Stop Line 3.

Evan Frost @efrostee · Jun 7

DHS/Border Patrol is using helicopter rotor wash to try to clear out activists out from an occupied #Line3 pump station north of Park Rapids. More than 24 activists are locked down to equipment inside. @MPRnews

[Show this thread](#)



403 4.2K 15.8K



1 / 6 Many Line 3 protestors held up banners, similar to this one. Shannon Geisen/Enterprise

Large-scale Line 3 protest north of Park Rapids

More than 1,000 protesters blocked the road to an Enbridge work site located near Two Inlets and marched near the Mississippi River on Monday, June 7, 2021.

Written By: Michael Achterling/Detroit Lakes Tribune and Shannon Geisen/Park Rapids Enterprise | 12:19 pm, Jun. 7, 2021



In response to "We will," and "we must," the crowd shouted "Stop Line 3." Protestors parked a boat across a roadway to a Enbridge work site. Shannon Geisen/Enterprise

Indigenous leaders and activists showed up by the thousands to protest continued construction of the Enbridge Line 3 oil pipeline through northern Minnesota.

Calling it "Minnesota's largest ever anti-pipeline mobilization," more than 1,000 people marched with Indigenous leaders to the headwaters of the Mississippi River for a treaty ceremony.

Further south, over 500 Indigenous people and allies shut down an active Line 3 pump station.

These actions were a part of the Treaty People Gathering, a mass mobilization planned by Indigenous-led groups, communities of faith and climate justice organizations.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Retweeted



Cori Bush @CoriBush · 17h

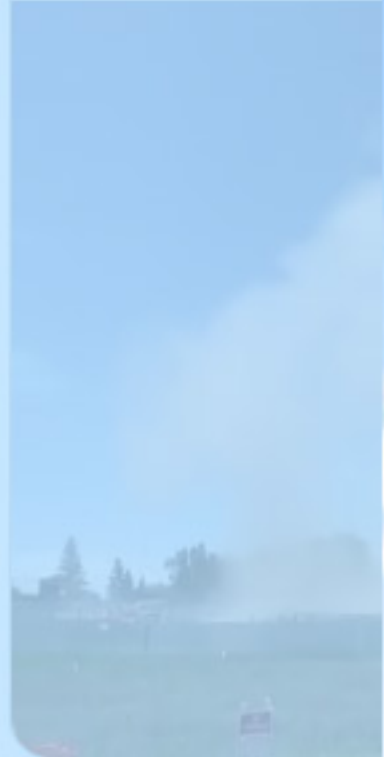
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Stop the violence. Stop

Evan Frost @efrost

DHS/Border Patrol activists out from a More than 24 activists Show this thread



403

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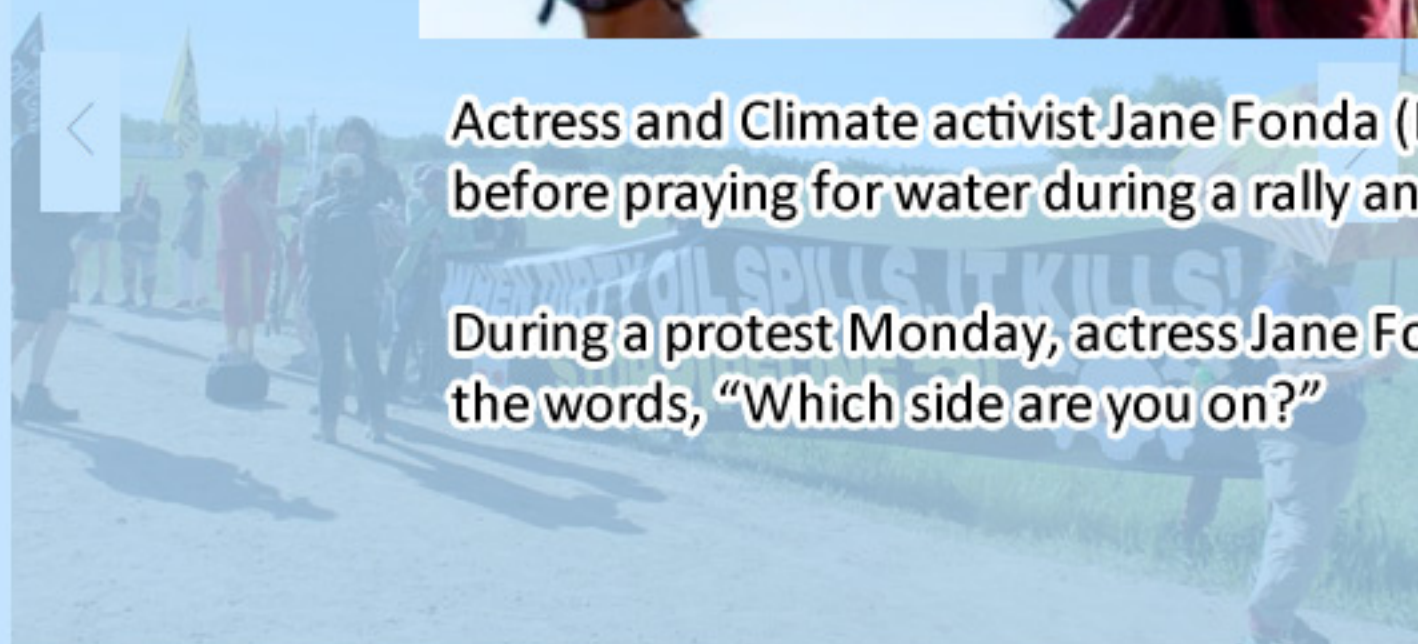
Line 3." Protestors parked a enterprise

by the thousands to ge Line 3 oil pipeline

Actress and Climate activist Jane Fonda (R) and Indigenous community members gathered for a "Treaty People Gathering," more than before praying for water during a rally and march in Solway, Minnesota on June 7, 2021. headwaters of the

During a protest Monday, actress Jane Fonda carried a placard with Biden's image and the words, "Which side are you on?" Further south, over 500 Indigenous people and allies shut down an active Line 3 pump station.

These actions were a part of the Treaty People Gathering, a mass mobilization planned by Indigenous-led groups, communities of faith and climate justice organizations.



1 / 6 Many Line 3 protestors held up banners, similar to this one. Shannon Geisen/Enterprise



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez @AOC · 19h

This is disappointing to see.

First, seeking asylum at any US border is a 100% legal method of arrival.

Second, the US spent decades contributing to regime change and destabilization in Latin America. We can't help set someone's house on fire and then blame them for fleeing.

The Recount @therecount · Jun 7

"I want to be clear to folks in this region who are thinking about making that dangerous trek to the United States-Mexico border: Do not come. Do not come."

— VP Kamala Harris during news conference with Guatemalan president Alejandro Giammattei

[Show this thread](#)



4.2K 23.3K 111.3K



Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez @RepAOC · 2h

June is [#ImmigrantHeritageMonth](#) 🌍, and we're honoring traditions, cultures, and values that stitch together the fabric of our nation.

From immigrant communities to allies eager to learn about their heritage, we want to [#CelebrateImmigrants](#)



49 78 344



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez @AOC · 21h

Just thinking about how after this photo ran Wall Street Journal columnists spent more time criticizing me for not smiling enough than asking Manchin precisely what areas of "common ground" he had in mind when he stood up for the GOP.

Turns out voter suppression was one of them!

Lauren Windsor @lawindsor · Jun 7

Today we are all @AOC...



2.2K 13.2K 107.7K



Lauren Windsor
@lawindsor

Creator/EP of political reporting web-show The Undercurrent + [ProjectVeritas.Exposed](#)
Partner in Democracy Partners + Mike Lux Media
Fully Vaxxed
CA + DC

6,534 Following 36.9K Followers

Show replies



Jordan @LA_Jordan · 21h

Replying to @AOC

nice, this is really gonna help us pass voting rights reforms.

1



Casey "War Path" available now!! @CapitalF · 21h

Pretty sure Manchin and his power trip are a bigger impediment to voter rights reforms than an AOC tweet

2 12



Jordan @LA_Jordan · 21h

I would not disagree with that- but again, what does this do to help? if anything it just pushes him further away

1



disguyyy @writerhaha · 21h

What brings him closer?

He believes in imposing an undue burden on Americans to cast a vote.

1 2



Jordan @LA_Jordan · 21h

I really do not know the answer. But AOC dunking on him for twitter likes so that her already adherent followers can "stan" for her is not moving the needle. Question is what actually does that?

3



Occupy Wall Street One Year Anniversary, Sept. 17, 2012: Interview with organizer Justin Wedes, first day of shooting The Undercurrent.

Lauren Windsor is the executive producer and creator of The Undercurrent, a grassroots political web-show for investigative and field reporting.

In the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, Lauren became engaged in activism, starting a political blog called Lady Libertine. As the Occupy Wall Street movement gained momentum, she volunteered for the Occupy LA media team, and became a protest junkie, filming events across the country. In 2012 on the one year anniversary of Occupy, Lauren launched The Undercurrent with The Young Turks Network.

The original pitch for the show was to Current Television, to create a grassroots political reporting program with two citizen journalist anchors in New York and Los Angeles, and correspondents reporting from Occupy sites across the country. Hence the name The Undercurrent. Current TV passed and shortly thereafter was sold to Al Jazeera, but The Young Turks decided to move forward with a scaled-down version of the concept for YouTube. Lauren would be the host, reporter, editor, and producer, and the Turks would provide graphics, financial, and technical support. Many thanks go to Steve Oh, Tim Collins, Sky Adams, Kimani David, and Messiah Rhodes in those early years!



Lauren Windsor

@lawindsor

Creator/EP of political reporting web-show The Undercurrent +

[ProjectVeritas.Exposed](#)

Partner in Democracy Partners + Mike Lux Media

Fully Vaxxed

CA + DC

6,534 Following

36.9K Followers

PROJECTVERITAS.**EXPOSED**

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[Legal Issues](#)

[Blog](#)

[About](#)

🔍 **SEARCH SITE**

This website is a project of *The Undercurrent*, which is produced by Lauren Windsor and sponsored by *American Family Voices*.

In 2016, Project Veritas operatives infiltrated Democracy Partners, an affiliated organization with which we share an office. In the aftermath, we launched an investigation into what happened in order to preserve evidence for litigation and to prevent others in the progressive movement from falling prey to Veritas schemes. The fruits of that investigation yielded ProjectVeritas.Exposed.

The goal of this site is to serve as a research resource for individual and organizational targets of Project Veritas, lawyers representing the victims, and the media.

Are you a victim of Project Veritas?

We can assist in identifying the operatives who targeted you. That information is helpful to you in litigation, and may help to prevent others from becoming victims.

Did you work for Project Veritas and get burned?

Share your information with us to expose the organization's dirty tricks.

E-mail your tips to:
tips@theundercurrent.tv

#EXPOSEVERITAS



TRUMP FOUNDATION

BREAKTHROUGH DEV GROUP

FRONT GROUP

INVESTIGATOR



LAUREN WINDSOR



Project Veritas is an American far-right activist group founded by James O'Keefe in 2010. The group produces deceptively edited videos of its undercover operations, which use secret recordings in an effort to discredit mainstream media organizations and progressive groups. As a non-governmental organization, Project Veritas is financed by conservative fund Donors Trust (which provided over \$6.6 million from 2011 to 2019) and other supporters including the Donald J. Trump Foundation. In 2020, The New York Times published an exposé detailing Project Veritas' use of spies recruited by Erik Prince, to infiltrate "Democratic congressional campaigns, labor organizations and other groups considered hostile to the Trump agenda". The Times piece notes O'Keefe's and Prince's close links to the Trump administration, and details contributions such as a \$1 million transfer of funds from an undisclosed source to support their work. The findings were based in part on discovery documents in a case brought by the American Federation of Teachers, Michigan, which had been infiltrated by Project Veritas.

NEW OPERATIVE: Gabriella Rufa



In an old version of Gabriella Rufa's LinkedIn profile, she listed her title at the rightwing espionage outfit Project Veritas as 'Development Associate' with a start date of March of 2020. However, she also makes threatening phone calls to investigative reporters, including Lauren Windsor, the producer of this website. It is unclear whether or not she works in any undercover capacity.

For more photos and and biographical information, check out [her profile](#).

If you have any information on Gabriella Rufa or Project Veritas, please reach out to us at tips@theundercurrent.tv.

GABRIELLA RUFA

EDUCATION:

Sacred Heart University

HOMETOWN:

Yorktown Heights, New York

RESIDENCE:

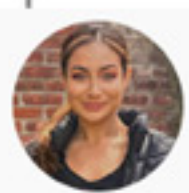
Yorktown Heights, New York

ASSOCIATION:

PV operative

NOTES:

LinkedIn listed her title as 'Development Associate' starting in March of 2020. However, she also makes threatening phone calls to investigative reporters, including Lauren Windsor, the producer of this website.



YouTube Gabriella Rufa 2 subscribers



Commonwealth 34 views • 7 years ago CC



Life in the Commonwealth 70 views • 7 years ago CC



Life in the Commonwealth (Small) 27 views • 7 years ago CC



Commonwealth 13 views • 7 years ago CC



Gabriella Rufa

2 subscribers



Life in the Commonwealth

70 views · 7 years ago

CC



0:37 / 3:21



0:54 / 3:21



00:09 in 1651 oliver cromwell came to power in

00:12 england

00:13 and enforced harsh rules such as no

00:15 dancing gambling drinking and theatre

00:18 basically no fun

00:22 do you have any fives goldfish

00:27 do you have any sevens goldfish shiver

00:30 me timbers

00:33 i hope we don't get caught we won't

00:36 what is this unholy events being held

00:38 right here

00:39 what is this gambling this is um

00:42 we are puritans this is not our religion

00:45 get up everybody believe in this is

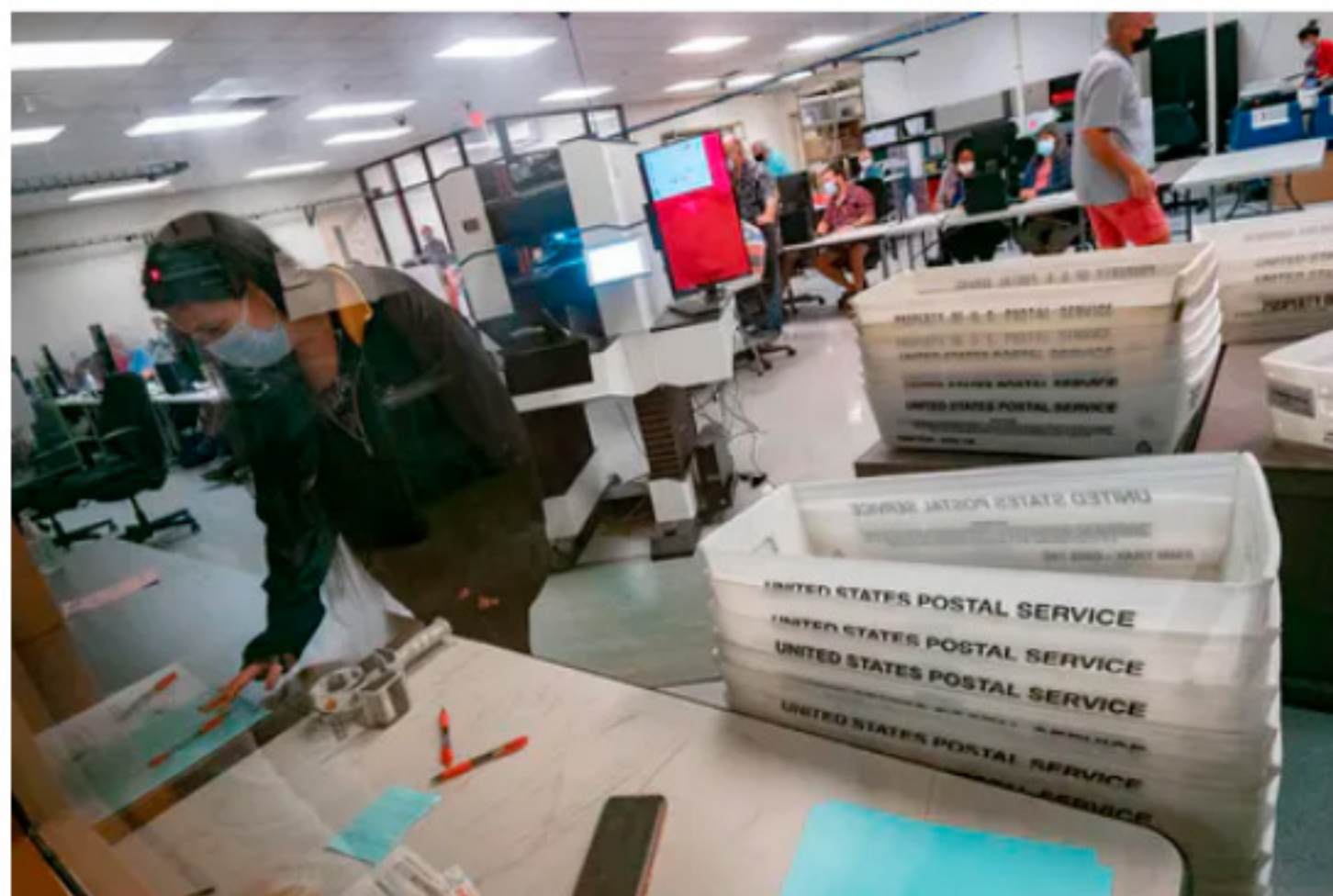
00:47 barbaric this is ridiculous get up

00:49 what i didn't know they didn't know

00:54 shameful humans

01:02 cromwell led forces into ireland taking

01:05 harsh means to go against the irish



The Maricopa County Election Department counts ballots in Phoenix on Nov. 5, 2020. Arizona's election laws are the subject of a pending Supreme Court decision. Olivier Tournon/AFP via Getty Images

Supreme Court weighs voting rights in a pivotal Arizona case

June 8, 2021 1:28pm EDT

▼ [Cornell William Clayton](#), [Michael Ritter](#), *Washington State University*

Would you vote by mail if you had to drive hours to a post office to mail your ballot? That question confronts the United States Supreme Court this session in [Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee](#), which analysts see as one of the most important voting rights cases in a decade.



