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Democracy Dies in Darkness

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2024 · $5

A flood of crypto cash threatens oversight

Major firms' expensive lobbying campaign seeks to reshape federal law

BY TONY ROMM

Cryptocurrency companies and investors have spent at least $149 million over the past four years to thwart tough regulation, elect new allies to Congress and defeat lawmakers seen as potential threats, a campaign that culminated last week with a House vote to soften federal oversight of the embattled industry.

The wide array of financial backers include Coinbase and Ripple, which the U.S. government recently sued for allegedly violating federal rules meant to protect investors from harm. Even as they have come under withering scrutiny, these and other major crypto firms have fought not only to rebuff the charges but to remake the laws entirely, mounting an expensive lobbying effort that has left no part of Washington untouched.

On Capitol Hill, the industry has shelled out more than $60 million to shape federal policy since the start of 2021, according to filings analyzed by The Washington Post and data from OpenSecrets and Public Citizen, two money-in-politics watchdogs. The lobbying campaign helped spur the House on Wednesday to advance the Financial Innovation and Technology for the 21st Century Act, the first major piece of legislation on cryptocurrency to clear either chamber of Congress.

The bill would shift some federal oversight of crypto from the Securities and Exchange Commission, an aggressive regulator, to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), which some critics see as weaker, friendlier to industry and underfunded. Coinbase, Ripple and lobbying groups like the Blockchain Association and the Crypto Center for Innovation helped House Republicans devise the legislative approach,

SEE CRYPTOCURRENCY ON A21



FRED RAMOS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A woman buys tortillas in Mexico City. Small shops stamping out warm tortillas have long been a fixture of Mexican neighborhoods.

As Mexico's cartels expand, even the tortilla is a target

As criminal groups branch out beyond drugs, they're increasingly extorting a host of businesses, including producers of the country's staple food

BY MARY BETH SHERIDAN, LORENA RÍOS AND FRED RAMOS
IN CUAUTLA, MEXICO

The shots rang out just before 10 a.m. A motorcyclist roared past a modest building behind the old railway station here, firing three times. Minutes later, the gunman unloaded on a storefront a half-mile away, wounding a teenager.

The assailant was from the feared Acapulcos gang, the authorities later concluded — an offshoot of a heroin-trafficking cartel. But the targets that November morning weren't rival drug dealers or police informants.

They were tortilla shops.

Small businesses stamping out warm tortillas have long been a fixture of Mexican neighborhoods. Now, thousands are being threatened by armed groups, part of a transformation in organized crime that's rippling through Latin America. Cartels are playing a growing role in the region's economies, from infiltrating seaports to extorting small businesses — and gaining increasing political power.

Drug-trafficking rings have expanded so rapidly that nearly every Latin American mainland nation has become a major producer or transit corridor for cocaine, according to the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime. But criminal groups are also branching out into other illegal enterprises. In Mexico, they're shaking down fishermen, chicken vendors, builders, trucking companies, gas stations and a host of other businesses, including producers of the country's staple food — the corn tortilla.

At least 15 percent of tortillerías — about 20,000 storefront businesses — are regularly extorted, according to the National Tortilla Council, a trade group. A decade ago, the council said, only a tiny percentage were threatened. Around the country, from rural villages to beach resort towns such as Zihuatanejo, tortilla shops that refuse to pay are set on fire or riddled with gunfire.

"We're practically at the point where

SEE CARTELS ON A18

U.S. is an outlier on ICJ ruling on Israel

RAFAH ORDER IS MET WITH LOUD SILENCE

Support for war leads to increasing isolation

BY KAREN DEYOUNG

The United States, which prides itself as a global leader on human rights and international law, was conspicuously silent Friday after the International Court of Justice ordered Israel to comply with its "obligations" under the Genocide Convention and "immediately halt its offensive" in Rafah.

The absence of any public statement from the Biden administration was a stark contrast to an almost identical ruling by the ICJ in March 2022, ordering Russia to "immediately suspend the military operations" it had just begun in Ukraine. Noting that the court "plays a vital role in the peaceful settlement of disputes under the U.N. Charter," the State Department effusively welcomed the order and called on Moscow to comply.

The administration has sharply rejected any comparison between the two situations, noting that one began with an attack on Israel by a terrorist group and the other with an unprovoked invasion by one U.N. member state into another.

Instead of issuing a statement on the Israel ruling, the National Security Council authorized spokespeople to respond to any questions with a single sentence: "We've been clear and consistent on our position on Rafah."

That position — that Israel's invasion of Rafah has been a "limited" incursion to root out remaining Hamas fighters while avoiding undue civilian harm, and to free around 100 living and dead Israeli hostages that remain captives — conflicts with the ICJ conclusion that Rafah is a "change in the situation" since its last warning earlier this year that

SEE ISRAEL ON A4

In Milwaukee, a padlocked patio becomes a battleground

Black public housing tenants wrestle with a raft of frustrations — and having any of them heard

BY JOSE A. DEL REAL
IN MILWAUKEE

Their emails to government officials had gone unanswered, their requests to testify at City Hall had been ignored, and now 14 residents of Milwaukee public housing were gathered in a pink linoleum common room to brainstorm how to get attention from the people with power.

"A woman got robbed in the hallway," one woman said. "I don't feel safe here."

"I need to get the mold out of my apartment. I can't breathe," said another.

"There are mice everywhere," said a man.

Kevin Solomon, a 25-year-old community organizer, listened quietly as the tenants began yelling over one another, grasping for the opportunity to tell *someone* what daily life had turned into inside the 251-unit College Court Apartments. Its two Brutalist towers were managed by the city's public housing authority.

"Y'all got to calm down. We

SEE MILWAUKEE ON A8



SARAH L. VOISIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Kevin Solomon, left, a community organizer, and Charlene "Peaches" Bell, a tenant at College Court Apartments in Milwaukee. Kevin had seen the makings of a great organizing partner in Peaches.

PERSPECTIVE

Four years later, has the movement for racial justice lost the fight?

BY ROBERT SAMUELS AND TOLUSE OLORUNNIPA

In their book, "His Name Is George Floyd," Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa examined how institutional racism shaped the life and legacy of the Black man murdered on Memorial Day in 2020. Four years after Floyd's killing, the Washington Post national reporters reflect on the retrenchment of the racial-justice movement sparked by his death.

ROBERT: One day, this March, I woke up in a hotel room in Memphis and wondered if we got it all wrong.

So many times in the two years since publishing our book, "His Name Is George Floyd," people have asked whether there is any hope for the country.

But four years after Floyd's murder and the so-called great racial reckoning, we were set to speak in a city whose school system had decided our book was too controversial to be taught. Other school systems had stymied discussion about systemic racism, businesses were questioning their diversity programs, and affirmative action had been deemed illegal in college admissions. Some police reforms had been undone.

The backlash feels more enduring than the reckoning itself. And on that morning, I stared at the ceiling, asking myself: What if all that protesting that consumed the George Floyd summer — not all of the racial tension that had come before — was the desperate last gasp of a movement that would inevitably fail?

TOLUSE: When I first heard you raise that question, I initially viewed it as an intriguing and provocative mental exercise — the kind of idea two journalists could politely debate, before moving on with their lives. But it didn't

SEE GEORGE FLOYD ON A6

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More voters are identifying as Republicans. That could bode ill for Democrats.



Dan Balz
THE SUNDAY TAKE

Imagine you are planning to run a few miles on a treadmill as part of your regular workout. You can do this with the treadmill in a level position, or you can set it at an incline. It isn't hard to determine which would make for an easier session at the gym.

That's the way that Bill McInturff, a veteran Republican pollster, described what he sees as the significance of data that shows Republicans now at parity with Democrats on party identification. "This is the under recognized game changer for 2024," he posted on X, formerly Twitter, a few days ago. "Republicans competing on a level playing field."

The data that McInturff was citing comes from surveys for NBC News that his firm, Public Opinion Strategies, has done jointly with the Democratic firm Hart Research Associates for many years. The slide he posted showed that, among registered voters, 41 percent now identify as Republicans, 40 percent as Democrats. In 2016, Democrats had an advantage of seven percentage points.

That split between Republicans and Democrats still leaves 19 percent of registered voters as independents. Some lean toward one of the two major parties; the remainder are true independents, capable of determining the outcome of an election.

In a subsequent telephone interview, McInturff expanded on his thinking. "The lines have crossed for the very first time in a long time, and that's a very big deal," he said. "It's not that Republicans are always going up, it's that the Democrats are dropping [in party identification]."

The NBC survey numbers are not outliers. Pew Research Center released a sizable study of changes in party identification in April that showed a similar pattern: a seven-point Democratic advantage early on in Donald Trump's presidency dropped to a one-point edge as of 2023. (The figures in both the Pew and NBC surveys do not refer to party registration, but instead to how people identify themselves politically when asked by pollsters.)

Democrats have made modest gains among some of their core supporters. People who identify as liberal say they are Democrats by larger numbers today than they were early in Trump's presidency. The same is true for voters with postgraduate degrees and for White women between the ages of 18 and 39. Overall, however, voters who make up core parts of the Democratic coalition are identifying as Democrats in slightly reduced numbers.

More striking in the charts McInturff supplied are the changes among core Republican groups and others. The GOP advantage among self-identified conservatives has gone from a net of 52 points to a net of 68 points. Among voters in rural counties, the Republican margin has jumped from 18 points to 34 points.

Among men without college degrees, the Republican margin has gone from plus-six points to plus-20 points. In 2016, voters with no more than a high school degree were evenly split in their party identification. As of the end of last year, based on the NBC data, the Republicans enjoy an advantage of 17 points.

At a time when Democrats are worried about turnout and levels of support among non-White voters, the Pew study offers sobering data. Party identification among Black voters has dropped from a net Democratic margin of 83 points in 2016 to 71 points in 2023.

Something similar has happened among Hispanic voters, whose loyalty to the Democratic Party has been eroding. In NBC polling in 2016, the Democrats' margin among these voters was plus-39 points. As of 2023, it was 26 points.

It is likely that several factors account for the changes. First is the degree to which Trump has realigned the Republican Party, and with it, the shape of the overall electorate.

The former president has drawn more White working-class voters into the GOP coalition. Those voters once were considered core elements of the Democratic coalition. The erosion began many years ago (recall the term "Reagan Democrats"), but it has accelerated during the Trump years.

The urban-rural split has widened significantly since Trump became a presidential candidate in 2015. Support in rural counties wasn't enough to pull him across to victory in 2020, but if he wins in November, it will be in part because of big margins and big turnout in rural parts of swing states like Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

And then there is the erosion among Black and Hispanic voters noted earlier. Trump has big ambitions to boost his support among those voters, and the shifts in party identification give him some cause for optimism. His rally in the Bronx on Thursday was the latest indicator of his intention to compete for those voters — or at least pay lip service to the idea.

Recent polling on Black support for Trump has been mixed. Some polls with tiny sample sizes have shown him with 20 percent or more of the Black vote. A Washington Post-Ipsos poll suggested that the desire to vote is down sharply among Black voters compared with four years ago. It also showed that 74 percent of Black voters said they would "definitely" or "probably" vote for President Biden, while 14 percent said they would "definitely" or "probably" support Trump.

McInturff said he believes Trump is only part of the reason that allegiances have shifted in recent years. He sees dissatisfaction with Biden as a factor, too.

"This wouldn't have happened if we were in the middle of a successful Democratic administration," he said.

A recent CNN poll asked whether voters judged the Biden presidency as a success or a failure. In response, 61 percent said it has been a failure, while 39 percent called it a success. In contrast, 55 percent said they judged Trump's presidency to have been a success.

Biden campaign officials say "Trump amnesia" — a phenomenon of people having a too-rosy memory of Trump's tumultuous four years in office, as well as the economic downturn in the coronavirus era — is one reason the former president scored so much better. Their strategy is to change those perceptions through advertising, messaging and campaigning.

Whether it be Trump's nominations of three conservative Supreme Court justices who provided the votes to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, his false claims that the 2020 election was stolen, his role in inspiring the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol or his ongoing threats to democratic institutions, Biden's team has expressed confidence that it can remind enough voters of the totality of Trump's presidency to move the polls. The outcome of the hush money trial in New York could also factor into this strategy.

Perception of Trump's term is only one measure, however, in which Biden trails. An NBC poll released in April asked voters to compare the two candidates on a pair of attributes: "mental and physical health" and "competent and effective."

Four years ago, Biden had the advantage over Trump on competence and the two were about even on the question of having the mental and physical health to be president. Today, Trump is seen more positively than Biden on both, and by double digits.

On issues, Trump is perceived in the NBC poll as better able to handle border security, the economy, inflation, crime and violence, and improving America's standing in the world. Biden is seen as better equipped to handle health care, abortion, treating immigrants humanely and bringing the country together. But on those last two, his advantage since 2020 has declined.

The shifts in party identification in the NBC News and Pew surveys are significant at a time when party allegiance almost always translates into support for candidates from that party. If one party starts at a disadvantage, their candidates must work harder than the other party's candidates to win over independent voters.

The presidential election will turn on various factors: candidate quality and performance; campaign effectiveness in mobilizing supporters; money and organization; and voters' perceptions of whom they trust. Given how close the race between Biden and Trump has been, any of these can affect the race at the margins. If McInturff's assessment is correct, Republicans will be running on a level treadmill.



JEENAH MOON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Supporters of former president Donald Trump at his rally Thursday in the Bronx, the latest sign of his intention to compete for Black and Hispanic voters — fewer of whom are identifying as Democrats.

The Washington Post

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Special counsel seeks order to limit Trump's claims about FBI

BY DEVLIN BARRETT

Special counsel Jack Smith filed court papers Friday asking a judge to order Donald Trump not to make any further incendiary claims suggesting that FBI agents were "complicit in a plot to assassinate him."

In the filing to U.S. District Judge Aileen M. Cannon, Smith argues Trump's statements last week exposed FBI agents involved in the case "to the risk of threats, violence, and harassment."

The request capped a tumultuous week in the former president's far-reaching legal battles. He is preparing for closing arguments Tuesday in his trial in New York, and has made incendiary claims about the origins of the case against him in Florida for allegedly mishandling classified documents and obstructing government efforts to retrieve them.

The new filing underscores the intensity of the fear inside federal law enforcement agencies that someone may take inspiration from Trump's invective and attack FBI or Justice Department personnel.

The Friday filing came in response to a number of statements from Trump or his campaign, including a fundraising appeal that screamed "Biden's DOJ was authorized to shoot me!"

The claim by Trump and his supporters that FBI agents searched Trump's home in 2022 with specific authorization to use deadly force is based on the revelation in court papers last week that the bureau used a standard FBI document during the search of Mar-a-Lago. The document explains long-standing FBI policies; much like police officers, FBI agents are essentially always authorized to use deadly force when it is necessary and legally justified, and when they are operating in the United States.

Trump and his supporters seized on some of the paperwork surrounding the August 2022 search at Mar-a-Lago for classified documents to argue that government agents were secretly trying or hoping to use lethal force against him.

In fact, people familiar with the investigation have previously told The Washington Post that the FBI deliberately chose to conduct the search at a time when Trump was not there, and some of their planning took into account a desire to avoid any confrontation or confusion with the Secret Service agents who were assigned to secure his home. These people spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe internal deliberations.

Trump and some of his supporters, including right-wing podcaster Stephen K. Bannon, have tried to make the search sound like some sort of aspirational assassination plot.

"It's just been revealed that Biden's DOJ was authorized to use DEADLY FORCE for their DESPICABLE raid in Mar-a-Lago," Trump declared in a fundraising appeal last week. "You know that they're just itching to do the unthinkable."

In the new court filing, Smith asks Cannon "to make clear that [Trump] may not make statements that pose a significant, imminent, and foreseeable danger to law enforcement agents participating in the investigation and prosecution of this case," adding that a warning from the court is necessary because of "several intentionally false and inflammatory statements recently made by Trump that distort the circumstances under which the Federal Bureau of Investigation planned and executed the search warrant at Mar-a-Lago."

Smith's filing notes that prosecutors contacted Trump's lawyers but his lawyers "do not believe that there is any imminent danger, and asked to meet and confer next Monday."

While facing four separate indictments, and on trial in New York, Trump has been subject to several court orders limiting his public statements, because of false claims he has made against court personnel, relatives of court personnel, witnesses and others connected to his cases.

Smith's new request does not explicitly seek a gag order, but the kind of warning he describes would serve much the same function.

"A restriction prohibiting future similar statements does not restrict legitimate speech," the special counsel wrote. "Trump's conditions of release should therefore be modified to prohibit similar communications going forward."

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Justice Alito's wife remarked on upside-down flag in 2021

Martha-Ann Alito had told Post reporter that it was 'signal of distress'

BY JUSTIN JOUVENAL AND ANN E. MARIMOW

The wife of Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. told a Washington Post reporter in January 2021 that an upside-down American flag recently flown on their flagpole was "an international signal of distress" and indicated that it had been raised in response to a neighborhood dispute.

Martha-Ann Alito made the comments when the reporter went to the couple's Fairfax County, Va., home to follow up on a tip about the flag, which was no longer flying when he arrived.

The incident documented by reporter Robert Barnes, who covered the Supreme Court for The Post for 17 years and retired last year, offers fresh details about the raising of the flag and the first account of comments about it by the justice's wife.

The Post decided not to report on the episode at the time because the flag-raising appeared to be the work of Martha-Ann Alito, rather than the justice, and connected to a dispute with her neighbors, a Post spokeswoman said. It was not clear then that the argument was rooted in politics, the spokeswoman said.

The upside-down flag has long been a sign of distress for the military and protest by various political factions. In the fraught weeks before and after the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, it had also been adopted by supporters of the "Stop the Steal" movement, which embraced Donald Trump's false claims that the election was stolen from him. Some of the rioters who participated in the attack had carried upside-down American flags with them.

The display of the politically charged symbol outside the Alitos' home became a public controversy this month after the New York Times reported on it, raising new ethics questions for the Supreme Court as it prepares to issue pivotal rulings in two cases related to efforts by Trump and his supporters to block Biden's 2020 election victory.

Alito said in a statement to the Times that he had no involvement in the flag being flown at his home, which he said was briefly raised by his wife in response to a neighbor's use of "objectionable and personally insulting language on yard signs."

The Post subsequently reported on May 17 that residents said the flag was raised following a heated confrontation between Martha-Ann Alito and a neighbor over political yard signs, one of which carried a profane anti-Trump message and another that carried a message along the lines of "you are complicit." One resident, who like the others spoke on the condition of anonymity to protect their privacy in a sensitive situation, said the flag flew for between two and five days.

Samuel Alito told Fox News on May 17 that the signs attacked his wife directly. Martha-Ann Alito has not publicly commented on the recent reports.

On Jan. 20, 2021 — the day of Biden's inauguration, which the Alitos did not attend — Barnes went to their home to follow up on the tip about the flag. He encountered the couple coming out of the house. Martha-Ann Alito was visibly upset by his presence, demanding that he "get off my property."

As he described the information he was seeking, she yelled, "It's an international signal of distress!"

Alito intervened and directed his wife into a car parked in their driveway, where they had been headed on their way out of the neighborhood. The justice denied the flag was hung upside down as a political protest, saying it stemmed from a neighborhood dispute and indicating that his wife had raised it.

Martha-Ann Alito then got out of the car and shouted in apparent reference to the neighbors: "Ask them what they did!" She said yard signs about the couple had been placed in the neighborhood. After getting back in the car, she exited again and then brought out from their residence a novelty flag, the type that would typically decorate a garden. She hoisted it up the flagpole. "There! Is that better?" she yelled.

Later that week, Samuel Alito issued a statement to The Post in response to written questions about whether it was his decision to fly the flag and whether it was flown to protest the election results, reflect concern about the state of the country or something else.

"I had no involvement whatsoever in the flying of the flag," he said, using wording almost identical to the statement provided to the Times. "It was placed by Mrs. Alito solely in response to a neighbor's use of objectionable and personally insulting language on yard signs."

Since the Times article, dozens of Democratic lawmakers and some legal experts have called for the justice to recuse himself from the 2020 election-related cases, saying the upside-down flag outside his home raises questions about his impartiality or creates the appearance of bias. He has drawn rebukes from some Republicans as well.

The spotlight intensified Thursday after a second Times article reported that a different flag, embraced by some Christian nationalists who want to bring religion into American government and also carried by Jan. 6 rioters, has been flown outside the Alitos' vacation home in New Jersey in recent months and years. Three people who live or vacation in Long Beach Island, N.J., told The Post on Friday that the "Appeal to Heaven" flag was on display there last summer, and provided photos of it. The Post also found an image of the flag at the property on Google Maps.

In Virginia, a neighbor who lives down the street from the Alitos told The Post on May 17 that her adult daughter had placed the protest signs that prompted the dispute with Martha-Ann Alito outside her home in the weeks after the 2020 election. Martha-Ann Alito and the neighbor's daughter clashed over the signs in January 2021, both the mother and a second neighbor said. The daughter, who now lives on the West Coast, declined an interview request.

The Alitos did not respond to requests for comment from The Post in recent days about the neighbors' accounts or the two flag controversies.

The scrutiny of Martha-Ann Alito, 70, comes two years after another Supreme Court spouse — Virginia "Ginni" Thomas — made headlines for her political activism connected to the 2020 election. After reports that Ginni Thomas was among those pushing Trump administration officials to overturn Biden's victory, Democrats called for Justice Clarence Thomas to recuse himself from election-related cases, a demand he has ignored in all but one case.

The recusal statute standard that applies to federal judges and justices is not limited to actual bias — it also includes the appearance of bias. For that reason, some court experts and retired judges said in interviews that both Alito and Thomas should recuse from the Jan. 6-related cases because of their wives' actions.

Outside of his home in 2021, Alito indicated that the flag was his wife's doing — not his — noting that they live together in the house and that the spouses of justices are free to express their opinions.

Retired federal judge Nancy Gertner, now a professor at Harvard Law School, said in an interview last week that she is pleased that spouses of judges and justices are not expected to stay silent. But when a partner's views encroach on cases before the justice's courtroom or their shared home, she added, it's a very different situation.

The "notion that [Justice Alito] let it happen or didn't pay attention is extraordinary," Gertner said. "He understood the context. They were having a political battle, and this was a political statement."

"If Alito and Thomas spell the difference between one outcome or another, that would be simply outrageous," she said of the cases related to the 2020 election and the Jan. 6 attack. One case deals with whether Trump may be criminally prosecuted for his efforts to remain in office after losing the election. The other asks whether the Justice Department can use an obstruction charge to prosecute more than 300 Jan. 6 rioters. Decisions are expected by the end of June.

During Gertner's tenure on the federal bench in Massachusetts, her husband was legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, a legal advocacy group. No one connected to the ACLU could file a brief or argue a case before her, she said, and her work as a judge meant no political symbols could ever be displayed at their home.

If her husband had tried to put up a sign or flag at their house in response to something a neighbor displayed on their block that was inconsistent with or critical of his civil liberties work, Gertner added: "One of two things would have happened: A) a divorce and B) surely recusal."

Martha-Ann Alito is known to have strong political opinions in private settings but has not been politically active in the way that Ginni Thomas has been, several people who know the Alitos said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss their interactions. Campaign finance records show that in 2020 she made a $250 political donation to a Republican Senate candidate from Virginia, earmarked through the Republican fundraising platform WinRed.

One neighbor recalled a conversation with Martha-Ann Alito that turned to abortion after her husband wrote the majority opinion overturning *Roe v. Wade* in 2022. The neighbor, who described himself as a liberal, told her it was a difficult issue. He said Martha-Ann Alito responded flatly: "It's not that difficult at all."

The *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision, which eliminated the nationwide right to abortion after nearly 50 years, led to protesters showing up at the homes of conservative justices including Alito, adding to the polarization and strain that his neighbors said has descended onto their cul-de-sac in recent years.

"She's passionate," said the man who talked to Martha-Ann Alito about abortion.

Martha-Ann Bomgardner was a law librarian in the office of the U.S. attorney in New Jersey when she met Alito, who worked as a federal prosecutor in the appellate section from 1977 to 1981. Despite Alito's many trips to the library, he did not ask her out for more than a year, Martha-Ann told The Post in 2006, ahead of the justice's confirmation hearing.

"He is judicious," she said then.

The couple married in 1985, after Alito had relocated to Washington to serve as an assistant to the solicitor general during the Reagan administration. They have two grown children.

Martha-Ann Alito has spoken publicly about being raised in a military family and her work for homeless veterans. Her father served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, a role that sometimes required him to be away for lengthy stints. She was born at Fort Knox, the military base in Kentucky.

At the University of Kentucky, she studied comparative literature and received a master's degree in library science. During a 2010 speech at her alma mater, she expressed frustration with the national media and reporters who had descended on the couple's street to interview neighbors and family during the confirmation process.

She described "daily ad hominem attacks" against her husband, according to an article about the speech in the Lexington Herald-Leader, saying they "bordered on the ridiculous."

Aaron Schaffer contributed to this report.



CHARLES DHARAPAK/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr., left, is congratulated by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. after being sworn in on Feb. 1, 2006, at the White House. Alito's wife, Martha-Ann, and son Phil stand beside the two men.



OBTAINED BY THE WASHINGTON POST

An "Appeal to Heaven" flag flying at a home owned by the Alitos in New Jersey.

MEMORIAL DAY RUG SALE

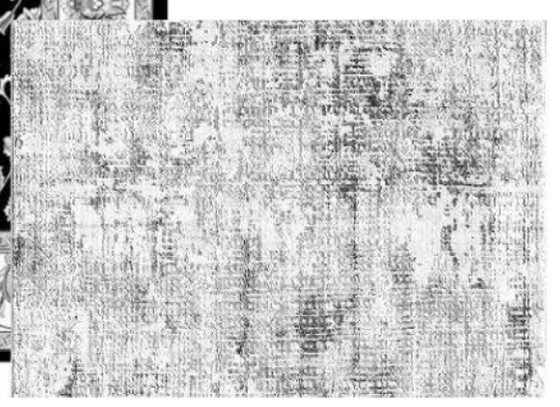
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ISRAEL-GAZA WAR

U.N. chief 'trusts' Israel will comply with order from ICJ

However, Israeli officials indicated they would continue Rafah operation

BY KELSEY ABLES AND VICTORIA BISSET

The International Court of Justice ruled Friday that Israel must "immediately halt" its military operation in Rafah, citing "exceptionally grave" developments there, in a high-profile rebuke of Israel's war in Gaza.

U.N. chief António Guterres "trusts" that Israel will comply with the ruling, his spokesman Stéphane Dujarric said Friday. Although Guterres "has no crystal ball," Dujarric noted that U.N. member states have a duty under the body's charter and the World Court's statutes to abide by the decision.

Orders from the ICJ are legally binding but can be difficult to enforce. Israeli officials indicated that they would continue military operations in Rafah and said allegations by South Africa, which brought the case to the ICJ, that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza are "false, outrageous and disgusting."

Immediately after the ruling, there were no signs of a pause in fighting, with Palestinians reporting strikes in Rafah while video and images emerged of smoke rising over the city. In a Saturday update, the Israel Defense Forces said "operational activity in specific areas of Rafah" continued on Friday, including "close-quarters combat."

It is not clear how the ICJ ruling will impact the situation on the ground in Rafah. The court's orders must be enforced by the U.N. Security Council, whose five permanent members, including the United States, can veto resolutions. And even among the 13 of the 15 judges who voted in favor of a provisional measure, there were some differences in opinion over how the ruling should be interpreted.

South African judge Dire Tladi wrote that the continuation of Israeli military operations in Rafah, with the exception of "legitimate defensive actions … to repel specific attacks," were not permitted under the order. However, Romanian judge Bogdan-Lucian Aurescu wrote that the order to halt Israel's military offensive in Rafah only applied "to the extent that it 'may inflict on the Palestinian group in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.'"

At one point, the majority of Gaza's population had sought refuge in Rafah, but more than 800,000 have fled the southern city in the past few weeks, according to the U.N. humanitarian agency. Israel's military operation in the city is taking place despite widespread global criticism.

The Biden administration has not formally responded to the ICJ ruling. The administration has straddled a delicate line on Israel's military actions in Rafah, stressing its opposition to a full-scale offensive there while also stating that its "red line" has not been crossed — a position that has brought it criticism from lawmakers on both sides.

Friday's ruling is part of a broader case brought by South Africa, that accuses Israel of violating the Genocide Convention. Israel has rejected the genocide charges and has said its military action is "in accordance with its right to defend its territory and its citizens" and does not breach international law.

South Africa welcomed Friday's ruling. In a statement, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said Palestinians are facing "collective punishment for something for which they have no individual responsibility."

A spokesperson for Egypt's Foreign Affairs Ministry called the decision a "positive step" toward safeguarding the rights of the Palestinian people.

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, wrote on social media Saturday that ICJ orders are binding and must be "fully and effectively implemented."



PETER DEJONG/AP

Journalists photograph the Israeli legal team at the International Court of Justice in The Hague on Friday. The court ruled that Israel must "immediately halt" its military operation in Rafah.

Here's what else to know

Four U.S. Army vessels supporting the U.S.-built pier in Gaza were impacted by rough seas overnight, U.S. Central Command said Saturday. Two of the vessels are beached on the Israeli coast, while two others are anchored by the pier, according to Centcom. "No injuries have been reported and the pier remains fully functional," Centcom added in its statement.

Italy's Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani agreed to reinstate funding to the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, Italian media reported Saturday, months after a number of countries suspended contributions over Israeli allegations that several of UNRWA staff members took part in the Hamas attack on Israel on Oct. 7. According to Italian media, Tajani said after a meeting with the Palestinian Authority's Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa that his government had approved 35 million euros ($38 million) in additional funding for Palestinians, including 5 million euros for UNRWA, which would be subject to "rigorous checks."

Egypt agreed to temporarily lift its ban on aid passing through its territory that would enter Gaza via Israel, Cairo and Washington announced Friday. The Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt has been the main thoroughfare for aid during the war, but that flow has virtually ceased since Israel took control of the Palestinian side earlier this month. Egypt responded by prohibiting international humanitarian aid from transiting its territory on its way to the Israeli-controlled Kerem Shalom crossing, the only other entry point into southern Gaza.

The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees warned that the border crossing closures have already had a serious impact. "Certain laboratory and dental items and vaccines are out of stock," with "antibiotics for children and anti-epileptic drugs" also affected, as disruptions at the crossings meant U.N. health centers received no medical supplies for 12 days straight, UNRWA said in a Friday update.

The U.N. Security Council on Friday adopted a resolution condemning rising attacks on humanitarian workers and agency personnel. The resolution, which did not name any country in particular, demands that "all parties" to a conflict comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law. It passed with 14 members voting in favor and Russia abstaining.

At least 35,903 people have been killed and 80,420 injured in Gaza since the war began, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and combatants but says the majority of the dead are women and children. Israel estimates that about 1,200 people were killed in Hamas's Oct. 7 attack, including more than 300 soldiers, and says 282 soldiers have been killed since the launch of its military operation in Gaza.

Cate Brown, Hazem Balousha, Jarrett Ley, Louisa Loveluck and Ellen Francis contributed to this report.

U.S. silent as rebuke of Israel grows

ISRAEL FROM A1

Israeli actions in Gaza risk genocide.

The court, a branch of the United Nations, has no mechanism to enforce its orders, which must be voted on by the U.N. Security Council, where the United States has veto power. Some international law experts have described the ICJ order as less than binding in any case, since under the court's own rules the finding remains "provisional" until there is an evidentiary hearing on the merits of the charges brought before it by South Africa. That process could be at least a year away.

But even without a substantive effect, the ruling serves to further isolate Israel — and the United States, as its principal military and diplomatic backer — from world opinion.

"We should all recognize that this is a turning in a very negative direction, and the United States is becoming very isolated because people are starting to equate its support with aiding and abetting illegal action," said Harold Hongju Koh, the Sterling professor of international law at Yale Law School and former State Department legal adviser in the Obama administration.

"Remember that the 13 countries in the majority" decision of the 15-member court "include major European Union countries, as well as the Middle East and Africa," Koh said. The White House "can't ignore the political message this is sending."

The two dissenting votes on the court came from Julia Sebutinde, a Ugandan jurist, and from Israel's Aharon Barak, the former head of Israel's Supreme Court. Barak argued, according to a court-written summary, that the order was a "qualified" one that does not prevent Israel from continuing its offensive because, among other things, there is "no evidence of intent" to commit genocide. He also argued, as the court has acknowledged, that it was Hamas that began the war with its Oct. 7 attack against Israel. "Against this background," he said, the court "cannot order one party to stop, while the other is free to continue."

But much of the rest of the world does not see it that way. Even before the ICJ ruling, the E.U. had urged Israel to stop the Rafah offensive, warning that its continuance "would inevitably put a heavy strain on the E.U.'s relationship with Israel," the group's foreign policy chief said on May 15.

The ruling came at the end of a week in which international criticism of Israel reached a crescendo. The prosecutor for the International Criminal Court — a treaty tribunal to which neither the United States nor Israel belongs — called on that court to issue warrants for the arrest of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant if they set foot in any of its 124 member countries.



EYAD BABA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Smoke in Rafah. The Biden administration has sharply rejected comparisons between the Israel-Gaza and Russia-Ukraine wars.

Three European countries — Norway, Spain and Ireland — said they would join the 140 nations that already recognize Palestine as a state.

Meanwhile, as the ICJ called on Israel to provide "unhindered provision … of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance," aid organizations used increasingly alarmist terms to describe how the Rafah offensive has worsened the situation inside Gaza.

"As feared, it has been a tragedy beyond words," Martin Griffiths, the U.N. undersecretary general for humanitarian affairs, said in a statement Friday. It has "displaced more than 800,000 people … cut off the flow of aid into southern Gaza and crippled a humanitarian operation already stretched beyond its breaking point."

"Though Israel dismissed the international community's appeals to spare Rafah, the global clamor for an immediate stop to this offensive has grown too loud to ignore," Griffiths said. "This is a moment of clarity. It is a moment to demand respect for the rules of war to which all are bound."

Even as it has continued to describe the Rafah offensive as "limited," the administration has reflected rising worries. "We had two concerns about a Rafah operation," said David Satterfield, who served the first six months of the war as the administration's on-the-ground envoy for humanitarian concerns and remains a State Department adviser.

"The first was the consequences" of displacing up to 1.5 million people who had crowded in and around Rafah, Gaza's southernmost city, most of them fleeing from fighting further north. Once Israel shifted the war there, "where would they go? How would they receive humanitarian support, shelter, water, food, medical support," Satterfield said, speaking Friday at a conversation hosted by the Council on Foreign Relations.

"The second concern was that the act of a kinetic operation, limited or not" would see the mass evacuation of Gazans and "all of this would conflict with the logistical, physical ability to move assistance. Regrettably, all of those concerns, which we had outlined to the government of Israel at the highest levels of state, have come to pass."

Israel's seizure of the critical Rafah crossing has seen aid to southern Gaza virtually cease. Growing U.S. concern about the humanitarian situation led President Biden on Friday to call Egyptian President Abdel Fatah El-Sisi to ask for help. Sisi agreed to allow aid transiting Egypt to travel to Israel's nearby Kerem Shalom crossing and extracted a promise from Biden to try to negotiate an agreement on reopening Rafah.

But that stopgap measure, along with the U.S. military's construction of a temporary pier to deliver assistance directly along the central Gaza coast, is unlikely to change the international politics or the reality on the ground, absent a halt in the Israeli offensive that started in eastern Rafah and has progressed steadily westward.

"My sense is that they're operating a bit further west in the evacuation zones right now and more evacuation orders are probably coming," Scott Anderson, the deputy director in Gaza of UNRWA, the main U.N. aid agency, said in an interview Friday. "And I think that perhaps the fighting is going to take place in the western half of the city proper."

In the absence of an immediate solution, the administration has returned to what has long been its preferred effort to halt the fighting — a temporary truce with Hamas that would allow the release of hostages and a massive increase in humanitarian aid. That effort, which began months ago, largely collapsed earlier this month when Hamas and Israel rejected each other's amendments to a deal negotiated under the auspices of the United States, Egypt and Qatar.

This weekend, CIA Director William J. Burns, who has been the chief U.S. negotiator, met in Paris with his Israeli counterpart and Qatar's prime minister in an effort to revive the initiative. No results of the meeting were immediately released.

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PHOTOS BY JENN ACKERMAN AND TIM GRUBER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

GEORGE FLOYD FROM **A1**

take long before I realized that at the heart of your inquiry was something fundamental to understanding my own journey in the years since Floyd was killed.

On one hand, our book about his life had received acclaim and accolades, including the 2023 Pulitzer Prize in general nonfiction. On the other hand, we faced racist online campaigns to discredit our work, and well-meaning event attendees who asked us if the contrast between our successes as Black men and Floyd's demise proved that racism was not the real problem.

The dichotomy reflected what was happening throughout the country, where the racial reckoning sparked by Floyd's death seemed at risk of being washed away by waves of retrenchment and fatigue.

While we were in Memphis, we learned that the city's efforts to enact police accountability measures would be reversed by the state legislature in the coming days.

Such erosion — also evident in schools, boardrooms, courtrooms and statehouses across the country — has further called into question the nation's appetite for change at the pace at which it arrived in the summer and fall of 2020.

ROBERT: I figured I was spending too much time inside my head, so I decided to make some phone calls to people who I thought might help me understand just what was happening. I reached out to a former member of the school board in Shenandoah County, Va., named Cyndy Walsh. Walsh had returned to civilian life, but in 2020, she was a member of a school board that agreed to rename Stonewall Jackson High School to Mountain View High School. The removal of Confederate names and iconography was popular at the time, but four years later, the school board had six new members. And in May, the new board voted to re-rename the county's southernmost high school after the proslavery general and American insurrectionist.

Walsh told me the reversal was both "astonishing" and "expected." Conservatives had been organizing over the past four years to seize control of the school board. And they began making arguments that Walsh thought completely obfuscated the issue. Rather than debating the name itself, members harped on what they called a hasty decision-making period — two months — that they said could not possibly have been long enough to solicit good feedback.

There were hours of public comment on the night of the recent vote, and most residents implored the school board to keep the Mountain View name. They noted that the Stonewall Jackson name was not honoring a local hero; he was not even from their county. The name emerged in 1959 during a period of massive resistance to integration, as a way to intimidate Black students. That didn't matter. At the meeting, one supporter of the Jackson name simply noted: "I don't like the name Mountain View. It's too generic, and it's boring."

Nonetheless, Walsh wondered if this new school board had a point. Maybe they would have received more support if they had slowed down the process. This was the hindsight on 2020. Back then, Walsh told me, the school board felt an urgency to do something. "Everything seemed to speed up at that time," she said.

I could not help but think that this local debate — even in a county that is more than 90 percent White — was a reflection of the larger recoil from the George Floyd summer. Walsh cautioned me that things might not be so simple.

"This isn't over," she told me.

She could not stop thinking about the discomfort an all-Black school would have playing a basketball game against the Generals of Stonewall Jackson High. And she did not feel that the stubbornness of some members of her community, be they the majority or not, was reason enough to stifle necessary change. So Walsh planned to keep fighting. "It's the right thing to do," she told me.

There was another person that I knew who did not grow up too far from Shenandoah County: Jacob Frey, Minneapolis's mayor during the Floyd protests. When I first met Frey in 2021, he was facing an uncertain political future. He had initially earned plaudits for his swift call to fire Derek Chauvin, the officer who had placed his knee on Floyd's neck, and three officers who had held Floyd down. But soon, protesters would march to his home and demand he commit to abolishing the police department. When Frey told them he was not a police abolitionist, the crowd of hundreds booed and cursed him.

In retrospect, Frey told me, the past years had taught him to be a better listener — and to "take a beat." It turned out that the vast majority of people in Minneapolis did not want to abolish the police department and supported his decisions to add behavioral health consultants to the force. He was reelected.

And then, I called someone who had been among the protesters outside Frey's home. Donald Hooker Jr. was a chess coach who devoted himself to activism after Floyd's death. Hooker had been to so many protests that he no longer felt affected when police sprayed tear gas. He had believed that protesters needed to try new tactics to facilitate change, so he did not mind when they burned down a police station and surrounded the car of a councilwoman until she signed a piece of paper demanding the abolition of the police department. Four years after his activism started, Hooker knew that none of those tactics produced the change he dreamed was possible.

"The police are still killing us," he told me. Last November, Hooker stopped attending protests altogether. "I was getting so sad and burned out that I couldn't come home and do all the normal things," he said. "I kept thinking how we haven't had lasting change; what we got is crumbs."

Hooker told me he started to invest in joy. For him, that meant hosting a community chess club and sponsoring a Super Smash Bros. video game tournament during Black History Month. I asked him if all his protesting had been for naught. He gave me one of the pauses that made me feel like I'd lost my mind. "Change is going to happen," he said. "The status quo is unsustainable. I don't have doubts that we are going to win. I only have doubts if I'm going to be alive to see the victory."

They were three different voices from three different perspectives, but there were so many similarities in their conclusions. All three say they are now less impulsive than in the immediate aftermath of Floyd's death, stressing the importance of attracting more people to their cause. They wished they had taken more time to reflect during the manic rush for change. And none of them thought this chapter of American history was over.

TOLUSE: That sentiment has been echoed in some of the conversations I've been having as well.

Not long after our book about George Floyd was banned from that Memphis high school, we were invited to return to the city for a program that organizers described as a "truth-telling event" aimed at countering the sense of retrogression on issues of equity.

One of the people who spoke on the panel with us was Cornell Williams Brooks, a former head of the NAACP, who told attendees in spirited tones that the activism that followed Floyd's death would not so easily be extinguished.

Months later, as I grappled with the question of which way the arc of the moral universe was bending at this moment in American history, I gave him a call to get his thoughts.

He did not mince his words as he lamented that many of the more ambitious ideas for nudging the country closer to equality — including reparations for descendants of the enslaved and strong new protections for voting rights — have largely faded from the public conversation. And he pointed out that police killings, disproportionately of Black men, have continued unabated in the years since Floyd's murder sparked calls for overhauling policing. But that did not mean the street demonstrations of 2020 were a failure, he said.

"The lack of progress is not so much an indictment of mass mobilization and popular protests as it is a commentary on the sophistication of the forces of retrenchment in this country," he said, noting the gap in power and resources between those aiming to preserve the status quo and those determined to change it.

"The public is keeping score," he added, predicting that the nation is bound to face another tipping point on race in the near future. "You never know what death, what murder, what instance of injustice and inhumanity will precipitate not just mass mobilization and political protests but also electoral change."

ROBERT: People often ask if we feel like we carry the legacy of George Floyd with us. I tell them it would be presumptuous of us to think so. We are but reporters with a pen and a pad and a tape recorder; Floyd was loved and beloved by his friends and family, who are the true holders of his legacy.

But I think it's impossible to ignore what living with his story, and documenting the aftermath of his death, has done to me. I, too, hope for a future in which I do not have to live with the fear that a police officer might kill me unjustifiably, which I've had for most of my life. I, too, dream of an America in which folks' biases do not impede anyone's ability to attain their most American dreams. After all the research that we did about the lingering force of systemic racism, I yearn for its eradication even more.

Now when I read about acts of racism, I find myself uttering affirmations about moral arcs to calm down. I pride myself on being a patient and open-minded journalist, but get annoyed and aggrieved when readers approach us spewing a horrific lie that Floyd died of a drug overdose, even after the world saw footage of a police officer cutting off his oxygen supply for almost 10 minutes. And during the murder trial against Derek Chauvin, Martin Tobin, one of the world's foremost experts on breathing, explained that Floyd's body did not show any of the telltale signs of a death by overdose.

I think about how nine years passed between Rosa Parks refusing to give up her seat and the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, and become more astonished by those activists' persistence. Nine years. So many people who were animated to help end racial injustice after Floyd's death told me how tired they already felt after four.

As we continued to talk to people about the book, I began having conversations with an 82-year-old man named Charles Person. Person was one of the original Freedom Riders, the group of young people who boarded buses in the early 1960s to integrate bus stops, bathrooms and lunch counters along the highway system.

Person and other Freedom Riders had been forced to escape firebombed buses and had been beaten by mobs, experiences that still bring him to inconsolable tears. Even so, he gets on Zoom meetings to speak with activists in Atlanta.

His relationship to the civil rights era was so different from what I learned in the history books. For Person, that period never ended. When I asked him what kept him going, he told me he thought of his enslaved ancestors who never got a chance to stop going. History propelled him.

My interactions with Person forced me to reexamine the fatalism I had detected among so many. I was haunted by my early interactions in the summer of 2021 with Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz (D), who was already questioning whether he could do anything more to reduce the gulf between the lives of Black people and White people in his state. Legislators did not seem interested in expansive criminal justice reform amid police shortages, and the Black families whom he had

PERSPECTIVE

Reflections on the retrenchment of the racial-justice push



FROM TOP: George Floyd Square in Minneapolis, and the Say Their Names Cemetery near George Floyd Square in Minneapolis. The backlash against the movement feels more enduring than the reckoning itself, one reporter said.

befriended were losing faith in his commitment.

"I feel like I failed" them, Walz told me at the time. "We may not get another shot at this."

When I spoke to him last week, though, Walz told me he had learned that his persistence was important in the aftermath. He had some success establishing diversity programs, finding more money for minority businesses and enacting other reforms that he said were helping to reduce some of the country's most glaring racial disparities. Inequality was decreasing, he believed.

"We've learned not to do the Minnesota thing, which is to look at disparities, say, 'Oh that's too bad,' then go and eat pie," Walz said. I told him I was surprised to hear such a sunny outlook from him, given his pessimism after the legislative session in 2021.

"Robert," he said to me, "That was … trauma."

TOLUSE: I've often wondered how George Floyd himself would have reacted to this moment. The Floyd we learned about had many reasons to be fatalistic but rejected the idea that redemption was too far out of reach.

When Floyd confided to friends that he "was in a dark place," it was never from a sense of hopelessness. He often confronted hard times by bucking himself up and charting a path forward. "I just need a hand to get to the light," he told one friend after admitting his despair, seeking help to get into a rehab program. "But life never ever sucks," he wrote in a poem in the spring of 2020, stricken with covid and struggling financially but determined to embrace hope.

And even as he made and acknowledged his fair share of mistakes in life — mistakes compounded by the prevalence of systemic racism — Floyd constantly held onto the belief that the American Dream was still possible for someone like him.

That same belief drove millions of people into the streets in the summer of 2020, seeking justice and reform after his killing. Much of the activism was channeled toward that year's presidential election. For many of the marchers we spoke to, the choice in November was clear. Then-candidate Joe Biden had visited with the Floyd family, took a knee in solidarity with the protesters and unveiled a racial-justice agenda that championed many of their priorities. President Donald Trump, by contrast, had called the activists "thugs" and pledged to unleash the full force of the U.S. military to quash their movement. When Trump was defeated, many of the same protesters took to the streets again, this time in celebration.

But four years later, the sense of clarity and relief has been replaced by a growing sense of disillusionment, both with the rematch between the two candidates and the broader political system. Only 62 percent of Black Americans now say they're "absolutely certain to vote," down from 74 percent in June 2020, according to a Washington Post-Ipsos poll conducted last month. The 12-percentage-point drop outpaced the four-point drop among Americans overall, from 72 percent to 68 percent. Concerns about the economy, inflation, the war in Gaza and the halting pace of racial progress have driven some to consider backing Trump, voting for a third-party candidate or staying home.

Biden told us in 2021 that the battle between America's ideals and its troubled racial history "is never a rout, it's always a fight." As the country gears up for a presidential rematch in November, the outcome could hinge on whether that message resonates with Americans who are questioning whether the fight is worth it.

When I asked Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) how he is grappling with that question after his attempts to pass bipartisan legislation on policing failed, he said disengaging could not be an option.

"This process is slow and painful, and as activists, we encounter setbacks that are meant to discourage our search for progress," he said. "But we cannot give up. I have not given up."

ROBERT: One week after we left Memphis, George Floyd's brother, Philonise, joined the mothers of Eric Garner and Trayvon Martin, as well as the parents of Tyre Nichols, on a panel. Philonise praised state and municipal governments that had passed measures to ban chokeholds like the one that killed his brother, and bemoaned how disengaged federal lawmakers had become on this topic.

Still, Philonise encouraged the audience to continue pushing; there is little more than they can do but that. Over and over again, Tolu, I often found inspiration that so many have not given up on the American promise.

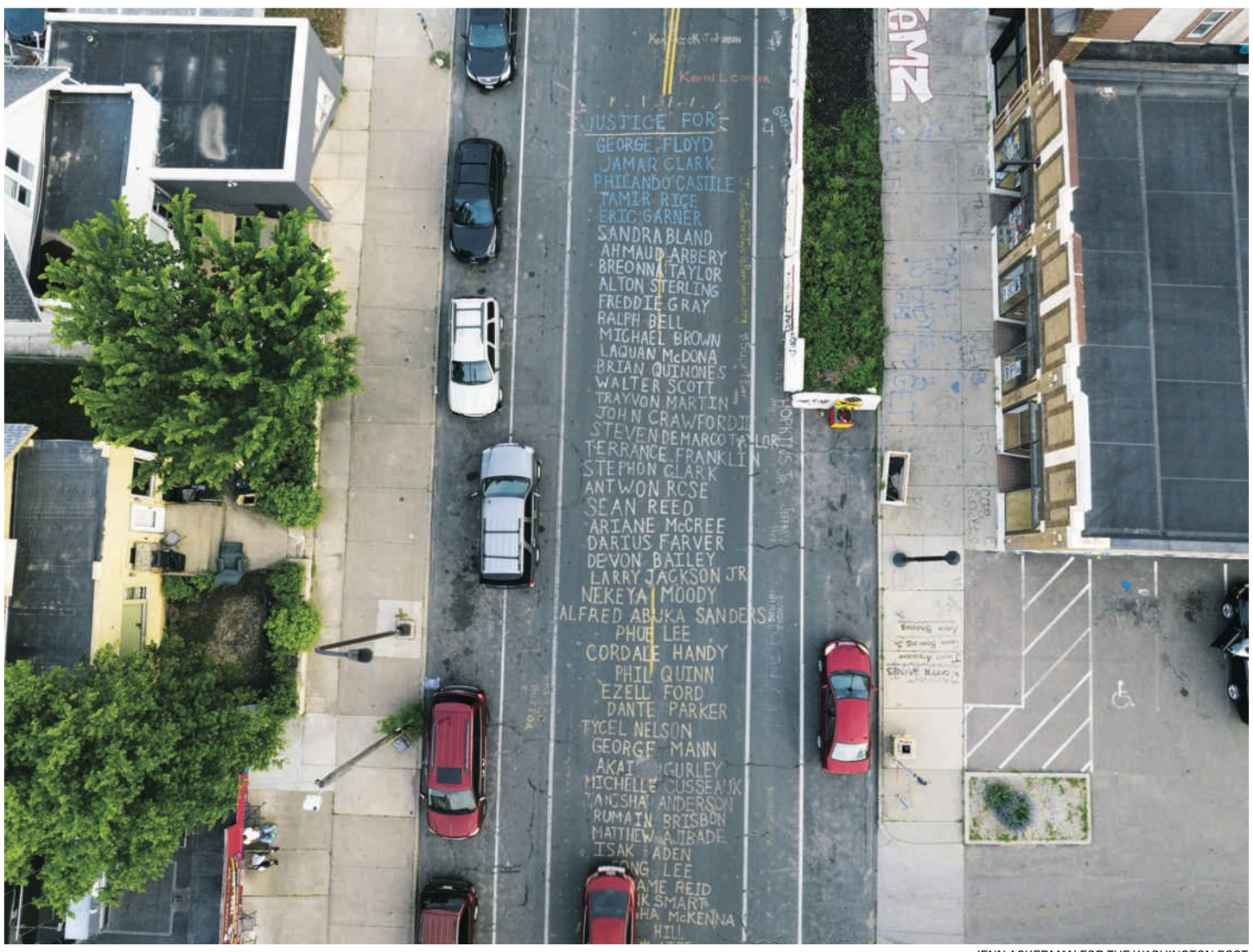
Over the course of our reporting, I came to believe this: Pessimism is the ultimate American privilege. It is the feeling held most easily by those whose lives would still be functional, and maybe even satisfactory, if nothing changed.

And it is the feeling so often rejected by those who have the least, who, like George Floyd, wake up each day in hopes that a better tomorrow might be possible. This form of American hope was a defense mechanism, but it was also an engine that kept them engaged in the world.

I often return to George Floyd's final actions as an act of remarkable faith. On May 25, 2020, he woke up on a day he did not know he would die. As he took his last gasps under the knee of a police officer, realizing his time on Earth was coming to end, he told his story through a weakened, strained voice. He decried the actions of the officer as coldblooded, cried out to his mother, and then he repeated over and over again, to his children and to his friends, that he loved them.

Before we started reporting, it was easy for us to presume that Floyd's words were incidental. They were not. The three words people associated him most would not be "I can't breathe." He would constantly say to people, "I love you." And, for a flickering summer, those expressions of love seemed to change the world. The expression of his heart meant something, and it fueled a movement that he would never get to witness.

When I was a college student, I took inspiration from Joan Didion. The title of one of her anthologies became one of my favorite aphorisms: "We Tell Ourselves Stories in Order to Live." These four years have taught me that we simply don't tell stories in order to live; we tell stories because we get to live. And in living, there is always chance that the moral arc — if there is one — can bend toward a better world. And in that possibility, there is still an opportunity the country will, one day, live up to its own ideals.



JENN ACKERMAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

An aerial view of George Floyd Square in Minneapolis. In one example of a reversal, a school board in Virginia with six new members voted to reverse the 2020 renaming of Stonewall Jackson High School.

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MILWAUKEE FROM **A1**



PHOTOS BY SARAH L. VOISIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Kevin Solomon, a community organizer with the advocacy group Common Ground of Southeastern Wisconsin, leads a meeting at College Court. Kevin organized residents to regain access to the College Court patio, the only outdoor space available for them to gather. Part of his end goal was to help build a tenant-led movement in public housing.

Tenants find patio padlocked after raising issues



ABOVE: Kevin tries to open a stuck patio door at Mitchell Court, another Milwaukee public housing development. BELOW: He takes video testimony from a public housing resident who went to the emergency room after a bedbug infestation.



can't all talk at once," said Charlene Bell, 55, from the back of the room.

Peaches, as Charlene was called, was one of the tenants rallying others to demand changes. Although she moved haltingly without her walker, Peaches spoke with a firmness and clarity that forced others to react. Scrappy by nature, she burned with the belief that things could get better if people worked together, and Kevin saw in her the makings of a great organizing partner.

The group quieted down for a moment before the din of shouting erupted once again.

"Another woman got attacked coming back from dialysis!"

"My ceiling has been leaking for two months!"

"There is no evening security anymore!"

For the past year, Kevin had gone door to door in public housing developments across the city as an organizer for a small advocacy group called Common Ground of Southeastern Wisconsin. Tenants complained to him about units without any heating, about fire alarms that rang for hours, about bedbug infestations. Most startling were the violent threats posed by drug dealers and trespassers who moved freely through the buildings, and — especially since the pandemic — volatile newcomers with mental health issues who were younger and stronger than the physically disabled seniors historically given preference for public housing.

One week before this latest meeting, on March 6, Kevin had drafted an email signed by 21 College Court tenants that summarized their frustrations and suggested solutions, which included hiring two security guards to patrol the building at night. The message was addressed to Willie Hines, the housing authority's executive director, and forwarded to city leaders, federal bureaucrats and national politicians.

Instead of a response, the residents had awoken a few days later to find a padlock on the gate to the building's patio, limiting access to the only outdoor space where tenants could gather in the evenings to grill or visit with friends. Building management later said the lock was needed to keep out trespassers.

To the tenants, it felt like an act of retribution for speaking up. Instead of hiring an additional guard, it seemed there were no longer any security officers in the building at all.

In the run-up to the 2024 presidential election, low-income Black voters like the ones at College Court are often discussed by political pundits as key to President Biden's reelection against former president Donald Trump — especially those who live in swing states such as Wisconsin.

But recent polling suggests many of those voters nationally are disappointed in Biden's presidency even as a majority dislike Trump, and now a smaller share than in 2020 are sure that they will vote in November. If enough Black people sit out the election in Milwaukee — one of the country's most consequential urban battlegrounds where they are 39 percent of residents, a plurality — Biden could lose an election the president often calls "a battle for the soul of America." Among many Democrats, the idea that anyone would sit out such a consequential election seems beyond explanation.

Here were some of the voters everyone was talking about, Kevin realized, and still they couldn't get anyone to listen to them. He often found himself wondering why he was the only one here.

Kevin sat calmly in a plastic chair now, legs tightly crossed as he wrote down the tenants' words on a white legal pad. He looked up occasionally to scan the room, his blond hair pushed back at the crown and tidy on the sides. The tenants had grown to trust and even like Kevin because of simple overtures. He listened to them. He came back regularly. He remembered things about their lives, and shared things about his own. It was enough to override the suspicions many public housing residents, 86 percent of whom were Black, carried about an unknown White man showing up at their doors asking questions.

"The only thing different from prison is we don't have the shackles yet," said another tenant, Nicole Binns, eliciting nods.

"These people don't care," said Lucy McBeath.

"Dogs shouldn't even have to live like this," said Rickey Wright.

In the winter of 2024, life at the College Court apartments might have been a story of diminishing ambitions for tenants. The bedbugs, the violence, the public spillover of mental illness, the backlogged maintenance issues, all seemingly intractable to an overwhelmed housing authority. The promise of public housing, where rent was typically capped at 30 percent of tenants' incomes, appeared to no longer include safety. The reasons lay in a tangle of acronyms and funding streams, regulations and deputy directors, good intentions followed by fine print and excuses.

"What do we do next?" Kevin asked, his voice getting higher as he spoke. "What do you want to do?"

"A sit-in!" someone said.

"A picket!" said another.

There were murmurs of a rent strike.

Kevin knew they needed a victory.

What about, for now, simply asking for management to reopen the outdoor patio?

"How about we get them to open up those doors?" Kevin said.

What Kevin really wanted to do next was a public spectacle, something to draw the attention of the whole city and to shame public leaders into action. And so Common Ground had planned to rally residents at another public housing development, Hillside Terrace, as part of a broader campaign to have the housing authority's executive director fired.

But huddled now in a conference room downtown with his boss Jennifer O'Hear in mid-March, Kevin looked deflated reading confirmation of a rumor they had heard the night before: Biden was in town.

Common Ground's co-founder Bob Connolly was sitting next to them looking irritated.

The president was in Milwaukee to announce $36 million to renovate a stretch of Sixth Street, a major traffic artery. The White House emphasized the money would benefit Black and Latino residents as part of a $3.3 billion national infrastructure plan to help low-income and minority communities that were historically displaced by mid-20th-century highway construction and misguided urban renewal policies.

"Why is *this* the thing they're doing in Milwaukee?" Kevin said.

"This is just one of those things that's an easy, quick lift," Jennifer said. "They come here to get votes and to be on the news to get votes. It's so transactional."

Exasperated, they read that the president was hosting a news conference — at Hillside Terrace. There would be a security perimeter around the event, and they could not compete with a presidential visit on such short notice. They would have to cancel.

"Biden really f---ed us," Bob said.

If they were sour on the news, it was not because they opposed funding better streets, but because the visit would usurp their plan to get public housing tenants some attention — their best recourse for effecting change over the past year. Thanks in part to local news coverage, Common Ground had managed to get heat fixed in some units, get a disliked manager transferred from one public housing property to another, and prevent a few tenants from being evicted over accounting mistakes made by the housing authority.

On any other day, the administration's action might be welcome, even celebrated.

Today, it was another reminder of the gap between elected officials and the people they represented.

Kevin had been drawn to Common Ground in part by his belief that government and corporations needed to become more responsive to everyday people, and in that way he was part of a tradition of progressive populism forged here in Wisconsin that had profoundly shaped the New Deal policies that expanded the American social safety net. But Wisconsin in the 21st century remained a state of vast inequalities. On Kevin's bookshelf at home were titles that explored the profound class and racial inequities in Milwaukee, which in 2024 was still often described by social scientists as the most racially segregated city in America. And Wisconsin had shifted from reliably Democratic to a deeply divided state with a conservative-run state legislature.

After Kevin's home life in St. Petersburg, Fla., was convulsed by alcoholism, a friend's family took him in during his final year of high school. It was an act of empathy that transformed his life and relationships, and he wondered what would have become of him if he hadn't received a hand up during the most vulnerable years of his life. He had hated feeling like the world was acting upon him. After finishing college at Duke University, where he'd helped organize within a local Hispanic community, he had moved to Milwaukee to be with his then-girlfriend, who got a teaching job at a public school in the city. He worried that America's myriad civic institutions — little leagues, recreation centers, churches — were in decline, and he felt that the way to counteract their decay was by building relationships. This was the overlooked work, he thought, of nourishing a democracy.

For two months in a row, Kevin had requested five minutes for tenants to make the case at the monthly housing board meeting that Hines, the authority's executive director, should be fired. This plan was thwarted in February when the meeting was abruptly made virtual, deflating the energy of dozens of tenants who had carpooled from across town to City Hall.

Now, the March meeting had been canceled altogether, and Biden was in town and would be holding a public event. Kevin wondered if the housing authority's leaders would be there.

The agency's struggles were well documented and were made public through records obtained over the past year by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development had recently found the agency's financial records riddled with errors that left it at risk for "serious fraud, waste and abuse" — including leaving sensitive tenant information, like Social Security numbers, lying unattended in hallways and other publicly accessible areas.

Kevin and Common Ground had also found countless maintenance issues that went unaddressed by managers for months and sometimes even years. Based on what they had seen, they believed that HUD should take over the city's housing authority, or at least that there should be a nationwide search for a new executive director.

Their advocacy had pitted Common Ground — whose funding came from a coalition of multiracial faith organizations — against a Democratic establishment that publicly supported Hines, a former city council president. There was an unspoken racial dynamic, too. While public housing tenants were predominantly Black, several of Common Ground's organizers were White. Some tenants felt betrayed by their representatives, but some Milwaukeeans were hesitant to call for the firing of Black leaders or to embarrass Cavalier Johnson, Milwaukee's first elected Black mayor, who won the office in 2022.

In the face of such disillusionment in the city's elected leadership, Biden's visit felt like a blow, not a blessing.

But now Jennifer and Bob began to sense an opportunity.

Wisconsin was an essential swing state decided in the past two presidential elections by about 20,000 votes, less than one percentage point. Without Wisconsin's 10 electoral college votes, winning the White House would be nearly impossible for either candidate.

"With his campaign being here, we can try to get them to pay attention, and if they don't, we need to ask why," Jennifer said. "He is here trying to get voters. He needs to respond to this issue. We can't just give him a free pass coming in and pretend things are great."

"We need to tell them, 'We think HUD should take over the housing authority,'" Bob said. "Just do the math. They're very worried about this state and now they're vulnerable and we should take advantage of it."

"Poor people of color is the constituency they take for granted, and it is the constituency that really has the power to shape this

election," Jennifer said. But "are people going to be ready and willing to call out Joe Biden during an election year?"

"He needs the African American vote in this town and that's what carries the state, and they know that," Bob said. "We just want human beings to get what they deserve for paying rent. We're not crazy people."

Kevin turned the conversation back to the locked patio at College Court and other issues that had sprung up, including the closure of the downstairs community room.

"It doesn't cost people any money to keep those rooms open," Jennifer said. "It's just the housing authority being mean."

"Some tenants compare it to being in a prison," Kevin said.

What if they sent an email to the mayor to ask him to visit one of the properties, Jennifer asked. Maybe they could still find a way to work with the local Democratic establishment.

Later, as they followed the news coverage of the president's visit, they spotted all the people Common Ground and the tenants had been trying to reach to no avail: Hines, the executive director; the chairwoman of the housing authority's board of commissioners; and Johnson, the mayor.

Now, the day after the president's visit, several tenants gathered around Kevin at College Court to tell him that the housing authority's property manager, Greg Anderson, had walked through the building — with a security person who some tenants thought might be a HUD representative. Peaches tried to talk to the man, she said, but was told by Anderson that it wasn't any of her business, which the housing authority later denied.

Peaches shoved her pointer finger into the air as she recounted the exchange. She hated when people talked down to her. She resented building management for infantilizing her and other tenants.

"I told them they only start fixing things when HUD comes into town," Peaches said. "I live here, too!"

Part of Kevin's end goal was to identify leaders within public housing properties who could build a tenant-led movement, and Peaches was a natural. She and Kevin shared a disdain for bullies.

Peaches, who adopted the nickname as a child, had grown up middle class in a suburb of Chicago to parents who moved from the South. Her mother, from Mississippi, had little formal education but obtained her GED in adulthood, and Peaches recalled with pride helping her study for the exam. She said her mother, who was a union steward, had shown her the power of collective action, and she credited her fighter's disposition to her father, an Army veteran from Kentucky with brothers also in the service.

Though she did not wear vulnerability easily, Peaches had known a lot of anguish. She was derailed from finishing her college degree after her youngest son, Gregory, died in his crib in 1992 when he was about 6 weeks old. She found work in office jobs, including selling life insurance, and led a comfortable life even after a painful divorce — until a spinal illness in 2010 limited her ability to work.

She had moved into the building in 2018 because it was what she could afford on disability benefits. At first, there were community programs and the building felt safe. But the pandemic had brought a crush of new tenants with mental illness.

Sometimes aggressive men called Peaches a "b----" for no reason, and other times people who didn't even live in the building camped out in the stairwells, doing drugs or having sex. And because of her mobility issues, Peaches already worried that if a fire broke out, she would be trapped in her 11th-floor apartment.

Through a spokesperson, the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee told The Washington Post that the agency had a $200 million backlog in "non-emergency capital needs," which it noted was part of an estimated $70 billion backlog gripping public housing authorities across the United States due to "decades of disinvestment by the federal government." It noted that the housing authority's security services are severely limited by a lack of available funding, which was also true for social services for its at-risk tenants.

"This is not a local issue but a national one," said the housing authority's chief operating officer for program services, Ken Barbeau.

But Peaches had not given up on the idea that life could be better for her and her neighbors and across Milwaukee's public housing developments. She admired that there was a method to how Kevin and Common Ground went about organizing for change, escalating their protest tactics over time. It was an approach that resonated with her instinctively.



SARAH L. VOISIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

A tattered American flag flies in front of College Court in Milwaukee. Tenants had complained about bedbugs, violence and backlogged maintenance issues at the public housing development.

Not everybody across public housing properties was interested in working with Common Ground, and not everyone believed change was possible. There was uncertainty around Common Ground's decision to target Hines that sometimes came up among tenants. Still others saw the political math in exceedingly blunt terms.

"[Hines] knows people and the people he knows have money," Genea Williams, a tenant at another property, had told Kevin. "I'm not saying you're going to lose but you are dealing with a person with a lot of power. And they are powerful with African Americans, and they are not going to turn on each other because of the racism in this city and the racism they have all endured."

Kevin saw the situation in a more straightforward way: It was not about Black and White, it was about Haves and Have-nots.

Peaches saw it with additional clarity: "I don't trust them. They aren't for us," Peaches said of the housing authority leadership.

At College Court, much anger was reserved for their building manager, especially among Black tenants whose umbrage was tinged with betrayal.

"She looks at you like you're dirt," said Marion Moore, a woman in her 70s who had lived in the building for decades and had never felt such disdain from building management. "And I'll tell you, I've never met a Black woman like her. For her to turn on her own people, that's ugly."

Other tenants nodded. Who wielded power mattered less to them than what they did with it.

"They said, 'Don't talk to Kevin because he doesn't do anything for you,'" Rickey told the room now with mirth, which the housing authority later denied in a statement to The Post.

"They said that? They said don't talk to Common Ground?" Kevin asked.

Kevin took a breath and let out a sigh.

Peaches fumed that there had been local news coverage of the conditions in housing authority properties for more than a year and still politicians weren't motivated to make a more significant change. Instead, what she heard were promises in news conferences that things were improving, a story of success that simply did not match what she saw every day.

Even so, Peaches believed in democracy, in rallying people behind a common cause, in sticking

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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PHOTOS BY SARAH L. VOISIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Charlene "Peaches" Bell, wearing a white top, plays dominoes with other College Court tenants on the patio, which has been a place for them to escape the building's issues.

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

together for justice.

Peaches would vote against Trump in November, she said, because she thought he was racist and dangerous, even amid growing distrust for local Democratic leaders. But although there did not appear to be much support for Trump among public housing tenants, it was also true that there was very little excitement for Biden. The election itself seemed to take a back seat for voters who had more pressing personal emergencies to navigate. Peaches was interested in helping more of her neighbors register to vote, so they could mobilize enough electoral power within public housing to make local politicians mindful of their needs. Which was to say that, in another circumstance, Peaches could be immensely helpful to a political campaign.

Instead, she and her fellow tenants were fighting to regain access to their small outdoor patio.

The outdoor space itself was mostly paved over with cement, but had seating and a grill for residents to use. It was a place to escape the problems within the building. Peaches felt nervous, she said, congregating in other people's apartments because of the bedbug infestations. But even something so simple had become so complicated, and in this way their fraught interactions with building management over the patio had come to represent their interactions with government itself. Padlocking the patio gate and closing community rooms early did not prevent trespassers from walking into the building through the unattended front door lobby.

"The battle for the soul of America."

It was stirring rhetoric.

But what about the battle for College Court?

Taking the padlock off the gate was about more than just the patio itself for Peaches and the other tenants. It was about dignity and respect.

"What if we called Greg Anderson? Do you guys want to call Greg Anderson?" Kevin asked the room.

Anderson was the vice president in charge of property management. Nicole, another resident Kevin was cultivating as an organizer, volunteered to make the call. Peaches and Kevin watched as Nicole dialed the number and put the phone on speaker.

To everyone's surprise, Anderson picked up.

"I would like if we could get the front patio gate unlocked," Nicole began, speaking quickly as she listed other issues at College Court.

"Slow down, slow down," Anderson said. "We're not opening it up. I locked it down, we're having folks from outside the building get inside. That's not going to happen."

"How are you going to tell us what we can and can't do in our own residence?" Nicole asked.

"Because it's our building, ma'am, that's why," Anderson said.

Nicole began to shout as others in the room let out gasps. She hung up.





TOP: Peaches prunes the plants in her living room. ABOVE: On the patio. Peaches said her mother, a union steward, had shown her the power of collective action, and she credited her fighter's disposition to her father, who was an Army veteran.

"Watch them send security on us, that's how they do," Rickey said.

"Okay, let's strategize," Kevin said. "Take a breath, take a breath, move around, get it off your chest."

Peaches suggested a rent strike. But Kevin wanted to go slower, and to consult a lawyer first.

She nodded in agreement.

For now, they would send a follow-up email to the city's leaders, from Peaches's email account. She would become their spokesperson. Kevin began drafting it, reading the words out loud as tenants chimed in with suggestions.

Their requests were straightforward: two security guards in the evenings, one to monitor the door, one to walk the halls; a new building manager who treated tenants with respect; and a written apology from Anderson. They also demanded for the patio to be reopened.

"Director Hines and public officials -- We are extremely disappointed that not only have you NOT responded, but also things have gotten worse," the email said. "This is our building, too!"

"Who wants to sign this?" Kevin asked.

Everyone raised their hands, and several people followed up with him on their way out of the room to make sure Kevin had spelled their names correctly.

"And tomorrow if we don't get a response, let's do a sit-in," Kevin said.

"What if they bring the police?" someone asked from the back of the room.

"Then let's go to the media! Let's embarrass the s--- out of them! I hope they have the audacity, they'll lose that argument with the public any day of the week!" Kevin said.

The room was excited now.

"You go, Kevin," Marion said.

There was still no response the next afternoon from housing officials, and so now Kevin and a group of 10 tenants gathered in a community room to plan a protest, a tactful act of civil disturbance to register their ongoing frustration.

Peaches walked into the room waving a piece of paper.

"Hey, hey, we got something here," she said.

It was a letter, dated March 15 and signed by Marlon Davis, the housing authority's chief of public safety. It offered a few concessions — the ineffective security guard would be replaced, though it appeared there would still be only one guard and only in the evenings.

But as for the patio: The padlock would not be taken off. "This measure is intended to prevent outsiders from accessing the patio area or entering the building unauthorized," said the letter.

Kevin asked if that was good enough or if they wanted to ask for more.

Not everyone was satisfied with taking incremental steps. A few people wanted to continue escalating.

"I don't like a lot of talk. I want to see some action," said a man who was new to the tenants group.

"I'm with you. Here's what the city says: They don't have enough staffing, they don't have enough money," Kevin said. "There's a narrative of excuses. And we've got to pop that narrative. This is about the manager not treating you with dignity. Opening the patio — "

"Kevin, hold on," Peaches interjected.

The room turned to her now.

"They are reacting to our actions," Peaches explained. "This is what they did during the civil rights era. This is about claiming our space, holding our ground. But we have to go step by step. There is a chain of command. You have to do things the right way."

As the group debated, the building manager walked in. Three security officers employed by the housing authority were behind her.

The manager motioned to Peaches and told her to join them in the front office. Peaches took halting steps, face scrunched with irritation. Kevin looked calm at first but now he sprinted after her.

"Peaches, you do not have to go in there if you don't want to," he said, out of breath.

"We just want to talk to Charlene in private, that's all," the manager said.

"Is this about my rent?" Peaches said. "Because if this is not about my rent then I don't know what's the point of private for."

"She ain't going in there by herself," said Nicole, who had followed Peaches out as well.

Peaches turned away now and walked back to the table, refusing to meet alone with the building manager and the safety officers. Kevin and Nicole followed behind. The group looked shaken, and several people scanned the ceilings for cameras. The security guards. The decision to single out Peaches. It felt like an act of intimidation. They had just been sitting together, calmly talking.

"Here's a good learning moment. One thing power does is they try to make it so instead of a group it's one person. They were going to have three guards against one person. It's a power thing. This is all about power," Kevin said. "My colleagues said the only thing that could go wrong here is if they piss us off and one of us reacts out of rage. You are in the right here."

Outside the window now were two Milwaukee police officers. Peaches watched them while picking at her nails. They were there to follow up on a report of slashed tires in the area, but for a moment people in the room wondered if they would be called in next.

Kevin pulled out his cellphone to record video testimonies about what had just happened.

"You're told things are getting better. Do you believe that?" Kevin asked.

"No!" several tenants shouted.

"It's getting worse!"

"They refuse to treat us with dignity and respect, like adults," Peaches said.

Kevin rallied them around the idea of inviting the mayor to come see College Court for himself, without housing authority managers acting as middlemen. Kevin pulled out his MacBook Air.

"Dear Mayor Johnson, Will you come listen to us and see our terrible living conditions? ... You can see our broken appliances, busted tiles, and mold," the email read. "We look forward to hearing from you and showing you the truth about College Court."

Peaches rearranged the chairs and cleared the tables, leaving the space tidier than she found it.

"He want my vote, he need to come see me. I vote every time," Peaches said to the other tenants as they walked out. "And Biden came and canceled our downtown event. I want to talk to him, too. How about he come down here to see me?"

For the third month in a row, Common Ground and dozens of tenants had requested five minutes to present at the housing authority's monthly gathering at City Hall.

And as before, the April meeting was moved from in-person to virtual, upending the potential for a show of solidarity at the city's seat of power.

Now, Kevin, his mentors at Common Ground and a dozen tenants were gathered outside the home of the chairwoman of the board, who lived in Hillside Terrace. They were less than a block from where Biden recently held his news conference.

Three weeks prior, Peaches and the other tenants had awoken to find the padlock unexpectedly removed from the front patio gate without any additional explanation.

It was a victory, if only a quiet one, a morsel of proof that things could change.

But that same day, a response to the tenants from the executive director was less than reassuring. He took their other concerns seriously, he wrote, but offered no tangible fixes.

"Hines responded," Kevin texted Peaches.

"Laughable," she wrote back.

And then, a letter came for Peaches from the housing authority.

She'd "violated security," it warned.

Her transgression: "an unauthorize [sic] meeting with Common Grounds [sic] in the community room."

At the end, it threatened that additional actions could result in the termination of her lease.

On April 2, Johnson won reelection as Milwaukee's mayor against a Republican challenger with about 80 percent of the vote. Three days later, a member of the mayor's staff responded to the College Court tenants' invitation to tour the property: Johnson would not be visiting. "The Mayor and our office are closely following the work at these properties and take the responsibility of ensuring quality housing for Milwaukeeans seriously," said the email.

Now, outside the chairwoman's house, Common Ground set up a mobile lectern. Peaches hadn't come. She said she was sick. She needed to prioritize her well-being, to save some of her energy for herself. Several tenants held posters with photos of maintenance issues and pests, printed with messages:

WATER LEAKAGE WITH EXPOSED WIRES

BREEDING GROUND FOR RATS

GAPING HOLES UNDER SINKS

A television crew from a local news station was there, as was a reporter from the Journal Sentinel. A woman named Stacy Reem addressed local leaders when she described how moving into public housing had left her more housing insecure than before because of disability access issues and bedbugs.

"Since you don't want us to come to your meetings, we invite you to ours," she said. "Come talk to residents, come listen to the neighbors, come see the mold, the rat problems, the broken appliances."

Now a tenant named Chris Logan was speaking, making an appeal to Biden himself.

"They rushed you into a little Boys and Girls Club and you didn't see anything, you didn't want to," she said. "We voted you into office but you don't want to talk to us. You don't want to hear from us."

Cameras in tow, the group walked to the chairwoman's front door and knocked.

"Sometimes when people are hiding, you need to try these more guerrilla tactics. We need to get them to react," Kevin said.

No answer.

Another knock.

Still no answer.

They taped a note to the chairwoman's front door that invited her to meet with the tenants, and then they left to wait for a response.

Biden's West Point commencement address indirectly rebukes Trump

BY TYLER PAGER



EDUARDO MUNOZ/REUTERS

Graduates embrace at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. President Biden called them "guardians of American democracy."

WEST POINT, N.Y. — President Biden reminded the graduating class of the U.S. Military Academy on Saturday that their oath is to the Constitution, not any political party or president, delivering an implicit rebuke of former president Donald Trump.

In his 22-minute commencement address, Biden did not mention Trump by name, but he made clear that he was referring to his Republican opponent by pointing to a letter that was a harsh reprimand of Trump's leadership. The open letter, signed by more than 1,000 West Point alumni, was addressed to the graduating Class of 2020 before Trump delivered the commencement address here. It came just days after military police helped forcibly clear peaceful protesters outside the White House ahead of a Trump photo op. The alumni reminded that year's graduating class that they pledge service to "no monarch; no government; no political party; no tyrant."

"Remember what over 1,000 graduates of West Point wrote to the class of 2020 four years ago," Biden said. "The oath you've taken here 'has no expiration date,' they said."

The oath, he said, was "against all enemies, foreign and domestic," calling the cadets "guardians of American democracy."

Biden's speech came just months before voters head to the polls to decide whether to grant him a second term or return Trump to office. Public surveys show the two men are locked in a closely contested rematch, and Biden has cast Trump as an existential threat to democracy who would undermine American institutions, including the military, and alliances abroad.

The address also came against the backdrop of a host of foreign policy challenges: Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine, Israel's military campaign in Gaza in response to Hamas's Oct. 7 attack, increased competition with China, and ongoing threats from Iran.

"We're doing what only America can do," Biden said. "As the indispensable nation, the world's only superpower and the leading democracy in the world, never forget America is the strongest when we lead not only by our example of our power, but by the power of our example."

Biden also thanked members of the U.S. military for their work around the world as conflicts rage, praising troops for delivering aid to Gaza, helping Israel defend against attacks from Iran and training Ukrainian troops. Still, Biden emphasized that there are no American soldiers in Ukraine and said he's "determined to keep it that way."

"There's never been a time in history when we've asked our military to do so many different things in so many different places around the world all at the same time," Biden said.

But across the country — particularly on college campuses — protests have spread in response to Biden's staunch support of Israel. Students have been some of Biden's most vocal critics, calling on him to support a cease-fire in Gaza and end the supply of weapons to Israel.

The president said on Saturday that the United States is conducting "urgent diplomacy" to try to bring Israeli hostages home and secure an immediate cease-fire.

In recent months, Biden has stayed mostly in tightly controlled environments and away from large student gatherings, leaving some Biden allies to worry that the president would face constant interruptions during college commencement season. But last weekend, when Biden spoke at Morehouse College, only a few students silently protested by turning their backs.

Biden faced no interruptions at the military academy, where cadets wore their gray-and-white dress uniforms and where student-led protests would be considered a major breach of conduct. Saturday's speech was Biden's third commencement address at West Point; he spoke twice as vice president.

Biden also escaped embarrassments that have befallen him and other presidents in the past.

Last year, after delivering the commencement address at the Air Force Academy, Biden fell while shaking hands with the graduates. Aides said the president fell over a sandbag placed on the stage and said the president was not injured — but the images of the then 80-year-old president falling worried some Democrats, who feared it would exacerbate voters' concerns about his age.

This year, Biden stood for much of the military academy graduation, shaking hands with each of the 1,036 graduates after they received their diplomas.

In 2020, Trump walked slowly and unsteadily down a ramp at West Point and appeared to have trouble raising a glass of water at the ceremony. Clips of both ricocheted around social media, with critics arguing the appearance raised questions about his health.

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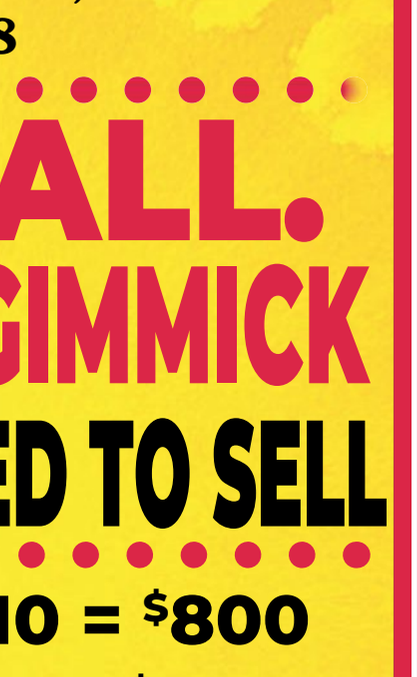
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Progressive Democrats aren't converting activism into wins at the ballot box

@PKCapitol
PAUL KANE

Despite the intense focus the past couple of months on pro-Palestinian protests, many of which were championed by the far-left wing of the Democratic Party, the self-proclaimed progressive bloc has struggled to churn out victories at the ballot box.

Oregon's Democratic primary served up the latest example of this uphill fight, as the more traditional liberal wing won two contested primaries. State Rep. Janelle Bynum, with the backing of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, crushed a progressive favorite, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, by about 40 percentage points.

And in a safely Democratic seat around Portland, state Rep. Maxine Dexter won by 15 percentage points with the backing of centrist donors who sought to defeat Susheela Jayapal, a former Multnomah County commissioner whose sister is Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.), the chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. The seat is being vacated by Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.), a mostly reliable ally of Democratic leadership over the past 28 years.

Those races mirrored several other recent elections that featured ideological clashes for Democrats in House primaries without an incumbent running.

In a Maryland seat south of Baltimore, former U.S. Capitol Police officer Harry Dunn ran on his heroism from the 2021 Capitol attack, raising more than $4.5 million, and won the endorsement of the Progressive caucus' PAC. But Dunn lost by more than 10 percentage points to a seasoned state senator, Sarah Elfreth, who received backing from pro-Israel groups.

And in that state's lone swing district, stretching north and west of Washington, Democrats nominated April McClain Delaney, a former Biden administration lawyer whose husband used to represent the district, over a younger state delegate who accused her family of being too close to Republicans.

Instead of running from that attack, Delaney embraced a "common-sense, common ground campaign theme."



DAVE KILLEN/AP

Maxine Dexter, left, decisively beat Susheela Jayapal, right, the sister of Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.), in the primary for the seat being vacated by Earl Blumenauer, a Democrat.

"I really campaigned to be a problem solver, and I'm going to deliver on that in Congress," she said.

Essentially, today's 213-member Democratic caucus breaks down into a few categories, the largest of which are traditionally liberal lawmakers who come from cities or inner suburbs and are comfortable with incremental victories in helping the working class. There are dozens of moderates who are more friendly toward business but believe in socially liberal values.

And there are dozens of far-left liberals, hailing from the progressive caucus or the small-knit "Squad," who have clashed with leaders for not pushing for a more purely liberal agenda. This group has been on the rise over the past half decade, both at the ballot box and inside the caucus.

But now, at this stage of the primary calendar, this wing is facing tough political headwinds.

Stumping for her friend Rep. Summer Lee (D-Pa.) in Pittsburgh last month, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) summed up the defensive posture at the moment.

"Tuesday is the first of the rest of these races," Ocasio-Cortez said. "So, Pittsburgh, what you're doing on Tuesday is sending a message to the country."

Lee went on to win by more than 20 percentage points, even though one centrist super PAC that supports Israel financed ads for her opponent. But that group spent a relatively modest amount compared with what's been spent by allies of Israel in other races, such as the multimillion-dollar campaigns against Reps. Jamaal Bowman (D-N.Y.) and Cori Bush (D-Mo.) in their primaries later in the summer.

It's quite a turnabout in the House Democratic caucus, where the establishment has been on the defensive ever since Ocasio-Cortez's stunning upset in June 2018 over an 18-year veteran, Joseph Crowley, who served in leadership and was eyed as a potential future House speaker.

A couple of months later, Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) defeated a 20-year incumbent, Michael E. Capuano, launching the Squad of young progressives who wanted to shake things up.

In 2020, three veteran incumbents — William Lacy Clay (Mo.), Eliot L. Engel (N.Y.) and Daniel Lipinski (Ill.) — lost to challengers on the left.

And in 2022, then-Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.), a 14-year incumbent and senior member of the moderate Blue Dog Coalition, lost to McLeod-Skinner in a challenge from his left.

She went on to lose the general election to Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer (R) in a district that President Biden comfortably won in 2020, setting the table for this year's decision by the DCCC to get behind Bynum as the more electable candidate in November.

Progressive caucus members understandably complain that so many of these races are getting financed by super PACs associated with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. Those contributors — including many large Republican donors — are upset about the cease-fire demands.

It's prompted the far-left liberals to accuse their more moderate counterparts of relying on conservative dollars to win Democratic primaries. "Israel has been used by right-wing — particularly MAGA — Republicans as a wedge issue," Lee told The Washington Post's Dylan Wells two days before her primary.

These failures at the polls come at a time when the Squad view on the war in Gaza has become far more mainstream among Democrats.

Originally just a niche element of Democrats called for a cease-fire soon after Israel retaliated against Hamas's Oct. 7 attack. But now, based on one antiwar group's estimate, more than 80 House Democrats support a cease-fire, about 40 percent of the caucus. In addition, 26 Senate Democrats, a majority of the caucus in the chamber, support that demand.

Their support of protests, particularly on college campuses over the past two months, commanded national media attention and prompted the most senior public officials to take positions on the movement. At almost every public event that Biden or Vice President Harris appear at, some pro-Palestinian protesters will show up, as happened to Harris in Philadelphia a few days ago.

That's helping to push Democratic voters against Israel's handling of the war, with a recent poll showing just 53 percent of Democrats supporting Biden's handling of the Israel-Hamas war.

"What we're seeing slowly but surely is not voters catching up to the Squad — it is other Democratic politicians catching up to where voters have been for months," Usamah Andrabi, the communications director for Justice Democrats, told Wells last month.

Despite those gains, on the policy front, these progressives have not been able to gain ground in primary elections.

The group Justice Democrats works to elect liberals to Congress, using their support of Ocasio-Cortez six years ago to springboard into a prominent position on the spectrum of liberal political groups. In a notable sign of how much defense they are playing, the Justice Democrats website does not list any new candidates that it is supporting, just a dozen incumbents.

Some Democrats believe their voters have a buyer's remorse of how far leftward the party moved since four years ago.

Privately, senior Democratic advisers are not declaring a full victory and worry that some veteran Democrats might get caught politically asleep. Some Democratic veterans began bracing for far-left challengers many months ago.

Rep. William J. Pascrell (D-N.J.) faces Mohamed T. Khairullah, New Jersey's longest-serving Muslim mayor, next month in his bid to win a 15th term in the safely Democratic seat in North Jersey. The top issue Khairullah's top issue, "International Human Rights Law," links to a page devoted to his backing for a "permanent cease-fire" in Gaza.

As of mid-May, Pascrell, 87, had already spent $700,000 on the race, including payouts several months ago to a prominent polling firm and hiring a seasoned opposition research firm.

New Jersey's most endangered incumbent, Rep. Robert Menendez Jr. (D), is facing a much different type of primary challenge, one that is less ideological and more about the criminal trial against his father, Sen. Bob Menendez (D).

Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-Va.), seeking a ninth term in the increasingly diverse Northern Virginia suburbs, is up against Ahsan Nasar, a first-time candidate who serves as a judge advocate in the U.S. Army Reserve and worked at the Government Accountability Office. Nasar cites Connolly's "unwillingness to more forcefully call for a cease-fire" as a prime reason for running in the June 18 primary.

By the end of March, Connolly, 74, had already spent more than $800,000 on his campaign and had a stockpile of $3.9 million in his campaign to spend down the stretch.

Nasar, by comparison, had just $38,000 left for the final two and a half months of the campaign.

If one of these long-shot challengers knocks off Pascrell, Connolly or some other Democrat, the tide might turn back toward the far-left faction.

For now, however, this season might be best summed up by Delaney's two ads that ran in the final two months of her primary contest. She boasted of working for Biden, showing a picture of the two of them in both ads, and she focused on protecting children from online predators and improving their mental health.

She never mentioned Israel or Gaza.

"Common sense, common ground to protect our kids," she said in the second ad. "I'm April McClain Delaney, and I approve this message."

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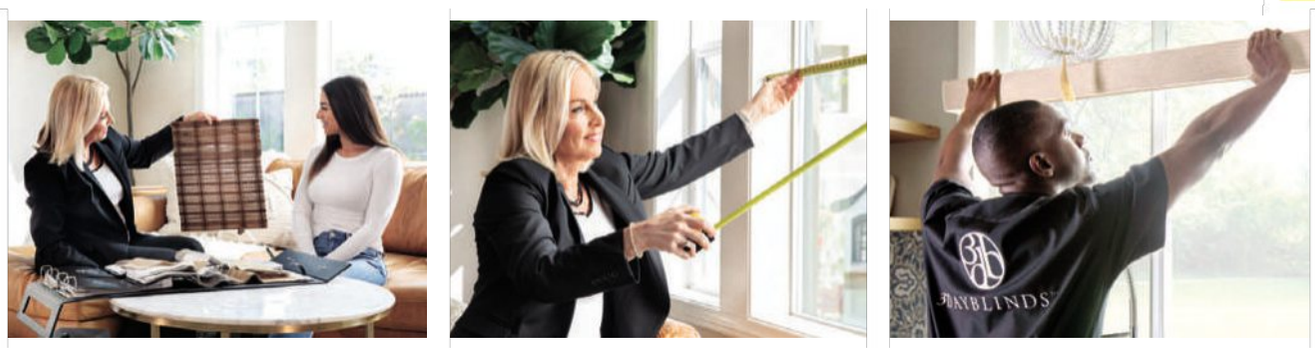
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How Trump used his own court filing to claim an 'assassination' attempt



The Fact Checker
GLENN KESSLER

"Biden's DOJ authorized use of deadly force against President Trump in the Mar-a-Lago raid."
— former president Donald Trump, in a post on social media, May 21

On Feb. 22, former president Donald Trump's legal team in the criminal case concerning classified documents filed a brief seeking suppression of evidence gathered during an August 2022 search of his Mar-a-Lago estate and dismissal of the indictment. On the fourth page, the brief misleadingly quoted from an FBI policy statement to suggest deadly force was contemplated when FBI agents executed a search warrant to recover missing documents.

For three months, the brief remained under seal, even as the Supreme Court debated whether Trump's sweeping claim of immunity in another criminal case would give a president permission to assassinate a political rival.

"If the president decides that his rival is a corrupt person and he orders the military or orders someone to assassinate him, is that within his official acts for which he can get immunity?" asked Justice Sonia Sotomayor when the case was argued before the Supreme Court on April 24.

"It would depend on the hypothetical," replied Trump attorney D. John Sauer. "We can see that could well be an official act."

When U.S. District Judge Aileen M. Cannon unsealed the filing in the classified-documents case Tuesday, Trump supporters suddenly had their own — false — example they could point to.

Here's how a bogus feeding frenzy developed. My colleague Clara Ence Morse assisted in tracking the spread of these claims across social media.

1:21 p.m.

Julie Kelly, a writer associated with Real Clear Investigations who has more than 600,000 followers on X, tipped the soup when she posted that the filing had been unsealed.

"Tons of new unsealed filings on classified docs case — I will try to post as much as I can (there goes the workout) but this is mind-blowing," she wrote, highlighting part of this sentence from the brief in yellow: "The Order contained a 'Policy Statement' regarding 'Use Of Deadly Force,' which stated, for example, 'Law enforcement officers of the Department of Justice may use deadly force when necessary …'"

This quotation, without explanation, omitted a crucial word — "only."

An exhibit in a separate filing reveals the complete sentence: "Law enforcement officers of the Department of Justice may use deadly force only when necessary, that is, when the officer has a reasonable belief that the subject of such force poses an imminent danger of death or serious physical injury to the officer or to another person."

This is boilerplate language used by the FBI. The "policy statement on use of force" — which is much longer than this one sentence — appears automatically when a search warrant is executed and is read aloud to the team members before they begin their search. (Similar language was used when a search was conducted for classified documents of President Biden's properties.)

The Trump attorneys who signed the brief did not respond to a question about why the filing deleted the word "only" without indicating it had been removed.

1:28 p.m.

To her first tweet, Kelly attached another tweet in which she highlighted another document: "Oh my God. Armed FBI agents were preparing to confront Trump and even engage Secret Service if necessary. They were going to go door to door to terrorize MAL guests and even pick the locks. Gestapo."

This page from the filing, titled "contingencies," laid out procedures in the event the media or Trump unexpectedly arrived at the scene. The document, laden with abbreviations, says that if Trump were to appear, the Miami FBI executive manager and the on-scene coordinator "will be prepared to engage with FPOTUS [former president of the United States] and USSS [Secret Service] Security team." In this context, "engage" means talk and coordinate. If the Secret Service agents on the ground were to resist, then the document directed that the discussion would be elevated to more senior officials, including "points of contact" that the FBI has with Secret Service through existing liaison relationships. (Two names are redacted.)



VICTOR J. BLUE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Former president Donald Trump has fanned the flames on a false story that FBI agents were authorized to assassinate him.

In an interview over the summer with the House Judiciary Committee, former FBI assistant director in charge Steven D'Antuono described what was planned. D'Antuono had disagreed with the decision to send the FBI to Mar-a-Lago, believing that Trump's attorneys should have been given another chance to provide missing documents. But he said he lost the argument because there was concern that without quick action these highly classified documents could leak out, given the poor security at Trump's estate.

In the interview, he disputed the idea that it was a raid. Officials knew that Trump was not in the state, residing at the time at his estate in New Jersey. (During the operation, he was visiting Trump Tower in Manhattan.)

"It wasn't even a show of force, right, because we were all in agreement," D'Antuono said. "We didn't do a show of force, right. I was adamant about that, and that was something that we agreed on, right, the FBI agreed on, right. No raid jackets, no blazed FBI. We interact. We made sure we interacted with the Secret Service to make sure we could get into Mar-a-Lago with no issues. We're not banging down any doors. We weren't bringing any, like, FBI vehicles, everything that was reported about helicopters and a hundred people descending on, like a Die Hard movie, was completely untrue, right. That is not how we played it."

He added that executing a search warrant was "not against policy or against the law." During the search, the FBI seized 102 additional classified documents. Seventeen were marked top secret, 54 secret and 31 confidential.

1:54 p.m.

Kyle Becker, who has bounced around conservative media and now has his own news site, became the first to use the "assassin" language in a post for his nearly 500,000 followers.

"NEW: The FBI was basically authorized to assassinate Trump if necessary in Mar-a-Lago raid," he wrote over Kelly's original tweet.

3:08 p.m.

Mike Cernovich, a right-wing social media personality with 1.2 million followers, weighed in with his own take on Kelly's tweet: "The FBI raid was designed to provoke a response. This was an assassination attempt on President Trump."

Again, when the FBI agents went to Mar-a-Lago, they knew Trump was not in the state.

3:19 p.m.

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.), with 3.2 million followers, quickly elevated the stakes, also with a post over Kelly's first tweet. "This is grounds for impeachment of Wray and Garland," she wrote, referring to FBI Director Christopher A. Wray and Attorney General Merrick Garland. "Trump and team was cooperating the entire time with the FBI. Was deadly force authorized against Biden for his docs? Were they going to shoot SS then Pres Trump, Melania, and Barron too???"

Other Republican lawmakers follow up with their own posts.

4:13 p.m.

Trump's Truth Social account posts an image of Biden with the headline: "Biden's DOJ authorized use of deadly force against President Trump in the Mar-a-Lago raid."

5:21 p.m.

Trump posts his own comment on his Truth Social Account: "WOW! I just came out of the Biden Witch Hunt Trial in Manhattan, the 'Icebox,' and was shown Reports that Crooked Joe Biden's DOJ, in their Illegal and UnConstitutional Raid of Mar-a-Lago, AUTHORIZED THE FBI TO USE DEADLY (LETHAL) FORCE. NOW WE KNOW, FOR SURE, THAT JOE BIDEN IS A SERIOUS THREAT TO DEMOCRACY. HE IS MENTALLY UNFIT TO HOLD OFFICE — 25TH AMENDMENT!"

As noted, the "reports" came from Trump's own legal filing, so this should not have been a surprise to him.

6 p.m.

Trump issues a fundraising appeal: "BIDEN'S DOJ WAS AUTHORIZED TO SHOOT ME! It's just been revealed that Biden's DOJ was authorized to use DEADLY FORCE for their DESPICABLE raid in Mar-a-Lago. You know they're just itching to do the unthinkable."

7:11 p.m.

Christina Bobb, who was on Trump's legal team at the time of the search, posted: "WTF?!! They were prepared to kill me?! A few dozen FBI agents v. me and they were ready to kill me?!!! What in the world happened to the United States of America?!"

Months before the FBI search, Bobb had signed a document swearing that she had been told that "a diligent search" was conducted of boxes of records shipped from the White House to Florida when Trump left office, The Post reported.

8:17 p.m.

Former Trump aide Stephen K. Bannon, on his war room podcast, declares: "This was an attempted assassination attempt on Donald John Trump or people associated with him."

The Pinocchio Test

As the day wore on, the social media discussion became ever more disengaged from the truth. A shocking claim — that President Biden ordered the assassination of his rival — was allowed to take root on the flimsiest of evidence.

The original citation was in a three-month-old filing by Trump's lawyers — a filing that misleadingly quoted from standard FBI language in search-warrant instructions. As is typical in social media frenzies, quotes were taken out of context without due diligence or actual reporting. Then Trump used the outrage to gin up a fundraising appeal.

Ironically, Trump in his effort to win immunity for his actions as president has suggested that ordering the killing of a rival would not be subject to criminal prosecution. Whether he's successful will depend on the Supreme Court.

In the court of facts, the former president and his supporters earn Four Pinocchios.





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PHOTOS BY FLORENCE GOUPIL FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Enrique Añez Dosantos, former chief and current spokesman of the Peruvian village of Nueva Oceania, stands before a row of timber logs. They were abandoned by a logging company after a violent 2022 encounter between its workers and members of the Mashco Piro, an Indigenous group with ties to many in Neuva Oceania.

Logging, solitary tribe collide in Peru

Government declines to intervene as firm encroaches on Indigenous group living in voluntary isolation

BY SIMEON TEGEL

NUEVA OCEANIA, PERU — Sometimes, they imitate the low rumble of the howler monkey or the shrill squawk of the curassow. Often, they block a jungle path with two branches in the shape of an X.

The Mashco Piro, believed to be the planet's largest Indigenous group still living in voluntary isolation from the outside world, have ways of registering their displeasure at — and fear of — intruders. When they've felt threatened in their remote Amazonian territory, the hunter-gatherers, whose number is estimated at 750, have launched six-foot arrows from the bush. They have, on occasion, killed strangers.

Now a logging company is encroaching on their solitude. Canales Tahuamanu, or Catahua, has a timber concession spanning some 50,000 hectares here — and a record of clashing with Indigenous groups.