Supreme Court

Both the state and the Republican National Committee (RNC) appealed the Ninth Circuit's decision to the Supreme Court, specifically on the applicability of Section 2. With the pending appeals, the Ninth Circuit put enforcement of its decision on hold for the 2020 elections, leaving both the policy and law in place. The Supreme Court granted the petition for a writ of certiorari in October 2020 (agreeing to hear the case) and consolidated the two cases (*Brnovich v. DNC* and *Arizona Republican Party v. Democratic National Committee*) for briefing and oral argument.^{[16][17]}

Oral argument were held on March 2, 2021.^[4] Observers to the oral arguments said that a primary issue discussed by the Justices is to what standard should be used to evaluate when discrimination occurred under Section 2 of the VRA. Those observers stated there was a divide between the conservative majority of Justices who appeared ready to support the state's policies, and the three liberal members of the court, who sought ways to maintain Section 2's relevance in the VRA.^{[18][19][20]}

During oral arguments, Michael Carvin, an attorney representing the Arizona Republican party, was asked by justice Amy Coney Barrett what interest the party had in invalidating the Arizona voting restrictions, to which Carvin replied, "Because it puts us at a competitive disadvantage relative to Democrats."^{[21][22][23]}

Impact

Court observers identified that *Brnovich* may be a landmark Supreme Court case on voting rights, following the large amount of litigation filed prior and after the 2020 election related to voting laws and policies, and the lack of any Congressional action to amend the VRA. At least 165 state bills related to election laws were introduced between the 2020 election and the end of February 2021. Analysts stated that some of these bills appeared to purposely further restrict voting rights and limit minority voting if they passed, emphasizing the need to strengthen the voting rights for minorities set by the VRA through the Supreme Court.^{[2][24][25][26][27][28]}

The GOAT is back. Simone Biles' GOAT leotard, that is

Nancy Armour USA TODAY

Published 8:25 p.m. ET May 22, 2021 | Updated 9:49 p.m. ET May 22, 2021



Simone Biles wears a rhinestone goat on her leotard during the 2021 GK U.S. Classic gymnastics competition. *Emilee Chinn, Getty Images*

GOAT stands for Greatest of All Time and if any athlete is deserving of the title, it's Biles. She won four gold medals at the Rio Olympics, including the all-around title. Her five all-around titles at the world championships are the most by any woman, and she also is the most decorated gymnast, male or female, at worlds with 25 medals.

Biles' 19 gold medals at worlds is also a record for any gymnast.

She also has four skills named after her, in recognition of being the first gymnast to compete the move, and it will soon be five after she did a [Yurchenko double pike vault](#) Saturday night.

San Diego's first fully automated and cashier-less store opens to the public

Posted: June 8, 2021

Updated: 4:50 PM by Elizabeth Alvarez

After selecting all your items, instead of checking out just walk out of the store and that's it. A receipt is sent to you.

Brandon Maseda, CEO of Accel Robotics of Valet Market is located at Vantage Pointe Apartments, 912 B St. Suite D, San Diego, CA 92101. It is open 24/7 to residents and to the public from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

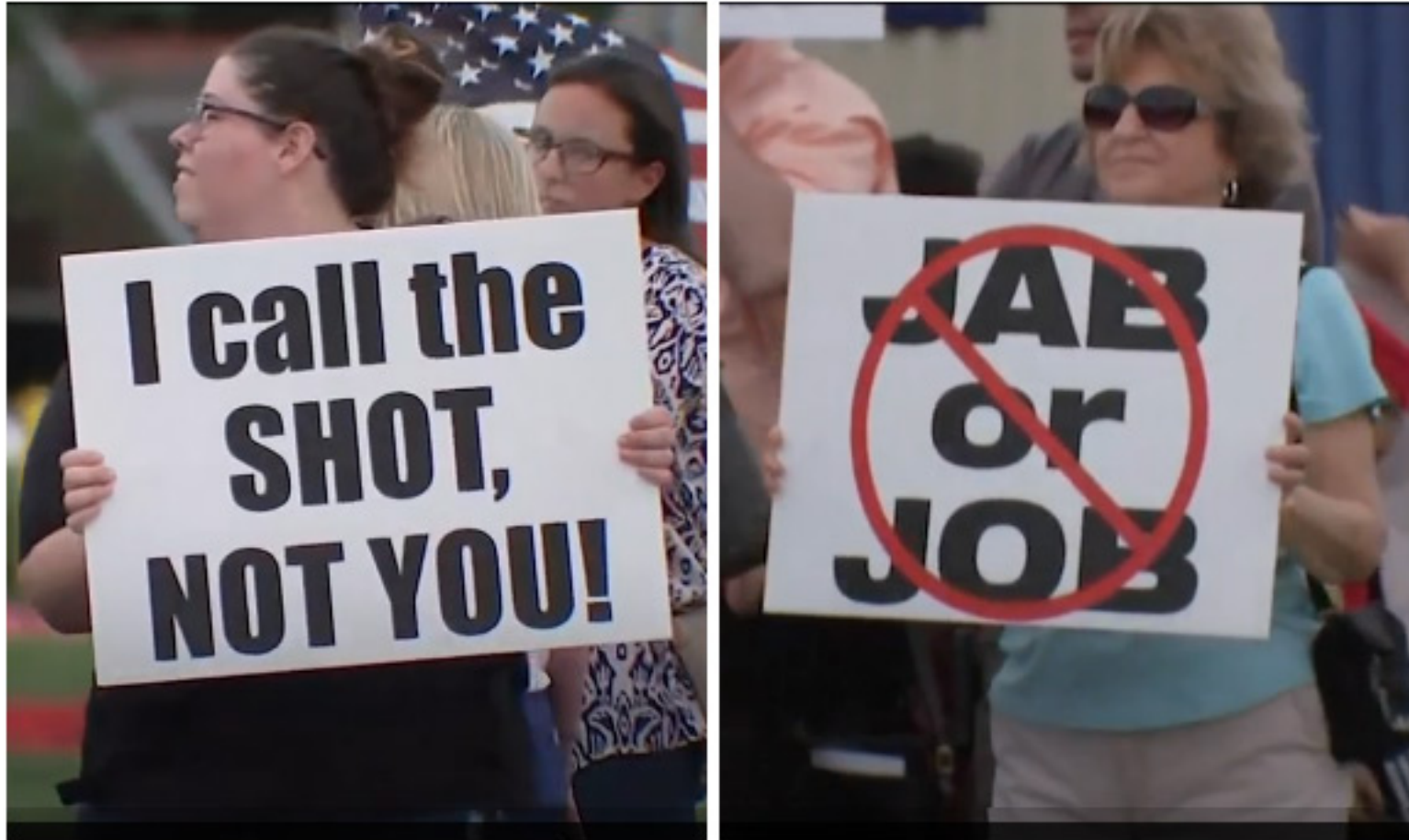
ACCEL Robotics boasts its artificial intelligence system to help customers with a 2407 shopping model



178 health care workers suspended from Houston Methodist hospital system for refusing COVID-19 vaccination

John Bacon USA TODAY

Published 10:34 a.m. ET Jun. 9, 2021 | Updated 2:54 p.m. ET Jun. 9, 2021



Texas nurses refusing the vaccine face losing their jobs

Supporters of the Houston nurses who are fighting a COVID-19 vaccine requirement at their hospital rallied with them on Tuesday. AP

Scores of workers at a Houston hospital system have been suspended and face being fired for refusing the COVID-19 vaccination, a controversial [company mandate](#) that has drawn protests and an outcry from those facing termination.

Houston Methodist CEO Marc Boom said the 178 workers represent less than 1% of almost 25,000 employees.

"We are nearly 100% compliant with our COVID-19 vaccine mandate," Boom said in an email to staff Tuesday. "Houston Methodist is officially the first hospital system in the country to achieve this goal for the benefit of its patients."

Boom said that 27 of the 178 suspended workers have received one dose of vaccine and that he is hopeful they will get the second dose. All are suspended for two weeks and are set to be fired if they fail to be fully vaccinated.

An additional 285 employees received a medical or religious exemption, and 332 were granted deferrals for pregnancy and other reasons, Boom said.

"I feel betrayed a little bit," Amanda Rivera told [KHOU-TV](#) as she left the building Monday. "I worked in the ER. It was crazy during the pandemic. We were short-staffed. The hospital was over capacity with patients. It was just a lot. Now for them to come and do this is like a slap in the face."

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has issued guidance saying employers have the right to require COVID-19 vaccination, citing a "direct threat" to others in the workplace.

Still, more than 100 Houston Methodist employees filed suit against the hospital system last month, saying that the vaccines are "experimental" and that the mandatory vaccination policy is unfair. The suit notes that the vaccines have emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration but have not yet won full approval.

"I cried the whole way out," Jennifer Bridges, a nurse involved in the lawsuit, told [KHOU-TV](#) as she left the hospital Monday.

Boom said the science, along with data from 300 million doses already distributed in the U.S. alone, proves the vaccines are safe and necessary "if we are going to turn the corner against COVID-19." The number of positive cases and hospitalizations continue to drop across the nation continue to decline, he said, proving the vaccines' effectiveness.

Boom said the mandate has been challenged by the media and some outspoken employees. But he said several other major health care centers have followed Houston Methodist's lead.

"As the first hospital system to mandate COVID-19 vaccines we were prepared for this," he said. "The criticism is sometimes the price we pay for leading medicine."

<https://youtu.be/CZivBfoHDk0>



Jane [Marczewski](#), 30 years old from Zanesville, Ohio. "My name is Jane. When I sing, I go by [Nightbirde](#)."

Last time I checked, I had some cancer in my lungs and my spine and my liver.

It's important that everyone knows I'm so much more than the bad things that happen to me.

♪ Said I knew myself but I guess I lied ♪ Oh-oh-oh-oh, it's all right ♪ To be lost sometimes ♪

You can't wait until life isn't hard anymore before you decide to be happy.

I have a 2% chance of survival, but 2% is not zero percent. 2% is something, and I wish people knew how amazing it is.

\$88,676 raised of \$100,000 goal

Janes Cancer Treatment Fund



<https://gofund.me/5dfb5313>



Mitch Marczewski is organizing this fundraiser.



-0:24



Good News Movement

July 24, 2020 · 🌐

Jane Marczewski, 29, had been given months to live as she battled stage 4 breast cancer. Then a recent exam showed, what she and her doctor call, "a miracle." Here she is celebrating the good news. She tells Good News Movement, "I am completely floored. Every breath is a gift, walking is a gift, having a future is a gift. Constantly shaking my head in amazement!" 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌

👍❤️👏 797

117 Comments 46 Shares

Council Stands By San Diego's Housing Plan

The state's housing department requested changes last month, and the vote confirms the City Council is confident the planning department's tweaks will be enough to satisfy the request.



Andrew Keatts
12 hours ago



The San Diego City Council voted Tuesday to approve some modest changes to a state-mandated housing plan meant to demonstrate that city rules hypothetically allow private developers to build the 108,036 new homes the state says the city will need by 2029.

The state's housing department [requested changes last month](#), and the vote confirms the City Council is confident the planning department's tweaks will be enough to satisfy the request. San Diego is in a tricky spot, because it's the first city in California to adopt the required housing plan since recent changes went into effect.

Housing advocates from across the state called in to the Council meeting to argue the city's changes were not enough to satisfy recent state laws meant to strengthen its decades-old housing supply law, which has failed throughout its existence to address the state's housing crisis, as the Los Angeles Times revealed. <https://www.latimes.com/projects/la-pol-ca-housing-supply/>

Housing advocates have focused on the fact that San Diego's plan outlines all the places where new housing is likely to be built – based on zoning and development rules in place that allow for it – even though a passing look at those locations reveals that redevelopment is unlikely on many of them. Those sites include newly built grocery stores, recently redeveloped apartment complexes, a cemetery currently selling plots and the new, multimillion-dollar Copley-Price YMCA in City Heights, as multiple equity-focused nonprofits pointed out [in a letter to the city demanding changes](#).

City planners brushed off those criticisms in a presentation to the Council, arguing they aren't relying on every site being redeveloped as the plan prescribes, because city rules allow for 174,678 new units, giving them a 60,000-some unit buffer above their state housing target.



"Development might not occur on every site, but the zoning is there and we're adding programs to facilitate infill development," said Brian Schoenfisch, program manager in the city's planning department.

Aaron Eckhouse, regional policy director for housing-advocacy group CA YIMBY, was among those who called in encouraging the Council not to adopt the changes. The problem isn't that some of the sites identified in the city's plan are unlikely to be developed, he argued, but that the city's buffer between its target and capacity isn't nearly large enough. That's consistent with recent research from UCLA, which found cities would [need to more than double the amount of housing permitted](#) by their own rules to actually produce the housing the state assigns to them.

City staff and the Council spent much of the meeting praising themselves for their pro-housing record. They did not mention, though, that during the last eight-year cycle for the state's housing law, the city issued permits for some 39,615 homes, far short of the 88,096 homes the state said it needed between 2013 and 2020.

That doesn't just mean that the city – as the UCLA research suggested – built less than half of the new homes feasibly allowed by its zoning ordinance, or that the city would need to nearly triple that pace of homebuilding over the next eight years to meet its new target. It also means that even if the city achieved its annual peak from the last cycle in each of the next eight years, it would still be less than halfway to its target.

The Council approved the staff changes unanimously.

Council Stands By San Diego's Housing Plan

The state's housing department requested changes last month, and the vote confirms the City Council is confident the planning department's tweaks will be enough to satisfy the request.

How California Homelessness Became A Crisis

June 8, 2021 - 6:30 AM ET

GREG ROSALSKY



There are many contributors to the problem. The horrors of childhood trauma and poverty, mental illness and chronic drug abuse surely add to the likelihood that someone lives on the streets. But Nan Roman, president of the National Alliance to End Homelessness, says the primary cause of the crisis is simple: Housing has gotten way too scarce and expensive.



A few years ago, a team of economists at Zillow found that once cities cross a threshold where the typical resident must spend more than a third of their income on housing, homelessness begins to spike rapidly. When incomes don't keep pace with the cost of rent, a cascade effect ripples through the housing market: High-income folks start renting places that middle-income folks used to rent, middle-income people start renting places that low-income folks used to rent, and low-income folks are left scrambling.

Yet the core reason for the crisis boils down to supply and demand for housing. As regions like the San Francisco Bay Area became magnets for highly paid professionals in the computer-driven economy, they failed to build enough new units to keep up with demand.