Since 2010, its workers have been penetrating deeper into this dense wilderness, methodically felling the biggest trees. Indigenous people and their advocates say this violates national and international law aimed at protecting the unique rights of highly vulnerable peoples who have chosen to live in isolation. But authorities here, who have often been hostile to Indigenous territorial claims, are doing nothing to stop it.

The U.N. special rapporteur on Indigenous rights last year asked Catahua to halt logging and respond to allegations of "possible forced contact" with the Mashco Piro. The government in Lima, meanwhile, has declined to intervene.

In 2007, then-President Alan García accused environmentalists of inventing "unknown but presumed" tribes to keep the country from benefiting from the Amazon's riches. In December, Peru's conservative congress allowed the legalization of land deforested without permits — including on territory used by Indigenous people.

Catahua, meanwhile, has filed criminal and civil complaints against Indigenous villagers who have been advocating for the Mashco Piro. The American Bar Association's Center for Human Rights reviewed the resulting proceedings and found them to be flawed.

Yony Picchotito, the lawyer representing Catahua, told The Washington Post that the company's workers have never reported any sightings of the Mashco Piro and that the company has complied with all Peruvian legislation.

"Forest concessionaires are not just concessionaires to exploit the forests," she said. "They are also custodians of the forest patrimony, and they have many obligations." She said she was unaware of the ABA report and the special rapporteur's letter; she did not respond to a follow-up message that included links to both.

Yet the mere presence of trucks, rumbling down dirt paths carved into the rainforest, or the orange-clad, chainsaw-wielding workers, has terrorized the Mashco Piro, advocates say, and placed them in mortal danger from the possibility of infection and violent confrontations.

The conflict took a tragic turn in August 2022. Two Catahua workers were fishing near the tiny village of Nueva Oceania when members of the tribe struck them with arrows. One was killed.

"The Mashco Piro are desperate. Those arrows are the proof," says Julio Cusurichi, an Indigenous leader and activist recognized internationally for his efforts to safeguard the Amazon. "They would not have acted that way unless they were forced to."

Peru is home to as many as 20 tribes living in voluntary isolation, second only to Brazil. Since the arrival of Europeans, they have fled from often-lethal pressures, including enslavement during the rubber boom, ranchers turning their ancestral forests into pasture, illegal loggers and drug traffickers, amid official indifference.

The government has granted logging concessions even in areas known to be inhabited by tribes in isolation. Catahua's concession dates to 2002. The same year, authorities declared a reserve for the Mashco Piro right next to it.

But evidence mounted over time that members of the tribe, who have occasionally been photographed, usually from a distance, were present far outside the reserve. The government here says the Mashco Piro number around 750 spread across the central Peruvian Amazon and spilling into Brazil.

In 2016, a panel from the culture ministry, which oversees Indigenous issues, concluded that the Mashco Piro used forest in 14 different logging concessions. The panel proposed extending the reserve and suggested compensation for the affected businesses, including Catahua.

Successive governments have declined to implement those recommendations. Favio Rios, a director general at Serfor, Peru's national forestry agency, said it would follow whatever protocols the culture ministry created to protect the Mashco Piro.

Many Peruvians deeply distrust the government, historically rife with corruption and guilty of rights abuses, including the shooting deaths of scores of largely Indigenous anti-government protesters in 2022 and 2023.

The culture ministry declined to be interviewed. In a statement to The Post, ministry officials said they would coordinate with Serfor and others to draw up a "road map to advance in the process of categorization" of the Mashco Piro's territories, but did not provide a time frame. It insisted that logging concessions were the responsibility of Serfor.

Carola Galarreta, who heads Serfor's office in the Madre de Dios region, said it made unannounced visits to Catahua's concession and found that the company had suspended logging in the area where the worker was killed but continued to operate elsewhere in the concession.

The decision of Peruvian authorities to allow Catahua to continue operating on the concession is typical, advocates say, of the way the rights of Indigenous communities — especially those in voluntary isolation and initial contact, who are among the most vulnerable people on Earth — are ignored or violated in remote frontier regions from Papua New Guinea to Paraguay.

Those concerns have been voiced by five independent human rights experts at the United Nations. The U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, International Labor Organization Convention 169 on Indigenous and tribal rights and guidance from the Inter-American Human Rights Commission recognize the right of Indigenous peoples to the lands they have traditionally used.

The United Nations' Protection Guidelines for Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and in Initial Contact in the Amazon Region, the Gran Chaco and the Eastern Region of Paraguay bars outsiders from initiating contact with the dwindling number of tribes worldwide that live in voluntary isolation.

"Contacting them, affecting their land or the natural resources that they use is contrary to the international obligations of Peru, which are also binding for companies operating in Peruvian territory," warns Juanita Goebertus, Human Rights Watch's Americas director.

Diana Murcia, a professor who specializes in Indigenous law at Colombia's El Bosque University, describes logging as "the tip of the spear."

"When you provoke contact without consent," she said, "you're risking [the Mashco Piro] reacting in the wrong ways."

Nueva Oceania, a village of 100 or so Indigenous people living in simple wooden huts along the Tahuamanu river near Bolivia and Brazil, appears on few maps. Most people here are related ethnically to the Mashco Piro; their ancestors spoke a similar dialect of Yine, an Arawak language. They view their elusive neighbors as distant, if unpredictable, cousins.

As the only human settlement for miles, Nueva Oceania gets sporadic visits from what villagers call "the naked ones." The Mashco Piro typically emerge on the opposite river bank, demanding bananas or cassava. The villagers share what they have and retreat into their homes, a protocol to avoid contact and potential danger.

"When we see their tracks, we leave," says village elder José Añez, 74. "We know what to do, to avoid contact. We're their friends."

In this way, the villagers have become the Mashco Piro's representatives to the outside world. But they say it's also made them targets of Catahua — they accuse the company of waging a legal campaign aimed at silencing their advocacy.

In 2018, the company filed a lawsuit accusing villagers of fraud, criminal organization and illegal deforestation. It questioned their Indigenous identity, court filings show, noted that some have "freezers, DirecTV and generators," and claimed they had conned the education ministry into establishing a primary school to serve a "nonexistent student population."

A court suspended Nueva Oceania's native community status, which gives villagers collective land rights to its ancestral territory. When the local Indigenous federation said allowing Catahua to resume logging during the covid-19 pandemic endangered the Mashco Piro, the company sought and won a defamation judgment against it.

It was that case that drew the special rapporteurs. The American Bar Association's Center for Human Rights found that the trial was plagued by "due process violations," judicial "hostility" and decisions that lacked "proper justification." The federation has made similar arguments in an appeal before Peru's supreme court.

Such lawfare by logging and ranching interests is typical across Latin America, says ABA legal adviser Naomi Glassman-Majara.

"These companies generally will use a defamation lawsuit, or a criminalization case, or sort of any abuse of the legal process to harass Indigenous communities and human rights defenders," she says.

Villagers describe feeling besieged themselves by the sounds of distant chain saws and the legal campaign. They fear for their uncontacted brethren.

"There's less and less virgin jungle," says Nueva Oceania president Luz Mery Añez, 38, a niece of José. "More and more of the forest is being plundered. Where will the Mashco Piro go? What will they do?"







CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP: In the village of Neuva Oceania, Basilio Caymachi Dosantos carries arrows said to belong to the Mashco Piro. He says he saw members of the Indigenous group attack logging workers in 2022 and found the body of a worker who had been hit by arrows. Village chief Luz Mery Añez Silva and her daughter Nayeli Inuma Añez as she watches the river rise.

Reporting and photography for this story were supported by a travel grant from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.

Experts: Boat rammers may be bored teens

With ample food supply, orcas with time to spare might just be goofing off

BY MARÍA LUISA PAÚL



ISTOCK

Killer whales have rammed into at least 673 vessels off the coasts of Portugal, Spain and Morocco since 2020, causing some of them to sink. Strategies to counter the behavior will be tested this summer.

Hundreds of dangerous boat-ramming incidents over the past five years have cast orcas as deep-sea villains plotting to take back the ocean.

But the killer whales causing mayhem off Europe's Iberian Peninsula might actually just be bored teenagers — at least, that's the leading theory among a group of more than a dozen orca experts who have spent years studying the incidents.

Since 2020, members of a small group of killer whales have rammed into at least 673 vessels off the coasts of Portugal, Spain and Morocco — causing some to sink. The Spanish and Portuguese governments responded by tasking a group of experts with determining what was causing the whales to strike rudders, which are used to steer ships, and how to stop it.

The group, which includes biologists, government officials and marine industry representatives, on Friday released a report outlining their hypothesis: The orcas just want to have fun, and in the vast — and rather empty — open waters, the boats' rudders are a prime toy.

"This looks like play," said Naomi Rose, a senior scientist at the Animal Welfare Institute who was part of the working group. "It's a very dangerous game they're playing, obviously. But it's a game."

In most cases, the scientists found, the orcas approaching the vessels come from a group of about 15, mostly juvenile, whales. They typically approach slowly, almost as if to just bump the rudders with their noses and heads. But even young orcas average between 9 and 14 feet long, so the rudders would often get damaged or destroyed when the whales touched them, said Alex Zerbini, who chairs the scientific committee at the International Whaling Commission, a global body focused on whale conservation.

"There's nothing in the behavior of the animals that suggests that they're being aggressive," said Zerbini, who is also part of the working group. "As they play with the rudder, they don't understand that they can damage the rudder and that damaging the rudder will affect human beings. It's more playful than intentional."

Though orcas are known for their whimsy antics — like using jellyfish, algae and prey as toys — the researchers believe their playfulness has reached new levels in the Iberian Peninsula because of the rebound in the bluefin tuna population, their main source of food. In past decades, when orcas faced a tuna shortage, much of their time was spent trying to hunt down food. But once the tuna population bounced back, whales suddenly "have all this leisure time on their hands because they don't have to eat every fish they find," Rose said.

It's not yet clear why the orcas are attracted to rudders or how they became fascinated by them in the first place. Still, Zerbini said it could have started with one curious, young killer whale that was perhaps enthralled by the bubbles surrounding a moving ship.

"Maybe that individual touched a rudder and felt that it was something fun to play with," he said. "And, after playing, it began propagating the behavior among the group until it became as widespread as it is now."

In other words, it became a ridiculous fad — not unlike, say, the viral Tide pod or cinnamon challenges.

It wouldn't be the first time that killer whales mimicked a particular craze. In the past, some populations have taken to wearing dead salmon as hats or playing games of chicken, Rose said. And, just like human fads, the trends have a tendency to make comebacks years later, she added.

"My guess is that juveniles who see their older siblings or parents wearing salmon hats or doing some other fad sometimes remember these things as adults and think, 'This is funny. Let's do it again,'" she said. "These animals are cultural and sophisticated thinkers, and they're just incredibly social."

Orcas, Rose said, are similar to people in many ways. For instance, each population has a particular culture, language and food staple. Orcas and people also mature at a similar pace and, much like humans, female whales do so faster than males.

When it comes to the rudder bumping, Rose said, most of the whales involved are male juveniles and teens, meaning they are between the ages of 5 and 18. Fully grown males — over the age of 25 — are not participating in the antics. And while some adult female whales have been spotted at the scene of the incidents, "they seem to be just sort of keeping an eye on their kids, who are doing the actual playing," she added.

For sailors, though, the practice is no game. Rose said she worries about frustrated mariners launching flares or other devices to deter whales. Not only could those measures deafen or harm whales, they might backfire by "making the game even more fun for them," she said.

"The more dangerous it is for the orcas, the more thrill they seem to get out of it," she said.

So what's a better way to stop the boat-ramming? According to researchers: taking away the orcas' toys — or, at least, making them less fun to play with.

The working group proposed several methods that will be tested this summer, Zerbini said. One involves replacing rudders' typically smooth surfaces with abrasive or bumpy materials. They will also test a device that makes banging sounds around vessels and have suggested that boats hang rows of weighted lines, which orcas dislike.

"We don't want to see more boats being sunk and we don't want to see people in distress," Zerbini said. "But we also don't want to see the animals being hurt. And we have to remember that this is their habitat and we're in the way."

DIGEST

INDIA

At least 22 die in fire at amusement park

A massive fire broke out Saturday in an amusement park in Gujarat state in western India, killing at least 22 people, including several children, police said.

The fire erupted at the park in the city of Rajkot in Gujarat state. Police Commissioner Raju Bhargava said the blaze was under control and a rescue operation was underway.

Police officer Vinayak Patel confirmed the death of 22 people in the fire incident. The New Delhi Television news channel reported a death toll of 27.

The bodies were charred and it was difficult to identify them, Patel said.

The park is usually packed with families with children enjoying the school summer vacation over the weekend.

Footage showed firefighters clearing debris around collapsed tin roof structures that media reports said were used for bowling, go-karting and trampoline attractions.

The amusement park was privately owned by Yuvraj Singh Solanki, and Bhargava said that police would file a case of negligence against him.

— Associated Press

PAKISTAN

Muslims rampage over desecration allegation

Hundreds of Muslims in eastern Pakistan went on a rampage over allegations that a Christian man had desecrated the pages of Islam's holy book, ransacking and burning his house and beating him before police officers rescued the man and his father, officials said.

The incident occurred Saturday in the Mujahid Colony residential area in Sargodha, a city in Punjab province, said district police chief Ijaz Malhi. He said police quickly responded and saved the lives of the two men.

Malhi said the situation was under control and officers were investigating the allegations.

Police on Saturday dispersed the crowds and were also seeking help from religious scholars to defuse tensions, Malhi said. The Punjab government condemned the attack.

The man's small shoemaking factory was also burned down, Malhi said.

— Associated Press

A World War II-era Spitfire fighter plane crashed near a British air force base in eastern England on Saturday, killing the pilot, the U.K. Defense Ministry said. The ministry confirmed the death of a Royal Air Force pilot "in a tragic accident" near RAF Coningsby, an air base. There was no immediate word on the cause of the crash. The base about 150 miles north of London is home both to modern fighter jets and to the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, a collection of wartime fighter and bomber aircraft that take part in air shows and memorial displays. Several of the planes had been due to perform a flying display Saturday at the nearby Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Center.

An advance team of Kenyan police officials who were assessing preparedness before a multinational force is deployed to quell violence in Haiti is heading back home after the planned deployment was delayed over logistical issues. The team is due to arrive back from Haiti on Monday after recommending a deployment delay that was later announced by the president. A senior Kenyan official who declined to be named as they are not the official spokesperson said the bases are still under construction and crucial resources including vehicles are needed before deployment of the first 200 police officers from Kenya can take place. The deployment was due to start last week, but President William Ruto said it would be delayed for three weeks. The base where the police will operate from is about 70 percent done and there is need for secure stores for the armory, according to the senior official, who was in the advance team. The officials arrived in Haiti on Tuesday, met the Haitian police on Thursday and met the transitional presidential council on Friday.

— From news services

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PHOTOS BY FRED RAMOS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A threshing machine harvests corn on a farm in Culiacán in Sinaloa state. Criminal groups enter the tortilla process at many stages, starting with the farms that produce the white corn prized by tortilla makers.

Mexico's cartels seizing control of tortilla industry

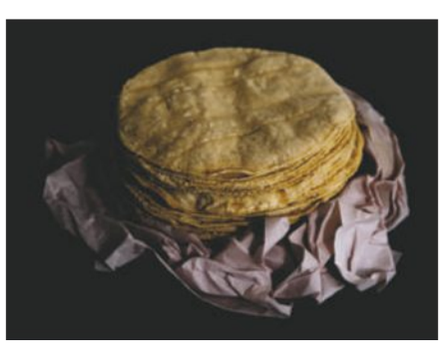














A growing economic role

Criminal groups have infiltrated a range of agricultural sectors, including corn, sugar cane and avocados. Gangs also demand extortion payments from chicken vendors. One in every 5 cigarettes comes from the black market, while at least 30 percent of the fuel sold in the country is stolen or smuggled.

CARTELS FROM **A1**

criminals set the price of tortillas," said Homero López, head of the council.

Outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, a longtime critic of the U.S.-backed "war on drugs," has designed his security policy around social programs rather than spectacular gunfights with traffickers. Homicides declined 9 percent during the first four years of his term, according to the latest data. But business organizations, human rights groups and others say a quieter, more pernicious phenomenon is spreading.

Once focused on the U.S. drug market, Mexican criminal groups have turned their sights on their own country, seeking to control territory they can exploit financially.

They're embedding themselves in local governments to maximize that control. That has made Mexico's elections increasingly violent. Hundreds of local candidates in the June 2 vote have dropped out of the race because of threats. At least 34 people running for office in this election have been killed, according to the consulting firm Integralia.

The criminal groups "have become de facto rulers" in some communities, said Sandra Ley, coordinator of the security program at México Evalúa, a research organization.

Mexico's cartels began to diversify into extortion, migrant smuggling and other illicit businesses more than a decade ago, as they splintered into smaller groups under pressure from security forces. Newer gangs needed fresh sources of income.

By now, they've penetrated entire industries.

About 70 percent of lumber production in Mexico is illicit, the Environment Ministry says — with a significant amount in the hands of organized crime groups. At least 30 percent of the fuel sold in Mexico is stolen or smuggled, estimates Onexpo, a national gas station group. One in every 5 cigarettes comes from the black market.

On Mexican farms, criminals "tax" everything from potatoes to the avocados bound for Americans' guacamole. Extortion accounted for nearly one-quarter of the 6 percent price increase in agricultural goods last year, according to José Ignacio Martínez, an economist at the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

While solid data is scarce, revenue from the array of illicit activities could rival the estimated $12 billion Mexican cartels rake in every year from drug sales. In one area alone — stolen and contraband fuel — the government estimates it's losing about $5 billion a year.

The expanding criminal grip on the economy is starting to have a spillover effect at the U.S. border. Detentions of Mexicans at the U.S. border — including asylum applicants — have tripled since 2019, reaching about 717,000 last year. People leave the country for many reasons, including better-paying jobs. But an increasing percentage of Mexican migrants say they are fleeing violence and extortion.

In a poll commissioned last fall by the State Department, and not previously made public, 39 percent of Mexicans surveyed said they'd be willing to migrate irregularly to the United States in the following months — a fourfold rise from early 2022.

Fear and outrage

On a recent morning, Antonio Vázquez nudged his pickup truck through the choking traffic south of the city of Cuernavaca, headed for a secret location. A fellow tortilla vendor was in trouble.

Vázquez, 55, a brooding man with silver-streaked hair, leads the tortilla association in Morelos, a small state south of Mexico City. Lately, he'd become a minor celebrity, making TV news by denouncing the threat to the state's tortillerías. About 30 shops in his state closed last year because of extortion.

His wife has been urging him to lower his profile. But Vázquez, who'd trained as a lawyer, can't contain his outrage.

"Somebody has to speak out," he said.

He turned onto a quiet street of pastel-colored homes and pulled into a walled compound. Under a giant tree, he sat down with a man in his late 30s, heavyset and sweating. The man, who asked not to be identified for security reasons, had refused to pay extortion. A gang retaliated by setting fire to his house.

"I have to find another way to survive," the younger man was saying.

There was only one option, he said — moving to the United States. Vázquez said he would try to help him open a tortilla shop there.

But, the man complained, "I can't get a visa." He said he might have to cross illegally.

Vázquez listened quietly, taking swigs of cold soda and swatting at the flies floating in the hot, still air.

All he could offer was a sympathetic ear.

More than two decades ago, Vázquez left his law firm to go into the family tortilla business, opening several shops in Cuernavaca. It seemed to be an ideal location. The city was a popular escape for well-heeled Mexico City residents, with its balmy weather, swimming pools, and riotous pink and orange bougainvillea spilling over stucco walls.

When the first gang turned up about three years ago, asking $10 a week to "protect the neighborhood," tortilla shops paid up. The criminal group quickly wiped out petty theft.

Five months later, in a burst of violence, a new gang took over, and protection fees began to rise.

"They lasted a year," Vázquez recalled. "They were killed too."

Now, gangs in the Cuernavaca area are hitting up tortilla makers for as much as $900 a month.

Just the previous week, armed men in masks had barged into one of Vázquez's shops and thrust a cellphone at him.

"Take it," one said. "The boss is going to call you."

Vázquez turned the phone over to the authorities. They asked him to convince his fellow tortilla vendors to provide all information possible: extortioners' names, nicknames, their license plates, the model of their cars. Yet he was hesitant.

"Even I'm afraid."

Competition for territory

Mexican analysts are still puzzling over what caused the new criminal economy to take off. But one of the seminal events occurred just two miles north of Vázquez's downtown tortillería, in a leafy Cuernavaca neighborhood known as Lomas de la Selva.

On the night of Dec. 16, 2009, Mexican navy commandos stormed a luxury condo complex, and a firefight began. Four hours later, Arturo Beltrán Leyva lay dead in the doorway of a blood-spattered bathroom.

The Obama administration called it "a



PHOTOS BY FRED RAMOS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

An irrigation canal in Culiacán in Sinaloa. Criminal groups have infiltrated the water system in the state, an agricultural powerhouse that produces the best white corn for Mexican tortillas.

significant blow against drug cartels." Beltrán Leyva, the "boss of bosses," was the first of a string of drug lords who were slain or captured by Mexican security forces aided by U.S. agents.

But the cartels didn't collapse. They splintered. Today, Mexico has two cartels with a nationwide presence (Sinaloa and Jalisco), but also hundreds of smaller groups. In the past four years, the security firm Lantia Consultores has identified at least 87 regional armed groups and 586 gangs.

"Fragmentation means that there's a lot more competition for territory," said Eduardo Moncada, a political scientist at Barnard College who studies crime in Latin America. "And so these criminal groups are turning to extortion as one way to generate revenue, to be able to wage these wars."

The trend is evident in other parts of Latin America, too. In Ecuador, reported cases of extortion rose almost 15-fold between 2021 and 2023, reaching 21,811, according to the Observatorio Ecuatoriano de Crimen Organizado. In Colombia, businesses ranging from rural coffee farms to multinational mining firms are forced to pay protection money. Gangs in Latin America have also expanded into migrant-smuggling and environmental crimes such as illegal logging and mining.

"These illicit activities are less profitable than drug trafficking, but they have become increasingly attractive because they generate relatively stable incomes at lower risk," noted an International Crisis Group report issued last year.

The rise of the mini-cartels is evident in Cuautla, a sunbaked city of 150,000 people nestled amid sugar-cane fields 30 miles southeast of Cuernavaca. A downtown park features a towering statue of Emiliano Zapata, the insurgent who famously attacked the city during the Mexican Revolution.

These days, a different kind of battle is underway. Four crime groups vie for power, according to law enforcement officials. They're the Mexico City-based Unión Tepito, and three smaller groups — including Los Acapulcos — that split off from big drug-trafficking cartels.

The groups shake down nearly everyone in the city: butcher shops, nail salons, hamburger stands, even dental practices. At one point, they demanded a cut of proceeds from the annual festival honoring Saint Joseph — forcing the Catholic Church to cancel it.

"You can't imagine the fear people are living with," Ramón Castro, the Catholic bishop in Morelos, told worshipers at a recent Sunday Mass, after visiting Cuautla. Gangs were demanding that tortillerías hand over 50,000 pesos in protection money — about $3,000, three times as much as in Cuernavaca. Trucks carrying sugar cane had to pay the same amount, to enter the local mill.

"Fifty thousand!" exclaimed the bishop. The sugar employees "are going to wind up working for them."

The sermon made the front pages of national newspapers; it was rare for anyone to say such things publicly.

The following day, the coordinator of the truckers at Cuautla's sugar mill was shot dead. Two weeks later, a prominent local butcher was killed, after complaining to local authorities about extortion.

Taking a cut

Tortillerías are especially vulnerable to extortion. They do brisk sales; the average Mexican eats 165 pounds of tortillas a year. Nearly all customers pay cash.

But the threat of crime doesn't stop at the tiny tortilla shops. It overshadows nearly every step of the tortilla process.

The northwestern state of Sinaloa is famed for the cartel once led by Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán. It's also an agricultural powerhouse that produces the best white corn for tortillas.

Crime groups have infiltrated the public water system in Sinaloa, imposing their own people in offices that oversee irrigation, according to two agricultural leaders in the state who spoke on the condition of anonymity, citing security fears. Farmers allied with the cartel pay little or nothing for water, the leaders said. Other customers are assessed an extra "tax."

"They realized what a good business this can be, especially given that the price of drugs has dropped," said one of the agricultural leaders.

Mexico's National Water Commission said the distribution of water for irrigation is handled by a local concession, not the government. Emilio González Gastélum, president of the state association that manages the concession, dismissed the allegations as "just rumors." He said that water fees were set by a governing board in consultation with farmers.

Once corn is loaded onto trucks and trains, other organized crime groups take a cut. Gangs, many carrying semiautomatic rifles, have robbed nearly 70,000 trucks carrying manufactured goods and farm produce on Mexican highways in the past five years, according to Concamin, a national business chamber.

The big cartels see such robberies as another revenue stream, said Héctor Manuel Romero Sánchez, a transportation security consultant. They "are trying to raise funds to invest in their biggest businesses — which are trafficking migrants, weapons and, obviously, drugs."

In some areas, crime groups are also taking over corn distribution. In Guerrero state, which adjoins Morelos, cartels strong-arm farmers into selling corn to them, and then force tortillerías to purchase it. The gangs even inspect the shops' inventories to ensure they're not buying elsewhere.

"If you have extra corn, they beat you," said one tortilla employee in the historic silver-mining city of Taxco.

Rarely convicted

After taking office in 2018, López Obrador declared the "war on drugs" over. It had turned Mexico into a battleground, he said, without reducing the flow of narcotics. He scaled back cooperation with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and called for a renegotiation of the Mérida Initiative, a decade-long plan under which the U.S. government had provided more than $3 billion in security equipment and training.

"It hasn't worked," the president said.

López Obrador disbanded the federal police and cut funds for local cops, widely seen as corrupt. He fashioned a two-pronged strategy — relying on the military and a new, 130,000-strong national guard to keep the peace, while offering scholarships and job-training programs to deter young people from crime.

The Mexican president has defended his "hugs, not bullets" policy, noting the reduction in homicides and a decline in other major crimes such as kidnapping. In January, López Obrador announced that the percentage of Mexicans who said they felt "unsafe" in their city had dropped to its lowest level in a decade. "People feel like things are getting better," he said. Still, 59 percent of city dwellers

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Regional criminal groups in Mexico



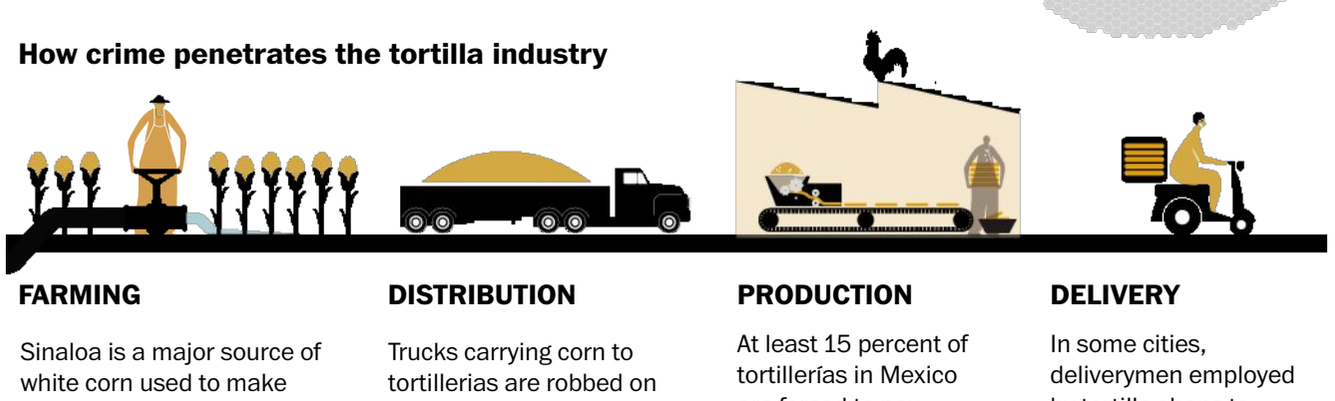
By reach

NATIONAL
2 main cartels

REGIONAL
87 mafias

LOCAL
586 groups

How crime penetrates the tortilla industry



FARMING

Sinaloa is a major source of white corn used to make tortillas around Mexico. Cartels have penetrated the government-run water system in the state, putting their people in key jobs dealing with irrigation. Cartel allies pay little or nothing for water, while normal farmers have to pay extra.

DISTRIBUTION

Trucks carrying corn to tortillerias are robbed on Mexican highways. Organized crime groups make hundreds of millions of dollars stealing produce and manufactured goods from tractor-trailers and trains. Some trucks pay extortion to avoid being robbed.

PRODUCTION

At least 15 percent of tortillerías in Mexico are forced to pay protection money, according to the National Tortilla Council. In some places, crime groups control the supply of corn and even gas tanks to tortilla shops.

DELIVERY

In some cities, deliverymen employed by tortilla shops to supply taco stands and restaurants have been accused of also selling drugs. A number of motorcycle delivery employees have been killed.

SAMUEL GRANADOS/THE WASHINGTON POST



A woman uses a tortilla machine at a tortillería in Mexico City. Small shops like this are increasingly targeted for extortion.



PHOTOS BY FRED RAMOS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Residents of Cuernavaca take part in a march for peace this month in response to rising violence in the state of Morelos. In a recent national survey, 59 percent of city dwellers in Mexico reported feeling unsafe.

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

reported feeling unsafe.

Security Minister Rosa Icela Rodríguez declined a request for an interview.

Sergio Aguayo, a political scientist, said the president had provided "no evidence those social programs are reducing the strength of organized crime."

Luis de la Calle, an economist who has written about extortion, said slashing investment in local security forces had boomeranged. "When you have an absence of the state," he said, "somebody fills it."

Many analysts point to Mexico's weak justice system and low spending on security as structural causes of the expansion of organized crime. Nationwide, only 1.3 percent of crimes are reported and solved, according to the nonprofit group Impunidad Cero. Few extortionists are ever convicted.

Uriel Carmona, the attorney general of Morelos, said in an interview that it's hard for the justice system to function when citizens don't trust authorities enough to provide information about extortion. And not only is there a lack of local police, he said; those on the job are paid miserably. "They're tempted by corruption."

When Carmona's investigators arrested a group of alleged extortioners in Cuautla in April, they discovered that one was a former police officer. An investigation into the Acapulcos gang in 2022 produced evidence that it was being protected by members of the Cuautla police force, according to the attorney general's office.

But the crime economy doesn't only thrive because of dirty cops. In many cases, the gangs have political cover. "Drug traffickers are totally involved in the elections," said Castro, the bishop.

In January 2022, the Sol de México newspaper published a bombshell — photos of the Morelos governor, Cuauhtémoc Blanco, with the leaders of three crime groups. Blanco, a member of the ruling Morena party, told reporters he hadn't known they were gangsters. "I take photos with everyone," he said.

The case is under investigation.

On a recent visit to Morelos, López Obrador praised Blanco as a "great man." His party has nominated the outgoing governor for a congressional seat.

Turning up at the U.S. border

Local elections have become increasingly violent as crime groups try to win control of mayoral offices.

A research project called "Voting Amid Bullets" tallied 836 attacks against elected authorities, political candidates, government employees and party activists during the past six years. That's nearly triple the number under President Felipe Calderón, whose six-year term ended in 2012.

The crime groups have forced tens of thousands of Mexicans to flee their communities in recent years, according to the U.N. refugee agency and nonprofit groups.

Increasingly, the displaced are turning up at the U.S. border.

The Kino Border Initiative, a migrant-services organization in the Mexican city of Nogales, found that 88 percent of the Mexican migrants it interviewed last year cited violence as their reason for leaving home. That compares with only 6 percent eight years earlier.

Many migrants said they could no longer tolerate the extortion demands, said Pedro De Velasco, advocacy director at the organization. "It becomes impossible to make the payments."





MIDDLE: A typical tortilla shop in Mexico City. ABOVE: Bishop Ramón Castro, shown at the Roman Catholic cathedral in Cuernavaca, has made national news in Mexico for denouncing widespread extortion in his state of Morelos.

Juan de Dios Navarrete understands why people migrate when extortioners strike. He owns the two tortilla shops attacked in Cuautla in November. The 15-year-old boy who was wounded by gunfire was his son, working the counter.

His panicked family urged Navarrete to leave the country.

But he had already done that. He spent two unhappy years in the Bronx back in the 1990s, working in a supermarket and at a restaurant, before coming home with an idea: to start a chain of tortillerías.

As he surveyed the damage to his downtown shop after the shooting, Navarrete became increasingly furious. He wasn't going to run away, he decided. He was going to demonstrate.

He turned to a local journalist, who was doing a Facebook hit.

"We citizens have to make noise," he said into the cellphone camera, waving his arms. "We have to come together."

Who else could residents rely on? Not the police. Not the army.

"Let's get together and clean up our city," he said, stuttering in frustration. "Please support me."

Navarrete waited for someone to join him. And waited.

Finally, he went home. After a few days, he reopened his shops. The customers returned, handing over their white cotton napkins.

Shielded by new steel bars, under the gaze of security cameras, his employees filled them with stacks of warm tortillas.

Ríos reported from Monterrey, Mexico. Marcos Vizcarra in Culiacán, Estrella Pedroza in Cuernavaca and Gabriela Martínez in Mexico City contributed to this report.

Expensive lobbying campaign takes aim at crypto oversight

CRYPTOCURRENCY FROM A1

then aggressively canvassed the Capitol to rally votes for its passage.

Industry executives, investors and workers — along with their companies' official political operations — have also contributed nearly $90 million to campaigns and other groups over the last two elections, according to the analysis. They supported the architects and advocates of the House bill, including Rep. Patrick T. McHenry (R-N.C.), who chairs the House Financial Services Committee. And the industry financed a trio of powerful new super PACs, which have flooded the airwaves with TV ads touting friendly candidates in both parties — often without mentioning crypto at all.

The spending estimates are an undercount, partly because federal campaign finance laws do not require companies and executives to disclose donations to certain nonprofit groups. Even so, the figures suggest the crypto industry now belongs to a category of Beltway powerhouses that regularly shell out massive sums to influence U.S. policymaking.

Speaking with reporters a day before passage of the House bill, McHenry acknowledged the myriad ways that cryptocurrency companies are "maturing" in Washington, a dynamic he described as critical toward crafting Congress's first major crypto bill.

"That is a benefit for this vote," McHenry said of the industry's outreach, "and for policymakers to see that."

Coinbase declined to make an executive available for an interview. Brad Garlinghouse, the chief executive of Ripple, said crypto ramped up politically to "provide a perspective about all the constructive, positive things about this industry."

The Senate has not said if it plans to consider the legislation this year. The White House last week said it "opposes" the proposal but did not explicitly threaten a veto. Other leading federal watchdogs have issued more dire pleas in recent days, warning that the House crypto bill could unleash new dangers for the economy.

"The crypto industry's record of failures, frauds, and bankruptcies is not because we don't have rules or because the rules are unclear," SEC Chair Gary Gensler said in a statement. "It's because many players in the crypto industry don't play by the rules."

The industry's rapid ascent in Washington is striking, two years after the calamitous failure of FTX, a marketplace where people could buy and sell virtual currencies — known as an exchange — that had been the world's third-largest platform and was once valued at $32 billion.

In March, a federal court sentenced the company's once-ubiquitous leader, Sam Bankman-Fried, to 25 years in prison, finding him guilty of numerous crimes that stemmed from his misuse of customers' deposits on risky bets and illegal political donations. His actions ultimately wiped out FTX, leaving the company in bankruptcy and customers scrambling for refunds.

After the FTX scandal, many lawmakers sounded alarms that a wider crypto collapse could imperil the broader economy. But those warnings only quickened the political evolution already underway in the industry, which quadrupled the number of registered lobbyists in Washington from 58 in 2020 to more than 270 by the end of last year, federal data shows.

"There needs to be an organized, concerted effort to engage with Washington," said Kristin Smith, chief executive of the Blockchain Association, which represents many of the largest crypto platforms and investors. She added that it "was very clear in the post-FTX collapse that the crypto industry was in the penalty box."

On Capitol Hill, the industry specifically sought "regulatory clarity," primarily through legislation that would vest oversight responsibilities with the CFTC, a half-century-old agency originally meant to oversee corn and grain futures. Many crypto supporters viewed it as a friendly regulator — at least compared with the SEC, which in recent years has brought 170 enforcement actions against digital currencies and trading platforms, including Binance, Coinbase and Ripple.

"U.S. regulators have taken sporadic and ambiguous enforcement actions based on decades-old rules designed for a system that looks more and more like the past," Paul Grewal, the chief legal officer for Coinbase, told lawmakers at a hearing in March 2023, fretting that the patchwork U.S. legal system had allowed for the rise of unregulated foreign competitors.

By summer, House Republicans responded with the bill known as FIT21, a highly complicated proposal that would create a pathway for cryptocurrency companies to be regulated primarily by the CFTC. (The agency's chairman, Rostin Behnam, had made a similar push for a greater role in cryptocurrency, boasting in 2022 that "bitcoin might double in price" if the CFTC oversaw the market.)

The measure also would relax some of the financial disclosures crypto firms must provide customers while limiting when investors could sue for abuse. Crucially, the bill would provide no new funding for the CFTC, despite the agency's recent calls to Congress for a bigger budget. The commission did not respond to a request for comment.

Unveiling the bill last year, Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-Pa.) heralded it as a "much-needed regulatory framework." As the leader of the House Agriculture Committee, which oversees the CFTC, he said the panel had sought "extensive feedback from stakeholder and market participants." (His office did not respond to a request for comment.)

Many cryptocurrency lobbyists and lawyers acknowledge they were closely involved in helping to draft the proposal. Sheila Warren, chief executive of the Crypto Council for Innovation, said last week that her group "workshopped" some of the provisions "a year-and-a-half, or two years ago." The group is backed by companies like Coinbase and investors including Andreessen Horowitz, a prominent Silicon Valley venture capital firm.

The industry's proximity to the legislation spooked consumer watchdogs, who argued the House threatened to create new major regulatory gaps. Some lawmakers feared the FIT21 bill could open the door for other financial institutions to evade SEC regulation, a charge that House Republicans deny.

Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), the top Democrat on the House Financial Services Committee, said she believed the legislation "would allow [cryptocurrency companies] to absolutely ignore a lot of the compliance that others have to be responsible for," creating a lapse in oversight that could ultimately "catch up with us."

Lawmakers still approved the measure on a bipartisan 279-136 vote on Wednesday, marking the latest win for the industry. Congress also this month voted to limit other SEC policies, and the House voted to block the Federal Reserve from offering a digital dollar.

Many Democrats said the dynamic recalled the 2008 financial crisis, when Washington failed to prevent the country's largest banks from underwriting risky mortgages. Roughly 6 million people lost their homes in the resulting financial crisis and recession, while the U.S. government spent trillions of dollars digging the nation out from the wreckage.

"Before the 2008 crash, when I talked about how inadequate our oversight of the banks was, I kept saying, it all looks okay today, but this will end badly," Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) said in a recent interview. "I feel that way today. It may look okay out there right now, but inviting crypto deeper into our economy without putting adequate regulations in place will end badly."

Cryptocurrency companies strongly resist those comparisons, arguing that members of Congress simply do not understand the new, fast-paced industry. To further shore up support on Capitol Hill, they have set their sights on this year's election. Garlinghouse, the Ripple CEO, cited the "megaphone Elizabeth Warren has" as a reason for the industry's massive campaign spending.

Many supporters of the House bill long have benefited from cryptocurrency cash. McHenry, who is retiring, has received more than $188,000 from the industry in recent years, according to the data. Appearing onstage at a crypto conference the week before the vote, he promised the House would ensure "no future [SEC] chair can do what [Gensler] has done to digital assets." His comments drew broad support from the crowd, which spent the day ridiculing the SEC.

Thompson has received more than $39,000 and Rep. French Hill (R-Ark.), chairman of a key crypto-focused panel, received more than $42,000, records show. The third-most powerful House Republican, Rep. Tom Emmer (R-Minn.), has collected more than $168,000. Emmer has previously encouraged lawmakers to espouse crypto in exchange for campaign support.

The industry also has incubated a trio of super PACs, including Fairshake, which formally launched in March 2023 and secured major donations from Coinbase, Ripple and such top crypto investors as Marc Andreessen and Ben Horowitz. The super PACs together have raised more than $87 million, according to Fairshake spokesman Josh Vlasto, who said in a statement they would "support members and candidates on both sides of the aisle who will stop playing politics and get things done."

With the power to spend unlimited money, these super PACs have targeted congressional races around the country with roughly $19 million in ads, according to data compiled this month by AdImpact.

They plan to spend additional sums in critical battleground states such as Ohio and Montana, which may determine control of the Senate.

"There's no doubt it is intended to send a message to members of Congress," said Rep. Katie Porter (D-Calif.), an advocate for financial regulations who lost a primary campaign for Senate this month after being targeted by roughly $10 million in negative crypto-funded advertising.

So far, 11 congressional candidates backed by crypto-funded super PAC ads have won their 2024 primaries, including Jim Banks, a Republican running to represent Indiana in the Senate, and Shomari Figures, a Democrat running for the House in Alabama. Many of these aspiring lawmakers have heralded crypto — and opposed federal regulation.

The dynamic was on display May 14, as West Virginia State Treasurer Riley Moore won the GOP nomination to represent a House district in the northern part of the state. A crypto-aligned super PAC called Defend American Jobs swooped into the race in its final days, spending more than $750,000 to boost Moore — the nephew of Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) — in a competitive field, according to AdImpact.

One ad praised Moore for his work to balance the state budget, attract manufacturing jobs and maintain a "tough" stance on China. Viewed more than 10 million times, the 30-second TV spot did not mention cryptocurrency, though Moore added a section to his website promising he would "foster this emerging industry."

"In Congress," the ad's narrator intoned, "Moore will stand up for us."

A spokesman for Moore declined to comment. His Democratic challenger, Steve Wendelin, blasted the influx of crypto money, arguing that "crypto is not a concern of the average West Virginian at all."

"All these crypto guys," Wendelin said, "are trying to buy up all these politicians."

Clara Ence Morse contributed to this report.

Crypto cash in the nation's capital

Some of the lawmakers who helped craft and advance the House's newly passed legislation are the biggest recipients of industry donations, federal data show.

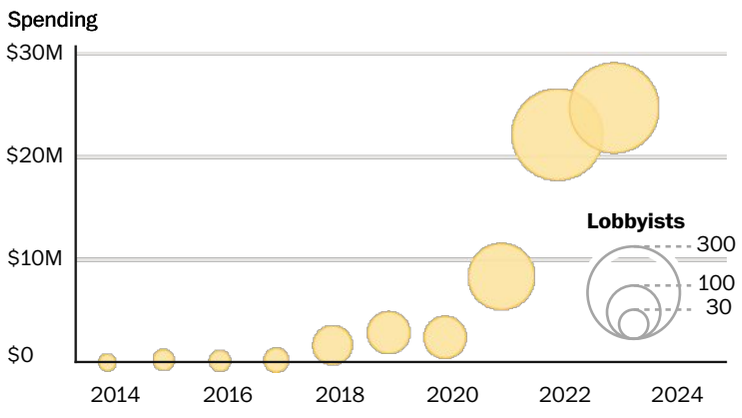
	RECIPIENT	LIFETIME CRYPTO DONATION
1	Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.)	$246,930
2	Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.)	$235,276
3	Rep. Patrick T. McHenry (R-N.C.)	$188,870
4	Rep. Tom Emmer (R-Minn.)	$168,766
5	Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-N.Y)	$153,255
6	Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.)	$146,350
7	Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.)	$144,414
8	Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (I-Ariz.)	$85,200
9	Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.)	$83,845
10	Sen. Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.)	$79,250

Table includes top 10 congressional recipients of donations from corporate PACs, individuals and investors tied to crypto.

Source: Opensecrets

Crypto's new lobbying boom

Crypto companies and investors have hired droves of lobbyists — and shelled out increasingly large sums — to ward off unfriendly regulation in Washington, federal data show.



Source: OpenSecrets

U.S., allies move to tap interest on frozen Russian assets to aid Ukraine

BY JEFF STEIN

The United States and its Western allies took a key step Saturday toward using frozen Russian assets to fund Ukraine's war effort, moving closer to providing another key financial stream for Kyiv.

Russian officials have suggested they could retaliate by confiscating U.S. and European assets in Russia, although it's unclear how much impact such measures could have.

Meeting in northern Italy this week, the top financial officials of the Group of Seven nations agreed in a joint statement to tap the investment returns of "immobilized Russian sovereign assets" to support Ukraine. The Kremlin has been blocked from accessing hundreds of billions of dollars held in Western financial institutions after invading Ukraine in 2022, and European and U.S. officials have for months debated whether or how to unlock these funds to help fight off the invasion.

Russia has roughly $280 billion in sovereign assets stashed in Western financial institutions, the majority of which is held by European firms. Those funds are now frozen under the U.S.-led sanctions effort.

Under the emerging plan, the Western allies would essentially use the interest and other investment returns accruing on these assets to pay themselves back for money they give to Ukraine in the near term. The exact amount of the money that could be raised this way could vary, depending on interest rates and other financial conditions, and finance leaders are working out a thicket of complicated legal and financial questions.

Western leaders believe the plan could yield as much as $50 billion in short-term or medium-term funding for Ukraine, although key details need to be worked out. President Biden and other heads of state will aim to ratify the plan during subsequent meetings of the G-7 in Italy this June. Congress last month approved $95 billion in foreign military aid after a months-long logjam caused by House Republicans, but Ukraine's supporters are eyeing other funding streams to buttress Kyiv's considerable long-term financial needs.

"We are making progress in our discussions on potential avenues to bring forward the extraordinary profits stemming from immobilized Russian sovereign assets to the benefit of Ukraine, consistent with international law and our respective legal systems," the statement says.

Initially, Ukraine's boosters called for confiscating and transferring the entire pool of Russian sovereign assets to Kyiv. That plan was scuttled, however, as Germany, France, and other U.S. allies had expressed unease about a plan that they feared could compromise the financial stability of the euro zone by leading investors to put their money elsewhere. The new plan would leave Russia's underlying assets untouched. The European Union voted earlier this month as well to move forward with using the profits of the frozen Russian assets.

Russia has strongly condemned all attempts to confiscate or repurpose its financial assets as a violation of international law. President Vladimir Putin signed a decree on Thursday authorizing the confiscation of assets held by U.S. citizens and companies in Russia, in response to the West's proposal.

"We can see they are being careful, they understand the potential danger of such decisions and the potential consequences for themselves which are inevitable. That is why they have gone for the smaller option," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters last week, according to Reuters. "But even the smaller option is to us nothing less than expropriation."

But hundreds of U.S. and European firms have already pulled out of the country in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the sanctions imposed afterward. Of the more than 1,600 international firms operating in Russia before the invasion, roughly 400 remain, with only 30 U.S.-based firms still operating there, according to Jeffrey Sonnenfeld, a professor at the Yale School of Management. Sonnenfeld called the Kremlin's threat "inconsequential."

Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen has led U.S. efforts to persuade European allies to use the seized sovereign Russian assets in some way, pointing to Kyiv's long-term funding needs and the hundreds of billions of dollars in estimated damages Moscow's war has caused its neighbor. The funds could also help ensure Ukraine has access to Western support even if Biden loses the presidential election this November.

"This is an assured source of financing," Yellen told reporters earlier in the week. "It's important that Russia realize that we will not be deterred from supporting Ukraine for lack of resources."

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OPINION

RUY TEIXEIRA

Young voters aren't as liberal as you think

The romance between President Biden and young voters, never particularly torrid, remains no better than lukewarm as his administration whipsaws between its support for Israel, its desire to placate young demonstrators and the need to keep a lid on social unrest in an election year.

Ever since the millennial generation (those born between 1981 and 1996) joined the electorate in force in 2008, Democrats have relied on and expected outsize margins among young voters. They have even hoped that millennials and their younger successors, Gen Z (those born between 1997 and 2012), would tilt the political terrain in their favor indefinitely.

But perhaps Democrats were getting ahead of themselves. The ongoing demonstrations on campuses are really only the latest complicating factor in an already blurry picture of young voter support for Biden and the Democrats. Young voter discontent has been gathering throughout Biden's term and might no longer give Democrats the margins they need to hold the White House and the Senate.

That raises two questions: First, just how liberal and pro-Democratic are young voters today? And, perhaps more pivotally, are these voters' views likely to change as they age? It turns out that young voters' views are actually quite nuanced — and potentially changeable.

And in the main? They're not as liberal as you think.

Let's settle first on what we know. According to Gallup, 18-to-29-year-olds today (most of whom are considered Gen Z) are plurality, but not majority, Democratic:

Which party young voters identify with

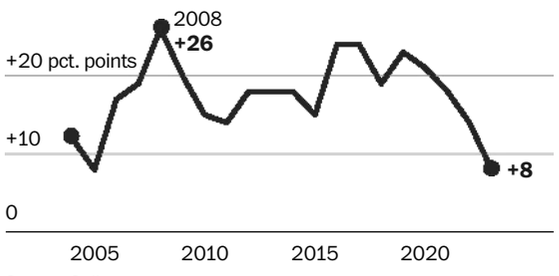


Data includes people who identify and lean with each party.
Source: Gallup

That plus-8 advantage is the narrowest Democratic tilt among this age group since 2005 and continues a downward trend since 2019, when the Democratic advantage among this age group was 23 points:

Fewer young people are identifying as or leaning Democratic

Share of people ages 18 to 29 who lean Democratic minus share who lean Republican

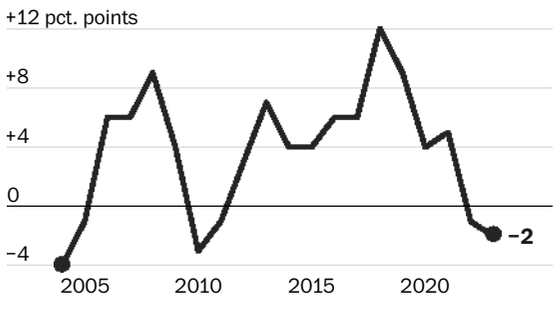


Source: Gallup

The next age group for which Gallup makes data available is 30-to-49-year-olds. This age range is larger than desirable but does include the entirety of the millennial generation — except for those 28 and 29 years old. In 2018, when this age group had fewer millennials in it than it does today, Democrats had a 12-point advantage. Now, Republicans are ahead by two percentage points among voters between 30 and 49 years old.