A 2016 study by McKinsey Global Institute estimated that California needs 3.5 million new housing units by 2025 to deal with its chronic housing shortage. Yet new housing construction has only slowed since then, despite Gov. Gavin Newsom's campaign promise to lead an effort to produce those 3.5 million units. Even before the pandemic wrought havoc on the construction business, California was constructing only about 100,000 new homes per year, way below the minimum 180,000 per year that analysts say the state desperately needs.

"It's sort of impossible; it's really sad," says Bianca Diaz. Diaz lives in Pilsen, a Mexican-American neighborhood in Chicago that's also been an artists' enclave for years. It was actually founded more than a century ago by Bohemians — the original ones, from Czechoslovakia. Diaz graduated last year from the Rhode Island School of Design, where she says her classmates showed little interest in living in garrets and eating ramen noodles.

American bohemianism



Bohemian Grove during the summer Hi-Jinks, circa 1911–1916

Bohemianism is the practice of an **unconventional** lifestyle, often in the company of like-minded people and with few permanent ties. It involves musical, artistic, literary, or spiritual pursuits. In this context, bohemians may be **wanderers**, **adventurers**, or **vagabonds**.

This use of the word in the English language was imported from French in the mid 19th century and was used to describe the non-traditional lifestyles of **marginalized** and impoverished artists, writers, journalists, musicians, and actors in major European cities.^[1]

Bohemians were associated with unorthodox or **anti-establishment** political or social viewpoints, which often were expressed through **free love**, **frugality**, and—in some cases—**simple living**, **vandwelling** or **voluntary poverty**. A more economically privileged, wealthy, or even aristocratic bohemian circle is sometimes referred to as *haute bohème*^[2] (literally "high Bohemia").^[3]

The term *bohemianism* emerged in France in the early 19th century, when artists and creators began to concentrate in the lower-rent, lower class, **Romani** neighborhoods. *Bohémien* was a common term for the **Romani people of France**, who were mistakenly thought to have reached France in the 15th century via **Bohemia** (the western part of modern **Czech Republic**). The term *bohemianism* and the description *bohemian* in this specific context are not connected to the ethnic or geographic term *Bohemian* as it pertains to the historically indigenous people from the western part of the present day Czech Republic.^[vague] ^[4]

In the 1850s, Bohemian culture started to become established in the United States via immigration.^[7] In New York City in 1857, a group of 15 to 20 young, cultured journalists flourished as self-described bohemians until the **American Civil War** began in 1861.^[8] This group gathered at a German bar on Broadway called **Pfaff's beer cellar**.^[9] Members included their leader **Henry Clapp Jr.**, **Ada Clare**, **Walt Whitman**, **Fitz Hugh Ludlow**, and actress **Adah Isaacs Menken**.^[9]

Similar groups in other cities were broken up as well by the Civil War and reporters spread out to report on the conflict. During the war, correspondents began to assume the title bohemian, and newspapermen in general took up the moniker. Bohemian became synonymous with newspaper writer.^[8] In 1866, war correspondent **Junius Henri Browne**, who wrote for the *New York Tribune* and *Harper's Magazine*, described bohemian journalists such as he was, as well as the few carefree women and lighthearted men he encountered during the war years.^[10]

In Pricey Cities, Being A Bohemian Starving Artist Gets Old Fast

May 15, 2014 · 4:05 PM ET



NEDA ULABY



There are very few professions where poverty is romanticized, but if you're a Franciscan friar or an artist, being poor is seen as somehow ennobling. Josh Shaw, who ran a recent **Pacific Opera Project production of *La Boheme*** in Los Angeles, says the opera's famous story of starving artists hits a little close to home.

"There's been times recently ... where I have practically nothing in my bank account," Shaw says. Almost everyone in his company works multiple jobs — waiting tables, teaching music, writing for little publications. Their lives don't seem too different from the artsy bohemians in Puccini's opera.



Pierre-Auguste Renoir, *The Bohemian* (or *Lise the Bohemian*), 1868, oil on canvas, Berlin, Germany: Alte Nationalgalerie

le, I think

try to

arts by

Arts education is itself impoverished even though study after study points to its importance in a post-industrial global economy. One year after Lyndon B. Johnson started the War on Poverty, he approved the National Endowment for the Arts, which supports artists and arts education. Its current budget is about \$146 million, Just compare that, he says, to today's private art market. On Tuesday night, in one single auction, wealthy collectors bought almost a billion dollars in contemporary art at Christie's in New York.

"If you had a 2 percent tax just on the auctions in New York you could probably double the NEA budget in two nights," he says.

Critics might call that wealth redistribution. Powhida finds it strange and not a little cruel that art is one of the most excessive markers of income inequality — even as artists tend to be among the least well-paid workers in the art industry.

"It's sort of impossible; it's really sad," says Bianca Diaz. Diaz lives in Pilsen, a Mexican-American neighborhood in Chicago that's also been an artists' enclave for years. It was actually founded more than a century ago by Bohemians — the original ones, from Czechoslovakia. Diaz graduated last year from the Rhode Island School of Design, where she says her classmates showed little interest in living in garrets and eating ramen noodles

American bohemianism



Bohemian Grove during the summer Hi-Jinks, circa 1911-1916

In Pricey Starving

May 15, 2014 · 4:05 PM



NEDA ULABY

There are very few you're a Francisca ennobling. Josh S production of La story of starving a

"There's been time

Bohemianism is the practice of an **unconventional** lifestyle, often in the company of like-minded people and with few permanent ties. It involves musical, artistic, literary, or spiritual pursuits. In this context, bohemians may be wanderers, adventurers, or **vagabonds**.



Couple attending Snoqualmie Moondance Festival, August 1993

Many hippies would adapt and become members of the growing countercultural **New Age** movement of the 1970s.^[104] While many hippies made a long-term commitment to the lifestyle, some people argue that hippies "sold out" during the 1980s and became part of the materialist, self-centered consumer **yuppie** culture.^{[105][106]} Although not as visible as it once was, hippie culture has never died out completely: hippies and neo-hippies can still be found on college campuses, on communes, and at gatherings and festivals. Many embrace the hippie values of peace, love, and community, and hippies may still be found in **bohemian** enclaves around the world.^[34] Hippie communes, where members tried to live the ideals of the hippie movement, continued to flourish. On the west coast, Oregon had quite a few.^[107] Around 1994, a

new term "**Zippie**" was being used to describe hippies that had embraced **New Age** beliefs, new technology, and a love for electronic music.^[108]

Ethos and characteristics

The **bohemian** predecessor of the hippie culture in San Francisco was the "**Beat Generation**" style of coffee houses and bars, whose clientele appreciated literature, a game of chess, music (in the forms of jazz and folk style), modern dance, and traditional crafts and arts like pottery and painting.^[109] The entire tone of the *new* subculture was different. Jon McIntire, manager of the Grateful Dead from the late sixties to the mid-eighties, points out that the great contribution of the hippie culture was this projection of **joy**. "The beatnik thing was black, cynical, and cold."^[110] Hippies sought to free themselves from societal restrictions, choose their own way, and find new **meaning in life**. One expression of hippie independence from societal norms was found in their standard of dress and grooming, which made hippies instantly recognizable to one another, and served as a visual symbol of their respect for individual rights. Through their appearance, hippies declared their willingness to question authority, and distanced themselves from the "straight" and "square" (i.e., conformist) segments of society.^[111] **Personality traits** and values that hippies tend to be associated with are "**altruism and mysticism, honesty, joy and nonviolence**".^[112]

At the same time, many thoughtful hippies distanced themselves from the very idea that the way a person dresses could be a reliable signal of who he or she was—especially after outright criminals such as **Charles Manson** began to adopt superficial hippie characteristics, and also after plainclothes policemen started to "dress like hippies" to **divide and conquer** legitimate members of the counterculture. **Frank Zappa**, known for lampooning hippie ethos, particularly with songs like "**Who Needs the Peace Corps?**" (1968), admonished his audience that "we all wear a uniform". The San Francisco clown/hippie **Wavy Gravy** said in 1987 that he could still see fellow-feeling in the eyes of **Market Street** businessmen who had dressed conventionally to survive.^[113]

Art and fashion [edit]

See also: *Psychodelia*



A group of hippies in Tallinn, 1989



Swami Satchidananda giving the opening talk at the Woodstock Festival of 1969



Tie-dyed clothes, associated with hippie culture

The hippie movement in the United States began as a youth movement. Composed mostly of white teenagers and young adults between 15 and 25 years old, hippies inherited a tradition of cultural dissent from bohemians and beatniks of the Beat Generation in the late 1950s.

bohemians in Puccini's opera.

paid workers in the art industry.



rustic lux definition



https://sklarfurnishings.com › blog › how-to-create-a-ru... ⋮

Rustic Luxe Style | Interior Design | Sklar Design Blog

Apr 21, 2015 — Reclaimed wood furniture: Reclaimed wood furniture is a trend that speaks to many different styles of decor but is essential to the **rustic luxe** look.

Rustic Luxury is a look we've continued to see iterations of for over a decade. If you were to describe this look in story form it would go something like this: Lumberjack meets city girl. She convinces him to move to the city and all he could bring with him were a couple pieces of furniture and his prized fur pelt. Together they create a home that brings together the best of both their worlds.

Both feminine and masculine, with a palette of browns, taupes, white washes and layered textures, this couple's home brings out their best qualities. Here are the six items you need for creating the rustic luxe look:

Reclaimed wood furniture: Reclaimed wood furniture is a trend that speaks to many different styles of decor but is essential to the rustic luxe look. These impactful pieces are made from wood salvaged from old buildings. A farmhouse table immediately becomes the focal point when added to a room. For dashes of the reclaimed wood try a coat rack or a buffet like the [Sorrento](#).

Metallics: This is where the luxe kicks into high gear. Metallics create the modern dimension of this look. Achieve hits of it through mirrored pieces like the [Beveled Mirrored Desk](#) or through accessories like canisters,



Welcome to Sklar Furnishings! Have a question for us?



Adah Isaacs Menken (June 15, 1835 – August 10, 1868) was an American actress, painter and poet, and was the highest earning actress of her time.^[1] She was best known for her performance in the hippodrama *Mazeppa*, with a climax that featured her apparently nude and riding a horse on stage. After great success for a few years with the play in New York and San Francisco, she appeared in a production in London and Paris, from 1864 to 1866. After a brief trip back to the United States, she returned to Europe. However, she became ill within two years and died in Paris at the age of 33.^[2]

Menken told many versions of her origins, including her name, place of birth, ancestry, and religion, and historians have differed in their accounts. Most have said she was born a Louisiana Creole Catholic, with European and African ancestry. A celebrity who created sensational performances in the United States and Europe, she married several times and was also known for her affairs. She had two sons, both of whom died in infancy.^[3]

Though she was better known as an actress, Menken sought to be known as a writer. She published about 20 essays, 100 poems, and a book of her collected poems, from 1855 to 1868 (the book was published posthumously). Early work was devoted to family and after her marriage, her poetry and essays featured Jewish themes. However, beginning with work published after moving to New York, with which she changed her style, Menken expressed a wide range of emotions and ideas about women's place in the world. Her collection *Infelicia* went through several editions and was in print until 1902.

Playing in a sold-out run of *Les pirates de la savanne* in Paris in 1866, Menken had an affair with the French novelist *Alexandre Dumas*, père, considered somewhat scandalous as he was more than twice her age. Returning to England in 1867, she struggled to attract audiences to *Mazeppa* and attendance fell off. During this time she had an affair with the English poet *Algernon Charles Swinburne*.^[1]

I am lost to art and life. Yet, when all is said and done, have I not at my age tasted more of life than most women who live to be a hundred? It is fair, then, that I should go where old people go.^[10]

She was believed to have died of *peritonitis* and/or *tuberculosis*.^[10] Late twentieth-century sources suggest she had *cancer*.^[1] She was buried in *Montparnasse Cemetery*.^[1]

The inscription on her tomb read - "Thou knowest."^[21] In 1862, Menken had written about her public and private personae:

I have always believed myself to be possessed of two souls, one that lives on the surface of life, pleasing and pleased; the other as deep and as unfathomable as the ocean; a mystery to me and all who know me.^[4]

Her only book, *Infelicia*, a collection of 31 poems, was published several days after her death.

Menken wanted to be known as a writer, but her work was overshadowed by her sensational stage career and private and public life. In total, she published about 20 essays, 100 poems and a book of her collected poems, from 1855 to 1868; the book was published posthumously. Her work was not received well by contemporary critics. George Merriam Hyde, one of the most respected critics of his day, refused to critique Menken's work, saying (privately) that "it would be an insult to himself and his profession". Van Wyck Brooks joked (in public) that "her work is the best example of unintentional wit and accidental humour".

Her early work was devoted to family and romance. After her marriage to Menken and her study of Judaism, her poetry and essays for years into the 1860s featured Jewish themes. After her marriage and divorce from Heenan and meeting with writers in New York, she changed her style, adopting some influence from *Walt Whitman*. She was said to be the "first poet and the only woman poet before the twentieth century" to follow his lead in using free verse.^[5] However, the New York Times reported the Walt Whitman had disassociated himself from Menken's work, implying he thought little of it.

Beginning in New York, her poetry expressed a wider range of emotions related to relationships, sexuality, and also about women's struggle to find a place in the world. Her collection *Infelicia* went through several editions and was in print until 1902. In the late nineteenth century, critics were hard on women writers, and Menken's public notoriety caused even more critical scrutiny of her poems. Later critics (such as A. R. Lloyd in his book, 'The Great Prize Fight' and Graham Gordon in his book 'Master of the Ring') generally dismiss her work as being devoid of talent. However, admirers included *Christina Rossetti* and *Joaquin Miller*.^[5]

Adah Isaacs Menken



Adah Isaacs Menken, age 19

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Born | June 15, 1835 |
| Died | August 10, 1868 (aged 33) Paris, France |
| Occupation | Actress, painter, poet |

<< She fell ill in London and was forced to stop performing, struggling with poverty as a result. She began preparing her poems for publication and moved back to Paris, where she died in 1868.



Menken with Alexandre Dumas, 1866

Sherri Tenpenny is an American anti-vaccination activist who supports the disproved hypothesis that vaccines cause autism.^[1] An osteopathic physician, she is the author of four books opposing vaccination. A 2015 lecture tour of Australia was canceled due to a public outcry over her views on vaccination, which go against the established scientific consensus.^[1] An analysis done by the Center for Countering Digital Hate concluded that Tenpenny is among the top twelve people spreading COVID-19 misinformation and pseudoscientific anti-vaccine misinformation on social media platforms. She has falsely asserted the vaccines magnetize people and connect them with cellphone towers.^{[2][3]}

Sherri Tenpenny



| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Nationality | American |
| Occupation | Osteopathic physician |
| Years active | 1986–present |
| Known for | Anti-vaccine activism, advocacy for pseudoscientific alternative medicine, and spreading misinformation, including COVID-19 misinformation |
| Notable work | <i>Saying No to Vaccines</i> |

Education and career

Tenpenny graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toledo in 1980 and received a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Missouri in 1984.^[4]

From 1986 to 1998, Tenpenny was the director of the emergency department at Blanchard Valley Hospital in Findlay, Ohio. She opened an osteopathic practice in 1994 and went on to establish two more practices in 1996 and 2011.^[5]

Tenpenny had scheduled a speaking tour in Australia to occur starting in February 2015, but in January, after objections were raised to her anti-vaccination views, all the venues at which she was scheduled to speak cancelled the talks, and the tour was called off.^{[6][7]} Tenpenny has been criticized by the Stop The Australian Anti-Vaccination Network for "endangering people's health" and "targeting vulnerable parents".^[5]

Since 2017, Tenpenny and her business partner, Matthew Hunt, have taught a six-week, \$623 course titled "Mastering Vaccine Info Boot Camp" designed to "sow seeds of doubt" regarding public health information. During the course, Tenpenny explains her views on the immune system and vaccines, and Hunt instructs participants on how best to use persuasion tactics in conversation to communicate the information.^[8]

A March 2021 analysis of Twitter and Facebook anti-vaccine content found Tenpenny to be one of 12 individual and organization accounts producing up to 65% of all anti-vaccine content on the platforms.

Called by Republicans as an expert witness before a June 2021 hearing of the Ohio House Health Committee, Tenpenny promoted the false claim that COVID-19 vaccines cause people to become magnetized such that metal objects stick to their bodies, adding, "There's been people who have long suspected that there's been some sort of an interface, yet-to-be-defined interface, between what's being injected in these shots and all of the 5G towers."^[23]



Joanna Overholt, a registered nurse from Strongsville, OH defended Tenpenny's testimony by trying to use her own body as proof and sticking a key onto her chest. "Explain to me why the key sticks to me. It sticks to my neck too," she said as she kept trying to stick the key to her neck while it repeatedly fell down. "Yeah, if somebody could explain this, that would be great."



GETTY IMAGES

**In Pictures:
G7 leaders attend a summit in Cornwall**

By Hazel Shearing
BBC News

And he had a separate meeting with Mr Johnson ahead of talks with their other counterparts.



GETTY IMAGES

Mr Trudeau wore a face covering when he arrived on Thursday for three days of talks.



GETTY IMAGES

As did Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, who arrived on Friday.



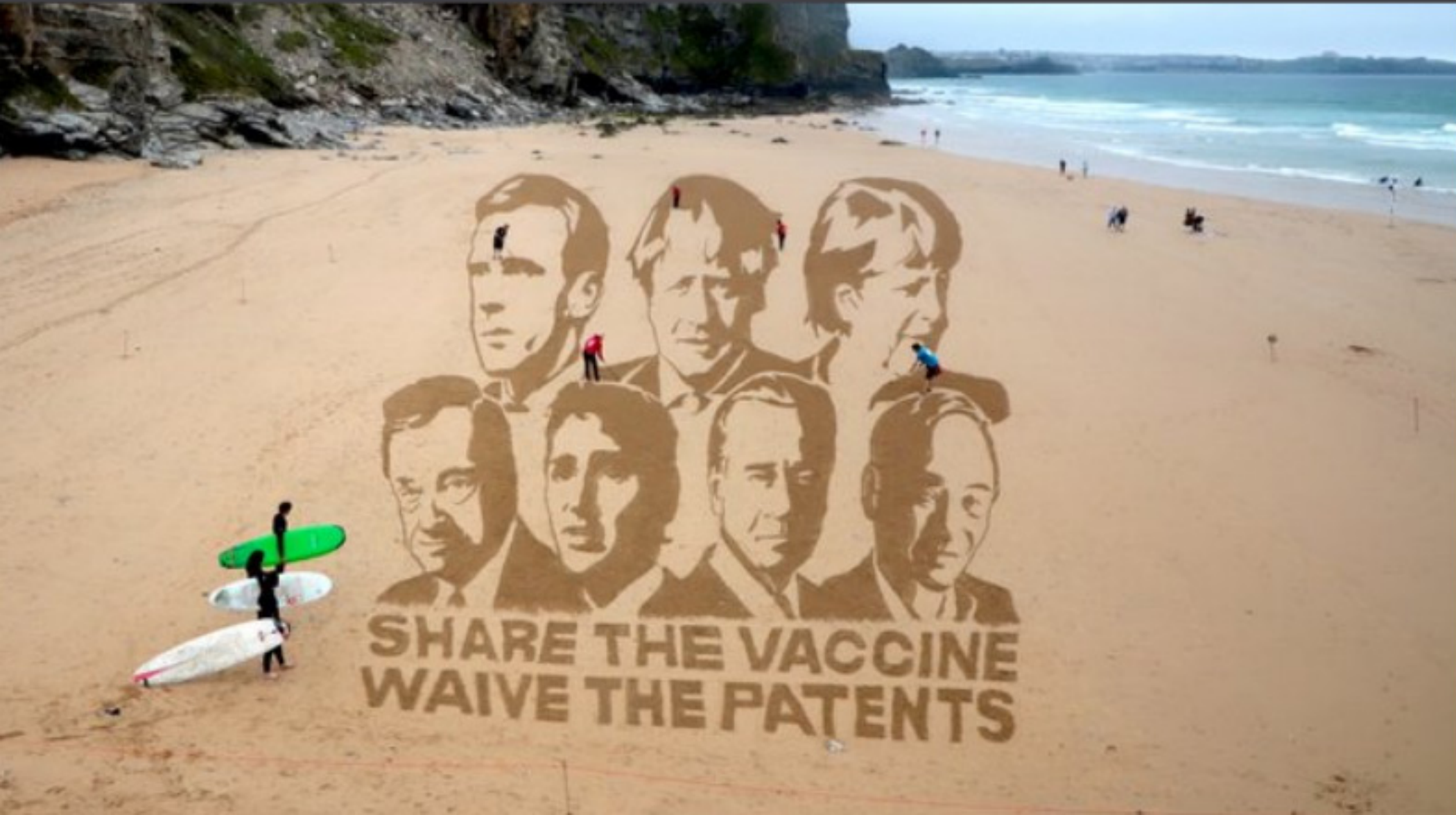
GETTY IMAGES

Meanwhile, further G7 activity was taking place at St James's Palace in London. Designer Stella McCartney was among those who attended an event hosted by the Prince of Wales, where he encouraged firms to back a more sustainable future.



GETTY IMAGES

They were soon to be joined by other leaders including French President Emmanuel Macron and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau - depicted here on the sand in Newquay by activists from the group [Avaaz](#), calling for the distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine around the world.



Avaaz @Avaaz · 16h
G7: It's time to get your heads out of the sand. Back a [#PeoplesVaccine](#) now!
[#G7Cornwall](#)



Avaaz
Nonprofit organization
[avaaz.org](#)

Avaaz is a U.S.-based nonprofit organization launched in January 2007 that promotes global activism on issues such as climate change, human rights, animal rights, corruption, poverty, and conflict. In 2012, The Guardian referred to Avaaz as "the globe's largest and most powerful online activist network". [Wikipedia](#)

Founded: January 2007
Members: 68,000,000
Focus: Global community and political activism
Founders: [Ricken Patel](#), [MoveOn](#), [GetUp!](#), [Tom Perriello](#), [MORE](#)

Avaaz's individual co-founders include Ricken Patel, Tom Pravda, former Virginia congressman Tom Perriello, MoveOn Executive Director Eli Pariser, Australian entrepreneur David Madden, Jeremy Heimans (co-founders of Purpose.com), and Andrea Woodhouse. Avaaz's founding President and former CEO is the Canadian-British Ricken Patel. He studied PPE (politics, philosophy, economics) at Balliol College, Oxford University. He received a Master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard University. He worked for the International Crisis Group around the world, including in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Sudan and Afghanistan, where he says "he learnt how to bring rebel forces to the negotiation table, to monitor elections (covertly), to restore public faith in once corrupt political systems and to spot when foreign forces were being manipulated." He returned to the US and volunteered for MoveOn.org, where he learned how to use online tools for activism.

68 Million Avaaz Members in 194 Countries:
Brazil:18,983,454; France:4,927,385; USA: 2,784,760, ...

ENVIRONMENT

2 Artists Want G-7 Leaders To End E-Waste. So They Sculpted Them Out Of Trash

June 10, 2021 · 7:51 PM ET

Heard on [All Things Considered](#)

The sculptors, artists Joe Rush and Alex Wreckage, have dubbed it "Mount Recyclemore." Rush says he hopes the leaders spotted it on their flights to Cornwall and that it encourages them to address the world's avalanche of e-waste.



FRANK LANGFITT



A sculpture created out of electronic waste in the likeness of Mount Rushmore and the G-7 leaders sits on a hill in Cornwall, England, near where the leaders of the world's wealthiest nations will meet.

Jon Super/AP

AP

Message in a jacket: Jill Biden offer...


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 1 of 4

First lady Jill Biden turns around to show the word "love" on the back of her jacket as she speaks with reporters after visiting with Carrie Johnson, wife of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, ahead of the G-7 summit, Thursday, June 10, 2021, in Carbis Bay, England. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

In this June 21, 2018 file photo, first lady Melania Trump arrives at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. wearing a Zara jacket that reads, "I don't really care. Do U?" after visiting the Upbring New Hope Children Center run by the Lutheran Social Services of the South in McAllen, Texas. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik, File)

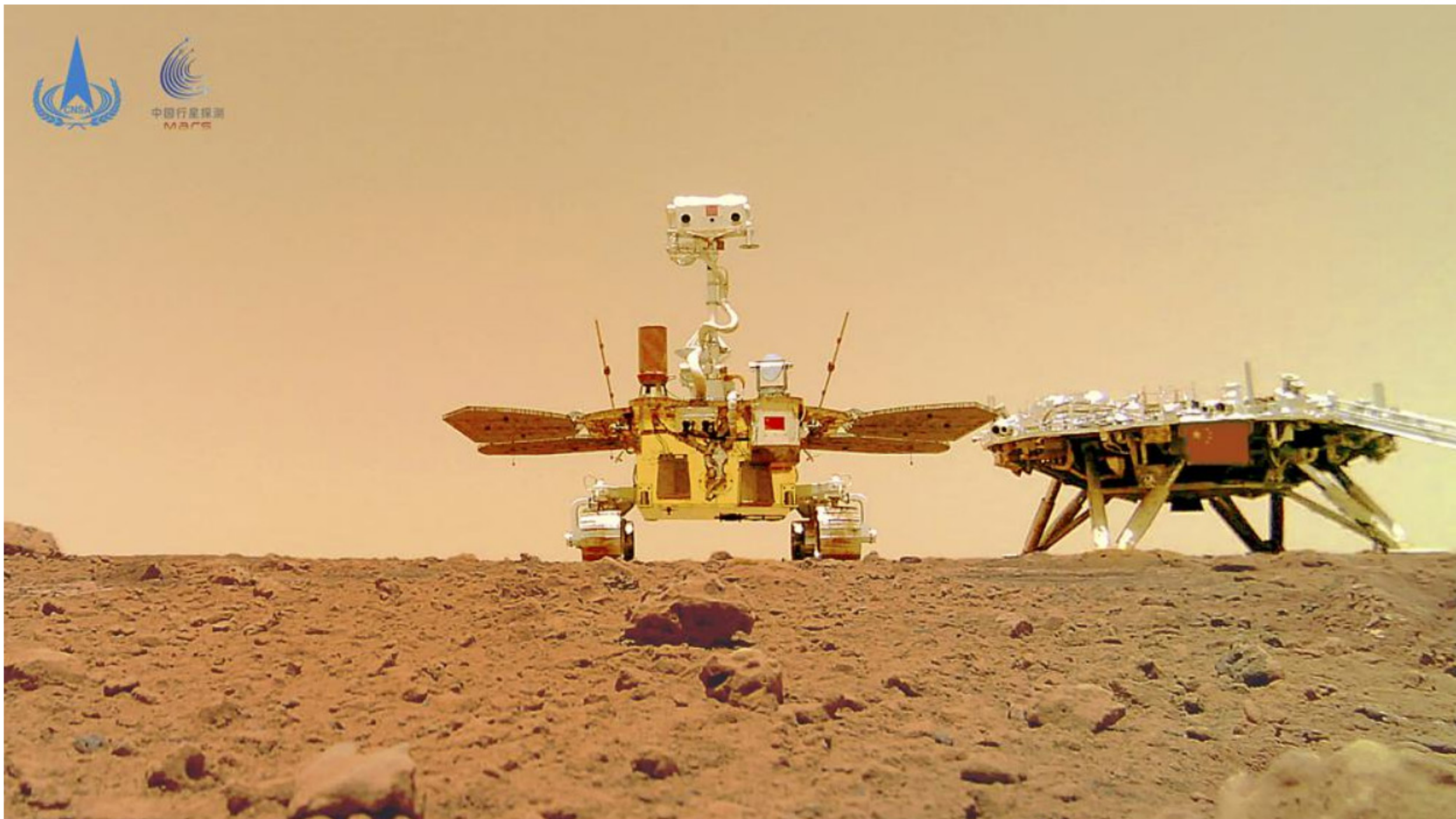
Lorde - Solar Power (Official Music Video)

<https://www.npr.org/2021/06/10/1005354026/lorde-drops-new-song-solar-power>

In place of Melodrama's reckless, love-drunk, city escapism, "Solar Power" celebrates sand, saltwater and "a new state of mind."



Photos show Chinese rover on dusty, rocky Martian surface



BEIJING (AP) — The dusty, rocky Martian surface and a Chinese rover and lander bearing small national flags were seen in photos released Friday that the rover took on the red planet.

Omar Is Forced To Clarify After Democrats Say She Equated U.S., Israel With Terrorists

June 10, 2021 · 4:28 PM ET



BARBARA SPRUNT

Rep. Ilhan Omar issued a statement clarifying comments she made this week that appeared to compare the United States and Israel to Hamas and the Taliban, prompting criticism from both sides of the aisle and from Democratic leadership.

The backlash unfolded when the Minnesota Democrat tweeted a video of her question to Secretary of State Antony Blinken during a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing. Her caption on the tweet read: "We have seen unthinkable atrocities committed by the U.S., Hamas, Israel, Afghanistan, and the Taliban. I asked @SecBlinken where people are supposed to go for justice."

"To be clear: the conversation was about accountability for specific incidents regarding those [International Criminal Court] cases, not a moral comparison between Hamas and the Taliban and the U.S. and Israel," she wrote in a press release.

She added: "I was in no way equating terrorist organizations with democratic countries with well-established judicial systems."

The six-person Democratic leadership team, which includes House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, issued a rare joint statement following Omar's statement, writing they "welcome [Omar's] clarification."

"Legitimate criticism of the policies of both the United States and Israel is protected by the values of free speech and democratic debate. And indeed, such criticism is essential to the strength and health of our democracies," their statement read. "But drawing false equivalencies between democracies like the U.S. and Israel and groups that engage in terrorism like Hamas and the Taliban foments prejudice and undermines progress toward a future of peace and security for all."



Rep. Ilhan Omar

@Ilhan

We must have the same level of accountability and justice for all victims of crimes against humanity.

We have seen unthinkable atrocities committed by the U.S., Hamas, Israel, Afghanistan, and the Taliban.

I asked @SecBlinken where people are supposed to go for justice.



12:34 PM · Jun 7, 2021 · Twitter Media Studio

1,103 Retweets 1,356 Quote Tweets 5,433 Likes

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

United States war crimes are the violations of the laws and customs of war which the United States Armed Forces has committed against signatories after the signing of the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907. These have included the summary execution of captured enemy combatants, the mistreatment of prisoners during interrogation, the use of torture, and the use of violence against civilians and non-combatants.

War crimes can be prosecuted in the United States through the War Crimes Act of 1996 and through various articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). However, the Federal government of the United States strongly opposes the International Criminal Court (ICC) treaty, arguing that the Court lacks checks and balances,^[1] and thus does not accept ICC jurisdiction over its nationals.^{[2][3]}

Agustina Cañamero, 81, hugs and kisses her husband Pascual Pérez, 84, through a plastic film screen to avoid contracting the coronavirus at a nursing home in Barcelona, Spain, June 22, 2020. Even when it comes wrapped in plastic, a hug can convey tenderness and relief, love and devotion. The fear that gripped Agustina Cañamero during the 102 days she and her 84-year-old husband spent physically separated during Spain's coronavirus outbreak dissolved the moment the couple embraced through a screen of plastic film. The image was part of a series by Associated Press photographer Emilio Morenatti that won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for feature photography. (AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti)





A protester carries a U.S. flag upside down, a sign of distress, next to a burning building, May 28, 2020, in Minneapolis. Protests over the death of George Floyd, a black man who died in police custody, broke out in Minneapolis for a third straight night. The image was part of a series of photographs by The Associated Press that won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for breaking news photography. (AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

Darnella Frazier, Teen Who Filmed Floyd's Murder, Praised For Making Verdict Possible

Frazier is being hailed for her bravery and quick-thinking in recording the video, which was seen by millions and played a key role in Chauvin's trial. There are calls for her to win a Pulitzer Prize.

Teen who recorded Floyd's arrest, death wins Pulitzer nod

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The teenager who pulled out her cellphone and recorded the police restraint and death of George Floyd, helping to launch a global movement to protest racial injustice, was on Friday awarded a special citation by the Pulitzer Prizes.

Darnella Frazier was cited “for courageously recording the murder of George Floyd, a video that spurred protests against police brutality, around the world, highlighting the crucial role of citizens in journalists’ quest for truth and justice,” the Pulitzer Prizes said.

Frazier was 17 when she recorded the arrest of Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, on May 25, 2020. Her video, which she posted to Facebook hours after it happened, sparked a reckoning on race in America and demands for an end to police brutality.