Among voters ages 30 to 49, Democrats are behind by 2 points

Share who lean Democratic minus share who lean Republican

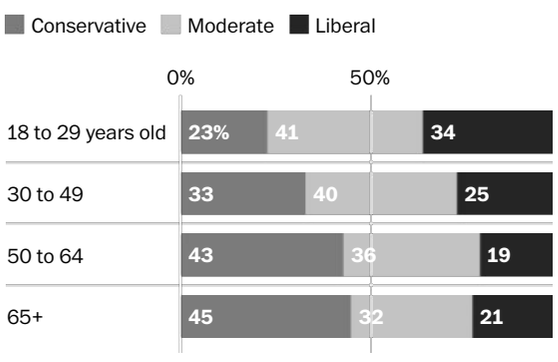


Source: Gallup

Another venerable polling outfit, Pew Research Center, has released data suggesting the Democratic advantage in party ID among 18-to-29-year-olds is much larger, possibly because Pew restricted the sample to *registered* voters and pushed respondents quite hard on whether they are really "independent." This further clouds the picture of young voters' political leanings.

The mixed nature of these results — at least, more mixed than the discourse around young voters might lead one to expect — is reinforced by Gallup results on ideology. The most recent data indicates that only about one-third of those ages 18 to 29 identify as liberal. That liberal share is indeed higher among this age group than other age groups, but obviously it is not the dominant ideology even for this cohort:

Political ideology by age group



Source: Gallup, 2021

Among Gallup's 30-to-49-year-olds — again, this age group now includes the overwhelming majority of millennials — there is even less evidence of liberal domination. They are just 25 percent liberal, 40 percent moderate and 33 percent conservative.

The liberal-but-not-*that*-liberal pattern is confirmed by looking at these voters' underlying views on policy issues. For example, it is well established that younger voters are more liberal than older voters on climate, immigration, transgender issues, criminal justice, abortion rights and more. But there are many other findings on these issues that complicate that picture.

Consider these numbers, drawn from a December poll by YouGov for the Blueprint Strategy Group, part of a series of surveys designed to examine Democratic strengths and weaknesses among key voting blocs.

On immigration, 48 percent of under-30 voters consider Biden more liberal than they are on the issue, compared with 29 percent who think he's more conservative than they are. Similarly, 46 percent consider Biden more liberal on the border and 44 percent think he's more liberal on asylum seekers than they are, compared to 30 percent and 25 percent, respectively, who think he's more conservative.

On transgender issues, 48 percent of these under-30 voters (remember, these are essentially Gen Z voters we're talking about!) consider Biden more liberal than they are on these issues, compared with 28 percent who think the president is more conservative. And by 10 points, voters under age 30 oppose the idea that transgender individuals should be allowed to play on sports teams that do not match their birth gender.

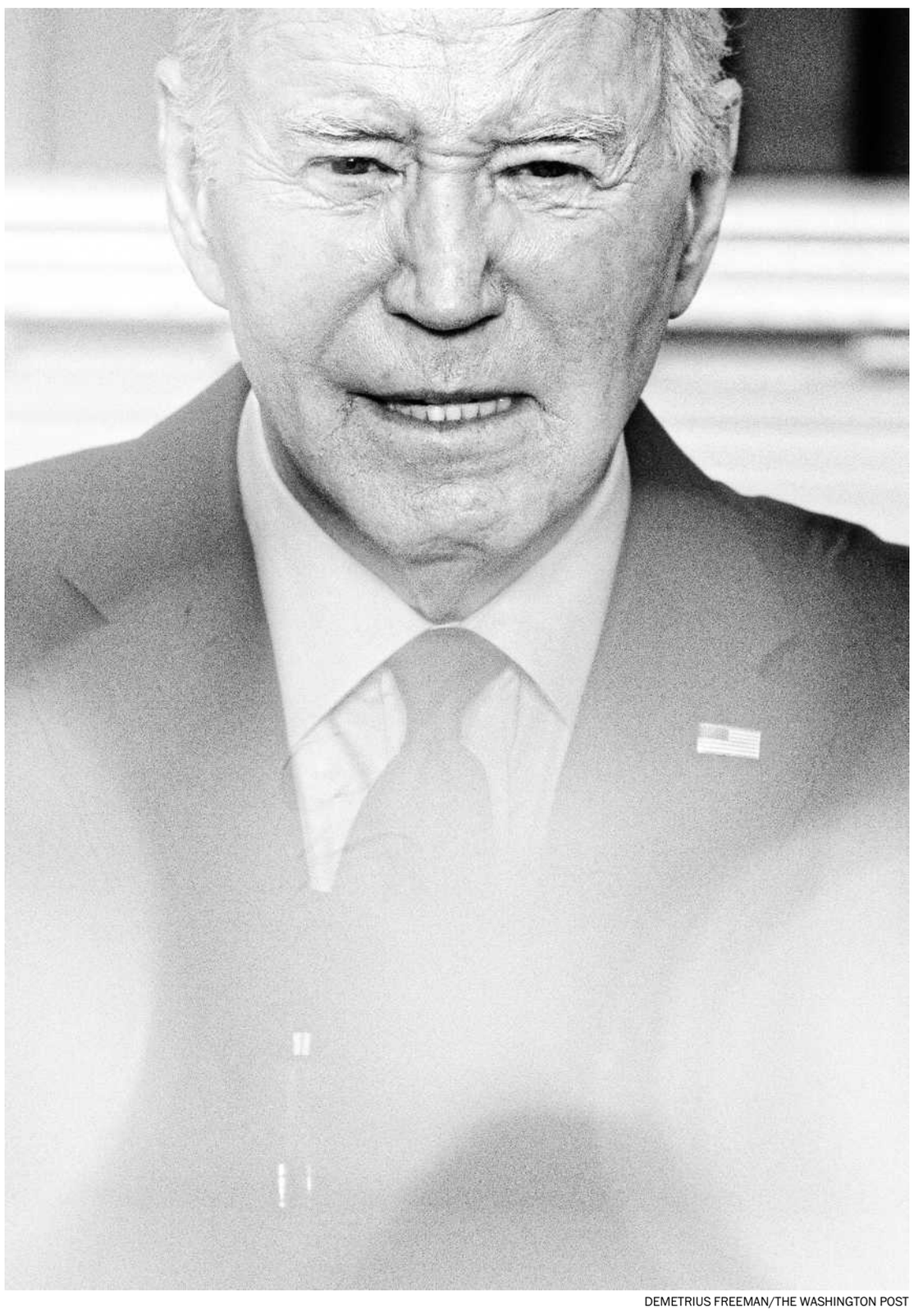
On crime, 40 percent of 18-to-29-year-old voters think Biden is more liberal than they are on the issue, compared with 30 percent who think he's more conservative. By 12 points, they think criminals are not punished harshly enough in this country rather than too harshly.

Even on oil and gas exploration, 45 percent believe Biden is more liberal than they are, while 30 percent think he's more conservative. And on climate change, 41 percent think Biden is more liberal, compared with 30 percent who say he's more conservative. By 43 percent to 40 percent, voters under age 30 say they support the United States *increasing* "domestic fossil fuel production."

Similar nuance can be seen regarding the abortion issue. Gallup data finds 62 percent of those under 35 (Gen Z and the younger millennials) describe themselves as "pro-choice" rather than "pro-life" (32 percent). And a staggering 81 percent say abortion should be generally legal during the first three months of pregnancy. But when queried about the second three months of pregnancy, just under half (48 percent) think abortion should be legal in this period. And for the last three months of pregnancy, only one-third support legal abortions.

A summary measure of young voters' liberalism is provided by Pew's political typology. The typology divides the public into groups defined by issue views and political values. The "progressive left" group in this typology is the most strongly liberal group and most closely resembles the stereotype of the young voter one frequently encounters in the media. According to Pew, members of this highly educated, politically engaged group are "very liberal" across the board on issues, say they like leaders who identify as democratic socialists and were likely to have backed Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) or Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.) in the 2020 Democratic primaries.

This sounds familiar — we often read about this supposed archetype of today's young voter. But analysis of Pew's data reveals that only 11 percent of 18-to-29-year-olds can be put in this bucket, larger than adults overall (6 percent) but hardly overwhelming. More 18-to-29-year-olds (21 percent) fall into the "outsider left" group, which is quite liberal on many issues but politically unengaged and very dissatisfied with both parties.



DEMETRIUS FREEMAN/THE WASHINGTON POST

President Biden delivers remarks about ongoing campus protests on May 2 at the White House.

Another indication that young voters should not be confused with progressive activists comes from the most recent Harvard Institute of Politics Youth Poll. The poll tested the relative importance of different issues among this age group by using randomized pairwise comparisons. Here are the findings:

How people 18 to 29 years old ranked different issues

Harvard's Youth Poll asked 2,010 people about 16 major issues facing the country. The issues were shown in pairs — each issue was tested against every other, randomly. Respondents chose which was more important to them.

Percentage that each issue "won" the matchup:

1	**Inflation**	**64%**
2	**Health care**	**59%**
3	**Housing**	**56%**
4	Gun violence	54%
5	Jobs	53%
6	Corruption	52%
7	Protecting democracy	52%
8	Women's reproductive rights	50%
9	Education	50%
10	Immigration	47%
11	Crime	47%
12	**Climate change**	**43%**
13	Taxes	43%
14	Free speech	40%
15	**Israel/Palestinians**	**34%**
16	**Student debt**	**26%**

Source: Harvard IOP Youth Poll; Spring 2024

The three top-performing issues were inflation, health care and housing (which makes this age group a lot like older age groups). Far lower were climate change, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and, at the very bottom, student debt. These issues might have high salience for progressive activists but are much less important for ordinary young voters.

None of this is to claim that younger voters in general are not more to the left on most issues than their older counterparts. They are. But there is a difference between being *more* progressive than other voters — and progressive as a blanket characterization. As this data clearly shows, that characterization is not accurate and might explain how these voters could become politically untethered from their relative liberalism as they are pressed by economic trends and the swirl of current events.

Will young voters' liberal but nuanced views on issues lead them to stick with the Democrats, as they have during the past few cycles? Or will they start to break from the party this year and embrace alternatives?

Polls have consistently indicated that voters under the age of 30 are vastly underperforming their Democratic expectations in this year's presidential election, compared with the recent past. Big data firm Catalist estimated the Democratic margin among these voters at a stable 22 or 23 points in the last three presidential contests. But polls this year have repeatedly shown Biden only narrowly ahead of former president Donald Trump among this age group — and sometimes losing.

For example, the data analytics site Split Ticket maintains an average of demographic cross tabs from public polls. Thus, for 18-to-29-year-olds, Split Ticket found that Biden led Trump by an average of just 12 points in April polls. Interestingly, it also collected data on cross tabs among 18-to-34-year-olds (different polls use different age breaks), and this slightly older age group — which contains more millennials — only averaged a two-point advantage for Biden that month.

Similarly, the latest New York Times-Siena poll — ranked No. 1 among all U.S. pollsters by the website FiveThirtyEight — has Biden ahead by just one point among 18-to-29-year-olds and *behind* by one point among 30-to-44-year-olds. Among likely voters, a smaller subset, Biden is ahead by two points among 18-to-29-year-olds and by an identical margin among 30-to-44-year-olds. But no matter how you screen, this a sharp falloff for Biden from 2020.

The Harvard Youth Poll also provides data on Biden-Trump preferences among young voters. This poll has Biden ahead of Trump by eight points among *all* 18-to-29-year-olds, by 13 points among registered 18-to-29-year-olds and by 19 points in this poll's version of 18-to-29-year-old *likely* voters. (Every poll has different criteria for likely voters.) These are better numbers for Biden than in many other polls, but the important context here is that the 2020 version of this poll, taken at the same point in the election cycle, had Biden ahead by 23 points among registered voters under age 30 and by 30 points among likely voters in this age group. Again, the newer data clearly implies a substantial hit on Biden's support among young voters relative to 2020.

Of course, none of this means that young voters are *guaranteed* to vote markedly less Democratic (or, less plausibly, Republican) this November. These voters still lean Democratic and have many underlying views that should incline them against the GOP. But the potential for slippage is there.

Why might that be? The simplest explanation is that these voters' loyalties are more provisional than they are given credit for. When the political and economic situations breed discontent among these voters, they can be shaken from their moorings and embrace alternatives. That might be happening now. Consider this data from the same New York Times poll mentioned above.

In that poll, an astonishing 91 percent of voters under age 30 rate economic conditions as only fair (26 percent) or poor (65 percent) vs. just 9 percent who say they are good or excellent. Voters under age 30 give Biden an abysmal 28 percent approval rating on handling the economy. That stands in stark contrast to the thumping *67 percent* approval rating these voters give Trump's handling of the economy when he was in office. Young voters also rate Trump ahead of Biden on immigration and, amazingly, on "unifying America" (though the difference there is small). And on handling foreign conflicts, these voters give Biden a rock-bottom 19 percent rating in this area, compared with 43 percent for Trump.

Another interesting comparison is that 33 percent of young voters think the years when Trump was president were good ones for America — which is not great. But only 8 percent think that about the years Biden has been president. And, as has been widely noted, almost all (87 percent in this poll) think Biden is too old to be an effective leader.

Put all this together with these voters' liberal-but-not-*that*-liberal views on many issues, and it is easy to see how many might be tempted to consider a populist alternative such as Trump or perhaps Robert F. Kennedy Jr. If they believe Democrats are not delivering the life they're looking for — and might not in the future — that can easily outweigh their relative liberalism. And the most disaffected of this cohort might just stay home.

At the same time, Biden and the Democrats are working hard to woo this demographic, announcing new initiatives on student loans, decriminalization of drugs and climate change (though the data above suggests that student loans and climate change aren't actually potent issues among this set). And many Democrats scoff that defections at any serious scale are even possible, that Trump and the GOP are just too "out there" for these voters.

Democrats might consider the possibility that keeping younger voters on their side has less to do with the pet issues of activist groups that purport to speak in these voters' name and more to do with the issues that loom large in these voters' everyday lives: inflation, health care and housing. These issues, shared with the broader electorate, are the material substrate of the world these generations will inhabit for better or worse. Would a Biden second term address these issues? If so, how? Right now, younger voters are not convinced that another four years would deliver what they want.

And Democrats would also be wise to consider the experience of European countries where right-leaning populist parties have lately been doing especially well among younger voters. Far from repelling these voters, many find the antiestablishment and elite-bashing politics of these new parties attractive, channeling their dissatisfaction with the recent past, the status quo and "politics as usual." In countries from Italy, France and the Netherlands to Austria, Finland, Sweden, Belgium, Portugal and parts of Germany, right-leaning populism has been surging among younger voters.

Many Democrats look at America's youth and say it won't happen here. But the data says it *could* happen here; younger voters' opinions are just too complicated, fluid and responsive to changing conditions to rule out big changes in voting patterns. The campus protests this spring have already shown that college students, among the most liberal segments of today's youth, are unenthusiastic-to-hostile about many traditional Democratic positions. It could well be the case that, far from sticking with the Democrats, younger voters will instead become increasingly contestable between the parties. If so, this upcoming election could be the first salvo in an epic battle for these voters' loyalties that might go on for many years.

SUNDAY OPINION

DANA MILBANK

Trump should know the rule: Three Reichs and you're out

As you've probably heard, Donald Trump has once again raised a führer.

The former president's Truth Social account posted a video posing the question "What happens after Donald Trump wins?" and providing a possible answer: In the background was the phrase "unified Reich."

This follows Trump's echoing Adolf Hitler in campaign speeches, saying that immigrants are "poisoning the blood of our country" and calling his opponents "vermin."

And that, in turn, followed Trump's dining at Mar-a-Lago with high-profile antisemite Ye (Kanye West) and white supremacist leader Nick Fuentes, who likened incinerating Jews to baking cookies.

Under the three-Reichs-and-you're-out rule, Trump should be on the bench. Yet he keeps swinging — and this past week provided a sobering measure of how numb we have become to his undeniably fascist rhetoric.

Almost exactly eight years ago, Trump attacked Gonzalo Curiel, then the district judge in the Trump University fraud case, saying that his "Mexican heritage" posed "an inherent conflict of interest." In the uproar that followed, even Republican leaders were appalled, and then-House Speaker Paul Ryan said Trump's statement was "the textbook definition of a racist comment."

This past week, Trump did almost the same thing when he left court on Tuesday after his defense rested in the Stormy Daniels hush money case. "The judge hates Donald Trump," he said. "Just take a look. Take a look at him. Take a look at where he comes from." New York Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan emigrated from Colombia as a child. But this time there was little outcry from the inured populace, and if Republican leaders had any complaints about Trump's textbook racism (or on his third Reich moment of this campaign) I must have missed them.

Vilifying migrants is a standard fascist trope. So is the constant claiming of victim status. Trump falsely alleged in a fundraising email this past week that his opponent conspired to kill him. "Joe Biden was locked & loaded ready to take me out & put my family in danger" during the FBI's 2022 search of Mar-a-Lago for missing classified documents, Trump wrote. He separately claimed that Biden's Justice Department "AUTHORIZED THE FBI TO USE DEADLY (LETHAL) FORCE." In reality, the FBI took extra precautions to avoid a confrontation by conducting the search when Trump was away and alerted the Secret Service. Agents were operating under the same standard rules of engagement they used when searching Biden's home: Lethal force can be used only if in "imminent danger of death or serious physical injury."

Also last week, Trump, asked by Pittsburgh's KDKA-TV whether he favored restricting Americans' access to birth control, responded: "We're looking at that, and I'm going to have a policy on that very shortly." After the televised interview was broadcast, Trump said the notion that he would advocate restrictions on contraception was "a Democrat fabricated lie."

That maneuver — floating an outrageous policy and then pretending he had done no such thing — is another tool that Trump routinely uses. After Trump's Truth Social account shared the video with the slightly-blurred "unified Reich" message during a lunch break in Trump's trial in New York, his spokeswoman claimed the video had been "created by a random account online and reposted by a staffer who clearly did not see the word, while the president was in court." The campaign removed the post.



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

Former president Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Charleston, S.C., on Feb 14.

Sound familiar? During the 2016 campaign, Trump tweeted an image that had been used by white supremacists of a Star of David atop a pile of cash. The campaign removed the offending post and Trump said it had been posted by a staffer. He later told a crowd that his aides "shouldn't have taken it down."

During that same campaign, Trump also tweeted an image of an American flag containing an image of what appeared to be Nazi Waffen-SS soldiers. The campaign removed this post, too, and blamed an intern.

The disavowal is part of the game, says Jason Stanley, a Yale philosophy professor who specializes in the rhetoric of fascism. "You do it and then you deny it and it's just systematic, over and over and over again," he told me in a phone call. "The people who want to hear it hear it, and it signals the direction you want to go in." And for those uncomfortable with the extremism, the denial provides "a way of lying to themselves and telling themselves this is not what's really going on."

But it is. From Nazi Germany to Viktor Orban's Hungary, Stanley says, people invariably thought the rhetoric of the rising authoritarian was exaggerated and just for dramatic effect. "Historically, people always, always don't take it seriously," he said. Perhaps they don't realize that Trump is deploying the exact same tropes — against migrants, judges, gender nonconforming people, universities, the media, "Marxists" — now being used by autocrats in Russia, India and Hungary. "If you look at what Trump is saying . . . everywhere in the world the authoritarians are saying that."

And yet we drift, placidly, into autocracy. Okay, Trump is unifying the Reich. But Biden is so old!

Trump's fascist rhetoric is supported by an array of authoritarian polices, which he and his campaign have helpfully divulged.

Trump has said that his (false) election fraud claims justify "the termination of all rules, regulations, and articles, even those found in the Constitution." He said he wouldn't be a dictator, "other than Day 1," when he would use absolute power to seal the border and drill for oil. He has proposed that those shoplifting from stores should "fully expect to be shot." He said he would round up as many as 20 million undocumented immigrants and, perhaps, put them in mass deportation camps, taking money from the military if necessary.

He said he would appoint a special prosecutor to "go after" Biden, his family and "all others involved with the destruction of our elections, borders and our country itself." He said he would order prosecutors to "go down and indict" his political opponents if they are "doing well and beating me" — and he would fire prosecutors who don't follow such orders. He said he would use the National Guard, and perhaps the regular military, to crack down on protests against him. He would strip civil service protections so he could replace federal workers with Trump loyalists, and he might take over independent agencies, including the Federal Reserve. He suggested he would change laws to attack what he perceives as "anti-White" bias.

Speaking at the National Rifle Association last weekend, Trump asked the crowd whether he should "be considered three term or two term?" Several in the crowd shouted out: "Three!" Earlier this spring, the American Conservative published an article titled "Trump 2028" that argued the 22nd Amendment, which limits a president to two terms, "is an arbitrary restraint on presidents who serve nonconsecutive terms." The group is part of Project 2025, to which the Trump campaign has informally outsourced its policy planning.

Trump has hinted that he would pardon those sentenced for attacking the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. He included in his courtroom entourage this past week two convicted felons, Bernard Kerik, the former New York police commissioner he pardoned, and Chuck Zito, a former Hells Angels leader. During testimony, defense witness Robert Costello showed the same sort of contempt for the judge as Trump did outside the courtroom. He rolled his eyes, talked under his breath, called the proceedings "ridiculous" and complained with a "jeez" when he disagreed with Merchan's ruling.

Trump has promised "retribution" against his political opponents, and outside Trump's trial this past week, his allies amplified the threat. "They fear Donald Trump and they fear what's going to happen if he becomes president again — and, I tell you, they should fear," said Rep. Ronny Jackson (R-Tex.).

"Yes," agreed Rep. Troy Nehls (R-Tex.), at his side, wearing a necktie with Trump's face printed on it.



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

Trump supporters cheer at a campaign rally in Rock Hill, S.C., on Feb. 23.

Trump had one final thing to say before he left the courthouse last week. Just a day after his post about the "unified Reich," he offered a message for "Jewish people that vote for Biden and the Democrats: They should have their head examined."

Well, I have had my head examined, and it was found to contain the following memories of things Trump has said and done:

He told his White House chief of staff John Kelly that "Hitler did some good things" and complained that U.S. generals weren't "totally loyal" to him the way Nazi generals were to Hitler. He spoke of the "very fine people" marching among the neo-Nazis in Charlottesville. He closed out his 2016 campaign with an ad that singled out three prominent Jews with suggestions that they manipulate a "global power structure." He was reluctant to disavow David Duke or supporters of his who harassed and threatened Jewish journalists. He has shared innumerable messages on social media from white supremacists. He has repeatedly questioned the loyalty of American Jews.

Long ago, Vanity Fair reported that Trump's ex-wife Ivana said he read from a book of Hitler's speeches, which he kept in a cabinet by his bed. Trump confirmed that he had the book but denied that he read it. By coincidence or design, there has been a startling overlap in their language of late.

Trump speaks of immigrants "poisoning the blood of our country" and "coming in with disease." Hitler said that great civilizations died "as a result of contamination of the blood," and he called Jews "the worst kind of germ-carriers in poisoning human souls."

Trump calls his political opponents "radical-left thugs that live like vermin within the confines of our country." Hitler called Jews "an inferior race that multiplies like vermin."

Trump says that "the enemies from within are more dangerous, to me, than the enemies of the outside. Russia and China, we can handle." Hitler spoke of "the greater inner enemy" and said that when "the internal enemy was not recognized . . . all efforts to resist the external enemy were bound to be in vain."

Trump complains that "fake news is all you get, and they are indeed the enemy of the people." Hitler complained of "the lying Marxist press" and said "the function of the so-called liberal press was to dig the grave for the German people."

Trump claims that "we've never done worse than we've done now. . . . We're so disrespected. The whole world is laughing at us." And he warns: "If we don't win this election, I believe we will no longer have a country." Hitler claimed that "the Reich had fallen from a height which can hardly be imagined in these days of misery and humiliation." He warned that "one year of Bolshevism would destroy Germany" and transform it "into chaos and a heap of ruins."

Trump, at the end of his speeches, likes to say: "We will drive out the globalists. We will cast out the communists, Marxists, fascists. We will throw off the sick political class that hates our country." Hitler spoke of a "world conspiracy" made up of "Jews and democrats, Bolshevists and reactionaries" and motivated by a "hatred" of Germans.

No, Trump isn't Hitler, and the 21st century United States isn't Weimar Germany. But Trump's words, so obviously ripped from history's darkest pages, lead no place good. The only thing poisoning the blood of our country is his copycat fascism.

RUTH MARCUS

Both sides are wrong on releasing the Biden tape

This is a column with two competing — and vexing — points of view. House Republicans' bid to obtain the audio of President Biden's interview with special counsel Robert K. Hur is political mischief-making, pure and simple. At the same time, I'm uncomfortable with Biden's assertion of executive privilege to prevent the audio from being turned over.

Republicans first: To the extent the House has a valid legislative purpose in reviewing Hur's work, and his decision not to bring charges against Biden for mishandling classified documents, that has been satisfied by the administration's swift decision to turn over a written transcript of the president's interview with Hur.

Asserting the need for the audio, the House Oversight Committee contends that the transcript might be inaccurate and that the "verbal nuances in President Biden's answers about his mishandling of classified information would assist the Committees' inquiry into whether he abused his office of public trust for his family's financial gain."

Please. We all know what the House is really after: clips of Biden sounding, as Hur portrayed him, like "an elderly man with a poor memory." Committee Chair James Comer (R-Ky.), copped to that and more, blasting out a fundraising appeal: "This could be the final blow to Biden with swing voters across the country."

This is a blatant bid for electoral ammunition under the false flag of oversight.

And it's especially galling to hear lectures from House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), whose panel is also seeking the audio, about Attorney General Merrick Garland's supposed contempt of Congress in refusing to comply. Jordan, a man who defied a subpoena from the Jan. 6 select committee, has some nerve complaining about Garland's "willful refusal to comply" when he behaved so contemptuously himself.

Each of these inter-branch showdowns creates a precedent for the next, and the oversight shoe is often on the other foot.

Even if the House has the votes to hold Garland in contempt, I hope they don't take that step because it would be a use of the contempt power that is both unwarranted and purely symbolic. Now that Biden has asserted executive privilege, Garland is protected against any prosecution for criminal contempt even if one were to be brought.

That said, politics runs in both directions — and I'm not a big fan of the assertion of executive privilege here either, although I understand the Biden officials' frustration and what led them to this point. Having provided the transcript — let's assume this wasn't out of the goodness of their hearts but because they thought it was in their political interest — they find themselves in an if-you-give-a-mouse-a-cookie situation, with never-ending demands for more.

White House counsel Edward N. Siskel correctly called out Republicans for their political motives: "The absence of a legitimate need for the audio recordings lays bare your likely goal — to chop them up, distort them, and use them for partisan political purposes," he wrote.

Still, it doesn't take a conspiracy theorist to understand the political motivations on Biden's side — to protect the president from a damaging portrayal, accurate or not, in his area of greatest electoral vulnerability, and to delay any resolution of the matter until safely after the election.

The White House and Justice Department cast the dispute in high-minded terms: Releasing the audio "would raise an unacceptable risk of undermining the Department's ability to conduct similar high-profile criminal investigations — in particular, investigations where the voluntary cooperation of White House officials is exceedingly important," Garland wrote in a memo to Biden requesting that he assert executive privilege.

That's the executive privilege hill the administration wants to die on? The difference between the chilling effect of releasing a transcript and the supposedly even more chilling effect of releasing the audio? Let's be honest: White House officials cooperate with federal prosecutors when it is in the interest of the administration to have them do so. And it's rather odd for the administration to claim that the threat of having audio made public would be so harmful even as it asserts that lawmakers have no need to hear it.

All this matters because each of these inter-branch showdowns creates a precedent for the next, and because the oversight shoe is often on the other foot — Republican lawmakers seeking information from a Democratic administration one year, Democratic lawmakers demanding documents from a Republican president the next.

Congressional oversight can reflect sheer partisan troublemaking, but it can also be critical information-gathering. Here, the claim of executive privilege doesn't call for revealing high-level administration deliberations. It doesn't involve sensitive law enforcement files. It concerns audio of an already-released transcript in a closed investigation. Garland's letter cites a George W. Bush-era claim of executive privilege when Democratic lawmakers sought material from special counsel Patrick Fitzgerald's investigation into the disclosure of the identity of CIA employee Valerie Plame, including notes of interviews with then-Vice President Dick Cheney.

But a look at then-Attorney General Michael Mukasey's request that Bush assert executive privilege underscores the difference between the two situations. "Many of the subpoenaed materials reflect frank and candid deliberations among senior presidential advisers, including the Vice President, the White House Chief of Staff, the National Security Advisor, and the White House press secretary," Mukasey wrote. That's not comparable to the facts unearthed in the Biden interview — leaving aside the fact that the full text is already in the public domain.

It's sad that it has come to this. In a less partisan atmosphere, there would be accommodation to be had here: let lawmakers of both parties listen to the audio; but don't give it to them for public distribution. In the current environment, that solution is risible: Republicans would listen and instantly proclaim their shock at Biden's allegedly enfeebled mental state. Once again, poisonous politics makes bad law.

OPINION

The Washington Post
AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

For D.C. Council Democratic primary elections

EDITORIAL

AFTER YEARS of free spending, the D.C. government faces a $4 billion budget shortfall through fiscal 2029. Pandemic relief money has dried up and a commercial real estate recession threatens the tax base — but raising taxes could undermine the capital city's competitiveness. Meanwhile, D.C. needs to hire hundreds of police officers to reduce crime — a serious concern of the public — while addressing chronic absenteeism in public schools and repurposing the site where RFK Stadium will soon be demolished. The D.C. Council desperately needs fiscally responsible and serious-minded members to tackle these hard choices.

Six of the 13 seats are up for election this year. The winner in five of them will likely be determined in the all-important Democratic primary on June 4. (Early voting begins Sunday.) Ward 2 council member **Brooke Pinto**, a leading pragmatic voice, especially on public safety, fortunately has no challenger. At-large council member **Robert C. White Jr.,** who lost a bid for mayor two years ago, faces token opposition from comedian Rodney "Red" Grant. Another at-large council member running for reelection, Christina Henderson, will not appear on the ballot until November because she's an independent.

In Ward 7, 10 candidates are running to succeed Vincent C. Gray (D), who is retiring for health reasons. **Wendell Felder**, the director of regional affairs for Howard University, is the most sensible choice who can win, which is why Mr. Gray also endorses him. The 33-year-old grew up in public housing. His father was formerly incarcerated, his brother is a D.C. police officer and he earned a master's in urban planning from Georgetown. He showed competence at constituent services as a community relations liaison for Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D). He was chair of the Ward 7 Democrats and has served four terms as an advisory neighborhood commissioner.

Mr. Felder "unequivocally" supports continuing mayoral control of schools, an essential issue in the race. He will champion the construction of additional housing units. He supports bringing the Commanders to a new stadium at the RFK site, which is in Ward 7, but opposes spending taxpayer money to do so. He correctly sees raising taxes as a last resort for dealing with the fiscal crunch, unlike too many council members.

In Ward 4, incumbent Janeese Lewis George (D) ran, and won, on defunding the police in 2020 — and now is running away from that position. "It wasn't the best verbiage used," she said this past week. Shifting along with public sentiment, she voted in March for the Secure D.C. law but led efforts on the council to water down key provisions. Last summer, she was the only member to vote "no" on emergency legislation to address the crime wave and fought efforts to expand pretrial detention for adults accused of violent crimes.

Lisa Gore, an ANC commissioner in Chevy Chase, is the better choice for Ward 4. She is ideologically temperate and has previously worked as a juvenile probation officer and a special agent in charge of the operations division for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's inspector general.

The D.C. Council desperately needs fiscally responsible and serious-minded members to tackle hard issues.

Ward 8 council member Trayon A. White Sr. is probably the body's least effective legislator. He was the only council member to vote "present" on the crime bill in March. One of his pet projects is trying to give amnesty for residents who have refused to pay traffic tickets. Previously, Mr. White apologized for claiming that Jews control the weather and other antisemitic comments.

Ward 8 voters have a good alternative in educational consultant **Rahman Branch,** the former principal of Ballou High School and executive director of the Office on African American Affairs for Ms. Bowser. He supports mayoral control of schools and served on the board of the Rocketship Public Charter School. He successfully reduced truancy and violence at Ballou during his six years as principal there.

However, Mr. White is heavily favored to win. Part of the problem is that D.C. has closed primaries, which means only registered Democrats can participate. That's especially frustrating because municipal elections are mostly decided in low-turnout primaries. Mr. White won four years ago with just 4,050 votes, for example.

Happily, that could change in 2026. Initiative 83, which will likely qualify for the ballot in November, would allow 74,000 "unaffiliated" voters to cast a primary ballot. The measure would also create ranked-choice voting, which would prevent situations such as the one in the current 10-candidate Ward 7 primary. The winner might secure a council seat with fewer than one-quarter of the ballots cast. Decisions about the city and its $21 billion budget should rest on a much broader political base.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hats off to Ms. Trump's chapeau!

Regarding The Post's May 20 Style column "Melania Trump's ensemble: Clothing as armor, hat as helmet":

Rachel Tashjian's fanciful musings on the many secret signals Melania Trump was sending when she chose to wear a hat to her son's graduation ceremony didn't give enough weight to the most obvious reason for the former first lady's decision. This was an outdoor daytime event in Florida. Looking at the photos that accompanied the article, several other women were also wearing hats. Yet Ms. Trump's hat was the only one singled out for consideration.

Although Ms. Tashjian quipped that "Hats have become a funny little fashion gesture — a signal of personality, but mostly of dottiness," I would encourage her to remember that people occasionally wear things for reasons other than pure fashion. I assure you, there are still plenty of us, even on the liberal side, who wear hats as a nod to practicality. Hats are a fantastic option for protection from the sun, particularly for those of us who burn easily or have a higher risk of skin cancer. Sunscreen is great, but a hat won't fade after a few hours or a run through the sprinkler! If your hair has a tendency to frizz after several hours in Florida's humidity, a hat is an excellent way to tame it. They provide a bit of shade on a bright day, making it easier to see things such as your son getting his diploma. Finally, as a former Floridian, I can attest that the tropical weather there turns on a dime, and hats provide a convenient touch of shelter when the rain inevitably starts.

Ms. Trump makes plenty of unique fashion and design choices. Her White House Christmas decor still haunts me to this day. Her boater gave no such offense.

Catherine Hutchins, *Norton Shores, Mich.*

Rachel Tashjian's column about Melania Trump's wardrobe choices at her son's high school graduation didn't take into account that Ms. Trump is probably still mourning the loss of her mother. People from many cultures wear black for months and sometimes years after a loved one dies instead of shedding those garments as they leave the cemetery. My grandmother wore black for five years after my grandfather died and then switched to purple for a while.

Stop trying to compare Ms. Trump with Jackie Kennedy and let her dress as she deems appropriate for her situation. I notice that no mention was made of the former president's departure from his usual obnoxious red tie. Sexism is alive and well at The Post, especially when it comes to wardrobe.

Janet Smith, *Herndon*

Who wears hats anymore? People with style and class.

Melania Trump's hat was stylish and a classic look. She could have also wanted to shade her face from the sun to prevent skin cancer. Ms. Trump's cutting-edge wardrobe is the equivalent of caviar; her successor's style choices, some of which resemble Waverly drapery fabric, are more like cheesesteak.

Coco Chanel and Jackie Kennedy would have given a thumbs-up to Ms. Trump's outfit.

Deirdre Taylor, *Newark, Del.*

To the former first lady's credit, at least she wasn't wearing an embroidered red ball cap!

Christine Stelloh-Garner, *Woodburn, Ore.*

In her May 20 column, fashion reporter Rachel Tashjian asked "Who wears a hat anymore?" after Melania Trump was seen wearing a boater hat at her son's graduation ceremony. Ms. Tashjian writes that hats "have become a funny little fashion gesture" that signals "dottiness." Ms. Tashjian doesn't stop there. In the two-page critique of her retiring and nonpolitical victim, she says Ms. Trump looks like the "intern of a gondolier," does not rightly "read the occasion," and made other snide comments.

But something came to mind. I went back to the front page of the same edition of the paper, which had an article on President Biden's speech at the graduation ceremony Sunday at all-male Morehouse College ["Biden touts Black gains in Atlanta, Detroit"]. There was an accompanying photo — almost half a page in full color — of Morehouse alumni proudly honoring the new graduates from the stands. They were wearing beautiful white suits topped by boater hats with broad red bands. Does their attire merit a similar critique?

Chris Walsh, *Arlington*

ANN TELNAES

Mr. Giuliani can't dodge the Arizona subpoena



Marriage advice

Regarding Kathleen Parker's May 19 op-ed "Ruffling the kicker":

Did this 28-year-old man, Kansas City Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker, just suggest that marriage is exciting? I mean, I suppose it can be, on occasion, maybe during a particularly cutthroat game of Scrabble or Mario Brothers. When we experienced a tornado last summer in our Michigan town, and I argued with my husband about his desire to go outside, in the dark, and inspect whether or not live wires had fallen to the ground, I suppose that was exciting.

But generally? No. Marriage couldn't be less exciting. I've attended faculty meetings more exciting than marriage. I've eaten pieces of chocolate more exciting than marriage and have visited rescue shelters more exciting than marriage. I have watched seasons of "Bridgerton" that make me wish my marriage was more exciting.

Yes, I love my husband. Yes, we have wonderful moments and days together. No, I would not trade them for anything. Yes, I hope we do this life forever, come hell or high water. And I know he'd agree with me about this: Sustained excitement in marriage is not attainable, and thus, not something to aspire to. And it is certainly not a fantasy to push on college graduates.

To the men and women graduating Benedictine College, and for graduates everywhere: Excitement comes from within, if it's to be had all. Much of life can be mind-numbingly dull. Much of marriage is an exercise in negotiation and compromise: that is, pure tedium.

If you sign on to a marriage and children expecting it to be the most exciting thing you'll ever do, I promise you: The disappointment you'll feel when you find out otherwise will be unmatched. I say this as someone who married at 39 years old, and wed long after that initial falling in love stage was behind us. Expecting your spouse to be your sole source of excitement is an unfair expectation. If you internalize Mr. Butker's words, you are setting your future spouse up to fail.

Do not trust anyone who seems to suggest that family life, however it is defined for you, is the most exciting thing you'll ever do. And especially do not trust an athlete worth millions of dollars who can afford a lifestyle that many of us cannot.

Marriage is not exciting, and especially not once the honeymoon phase is over. But it can be consistently fulfilling, with considerable effort and care and if you choose correctly and at the right time. Methinks Mr. Butker has watched a few too many Disney movies. Now, if only he'd attend a Taylor Swift concert.

Christina Wyman, *Lansing, Mich.*

While I, like so many, personally found Harrison Butker's commencement address at Benedictine College ignorant and offensive, not to mention an eerily veiled clarion call directed at the incel community, I agree with Kathleen Parker that he shouldn't be tossed off the Kansas City Chiefs because of it. Let those who agree with him welcome him into their orbit, and let those who disagree with him give him a wide berth — that's what most of us do when we encounter people who consider us or those we love less-than because of gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, or failure to live according to their religion. I wish someone would educate Mr. Butker on the value of our LGBTQ+ fellow citizens and of women outside the home, but kicking him off his football team won't accomplish that.

Where I disagree with Ms. Parker, other than her giddy assertion that Mr. Butker's ability to kick a football is alone enough to gain him entry into "the heavenly gates," is her indignant invocation of "cancel culture." I can't spare such ire on behalf of people of wealth, privilege, rank or social status. I'm more concerned about the widespread and growing attempts to foreclose real-world options for women who choose a path other than childbearer and homemaker, lesbians, gays, and those who choose to live their true gender identities. Just as the choices Mr. Butker and his wife make are none of our business, nor are the life choices of anyone else Mr. Butker's concern. When are we going to stop thinking that how anyone other than ourselves chooses to live — assuming no harm to anyone else — is ours to decide or to deride?

Thankful Vanderstar, *Silver Spring*

Why so serious?

Regarding Daniel Pink's May 24 opinion column "Why not redo our holiday calendar?"

Daniel Pink wants to take all of the fun out of American holidays. He seems to want to transform all of them into days when we have to participate in civic observations and memorials. Unlike Britain and Canada, the United States has no holidays that are just supposed to be days off. All of them have solemn origins. Well, that may be the purpose, but they are also the only opportunities when dual job families with school-age children have free time to enjoy whatever they want to do. Attaching most of the holidays to weekends expands the possibilities.

Mr. Pink even wants to eliminate Presidents' Day. That is the last holiday before the long holiday desert until Memorial Day. So what if there are mattress sales? We could do with additional holidays in the spring. Let the people play.

David Vandenbroucke, *Alexandria*

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Letter submissions
Letters can be sent to **letters@washpost.com**. Submissions must be exclusive to The Post and should include the writer's address and day and evening telephone numbers. Letters are subject to editing and abridgment. Please do not send letters as attachments. Because of the volume of material we receive, we are unable to acknowledge submissions; writers whose letters are under consideration for publication will be contacted.

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OPINION

THEODORE R. JOHNSON

Our democracy is fine. It's the republic that's in trouble.

Democracy got the third degree at Morehouse College on Sunday. President Biden delivered the commencement address at the nation's only all-male historically Black college. His remarks were appropriately laudatory, paying homage to the lore of the "Morehouse man" and the contributions of alumni such as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. He told the graduates that he's sure, one day, someone will go from this campus to the Oval Office — playfully adding, "just after an AKA from Howard." Everyone knew who he was talking about: Vice President Harris.

But the thrust of Biden's speech was serious, weighted with the political issues that will decide the presidency this fall. Speaking through the graduates to Black voters generally, he appealed to the people who rescued his primary campaign four years ago. The day's message was that democracy — the only thing that can create a fair and just nation — is again under siege. He positioned himself as its champion, vowing, "that's my commitment to you: to show you democracy, democracy, democracy is still the way." It was a promise of representation. And a gentle plea to keep hope alive.

It seemed a fitting sermon for a nation whose faith in government is in short supply. Congress is historically unpopular; this year, more than 80 percent of us disapprove of the job it's doing. For the first time in decades of polling, Americans hold more negative than positive views of the Supreme Court. And polls routinely tell of a general dissatisfaction with the choices for president. Unsurprising, then, that satisfaction with democracy is also at a record low.

And yet, a higher percentage of eligible voters participated in the 2020 presidential election than any since 1900, a time before women could vote and when more than 90 percent of Black Americans lived in the disenfranchising South. That's a sign of democratic health. What's in bad shape is the republic, the very thing Benjamin Franklin declared in 1787 had been created.

The difference is more than semantic. At heart, democracy prioritizes the "dêmos," or the people, while the republic depends on representatives who act as the people's advocates. The combination of the two — a democratic republic — best describes a system in which government requires our consent, and then works on our behalf. Our history has seen the slow growth and expansion of democracy as excluded people forced the government to seek their consent, as well. Now, after nearly 250 years, we're most of the way there. Biden went to Morehouse to point out Black people's decisive role in making democracy more accessible for everyone — and to warn that these gains are at risk.

The graduates, faculty and their families were a polite audience, even in the few instances of muted protest. The president's charge to defend democracy was well received. But the college is in Atlanta. Cradle of the civil rights movement. Home to Sen. Raphael G. Warnock, an Alpha from Morehouse. It's a plurality-Black city that knows the fight for voting rights as well as anywhere. Nevertheless, in 2020, people still waited in line for up to 10 hours to cast a ballot. On campus that morning and in places beyond, the more glaring problem is with the republic resulting from our democratic processes. Our national representatives do not, as a group, inspire confidence in government.

Political scientists have shown that public policy is most responsive to elite and business interests and least to the average citizen. When nonvoters are asked why they opt out of elections, more than 70 percent cite either the electoral college's trumping of the popular vote, a belief that the system is rigged and corrupt, or the undue influence of big money. More than one-third of voters don't think election outcomes represent the people's will. Gerrymandering and the electoral college have turned a people's decisive vote into elections with razor-thin margins. Party primaries and campaign financing discourage principled pragmatists from government office, instead incentivizing sensational behavior by politicians.

This kind of republic gives democracy a bad name. Alexander Hamilton said at the Constitutional Convention in 1787: "The voice of the people has been said to be the voice of God. … It is not true in fact." Better to empower the rich and well-born to check the mass of people who "seldom judge or determine right." James Madison offered an assurance that the people's representatives would be men of character, "whose patriotism and love of justice" will make them resistant to selfish pursuits and blind partisanship. Americans today — including the men of Morehouse, no doubt — have reason to think that Madison misjudged it.

Biden was defending democracy to a nation disenchanted with its republic. He's staking his seat in the Oval Office on the argument that he's a better representative for the people than the competition would be. And he's hoping the Democratic Party's most steadfast supporters will stay the course and give him another chance. Former president Donald Trump asks the same of his loyal constituents. The people, unhappy with the state of the nation, are left wondering how to use their voices to create the republic they want, one worth the keeping.



RAMADAN ABED/REUTERS

Palestinians gather to obtain aid in Gaza on May 19.

DAVID IGNATIUS

Relieving suffering should be the easy part of this war

In Gaza City last November, I watched thousands of Palestinian civilians slowly march south from their shattered homes toward what Israel promised would be food and shelter in Rafah.

Now, with Rafah a military target, many of those Palestinians are again on the move fleeing conflict — their plight nearly as desperate as before. Israel, prodded by the United States, must fulfill its repeated promises to provide adequate humanitarian assistance — so that the next phase of the war in Gaza doesn't become an even deeper tragedy.

Helping civilians ought to be the easy part of this terrible conflict. But more than seven months into the fighting, supplies of food, medicine and other essentials are still woefully inadequate. International aid workers say that Israel and Egypt continue to impede the flow of assistance. The Biden administration rightfully worries about "the day after," but the immediate humanitarian task is *today* — in easing the suffering of Palestinian civilians and freeing Israeli hostages.

"This is a man-made crisis, and there could be a man-made solution," says Bob Kitchen, the vice president for emergencies for the International Rescue Committee, who helps coordinate the group's Gaza assistance. He told me during an interview on Thursday how he had to pull his 13-person medical team from Rafah on May 7, when it ran out of cash and Israeli airstrikes came too close. Another IRC medical team had been forced to abandon a hospital in central Gaza in January.

The basic problem, according to Kitchen and other aid workers I talked with, is that available supplies still aren't getting to the people who need them. There are too many time-consuming delays at crossings, inspection points and "deconfliction" posts. Israel allows so little cash into Gaza that the few functioning ATMs in Rafah are overwhelmed, and economic recovery is impossible.

The IRC released a report this past week that some Palestinians are surviving on just 3 percent of the internationally recognized minimum standard for daily water intake. Diarrhea and other waterborne and communicable diseases are spreading among families who don't have clean water, the IRC said. Delivery of hygienic supplies takes up to three months, and as many as 600 people sometimes share a single latrine, the report said. The IRC, based in New York, is widely respected for its global relief work.

The flow of supplies is better now than a few months ago, at least on paper. The Erez crossing at the northern edge of Gaza is open, along with another just to the west at Zikim, and supplies can flow to these transit points from the Israeli port of Ashdod. The floating pier and causeway constructed by the United States on the central Gaza coast is operating. And the Kerem Shalom crossing at the southeastern edge of Gaza is open, including to commercial trucks coming from the West Bank — though shipments recently into Kerem Shalom were disrupted by right-wing Israeli protesters.

The problem has been Rafah. The big crossing there, which was clearing hundreds of trucks a day a month ago, has been now closed by Egypt because it opposes Israeli military moves to seize control of the Gaza side. Many hundreds of trucks are backed up while Israel and Egypt squabble about border control. But Egypt's president agreed to open the crossing late Friday on a provisional basis after a phone call from President Biden, so that should ease the pressure.

The most frightening worry is the flight of perhaps 1 million Palestinians, escaping Rafah but without any secure or well-sheltered place to go. Though Israel appears to have acceded to Biden administration pressure against a massive assault on Rafah, panicked Palestinians civilians have left the town anyway. And Israel seems determined to mount a smaller operation — despite an order Friday by the International Court of Justice banning an assault.

The civilians are on the same road of desperation and despair that I saw six months ago. Some head for the already densely packed camps in Muwasi, along the shore; others flee north toward Khan Younis, where U.S. officials estimate that more than half the buildings have been destroyed. "It's a very, very difficult situation," says one senior administration official, describing the refugee camp at Muwasi as a "complete mess."

Whatever you think about the war in Gaza, helping these civilians is essential. "Humanitarian assistance cannot be a secondary consideration or a bargaining chip. Protecting and saving innocent lives has to be a priority," Biden said during his State of the Union address in March. On April 2, after Israeli airstrikes killed seven World Central Kitchen workers, the president said he was "outraged and heartbroken," and that "Israel has not done enough to protect aid workers trying to deliver desperately needed help to civilians." That's still true.

The International Criminal Court's request this past week for arrest warrants for Israeli leaders was atrocious, implying a moral equivalence between Israel and Hamas. But in their understandable indignation, Israeli officials should still heed ICC prosecutor Karim Khan's admonition that "nothing can justify willfully depriving human beings, including so many women and children, the basic necessities required for life."

Israel's friends don't challenge its obligation to defend itself from the horrors of Hamas. Even the ICC prosecutor said Israel had "a right to take action to defend its population" and didn't question its military actions. But protecting civilians whenever possible is an obligation in war — especially now when so many frightened and helpless people are on the roads outside Rafah.

ALEXANDRA PETRI

What each of Samuel Alito's flags really means

There has been a lot of concern lately among us flag folk about the fact that Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. has been flying various standards.

"He is putting the vex in vexillology," we have said to one another. "But not the lol." (We vexillologists have few pleasures in life and making such simple jokes is one of them.)

Alito and his family's flag-flying has raised lots of questions, such as, "Should he recuse himself from cases involving punishments for the other people who enjoy flying flags the same way?" and "What is the Appeal to Heaven flag?"

Fortunately, I have the answers. Below is a simple guide to the meaning of what your Supreme Court justice happens to be flying over their home at any given moment:

U.S. flag, right side up: This is a Supreme Court justice who has a flag at his house.