The video was seen worldwide and was prominent in the trial of Derek Chauvin, the former Minneapolis police officer who knelt on Floyd’s neck, pinning him to the pavement for 9 minutes, 29 seconds, as he said repeatedly that he couldn’t breathe. Chauvin was convicted in April of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and manslaughter. He will be sentenced June 25.

“It’s been nights I stayed up, apologizing and apologizing to George Floyd for not doing more, and not physically interacting and not saving his life,” she testified, adding of Chauvin: “But it’s like, it’s not what I should’ve done, it’s what he should’ve done.”



An image from a police body camera shows bystanders outside Cup Foods in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020. The group includes Darnella Frazier, third from right, as she made a 10-minute recording of George Floyd's death.

Minneapolis Police Department via AP

Apple says it didn't know Trump's DOJ was asking for Democrats' data when it complied with subpoena

PUBLISHED FRI, JUN 11 2021-7:38 PM EDT UPDATED AN HOUR AGO



Steve Kovach
@STEEKOVACH

- Apple on Friday said it didn't know former President Donald Trump's Department of Justice was subpoenaed data on Democrats when it complied with the request.
- Apple said it was under a gag order not to disclose the subpoena to the affected parties.
- Microsoft also acknowledged it received a similar subpoena.

[Apple](#) said Friday it didn't know former President Donald Trump's Department of Justice was [asking for the metadata of Democratic lawmakers](#) when it complied with a subpoena seeking the information.

Apple's admission that it complied with the DOJ's request demonstrates the thorny position tech companies are placed in when forced to balance their customers' private online activity with legitimate requests from law enforcement. **In general, companies like Apple challenge such requests, but in this case a grand jury and federal judge forced Apple to comply and keep it quiet.**

The admission follows a Thursday [New York Times report](#) that Trump's DOJ seized at least a dozen records from people close to the House intelligence panel related to news reports on the former president's contacts with Russia. At the time, the DOJ was looking for records from House Intelligence Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., and committee member Eric Swalwell, D-Calif.

Apple said it received a subpoena from a federal grand jury on Feb. 6, 2018. According to Apple, the subpoena requested data that belonged to a seemingly random group of email addresses and phone numbers. Apple said it provided the identifiers it had for some of the requests from the DOJ, but not all of the requests were for Apple customers.

Because of a nondisclosure order signed by a federal magistrate judge, Apple could not notify the people that their data was subpoenaed. The so-called gag order lifted on May 5, which is why Apple only recently alerted the affected users. According to Apple, the subpoena did not provide details on the nature of the investigation.

[Microsoft](#) on Friday told CNBC it received a similar subpoena from the DOJ.

"In 2017 Microsoft received a subpoena related to a personal email account," a Microsoft spokesperson told CNBC. "As we've said before, we believe customers have a constitutional right to know when the government requests their email or documents, and we have a right to tell them. In this case, we were prevented from notifying the customer for more than two years because of a gag order. As soon as the gag order expired, we notified the customer who told us they were a congressional staffer. We then provided a briefing to the representative's staff following that notice. We will continue to aggressively seek reform that imposes reasonable limits on government secrecy in cases like this."

The DOJ's watchdog is currently investigating the probe under Trump's tenure.

[Read more about the case here.](#)

Attorney General Garland vows to fight GOP efforts to curb voting access

By Rachel Janfaza and Christina Carrega, CNN

Updated 5:39 PM ET, Fri June 11, 2021



Washington (CNN) — Attorney General Merrick Garland announced the Justice Department will aggressively fight efforts to restrict voting rights nationwide following a [blitz of new voting restrictions in Republican-led states](#) that stem from former President Donald Trump's lies that widespread fraud helped Joe Biden win the presidential election.

In a speech Friday, Garland outlined a number of steps the Justice Department will take to protect every citizen's right to vote, and within the next 30 days said the department will double the number of employees in the Civil Rights Division's "enforcement staff for protecting the right to vote."

"There are many things that are open to debate in America. But the right of all eligible citizens to vote is not one of them. The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy, the right from which all other rights ultimately flow," Garland said to a room of prosecutors inside the Justice Department's Great Hall.

The Justice Department, he said, will examine new restrictive voting laws across the country and take action against any "violations."

While he said the Justice Department is not waiting on legislation, Garland reaffirmed the [Biden administration's vision](#) for the passage of S1, called the For the People Act, as well as the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

According to Garland, the "For the People Act," the Democratic-backed voting rights bill "would provide the Department with the tools it needs," to preserve voting rights.

Although Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said he plans to bring the bill to the floor the week of June 21, the legislation is expected to fall short of the 60 votes needed to pass as it currently has no Republican support.

NAACP President Derrick Johnson said the new tone set by the Biden administration is encouraging, but "it is a race against time, and against those working to suppress our votes."

It is unclear when the Justice Department will bring litigation based on its new efforts.

Election law expert Rick Hasen of the University of California-Irvine [tweeted](#) that there wasn't "a lot of concrete action" in Garland's speech. "But let's see what DOJ actually files in the coming months---that's the real test."

Humpback whale gulps and spits out Cape Cod lobsterman

Saturday, June 12, 2021



Michael Packard: "Oh my God, I'm in a whale's mouth and he's trying to swallow me. This is it, I'm going die"

A US lobsterman has been describing how he escaped being swallowed by a humpback whale.

Michael Packard says he was diving when he ended up in the marine giant's mouth for about 30-40 seconds off Provincetown, Massachusetts.

The leviathan spat him out and Mr Packard was left with nothing more than a suspected dislocated knee.

Despite his wife's pleas to get another job, he has no plans of giving up a 40-year career diving off Cape Cod.

Humpback whales can grow to as long as 50ft (15m) and weigh about 36 tons. According to the World Wildlife Fund, their global population is about 60,000.

Mr Packard, 56, **told the Cape Cod Times** he and his crewmate took their boat, the Ja'n J, off Herring Cove on Friday morning where conditions were excellent, with water visibility at about 20ft.

He told WBZ-TV News that after jumping off the vessel in scuba gear into the water, he "felt this huge bump and everything went dark".

'He's trying to swallow me'

He thought he had been attacked by one of the great white sharks that swim in the area, "and then I felt around and I realised there was no teeth".

"And then I realised: 'Oh my God, I'm in a whale's mouth and he's trying to swallow me. This is it, I'm going die'."

Mr Packard says he thought about his wife and two boys, aged 12 and 15.

- **Humpback whales heard singing off New York coast**

"Then all of a sudden he went up to the surface and just erupted and started shaking his head.

"I just got thrown in the air and landed in the water. I was free and I just floated there. I couldn't believe... I'm here to tell it."

His topside crewmate, who had been desperately scanning the water for telltale bubbles from Mr Packard's oxygen respirator, hauled him back into the boat.

Provincetown Fire Department confirmed to CBS News they had responded to a call at 08:15 local time (12:15 GMT) to help an injured lobsterman at a Provincetown beach.

Journalists interviewed Mr Packard about his Biblical ordeal after he was discharged from Cape Cod Hospital in Hyannis.

Humpback whales tend to feed by opening their mouth wide to gulp down as much prey, like fish or krill, as possible, leading marine scientists to speculate that what happened to Mr Packard was in all likelihood purely accidental. One expert told the Cape Cod Times it was practically unheard of for a whale to swallow a human.

Break up Google or Amazon? Big Tech in focus as new U.S. antitrust bills introduced

By Diane Bartz, Reuters | Updated - Jun. 11, 2021 at 8:35 p.m. | Posted - Jun. 11, 2021 at 4:37 p.m.



The U.S. Capitol is seen at sunrise on Jan. 11, 2021. A bipartisan group of lawmakers in the U.S. House of Representatives introduced four bills on Friday aimed at reining in the power of the tech giants, with one potentially leading to their break-up. (Erin Scott, Reuters)

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — A bipartisan group of lawmakers in the U.S. House of Representatives introduced four bills on Friday aimed at reining in the power of the tech giants, with one potentially leading to their break-up.

Two of the bills address the issue of giant companies, such as Amazon and Alphabet's Google, creating a platform for other businesses and then competing against those same businesses.

One measure bans platforms from owning subsidiaries that operate on their platform if those subsidiaries compete with other businesses — potentially forcing the Big Tech firms to sell assets.

"From Amazon and Facebook to Google and Apple, it is clear that these unregulated tech giants have become too big to care," said U.S. Rep. Pramila Jayapal, a Washington state Democrat and sponsor of this measure.

The pro-business U.S. Chamber of Commerce said it "strongly opposes" the bills' approach. "Bills that target specific companies, instead of focusing on business practices, are simply bad policy ... and could be ruled unconstitutional," the Chamber's Neil Bradley said in a statement.

A second measure would make it illegal in most cases for a platform to give preference to its own products on its platform with a hefty fine of 30% of the U.S. revenue of the affected business if they violate the measure.

The third bill would require a platform to refrain from any merger unless it can show the acquired company does not compete with any product or service the platform is in.

A fourth would require platforms to allow users to transfer their data elsewhere if they desire, including to a competing business.

In addition to those four, a fifth bill would raise what the Justice Department and Federal Trade Commission charge to assess the biggest companies to ensure their mergers are legal and increase the budgets of the agencies. A companion to this has already passed the Senate.

China's wandering elephants on the move again

BEIJING (AP) — China's famed wandering elephants are on the move again, heading southwest while a male who broke from the herd is still keeping his distance.

The group left a wildlife reserve in the southwest of Yunnan province more than a year ago and has trekked 500 kilometers (300 miles) north to the outskirts of the provincial capital of Kunming.

As of Saturday, they were spotted in Shijie township in the city of Yuxi, more than 8 kilometers (5 miles) southwest of the Kunming suburb they had arrived at last week, according to state media reports. The lone male was 16 kilometers (10 miles) away, still on the outskirts of Kunming.

The direction of their travel could be a good sign, since authorities are hoping to lead them back to their original home in the Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture southwest of Kunming.

Authorities have been attempting to keep a distance between them and local residents, while blocking roads into villages and seeking to lure them away with food drops. Despite that, the herd of 15 have raided farms, strolled down urban streets and foraged for snacks in villages and even a retirement home.



Go green or go bipartisan? Biden's big infrastructure choice

By LISA MASCARO and MATTHEW DALY Saturday, June 12, 2021



In this May 4, 2021, file photo Vice President Kamala Harris tours clean energy laboratories with Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee during a visit to promote President Joe Biden's \$2 trillion jobs and infrastructure plan, in Milwaukee. President Joe Biden's hope of pouring billions of dollars into green infrastructure investments is running into the political obstacle of winning over Republican votes. Biden wants his infrastructure package to include ways to fight climate change. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh, File)

The White House is holding firm to Biden's initial ideas, which tally nearly \$1 trillion in [climate-related investments](#) that aim to bolster the electric vehicle market, make buildings and property more resilient to harsh weather patterns and push the country's electrical grid to become carbon-free by 2035.

The president is seeking a newer definition of infrastructure, trying not only to patch up the nation's roads and highways, but also to rebuild its economy with new kinds of investments for the 21st century. The Republicans prefer a more traditional approach that touches modestly on some climate-related elements but focuses more specifically on transportation and other typical developments.

As Biden courts a new bipartisan group of 10 senators, who are [eyeing a scaled-down proposal](#), leading Democrats are worried their party is losing an opportunity with control of the House, Senate and White House to make gains on its climate change priorities.

"The President has underscored that climate change is one of the defining crises we face as a nation," White House deputy press secretary Andrew Bates said Friday, "and he and his team have continuously fought for leading on the clean energy economy and on clean energy jobs – which is critical for our economic growth, competitiveness, and middle class."

Jamal Raad, executive director of Evergreen Action, an environmental group, said after months of negotiations that "it's clear there will never be 10 votes from the GOP caucus" for major investments like those proposed by the White House.

In the House, the Congressional Progressive Caucus' Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., tweeted: "An infrastructure bill that doesn't prioritize the climate crisis will not pass the House. Period."

And Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., a leading climate hawk, said he is "nervous" that Democrats may not be serious about addressing climate change in the infrastructure bill. "We are running out of time."

Biden administration officials say they understand the concerns. White House climate adviser Gina McCarthy said she and other officials "are going to fight like crazy" to make sure provisions, including a clean electricity standard, are included in the final bill.

The standard calls for making the nation's electricity sector carbon-free by 2035, a key aspect of Biden's goal of halving the nation's greenhouse gas emissions.

Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club, said he and others are concerned about the extended effort to win over GOP votes they consider unlikely to succeed.

From his home in California, he said he sees the threat of wildfires and drought fueled by climate change on a daily basis. "We are in a dire moment, and we don't always have leadership that reflects that," he said.

WORLD

Hate Wiped Away A Muslim-Canadian Family. Here's How Friends Want Them Remembered

As friends gather for the family's funeral, they want the Salman Afzaal's family remembered as more than just victims of a heinous hate crime.



Sana Yasir



THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

These Four States Are Cutting A Key Lifeline For The Unemployed

The United States is about to embark on a big national experiment with 4 million unemployed workers serving as guinea pigs. And it all centers on \$300 a week.

That payment was intended as a lifeline for millions of Americans who lost their jobs during the pandemic: an extra \$300 a week on top of regular unemployment benefits.

But now Republican governors in 25 states have decided to end those benefits ahead of schedule. With vaccines rolling out and the economy reopening fast, they believe the payments are discouraging people from looking for work, leaving businesses begging and job openings unfilled.



RACE

Today is Loving Day — Marking When Interracial Marriage Finally Became Legal In The U.S.



RACE

U.S. Farmers Of Color Were About To Get Loan Forgiveness. Now The Program Is On Hold

A new federal program created by the Biden administration to reverse years of economic discrimination against U.S. farmers of color has ground to a halt.

On Thursday, a federal judge in Wisconsin ordered the U.S. Department of Agriculture to stop forgiving loans on the basis of race under a novel effort included in the American Rescue Plan relief package.

Mississippi, Missouri, Iowa and Alaska are the first states to cut benefits as of this weekend. Twenty-one other states are going to follow in the coming weeks. The Republican governors in all those states say the extra \$300 a week that the federal government's been paying during the pandemic is discouraging people from taking jobs that are available.

I celebrate myself, and sing myself,
And what I assume you shall assume,
For every atom belonging to me

Walter Whitman (/ˈhwɪtmən/; May 31, 1819 – March 26, 1892) was an American poet, essayist, and journalist. A **humanist** he was a part of the transition between **transcendentalism** and **realism** incorporating both views in his works. Whitman is among the most influential poets in the American canon, often called the father of **free verse**.^[1] His work was controversial in its time, particularly his poetry collection *Leaves of Grass*, which was described as obscene for its overt sensuality. Whitman's own life came under scrutiny for his presumed homosexuality.