U. S. flag, upside down: Like poor, put-upon Macbeth and Adam before him, the Supreme Court justice has been led astray by his wife. This is so often the reason a flag is wrongly hung: the frailty of Woman.

U. S. flag, sideways: The justice purchased a defective flag whose misplaced grommets leave its politics unclear.

Flag of Maryland: The justice lives in the Washington suburb of Chevy Chase.

Flag of Virginia: The justice wants an excuse to fly a visible breast over his house.

Yellow flag: The justice has committed a penalty.

Red flag: The justice wants to date me.

Blue flag: The justice loves France but only one-third of it.

Checkered flag: The justice has crossed the finish line!

Rainbow flag: The justice promises not to destroy the Earth **by flood.**

Swiss flag: The justice loves to add.

Jolly Roger: Pirates have seized the justice's house!

Orange-white-and-green flag: The justice either loves the Ivory Coast or thinks the Irish election was rigged.

Green-white-and-orange flag: The justice either loves Ireland or thinks the Ivorian election was rigged.

Semaphore flags, drooping: These flags are not sending a message.

Don't Tread On Me flag: The justice is worried someone will step on his snake.

Thin Blue Line flag: The justice's wife loves the police.

Trump 2024 flag: The justice's … wife … loves Donald Trump.

Confederate flag: The justice's wife is out of control!

Confederate flag, sideways: The justice's wife purchased a defective flag with misplaced grommets. Politics remain clear.

Union Jack: The justice thinks originalism is not enough and longs to return to monarchy.

Habsburg flag: The justice longs to return to monarchy but believes the country would be best served by putting a member of the ancient House of Habsburg on the throne.

Six flags, over a long period of time: The justice is pretending to be the state of Texas.

Six flags, all at once: The justice is operating a theme park.

Green flag: The justice was just kidding with all those other flags!

Appeal to Heaven flag: The justice supports or is at the very least sympathetic to the campaign to elect Trump, to the 2021 attempt to overthrow the U.S. government and to efforts to remake the country as a Christian nationalist state.

White flag: The justice is surrendering to demands that he recuse himself from Supreme Court cases regarding supporters of the Appeal to Heaven flag or has picked a new favorite thing about France.

GEORGE F. WILL

This holiday, remember the sacrifices of the fallen

Nevertheless they are heard . . . / They say, Our deaths are not ours: they are yours: they will mean what you make them.

— Archibald MacLeish, "The Young Dead Soldiers Do Not Speak" (1940)

This year, the most geopolitically ominous since World War II, do something that is, we should admit, rarely done on Memorial Day: remember.

Those who fly in or out of Reagan National Airport, across the Potomac from the nation's capital, are reminded, if only fleetingly. The more than 400,000 gleaming white headstones that, row on row, lace Arlington National Cemetery's green fields actually do speak. Their silent eloquence tells us what we usually forget to remember — the price paid for what we have.

Which includes the freedom to forget how menacing the world is becoming. And how fast dangers multiply, the more we forget.

From Flanders to the Philippines, the globe is girded with U.S. military cemeteries. The one above the Normandy beaches contains only one soldier who did not die during the Normandy campaign. In 1955, Quentin Roosevelt, killed while a World War I pilot, was reinterred next to his brother, Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., who suffered a fatal heart attack in France five weeks after leading U.S. troops at Utah Beach.

As you read this, Navy vessels are underway, on and under the oceans in 22 of 24 time zones, often close to being in harm's way. To glimpse the demanding tempo of naval operations, read Mark Helprin's 2023 novel "The Oceans and the Stars: A Sea Story, a War Story, a Love Story." It, like Herman Wouk's "The Winds of War" and "War and Remembrance," is a celebration of the military virtues that the nation regularly decides have become dispensable anachronisms — until, suddenly, it cannot survive without them. Thus the importance of Helprin's many literary reminders of what he calls "the eternal presence of battle."

For Memorial Day viewing, try Apple TV Plus's new nine-episode "Masters of the Air." It is a worthy successor to the lacerating realism of the 1998 movie "Saving Private Ryan," and HBO's 10-part 2001 miniseries "Band of Brothers," about the actual experience of Easy Company of the 101st Army Airborne from Normandy to the Battle of the Bulge and beyond.

One wonders how many, if any, of today's cosseted young critics of Israel's conduct of its war to destroy Hamas have even an inkling of what war inevitably involves. And what the Allied war aim of unconditional surrender of Germany and Japan meant for civilians in Hamburg, Dresden, Tokyo, Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

South Dakota Sen. George McGovern, who is buried in Washington's Rock Creek Cemetery, was eligible for burial nine miles away in Arlington. Two decades before he became a leading opponent of the Vietnam War, he flew 35 B-24 bomber missions over German-held territory in a war where U.S. bomber crews suffered higher casualties than did Marines on the Pacific islands. McGovern had standing to speak his mind about a war.

Arlington's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier received its first remains in 1921, on Armistice Day, as it was then generally known: Nov. 11. The unidentifiable soldier had been killed on the Western Front in what was called the Great War until a greater one arrived. Perhaps in 1921 it was presumed that this unknown soldier would be the only one in the Tomb. Then, on Memorial Day, 1958, it received two remains, from World War II and the Korean War. In 1984, an unknown from the Vietnam War was added, but his identity was later established. He was reburied in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, and the tomb's Vietnam crypt has been left empty, to honor the missing from that war.

Forty percent of those who died to prevent the nation from fracturing — the Union dead in the Civil War — were never identified. "Nevertheless," as Archibald MacLeish wrote of all young dead soldiers, "They are heard in the still houses . . . "

Rick Atkinson — the nation's finest military historian, living or dead — has written of the 291,557 American lives lost in World War II combat: "Each death is as unique as a snowflake or a fingerprint. The most critical lesson for every American is to understand, viscerally, that this vast host died one by one by one; to understand in your bones that they died for you." Remember this, and also the mostly young military men and women who this day, as every day, are in peril on the sea, and under it, and elsewhere.

The Washington Post | LIVE

Upcoming Programs



TUES. MAY 28 AT 2:00 P.M.

RACE IN AMERICA: GIVING VOICE

Ryan Alexander Holmes, Actor & Content Creator

Holmes talks about using comedy to explore his Black and Chinese heritage, the many dimensions of identity and his advocacy against anti-Asian hate.



TUES. MAY 28 AT 4:00 P.M.

ELECTION 2024: KEY PLAYERS

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz (D), Chair, Democratic Governors Association

Walz discusses the nation's most important gubernatorial races, President Biden's reelection campaign and the future of the Democratic Party.



THURS. MAY 30 AT 1:00 P.M.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



'FREEDOM ON FIRE'

Evgeny Afineevsky, Director & Producer, "Freedom on Fire"
Oleksii Reznikov, Former Ukrainian Defense Minister

Afineevsky and Reznikov provide an inside look at a new documentary about Ukraine's fight for its survival, Russia's recent military advances and U.S. support for the war-torn country.



FRI. MAY 31 AT 9:00 A.M.

FIRST LOOK

The Post's **Jonathan Capehart**, **E.J. Dionne** and **Ramesh Ponnuru**

Washington Post Live's "First Look" offers a smart, inside take on the day's politics. Jonathan Capehart hosts a reporter debrief followed by a roundtable discussion with Washington Post columnists.

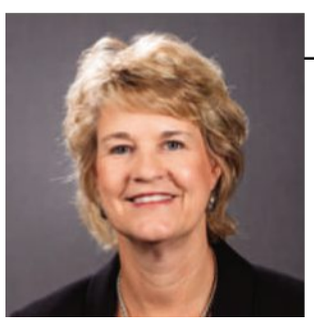


TUES. JUNE 4 AT 4:00 P.M.

THE NEW SPACE AGE

Christina Koch, NASA Astronaut & Artemis II Mission Specialist
Victor Glover, NASA Astronaut & Artemis II Pilot
Reid Wiseman, NASA Astronaut & Artemis II Commander
Jeremy Hansen, Canadian Space Agency Astronaut & Artemis II Mission Specialist

The four astronauts who make up the team of the first lunar mission in more than 50 years speak about their upcoming historic expedition and the new age of space exploration.



MON. JUNE 10 AT 12:00 P.M.

LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD

Lisa Bluder, Former Head Women's Basketball Coach, University of Iowa

Bluder reflects on her 40-year coaching career, the Caitlin Clark phenomenon and life after retiring from the Iowa Hawkeyes women's basketball program.



TUES. JUNE 11 AT 11:00 A.M.

THE STATE OF ANTISEMITISM

Deborah E. Lipstadt, Special Envoy to Monitor & Combat Antisemitism

The State Department envoy discusses the global battle against rising antisemitism, her scholarship in Holocaust studies and the lessons history offers for today.

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BOOK WORLD



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ILLUSTRATION BY NOLAN PELLETIER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

FICTION



Michael Crichton's toxic-volcano tale needed an ending. Enter James Patterson.

ALLA DREYVITSER/THE WASHINGTON POST



Ron Charles

Death has not appreciably slowed Michael Crichton's publication schedule. Since he passed away in 2008, several of his manuscripts caught in the amber of time have been zapped to life and set free to stomp around the world alongside "The Andromeda Strain," "Jurassic Park," "Congo" and his many other best-selling novels.

Still, one story that Crichton had worked on for 20 years remained dormant on his hard drive. In a recent statement, Crichton's wife, Sherri, described discovering the unfinished draft: "When I came to the abrupt end, it was the ultimate cliffhanger — though, for the first time, not one that Michael had meticulously planned."

This fragment might never have seen the rising sun, but when enough money is involved, life finds a way. So now, trailing thunderous clouds of publicity, the summer's ultimate literary mashup arrives June 3: "Eruption," a Crichton manuscript completed by James Patterson. As author partnerships go, this is Godzilla's head grafted onto King Kong's body. Of course, Hollywood is already buzzing around it, and why not? Together, these two authors — or their brands — have sold an estimated 675 million copies, one for every year since the Neoproterozoic era.

"Eruption" opens with a prologue set in Hawaii at the Hilo Botanical Gardens. Rachel, a park biologist, "just couldn't believe her eyes": Three banyan trees have died and turned black. "Rachel had never seen or read about anything like this. . . . This was something else. Something dark, maybe even dangerous." An old friend tells her, "Don't panic," but "she *was* scared."

This is an opening sure to leave amateur gardeners on the edge of their Adirondack chairs. The rest of us will have to take it on faith that even greater horrors than a few withered trees lie ahead.

Sure enough, nine years later, when the action picks up again, 36-year-old John "Mac" MacGregor hears a deep rumbling and feels the beach shaking. As director of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, Mac understands what that means. "He'd always known this day would come." Steam is already wafting up from the top of Mauna Loa, the planet's biggest active volcano, a colossus that rises almost six miles off the ocean floor. "The eruption was only days away."

Welcome to Mac Versus the Volcano.

Speaking at a quickly assembled news conference, Mac says, "Volcanoes are a little — or a lot — like wild animals." But to keep from causing panic, he doesn't tell the public they're about to experience "the biggest eruption in a century," which six pages later someone else describes as "the biggest damn eruption in a century," so we know it's going to be really big.

Not to worry, though. Scientists have been studying Mauna Loa for a long time, and — stop me if you've heard this one before — they've got a fail-safe plan to intervene and control the forces of nature. By precisely placing explosives around the island, these eggheads imagine they can "vent the volcano" and safely direct millions of tons of lava wherever they choose.

Of course, Mac — handsome, can-do Mac, who's also an accomplished surfer, by the way — knows this plan is crazy. "The eruption in 1984 wasn't particularly large," he reminds his colleagues, "but it produced enough lava to bury Manhattan to a depth of thirty feet." So, *vent Mauna Loa and safely channel its wrath?* Good luck!

But Mac and his team will need more than luck, because "Eruption" isn't just a story about some lava threatening Hawaiian residents. For decades, the Army has been secretly storing radioactive waste laced with an experimental defoliant in hundreds of fragile glass canisters underground. Mauna Loa's coming hissy fit threatens to send lava down those holes, release the toxic waste into the atmosphere and kill all life on Earth.

In response to a classified briefing on this impending apocalypse, Mac says, "Give me an hour."

"To do what?"

"To come up with a plan so we don't have to kiss our asses goodbye."

Presented with a choice between reading dialogue like this or being submerged in lava, I'd be stumped. But "Eruption" disgorges a lot of both. The authors tell us, "The world might be about to explode, but guys were guys." And it seems women were girls. Whenever female characters — no matter how well qualified and credentialed — enter these pages, their cutesy banter sounds 1940s-fresh. The lead demolition expert, who "would have looked like a high-school cheerleader if it weren't for her wire-frame glasses" — says to Mac: "Well, if you can't buy a girl lunch, how about dinner later?" A New York Times reporter trying to wheedle her way into Mac's good graces says, "Anyplace around here where a girl could get a cup of coffee?"

And while surveying those glass canisters of poison, one of Mac's "*extremely* attractive" colleagues asks, "Can I be honest?"

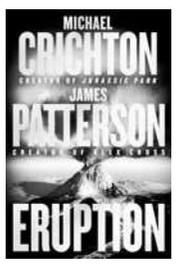
"When are you not?"

"I don't want to die, Mac."

"And you're not going to," he says. "Not on my watch."

It's hard to imagine anyone actually saying these lines, but "Eruption" is written with such longing for its next iteration as a big-budget movie that casting suggestions are embedded right in the text. The head of the geophysical modeling team from the Army Ordnance Corps is "a George Clooney look-alike." Gen. Mark Rivers, who oversees the military operation on the island, has the "rugged good looks of the actor Pierce Brosnan." And the New York Times reporter with "a winning smile" looks like "Halle Berry."

The bigger challenge for "Eruption," though, is keeping everybody busy while we're waiting for the Big Bang. No matter how broad a hero's shoulders or how square his jawline, nobody looks particularly impressive while bickering about competing contingency plans. It's a reminder that the only thing more dispiriting than a mountain blowing up is a tense department meeting. One can sense here Patterson straining to dramatize Crichton's explanations of volcanic science. A couple of times characters are practically abducted and then subjected to what feels like a grandiose PowerPoint presentation. An obnoxious Elon Musk-like character flies in to save the day with two shameless publicity hounds, but all their scenes are played with Vaudevillian subtlety. And efforts to flesh out Mac's troubled marriage feel entirely superfluous.



ERUPTION
By Michael Crichton and James Patterson
Little, Brown.
424 pp. $32

Fortunately, those slow spots will eventually be burned away by the impending cataclysm. What lingers, though, is how clumsily "Eruption" handles the racial component of its plot and setting. This is, at its heart, a White savior story heated to 2,000 degrees. Yes, there's some perfunctory acknowledgment of the native Hawaiians and their volcano deity Pele, but all told, the authors' cultural investment feels as deep as buying a plastic lei at the Honolulu airport. And what genius thought it was a good idea in the year 2024 to write about a radioactive poison so horrible, so fearsome that it turns victims' skin "black"?

When Mauna Loa does finally blow, it's not so much a disaster as a relief. At last, we get the mayhem we came for. A couple of beloved characters are killed, which is very sad, and a few irritating ones are burned to a crisp, which is very satisfying. A scientist watching the destruction on his monitor declares: "Never this much lava. Never this much vog. This is our perfect storm" — a line I've begun using at home whenever the laundry gets out of control.

Patterson's imprint feels strongest in the novel's final extended sequence. Death-defying scenes are minced into such brief segments that it feels as though a character could start to blink in one chapter and open his eyes in the next. But even with a plot that's more igneous than ingenious, you won't know what's coming.

In this grand battle between a brave scientist and the world's largest, most toxic volcanic eruption, nothing is guaranteed.

Don your oven mitts.

Ron Charles reviews books and writes the Book Club newsletter for The Washington Post. He is the book critic for "CBS Sunday Morning."

Kevin Kwan is back with more crazy rich shenanigans

BY LOUIS BAYARD

In the opening pages of Kevin Kwan's new novel, "Lies and Weddings," a man is impaled on a crystal chandelier. Even in the act of reading that, I was wondering how it could happen. Somebody, I figured, could be *crushed* by a chandelier or else impaled *by* a chandelier, if it landed just so, but impaled *on* a chandelier? Where would the pointy bits even go?

I spent some time trying to picture it — I even Googled to see if it had happened to anybody ever — but, of course, I was missing the point. In Kwan's universe, things happen for the plain and happy reason that he wants them to. Pose an objection, he's already galloping on, and if you want to go along for the ride — as millions of readers have — you have to suspend your private laws of probability, and once you do, it will all be over quickly and sunnily.

"Lies and Weddings," in short, is another chapter in Kwan's fantasy of conspicuous transnational consumption and love against the odds. The basic template is familiar to anyone who has read "Crazy Rich Asians" or seen its indecently entertaining film version. Hong Kong-born Arabella, the Countess of Greshamsbury, has made it her mission in life to arrange advantageous dynastic marriages for her three English Chinese children. She is particularly keen on landing a princess for her only son and heir, a hot and feckless wannabe artist named Rufus.

In Arabella's path lie three formidable obstacles, none of which she yet knows about. Her

COURTESY OF KEVIN KWAN

global chain of luxury hotels is mortgaged to the brink. Decades of unchecked family spending have emptied the Gresham trusts. And Rufus has long since consecrated his heart to the girl next door: Eden Tong, daughter of the Gresham family doctor and a kind and conscientious physician herself. She is also (unless you count her father and the myriad servants) the only not-rich person in the entire book, which makes her by default its heroine.

The action proper begins in Hawaii, where Arabella's oldest daughter is set to marry a half-Norwegian prince in a wedding for the ages. Things go wrong almost from the start. Eden throws up during a whale-watching expedition. Rufus discloses his true feelings over a hot mic. And a truly inconvenient volcanic eruption sends the A-list crowd scurrying. (Joan Collins chips a nail.) From that disaster, "Lies and Weddings" swivels toward fresh disasters, from London to Paris to Marrakesh to L.A. to Texas to Venice to — well, I lost track at some point, but Kwan fans will recognize the arc. Alliances are made and unmade. Fortunes are won and lost. Rich people, trying to get richer, outwit themselves. Poor girls, armed with only their own stubborn integrity, stake a claim on happiness.

And the laugh lines arrive punctually. "Maxxie's father is down to his last Bacon and the mama only has a ranch full of useless llamas." "Come on, you know alcoholics only exist in America." "We had Fran Lebowitz to dinner, don't you remember? If we can charm her, we can bloody well charm anyone." "You always think you're having a stroke, but unfortunately you never actually do!"

A photographer in his previous life, Kwan has a gimlet eye for how fat cats strut: the Earl of Greshamsbury, for instance, in his "perfectly pressed ruby-red corduroy trousers and a pale blue Ede & Ravenscroft Sea Island cotton shirt rolled up to the elbows." Kwan knows where all his characters have been to school, what they drive, how their rooms are furnished, and whatever he can't squeeze into the text he folds into a stream of cheeky meta-footnotes: "The Princess of Wales has made it known that she prefers to be called Catherine, so for God's sake please stop calling her Kate Middleton." (Which he just has.) "In Los Angeles, complete strangers will give you a full-body hug upon meeting you for the first time. ... You will never, ever see them again."

LIES AND WEDDINGS
By Kevin Kwan
Doubleday.
448 pp. $29

Kevin Kwan's latest follows the loves and globe-trotting schemes of a wealthy English Chinese family.

One might expect all this taxonomy to bring Kwan's characters to more dimensional life, but if anything, it pins them more fiercely to the page, prisoners of their coordinates (as used to happen to Tom Wolfe's characters). The rich may be different from you and me, but, in "Lies and Weddings," they're awfully alike, whether they're walking about on heated Portoro marble floors or mounting weddings with 50 hot-air balloons or organizing very intimate affairs with 150 of their closest friends.

Are we to revel in or recoil from their unheeding hedonism? Behind every great fortune, it has been said, there is a crime, and Kwan makes a point of noting what wealth can wreak — poverty, racism, exploitation, environmental degradation — but he's too canny a showman to let any of these critiques linger. In the world of rom-com fantasy, being wealthy has always been a hell of a lot more fun than being poor. If some guy's going to be impaled on a chandelier, please God, let it be crystal.

Louis Bayard, a Book World contributing writer, is the author of several novels, including "Jackie & Me" and the upcoming "The Wildes."

BOOK WORLD

Get real about love — pick up this French novel



Michael Dirda

Late May, with June weddings in the offing — this is love's own sweet season, the time of year when people decide to reread "Pride and Prejudice." Even though Jane Austen's wit and psychological insight can be pitiless, that masterpiece remains one of literature's sunniest, happiest books, complete with a fairy-tale ending. Still, the chief fact about love is that most of the time it doesn't work out. For more realistic accounts of its passion and anguish, you need to turn to French fiction.

All the darker aspects of love can be found there: brokenhearted renunciation in Madame de Lafayette's "The Princess of Cleves"; coldly calculated seduction in Pierre Choderlos de Laclos's "Les Liaisons Dangereuses"; erotic weariness in Benjamin Constant's "Adolphe"; the torments of jealousy in Marcel Proust's "In Search of Lost Time." To this list, one should add Gustave Flaubert's "Sentimental Education," the story of a young man's lifelong infatuation with a married woman, now newly and superbly translated, introduced and annotated by Raymond N. MacKenzie, a professor of English at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn. While aspects of the book call to mind a male version of "Madame Bovary" (1857), it is far more ambitious in every way.

Published in 1869 in two volumes, the novel begins in 1850 when the 18-year-old Frédéric Moreau is returning by paddle-wheel from Paris to his provincial home in Nogent. Flaubert's descriptions of the passing landscape evoke a world of calm and timeless rural beauty, until they are grossly interrupted when Frédéric notices a middle-age passenger flirting with a peasant girl, "his hand continually toying with a gold cross she wore across her breast." A second, more important interruption occurs when Frédéric follows the man — his name is Jacques Arnoux — into the first-class lounge. At this point, Flaubert's narrative pauses for a rare one-sentence paragraph: "It was like an apparition."

The apparition — "wearing a big straw hat with pink ribbons that fluttered in the breeze behind her" — turns out to be Arnoux's wife. Her hair is black and her skin dark, so that Frédéric thinks she might be Andalusian or even Creole. We never learn her exact age, but at this time she seems to be in her mid- to late 20s. Though her first name is Marie, the text always identifies her as simply Madame Arnoux.

Following this coup de foudre, Frédéric begins his pursuit of this virtuous, placidly beautiful woman by making friends with her vulgar, glad-handing husband. Jacques oversees a periodical devoted to the arts and operates a shady business in forged paintings. While he loves his wife and their little daughter in his fashion, he leaves them alone most evenings to dine out with cronies or spend time with his mistress Rosanette. Before long, Frédéric — who moves to Paris ostensibly to study law — has become one of his bosom buddies.

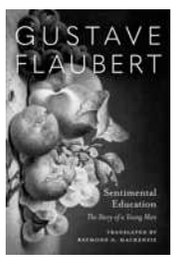
As the novel proceeds, Flaubert gradually expands its cast of important characters — there are at least 20 — to depict a significant cross-section of mid-19th-century Parisian society. These include Frédéric's childhood friend Deslauriers, who dreams of editing a newspaper and becoming a power in the land; Sénécal, a fire-breathing socialist and would-be revolutionary; Pellerin, a painter who constantly likens his own work to that of the Old Masters; the writer Hussonnet, who claims that Balzac was overrated and Victor Hugo didn't know the first thing about theater; and the ultrawealthy Monsieur Dambreuse. All these men, as well as Frédéric himself, will betray their ideals and one another.



ETIENNE CARJAT/WIKIMEDIA/COLLECTIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL LIBRARY OF ROUEN

Novelist Gustave Flaubert, circa 1860. His "Sentimental Education" tells the story of a young man in love with a married woman, framed with a blistering critique of 19th-century society and politics.

While Frédéric's on-again, off-again pursuit of the lonely Madame Arnoux drives "Sentimental Education," Flaubert frames it with one of the most savage portraits of modern society and politics ever written. Employing pervasive irony and a characteristically impassive narrative voice, he presents the age as one of universal prostitution, a time when people do almost anything to gain, or preserve, money and power. Monsieur Dambreuse can stand as a representative example: "At different times he had lauded Napoleon, the Cossacks, Louis XVIII, 1830, the workers, all the different regimes, always worshiping Power, so much so that he would have paid for the privilege of selling himself."



SENTIMENTAL EDUCATION
By Gustave Flaubert, translated from French by Raymond N. MacKenzie
University of Minnesota Press.
480 pp. $19.95, paperback.

That last phrase suggests just how deeply contemporary this novel feels. Along with Madame Arnoux, who remains something of a cipher, the only truly admirable people in its many pages are a worker named Dussardier, who dies a Christ-like martyr to republican ideals; the abused courtesan Rosanette, who was sold at age 15 by her own mother; and, to some extent, a wealthy provincial girl named Louise Roque, who naively adores the shallow Frédéric. Shallow? In fact, "Sentimental Education" could easily bear the same subtitle as Thackeray's "Vanity Fair," which it somewhat resembles: "A novel without a hero."

Almost soap-operatic in its abundance and variety of incident, this unrelenting indictment of modernity features orgiastic dinner parties, a duel, an altered will, lawsuits, a bankruptcy auction, a visit to the chateau of Fontainebleau, gushy romantic effusions, murder, the death of a baby and, not least, the revolution of 1848, which overthrew the reign of Louis Philippe for a short-lived republic, followed by a reactionary backlash in 1851 that brought Napoleon III to power. To Flaubert, though, the masses and the elites in this time of upheaval are equally brutish, and "the fanaticism of the wealthy counterbalanced the fury of the poor."

He spares almost no one. At grand dinners, rich old men converse in platitudes and are married to wives "who could have passed for their granddaughters." All of them, Flaubert writes, "would have sold out France or even the whole human race to protect their own fortunes, to spare themselves the least discomfort or difficulty, or simply out of sheer baseness, out of their instinctive worship of Power." When the revolution appears a success, Monsieur Dambreuse suddenly claims to have always been a republican at heart, really a man of the people, despite his immense wealth. He even commissions a painting from Pellerin: "It represented the Republic, or perhaps Progress, or Civilization, in the figure of Jesus Christ driving a locomotive through a virgin forest."

In Flaubert's view, the rioters in the streets are equally disgusting. Mouthing political clichés, a crowd storms the palace and invades the royal chambers. Amid the chaos and violence, "a working-class man with a black beard sat on the throne, his shirt half open, clearly thinking this was hilarious." At the same time, "ex-convicts thrust their arms into the beds of princesses, rolling around on them as consolation for not being able to rape the women."

In such a world, a woman's beauty or wealth alone matters. While Frédéric maintains that his heart belongs to Madame Arnoux, that doesn't prevent him from toying with heiress Louise Roque's affections or carrying on simultaneous affairs with both pretty Rosanette and the icily calculating Madame Dambreuse. He grows utterly shameless: "He repeated to one the solemn oath he had just made to the other, sent them similar bouquets, wrote to them both at the same time." Worse still, to win Madame Dambreuse as his mistress, "he made new use of his old love. He described for her all the feelings Madame Arnoux had inspired in him, but pretended that she was the cause of them, all those languors, those fears, those dreams." Can betrayal sink further?

Oh, yes it can. For this "moral history of the men of my generation" — as Flaubert once called the book in a letter — depicts endless self-delusion in virtually all its characters, and in the worst of them a form of mediocrity that combines corruption, meanness and ineptitude. And yet, even though "Sentimental Education" can be slow-going, the book is far from depressing: Flaubert's style really does seduce one by its beauty. Moreover, this great masterpiece, often undervalued, rises to a penultimate chapter you will never forget — the final meeting of Frédéric and Madame Arnoux in the autumn of their lives. It is one of the most perfectly written, emotionally powerful scenes in all fiction.

Michael Dirda is a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for Book World and the author of the memoir "An Open Book" and of four collections of essays: "Readings," "Bound to Please," "Book by Book" and "Classics for Pleasure."

A mysterious woman awakens ghosts from a detective's past

BY E.A. AYMAR

A crop of new, talented crime-fiction writers has begun to make its mark — appearing on bestseller lists, earning award nominations and filling spots at respected book festivals. This is encouraging, even as the genre's lodestars remain. Smoothly gliding through this chorus of hungry voices is Walter Mosley. His latest Easy Rawlins mystery, "Farewell, Amethystine," shows that he is still at the top of a genre he helped to pioneer.

Here we find Rawlins observing America as the country roughly turns the corner into the 1970s. Rawlins is now 50, and much of his life is going well. The novel opens with a comfortable scene of him and his friends discussing current events. Despite their ruminations on the social unrest of that time — "the world was changing in increments so small," Rawlins later says, "you'd have had to be a victim to feel it" — the reader has the sense that Mosley's longtime protagonist has, temporarily, found peace. But that respite is upended by the appearance of a mysterious and alluring woman named Amethystine Stoller. Her husband is missing, and she hires Rawlins to find him.

Amethystine bears a resemblance to a woman from Rawlins's past who took hold of his psyche. That dormant obsession returns, in the form of flashbacks that leave Rawlins stunned and force him to face the trauma of his impoverished youth and brutal days fighting in World War II. "I was asleep, and not asleep," he recalls, "a state that being a participant in war had imparted to me."

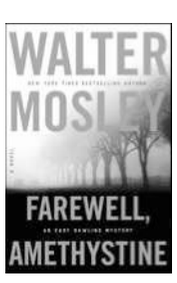
His struggles are also fueled by the bitter racism he encounters. Mosley has long used Easy Rawlins to both celebrate and redefine the conventions of the classic hard-boiled detective novel. Rawlins bears similarities to his golden-age noir predecessors — clouded morality, swift intelligence, a simple willingness to employ violence, fighting forces larger than himself. But what distinguishes Rawlins is his understanding that the corrupt societal forces he battles are rooted in bigotry. He is cast further from society than his White counterparts, who rarely face the scathing levels of hate Rawlins does, the kind of contempt so outlandish and transparent that many simply refuse to believe it exists.

When a cop attempts to arrest him for a crime he didn't commit, and openly explains that police often falsely tie men to random offenses, Rawlins notes: "Seven out of ten of the city's White residents would have said it couldn't happen — not in America. Out of the remaining three, two would have said that I could have beaten the false charges in court. Eleven out of nine Black Angelenos would have known that I was destined for a lifetime behind bars or a seat in the gas chamber." At another point, Rawlins and his goddaughter speak frankly about her father, who was killed by police. "The police murdered my father," she says. Rawlins replies simply: "That they did." His three words speak volumes and reflect his understanding that racism informed the actions of a state designed to trample the rights of non-White people.

But while Mosley never shies away from the persistence of racism, he does not let it overwhelm his story. When Amethystine's husband is found dead and enemies emerge from the shadows, Rawlins realizes that the case extends far beyond the confines of a marriage. And Mosley's beloved protagonist, dealing with the recurrent visions of his past and the complications of trust in his present, is credibly faced with losing the identity he's carefully constructed.



MARCIA WILSON



FAREWELL, AMETHYSTINE
An Easy Rawlins Mystery
By Walter Mosley
Mulholland.
336 pp. $30

In Walter Mosley's latest novel, Easy Rawlins deals with a missing husband, unsettling flashbacks and racial bigotry.

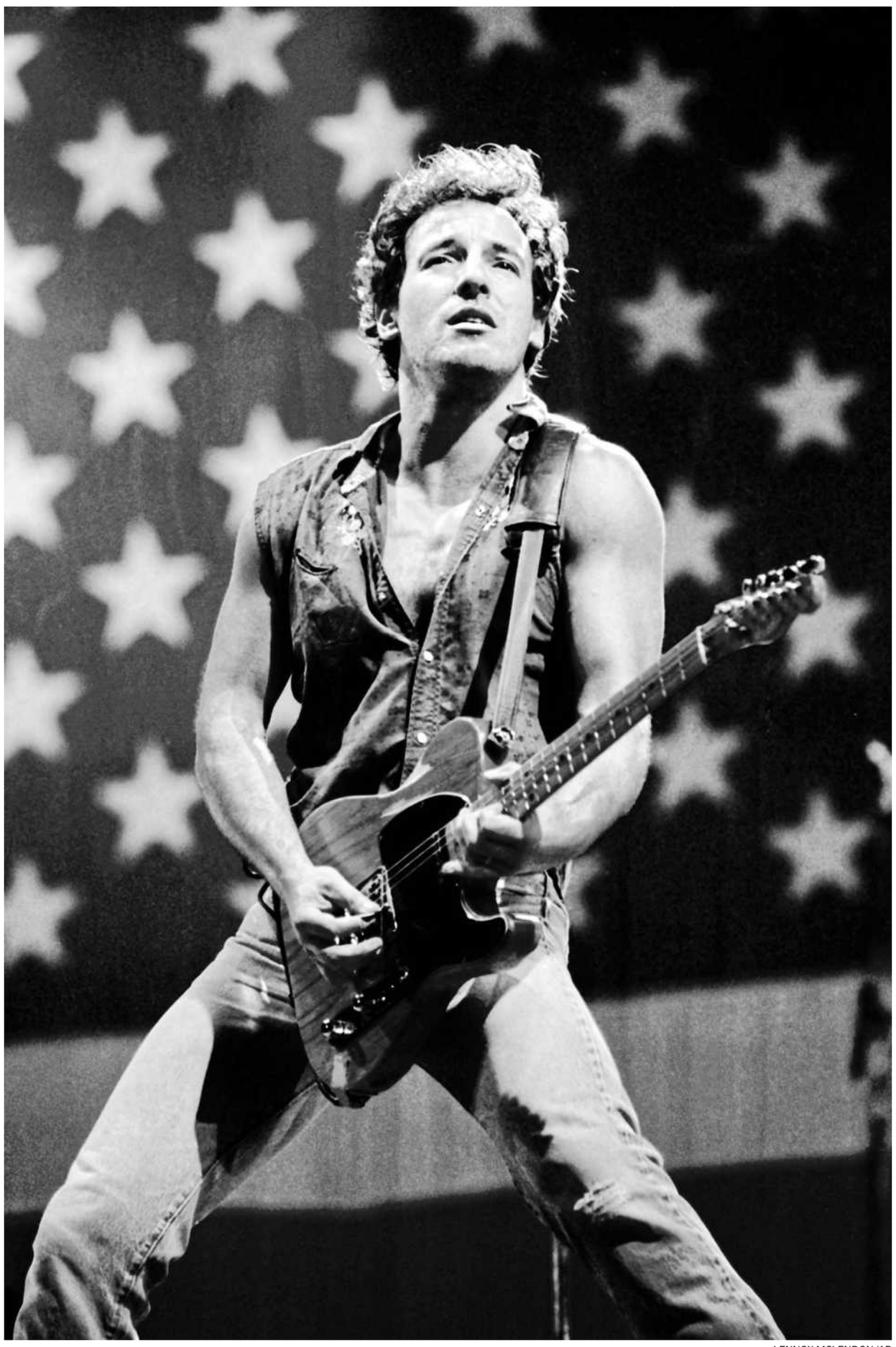
As always with Mosley, the prose is succinct, nearly mathematical in its precise balance, with sudden moments of restless beauty. A woman's eyes are "the color of melted butter that was just turning dark over a high flame." Another character is a "a great novel — just one read-through was not enough to understand what it means." Deep fear is described as a voyage back to "a time before machines or even written language." But within that studied, memorable prose, there's an underlying loneliness. Rawlins has his companions, but much of his torment is designed to be dealt with alone. As "Farewell, Amethystine" winds to its conclusion, that solitude is devastating.

Like Easy Rawlins, Walter Mosley has long stood apart from his contemporaries — because of both his skill and his identity. While race isn't an unexplored topic in crime fiction, writers of color in the genre have been rare. That's been changing, albeit slowly, and many of those changes stem from Mosley's success, as well as his efforts in creating organizations like Crime Writers of Color (in partnership with noted writers Kellye Garrett and Gigi Pandian). The space that Mosley occupies in literature is distinctly his own, but his efforts and immense talent have afforded others the chance to join him.

E.A. Aymar's most recent novel is "When She Left."

The album that made the Boss an icon

BY CHRIS KLIMEK



LENNOX MCLENDON/AP

There's a reason "Bruce Springsteen" is still a viable Halloween costume in 2024, and that reason is "Born in the U.S.A."

The blockbuster album, which turns 40 next month, capped a dozen-year ascent to superstardom that turned a critically adored, ambivalent-about-fame singer-songwriter into a pop icon on a scale inhabited only by Taylor Swift and Beyoncé today.

The Boss's red-bandanna-and-sleeveless-flannel-shirt phase was only a blip within a performing career that has now spanned more than half a century. More than a dozen Springsteen albums have been packaged behind portraits of his invariably careworn mug; only "Born in the U.S.A." came swaddled in an Annie Leibovitz close-up of the denim-clad Boss-terior. But it was this synthesizer-heavy era that made Springsteen a permanent celebrity beyond the sphere of music fandom — and made it possible for the 74-year-old to continue filling stadiums even now, despite how profoundly the America beyond them has changed.

The disappearance of that metaphorical breadbasket, wherein the workaholic Springsteen briefly became an unlikely figure of national consensus, is the subject of ride-or-die Springsteen fan Steven Hyden's new book, "There Was Nothing You Could Do: Bruce Springsteen's 'Born in the U.S.A.' and the End of the Heartland." If the book can't explain the slow fade of a country that at least seemed to *want* consensus — which, as Hyden observes, also confounds Springsteen's podcast co-host Barack Obama — it is at least an astute and briskly written look at the circumstances and legacy of an album whose outsize popularity has made it paradoxically divisive among Tramps Like Us.

As Hyden points out in his preface, almost no serious Broooooce fan claims "Born in the U.S.A." as their favorite. It was too contemporary-sounding, too accessible, representing the only time Springsteen directed his hopeful but essentially fatalistic worldview at fickle listeners who'd never sit still for the 43 relatively down-tempo minutes of "Darkness on the Edge of Town" or the bleary-eyed introspection of "Nebraska."

The latter album was released in 1982 as the marathon "Born in the U.S.A." recording sessions wore on like a Stanley Kubrick film shoot, and the two LPs are inextricably linked. (Musician and writer Warren Zanes's 2023 book about the making of "Nebraska," "Deliver Me From Nowhere," is good, but Hyden's is more broadly curious.) The song that would become "Born in the U.S.A.'s" title track, with its widely-misread-as-jingoistic chorus and cannonball drums, first appeared as an acoustic, percussion-free lament during the bedroom sessions that begot "Nebraska." Like many "Born in the U.S.A." outtakes, that somber version wouldn't get an official release until the "Tracks" box set in 1998, near the end of a decade when Springsteen more or less embraced the notion that his time as a mainstream unit-shifter had passed. His solo acoustic tour behind his 1995 folk album, "The Ghost of Tom Joad," covered a greater span of time than the "Born in the U.S.A." tour had, albeit in much cozier venues. Springsteen opened these shows by asking punters to keep quiet so they could hear the songs — hardly the behavior of an aging rocker worried about his market share.

Hyden came of age during Springsteen's '90s wilderness era, and he's previously devoted books to Pearl Jam and Radiohead — bands that became huge during the decade when Springsteen's influence was at a low ebb. But that perspective helps him to perceive the long arc of the Boss's career. He opens the book by recalling his first exposure to "Born in the U.S.A." as a tyke — a little-discussed but important constituency for multiplatinum albums in this era. As with the contemporaneous megasellers "Thriller" and "Purple Rain," "Born in the U.S.A.'s" bright production and sheer ubiquity made it a powerful gateway drug for impressionable music-obsessives-in-waiting. I'm like Hyden in this regard — a guy who first decided I was a Bruce fan in grade school, years before the self-loathing and political disenchantment elucidated in "Dancing in the Dark" and "My Hometown" would hold any rational meaning for me.

Hyden is an imaginative cultural omnivore, which means his critical examination occasionally takes the form of something like fan fiction. What if, for example, the Boss had decided to pursue his flirtation with acting — something we'd later get a taste of in the John Sayles-directed music videos for "Glory Days" and "I'm on Fire" — and agreed to star in "Taxi Driver" screenwriter Paul Schrader's melodrama "Born in the U.S.A." in 1979? In our universe, Springsteen simply pocketed the title of Schrader's screenplay, repaying the filmmaker by writing a title song for the movie that was eventually released as "Light of Day," starring Michael J. Fox and Joan Jett. But Hyden builds out this alternate timeline, wherein Springsteen, not Richard Gere, plays the lead role in Schrader's "American Gigolo," and then Springsteen, not David Bowie, writes and performs the title song for Schrader's kinky 1982 remake of the '40s horror flick "Cat People." Not *profound*, maybe, but fun to ponder.

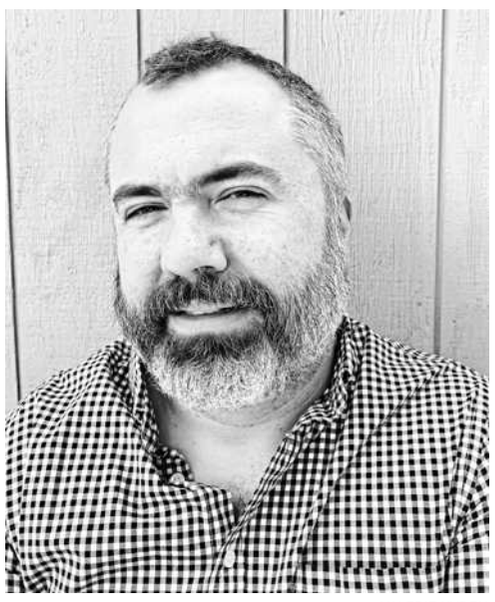
Or what if Springsteen had followed up "Born in the U.S.A." with a sequel album made up of leftovers from the same sessions? Hyden presents his suggested track list for "Man at the Top," the 1985 Springsteen album that never was (though all its songs are real), awarding it four out of five stars in an imaginary Rolling Stone review. More intriguingly, he posits a future-past wherein the early-'90s emergence of stars like Billy Ray Cyrus and Garth Brooks persuades Springsteen that heartland rock has gone country, and he repositions himself accordingly.

Your appetite for these kinds of fanboy thought experiments is a reliable gauge of whether this book is for you. If Springsteen's red-headband, swole-arms incarnation is the only one you'd recognize at a costume party, it might not be. But if the sight of a bejeweled, haunted-looking man with slicked-back hair and a goatee makes your brain say, "'Tom Joad'-era Bruce," it definitely is.

Chris Klimek is a writer, critic and podcast host in Washington.



THERE WAS NOTHING YOU COULD DO
Bruce Springsteen's "Born In The U.S.A." and the End of the Heartland
By Steven Hyden
Hachette.
272 pp. $32



VALERIE HYDEN

ABOVE: Bruce Springsteen performs his song "Born in the U.S.A." in Los Angeles in 1985, wrapping up his world tour. RIGHT: Steven Hyden explores the impact of Springsteen's 1984 album.

LITERARY CALENDAR

May 26 - June 1

26 SUNDAY | 6 P.M. ***Bree Fram*** and ***Liz Cavallaro*** discuss "Forging Queer Leaders: How the Lgbtqia+ Community Creates Impact From Adversity" at Little District Books, 737 Eighth St. SE. 202-629-2975.

27 MONDAY | 7 P.M. ***Sarah Coquillat*** discusses "Yellowface" by R.F. Kuang for Loyalty Bookstore's In the Margins Book Club at Locavino, 8519 Fenton St., Silver Spring. Text 240-863-2087.

28 TUESDAY | 7 P.M. ***Stuart Eizenstat*** discusses "The Art of Diplomacy: How American Negotiators Reached Historic Agreements That Changed the World" with ***Laura Blumenfeld*** at Politics and Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW. 202-364-1919.

7 P.M. ***R.O. Kwon*** discusses "Exhibit" with ***Lupita Aquino*** at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G St. NW. 202-727-0321.

29 WEDNESDAY | 7 P.M. ***Avik Jain Chatlani*** discusses "This Country Is No Longer Yours" at Politics and Prose at the Wharf, 610 Water St. SW. 202-488-3867.

7 P.M. ***Tom Steyer*** discusses "Cheaper, Faster, Better: How We'll Win the Climate War" at Politics and Prose.

7 P.M. ***Rebecca Wellington*** discusses "Who Is a Worthy Mother?: An Intimate History of Adoption" with ***Alice Stephens*** and ***Grace Yung Foster*** at Loyalty Bookstore, 843 Upshur St. NW. Text 240-863-2087.

30 THURSDAY | 6:30 P.M. ***Erika Howsare*** discusses "The Age of Deer: Trouble and Kinship with Our Wild Neighbors" at Bards Alley, 110 Church St. NW, Vienna. 571-459-2653.

6:45 P.M. ***Katie Gee Salisbury*** discusses "Not Your China Doll: The Wild and Shimmering Life of Anna May Wong," streamed through Smithsonian Associates at *smithsonianassociates.org*. $20-$25.

7 P.M. ***Sara B. Franklin*** discusses "The Editor: How Publishing Legend Judith Jones Shaped Culture" with ***Joe Yonan*** at Politics and Prose.

7 P.M. ***Matt Lee*** discusses "The Backwards Hand" with ***Hannah Grieco*** at Politics and Prose at Union Market, 1270 Fifth St. NE. 202-544-4452.

31 FRIDAY | 7 P.M. ***Graham Moore*** discusses "The Wealth of Shadows" at Politics and Prose.

1 SATURDAY | 11 A.M. ***Melissa Trempe*** presents "Ladybug Launch" at Bards Alley.

2 P.M. ***Jake Bittel*** discusses "The Great Displacement: Climate Change and the Next American Migration" at Falls Church Presbyterian Church, 225 E. Broad St., Falls Church. 703-532-6518.

3 P.M. ***John Darnton*** discusses "Burning Sky" at Politics and Prose.

5 P.M. ***Diana Rojas*** discusses "Litany of Saints: A Triptych" with ***Tope Folarin*** at Politics and Prose at Union Market.

5 P.M. ***Harmon Siegel*** discusses "Painting With Monet" with ***Mary Morton*** at Politics and Prose.

For more literary events, go to *wapo.st/literarycal.*

Washington Post Hardcover Bestsellers

COURTESY OF THE AMERICAN BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION

FICTION

1 **FUNNY STORY** (Berkley, $29). By Emily Henry. Daphne, whose ex-fiancé, Peter, left her for another woman, agrees to be roommates with Miles, whose ex-fiancée left him for Peter.

2 **THE WOMEN** (St. Martin's, $30). By Kristin Hannah. An Army nurse in Vietnam treats soldiers wounded in combat but struggles to find support when she returns home.

3 **JAMES** (Doubleday, $28). By Percival Everett. A reimagining of "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" told from the point of view of Jim as he flees from enslavement.

4 **ALL FOURS** (Riverhead, $29). By Miranda July. A woman embarks on a solo cross-country road trip but instead hides in a nearby hotel and explores life without the responsibilities of family.

5 **THE MINISTRY OF TIME** (Avid Reader, $28.99). By Kaliane Bradley. A top-secret British government assignment requires a woman to guide a Victorian-era explorer who has recently been returned to life in the modern age.

6 **TABLE FOR TWO** (Viking, $32). By Amor Towles. A collection of stories plus one historical novella from the author of "A Gentleman in Moscow."

7 **LONG ISLAND** (Scribner, $28). By Colm Tóibín. In a sequel to "Brooklyn," the now middle-aged Eilis Lacey visits her mother in Ireland during a profound personal crisis.

8 **THE PARIS NOVEL** (Random House, $29). By Ruth Reichl. The award-winning food writer's novel follows a woman who discovers her passions in 1980s Paris.

9 **THE HEAVEN AND EARTH GROCERY STORE** (Riverhead, $28). By James McBride. In a ramshackle Pennsylvania neighborhood during the 1920s and '30s, Jewish and African American residents come together to hide an orphan from state officials.

10 **REAL AMERICANS** (Knopf, $29). By Rachel Khong. A boy's search for his estranged father forces his mother to come to terms with her family history.

NONFICTION

1 **THE DEMON OF UNREST** (Crown, $35). By Erik Larson. The author of "The Splendid and the Vile" chronicles the months after Abraham Lincoln's election that set the stage for the Civil War.

2 **AN UNFINISHED LOVE STORY** (Simon & Schuster, $35). By Doris Kearns Goodwin. The Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer shares her own history.

3 **THE ANXIOUS GENERATION** (Penguin Press, $30). By Jonathan Haidt. A social psychologist attributes the recent increase in adolescent mental illness to the prevalence of smartphones.

4 **REBEL GIRL** (Ecco, $29.99). By Kathleen Hanna. The Bikini Kill frontwoman recalls the dark side of the music scene.

5 **SOMEHOW** (Riverhead, $22). By Anne Lamott. An exploration of the power of different types of love.

6 **THE SITUATION ROOM** (Grand Central, $35). By George Stephanopoulos and Lisa Dickey. The political correspondent and former presidential adviser details the crises that took place over decades in the Situation Room at the White House.

7 **THE CREATIVE ACT** (Penguin, $32). By Rick Rubin. A Grammy-winning music producer shares how artists work and suggests ways to foster creativity in everyday life.

8 **THE WAGER** (Doubleday, $30). By David Grann. After enduring storms, sickness and a shipwreck, the surviving crew members of HMS Wager turn against each other.

9 **KNIFE** (Random House, $28). By Salman Rushdie. The celebrated novelist reflects on a near-fatal knife attack and the grueling recovery that followed.

10 **THE WIDE WIDE SEA** (Doubleday, $35). By Hampton Sides. An account of the explorer Captain James Cook's ill-fated final voyage.

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Inside the monstrous mind of Emil Ferris

BY SOPHIA NGUYEN IN CHICAGO



Emil Ferris warned me that what she was about to do would draw some attention.

"I'm in imagination land so much, it's hard to come out of it," said the celebrated graphic novelist when we met up this month. "So I brought my witch hat." Her what now? She pulled it from her handbag, and it popped open like a beach tent.

Ferris has worn the witch hat for speeches and talks and just for the hell of it. "But also, I think when religions decided to make magic outside of the purview of human beings, that was a great crime against humanity." What would happen, she wondered, if we understood the extent of our powers?

The preteen narrator of Ferris's "My Favorite Thing Is Monsters" would approve. One look at Karen Reyes and her toothy underbite, and you know she's a comics protagonist for the ages: plucky and precocious, a big-hearted misfit who sees herself as a werewolf girl detective, dressing in a long coat and fedora. Like the author, Karen devours creature features and pulp comics; the horror genre becomes a conduit for her dawning awareness of her sexuality and the violence of 1960s Chicago. As she sets out to make sense of her world — the murder of her neighbor Anka, a concentration camp survivor; the possible involvement of her brother, Deeze, a mob enforcer — the boundary blurs between reality and pretending.