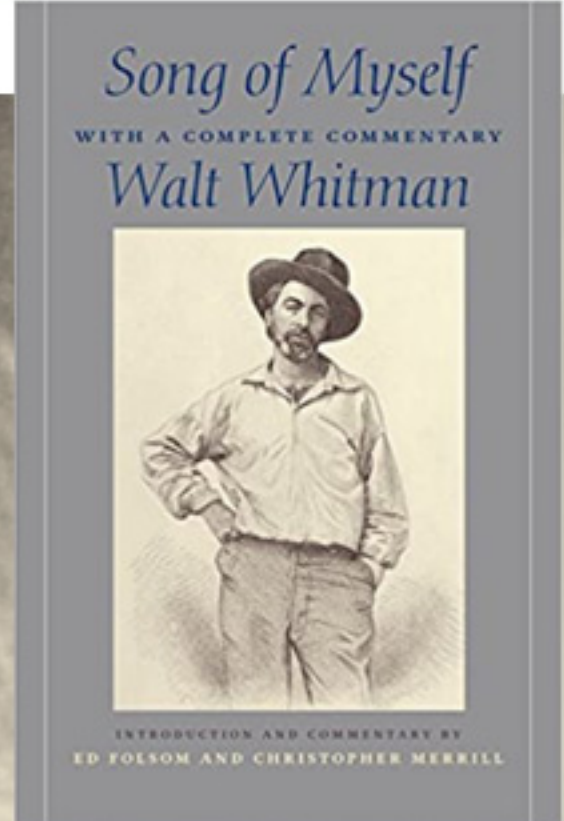
Born in **Huntington** on **Long Island**, as a child and through much of his career he resided in **Brooklyn**. At age 11, he left formal schooling to go to work. Later, Whitman worked as a journalist, a teacher, and a government clerk. Whitman's major poetry collection, *Leaves of Grass*, was first published in 1855 with his own money and became well known. The work was an attempt at reaching out to the common person with an American **epic**. He continued expanding and revising it until his death in 1892. During the **American Civil War**, he went to Washington, D.C. and worked in hospitals caring for the wounded. His poetry often focused on both loss and healing. On the death of **Abraham Lincoln**, whom **Whitman greatly admired**, he wrote his well known poems, "O Captain! My Captain!" and "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd", and gave a series of lectures. After a stroke towards the end of his life, Whitman moved to **Camden, New Jersey**, where his health further declined. When he died at age 72, his funeral was a public event.^{[2][3]}

Whitman's influence on poetry remains strong. Mary Whitall Smith Costelloe argued: "You cannot really understand America without Walt Whitman, without *Leaves of Grass* ... He has expressed that civilization, 'up to date,' as he would say, and no student of the philosophy of history can do without him."^[4] **Modernist** poet **Ezra Pound** called Whitman "America's poet ... He *is* America."^[5]



Whitman in 1887

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Born | Walter Whitman May 31, 1819 West Hills, New York, U.S. |
| Died | March 26, 1892 (aged 72) Camden, New Jersey, U.S. |
| Occupation | Poet · essayist · journalist |
| Signature | |

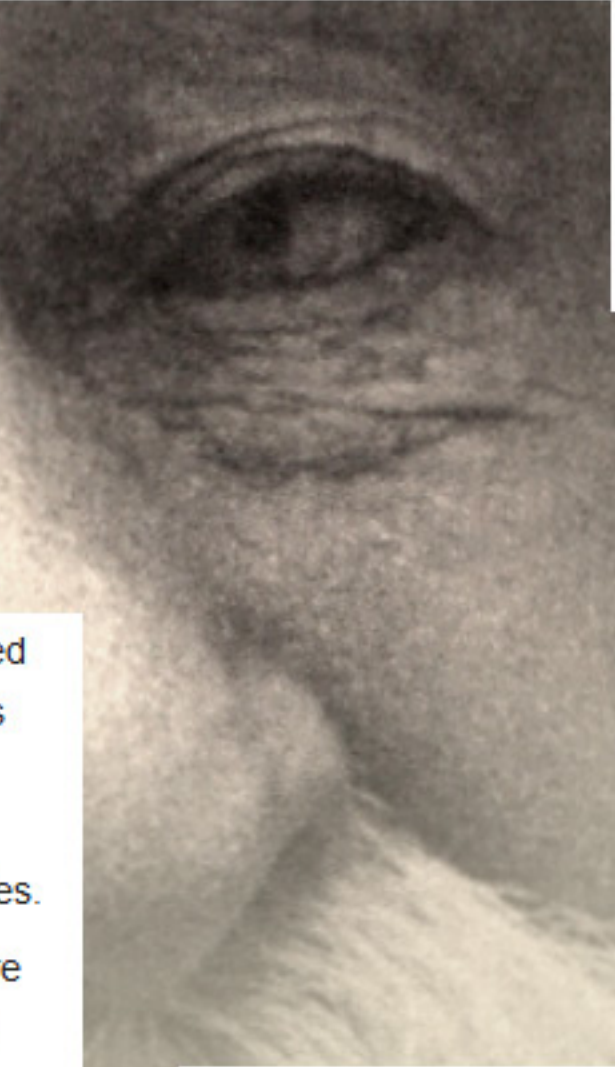


Humanism is a **philosophical** stance that emphasizes the potential and **agency** of **human beings**, individually and socially. It considers human beings as the starting point for serious moral and philosophical inquiry. The meaning of the term *humanism* has fluctuated according to the successive intellectual movements which have identified with it.^[1] Generally, however, humanism refers to a perspective that affirms some notion of human **freedom** and progress. It views humanity as responsible for the promotion and development of individuals, espouses the equal and inherent dignity of all human beings, and emphasizes a concern for humans in relation to the world.^[2]

In the 20th century and beyond, humanist movements are typically **non-religious movements** aligned with **secularism**, and today humanism may refer to a **nontheistic life stance** centred on human agency and looking to **science** and **reason** rather than **revelation** from a **supernatural** source to understand the world.^{[3][4]}

Transcendentalism is a philosophical movement that developed in the late 1820s and 1830s in the eastern United States.^{[1][2][3]} A core belief is in the inherent **goodness** of people and nature,^[1] and while society and its institutions have corrupted the purity of the **individual**, people are at their best when truly "**self-reliant**" and independent. Transcendentalists saw divine experience inherent in the everyday, rather than believing in a distant heaven. Transcendentalists saw physical and spiritual phenomena as part of dynamic processes rather than discrete entities. Transcendentalism emphasizes subjective intuition over objective **empiricism**. Adherents believe that individuals are capable of generating completely original insights with little attention and deference to past masters. It arose as a reaction, to protest against the general state of **intellectualism** and **spirituality** at the time.^[4] The doctrine of the **Unitarian** church as taught at **Harvard Divinity School** was closely related.

Transcendentalism emerged from "English and German **Romanticism**, the Biblical criticism of **Johann Gottfried Herder** and **Friedrich Schleiermacher**, the skepticism of **David Hume**",^[1] and the transcendental philosophy of **Immanuel Kant** and **German Idealism**. Miller and Versluis regard **Emanuel Swedenborg** and **Jakob Böhme** as pervasive influences on transcendentalism.^{[5][6]} It was also strongly influenced by **Hindu** texts on philosophy of the mind and spirituality, especially the **Upanishads**.



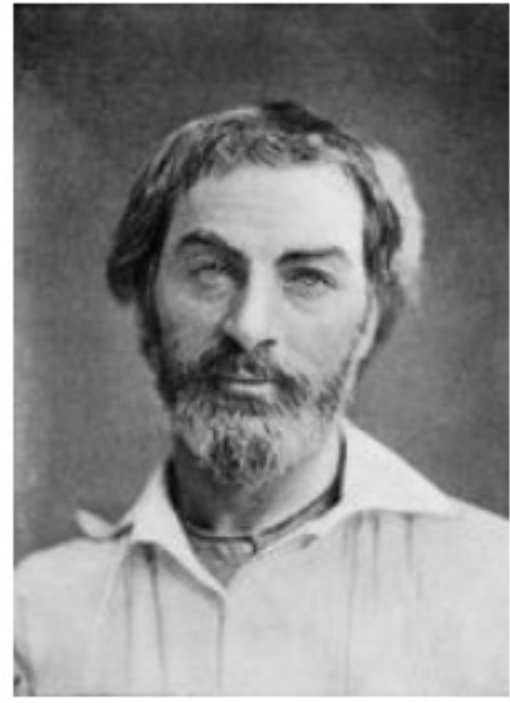
Literary realism is a **literary genre**, part of the broader **realism in arts**, that attempts to represent subject-matter truthfully, avoiding **speculative fiction** and **supernatural elements**. It originated with the **realist art movement** that began with mid-nineteenth-century **French literature** (**Stendhal**), and **Russian literature** (**Alexander Pushkin**).^[1] Literary realism attempts to represent familiar things as they are. **Realist** authors chose to depict everyday and banal activities and experiences.

I celebrate myself, and sing myself,
And what I assume you shall assume,
For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you.

My tongue, every atom of my blood,
form'd from this soil, this air,
Born here of parents born here from parents the same,
and their parents the same,
I, now thirty-seven years old in perfect health begin,
Hoping to cease not till death.

Do I contradict myself?
Very well then I contradict myself,
(I am large, I contain multitudes.)





“WHAT am I, after all, but a child, pleas’d with the sound of my own name? repeating it over and over;
I stand apart to hear—it never tires me.
To you, your name also;
Did you think there was nothing but two or three pronunciations in the sound of your name?”



Opinion: Tom Hanks Is A Non-Racist. It's Time For Him To Be Anti-Racist

June 13, 2021 · 6:08 AM ET



Tom Hanks recently wrote an essay in *The New York Times* urging more widespread teaching of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. The Oscar winner has built a career on movies about American white men doing the right thing.

So I am saying it is time for folks like Hanks to be anti-racist.

What he (and Hollywood) should do next

If he really wants to make a difference, Hanks and other stars need to talk specifically about how their work has contributed to these problems and how they will change. They need to make specific commitments to changing the conversation in story subjects, casting and execution. That is the truly hard work of building change.

Rather than talk about what "historically based fiction entertainment" must do, why not talk about what Tom Hanks, longtime scripted and documentary executive producer, will do? As a star who can get a movie made just by agreeing to appear in it, what will Tom Hanks, movie star, actually do?

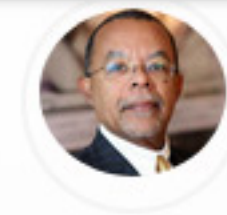
People often say columns such as the one by Hanks are published to start a conversation. Well, here is my suggestion: Let's make part of that conversation how baby boomer filmmakers have made fortunes amplifying ideas of white American exceptionalism and heroism.

And how their responsibility now lies with helping dismantle and broaden the ideas they helped cement in the American mind.

1921 tulsa race massacre movies tom hanks



<https://ericdeggans.com/engagements/>



"No one breaks down the complexity of race, media, and popular culture more cogently than Eric Deggans. Witnessing him speak in person (which I did at Harvard), with his informative, entertaining and interactive PowerPoint, and his utterly engaging 'teacherly' persona, is even more rewarding than hearing his NPR commentaries, which are always masterfully superb. No one teaches me more about contemporary media than Eric Deggans."

Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Host of the PBS series *Finding Your Roots* and chair of the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard



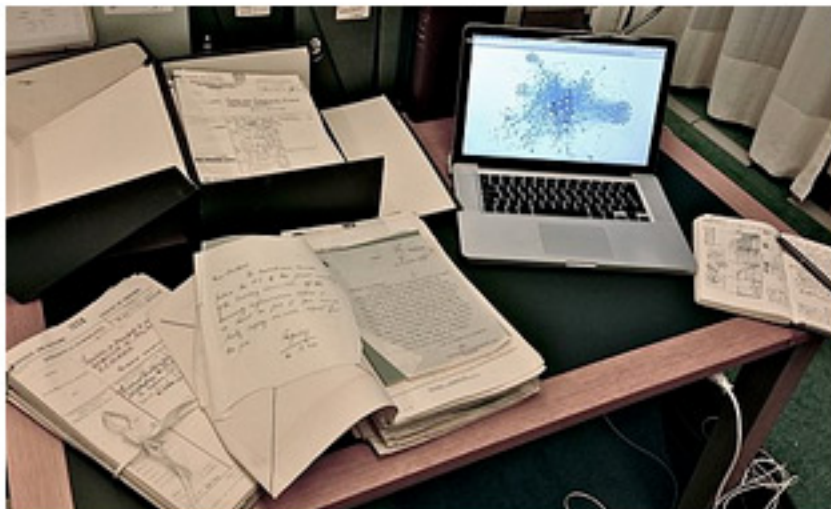
David Hume (/ˈhjuːm/; born **David Home**; 7 May 1711 NS (26 April 1711 OS) – 25 August 1776)^[10] was a Scottish Enlightenment philosopher, historian, economist, librarian^[11] and essayist, who is best known today for his highly influential system of philosophical empiricism, skepticism, and naturalism.^[1] Beginning with *A Treatise of Human Nature* (1739–40), Hume strove to create a naturalistic science of man that examined the psychological basis of human nature. Hume argued against the existence of innate ideas, positing that all human knowledge derives solely from experience. This places him with Francis Bacon, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and George Berkeley as a British Empiricist.^[12]

Hume argued that inductive reasoning and belief in causality cannot be justified rationally; instead, they result from custom and mental habit. We never actually perceive that one event causes another but only experience the "constant conjunction" of events. This problem of induction means that to draw any causal inferences from past experience, it is necessary to presuppose that the future will resemble the past, a presupposition which cannot itself be grounded in prior experience.^[13]

An opponent of philosophical rationalists, Hume held that passions rather than reason govern human behaviour, famously proclaiming that "Reason is, and ought only to be the slave of the passions."^{[12][14]} Hume was also a sentimentalist who held that ethics are based on emotion or sentiment rather than abstract moral principle. He maintained an early commitment to naturalistic explanations of moral phenomena and is usually taken to have first clearly expounded the is–ought problem, or the idea that a statement of fact alone can never give rise to a normative conclusion of what *ought* to be done.^[15]

Hume also denied that humans have an actual conception of the self, positing that we experience only a bundle of sensations, and that the self is nothing more than this bundle of causally-connected perceptions. Hume's compatibilist theory of free will takes causal determinism as fully compatible with human freedom.^[16] His views on philosophy of religion, including his rejection of miracles and the argument from design for God's existence, were especially controversial for their time.

Hume influenced utilitarianism, logical positivism, the philosophy of science, early analytic philosophy, cognitive science, theology, and many other fields and thinkers. Immanuel Kant credited Hume as the inspiration who had awakened him from his "dogmatic slumbers."



In philosophy, **empiricism** is a theory that states that knowledge comes only or primarily from sensory experience. It is one of several views of epistemology, along with rationalism and skepticism. Empiricism emphasizes the role of empirical evidence in the formation of ideas, rather than innate ideas or traditi

Philosophical skepticism is a family of philosophical views that question the possibility of knowledge. Philosophical skeptics are often classified into two general categories: Those who deny all possibility of knowledge, and those who advocate for the suspension of judgment due to the

Metaphysical naturalism is a philosophical worldview which holds that there is nothing but natural elements, principles, and relations of the kind studied by the natural sciences. Methodological naturalism is a philosophical basis for science, for which metaphysical naturalism provides only one possible

Determinism is the philosophical view that all events are determined completely by previously existing causes. Deterministic theories throughout the history of philosophy have sprung from diverse and sometimes overlapping motives and considerations. The opposite of determinism is some kind of

The **teleological argument** is an argument for the existence of God or, more generally, that complex functionality in the natural world which looks designed is evidence of an intelligent creator.

David Hume



Portrait by Allan Ramsay

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Born | David Home 7 May NS [26 April OS] 1711 Edinburgh, Scotland |
| Died | 25 August 1776 (aged 65) Edinburgh, Scotland |
| Alma mater | University of Edinburgh |
| Era | 18th-century philosophy |
| Region | Western philosophy |
| School | Scottish Enlightenment · Naturalism ^[1] · Scepticism · Empiricism · Irreligion · Foundationalism ^[2] · Newtonianism ^[3] · Conceptualism ^[4] · Indirect realism ^[5] · Correspondence theory of truth ^[6] · Moral sentimentalism · Conservatism ^[7] |
| Main interests | Epistemology · Metaphysics Ethics · Aesthetics Philosophy of mind Political philosophy Philosophy of religion Classical economics |
| Notable ideas | List [show] |
| Influences | [show] |
| Influenced | [show] |

From 12-year-old meth addict to honors college scholar: The redemption of Ginny Burton

by ERIC JOHNSON | KOMO News Anchor
Thursday, June 10th 2021



(L) Ginny Burton mugshot from 2005. (King County Jail) (R) Ginny Burton now as she graduates from The University of Washington. (Photo: Ginny Burton)

This is Ginny's story. She is my Hero.

She was born in Tacoma in 1972. She was one of seven children born to a mother who was a drug addict and a drug dealer who suffered from mental illness. Her father was sent to prison when she was four for a string of armed robberies. Her mother introduced her to marijuana at the age of six. She got her using meth at age 12. By 14 she was smoking crack. At 16 she was raped by a man who bought. By 17 she'd attempted suicide for the first of many times. She got pregnant and the baby's father was shot and killed. She eventually had two children and married into an abusive relationship. At 21 she started shooting heroin. By 23 she was a full-on, hardcore heroin addict.

She said to me once:

I am that person. I have 17 felony convictions. I am the person you used to clutch your bag when I walked by you. I am the person that would randomly attack somebody in public. I was not a savory person. Everybody was a victim, and everybody was prey.

The pictures of Ginny in those days tell the story of a young woman who was reeling out of control, a swirling, churning blur of chaos and self-destruction. Jail cells, guys that hit her, self-loathing, criminal behavior. She stole cars. She shot somebody. Her children were taken away. And drugs. Always, there were drugs.