Readers fell in love with this chimera of a story, which shapeshifted from mystery to Holocaust novel to queer coming-of-age tale, its art luxuriantly strange — like someone threw together Otto Dix and back issues of Mad magazine and set the blender on high. Ferris won three Eisner Awards in 2018, the comics industry's highest honors. Book One also became a surprise bestseller, spurring its publisher, Fantagraphics, to order its largest second printing ever. (The long-awaited Book Two arrives Tuesday.) Gary Groth, co-founder of Fantagraphics, called it a "publishing fantasy story." Art Spiegelman, Ferris's hero, called her "one of the most important comics artists of our time." At 55, she seemed to have shot onto the literary scene like a firework — in an instantaneous, dazzling burst out of obscurity.

But if her success was a fairy tale, it was in the Brothers Grimm sense — involving gore and excruciating transformation. At Ferris's 40th birthday party, a mosquito bit her right leg, infecting her with the West Nile virus. She developed meningitis and encephalitis ("I hit the jackpot, I really did"). When she came to in the hospital, Ferris, who had drawn before she could walk — scoliosis delayed her first steps until age 3 — didn't know if she would do either, ever again. She was paralyzed from the waist down and had lost the use of her dominant hand.

At the time, Ferris supported herself and her 6-year-old daughter through various jobs: housecleaning, illustration gigs, sculpting Happy Meals toys. Clawing back her ability to draw — first duct-taping a quill pen to her hand — filled her with a new ferocity about making art.

"My forest got burnt down," she said. "The only way for — I think it's birch trees — to grow is if they're exposed to high temperatures. It was what had to happen. Otherwise I would never have made this book."

When we met, Ferris was in the middle of a long, harrowing move from her studio, which had been taken over by mold, "these black creeping tendrils that climb up your walls … I think it's *kind* of evil." So we headed to the Art Institute of Chicago, which is in many ways the place that made her. It's where her parents met, as students in its art school (and where, she has it "on good authority," they conceived her). Decades later, after her illness, she enrolled too. The sight of her on the first day — then in her 40s, in a wheelchair — made her fresh-faced young classmates do a double take. She had advanced to walking on two canes by the time she graduated, earning her bachelor's degree in 2008 and her master of fine arts in 2010. The prize money for her thesis became seed capital for "Monsters."

Her father regularly brought her to the museum when she was a child. "He talked just like a truck driver. He put on no airs," she said. "But he gave me such an education." He taught her, for example, the importance of the repetition of shape — a trick she tried to deploy in her pages: "The eye gets trained for the shape, and even if the eye doesn't perceive that they're seeing it again, there's a sense of reassurance." Some of the most moving scenes in "Monsters" can be traced back to these visits: Deeze leads his little sister by the hand up the museum's grand steps, telling her, "Don't be scared Kare, we're going to see some friends."

Taking in the galleries felt a little like wandering through a chamber of Ferris's brain. The seeds of her style were all around us: the irreverence of Daumier's bronze busts; the creepiness of the nudes haunting a surrealist painting; the antiwar passion of Goya. On our way to lunch, she steered us toward some especially beloved supernatural beings: the shukongojin from Japan. "Isn't he magnificent?" she asked, leaning on her lightning-bolt-shaped cane. Around the corner: "There's my buddy Ganesh," who broke off his own tusk to keep writing the Mahabharata. "Now *that's* devotion."

Ferris knows from devotion: Every inch of "Monsters" testifies to an astonishing depth of it. Since the story is told through the wide-ruled, spiral-bound pages of Karen's diary, Ferris confined herself to ballpoint, which has none of the easy fluidity of wet ink. "It's difficult," she said, with a low chuckle at the understatement. "To make anything happen, to draw anything out of the void, you have to make a thousand marks." Ordering Bic pens in bulk online, she somehow filled hundreds of pages with impossible lushness, her drawings both eye-wateringly precise and infused with nervy, DIY energy.

When Book One finally came out, said Ferris, "I think people were kind of surprised that all the years I'd said I am working on this graphic novel, that I wasn't just delusional or psychotic or a scam artist or whatever — but that I actually was working on it, every single day."

All those years of work took sacrifice: "You fail at life," she said, with almost a shrug. While she was working on Book One, she fell behind on bills, got evicted; she told herself she would finish, come hell or high water. "And that just means that hell will come, and high water will come, and you're going, 'Well look at that floating away.'"

The long-awaited Book Two picks up where Book One left off — a surreal cliffhanger in which Karen, in a dream, learns a shocking family secret. But even as we find Karen in that same dream, as the rest of the book unfolds, it seems obvious that she's changing. She develops her first real crush, on a girl named Shelly. She speaks up against Deeze's leering sexism. She takes greater risks, determined to uncover the secrets he's keeping from her. In other words, she grows up.

Ferris had tried out a couple of different paths for the character — some of them involved extreme violence, even sexual violence — but decided against it. "I knew I didn't want to do that to people," she said. "Besides, Karen told me no. And I said, okay. Then it was necessary to find out what would happen."

In one of Book Two's most terrifying scenes, Karen wakes up alone in an alley, bloody, unable to remember what happened to her, or what she did, in the previous hours. Ferris's spreads are usually flooded with shadow and color, but she leaves this one mostly blank. As the characters rocket off into a new adventure, abandoning everything they've ever known — and all evidence of their sins — we're unsure how to feel: relieved to be kept from the truth or terrified of what's been kept off the page.

I thought of that — the prickly friction between avoidance and confrontation, innocence and knowledge — on our wander through the galleries. Ferris was right about the hat. It did draw attention: wide eyes, suppressed giggles. In ordinary circumstances, her physicality — an older woman, walking with a cane — might have relegated her to the corner of people's vision, but the hat made her loom cheerfully large. Visitors held the elevators. Children came up to talk to her. Security guards paid compliments. ("And *I* love your hair," she replied.) The hat made her difference hyper-present — a joke she was cracking, though it's hard to say at whose expense. I kept trying, and failing, to catch her gaze under the curve of the brim.

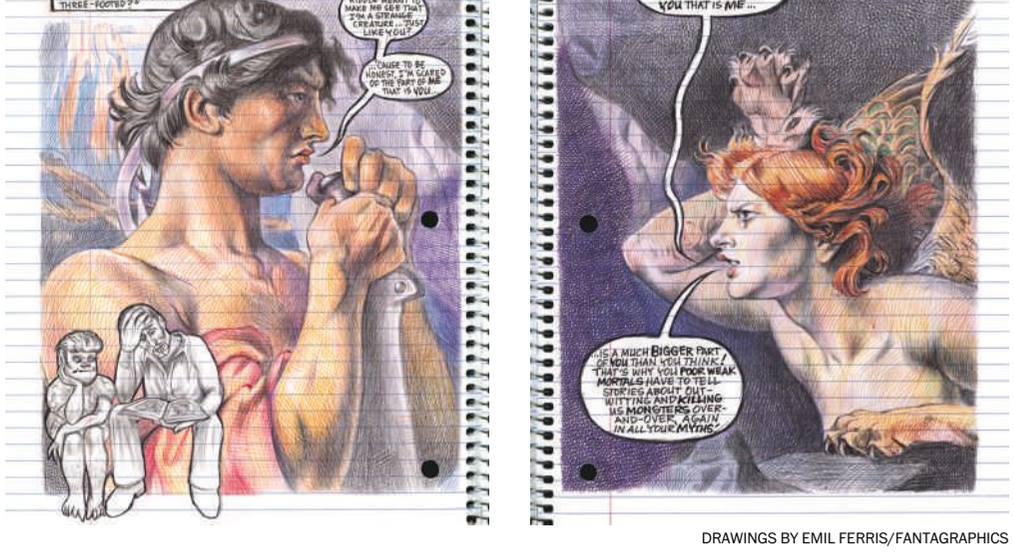
Even so, she had so much to share: See that curtain, over to the side of Ingres's portrait of a young count? It's draped to suggest a sneer. Or this Norwegian landscape of a cottage in the woods, its lighted windows like a pair of frightened eyes? "Don't you think the shadow, in this Munch painting, is really a tongue unfurling to touch the girl's foot?" she asked, tracing the shape through the air. "These are not mistakes."

Ferris sees what lurks beneath the surfaces: faces, creatures, mischievous intent. Her gift is that she makes you see them too. She pulls you into imagination land, right along with her.



PHOTOS BY MARY MATHIS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST





DRAWINGS BY EMIL FERRIS/FANTAGRAPHICS

FROM TOP LEFT: In a self-portrait, Emil Ferris draws Karen Reyes, star of "My Favorite Thing Is Monsters." Ferris at the Art Institute of Chicago last month. Checking out "Saint Romanus of Antioch and Saint Barulas" by Francisco de Zurbarán at the Art Institute. Pages from "My Favorite Thing Is Monsters Book Two," which arrives Tuesday.

Sophia Nguyen is the news and features reporter for Book World.

28 reads for any summer adventure

BY WASHINGTON POST EDITORS AND REVIEWERS



ILLUSTRATION BY NOLAN PELLETIER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

According to experts, this is going to be the busiest summer for travel in almost 20 years. You'll need books for all those trains, planes and automobiles (only in the passenger seats, please). Here are 28 books we've enjoyed this year that would make good company, from absorbing histories to funny fiction and everything in between.

'The Achilles Trap: Saddam Hussein, the C.I.A., and the Origins of America's Invasion of Iraq'
By Steve Coll

Nonfiction | The latest from Pulitzer Prize winner and former Washington Post writer and editor Coll is a bracing moment of clarity for anyone in the U.S. foreign policy establishment willing to listen. It revisits Saddam Hussein as a nuanced figure, not a caricature, reexamining the mutually reinforcing delusions of the Iraqi dictator and four U.S. administrations. (Penguin Press)

'The Cemetery of Untold Stories'
By Julia Alvarez

Fiction | Alvarez's new novel — like her pathbreaking "How the García Girls Lost Their Accents," from 1991 — explores sisterhood, family secrets, and immigration and return. But it also charts new, at times surreal, territory for her, with its story of a celebrated Dominican American author who resolves to build a little house on some inherited land, where she literally buries her unfinished work. (Algonquin)

'Challenger: A True Story of Heroism and Disaster on the Edge of Space'
By Adam Higginbotham

Nonfiction | Calamities and near misses have molded NASA as much as the giant leaps the agency has taken, and no tragedy is more indelible than the space shuttle Challenger disaster in 1986. Higginbotham's book is a compelling, exhaustively researched and freshly told chronicle of the tragedy that traces its full arc. (Avid Reader)

'City in Ruins'
By Don Winslow

Fiction | The final volume of Winslow's City trilogy — and, apparently, his fiction-writing career — is a spectacular farewell. Over the course of the series (inspired by Virgil's "Aeneid"), its hero, Danny Ryan, has gotten mixed up with the mob in his home state of Rhode Island and resurrected himself in Hollywood. In "City in Ruins," Ryan has landed in Las Vegas, where past vendettas resurface in delightfully terrible ways. (William Morrow)

'Come and Get It'
By Kiley Reid

Fiction | Reid's novel examines the lives of young women at the University of Arkansas. There's sex in it, but the real complications and most intimate details involve financial figures and the ways that unequal economic positions create clashing sets of values. Reid's exquisitely calibrated tone slips tantalizingly between sympathy and satire. (Putnam)

'Glad to the Brink of Fear: A Portrait of Ralph Waldo Emerson'
By James Marcus

Nonfiction | Much has been written about the brilliant essayist and transcendentalist pioneer, but Marcus's work stands out for his passion for his subject and his understanding of what makes a successful biography. This book is delightful for any reader, however much (or little) they already know about Emerson. (Princeton)

'Great Expectations'
By Vinson Cunningham

Fiction | A roman à clef about the first Obama presidential campaign, based on Cunningham's own experiences, "Great Expectations" elegantly explores the mind of its young Black narrator as he struggles to divine his place in the nation. With an eye to questions of faith, Cunningham crafts a coming-of-age story that captures not only the soul of America but also the unquenchable thirst for meaning. (Hogarth)

'Grief Is for People'
By Sloane Crosley

Nonfiction | Crosley, an essayist and novelist known for her humor, holds on to it here while telling the story of her best friend and his suicide in 2019. Her book is not a philosophical meditation on grief but an honest account of its cruelties and contradictions. It contains no lessons, no morals and no solutions. It is as messy, rollicking and chaotic as life is. (MCD)

'The Hunter'
By Tana French

Fiction | French's sequel to "The Searcher" brings readers back to rural Ireland, where retired Chicago police detective Cal Hooper is drawn into a long con involving the father of a young teen he has taken under his wing. This tense and moody novel burns slowly and beautifully, its plot unfolding mostly through conversations that hint at lurking trouble. (Viking)

'The Husbands'
By Holly Gramazio

Fiction | In a world of endless choices — dating apps, shopping, games — why not romantic partners? Gramazio's 31-year-old protagonist is thrown into a revolving door of possible husbands and possible lives, a fantastical way for her — and readers — to ponder the age-old question: "What if?" (Doubleday)

'I Heard Her Call My Name'
By Lucy Sante

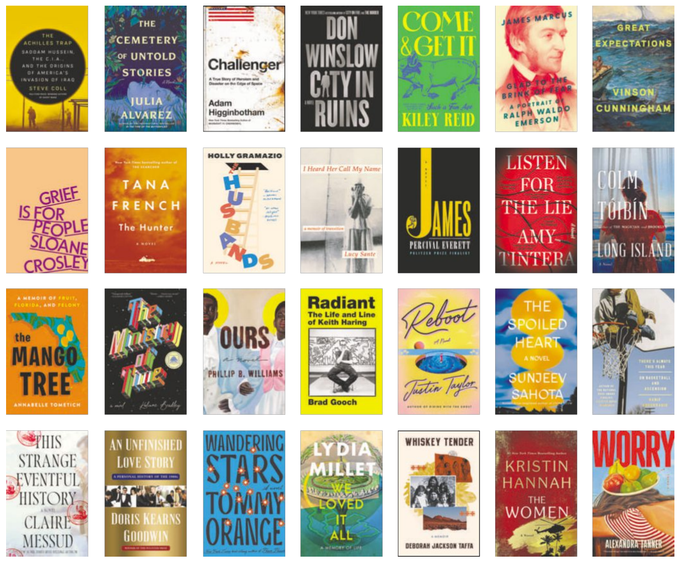
Nonfiction | In this memoir, Sante, an essayist on art and culture and the author of "Low Life: Lures and Snares of Old New York," bounces between her experience of gender transition in 2021 and the eventful and well-told details of her entire life. It's about the cost of trying to live two different lives: as a man or a woman, but also as a human being and a writer. (Penguin Press)

'James'
By Percival Everett

Fiction | Everett is a preeminent American author, and "James" is his sly response to "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." The title immediately suggests what he is up to with this subversive revision. In these pages, the enslaved man known as Jim can finally declare: "I will not let this condition define me. … My name became my own." While Everett flashes his own brand of humor, the novel gathers speed and terror like a swelling storm. Its conclusion is equally shocking and exhilarating. (Doubleday)

'Listen for the Lie'
By Amy Tintera

Fiction | Did Lucy kill her best friend years ago? She doesn't remember, or so she says, and her attempt to put this all behind her is upended when a podcaster unearths the cold case. Tintera draws on our love of true crime, and podcasts about true crime, to create an entertaining and thoroughly modern mystery novel. (Celadon)



'Long Island'
By Colm Tóibín

Fiction | In Colm Tóibín's "Brooklyn" (2009), a young woman named Eilis Lacey left her home in Ireland for New York. This sequel revisits the themes of home and loss from a completely new perspective. Eilis is now in her 40s, the mother of two teenagers, and she learns of a dramatic secret her husband has been keeping. (Scribner)

'The Mango Tree: A Memoir of Fruit, Florida, and Felony'
By Annabelle Tometich

Nonfiction | Tometich knew there would be headlines when her mother, Josefina, was arrested for using a pellet gun to shoot out the car window of a mango thief. But she was still surprised by how harshly people judged her Filipina immigrant mother. In seeking to understand the complexity of Josefina's life, Tometich reveals the difficulties that many immigrants and multiracial families face. (Little, Brown)

'The Ministry of Time'
By Kaliane Bradley

Fiction | Can a 21st-century British-Cambodian woman find love with a 19th-century officer of the British navy? That's the question at the heart of Bradley's debut, a delicious blend of historical fact, archaeological speculation and wacky fantasy. What feels initially like a time-traveling romance soon turns on curious questions about the possibility of moral progress. (Avid Reader)

'Ours'
By Phillip B. Williams

Fiction | In the 1830s, a mysterious woman named Saint uses magic to free enslaved people and help them build a magically hidden town near St. Louis named Ours. Williams finds new ways to ask age-old questions: How do we have both safety and freedom? What makes a ragtag group into a community? And most important, how do we find the missing parts of ourselves in other people? (Viking)

'Radiant: The Life and Line of Keith Haring'
By Brad Gooch

Nonfiction | Haring, a joyful artist best known for his "Radiant Baby" drawings — cartoon infants surrounded by rays of energy — influentially blurred the lines between art and commerce before dying from AIDS, at 31, in 1990. Gooch's biography does exactly what biographies of the exceptionally famous should do: Gently, graciously, it reels in the myth, restoring the flesh-and-bone reality of its subject. (Harper)

'Reboot'
By Justin Taylor

Fiction | Taylor's second novel is a very serious story about the perniciousness of conspiracy thinking, wrapped in a very funny yarn about the possible reboot of "Rev Beach," a short-lived but beloved teen drama in the vein of "The O.C." Taylor captures some Don DeLillo-like paranoia (and humor), worried that living in a heavily mediated reality is messing with our heads. (Pantheon)

'The Spoiled Heart'
By Sunjeev Sahota

Fiction | In "The Spoiled Heart," Sahota, who has twice been nominated for the Booker Prize, makes a provocative, humane drama out of a labor union election and its two leading candidates: Nayan Olak, an affable, well-respected Anglo-Indian manager, and Megha Sharma, a smart young woman, also of Indian descent, fluent in the combative dialects of critical theory and identity politics. (Viking)

'There's Always This Year: On Basketball and Ascension'
By Hanif Abdurraqib

Nonfiction | Award-winning poet and essayist Abdurraqib has written a book that is part sports memoir, part love letter to Columbus, Ohio. The narrative is structured like a basketball game: divided into quarters, with "timeouts" where the flow of prose is punctuated by verse. Focused in part on LeBron James and his 2010 split from the Cleveland Cavaliers, it's a book about who makes it and why, and what "making it" even means. (Random House)

'This Strange Eventful History'
By Claire Messud

Fiction | Messud's new novel was partly inspired by a 1,500-page memoir written by her paternal grandfather. The novel imagines how three generations of a family (the Cassars) rode the geopolitical waves from World War II into the 21st century. It's a work of cavernous depth and relentless exploration, and makes us realize how much we know and how little we confess about our own families. (W.W. Norton)

'An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s'
By Doris Kearns Goodwin

Nonfiction | There are hundreds of books about the politics of the 1960s, but the latest from the acclaimed historian Goodwin manages to be different. She and her husband, Richard, were extremely close to the Kennedys and Lyndon Johnson. Goodwin gives us hundreds of interesting vignettes about these historic characters, and she apportions credit for the landmark legislative accomplishments of the decade. (Simon & Schuster)

'Wandering Stars'
By Tommy Orange

Fiction | Six years after his explosive debut, "There There," Orange's second novel expands that story's universe of Native American characters struggling to define their identities. "Wandering Stars" stretches from 1864 to the present day to consider how a program of cultural annihilation designed by White society affects the descendants of a Cheyenne boy who barely survived a massacre against his people. (Knopf)

'We Loved It All: A Memory of Life'
By Lydia Millet

Nonfiction | Acclaimed novelist Millet's first foray into nonfiction is a profoundly evocative ode to life itself, in all its strange, wondrous and imperiled forms. She weaves disparate threads together expertly, reinforcing how our individual memories, our ancestral identities, and the future of human and nonhuman life are fundamentally inextricable. (W.W. Norton)

'Whiskey Tender'
By Deborah Jackson Taffa

Nonfiction | Taffa, part of a mixed-tribe, mixed-race family, spent her early years on the Quechan (Yuma) reservation in southeastern California. By her late teens, living in New Mexico, she was disillusioned with the middle-class life her parents had "jerry-rigged" for her and longed for a deeper connection to her Native identity. Some reviewers have called this a "Native memoir," but Taffa's story is in fact distinctly American, full stop, and one that a country afraid of its own history needs to hear. (Harper)

'The Women'
By Kristin Hannah

Fiction | Hannah's latest historical novel is another best-selling, tear-jerking tragedy. The fate that befalls Frankie McGrath is multilayered, but all of it can be traced back to the moment she impulsively volunteers to be an Army nurse in Vietnam. Hannah does her characteristic best to have readers hanging on Frankie's fate and that of a robust supporting cast. (St. Martin's)

'Worry'
By Alexandra Tanner

Fiction | Tanner's bitingly funny debut novel, set in the pre-pandemic months of 2019, follows two sisters as they slide into mutual isolation in their Brooklyn apartment. It is paced like the internet, full of petty micro-dramas, and it suggests that we were doomed to social isolation long before covid began to spread. (Scribner)



ILLUSTRATION BY NOLAN PELLETIER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Romances to make your summer hotter

You'll want a tall drink of water to go with these tales of aristocrats, ballplayers, cellists, road trippers and more

BY KALYANI SAXENA

Summer is almost here, and that means we're in for days of sticky heat, flushed skin and sweaty palms. Which is also exactly how you should feel after reading the perfect romance novel. For those looking to feel hot and bothered under the sun during the months to come, we've got some recommendations. Here are seven excellent romances to tear into at the beach, by the pool or in a lawn chair with some lemonade.

'My Season of Scandal'
by Julie Anne Long

In a world of delightfully formulaic historical romances, Long's latest is a complete standout. The scorching slow-burn love story follows Lord Dominic Kirke, a sardonic politician determined to keep the world at bay, and Catherine Keating, a wide-eyed country girl living in the same boarding-house.

Like a sheep that's discovered a wolf in his gilded paddock, Kirke knows immediately the danger that a woman like Catherine poses to him. She may be naive, but her wit, kindness and propensity for finding solace in green plants will certainly bring him to his knees. His distance is a futile attempt at self-protection, and readers will delight in the forbidden connection that undoes them both. (Avon)

'You Should Be So Lucky'
by Cat Sebastian

Sebastian knocks it out of the park with this romance set during New York's 1960 baseball season. The book follows Eddie O'Leary, a once-promising baseball star having the worst season of his career, and Mark Bailey, an arts reporter recovering from personal tragedy who is reluctantly assigned to interview Eddie.

You may be (rightfully) side-eyeing a romance in which a reporter falls in love with a source, but Sebastian's writing is so clever and full of heart that it's impossible not to be charmed. This is a book about two lonely people whose lives become so much richer for having known each other. And while Sebastian directly addresses the reality of being queer in 1960, she doesn't let it overwhelm the book. Instead, we're allowed to enjoy a lovely romance that is, at its core, about learning to live after failure and loss. (Avon)

'One-Star Romance'
by Laura Hankin

Were your 20s a chaotic blur of rash decision-making, anxiety and self-loathing? Well, good news! I've got the book for you. Natalie is a struggling writer and certified hot mess. Her new book isn't a critical darling, and her apartment is a dump. Plus, she can't stop refreshing Goodreads — which is how she finds out that Rob, the man she had major sparks with at her best friend's engagement party, left a scathing one-star review of her book. She's determined to never see him again. The universe has other ideas.

Hankin performs a magic trick with this book, turning the most unlikeable (and relatable) of characters into flawed protagonists worth rooting for. Natalie and Rob are the definition of "right person, wrong time," and because the story spans multiple years, we get the pleasure of seeing them make mistakes, grow up and grow together. It's real, refreshing and romantic. (Berkley)

'Take Me Home'
by Melanie Sweeney

Hazel Elliot has long-standing beef with Ash Campbell. He was moody and aloof toward her in high school, and now he won't stop stealing her favorite chair at their college coffee shop. Is nothing sacred? Ash has his reasons for pulling Hazel's pigtails, but she's determined to see him as an enemy. Could a trip to their hometown be what these two need to see each other fully?

Ash and Hazel's main love language is bickering, but there's a real vulnerability to their relationship. We see them slowly unpack each other's emotional baggage while doing their best not to stamp out the nascent flame burning between them. This book is like a cup of hot chocolate — it's sweet and will infuse you with warmth from the inside out. (Putnam)

'Not Another Love Song'
by Julie Soto

String music turns sensual in Soto's sophomore novel. The rich timbre and deep vibrations take on a new resonance in the romance between Gwen and Xander, two music rivals vying for first chair in an orchestra. Too bad they have to spend the next season staring intensely at each other while repeatedly building to a musical climax. Surely, nothing carnal can come of that!

If you don't find cellos and violins particularly erotic (which is valid!), you will feel differently by the end of this romance novel. The heat that explodes between Gwen and Xander is so intense you might feel compelled to look away. And you know the steamy pottery scene in "Ghost"? Just imagine a cello equivalent. (Forever)

'Four Weekends and a Funeral'
by Ellie Palmer

Alison Mullally has finally people-pleased too close to the sun. Determined to make the most of her life after a BRCA1 carrier diagnosis and double mastectomy, Alison starts dating (and is soon dumped by) the adventurous Sam. But after Sam dies, Alison (reluctantly) agrees to pretend to be his grieving ex. Now, she's stuck cleaning out Sam's apartment with his stoic best friend, Adam, who seems to want nothing to do with her.

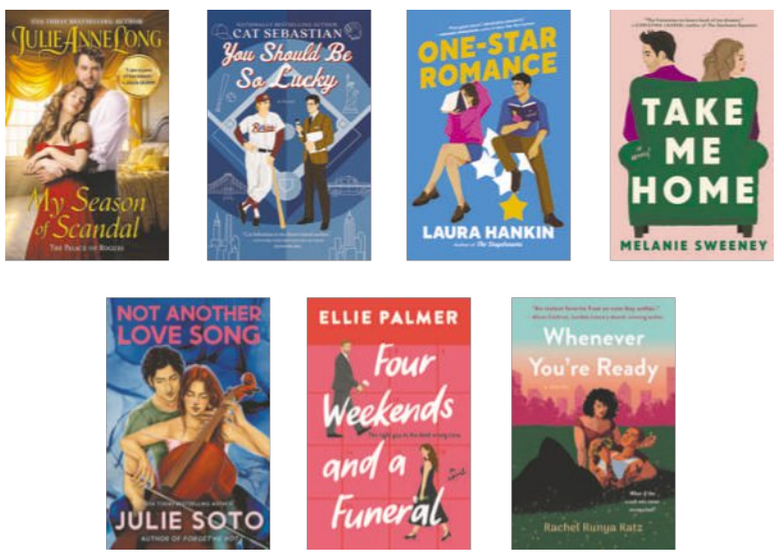
Prepare yourself for a whole five-course forced-proximity meal! Alison and Adam may meet through the most contrived of situations, but their connection is all natural. Sure, Adam prefers to speak in single-word sentences, but his obvious care for Alison is warm and undeniably attractive. I mean the man starts storing Thin Mints in his freezer after seeing Alison eat them *one* time. Who wouldn't swoon? (Putnam)

'Whenever You're Ready'
by Rachel Runya Katz

Childhood friends Nia and Jade have been in love with each other (and in denial about it) for more than a decade. The two haven't seen each other since their other best friend, Michal, died of cancer three years ago. But this summer they're finally going on the Southern Jewish history road trip they all planned together.

Nia and Jade have the kind of chemistry that comes only from two people who know each other inside and out. But when someone dies, it breaks everyone differently. So, brace yourself for a lengthy slow burn. Don't worry, though, the journey to a happy ending is sweet, with more than a little heat (including a scene that somehow makes sunscreen applications seem unbearably sexy). (St. Martin's Griffin)

Kalyani Saxena is a journalist and writer covering romance and fantasy. She's also a voracious reader in perpetual search of the perfect execution of the enemies-to-lovers trope.



SUMMER BOOKS

Audiobooks perfectly timed for your car ride

BY KATHERINE A. POWERS

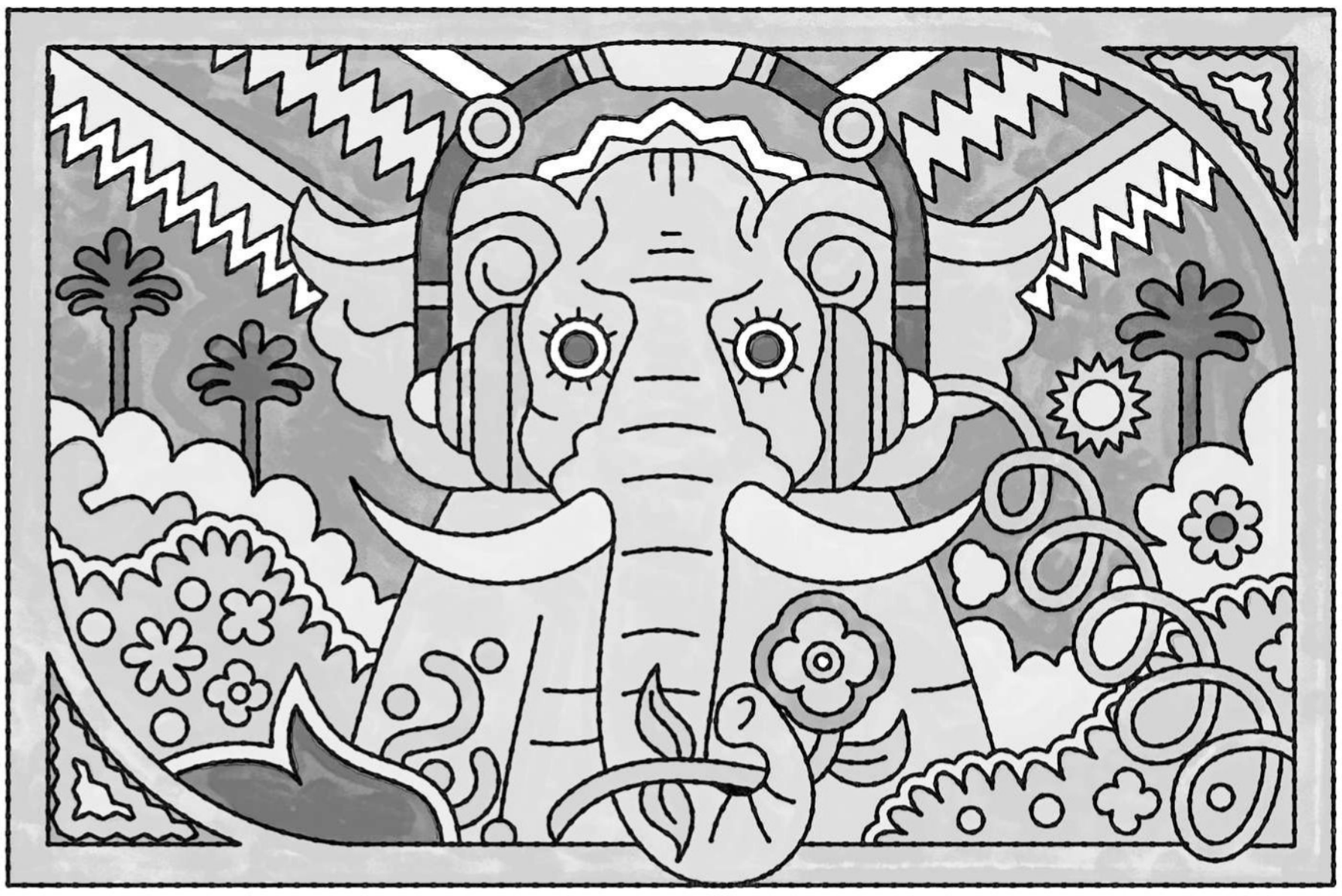


ILLUSTRATION BY NOLAN PELLETIER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

If you're thinking of taking a road trip this summer, audiobooks offer a more enlightening means of entertainment than bickering and spotting yellow cars. To help you survive the traffic (and each other), here are six books of various lengths and on various subjects: one especially suited to the endless season of political campaigns, one that invites you into the world of Black country music, another on the storied life of Pete Rose and a couple that venture across the sea. No matter how long your journey, you will be immersed in a good story.

'The Hunter'
by Tana French (16.5 hours)

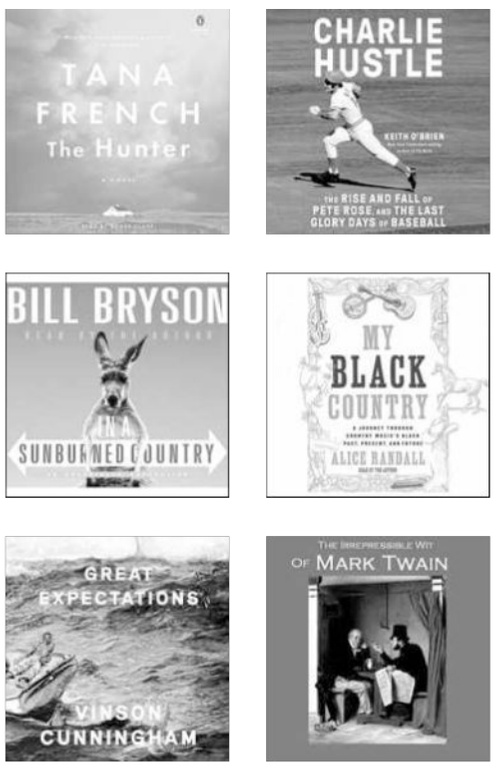
French's novel is made for long-distance driving. A sequel to "The Searcher," the book is set in the Irish farming community of Ardnakelty and stars retired Chicago cop Cal Hooper and young Trey Reddy. Once a near-feral child of 13, Trey is now a more approachable 15. Her father, "a twinkly-eyed little twerp," has returned from London with a dangerous scam in mind. The plot takes a long time to get going, but the dialogue is spectacularly good. Narrator Roger Clark delivers a highly entertaining torrent of Irish gabbiness that is flawless in pacing, manner and accents, Irish and American. Further, he switches between speakers with such remarkable deftness that it's hard to believe there is only one voice at work. As an entertainment, this audiobook is far superior to the print version. (Penguin Audio)

'Charlie Hustle: The Rise and Fall of Pete Rose, and the Last Glory Days of Baseball'
by Keith O'Brien (15 hours)

O'Brien's superb biography is perfect for a round trip from D.C. to Cincinnati to visit the baseball home of Pete Rose, one of the game's greatest players. The book details the life of an athlete who was gritty and determined on the field and a reckless gambler, womanizer and pill-popping braggart off it. Ellen Adair narrates this deeply researched book at a nice, listenable pace, delivering exhilarating baseball action, suspenseful at-bats, World Series heroics, murky underworld shenanigans and, ultimately, a fine instance of Major League Baseball's hypocrisy. Despite having sold its soul to the gambling gods, the organization still punishes the man who beat Ty Cobb's record of 4,189 major league hits, banning him for life from baseball and the Hall of Fame. (Random House Audio)

'In a Sunburned Country'
by Bill Bryson (12 hours)

No talk of travel is complete without a word from Bill Bryson, a much-traveled writer who never seems happier than when he comes across a fresh example of nature's hideous perils. "In a Sunburned Country" is his account of his travels in the 1990s through Australia, home to the world's 10 most lethal snakes. Also covered with celebratory horror are the box jellyfish ("deadliest creature on earth"), the blue-ringed octopus (near-instant death by electrocution), venomous red-back and funnel-web spiders, saltwater crocodiles, human-size razor-clawed cassowaries, and, of course, sharks. This, incidentally, is a country whose 17th prime minister disappeared, carried away by a riptide. Bryson reads the book himself, his voice reflecting his appreciation of mishap and confusion, but also of Australians and their expansive, optimistic ways. (Random House Audio)



'My Black Country: A Journey Through Country Music's Black Past, Present, and Future'
by Alice Randall (11 hours)

Randall is perhaps better known for the best-selling "The Wind Done Gone" — a retelling of "Gone With the Wind" — than for her successful career in Black country music. A hard-to-define genre, Black country is suddenly a much-discussed and disputed topic thanks to Beyoncé's "Cowboy Carter." Randall's book should enrich the conversation. The author narrates her memoir and tour through Black country music in the time it would take you to drive from Washington to Nashville. She covers pivotal Black country musicians — Lil Hardin, Charley Pride and many others who influenced her — noting their contributions, styles and many encounters with racism. She also finds startling connections between Black creators and country music, including echoes of a 19th-century song celebrating Frederick Douglass's escape from slavery in Bob Wills's "Take Me Back to Tulsa." And she has strange tales to tell — among them her struggle, with the help of Roy Orbison, to dress a chicken in a black suit to resemble Johnny Cash. (Simon & Schuster Audio)

'Great Expectations'
by Vinson Cunningham (7 hours)

Cunningham's novel dishes up a fictional feast for political junkies, especially those nostalgic for the campaign of 2008. A lucky break gets David Hammond, a young Black college dropout, a job working on the presidential campaign of a charismatic candidate who resembles Barack Obama. David's job is fundraising — courting the wealthy and setting up meetings where access is measured in dollars. He tracks the candidate's approach from the "Black-pulpit touch" of the initial announcement to easy geniality on the road before the convention and, eventually, to a commanding all-business demeanor once he's the party's candidate. Along the way, David's personal life is absorbed by politics and an affair with a high-powered political operative. Aaron Goodson, a talented voice-over actor, narrates the novel in a smooth, pleasant voice, sounding at times like the actual candidate — and former president — himself. (Random House Audio)

'The Irrepressible Wit of Mark Twain'
(3 hours)

Let's say there's no traffic — we can dream — or you are just taking a quick day trip: "The Irrepressible Wit of Mark Twain" should fit the bill. Narrator Cathy Dobson brings a friendly, English-accented voice to these five entertaining pieces, including Twain's magnanimous scheme for reforming German in "The Awful German Language." He repeatedly advises economy, including instructing "a speaker to stop when he is done, and not hang a string of those useless 'haben sind gewesen gehabt haben geworden seins' to the end of his oration." (Red Door Audiobooks)

Katherine A. Powers reviews audiobooks every month for The Washington Post.

School's out! Time for compelling YA novels.

BY DEBORAH TAYLOR

These novels are from various genres, time periods and viewpoints, but they all share compelling characters, intriguing narratives and enough surprises to engage readers.

'Blood at the Root'
by LaDarrion Williams

Malik discovered his magic as a 7-year-old, the same time he lost his mother. After spending time in an orphanage and with a foster family, he is determined to get back to the one person he considers family, his young friend Taye. But his plan to rescue Taye and take off to California is upended when he receives a message from his grandmother Mama Aya, summoning him to Louisiana. Despite some resentment that she had not sought him out when his mother died, he cannot deny their kinship. At Mama Aya's insistence, Malik enrolls in Caiman University, an HBCU specializing in magic, where he begins to understand his special gifts. Drawing on African and Caribbean spiritual traditions and Black history for world building, Williams has crafted a highly entertaining adventure centering a well-rounded character with emotional volatility but also a desire for connection and community. (Labyrinth Road)

'The Brightwood Code'
by Monica Hesse

The little-known history of the Hello Girls, young women from the United States who worked as telephone operators during World War I, is the starting point for this intriguing historical novel by a Washington Post columnist. Eighteen-year-old Edda St. James surprises her parents when, at the urging of her aunt, she signs up to become one of the bilingual operators stationed in France. Eventually she is selected for a special assignment near the front, where the pace of the work is harrowing, but she is determined to excel and impress her superiors. After a call goes wrong, Edda returns to the States and moves into her aunt's boardinghouse in Washington while trying to cope with the emotional anguish from her experience in France. This page-turning narrative, with its flashbacks to Edda's time overseas, its solid sense of wartime D.C. and the strong characterization of the protagonist, will resonate with readers. (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)



'A Crane Among Wolves'
by June Hur

In 1506, Korea was ruled by the violent, tyrannical King Yeonsan, who kidnapped young women and turned them into his concubines. In Hur's retelling, 17-year-old Iseul, whose parents were murdered by the king's men, is propelled to rescue her older sister, Sueyeon, from the despot's grasp. Her plan involves unmasking a killer whom the king wants to apprehend. If she can find the killer, she speculates, surely the king will release her sister. But when Iseul crosses paths with Prince Daehyun, the king's brother, who wants to dethrone Yeonsan, she is drawn into a dangerous plot she never could have predicted. This is a highly detailed, culturally rich tale that combines elements of mystery, palace intrigue, found family and romance. (Feiwel & Friends)

'Lunar New Year Love Story'
by Gene Luen Yang and LeUyen Pham

This graphic-novel collaboration is a love story and much more. Val always had a special connection with Valentine's Day, enjoying it with friends and her dad, a single parent. However, once she gets to high school, her friends and father think it's time to leave the holiday behind. Her grandmother confirms that their family is unlucky in love, and that her mother is not dead but left them behind, and this becomes a puzzle Val feels the need to solve. Along the way, the ghost of Saint Valentine gives her one year to find true love. Val thinks she may have found it with Les, but that relationship has issues. Meanwhile, she gets involved in lion dancing and finds the joy she seeks. It also connects her with new friends and new possibilities. The text and colorful comics work beautifully together in a story that captures the vibrant Asian community in Oakland, Calif. (First Second)

'Thirsty'
by Jas Hammonds

The summer before college has even more meaning for Blake Brenner and her friends. In addition to transitioning to college life, the young women are trying to gain admission to an exclusive sorority. Blake's girlfriend, Ella, is the daughter of an alum, but Blake, from a humbler background, knows she'll have to impress. This adds to Blake's anxiety about fitting in, feelings she copes with by drinking. Everyone in their group drinks, but for Blake, alcohol becomes increasingly necessary for her to be the bold, self-assured person who can keep Ella's interest. After dismissing attempts at intervention, Blake is involved in an explosive incident that makes it impossible to deny her problem. This is a well-drawn, unflinching look at the drinking culture that some teens embrace as part of their social world. (Roaring Brook)

Deborah Taylor is a former coordinator of school and student services at Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore and a national expert on young-adult literature.

SUMMER BOOKS

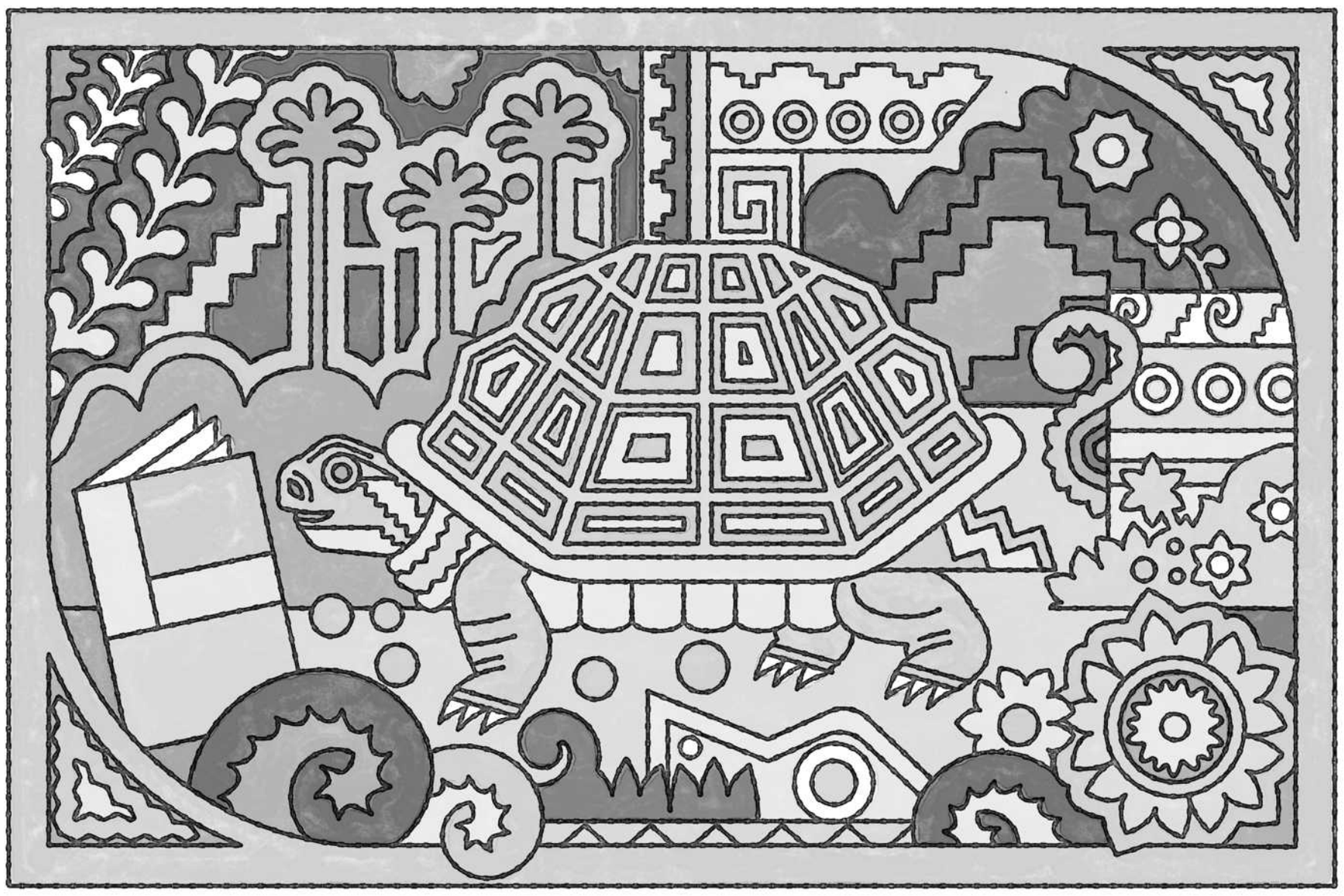


ILLUSTRATION BY NOLAN PELLETIER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Get current on history

BY STEPHANIE MERRY



If your idea of summer reading entails sitting on a beach with a book about World War II, the American frontier or the invention of dynamite, this list is for you.

'Fat Leonard: How One Man Bribed, Bilked, and Seduced the U.S. Navy' by Craig Whitlock

So much of this book, by a Washington Post investigative reporter, seems too ridiculous to be true: the way the con man at its center, Malaysian defense contractor Leonard Glenn Francis, broke out of prison and then *took an Uber* to the Mexican border; the ease with which he bribed U.S. Navy officials with his "legendary sex parties"; the sheer cunning of a high school dropout who let just about everyone underestimate him while he stole millions from the American government. Whitlock's retelling of Francis's eventual arrest, which led to a massive investigation ensnaring dozens of admirals, is as entertaining as it is astonishing. (Simon & Schuster)

'Heart of American Darkness: Bewilderment and Horror on the Early Frontier' by Robert G. Parkinson

"Although it is the historian's remit to make sense of the people and events that came before," Parkinson writes, "there are instances when our imposition of order on the past misleads." Rather than make definitive pronouncements about the reality of early American expansion, Parkinson's book uses Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness" — with its tale of imperialism breeding chaos, bewilderment and, of course, horror — to reconsider the European colonists who laid claim to the Upper Ohio Valley. To tell the story, he traces the lineage of two families, the colonial Cresaps and the Iroquois Shickellamys, whose brutal collision would reverberate for generations. (W.W. Norton)

'The Infernal Machine: A True Story of Dynamite, Terror, and the Rise of the Modern Detective' by Steven Johnson

Johnson, the author of more than a dozen nonfiction books, follows two histories in his newest release: the invention and proliferation of explosives, and the rise of the anarchy movement. The narratives coincide during a 40-year period beginning in 1880, when a spate of political bombings destabilized society and led to the creation of government institutions designed to investigate and prevent crime. Johnson closely follows 25 characters who influenced the trajectory of history as anarchist-led bombings — "arguably one of the most disastrous branding strategies in political history" — ultimately, and ironically, gave the state even more power. (Crown)

'Skies of Thunder: The Deadly World War II Mission Over the Roof of the World' by Caroline Alexander

When Japan blocked an Allied supply route through what was then Burma in 1942, the Hump operation was born. For the next three years, U.S. pilots — "often under-trained and ill-equipped young airmen," Alexander writes — flew dangerous missions from India to deliver ammunition, bombs and other wartime cargo to Chiang Kai-shek's military and U.S. forces stationed in China. The route over the Himalayas was treacherous for various reasons, including extreme air systems that created "the worst flying weather in the world, which no aircraft then existing could reliably overfly." Alexander, whose other books include "The Endurance," about Ernest Shackleton's harrowing Antarctic expedition, captures the perilous realities of fighting in — and flying over — the China-Burma-India theater. (Viking)

'We Refuse: A Forceful History of Black Resistance' by Kellie Carter Jackson

Jackson, a professor of Africana studies at Wellesley, begins her book with an anecdote: When her great-grandmother Arnesta was a girl in early-1900s Alabama, she stepped on a rusty nail and became gravely ill. A White doctor agreed to help on the condition that Arnesta live with him for the rest of her life and work for his family. But Arnesta's grandmother, who had been born into slavery, would not hear of it and employed natural remedies to ensure the girl's survival. This, Jackson writes, was a powerful form of resistance and part of a lineage of Black men and women fighting white supremacy in various ways. The book goes on to consider five such methods, with stories of activists using revolution, protection, force, flight and joy to subvert systemic racism. (Seal)

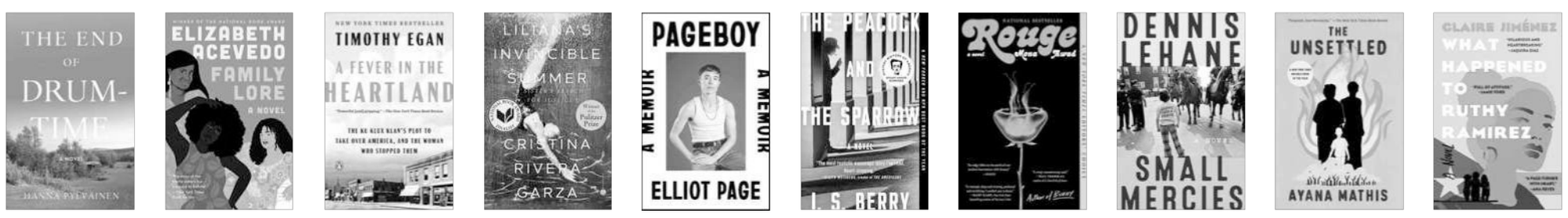
'The Washington Book: How to Read Politics and Politicians' by Carlos Lozada

Lozada, a former book critic at The Washington Post and current columnist at the New York Times, won a Pulitzer Prize in 2019, in part for his close reading of books by and about political insiders. This collection of essays, written between 2013 and 2023, includes some of that award-winning work and offers impressive insights about power and personal branding. "No matter how carefully these politicians sanitize their experiences and positions and records, no matter how diligently they present themselves in the best and safest and most electable or confirmable light," Lozada writes, "they almost always end up revealing themselves." (Simon & Schuster)

'When the Sea Came Alive: An Oral History of D-Day' by Garrett M. Graff

The author of "The Only Plane in the Sky" has a knack for finding fresh ways to consider exhaustively rehashed historical episodes. (Did we really need another book about Richard Nixon's undoing? "The answer turns out to be yes — this one," The Post's reviewer wrote of "Watergate: A New History.") Graff again travels a well-trod path with his new book about D-Day. But the oral-history template lends the tale a striking immediacy, and he excavates stories from a wide swath of people from both sides of the war whose testimonies recall immense bravery and utter devastation while reminding readers of the capriciousness of victory, not to mention survival. As one U.S. Navy veteran put it: "Call it luck, divine providence, call it what you please, but here I am." (Avid Reader)

Stephanie Merry is an editor in Book World.



These recent favorites are now even more packable

BY BECKY MELOAN

If your suitcase has space only for paperbacks, choose one of these award-winning and critically acclaimed titles — then leave the book behind at your destination for the next traveler to discover.

'The End of Drum-Time' by Hanna Pylväinen

While a Lutheran minister proselytizes to Sámi reindeer herders in 19th-century Sweden, his daughter falls in love with an elder herder's son and follows him on the group's annual seaward migration. Pylväinen's historical saga, inspired by true events, was a finalist for the 2023 National Book Award for Fiction. (Holt)

'Family Lore' by Elizabeth Acevedo

At a portentous gathering, women from two generations of a Dominican American family share stories from their past. Infidelity, infertility and other secrets come to light, inspiring the sisters and cousins to change their lives for the better. Acevedo pays tribute to the sacrifices that immigrant families make and highlights the love expressed through sharing collective memories. (Ecco)

'A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them' by Timothy Egan

In the early 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan was ascendant in American culture and politics. Millions of followers revered one particular leader, a bigot with White House aspirations, until he was jailed for a rape conviction, diminishing the stature of the Klan in the public's eye. "Egan mostly resists making explicit parallels to the present," Richard Just wrote in The Washington Post's review, "but they lurk just below the surface of this well-crafted and thoughtful book." (Penguin)

'Liliana's Invincible Summer: A Sister's Search for Justice' by Cristina Rivera Garza

Liliana Rivera Garza, a university student in Mexico, was murdered by an ex-boyfriend in 1990. Thirty years later, her older sister, Cristina, mines childhood memories to celebrate the woman Liliana was and the one she never got a chance to become. In this 2024 Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir that Post reviewer Erika L. Sanchez called "an artful catharsis," Cristina links Liliana's personal story to the politics of femicide in Mexico and beyond. (Hogarth)

'Pageboy: A Memoir' by Elliot Page

The Canadian actor pens a poignant memoir about his journey before and after coming out as transgender in 2020. Regularly encountering homophobic menace while also suffering from gender dysphoria and other psychological challenges, Page offers his perspective on society's often oppressive beliefs about gender and sexuality from the unusual vantage point of someone who transitioned while in the public eye. (Flatiron)

'The Peacock and the Sparrow' by I.S. Berry

Berry's former role as an operations officer for the CIA lends authenticity to this morally complex espionage tale set in Bahrain during the Arab Spring. While on his final assignment to expose Iranian insurgents, a CIA spy finds his loyalties tested when an informant is compromised, leading him to grapple with the gray areas between good and evil while a revolution unfolds around him. (Atria)

'Rouge' by Mona Awad

A woman is drawn into the orbit of a luxurious spa to understand why her late mother had been so devoted to the beauty treatments she received there. As she begins to comprehend her mother's obsession with the mirror, she exhumes the monsters lurking within. "Darkly comic and squirm-inducing," according to reviewer Charlie Jane Anders, Awad's novel explores the dependencies of a mother-daughter relationship through the lens of horror. (Marysue Rucci)

'Small Mercies' by Dennis Lehane

After the disappearance of her 17-year-old daughter, a hardheaded mother takes on the Irish mob during Boston's school desegregation turmoil of the 1970s. Lehane tackles working-class Boston's racially charged history with gritty realism and never shies away from depicting the era's moral complexity in a crime novel reviewer Dennis Drabelle called "masterful." (Harper Perennial)

'The Unsettled' by Ayana Mathis

Ava Carson and her son, Toussaint, are burdened with housing insecurity in 1980s Philadelphia while Ava's estranged mother, Dutchess, lives in a traditionally Black enclave in Alabama where the land is being sought by developers. Mathis effectively uses third-person narration to evoke the depersonalization imposed on those at society's margins, while the family's story captures the humanity of people who struggle to make ends meet. (Vintage)

'What Happened to Ruthy Ramirez' by Claire Jiménez

Loss has constricted the Ramirez family of Staten Island for 12 years, since middle child Ruthy disappeared after her high school track practice. When Ruthy's sisters see a woman on a reality television show who bears a strong resemblance to their missing sibling, the family embarks on a road trip to bring her home. Winner of the 2024 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, Jiménez's debut novel is a hilarious and heartbreaking portrait of a family hoping to heal. (Grand Central)

Becky Meloan is the editorial aide in Book World.

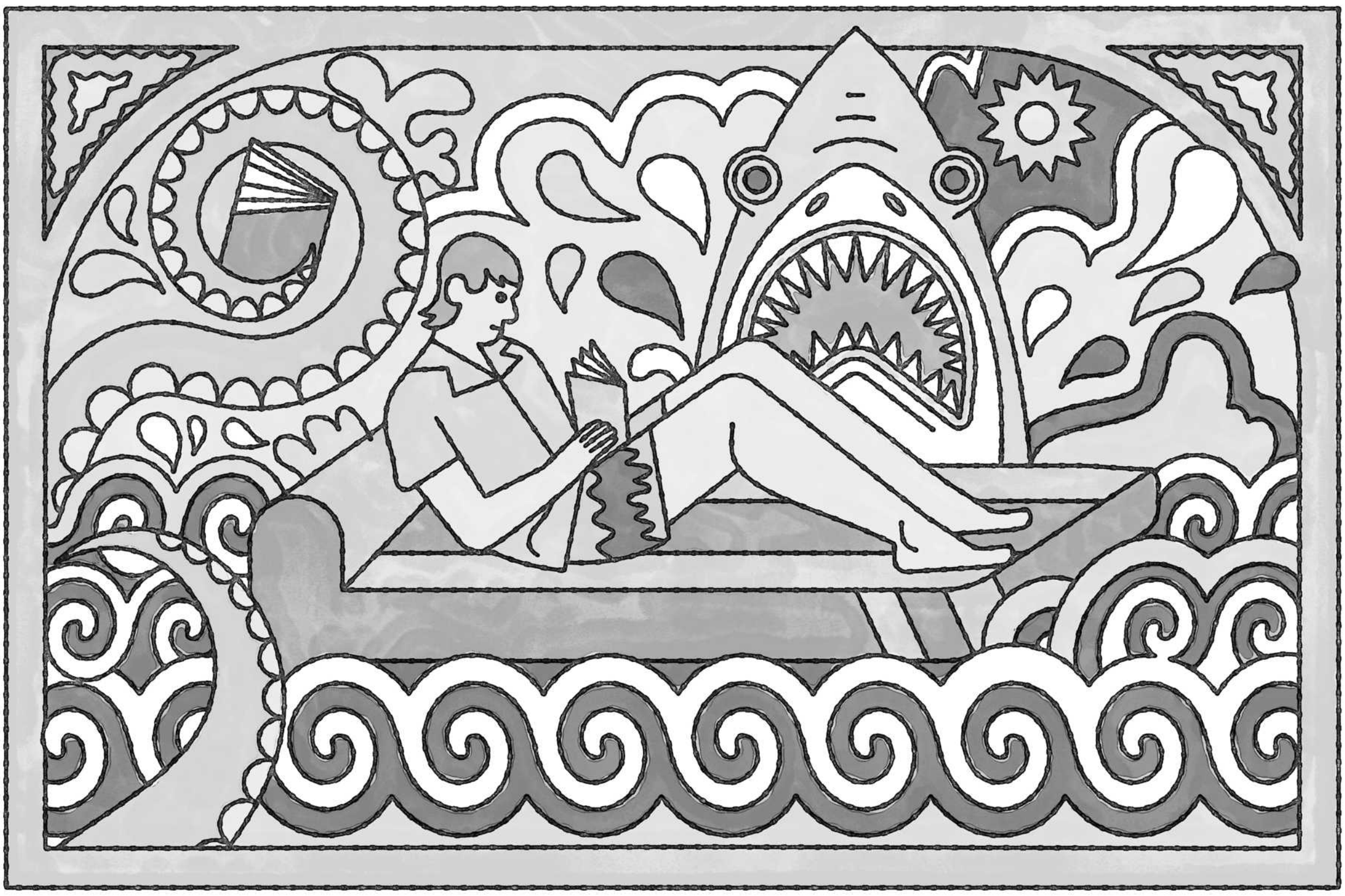


ILLUSTRATION BY NOLAN PELLETIER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Refreshingly chilling thrillers

It would be a crime to miss these stories that range from 1950s D.C. to Puerto Rico to the local PTA

BY LISA LEVY

Crime fiction thrives year-round, but summer is an ideal time to plunge into the genre when you're not in the pool or the ocean. (Or maybe even when you are.) Here are some of the thrillers we're most looking forward to this season.

'Assassins Anonymous'
by Rob Hart

Hart has a knack for high-concept crime fiction. In "The Warehouse" (2019), employees dutifully move boxes around a vast, dismal building, furtively dreaming of a world outside the warehouse and the corporation that owns it. The employees of Assassins Anonymous also live under siege with a nefarious corporation at the helm, and when Mark, our protagonist, joins a 12-step group for former hit men, he learns that life doesn't have to be one murder after another. But someone would like Mark dead, threatening his newfound no-kill sobriety. (Putnam)

'Tell Me Who You Are'
by Louisa Luna

I would rather read about a criminal — or an alleged criminal — who goes to therapy than one who goes to prison. This is more a philosophical stance than a political one. How many variations are there of someone getting shivved, how many recipes for toilet wine? In Luna's new novel, a Brooklyn prison psychologist, Dr. Caroline Strange — yes, the hero is *Dr. Strange* — has a shifty client, Nelson Schnack, who declares he's going to kill someone. Schnack is also possibly involved in the recent disappearance of a woman, and when the cops come to interview Strange, her cagey answers make her a suspect too. When Strange launches an investigation of Schnack, she is shaken to find that he knows secrets of her own — secrets she thought she had buried forever. (MCD)

'Hall of Mirrors'
by John Copenhaver

It's May 1954 in Washington, and paranoia is palpable around water coolers throughout government offices; people are also talking about a serial killer, Adrian Bogdan. Lionel Kane has been fired from the State Department as part of the Lavender Scare, the anti-gay movement led by Sen. Joseph McCarthy and FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover. Now Kane faces an even graver loss: His lover and writing partner, Roger Raymond, is caught in a fire in Kane's apartment. Police say suicide, but Kane knows better: Someone is using the Scare as cover for murdering gay men all over the city, depending on their fear to keep them quiet. But Kane is ready to talk. (Pegasus Crime)

'One of Our Kind'
by Nicola Yoon

In Yoon's first adult novel, Jasmyn and King Williams move their family to a Black utopia called Liberty, Calif. As in most utopias, the reality up close is not so ideal. King quickly finds activities to stay occupied, including daily visits to the spalike building central to the community. Jasmyn is primed for thoughtful conversations about race and social-justice work, so she's less than thrilled when her new neighbors show more interest in comparing waxing appointments than in waxing political. As Jasmyn finds out more about the underbelly of life in Liberty, she becomes concerned. Is her family really among their kind, or somewhere far more dangerous? (Knopf)

'Things Don't Break on Their Own'
by Sarah Easter Collins

The season of fireflies, twilight bike rides, and beach days punctuated by ice cream and fireworks is also a treacherous time for girls, who disappear at a steady clip in summer-set suspense novels. In Collins's debut, the heroine is Willa, whose younger sister disappeared 25 years earlier; now she is invited to a dinner party where someone knows what happened. The party is elegant but hazardous. Willa can't walk away without finding out everything she can about that life-changing night. (Crown)

'Teddy'
by Emily Dunlay

Effervescent and cool, "Teddy" is the perfect read if your trip to Capri gets canceled and your "La Dolce Vita" itch needs scratching. Rome's Via Veneto is lined with paparazzi who capture the antics of the rich and shallow. Teddy Carlyle has come to Italy with a new husband who's been posted to the American Embassy. She swears she will be a good diplomat's wife: glamorous, discreet, beautifully attired and relentlessly polite. But at a wild party on July Fourth, Teddy sees all the hard work she's put in trying to be perfect explode like the fireworks in the Roman sky. (Harper)

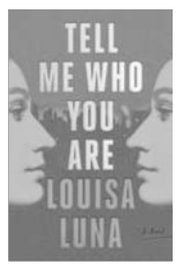
'It's Elementary'
by Elise Bryant

Beware the PTA power mom. She's charismatic, rigid, ridiculously energetic and expert at roping other parents into the labyrinth of performative, high-octane parenting common at elite schools. Bryant comes from the world of young-adult fiction, where she was one of the few Black writers taking on the complex issues facing Black families. In "It's Elementary," she mixes parental insanity with a sly mystery about a missing school principal. Bryant raises excellent questions about access to education while delivering a novel with hefty portions of both suspense and satire. (Berkley)

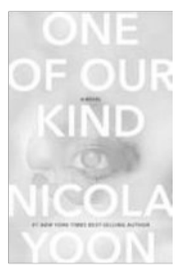
'What We'll Burn Last'
by Heather Chavez

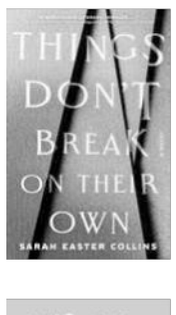
Two teenagers go missing in the Sierra Nevada foothills, never to be seen again. Leyna Clarke longs to know about the vanishing; one of those teens was her sister, Grace. Sixteen years later, when a woman who looks a lot like Grace turns up and then vanishes, Leyna becomes determined to either find her sister or find out what happened. Catering to interest in the high number of teenage runaways and missing people, Chavez delivers a nuanced story of fiery secrets. (Mulholland)

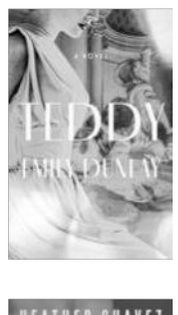










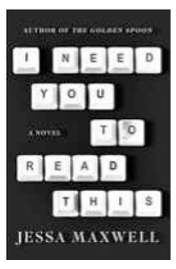


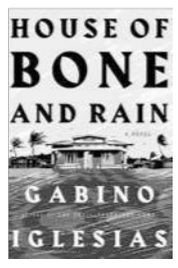












'Hum'
by Helen Phillips

"Hum" tosses climate change, robots and our addiction to devices into its dystopian but not desolate world. After a woman named May loses her job to AI, she has no choice but to participate in an experimental study in which her face will be altered so she can't be identified by ubiquitous surveillance cameras. Trying to spend some time with her family before the procedure, May takes her husband and two kids on a three-night trip to an idyllic botanical garden, one of the few settings left where her kids can play in a stream and not be tempted by devices, as they are not permitted. But the garden isn't safe, either. Has she destroyed her family instead of saving it? (Marysue Rucci)

'The Divide'
by Morgan Richter

Looking for a fast-paced Hollywood tale of stardom and grifters? "The Divide" is coming to a bookstore near you. Jenny St. John is an actress on the rise. She has scored the leading role in an indie film ("The Divide") directed by an auteur named Serge Grumet. But when the movie bombs, Jenny finds herself in worse and worse straits, until she is living off a low-level grift as a fake psychic life coach. When Serge, also on the decline, is murdered, Jenny teams up with his ex-wife, a painter who looks a lot like Jenny, to solve mysteries that pile up as the pages turn. (Knopf)

'I Need You to Read This'
by Jessa Maxwell

In a sea of influencers, TikTok millionaires and vloggers, Alex Marks does not seek attention. She just wants to do her dull copywriting job, drinking weak coffee from the diner downstairs and avoiding small talk. Her quiet life is upended when her writing hero, advice columnist Francis Keen, is murdered. Alex impulsively applies for and gets Keen's old job. It's not long before she is investigating Keen's death: If suddenly the shy and sullen Alex is big byline material, does that mean she is in danger too? And the letters coming into the column are getting super creepy. (Atria)

'House of Bone and Rain'
by Gabino Iglesias

Pour a large glass of horror master Stephen King with a jigger of spicy Don Winslow and garnish with a splash of magical realism, and you have Iglesias's latest, a tall, tasty cocktail. Five boys, childhood pals, are surrounded by ghosts, violence and accidents. The book's "Stand By Me"-like setup turns into a vigilante tale when one of their mothers is shot and killed. The highly skilled Iglesias draws on the familiar without any worry that it might not be freshly frightening. Puerto Rican drug dealers, hurricanes, evil spirits and revenge are all ingredients in this potent novel. (Mulholland)

Lisa Levy, a writer, essayist and critic, co-founded and is a contributing editor to Crime Reads.



ILLUSTRATION BY NOLAN PELLETIER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Page after page, the long days went by

Only summer allowed me the time and freedom to delve into the classics

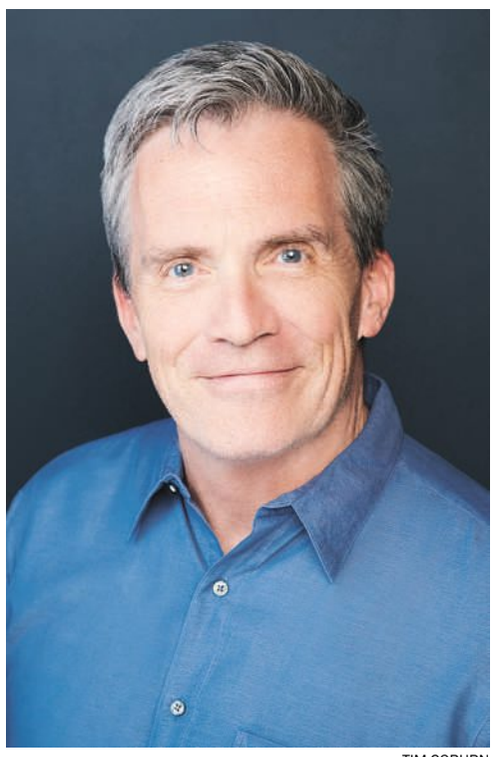
BY LOUIS BAYARD

It's hard to tell this story without sounding pretentious, but here goes. Not too long ago, I reached for my old copy of "The Brothers Karamazov." (I wanted to refamiliarize myself with the Grand Inquisitor sequence.) Opening the pages, I was startled to see a tiny rivulet of sand spill out. I could be even more pretentious and call the moment Proustian, because in the next second, I was lofted back over a span of decades to the place where I first read that book.

It was a beach in Duck, N.C., where my mother liked to rent a house every summer. Like many other English people I've met, she welcomed unfiltered sunshine wherever she could find it, and I was happy to go along because, more than the ocean or the salt air, I was drawn to the emptiness, which I knew I would be able to fill with reading.

By then I'd ventured into some approximation of post-collegiate adulthood, and it had dawned on me that reading was no longer a thing the world rewarded. It had to be carried out on the bounce, on the sly, when the day's drudgery was done or before it had begun. So a week at the beach was the kind of gift I was in no mood to squander. I can still see myself, collapsed in a folding chair beneath a rented beach umbrella. Every part of me is covered or lotioned up (half-English kids burn easy) except for my feet, which are buried in the sand. From time to time, I look up, stare at a sandpiper or a garland of kelp. If there's no breeze to cool things down, I might get up and wade out in the water, execute a few halfhearted body surfs. Then it's back to the chair.

I was in a family that valued the written word, which meant that nobody bothered me or expected me to do anything other than what I was doing. The hours didn't so much fly by as condense into a tidal pool. And it was precisely because I'd been given this expanse of freedom that I couldn't see spending it on what are normally called "summer books." This wasn't snobbery: I was a way-back lover of mysteries and thrillers, which I read and enjoyed throughout the year. But where else would I have the leisure to read, yes, "The Brothers Karamazov"? Or "The Magic Mountain," "Invisible Man," "Lord Jim," "Wuthering Heights" or "Sense and Sensibility"?



TIM COBURN

Louis Bayard's beach reads weren't the typical "summer books."

It had to be summer because that was the only route to immersion. When I learned, for instance, that I had two months after my college graduation to be idle, I didn't lounge by a pool — I started reading Henry James and kept reading. "The American," "The Portrait of a Lady," "The Bostonians," "The Golden Bowl": I plowed through them like sand castles. The more byzantine James's syntax grew, the harder I pushed, because I had never encountered a sensibility of such infinite subtlety and nuance. (In later months, I would learn that James was both a great writer and a terrible writing model, but the original enchantment lingered.)

I suppose you'd call all these books warhorses now, or else tokens of overstriving, but when I think back to that ardent young man, I don't believe he was trying to impress anybody. He was operating on the assumption that had driven him since childhood, that people out there *knew* things, and if he wanted to know them, too, he had to come knocking. And that innocence, that hunger, was part and parcel with summer, because he was entering his own life's summer.

I sit now, in effect, at the tail end of that summer. The future, which once seemed an endless plain of possibility, is now a peninsula. So many things have changed, including my relationship to the written word. I couldn't possibly sit down today and read — or do anything — for six consecutive hours. Books are now inseparably tied to my work. When I'm not reading for research, I'm reading for a review or a writer's workshop or some other professional obligation. Now and again a book fills me with the old engine roar of wonder — I cherish that — but even then, I'm still, consciously or unconsciously, poking under the hood to see how it's happening. The authorial eye never relaxes. In my mind, I edit the instructions on shampoo bottles.

So I miss, even envy, that disinterested lad on the beach, swathed in towels and sunblock, and I wonder if, by the time my life's autumn and winter roll around, I'll be ready to rejoin him. Not on the beach, perhaps, but the nearest best thing. All the deadlines and contracts will be cast to one side, and I'll be able to say once more, and mean it: *Tell me a story*. The Karamazovs will be there waiting.

Louis Bayard, a Book World contributing writer, is the author of several novels, including "Jackie & Me" and the upcoming "The Wildes."

The Washington Post
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SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2024 EZ RE C

RETROPOLIS
A century after the Johnson-Reed Act, Donald Trump suggests similar nativist measures. **C3**



THE DISTRICT
Two dozen members of rival drug crews were arrested as part of a federal investigation. **C10**



OBITUARIES
Military aviator Clarence E. "Bud" Anderson Jr., 102, was the last triple ace pilot from WWII. **C6**

Stumpy the cherry tree dies at 25-ish

The haggard pride of the Tidal Basin was removed to make way for sea wall

BY JOE HEIM

Stumpy, the beautifully bedraggled cherry tree that captured the hearts of visitors to Washington's Tidal Basin with its plucky resilience and apparent obliviousness to its fate, is no more.

The National Park Service announced in an email that the hollow tree was removed at about 11 a.m. Friday. It was one of 158 cherry trees designated to be taken out as part of a new sea wall construction project on the south side of the Tidal Basin and along the Potomac River.

No cause of death was provided, but a chain saw or brush grubber seem likely culprits. Stumpy was 25 (or in that neighborhood), according to Park Service officials.

Though many campaigned for Stumpy to be preserved, perhaps by being transplanted, it should be noted that the tree was diseased and Park officials had determined it would not survive being moved.

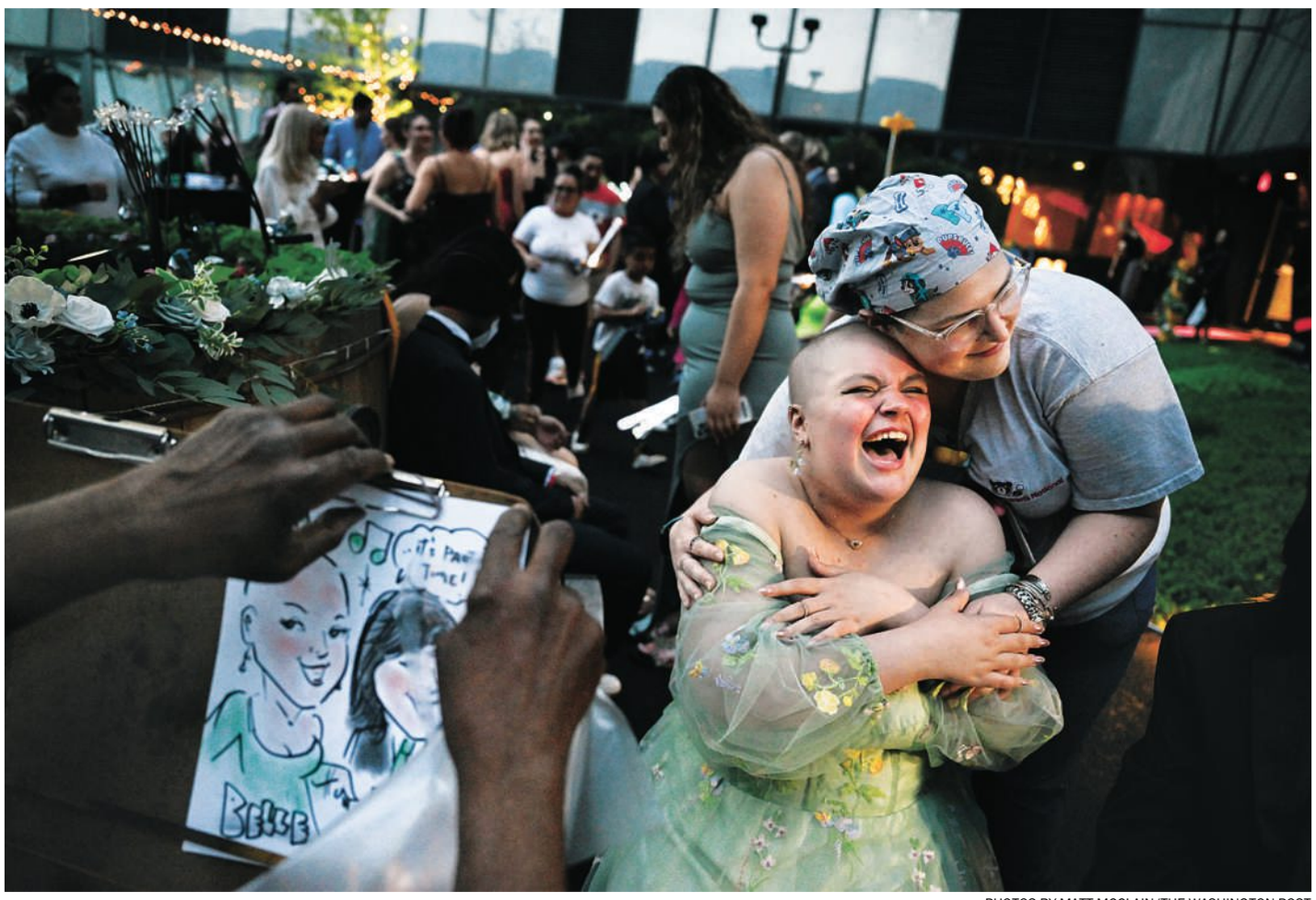
During peak Stumpy mania, thousands of people who learned that the forlorn tree was not long for the Tidal Basin stopped by to hug or take a selfie with it. For many, the experience was profound.

"Stumpy basically is a characterization of how even something not perfect can thrive," Alexandra Grant, 16, told The Washington Post in March. "It's sad to see him go, because he moved a lot of people."

On Friday afternoon, an eight-foot-high black meshed fence cordoned off the area where Stumpy and the other cherry trees that met their maker once stood.

There were no visitors spotted paying last respects. As far as The Post is aware, no liquor was poured out. No teddy bear or beaver doll memorials arranged. No final words were spoken to honor the tree that provided a symbol of unity and common purpose to a city and nation riven by political and cultural

SEE **STUMPY** ON **C2**



PHOTOS BY MATT MCCLAIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

A prom night prescription

Children's National Hospital provided a school dance Wednesday for its teenage patients

BY CLARENCE WILLIAMS

Despite being nicknamed for the Disney character "Belle," recent high school grad Isabelle Ornquist attended only one dance in her school years.

But Wednesday night she excitedly swept across a pink-carpeted runway, greeted by two emcees who exclaimed into microphones: "Welcome to your prom!"

Pop music blared as Ornquist, 18, approached a folding table lined with blue and white blossoms.

"Would you like a corsage?" a woman offered.

"Of course!" Ornquist said, smiling, as she daintily extended her right hand.



The white blooms on her wrist paired well with her light green chiffon gown, also adorned with flowers. The ensemble was completed by a chemotherapy port visible just below her neckline.

As her stepfather Chris DeLibera pushed her in a wheelchair, Ornquist's shaved head fit right in among the 50 or so teenagers in attendance at Children's National Hospital's prom night. For the second consecutive year, hospital officials transformed the Bunny Mellon Healing Garden rooftop balcony into a dancing destination for patients with serious diagnoses.

SEE **PROM** ON **C2**

Isabelle Ornquist, 18, gets a hug from registered nurse Megan Pendergast during Children's National Hospital's teen prom on Wednesday night. The theme was "A Magical Night Under the Stars." Ornquist has been battling non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and is currently in remission. The prom gave patients and former patients a chance to have a prom that many had missed due to their treatment.

Board, principal settle in Md. case

WIDESPREAD CLAIMS OF HARASSMENT

School district, educator agree to pay $300,000

BY KYLE SWENSON

Montgomery County's school board and a former principal accused of sexual harassment and bullying have agreed to pay a teacher $300,000 to settle a lawsuit filed against them, the teacher's attorney said Friday.

Joel Beidleman was a principal in the Montgomery County Public Schools district when reports by The Washington Post described widespread allegations against the educator going back to 2016. He was put on administrative leave in August, and the district said in January that he no longer worked for the system.

Beidleman has denied many of the allegations.

That reporting led to investigations by the county's inspector general and superintendent Monifa B. McKnight resigned in February amid questions over how the district handled the allegations against Beidleman, who was promoted last year to lead a high school.

Another fallout: a lawsuit filed last year by an unnamed teacher who said Beidleman harassed her when she worked at Farquhar Middle School in Olney.

On Friday, attorney Jerry Hyatt said his client, who still teaches in the Montgomery district, was relieved by the settlement. "She loves teaching and she is ready to put this all behind her," Hyatt said.

Liliana Lopez, public information officer for Montgomery public schools, said the district does not "discuss legal personnel matters, so we are not able to comment on this."

Beidleman's attorney, Donna McBride, also declined to comment. Beidleman did not return a call for comment.

The allegations against the former principal shook through the school system, sparking scru-

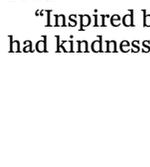
SEE **LAWSUIT** ON **C10**



ILLUSTRATION BY COURTNEY BEESCH/THE WASHINGTON POST

The June 4 primary election often determines the winner in November. Where do the Democratic D.C. Council candidates stand on key issues? Read their answers on Pages C4-5.

In the end, you are the biggest part of the story



Theresa Vargas

When I heard that dozens, then hundreds, of packages were being dropped off at a home in Northern Virginia, I knew who sent them: You.

"An ENTIRE AMAZON TRUCK just arrived for the Little Yellow Free Pantry," Susan Thompson-Gaines wrote me at one point.

After that delivery driver left, another pulled up, then another, until at one point, more than 350 packages filled her house. In those boxes were enough jars and cans and other containers of food to keep the neighborhood pantry outside her home stocked for a long while. Also in them: notes that made it clear those packages were in honor of a mysterious donor I had told you about in a column.

"In memory of EA. Raven a shining example of leaving the world a better place," one note read.

"Inspired by EA Raven who had kindness in her heart," read another.

"In memory of E. A. Raven, a wonderful example to us all," read yet another.

Thompson-Gaines shared those notes with me recently, and I am sharing them with you now because you are part of that story. You sent those packages. You are the reason Thompson-Gaines was able to walk up to a man who came to the pantry, show him the column on E.A. Raven and say, "Food for all!" "Si, comida para todo," he replied. *Yes, food for all.*

I never expected to become a columnist. Growing up on the southside of San Antonio, if someone had told me that I would later have a platform that would allow me to share stories and viewpoints twice a week with thousands of people, I would have thought they were messing with me.

I would have also not believed them if they had told me what would come of some of those columns: Action.

But in the six years I have spent as a local columnist, I have seen you turn words into action time and again. Some of

SEE **VARGAS** ON **C3**

Children's National Hospital becomes dancing destination

PROM FROM **C1**

Stereotypical school dance trappings blended seamlessly with shimmering fiber light sticks that adorned IV stands, and surgical masks protecting the immunocompromised.

"A lot of these patients had a rough journey in the hospital," said Angelica Bowman, one of the prom's creators. "This is a great space for our patients to be teens again and have fun."

High school boys dressed in oversized blazers with skater haircuts whispered on the edge of the dance floor. Moms snapped way too many photos. Friends mugged together in a photo booth and played oversized Jenga and cornhole, all splashed with decals from Dunkin', whose Joy in Childhood Foundation provided the branded swag.

Eventually, parents were exiled to a fifth-floor lounge so they didn't spoil the fun.

While waiting in line to design a $45 discounted Kendra Scott necklace, 16-year-old Kelly Segovia mouthed "You can dance, you can dance" as Abba's "Dancing Queen" echoed across the terrace.

The teen in a coral gown nibbled at a swirl of electric blue cotton candy and whispered to her 13-year-old sister Jazlyn. She could attend dances at Hammond High School in Howard County, Kelly said, but it wouldn't be the same.

"This hospital is like the second home to me. The nurses are like older sisters or a second mom," Kelly said. "I have so many people here I can relate to."

Kelly first arrived at Children's National when she was 8. A year later she underwent a bone marrow-transplant to treat leukemia. She spent 101 days in isolation where only her mother, Sara Segovia, could be with her, and has endured more than 100 blood transfusions.

Last year, the three Segovia ladies attended the first Children's National prom — led by the girls' mom, who dressed up as if it was "my prom," joked Segovia, a single mother of four. "It's a beautiful thing they are doing."

Oncology nurse Alison Block spent her night off joining the party and fielded texts from coworkers on duty.

"It's nights like this where you get to see just how important the work of a nurse is and how much our patients impact us," she said. "It's definitely the talk of the town."

In the center of the party, Ornquist's best friend since fourth grade, Phoenix Mueller, slalomed her wheelchair through the crowd toward the dance floor.

"Wheeee!" Ornquist said with a grin.

In October, doctors diagnosed Ornquist with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, following weeks of exhaustion, vomiting and a 105-degree fever spike as she began her senior year.

Her first chemo treatments overwhelmed her system and forced doctors to put her into a medically induced coma. When she awoke more than a month later, she faced a long recovery that included learning how to walk again.

But she went home to Martinsburg, W.Va., in March and managed to walk across the stage as a high school graduate earlier this month.

"She makes people around her feel heard, and she makes jokes … and on top of that she's an incredible artist," said Block, who first met Ornquist in the intensive care unit in the fall. "She's just a deep young lady."

Wednesday's prom capped Ornquist's tumultuous senior year with happier memories of the hospital.

Corporate sponsors, hospital staffers and nurses treated her like a prom queen. Ornquist grinned broadly as she clutched a vase bouquet of flowers and doughnuts on sticks as she posed for promotional portraits and video. On-duty nurses used their break time to snap selfies with her and fellow patients.

"It's cute. It's fun. I'm having a really good time," Ornquist said. "I feel like the heart of it is the people that are here. Everyone has been super sweet and it's been really enjoyable."

With high school behind her, Ornquist plans to take a year off and maybe travel to Alaska to visit family. Afterward, there may be training to be an air traffic controller or a future as an art teacher, she said.

Ornquist likely will face long-term follow-ups with oncologists along with decisions that face any high school graduate embarking on the rest of her life.

But for now, she has only one important appointment remaining at Children's National: when a doctor will remove the chemotherapy port from her chest.







CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Chris DeLibera, Isabelle Ornquist's stepfather, pushes her wheelchair after attending the prom; Ornquist smiles while wearing a corsage given to her during the dance in the hospital's rooftop balcony; Kelly Segovia, 16, center right, dances with her sister Jazlyn Segovia, 13, during the prom. Kelly has been in remission from leukemia for five years, but still needs treatment from the effects of chemotherapy.

"This hospital is like the second home to me. The nurses are like older sisters or a second mom. I have so many people here I can relate to."

Kelly Segovia,
a 16-year-old patient at Children's National

Beloved tree managed to bring D.C. together

STUMPY FROM **C1**

animus.

Too much? Yeah, it didn't really do that last one.

Still, it was the most famous cherry tree in Washington since the one the city's namesake allegedly chopped down with a hatchet. And on social media, Stumpy was remembered warmly.

"While my physical form has been cut down, my roots and spirit will always remain," @SaveStumpyDC posted on X, formerly Twitter. "Thank you for all the outpouring of love and support. Please remember me as a resilient living entity that blossomed despite all odds. Stick together. With love, Stumpy."

The Post could not confirm Stumpy dictated that heartfelt message.

Another user, @comeonnoles posted "LONG LIVE STUMPY!!!"

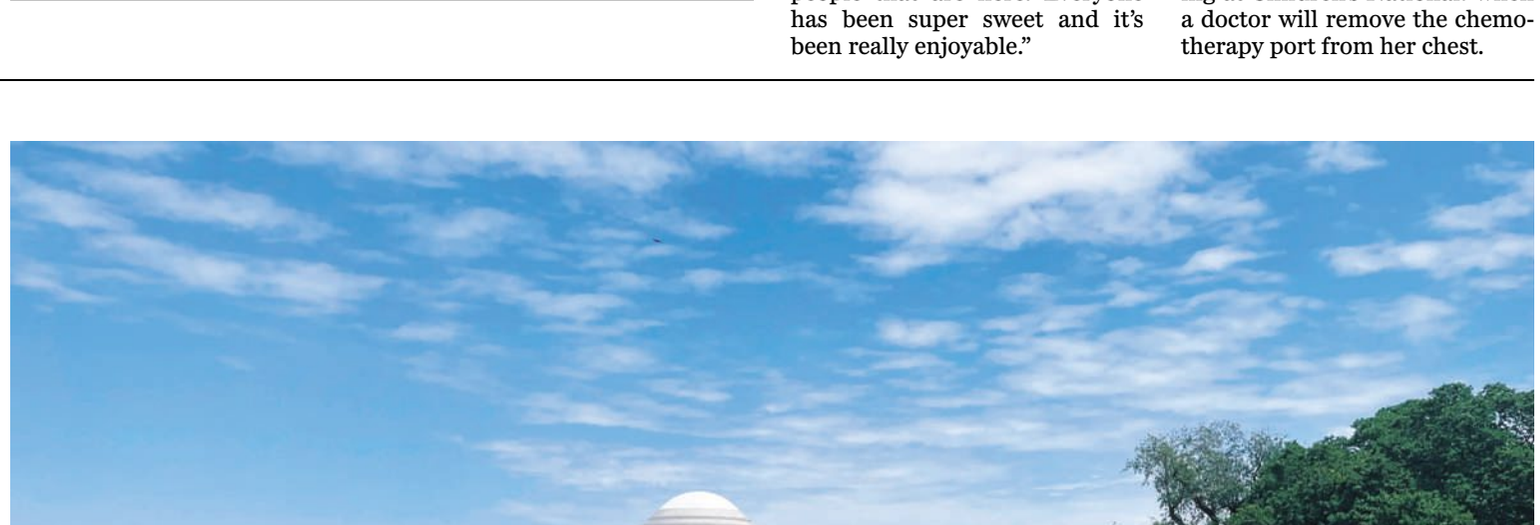
Stumpy, alas, did not live long. But the tree may have a second coming of sorts.

Earlier this year, National Park Service spokesman Mike Litterst said clippings would be taken from Stumpy and given to the National Arboretum with the hope of creating genetic matches. If successful, Stumpy clones would be planted around the Tidal Basin or elsewhere on the National Mall.

The rest of Stumpy, however, is headed to a more certain end. The trees removed from the Tidal Basin are expected to be ground into mulch and spread around the bases of the surviving cherry trees to protect them and enrich the soil.

If the outpouring of affection for Stumpy during its life and now after its death is any indication, memories of the little cherry tree with the big heart will linger long in Washington — even if we now have to change its name to Chippy.

(Please, no hate mail.)



JOE HEIM/THE WASHINGTON POST

Stump and other cherry trees were removed Friday from the area around the Tidal Basin in advance of a sea wall construction project. The trees are expected to be ground into mulch and spread around the bases of the area's surviving cherry trees to protect them and enrich soil.

The Guide to Offers
The Washington Post

Enter for the chance to win a pair of tickets to Dwight Yoakam on May 31 at The Anthem

The 67-year-old country music sensation has sold more than 25 million albums worldwide and is a 21-time nominated, multiple *GRAMMY* Award winner. Under Yoakam's belt: 12 gold albums and nine platinum or multi-platinum albums, with five of those albums topping Billboard's Country Albums chart and another 14 landing in the Top 10. "It takes a special kind of talent to rock out country songs and cover Elvis tunes more soulfully than the king. But that's Yoakam to a T" (thecosmicclash.com). "Yoakam…is one stellar live performer, delivering a sound that will simply never go out of style for anyone with a taste for twang" (inlander.com).

See details at washingtonpost.com/entertainment/events/lists/388

RETROPOLIS

100 years after immigration law shut America's doors, its legacy revives

BY GORDON F. SANDER



DREW ANGERER/GETTY IMAGES

People walk through an exhibit with photographs of immigrants at the Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration in 2017. The Johnson-Reed Act of 1924, set strict quotas on who could come to America, presaging some of former president Donald Trump's proposals.

Albert Johnson and David Reed were not on the list of public figures Donald Trump wanted to immortalize in the National Garden of American Heroes he proposed during the waning months of his presidency.

But his campaign promises suggest that if elected again, he might try to revive the legacy of the two Republican members of Congress who co-authored the landmark Immigration Act of 1924, signed into law 100 years ago Friday.

Driven by the notion that America was being drowned by a flood of newcomers from Southern and Eastern Europe, the bill — known as the Johnson-Reed Act — which President Calvin Coolidge signed into law on May 24, 1924, established national origin quotas as the basis of American immigration policy.

The sweeping nativist-inspired legislation limited the annual number of future immigrants to 2 percent of their share of the national population of the 1890 Census, before the "new types of people," as Reed called them, were pouring off boats onto Ellis Island in the tens of thousands.

It closed the door to almost all Asian immigration. It capped the total number of immigrants allowed annually at 165,000, half the 1920 total. And it required all immigrants to receive a visa from an American consular officer stationed in their country before they left.

On the campaign trail, Trump has implied that America is receiving the wrong kinds of immigrants. "These are people coming in from prisons and jails," the presumptive Republican presidential nominee griped at a fundraiser last month. He added: "They're coming from unbelievable places and countries, countries that are a disaster." As he has in the past, he also bemoaned the lack of immigrants from "nice countries" like "Denmark or Switzerland or Norway."

Meanwhile, Trump has promised to revive and expand the ban he instituted as president on immigrants from some majority-Muslim countries, while beginning "ideological screening" of all arrivals.

A century ago, Rep. Johnson declared that the wave of immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe were "filthy, un-American and often dangerous."

> *"These are people coming in from prisons and jails. . . . They're coming from unbelievable places and countries, countries that are a disaster."*
>
> **Donald Trump,**
> at a fundraiser last month

"The races of man who have been coming in recent years are wholly dissimilar to the native-born Americans," Sen. Reed wrote in the New York Times on April 27, 1924, a month before the Johnson-Reed Act, which favored immigrants from Northern and Western Europe, became law. In contrast to their predecessors, the recent arrivals were "untrained in self-government, a faculty that has taken the Northwestern peoples many centuries to acquire," the senator asserted.



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

People protest outside the Supreme Court in 2018, as justices hear arguments on a travel ban for several majority-Muslim countries.

The impact of Johnson and Reed's legislation was enormous. "1924 is really a watershed moment," Jia Lynn Yang, author of "One Mighty and Irresistible Tide: The Epic Struggle Over American Immigration, 1924-1965," told Smithsonian magazine in 2020. "Once you add a whole visa process, once you bring in these strict quotas, you're just in a whole different regime of immigration."

For all the parallels between the immigration debate 100 years ago and the one today, there are major differences.

The nativist movement of the 1920s was broadly based, backed by a coalition of groups that ranged from the American Federation of Labor, which feared new immigrants would drive its members' wages down, to the Ku Klux Klan, then at its multimillion-member height. The legislation passed both Republican-dominated houses of Congress with little opposition from either party.

It is difficult to imagine such a coalition coming together today.

The immigration debate of the Roaring Twenties also came against the backdrop of eugenics, the popular pseudoscience that maintained that allowing the wrong races into America could "adulterate our national germ plasm with socially unfit traits," according to Charles Davenport, one of its leading proponents.

The Johnson-Reed Act didn't materialize overnight; it was the culmination of 40 years of legislative efforts, most notably the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act. That law, created in response to rising racism and anxiety about cheap labor, imposed a 10-year ban on immigration by Chinese laborers.

But after its passage, Reed bemoaned, "new types of people began to come," particularly "from Italy, Greece, Poland, Turkey, the Balkan states and Russia."

Johnson and Reed were in a triumphant mood on the eve of their bill's enactment. "America of the melting pot will no longer be necessary," Reed wrote in the Times. He remarked on the new law's impact: "It will mean a more homogenous nation, more self-reliant, more independent and more closely knit by common properties and common faith."

The law immediately had its intended effect. In 1921, more than 200,000 Italians arrived at Ellis Island. In 1925, following the bill's enactment, barely 6,000 Italians were permitted entry.

But there were less intended consequences, too, including on U.S. foreign relations. Although Reed insisted there was nothing personal about the act's exclusion of Japanese people, the Japanese government took strong exception, leading to an increase in tensions between the two countries. There were riots in Tokyo. The road to Pearl Harbor was laid.

During the 1930s, after the eugenics-driven Nazis seized control of Germany, the quotas established by the act helped close the door to European Jews and others fleeing fascism.

At the same time, the law also inspired a small but determined group of opponents led by Rep. Emanuel Celler (D-N.Y.), who were committed to overturning it. Celler's half-century-long campaign finally paid off in 1965 at the Statue of Liberty when, as Celler looked on, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Immigration and Nationality Act, which ended national origin quotas.

But with anti-immigration sentiment on the rise and quotas once again on the table, it's clear that a century after its enactment, the ghost of Johnson-Reed isn't completely gone.

Gordon F. Sander is a journalist and historian based in Riga, Latvia. He is the author of "The Frank Family That Survived: A 20th Century Odyssey" and other books.

In the end, action by you, the reader, is the real power behind a local column

VARGAS FROM C1

you have written letters and made phone calls to lawmakers. Others of you have given your time and expertise. Many of you have sent help in the form of encouragement and donations to people in need.

Witnessing those moments has been the most rewarding part of my job (and has more than made up for any hate mail I have received, because that, too, is part of the job). Those moments are also what I have been thinking about most in recent days as I have prepared to bring this column to an end and step into a new position at The Washington Post.

This is my final column. As a reporter and columnist, I have written about the Washington region for nearly 18 years, and now, I will be taking on the role of local enterprise editor. In that position, I will oversee a team of reporters who will produce deeply reported narratives, high-impact accountability pieces and engaging features that will explore lives, expose wrongdoing and delve into some of the most important and complex issues in the region.

I am excited about the journalism we will produce. I am also optimistic about the impact we can have because I have seen what happens when people are moved to act.

You showed me that. Again. And again. And again.

After I told you about a school library's empty shelves, you sent more than 400 new books and donated funds for furniture and upgrades to the library. After I told you about an airport worker who was fired for supposedly asking for a tip, you helped her get her job back and you raised more than $46,000 for her. After I told you about a baby who went four months without a name, you made sure she got a birth certificate *and* diapers *and* formula *and* more than



COURTESY OF SUSAN THOMPSON-GAINES

Susan Thompson-Gaines amid food packages that arrived at her neighborhood food pantry in Northern Virginia in honor of E.A. Raven, a Washington Post reader from Indiana whose story was featured in a column by Theresa Vargas, whose final column runs today.

$38,000. She ended up, fittingly, named Justyce.

I could share with you many more examples. You helped laws get drafted and passed. You made sure migrant children got presents for Christmas. You caused the executive director of a nonprofit to cry.

"I've been in tears for days," Ron Fitzsimmons told me after I wrote about Alice's Kids in March of 2019 and donations started pouring in. In that initial column, I shared with you some of the requests the organization had received from social workers and teachers on behalf of school-age children: a music stand, soccer cleats, money for a band trip, undergarments that fit and dress clothes to attend a parent's funeral.

"When a natural disaster takes everything from a family, we hear about it," I wrote. "When a fire destroys a building, photos of those flames pull us in enough to wonder what was lost. The stories that come into Alice's Kids, a Virginia-based nonprofit organization, are not like that. They are not big, and often they are not newsworthy. They are the stuff of quiet happenings and unseen heartbreak, occurring to children around us, without us knowing. They are what child poverty looks like on a micro, just-trying-to-get-through-the-day level."

The organization helps children in a dignified way: It sends gift cards so the adults in their lives get to be seen as the heroes and those children never have to know they received charity. In that column, I wrote that the organization had spent about $27,000 the year before to help 377 children in the D.C. metro area. Recently, I asked Fitzsimmons what has changed since then. He said in 2023, the organization spent $846,000 on almost 10,000 kids and it aims to spend $1 million this year. They also now serve children in every state.