When you're stuck on the street and you smell like feces and you haven't showered in forever and you can't make it into a social service during working hours because you're too busy trying to feed your addiction, and your addiction is bigger than you... and you've compromised your integrity a number of times over and over and over again, and you're starting to be victimized by the people on the street... you're hopeless. You can't stand your life. You would rather be dead than alive. I spent most of my addiction wishing that somebody would just blow me away.

When I was clean I thought about using, and when I was using I thought about getting clean. And so it went, on and on. Her last trip to prison was in 2008. She was in for 33 months, and she stayed clean for six months after she got out. But she relapsed for the umpteenth time and was arrested one last time on Dec. 5, 2012, and she says it saved her life. She recalls sitting in the back of the police car, handcuffed and happy. Relieved. I knew I was OK. I knew when he put the handcuffs on me and put me in his car, I knew my life was going to change and it was then, in that moment, that I made the decision to turn it around no matter what it took.

Her charges were transferred to King County, and she begged to be put into the Drug Diversion Court program. She went through a treatment program at the Regional Justice Center. She got clean and stayed clean. She did social service work for the Post Prison Education Program, and at Lazarus for seven years. And she watched and learned. She told me something that nobody wants to hear. She said that in those seven years, working with hundreds of addicts, she knew of exactly two people who were able to voluntarily get clean and who stayed that way. Two.

And she started going to school.

In the beginning, she took classes at South Seattle College, a grown woman taking classes with kids, feeling out of place and awkward, but also inspired and awakened. It made me recognize how much time I had wasted in my life. And I also recognized that I was actually good at learning. something I enjoyed. She applied to the University of Washington and was accepted. In 2019 she was awarded a Martin Honor Scholarship to the UW and there before her the path opened up.

Lithuania marks 80th anniversary of Soviet mass deportations

57 minutes ago Monday, June 14, 2021

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP) — Flowers were laid on rusty railway tracks Monday as Lithuania marked the start of a mass deportation 80 years ago by the Soviet Union that was occupying the Baltic nation.

People who were considered opposed to Moscow or deemed counter-revolutionary elements were sent to Siberia from Lithuania and few returned. Others who owned land or houses were evicted and sent there too.

Some 280,000 people were eventually deported to the Siberian gulags, a year after Soviet troops had occupied Lithuania. Many of those sent away never returned from the long journey in the cattle wagons.

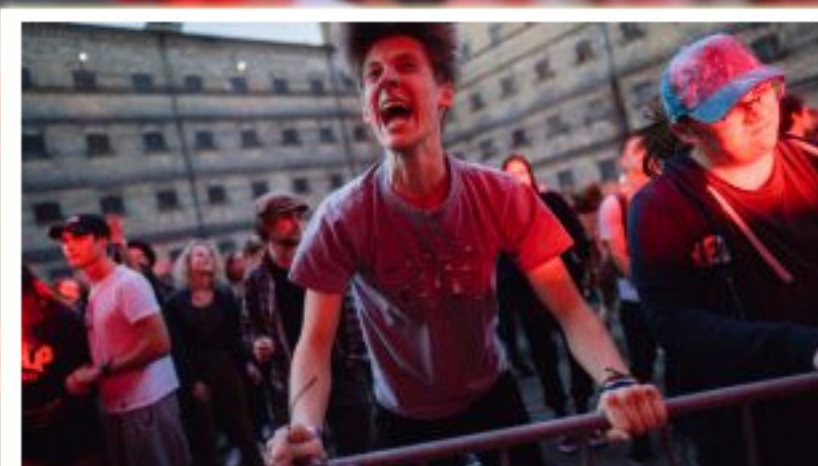
“Two evil forces — Nazi Germany and the Soviet Communist regime — had entered a secret agreement to divide Europe,” President Gitanas Nauseda said during a solemn ceremony in Vilnius, on a day considered one of the darkest pages in the Baltic nation’s recent history. These “regimes caused unspeakable pain and suffering.”

One of those attending the ceremony Monday was deported and spent almost 11 years in Siberia. Aurelija Staponkute and her family were deported only because they had a small farm that was seized.

“We do not know what the future might bring. Whatever happens, we must protect our freedom. After all, we fought for it so hard,” the 83-year-old said.

Only one-third of those deported ever returned, according to historians, and the mass deportation affected all walks of life in the Baltic nation, where it’s considered a genocide by an occupying power.

The Soviet occupation of Lithuania lasted for five decades. After regaining its independence in 1991, Lithuania joined the European Union and NATO in 2004.



In Vilnius, Lithuania, a notorious prison becomes a cultural hub

June 14, 2021 | Craig Turp-Balazs

Lukiškės prison used to be one of the least attractive spaces of the Lithuanian capital. Built in 1902, when Lithuania was under the rule of Russian tsars. In 1905 St Nicholas Orthodox Church was added to the complex, which also housed administrative offices and apartments of prison officers.

For more than 100 years, the complex served the same purpose. Lukiškės was used by the tsars, the German administration during World War I, the Polish government of Vilnius, the Lithuanian government of 1939-40, the Soviets, the Germans again during World War II, then again by the Soviets and finally by the Lithuanian government after the restoration of independence in 1990.

Several years ago, the Lithuanian government took the decision to close the prison and relocate prisoners and staff to other confinement facilities. The relocation was completed in the summer of 2019. Now, this once grisly space is being transformed through art.

Novavax: Large study finds COVID-19 shot about 90% effective

By LINDA A. JOHNSON

35 minutes ago

Monday, June 14, 2021



In this Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020, file photo, a vial of the Phase 3 Novavax coronavirus vaccine is seen ready for use in the trial at St. George's University hospital in London. Novavax says its vaccine appears effective against COVID-19 in a large study, including against variants. Results from the study in the U.S. and Mexico were released on Monday, June 14, 2021. (AP Photo/Alastair Grant, File)

Vaccine maker Novavax said Monday its COVID-19 shot was highly effective against the disease and also protected against variants in a large study in the U.S. and Mexico, potentially offering the world yet another weapon against the virus at a time when developing countries are desperate for doses.

The two-shot vaccine was about 90% effective overall, and preliminary data showed it was safe, the American company said. That would put the vaccine about on par with Pfizer's and Moderna's.

While demand for COVID-19 shots in the U.S. has dropped off dramatically and the country has more than enough doses to go around, the need for more vaccines around the world remains critical. The Novavax vaccine, which is easy to store and transport, is expected to play an important role in boosting supplies in poor parts of the world.

That help is still months away, however. The company, which has been plagued by raw-material shortages that have hampered production, said it plans to seek authorization for the shots in the U.S., Europe and elsewhere by the end of September and will be able to produce up to 100 million doses a month by then.

"Many of our first doses will go to ... low- and middle-income countries, and that was the goal to begin with," Novavax CEO Stanley Erck said.

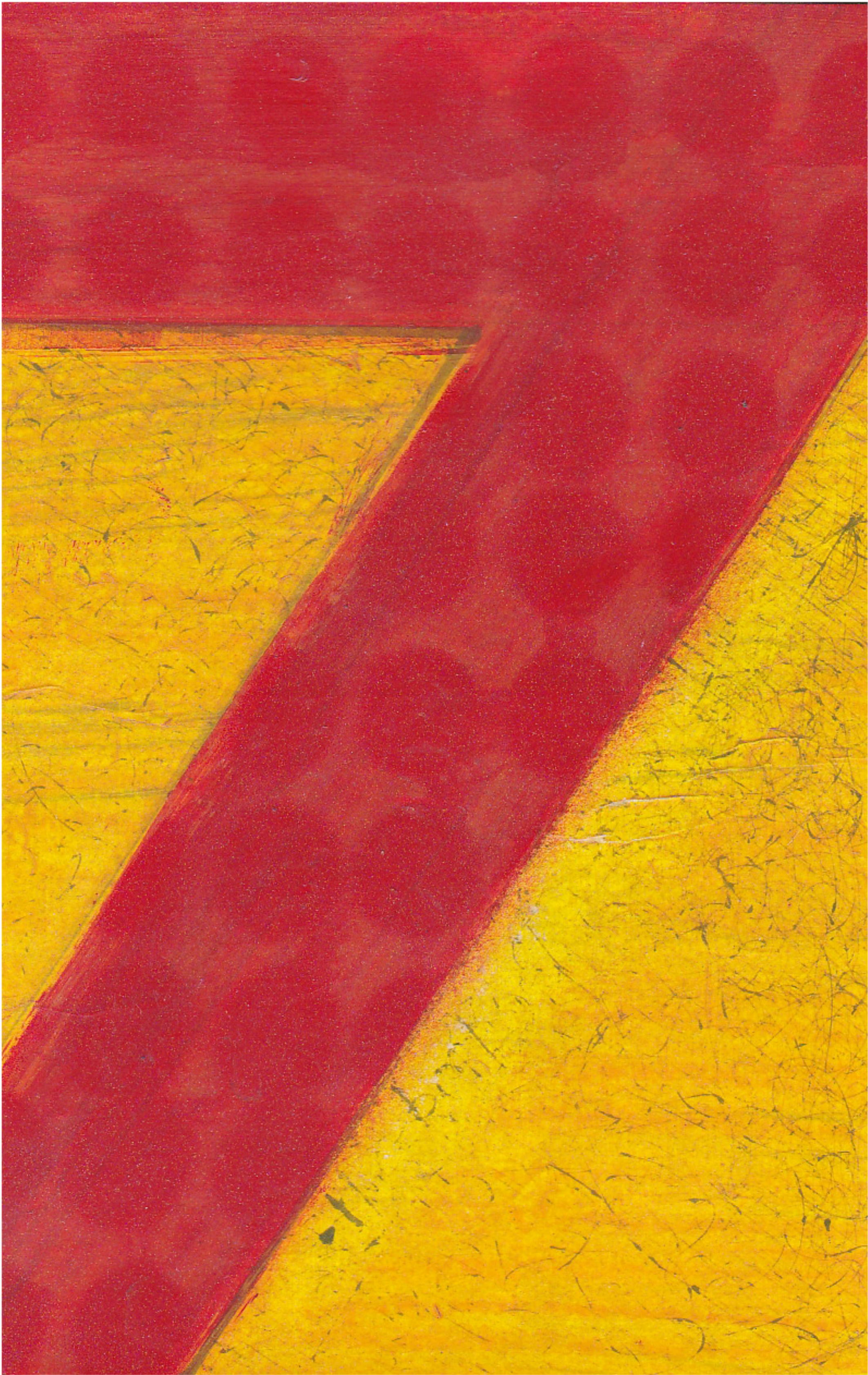
COVID-19 vaccines train the body to recognize the coronavirus, especially the spike protein that coats it, and get ready to fight the virus off. The Novavax vaccine is made with lab-grown copies of that protein. That's different from some of the other vaccines now widely used, which include genetic instructions for the body to make its own spike protein.

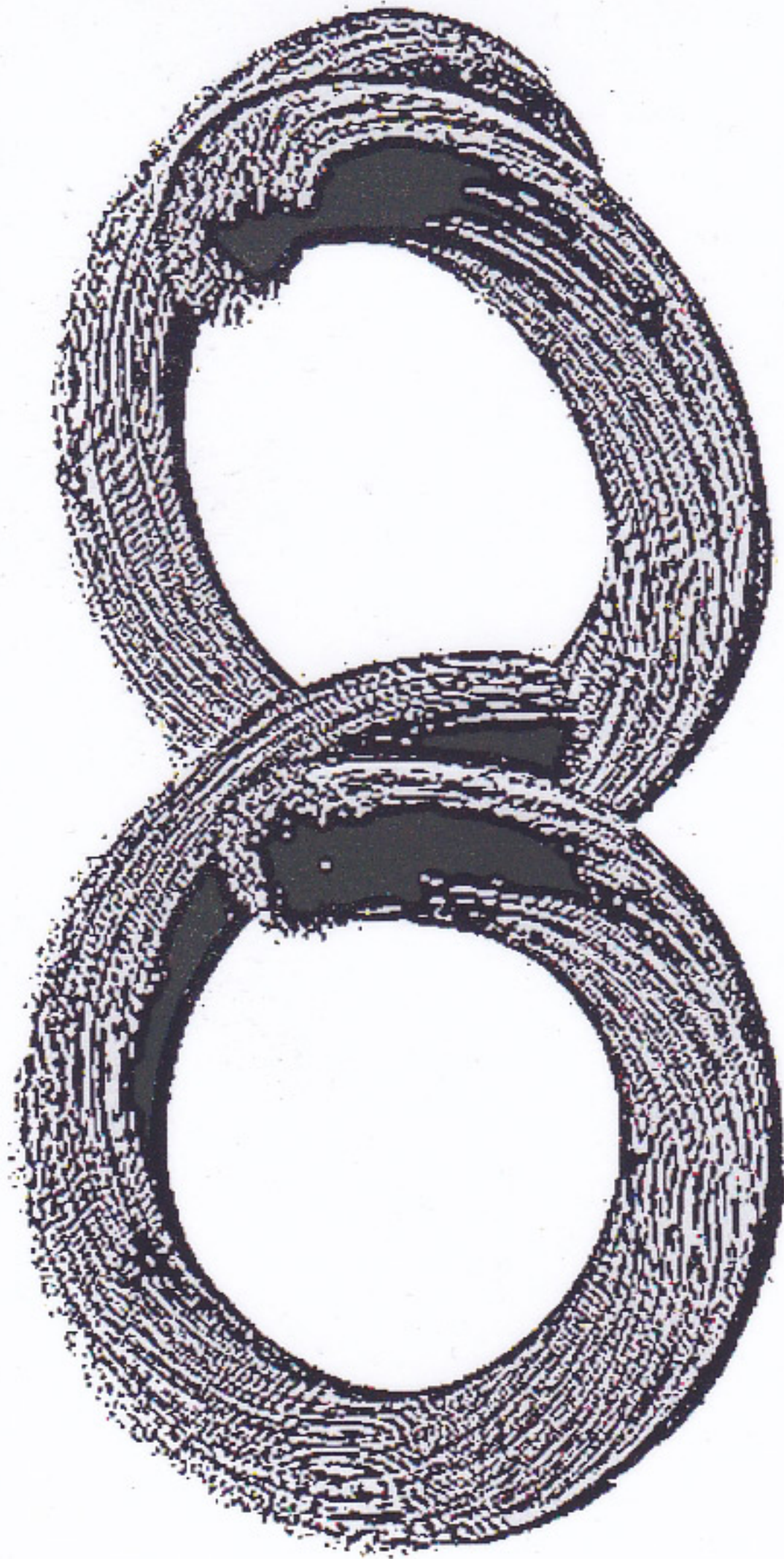
The Novavax vaccine can be stored in standard refrigerators, making it easier to distribute.

Dr. Peter English, a vaccine expert previously with the British Medical Association, called the Novavax results "excellent news." English said that because vaccine production is complicated, it's crucial to have as many shots as possible.

"Any minor imperfection in the production plant can shut down the production for days or weeks," he said in a statement. "The more different manufacturers we have producing vaccine, the more likely it is we will have availability of vaccines."

He said it was also encouraging news that Novavax would be able to adapt its vaccine to any potentially worrying variants in the future if necessary.





In loving memory of Ernest Thornhill
<password: Dashwood>

Timelapse of rare Amazonian 'Moonflower' blooming for one night only

Moonflower cactus > *Selenicereus wittii*

Rare Amazonian cactus flowers for first time in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/feb/20/thousands-live-stream-rare-cactus-prepares-to-bloom-uk-moonflower-selenicereus-wittii>

Cambridge University Botanic Garden

The
Guardian



The coveted flower produces a sweet-smelling scent that turns "rancid" after just two hours, as the plant begins to die. The plant is only found on the high waterline of the floodplain rainforests of the Amazon basin.

Alex Summers, glasshouse supervisor at the botanic garden, said he was "excited" to share the blooming of the cactus, which was streamed live online. "It's very rare to have this plant in our collection and we believe this is the first time the moonflower has flowered in the UK," he said.

There has been some confusion over the rarity of the flower, with members of the public reportedly claiming to have their own versions of the plant and ending photos to the botanic gardens. The team at CUBG published an article clarifying that "moonflower" was a name used for many different species of plant.

Selenicereus Wittii bloomed in a live stream from Cambridge University's Botanic Garden on Saturday Molly Blackall, Sat 20 Feb 2021

Timelapse of rare Amazonian 'Moonflower' blooming for one night only

Moonflower cactus > *Selenicereus wittii*

Cambridge University Botanic Garden



Amphimoea is a monotypic moth genus in the family Sphingidae erected by Walter Rothschild and Karl Jordan in 1903. Its only species, *Amphimoea walkeri*, the Darwin hawkmoth, described by Jean Baptiste Boisduval in 1875, is found from Mexico

Pollination



Neococytius is a monotypic moth genus in the family Sphingidae erected by Ronald W. Hodges in 1971. Its only species, *Neococytius cluentius*, the Cluentius sphinx, was first described by Pieter Cramer in 1776 as *Sphinx cluentius*. It is found in northern South America, Central America



The Sphingidae are a family of moths (Lepidoptera) called sphinx moths, also colloquially known as hawk moths, with many of their caterpillars known as "hornworms"; it includes about 1,450 species. It is best represented in the tropics, but species are found in every region. They are modern

Selenicereus Wittii bloomed in a live stream from Cambridge University's Botanic Garden on Saturday Molly Blackall, Sat 20 Feb 2021

Certain flower characteristics, for example the pure white color, the extreme length of the flower tube, the scent and the nocturnal opening, indicate that the flowers are only pollinated by moths – in this case sphinx moths. However, pollination has not yet been observed in nature. Due to the length of the flower tube only two species occurring in the natural range of *Strophocactus wittii* have a sufficiently long proboscis (up to 25 cm): *Neococytius cluentius* and *Amphimoea walkeri*.

Alpha Gruis, Latinized from α Gruis, officially named **Alnair** /æɪlˈnɛər/, is a single star in the southern constellation of Grus. At magnitude 1.7 it is the brightest star in Grus and one of the brightest stars in the sky and one of the fifty-eight stars selected for celestial navigation. It is a B-type main-sequence star 31 pc away.

Beta Gruis (β Gruis, abbreviated Beta Gru, β Gru), formally named **Tiaki** /tiˈɑːki/, is the second brightest star in the southern constellation of Grus. It with Alpha, Delta, Theta, Iota, and Lambda Gruis, belonged to Piscis Austrinus in medieval Arabic astronomy.



Where our Moonflower cactus, *Selenicereus Wittii* pointed to in the east-south-east San Diego sky when it bloomed at sunset 14 June 2021.

Stellarium Web Search... FOV 89.5° OBSERVE

Alnair
Beta Gruis
Fomalhaut
Jupiter
Saturn
Alpha Indi
Peacock

SMC

Achernar

NEAR SAN DIEGO

21:37:45
2021-06-15

A B-type main-sequence star (B V) is a main-sequence (hydrogen-burning) star of spectral type B and luminosity class V. These stars have from 2 to 16 times the mass of the Sun and surface temperatures between 10,000 and 30,000 K. B-type stars are extremely luminous and blue. Their spectra have neutral helium, which are most prominent at the B2 subclass, and moderate hydrogen lines. Examples include Alnair.

The parsec (symbol: pc) is a unit of length used to measure the large distances to astronomical objects outside the Solar System, approximately equal to 3.26 light-years or 206,000 astronomical units (au), i.e. 30.9 trillion kilometres (19.2 trillion miles).

Number of 'ghost guns' seized by San Diego police on pace to double last year's take

The San Diego Union-Tribune · Yesterday



Number of 'ghost guns' seized by San Diego police on pace to double last year's take

Los Angeles Times · 14 hours ago



Ghost guns are unregulated firearms that anyone — including minors and prohibited purchasers — can buy and build without a background check. **Ghost guns** are unserialized and untraceable firearms that can be bought online and assembled at home.

Ghost gun bill passes house without Republican support

Delaware First Media · May 24



Police: Man fired 'ghost gun' outside strip mall, was shot

Associated Press · 3 days ago

Bill outlawing homemade "ghost guns" clears Delaware House

The News Journal · May 21



Philadelphia crime stats show 'ghost guns' are a problem

WPVI-TV · 6 days ago



A bill to ban ghost guns in Nevada has cleared several major deadlines in the state Legislature

KTNV Las Vegas · May 19



Montgomery Co.'s 'ghost gun' law challenged in court

WTOP · 8 days ago



Pro-gun group asks federal court to block Nevada ban on 'ghost guns'

Reno Gazette Journal · 17 hours ago



'Ghost Gun' Firm Gets COVID Aid \$\$ After ATF Raid

Crime Report · Yesterday

Ordered online, assembled at home: the deadly toll of California's 'ghost guns'

The Guardian · May 19



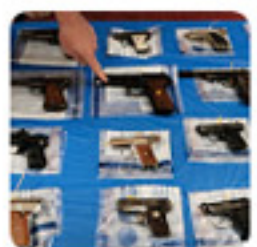
More Criminals Are Using 'Ghost' Guns To Commit Violent Crimes In Baltimore, Making It Difficult For Police To Trace

CBS Baltimore · May 24



What Is A "Ghost Gun" And What Is NY Doing About Them?

wyrk.com · 4 days ago



Southern Baptist Convention faces push from the right

By TRAVIS LOLLER an hour ago Tuesday, June 15, 2021

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Southern Baptist Convention is electing a new president Tuesday amid a push to wrest control of the denomination by ultraconservatives who say some current leaders are too liberal on issues that include race and the role of women in ministry.

Mike Stone, a Georgia pastor, is the preferred candidate of a new group within the nation's largest Protestant denomination that calls itself the Conservative Baptist Network. Some network members have adopted a pirate motif on Twitter while declaring their intention to #taketheship.

Stone has been campaigning hard, speaking in churches around the country, and the network has been encouraging supporters to attend the annual meeting as voting delegates. As of Monday, more than 17,000 voting delegates were pre-registered, positioning the meeting to be the denomination's largest in 25 years.

Also vying for the presidency is Albert Mohler, who leads the denomination's flagship Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kentucky. He's not part of the new conservative network but has angered some Southern Baptists for endorsing Donald Trump last year and for signing a statement denouncing critical race theory.



The Executive Committee takes care of SBC business between annual meetings, but during the gatherings themselves it is voting delegates from the denomination's churches that are in charge. Several people have promised to make motions similar to the one rejected by the committee, and a group of abuse survivors released a joint statement in support of the effort.

Also looming over the meeting is an effort by a group of ultraconservatives to wrest control of the denomination, calling some of its leaders too liberal on issues such as race and the role of women in ministry. Formed last year, the Conservative Baptist Network is backing one of its own as a candidate for SBC president at this year's meeting: Mike Stone, a white pastor from Georgia.

At least one prominent Black pastor has announced that he will leave the denomination if Stone is elected. Several other Black pastors have already left the SBC over what they said was racial insensitivity from the denomination's overwhelmingly white leadership.

Stone is also the immediate past chairman of the Executive Committee, where he worked to place other members of the Conservative Baptist Network in key leadership positions on his way out the door. On Monday current chairman Rolland Slade, a Black pastor from California, pushed back and was able to elect his own candidate to lead a commission on strategic planning.

Floyd alluded to the infighting and controversy surrounding this year's meeting in his address to the Executive Committee.

"We do have challenges in many areas that have led to confusion and division among some of our SBC family," he said. "It really grieves me. At the same time, I have to realize that it's expected in a community of our size and breadth."

Despite claiming 14 million members, the denomination has been shrinking for the past 14 years. Some see the need to appeal to non-white pastors and congregations as a matter of survival. The number of Black, Latino and Asian American congregations has been increasing despite the overall decline, and they now make up about 22% of congregations, Floyd said.

Kelly Miller Smith Jr., a Black pastor who spent 25 years at SBC churches and now leads a Baptist church not affiliated with the denomination, said some in leadership want Black churches but don't want to make room for other cultures.

"They really want to make Black and brown churches accommodate to their way of thinking," he said.

Gavin Newsom gives details on upcoming vaccine verification system



Eric Ting, SFGATE

Updated: June 14, 2021 10:51 a.m.



California Gov. Gavin Newsom smiles during a news conference in San Francisco, on Thursday, June 3, 2021. Newsom has signed an executive order that will lift most of the state's coronavirus rules. The order Newsom signed Friday, June 11, 2021, takes effect Tuesday. It will end the state's stay-at-home order and its various amendments.

Eric Risberg/AP

Late last week, California Gov. Gavin Newsom announced that the state would soon be rolling out a new "vaccine verification system" for private businesses that may be akin to a vaccine passport.

During an event in San Francisco on Monday, Newsom clarified that the "system" will essentially just be electronic vaccine cards that individuals can keep on their phones as opposed to carrying around the paper card.

"It's not a passport, it's not a requirement, it's just the ability now to have an electronic version of that paper version, so you'll hear more about that in the next couple of days," he said.

Once the state fully reopens without capacity limits Tuesday, businesses can require individuals to show their vaccine cards to prove they do not need to wear a mask. California is adopting the current CDC guidance that vaccinated individuals do not need to wear a mask in most settings.

Some states have banned the use of vaccine passports, while most others neither ban nor require them.

REOPENING SAN DIEGO

No More Tiers: Everything You Need to Know About San Diego County's Reopening on June 15

A full reopening of California – including San Diego County – is coming June 15 and this means many pandemic-era restrictions will change

By **Eric S. Page, Monica Garske and Christina Bravo** • Published 3 hours ago •

Well, the time is finally here. June 15, 2021, marks the [full reopening of California](#) – including San Diego County – which means the state's color-coded, tiered system will be scrapped and pandemic-era restrictions will change. As we begin to ease ourselves back into a life more closely resembling pre-COVID, here's a look at what you need to know about the big June 15 reopening.



According to the California Department of Public Health, all business sectors across the state listed in the Blueprint for a Safer Economy chart can return to “usual operations” – except for mega events, which we will get into a little later (or you can read about here: <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/can-i-go-to-a-concert-fair-or-convention-after-june-15-here-are-the-rules-for-mega-events/2624606/>).

That means indoors and outdoors, San Diego County places like restaurants, museums, breweries, bars, movie theaters, gyms, and more can go back to running at full capacity.

But, while full capacity returns this week, San Diego County Public Health Officer Dr. Wilma Wooten said last week that locals should remember “the pandemic is not over.” “June 15 is not the magic date or bullet for declaring the pandemic is over,” Wooten noted. “We are still seeing cases but things are slowing down, and that’s what’s important.”

San Diegans will have to wear a mask when: they are not vaccinated and are at an indoor public setting, On public transit (planes, trains and automobiles), Indoors at K-12 schools and other child-care and youth settings, In health-care settings, In jails and prisons, In homeless shelters

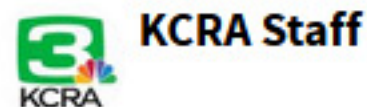
That said, businesses will still have the right to require patrons to wear masks and can check for proof of coronavirus vaccination. Or they can simply tell people they're welcome if they self-attest to being vaccinated.

For the most part, though, you'll be saying goodbye to those ever-present stickers, lines of tape and spray-painted markers on the ground that, if we're honest, were mere recommendations often squeezed by everyone but the most vigilant.

Now we can only hope that people have gone back to regularly showering.

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California vaccine lottery: Grand prize drawing is June 15



Updated: 3:25 PM PDT Jun 14, 2021



Gov. Gavin Newsom is set to hold the grand prize drawing of California's Vax for the Win lottery Tuesday as the state fully reopens its economy.

Ten people will be picked for the grand prize of \$1.5 million each.

To be eligible, you must be at least 12 years of age and have received at least your first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Prize money will be paid once you have completed your vaccination series.

As of Monday, nearly 19 million people were fully vaccinated in California. Close to 4 million people were partially vaccinated, [according to the state's vaccine progress dashboard](#).

Newsom announced the Vax for the Win program last month as a way to incentivize Californians to get inoculated.

There were two Fridays -- [June 4](#) and [June 11](#) -- where 15 people were picked to receive cash prizes of \$50,000. California has also been doling out gift cards to residents who get the vaccine [and on Monday announced another vaccine incentive in the form of travel packages](#).

data through Mon Jun 14, 2021

San Diego Monthly Average Cases/Day:

- 4/14/2020 = 77
- 5/14/2020 = 120
- 6/14/2020 = 134
- 7/14/2020 = 409
- 8/14/2020 = 416
- 9/14/2020 = 285
- 10/14/2020 = 281
- 11/14/2020 = 429
- 12/14/2020 = 1420
- 01/14/2021 = 3010
- 02/14/2021 = 1697
- 03/14/2021 = 506
- 04/14/2021 = 280
- 05/14/2021 = 166
- 06/14/2021 = 88

| Date | New | 7-Day |
|----------|-------|-------|
| 01/07/21 | 4,550 | 3,570 |



| Country, Other | Total Cases | New Cases | Total Deaths | New Deaths | Total Recovered | New Recovered | Active Cases | Serious, Critical | Tot Cases/ 1M pop | Deaths/ 1M pop |
|----------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| World | 177,408,618 | +10,827 | 3,838,375 | +425 | 161,837,918 | +12,733 | 11,732,325 | 83,680 | 22,760 | 492.4 |

| USA State | Total Cases | New Cases | Total Deaths | New Deaths | Total Recovered | Active Cases | Tot Cases/ 1M pop | Deaths/ 1M pop | Total Tests | Tests/ 1M pop |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| USA Total | 34,352,185 | | 615,717 | | 28,578,701 | 5,157,767 | 103,782 | 1,860 | 496,017,405 | 1,498,530 |
| <u>California</u> | 3,804,871 | | 63,208 | | 2,066,470 | 1,675,193 | 96,296 | 1,600 | 67,901,400 | 1,718,491 |

| County | Total Cases | New Cases | Total Deaths | New Deaths | Active Cases | Total Tests |
|----------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Los Angeles | 1,246,619 | | 24,434 | | N/A | 6,908,370 |
| Riverside | 301,420 | | 4,622 | | 802 | 3,202,750 |
| San Bernardino | 299,049 | | 4,790 | | N/A | 3,333,884 |
| San Diego | 281,374 | | 3,770 | | N/A | 5,159,453 |
| Orange | 272,787 | | 5,103 | | 17,990 | 4,027,680 |

San Diego Coronavirus: (NEW)

| | 92104 | New | Date | Positives | New | Hospitalizations | New | Deaths | New |
|------------------|-------|-----|----------|-----------|--------|------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| by MONTH: | 268 | | 07/14/20 | 21,446 | | 2,093 | | 448 | |
| | 431 | 163 | 08/14/20 | 34,344 | 12,898 | 2,835 | 742 | 626 | 178 |
| | 527 | 96 | 09/14/20 | 43,181 | 8,837 | 3,335 | 500 | 742 | 116 |
| | 645 | 118 | 10/14/20 | 51,470 | 8,289 | 3,720 | 385 | 847 | 105 |
| | 803 | 158 | 11/14/20 | 64,768 | 13,298 | 4,197 | 477 | 926 | 79 |
| | 1,240 | 437 | 12/14/20 | 111,441 | 46,673 | 5,212 | 1,015 | 1,194 | 268 |
| | 2,053 | 813 | 01/14/21 | 206,870 | 95,429 | 7,146 | 1,934 | 2,037 | 843 |
| | 2,500 | 447 | 02/14/21 | 252,943 | 46,073 | 12,144 | 4,998 | 3,037 | 1,000 |
| | 2,652 | 152 | 03/14/21 | 265,649 | 12,706 | 13,343 | 1,199 | 3,452 | 415 |
| | 2,782 | 130 | 04/14/21 | 274,249 | 8,600 | 15,047 | 1,704 | 3,653 | 201 |
| | 2,875 | 93 | 05/14/21 | 278,990 | 4,741 | 15,345 | 298 | 3,737 | 84 |
| | 2,917 | 42 | 06/14/21 | 281,374 | 2,384 | 15,476 | 131 | 3,770 | 33 |

| | 92104 | New | Date | Positives | New | Hospitalizations | New | Deaths | New |
|-----------------|-------|-----|----------|-----------|-----|------------------|-----|--------|-----|
| by WEEK: | 2,877 | | 05/17/21 | 279,253 | | 15,355 | | 3,742 | |
| | 2,886 | 9 | 05/24/21 | 279,785 | 532 | 15,385 | 30 | 3,753 | 11 |
| | 2,897 | 11 | 05/31/21 | 280,304 | 519 | 15,412 | 27 | 3,756 | 3 |
| | 2,913 | 16 | 06/07/21 | 280,878 | 574 | 15,447 | 35 | 3,764 | 8 |
| | 2,917 | 4 | 06/14/21 | 281,374 | 496 | 15,476 | 29 | 3,770 | 6 |