You helped make that happen.

I decided to write about you for this final column, because I haven't always been able to give you updates. What makes a local column unique is that it is rooted in a region — it is *about* and *for* a community. It is local journalism, and right now that type of journalism is taking hits across the nation as staffs shrink and publications close. If we care about the survival of local journalism — and we should — we have to invest in it and engage with it. Many of you have sent me emails over the years (I'm sorry if I didn't write back to all of you — I tried). I hope you will continue to send me tips and ideas for stories about fascinating people, interesting places and important issues.

When I first wrote about Thompson-Gaines, it was to tell you about a Kindness Yard Sale she holds to raise money that she puts toward committing acts of kindness throughout the year. She is known as the Kindness Activist, and she updates the public on those acts through her blog.

When E.A. Raven later started sending regular and thoughtful food donations — items that people wanted, not just needed — Thompson-Gaines and a group of neighbors who help with the pantry wondered who she was, where she lived and how she had found out about them. After her death, they learned that her real name was Elizabeth Ann Raven, she was from Indiana and she regularly read The Post (thanks E.A. Raven).

Days after I wrote about how the mystery of E.A. Raven had been solved, those delivery drivers started showing up, bringing piles of packages.

"I believe in KINDNESS RIPPLES," Thompson-Gaines wrote on her Facebook page at the time. She shared that hundreds of packages had arrived. "From friends, neighbors, strangers — all around the country. All because of a ripple started by a mysterious, generous stranger. Thank you E.A. Raven. Thank you Washington Post. And THANK YOU amazing donors. Kindness ripple in action."

When I spoke to Thompson-Gaines days ago, she said the pantry crew recently celebrated E.A. Raven's birthday with a cake. She also said packages in her honor continue to arrive.

ELECTION 2024

The issues, the answers

This article is by Michael Brice-Saddler, Meagan Flynn, Jennifer Barrios, Courtney Beesch and Kevin Uhrmacher

Voters in the June 4 Democratic primary will choose a nominee for D.C. Council Wards 4, 7, 8 and At-large in this deep-blue city, where the primary often determines the winner in November. Ward 2 incumbent Brooke Pinto (D) is running unopposed. We asked candidates in contested races questions on several key issues.

Who are the candidates?

**Incumbent*

COUNCIL AT-LARGE



Rodney Red Grant, 49, community leader, philanthropist, entertainer, filmmaker



Robert C. White Jr.*, 42, At-large council member

COUNCIL WARD 2



Brooke Pinto*, 32, Ward 2 council member (uncontested)

COUNCIL WARD 4



Lisa Gore, 56, retired federal law enforcement



Paul Johnson, 48, mediator, former municipal investment banker



Janeese Lewis George*, 36, Ward 4 council member

COUNCIL WARD 8



Salim Adofo, 46, tenant organizer



Rahman Branch, 51, consultant



Trayon A. White Sr.*, 41, Ward 8 council member

COUNCIL WARD 7



Ebbon Allen, 46, educator



Kelvin Brown, 42, housing professional



Wendell Felder, 33, director of regional affairs, Howard University



Nate Fleming, 39, law professor



Roscoe Grant Jr., 71, retired government official



Villareal VJ Johnson II, 46, education



Ebony Payne, 33, entrepreneur, founder of District Herbs



Veda Rasheed, 39, practicing attorney



Denise Reed, 63, full-time candidate



Eboni-Rose Thompson, 36, president and Ward 7 representative, D.C. State Board of Education

Ward 8 incumbent candidate Trayon A. White Sr. did not submit answers.

What is the most urgent issue facing D.C. now?

4 Ward Number AL At-large seat

Crime



Housing



Poverty/ wealth inequality



Economic development



Education



What is one specific proposal you have to address this issue?

Crime:

Robert C. White Jr., At-large: I introduced legislation to enhance D.C.'s 911 call center. In far too many instances, residents have experienced long wait times and dropped calls when they tried to get help by dialing 911. We cannot be safe unless we can reach police and other first responders quickly. *[Note: This response has been edited for accuracy; White initially stated incorrectly that his 911 call center legislation is in the Secure D.C. omnibus crime bill. It is not in that bill.]*

Lisa Gore, Ward 4: I propose an integrated approach to reinforce community policing effectiveness, improved access to victim services, and a focus on areas that are prone to crime and violence. This strategy focuses on increasing both sworn officers and civilian personnel, an expansion of victim services by providing comprehensive support and enhancing coordination among agencies to ensure victims receive timely and effective assistance, and strategic investments in neighborhoods and economic development.

Janeese Lewis George, 4: Over the past three years, I fought crime by focusing on its root causes and made our community safer through prevention, intervention, and enforcement. I secured increased funding for safety in Ward 4, worked to facilitate coordination among all safety agencies, and held agencies accountable. I co-sponsored the Whole Government Response to Crime Act, requiring D.C. to publish firearm tracing data, track performance of violence reduction programs, and improve the crime lab and 911 call system.

Ebbon Allen, 7: I will establish community-based programs that provide mentorship, job training, and educational opportunities for at-risk youth. By investing in our young people and offering them positive alternatives to crime, we can help break the cycle of violence and build a safer, stronger community for everyone.

Kelvin Brown, 7: Support more patrol officers to implement community policing and reestablish Patrol Service Areas (PSA), dedicating a lieutenant, sergeant and patrol officers to each community.

Wendell Felder, 7: We need to put forth a comprehensive public safety strategy to meet the needs of Ward 7 residents. Reckless drivers are not being held accountable, retail theft runs rampant, deaths due to opioids have now surpassed the 500 mark, and guns flow rampantly in and out of our communities. The mayor and council should create a joint whole-of-government public safety approach that includes every major government agency to address this problem.

Nate Fleming, 7: Relationship-based policing where we complement police car visibility to areas with gun activity with foot, bike, and scooter patrols to expand accountability for gun crimes by youth, while offering youth the Summer Youth Employment Program year round and 'Universal After School,' which will provide funds to connect all our youth to free high-quality after-school opportunities.

Roscoe Grant Jr., 7: To address the urgent issue of crime, I propose the expansion of community policing initiatives that build trust between law enforcement and the community, coupled with significant investments in youth intervention programs that provide alternatives to criminal activity. These efforts should be part of a broader strategy to enhance public safety and reduce crime rates across the District.

Villareal VJ Johnson II, 7: Strengthen reforms that empower and equip police to reduce crime and increase feeling of security by ensuring investment in a fully staffed police force. Introduce, pass and enact legislation that increase penalties on repeat juvenile and violent offenders while offering supports that transform those convicted of crimes within the values and principles of restorative just. Provide more investments in family stabilization, with a two generational approach.

Ebony Payne, 7: As we work towards filling the city's 400+ police vacancies, the D.C. Council should provide funding to maintain an appropriate number of police officers using a ratio that is tied to our population growth and accounts for retirements. This will help prevent our problem of not having enough police officers from reoccurring.

Veda Rasheed, 7: Too many of us in Ward 7 have been personally affected by crime, and some in the most violent ways. We need strong actions that address root causes of crime while doing what we can to keep us safe. That's why I support swift and certain accountability for violent offenders with more police to support our safety, but with a larger violence interrupter program to ensure that we are empowered to protect and police our own communities whenever possible.

Denise Reed, 7: Increased budget for police to hire additional officers and more community policing. Additionally, police and the Department of Behavioral Health should be in collaboration to address the many problems that are the result of domestic violence, child neglect, truancy and mental illness. They should not be operating in silos and DCPS should have a solid, ongoing role in this partnership as well.

Housing:

Eboni-Rose Thompson, 7: D.C. needs more workforce housing so residents who already work and live in the city can afford to continue living here and people who come to D.C. for jobs can live in the city. Workforce housing should target moderate-income workers such as police, firefighters, teachers, health workers, and government servants. It's essential that as the District builds more affordable housing, we balance development with preventing displacement of native and longtime residents.

Salim Adofo, 8: There are many dilapidated housing developments in D.C. and throughout Ward 8 that are inhabitable. This causes many residents to self-evict. I believe we should invest in renovating the current housing stock managed by the D.C. Housing Authority, collaborate with the Office of the Attorney General to hold negligent property owners accountable, in addition to building new developments.

Poverty/wealth inequality:

Rahman Branch, 8: A targeted solution for poverty, inequality, and crime in D.C. is prioritizing living wage jobs to cover basic needs like housing and health care. Initiatives like Career and Technical Education and a vocational high school in underserved areas like Ward 8 can equip residents with skills for stable, higher-paying jobs, breaking the cycle of poverty.

Economic development:

Paul Johnson, 4: Pulling together public and private stakeholders to develop a robust, integrated workforce development pipeline that truly benefits residents of Ward 4 and D.C.

Education:

Rodney Red Grant, At-large: To raise revenue for public benefit programs through a combination of skills training and community planning, to make people self sufficient, and to provide opportunities for the community to engage in to better our society.

Should D.C. enforce penalties for fare evasion on public transportation?

Secure D.C. allows Metro transit police to require people who are stopped for fare evasion to provide their ID or name and address so officers can issue civil citations — and if a rider refuses they can be arrested and fined. Previously, transit police were only able to ask fare evaders to pay the fare or leave the station.

Yes



No



Do you support bringing the Commanders football team to a new stadium at the RFK Stadium site?

Bowser has indicated she wants to bring the team, which plays at FedEx Field in Landover, Md., back to RFK Stadium as part of a multiuse development to be built at the site.

Yes

With taxpayer money



Without taxpayer money



No



Do you support the mayor's and council's decision to invest $515 million in taxpayer dollars to modernize Capital One Arena?

After Washington Wizards and Capitals owner Ted Leonsis abandoned his plan to move the teams to an arena to be built in Northern Virginia, he accepted the mayor's proposal of city funds to improve Capital One Arena.

Yes



No



Do you support the D.C. Council's passage of the Secure D.C. omnibus crime bill?

The bill increased penalties for gun possession, increased the likelihood of pretrial detention for adults and juveniles charged with violent crime, and allowed police to establish "drug free zones," among other things.



If yes, which provision of Secure D.C. do you think will be most effective in reducing crime? If no, please explain why you do not support the bill.

Rodney Red Grant, At-large: We believe that pretrial detention is warranted in certain circumstances, but if we were to integrate a psychological intervention program for people being detained pretrial, obviously with their consent, it may lead to longer-lasting results and help disrupt the cycle of crime in D.C.

Robert C. White Jr., At-large: I am pleased that the omnibus includes legislation that I introduced in my previous bill such as requiring firearm tracing and data collection which aims at helping us learn where guns are being recovered and how many, in hopes to reduce the amount of guns coming into our city and hold those responsible accountable. *[Note: White submitted this amended answer. His first answer incorrectly stated that Secure D.C. included legislation he introduced to enhance 911 operations and enhance the operations of D.C.'s crime lab. Neither provision is in the omnibus.]*

Lisa Gore, Ward 4: It's challenging to pinpoint a singular provision as the definitive solution for crime reduction. There are several measures that are essential for reducing crime, and that promise to deliver prompt and tangible results: reforms in pretrial detention protocols, coupled with the strengthening of penalties for gun-related offenses and the refinement of carjacking classifications. These enhancements are pivotal for removing violent offenders from our communities and streamlining prosecutions.

Paul Johnson, 4: Providing law enforcement more tools for smart, targeted interventions as well as standing up an Emerging Adult Services initiative to focus on workforce development and education programs.

Janeese Lewis George, 4: I supported the bill and helped strengthen it. It updates our criminal code to make it easier to prosecute serious offenses like carjackings and other gun crimes. Consistently prosecuting these cases is key to making D.C. safer. We also need effective violence prevention programs, better agency coordination, a well-functioning crime lab and 911 call center, support for victims, and policies that address hunger, housing insecurity, addiction, and mental health.

Ebbon Allen, 7: Pretrial detention: Perpetrators need to be held accountable. They need to be prevented from reoffending and continuing to traumatize our residents. Detaining those that are causing harm provides a layer of protection to our community.

Kelvin Brown, 7: I believe increasing the overall penalties for possession or utilization of an illegal gun is the right approach to help stem the tide of violence across Ward 7 and D.C.

Wendell Felder, 7: I support efforts to ensure a proper balance between accountability and prevention to combat the crime crisis plaguing the District. One key aspect of the bill that I support is implementing strategic gun violence-reduction strategies such as shooting reviews. By identifying shooting dynamics, potential retaliation, and intervention opportunities, we can better target violence-reduction efforts in communities prone to gun violence.

Nate Fleming, 7: Increased penalties for certain gun possession offenses, and the creation of new felonies for gun offenses like the unlawful discarding of guns and ammunition and endangerment with a firearm, which criminalizes firing a gun in public.

Villareal VJ Johnson II, 7: Section 3- the freeing up information on youth involved in the system. The expansion of the Sentencing Commission to be inclusive of someone with lived experience. Temporary drug free zones which allow police to use tactics that disrupt crime.

Ebony Payne, 7: I believe that expanding the definition of a carjacking and establishing new felony offenses for violent crimes committed with a gun, such as unlawful discharging and discarding of a firearm, will help us more easily prosecute and keep violent criminals away from society.

Veda Rasheed, 7: The establishment of a task force centered on diversion, treatment, and accountability for low-level offenders.

Eboni-Rose Thompson, 7: Secure D.C. is now law, and D.C. must continue to work toward a holistic approach. I appreciate the amendments aimed at striking a balance between accountability and tackling the catalysts of crime. The requirement of a comprehensive public safety plan is important. Currently, various public safety policies are siloed, living within different agencies. It's not clear that there is sufficient coordination. The comprehensive plan will help guide D.C. in making more strategic programmatic choices.

Salim Adofo, 8: I believe that pretrial detention for juveniles would be the most effective in reducing crime. Many people do not believe in juvenile detention centers, however, it is important to understand that it may be the first time most youths have had the opportunity to see a doctor, to sleep in their own bed, and to speak with a therapist. Youth at risk may benefit from this in the long run.

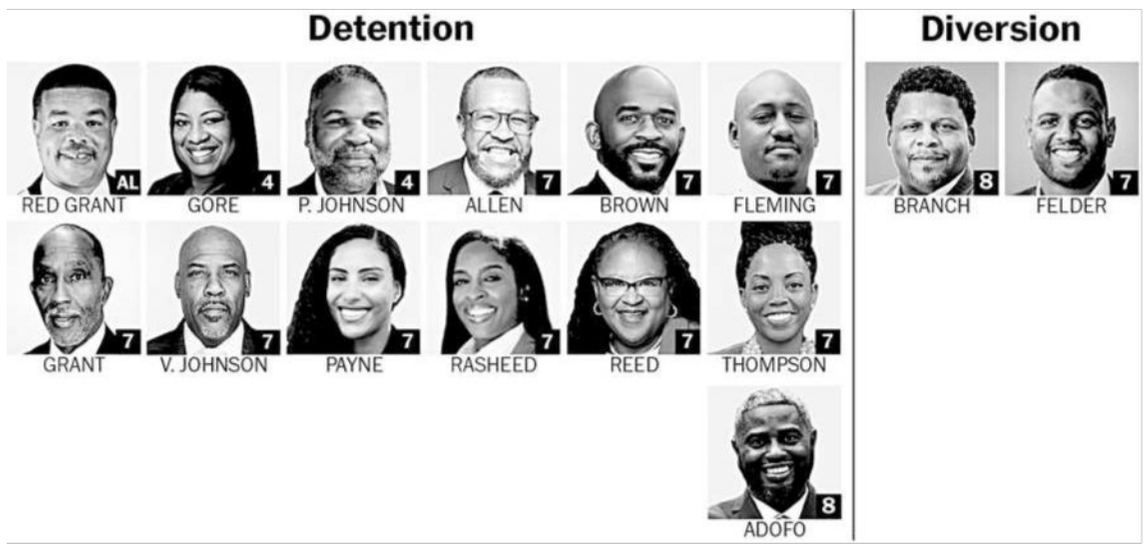
Rahman Branch, 8: Mandating increased data sharing among public safety agencies is a key crime reduction measure. It ensures transparency on diversion program outcomes, 911 errors, and pretrial supervision, aiding informed decisions and targeted interventions. Additionally, introducing a new offense for organized retail theft and enhancing protections for vulnerable groups are crucial steps for community safety.

Roscoe Grant Jr., 7: I do not support the bill as it stands because, while increasing penalties may provide a deterrent, it does not address the root causes of crime such as poverty, lack of education, and limited economic opportunities. I believe in a more holistic approach that includes community-based intervention programs.

Denise Reed, 7: Not in its entirety. I don't believe that drug-free zones should be announced. I believe anyone who possesses gun or commits a violent crime should receive increased penalties — whether they are an adult or juvenile. I do not agree that DNA should be collected from 'suspects.

What is a more effective approach to address juveniles who have committed violent offenses: Detention in a facility or a diversion program?

Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) has put forth legislation that would ban diversion programs for youths facing gun charges, as elected officials face pressure to address an increase in violence involving children and teens.



Lewis George and Robert C. White Jr. declined to answer yes or no, saying the format of the question would not adequately capture their views.

Do you support continued mayoral control of D.C. public schools?

Control of the schools was shifted from an elected School Board to the mayor in 2007.



Should parents with chronically truant children be subject to potential prosecution by the D.C. attorney general?

D.C. schools have seen alarmingly high truancy rates — defined as a student missing at least 10 full days of school without a formal excuse.



How do you rate Mayor Muriel E. Bowser's job performance?

Rating on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the best.



Do you support or oppose Initiative 83?

The proposed ballot measure — which would bring ranked-choice voting to D.C. and open up primaries to independent voters — will go before voters in November if petition supporters gather enough signatures.



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OBITUARIES

CLARENCE EMIL "BUD" ANDERSON JR., 102

Last WWII triple ace had 30-year military career

BY EMILY LANGER

Clarence E. "Bud" Anderson Jr., a military pilot whose aerial derring-do spanned from World War II, when he personally shot down 16 German planes in dogfights over occupied Europe, to experimental flights in the era of the jet, died May 17 at his home in Auburn, Calif. He was 102.

His daughter, Kitty Burlington, confirmed his death but did not cite a cause.

In military parlance, a flying ace is an aviator credited with downing five or more enemy planes. With his 16 "kills" — 16¼ to be precise, including one that was a group effort — Mr. Anderson earned the title three times over.

He was the last surviving triple ace pilot from World War II and a symbol among military aviation buffs of the courage that propelled a generation of young American pilots into epic aerial combat thousands of miles from home.

Mr. Anderson retired from the Air Force in 1972 as a colonel and two years ago received an honorary promotion to the rank of brigadier general.

Drawn to the skies since he was a boy, he enlisted in the Army Air Forces practically the moment he became eligible, at age 20, six weeks after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor precipitated the U.S. entry into World War II.

After training, Mr. Anderson arrived in Europe in late 1943. He was stationed in England and became one of the first pilots to fly the P-51 Mustang, a propeller fighter plane that was introduced amid intense battle with the German air force, known as the Luftwaffe, and helped change the tide of the air war in Europe.

Earlier U.S. fighter planes lacked the range to escort bombers deep into German territory and back, which left the bombers vulnerable to attack and resulted in substantial U.S. losses, said John Curatola, a military historian at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans.

The introduction of the P-51 Mustang "helped turn the tables on the German Luftwaffe," Curatola said.

The plane could protect the bombers on their missions from start to finish. And, with its superior maneuverability and formidable firepower, he added, "in the hands of a skilled pilot like Anderson … it's an extremely deadly weapon."

Mr. Anderson named his P-51 "Old Crow." Raised by teetotaling parents, he professed in some company that the name referred to "the smartest bird in the sky." Friends in other circles knew that the moniker was, in fact, a nod to his preferred brand of bourbon.

P-51 pilots flew alone. By the time Mr. Anderson was flying, their mission was twofold: to escort bombers to their targets and get them safely home, and to go after Luftwaffe planes and take them down.

Dogfights, lasting only a minute or two, were spectacular bursts of marksmanship as well as airmanship, with pilots guiding their planes while simultaneously firing machine guns located in their wings.

"Death comes quickly and violently in the air war," Curatola said. "There aren't many aces because it's a very difficult skill to shoot down another aircraft moving at 300 to 400 miles per hour while you're moving at 300 to 400 miles per hour."

One of Mr. Anderson's squadron mates was Chuck Yeager, who became a test pilot and broke the sound barrier in 1947.

"On the ground, he was the nicest person you'd ever know," Yeager wrote of Mr. Anderson in a 1985 autobiography, "but in the sky, those damned Germans must've thought they were up against Frankenstein or the Wolfman; Andy would hammer them into the ground, dive with them into the damned grave, if necessary, to destroy them."

During two tours in Europe, Mr. Anderson flew 116 missions totaling 480 hours in combat. In all, he was credited with 16¼ confirmed kills and two probable kills in addition to damaging two more enemy planes, according to the American Fighter Aces Association.

Clarence Emil Anderson Jr. — always known as Bud — was born on Jan. 13, 1922, in Oakland, Calif., and grew up in Newcastle, northeast of the state capital of Sacramento. His mother worked as a secretary to several California governors, and his father was a rancher.

Mr. Anderson earned his pilot's license in 1941, at age 19, through the Civilian Pilot Training Program. His best friend also became a pilot and was killed in Germany in 1943 on one of his first missions.

Years later, in an interview for the film series "Memoirs of World War II," Mr. Anderson said that one of the most painful experiences of his life was visiting the man's grieving widow when he was home on leave. Consoling each other, they agreed to stay in touch by mail.

In February 1945, when Mr. Anderson was home after his second tour in Europe, they were married. Eleanor Cosby Anderson died in 2015. Besides their daughter, of Raleigh, N.C., survivors include a son, Jim Anderson of Mesa, Ariz.; a brother; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Of the 28 pilots who deployed with Mr. Anderson at the outset of his service, half were killed or taken prisoner by the end of the war, he said. "You come home and there's an empty bunk over there at night," he said. "Each guy had to figure out how to cope with that. Some guys just could pull the shade down and ignore it. Some people would not make friends — close friends — because of it."

After World War II, Mr. Anderson became a military test pilot, serving as chief of fighter operations at what is now Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio. He commanded a fighter squadron in Korea and a tactical fighter wing during the Vietnam War. He received, by the end of his career, two awards of the Legion of Merit, five awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal and 16 awards of the Air Medal.



GIFT OF OBRIN MEDLEY/THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM

Clarence Emil "Bud" Anderson Jr. with his P-51 Mustang. He flew 116 combat missions between November 1943 and January 1945.

After his military retirement, Mr. Anderson joined the McDonnell Douglas aircraft corporation as manager of the company's flight test facility. According to his website, he flew more than 130 types of aircraft, accumulating more than 7,500 flying hours. With Joseph P. Hamelin, he wrote an autobiography, "To Fly and Fight: Memoirs of a Triple Ace."

Although proud of his membership in the elite group of triple aces, Mr. Anderson was quick to note that World War II was not won alone by the heroes who most often receive the glory. Among those who shared the credit for his achievements, he said, were the members of his ground crew.

Once, he told the publication Aviation History, he returned from a wintertime flight over Germany and made an offhand comment that perhaps Old Crow's olive-green paint should be replaced with a color that provided better camouflage in the snow.

The next morning, he awoke to see the sunlight glinting off the plane's original aluminum. The crew had "stayed up the whole night through, hand-rubbing the paint off with rags soaked in gasoline," he said. "In the process, they had rubbed most of the skin off their hands."

"No one asked them to do that. No one expected it," Mr. Anderson continued. "Old Crow was as much their plane as mine. They took as much pride in the things it accomplished as I did."

PAUL PARKMAN, 91

Scientist created vaccine that eliminated rubella from much of the world

BY EMILY LANGER

Paul D. Parkman, a scientist who in the 1960s played a central role in identifying the rubella virus and developing a vaccine to combat it, breakthroughs that have eliminated from much of the world a disease that can cause catastrophic birth defects and fetal death, died May 7 at his home in Auburn, N.Y. He was 91.

He had cancer, his niece Theresa Leonardi said.

Dr. Parkman trained as a pediatrician but was drawn into virology while serving in the Army Medical Corps in the early 1960s. Stationed at Fort Dix in New Jersey, he grew bored with an assigned study on adenoviruses, run-of-the-mill germs that in most cases cause mild cold- and flu-like symptoms.

"A runny nose isn't too much to look at," Dr. Parkman recalled years later in an oral history, so he began passing his spare time in a ward that housed recruits suffering from rashes. Many of the young men, Dr. Parkman and his colleagues discovered, had rubella, also known as German measles.

For years, rubella was regarded as a harmless childhood disease, although it could also affect adults. Symptoms, which might include fever, sore throat and runny nose, were generally minor and sometimes went undetected. The most obvious symptom was the red rash that gave the virus its name ("rubella," derived from Latin, means "little red").

In the 1940s, however, an Australian ophthalmologist, Norman McAlister Gregg, observed that a striking number of women who had been infected with rubella early in their pregnancies gave birth to babies with cataracts and heart defects. Maternal rubella was quickly linked also to congenital deafness and intellectual disability, as well as miscarriage and stillbirth.

Two decades passed before the rubella virus was identified in the early 1960s. The discovery is credited jointly to Dr. Parkman and his Army colleagues and to a team of researchers at Harvard University led by Thomas H. Weller, who shared the 1954 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine for his work on the polio virus.

At the time, Dr. Parkman was stationed at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, located outside Washington in suburban Maryland. He moved in 1963 to a civilian position at the nearby National Institutes of Health. There, he and colleagues including Harry M. Meyer Jr. began working on a rubella vaccine just as a massive outbreak began in the United States.

In 1964 and 1965, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 12.5 million Americans contracted rubella, 11,000 pregnancies ended in miscarriage, 2,100 newborns died, and 20,000 babies were born with the birth defects encapsulated by the term "congenital rubella syndrome."

Fearing the consequences for their babies, many women who contracted rubella during pregnancy sought therapeutic abortions. Physicians could not reliably predict if a fetus would be profoundly or only mildly affected by an infection, resulting in what Dr. Parkman described as a "wrenching decision for a mother to have to make."

Rubella epidemics generally occurred in cycles — roughly one every six to nine years — and the one that hit the United States in the mid-1960s was the worst in three decades. Because of work by Dr. Parkman and others, it was to be, for Americans, the last.



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

Paul D. Parkman, right, and his colleague Harry M. Meyer Jr. inspect a rubella virus culture in 1967.

In 1966, Dr. Parkman and Meyer announced their discovery of a safe and effective vaccine against rubella. With additional contributions from scientists including Maurice R. Hilleman, the first vaccine was licensed in 1969. Dr. Parkman was also among the scientists who held a patent for a rubella immunity test.

Other rubella vaccines followed and, in the span of four years, were administered to nearly 40 million American children. In 1971, a combined measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine was introduced to protect recipients against three diseases at once.

Rubella was declared eliminated from the United States in 2004 and from the Americas in 2015. It has been nearly eliminated from Europe. There were 17,865 cases of rubella in 78 countries in 2022, according to the latest data available from the World Health Organization, with congenital rubella syndrome rates highest in Africa and Southeast Asia. But scientists regard the eradication of rubella as feasible.

"Few men can number themselves among those who directly and measurably advance human welfare, save precious lives and bring new hope to the world," President Lyndon B. Johnson wrote to Dr. Parkman in 1966. "Through your accomplishments in developing an effective experimental vaccine against German measles, you and Dr. Harry Meyer have joined that tiny legion."

Paul Douglas Parkman was born in Auburn, in Upstate New York, on May 29, 1932. He grew up in the nearby town of Weedsport, where his father was a clerk for the post office and local school board and raised poultry on the side. His mother was a homemaker.

Dr. Parkman was salutatorian of his high school class. Elmerina Leonardi, a classmate since kindergarten, was valedictorian. They were married in 1955.

By that time, Dr. Parkman was enrolled in a dual program at St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y., where he majored in biology, and what is now Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, part of the State University of New York, where he received a medical degree in 1957, first in his class.

During his time at NIH, Dr. Parkman became chief of the section on general virology before his department was transferred to the Food and Drug Administration. He rose to lead the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, where he helped oversee policies on HIV/AIDS testing and treatment, before his retirement in 1990.

Dr. Parkman was a longtime resident of Kensington, Md. He and his wife were avid collectors of works from the American studio glass movement and donated portions of their collection to the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. His wife, of Auburn, is his only immediate survivor.

Dr. Parkman reflected with anguish on the resistance to standard vaccination that has taken hold in recent years in some circles, particularly among parents of young children, despite overwhelming scientific evidence that the benefits of vaccines far outweigh any risks they may have.

"As I look back on my career, I have come to think that perhaps I was involved in the easy part," he wrote in the publication FDA Consumer in 2002. "It will be for others to take on the difficult task of maintaining the protections that we struggled to achieve. We must prevent the spread of this vaccine nihilism, for if it were to prevail, our successes could be lost."

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IN MEMORIAM

HAYES

JEROME & ELLEN EARLY HAYES
JEROME HAYES, JR.

In loving memory of our parents who departed this life 62 and 50 years ago respectively; and our brother who departed this life 16 years ago. Not a day goes by that you are not in our thoughts. We miss you today as much as we did on the day you departed this earthly life.

Children & Sisters, Angela & Margaret

MEMORIAL SERVICE

QUINN

JACK QUINN

A memorial service will take place at the Washington National Cathedral on Wednesday, May 29 at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in honor of Jack to the renovation of the Little Sanctuary at St. Albans.
https://www.stalbansschool.org/ls-giving



DEATH NOTICE

BAINWOL



ETHEL BAINWOL (Age 99)

Ethel Komishane Bainwol, born Jan. 18, 1925, died suddenly May 13, 2024, at Greenspring Village in Springfield, VA. Born and raised in Elizabeth, NJ, she met Leon Bainwol on a canal boat in Amsterdam. They married Jan. 16, 1955, residing first in Brooklyn, and then Munich, Frankfurt, Panama, Maryland, Bangkok, Florida and, finally, Virginia. Ethel is survived by Suzanne Lederer (Cal) and Mitch Bainwol (Susan), five grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter. A private graveside service was held May 15, 2024.

www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com

BURGGRAF

SUE ANN BURGGRAF

Sue Ann Burggraf who was born June 4, 1945, passed away unexpectedly on Friday May 10, 2024. A memorial service will be held on June 4, 2024, at 1 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, 3313 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 2201. Memorials may be made to her favorite charities which are National Federation of the Blind, Alzheimer Association, and American Cancer Association.

DEATH NOTICE

CLARK

BRENDA J. CLARK

On May 8, 2024, Brenda J. Clark of Capitol Heights, MD passed away. Memorial Service on May 28, 2024 at 11 a.m.; Viewing at 10 a.m. at The Word of God Baptist Church, University Park, MD. Interment Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery.

HAUGH

FREDERICK EARL HAUGH "Rick"

Frederick "Rick" Earl Haugh, 86, of Leesburg, Virginia, passed away surrounded by loved ones on Wednesday, May 15, 2024. Rick was born on November 27, 1937, in Franklin, Indiana, and was the son of Earl Edward Haugh and Pearl May Callon. Rick was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Sallie, after 51 years of marriage. Rick is survived by his son, Gregory Haugh, of Leesburg. Visitation will be held on Monday, June 3, 2024, at Adams-Green Funeral Home, 721 Elden Street, Herndon, VA with the funeral service beginning at 2 p.m. Following the service, a reception will be held at Oakbrook Church,1700 Reston Parkway in Reston, Virginia. Interment Quantico National Cemetery in Triangle, Virginia on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in memory of Rick to the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation at www.mcsf.org or mailed to 909 N. Washington Street, Suite 400, in Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

KREINER

KENAN EUGENE KREINER

Kenan Eugene Kreiner passed away on May 15, 2024 surrounded by his loving family. Kenan was born in Washington, DC on April 5, 1986 and raised in Falls Church, VA. He was a graduate of St. James Catholic School and Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School. Kenan went on to study at the University of Lynchburg and Northern Virginia Community College. In recent years Kenan was living in Bel Air, MD and worked at Ashley Treatment Center in Havre de Grace. Kenan was very active in the Harford County sober living community where his compassion and knowledge were manifested by his outreach to others. Kenan is predeceased by his father, Louis E. Kreiner, Jr.; paternal grandparents, Louis Sr. and Gertrude Kreiner; and maternal grandparents, Martin and Elizabeth Sullivan. He leaves behind his beloved mother and step-father, Patricia (Sullivan) and Bill McGillicuddy; adoring sister and brother-in-law, Kathleen (Kreiner) and Miguel Castro, their newborn son and his nephew, Adrian, and his many aunts, uncles, and cousins whom he adored. The family will receive visitors at the Advent Funeral Home in Falls Church, VA on June 3, 2024 from 5 to 8 p.m. A funeral mass will be offered in celebration of Kenan's life at St. James Catholic Church also in Falls Church, on June 4, 2024 at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations in Kenan's name can be made to Maryland Recovery Center, 21 W. Courtland St., Bel Air, MD 21014.

LOWE

GEORGE H. LOWE JR.

George H. Lowe, Jr., of Fort Washington, MD, passed away peacefully on May 9, 2024. George is survived by his daughters, Chelsea and Katie Lowe. He was preceded in death by his parents, Gloria Virginia Lowe and George H. Lowe, Sr. A memorial service will be held on June 4 at 10 a.m. at St. Ann Catholic Church, 4001 Yuma St., N.W., Washington, DC 20016.

ATCHISON



JOHN WILTON ATCHISON JR.

Beloved father and grandfather passed away May 16, 2024. Born on August 12, 1930, in Washington, DC, the son of John W. Atchison Sr. and Erma Atchison (nee Yost). John leaves behind four children and six grandchildren; Jay (Jackie) their girls Cristen, Carly and Cassidy, Jan; Alan; his son Sean; Julie (Craig), their children Tyler and Caitlyn.

John graduated from Central High School in 1950, Columbia Technical Institute in 1956 and was drafted into the United States Army in 1951 where he served honorably in the renowned 5th Regimental Combat Team as a machine gunner in the Korean War.

A talented dancer, John met his beautiful wife Evelyn in Washington, DC at a social dance, and they married in 1958. John worked for the Navy Department for over 36 years, retiring in 1986. John was a talented artist and had a knack for poetry. He also enjoyed roller skating, golfing, traveling around the world, taking cruises, and enjoying many beach vacations with his family.

Family and friends will be received at Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home, 9902 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA from 12 to 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 29. Services will be from 1 to 2 p.m. in their chapel, followed by interment at 2 p.m. at the Fairfax Memorial Park.

BROWN

FREDERIC J. BROWN III LTG (RET.)

Frederic J. Brown III, Lieutenant General, US Army (Ret.), known as Rick to his family and friends, passed away May 15, 2024 in Washington, DC. Born July 18, 1934 to Frederic J. Brown Jr. (USMA 1927) and Kathryn Richardson Brown at Ft. Sill, OK, he dedicated his life to Duty, Honor, Country.

After graduating as a distinguished cadet from the United States Military Academy West Point 1956, Rick married his beloved childhood sweetheart Harriette Anne Upham. The Brown "team" was formed. Both chose service to country as Anne worked tirelessly to support military families at home and abroad, receiving the Department of the Army Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the highest Army Civilian Award, in 1989.

Rick was commissioned Armor. As the first Olmsted Scholar, he attended the University of Geneva in Switzerland. There he earned a Masters of Arts degree in Political Science, subsequently adding a Ph.D. His dissertation, Chemical Warfare: A Study in Restraints, was published by Princeton Press.

Rick retired from the US Army in 1989 having served 32 years in various command and staff assignments including both Calvary and Infantry units in Germany, Viet Nam and the United States culminating as Chief of Armor, Commanding General Ft Knox, KY and Commander of Fourth Army, Ft Sheridan, IL. During his career Rick was awarded multiple US Decorations and Badges including the Distinguished Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Silver Star, Le-gion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal with V Device (with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters,) Meritorious Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Air Medals, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster) Combat Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge and Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge. In 2010 Rick received the Distinguished Graduate Award from the United States Military Academy, class of 1956.

A distinguished author, Rick wrote several books, numerous articles and papers on the challenges facing the US Army and the use of advance information technologies in training and leader preparation. While passionate about his service to Country and the US Army, he was equally devoted to his wife and family and enjoyed hiking, bicycling and travel.

Rick is preceded in death by his beloved wife Harriette Upham Brown and survived by his three daughters and seven grandchildren.

Anne and Rick will be interred at the United States Military Academy, West Point. The funeral service and interment will be held on Friday, August 23, 2024 at 10 a.m. in the Old Cadet Chapel. A reception will follow.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial contributions may be made to Army Emergency Relief, at https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/donate.

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DEATH NOTICE

CINI



THERESA S. CINI

Peacefully died at home surrounded by her loving family on Monday, May 20, 2024, at the age of 90.

A generous and loving wife and mother, she was preceded in death by her devoted husband of 64 years, John C. Cini, with whom she shared a love of family, a passion for projects, and a desire to learn about and experience the world through travel and art.

She is survived by her three children, John C. Cini III and partner Star Lancaster, Diane (Cini) Dowling (husband Rob,) and Laura Cini Parker (husband Jim); her three grandchildren, Amanda Parker Morgan and husband Don, Gregory Parker, and Larissa Dowling; sister Josephine Marra; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Theresa embodied grace, elegance, and style. Throughout her life, she generously offered time, resources, guidance and love to her immediate and extended family and friends. Theresa was a consummate conversationalist, an avid reader, and enjoyed and supported the arts in all its forms.

Theresa earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration, married John, and together raised their family. Later, Theresa earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interior Design from the University of Maryland, became an accredited member of A.S.I.D. and a founding partner of Interior Space, serving commercial and residential clients.

The family will receive visitors at Pumphrey Funeral Home, 300 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville, MD, on Thursday, May 30, 2024, from 4 to 6 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 31, 2024, at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, 9200 Kentsdale Dr., Potomac, MD. Burial will follow at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 13801 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

For more information and to offer condolences, please visit:
www.pumphreyfuneralhome.com

COAKLEY



JAMES FULTON COAKLEY

On May 19, 2024, James Fulton Coakley conceded his battle with pancreatic cancer at the age of 71. Born in Youngstown, Ohio on January 25, 1953, he was John and Dorothy (Shanahan) Coakley's seventh of nine children. He graduated from the Cranwell Preparatory School, Lenox, MA in 1970 and then received a BA in English from Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT in 1974.

He moved to Alexandria, VA in 1976 to work with Time-Life Books before joining Leggat, McCall & Werner as an office broker in 1981. He took a job with the Trammell Crow office before leaving in 2000 to focus on the development of high-density data centers. Ranked among the Top 20 Brokers Nationwide six times in his career, he was selected as the Washington DC Association of Realtors "Broker of the Year" in 1991. He developed Prince William County Virginia's first retail data center in 2009 using a unique Green design that foresaw the coming need for high density, high efficiency computer environments and was recognized by Washingtonian magazine as a 2011 Tech Titan.

His greatest feat in life, he said, was convincing his hazel-eyed, red-headed wife, Lisa, to marry him and raise a family of three children.They in turn, delivered seven very entertaining and beloved grandchildren. According to Jim, grandchildren are the ultimate reward for living life by the rules, when possible.

Active with the Washington, DC Association of Realtors, Carpenters Shelter and Historic Christ Church, in Alexandria, VA, he was a member of the Metropolitan Club of Washington D.C., Mount Vernon Country Club and the Alexandria Masters Swim Team. He was a founding member of Fairfield University's Lacrosse program and an avid fly fisherman. And while he was an 'okay golfer,' his quick wit and ready smile turned even disastrous outings into highly amusing adventures for all.

Above all, he was very proud to be part of the sprawling Coakley/Shanahan family and credits his beloved brothers and sisters and cousins for all he is today, both the good and the bad. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Lisa (Greenbaum); JP (Lauren Knapp); Elliot (Ashley Middleton); Alice (Nick Currie), and they, in turn, seven beautiful grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, Jim hopes folks will plant a tree and/or work to protect old growth forests.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on June 15, 2024 at Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

COLEMAN



RODNEY ALBERT COLEMAN HONORABLE
October 12, 1938 - June 6, 2022

Rodney A. Coleman was the second born son to parents Samuel and Reba (Beldon) Coleman in Newburgh, NY. He is preceded in death by his brother Eugene and parents.

Rodney spent his years growing up in Newburgh playing the drums in his band The Impressions and playing baseball and basketball. In sports he excelled at both. "Rod" lead the league in batting and pitching and was awarded "The Jackie Robinson Players Award" for outstanding performance in the Optimistic Little League of Newburgh in 1950. Jackie Robinson wrote a letter to him encouraging him "to work hard, because it means hard work and many sacrifices to be a fine ball player and or athlete… but also to get a good education." Rodney received the PONY Baseball Man of the Year, Newburgh, 1960. In college he played basketball. Rodney graduated from Howard University School of Architecture with a bachelors degree in 1963. Upon graduation he was commissioned as second lieutenant through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Program. Rodney served on active duty from 1963 to 1973 attaining the rank of captain and compiled a distinguished career as an Air Force civil engineering officer. During his Air Force career, Rodney was directly responsible for the design and construction management of military facility projects worldwide. One of his proudest projects was serving as project architect for the renovation and addition to the prestigious Bolling Air Force Base Officers Club, the largest Air Force officers club in the world. Rodney served in Vietnam as Director of Operations and Maintenance, DCS/Civil Engineering, Headquarters 7th AF, Tan Son Nhut, Air Base and as Chief Engineering and Construction, 366th Engineering Squadron, Da Nang, Air Base from October 1971 to October 1972. He also served time at Kunsan Air Force Base in Korea from March 1965 to April 1966 as an Engineering Officer. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the Bronze Star Medal, the U.S. Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal, The Republic of Vietnam Technical Service Honor Medal- First Class. Rodney also served as an augmented officer-in-charge of the elite U.S. Air Force Honor Guard. In 1970, he was one of 17 individuals appointed by the President as a White House Fellow and served as Special Assistant to the Secretary for Interior.

After separating from the Air Force, Rodney was appointed executive assistant to The Chairman of the District of Columbia City Council. From 1978 until 1980 Rodney was architectural design consultant to The Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation in Washington, DC, Rodney joined General Motors in 1980 and served successfully as Director of Government Relations, Director of Municipal Affairs, and Executive Director of Urban and Municipal Affairs.

In 1994, Rodney was appointed by the President as an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force. During his four year tenure, Rodney was responsible for the oversight of manpower, reserve affairs, installations, and environmental activities. Upon retirement as assistant secretary, Rodney was the Executive Vice President of Corporate Planning and Public Affairs at ICF Kaiser International, Inc. His retirement in 2005 was as a Partner in the lobbying firm Alcade and Fay in Washington, DC. Throughout his career he held numerous positions of leadership and was a mentor to many.

Rodney moved to Tampa in 2005 to enjoy the sunshine, golf and retirement. In 2006, Rodney married his beloved Sharon (Thornburgh Brown), whom he affectionately called "My Boo". Together, Rodney and Sharon enjoyed traveling and entertaining in their home. Rodney's "Boo", Sharon was always by his side, providing loving care and encouragement throughout his illness. Rodney will be dearly missed by his children: daughter Terri (Victor) Jones; son Stephen (Allison) Coleman and stepsons Damien (Donna), and Devon (Karen) Brown; along with five grandchildren that he adored: Victor, Myah, Chloe, Mia and Nathan.

Services at Old Chapel Hall, 100 Carpenter Road, Ft. Myer, VA Wednesday, May 29, 2024, 3 p.m.

FRAMPUS



JOSEPH VURE FRAMPUS (Age 69)

Our beloved father, Joe Frampus, passed away on May 18, 2024, at the age of 69 after a brave fight against cancer. Joe is survived by his wife of 37 years, Barbara, and three children: Christine, Joey, and Patrick.

Originally from the Philadelphia, PA, suburbs, Joe and his family moved to Chevy Chase, MD in 1996. Since then, Joe was a steady figure in the Rock Creek community. If you didn't know Joe, you most certainly have probably heard of him. Joe did not shy away from being the center of attention and had a gregarious personality that was infectious. Everything Joe did was 100%. That could have been a myriad of things ranging from: cheering for the Philadelphia Eagles, playing golf at Argyle Country Club, working as a managing partner at his consulting firm, or cheering his kids on at an array of athletic events.

Coming from extremely humble beginnings, Joe was raised by a single mother and was the oldest of six children. For his entire life, Joe was a provider, and that was true until his final days. Despite all of his professional accomplishments (and the Eagles winning the Super Bowl), I know the thing he was most proud of were his children and the people they grew up to be. He will be missed dearly.

Interment private. In lieu of flowers, donations in Joe's name can be made to Project Purple, 115 Main Street, Suite 1, Seymour, CT 06483.
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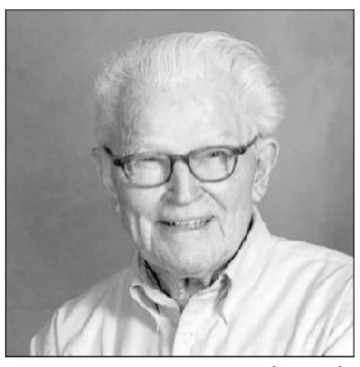
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The Washington Post

DEATH NOTICE

HAYDEN



JOSEPH DUNSTAN HAYDEN (Age 92)

Joseph Dunstan Hayden, age 92, a native of Washington, DC, died on May 15, 2024 in Chestertown, MD.
Born in 1932, Dunstan attended Blessed Sacrament Parochial School and the St. Anselm's Abbey (then called the Priory School) before attending the University of Chicago. After getting his BA, he became a Benedictine monk at St. Anselm's Abbey in DC and was ordained a priest in 1959. He obtained an MA in mathematics from Catholic University and taught math at the Abbey School while co-writing three high school math textbooks. He served as the Abbey School's headmaster from 1968 to 1970. In 1970 he left the Abbey and the active priesthood. He obtained a PhD in Educational Technology from Catholic University and for 23 years was a member of the math faculty at Northern Virginia Community College. A leading member of the Community of Christ, an ecumenical Christian community in DC, he later was an active member of Westmoreland UCC Church in Bethesda, MD. Dunstan left Washington, DC in 2021 and moved with his second wife, Barbara Slater Hayden to Heron Point in Chestertown, MD. His first marriage to Anna Mae Petterson ended in divorce.
He is survived by his wife Barbara Salter Hayden, his brother Martin Hayden of Huston, TX, and wonderful nephews and nieces. A celebration of life service will be held at Heron Point in Wesley Hall, 501 E. Campus Ave. Chestertown, MD, at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 29, 2024.
In lieu of flowers, please send donations to St. Anselm's Abbey School scholarship endowment fund, online at http://ssl.charityweb.net/saintanselms/ or by mail to The Office of Development, St. Anselm's Abbey School 4501 South Dakota Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20017

HORN



ROBERT CHARLES HORN (Age 89)

born, July 1, 1934 in Chelsea, MA, died, February 1, 2024 in Henrico, VA. He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles Christopher Horn and Hilda Beatrice Renfrew Horn; siblings, William Renfrew Horn and Barbara Jean Horn; and loving wife, Mary Fitzpatrick Horn. Robert is survived by his children, Christopher Charles Horn (Wife: Mimi Horn, Daughter: Kaitlyn Horn)Andrew Francis Horn (Wife: Heather Horn, Children: Colin & Anna Horn) Kathleen Horn Guarnieri (Husband: John Isleib, Children: Christine & Vincent Guarnieri).
Bob grew up in small town Massachusetts with his parents, brother Billy and sister Bonnie. The family ended up in Rockland, MA and he graduated from Rockland High School. While in high school he used his gift for determination and grit to become a top track star and lead his team to the state championship. He earned the nickname "Squeaky" from a childhood friend and it stayed with him through the years as did his desire to succeed.
With a letter from the track coach at the University of Massachusetts and the insistence of his mom, Bob began his college career at UMASS. He graduated from there with a BA in Government followed by an MS in Educational History.
During his time at UMASS he led his team to many championships. He was Athlete of the Year in 1956, Captain of 3 sports teams and recipient of 9 letters as well as an assistant coach and freshman coach. He was also the winner of the Steeplechase Championship in the New England Olympic Trials in 1956. The university recognized his accomplishments in 2012 when he was inducted into the University Sports Hall of Fame. After the ceremony it was something to see him sitting under a plaque of himself.
Following college Bob began his career in the United States Army rising through the ranks before retiring as a Colonel after 27 years.
During those years he met the love of his life, Mary Fitzpatrick and after a short romance they were wed. Their love lasted 64 years and built a family legacy of love and kindness. Together they traveled the world, raised a family and then enjoyed their later years in each other's company.
His years in the Army were busy and productive ones and he was a true benefit to his country. His service included two tours in Vietnam, multiple specialized training courses and being stationed around the country and globe including Peru, Korea, Germany, and Belgium. Over the years he served in many different posts including Chief of Military Personnel Division in Korea, Battalion Commander in Belgium, and various appointments with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in both Belgium and Washington, DC. He ended his military career as the SHAPE Liaison Officer in Washington, DC.
And with everything he did, he gave it his all and went above and beyond. He was awarded the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Parachutist Badge, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star and quite a few others totaling 20 awards, medals and citations.
Following his military career, he shifted his focus to higher education utilizing his Master's degree in Educational Psychology and his Doctorate in Educational Administration (both from New Mexico State University). He started as the Executive Director of the American Board of Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics then went on to become the Associate Director for Operations/Corporate Relations at the University of Maryland and the Dean of Business and Professor at the American InterContinental University. He was also an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland, USDA Graduate School, George Washington University, University of Virginia, and Johns Hopkins University. His final career move was to create and run Premier Consulting Service which administered and conducted leadership and business management courses and workshops.
On a more personal note, Bob was one of those people who talked to everyone and never met a stranger (much to the chagrin of his children and grandchildren who did not always enjoy the attention). He also loved to take photos – A LOT of photos of family, friends and often random people everywhere he went.
Somehow throughout his many years and all the hard work and accomplishments he still found time to always be a dedicated husband and father and in the later years the absolute best Pops to his grandchildren. The determination that began in his youth as "Squeaky" accompanied him throughout his entire life and kept him constantly wanting to do his best, learn more and enjoy as much of life as possible. Luckily for all who knew him, he shared that positive energy and zeal for experiencing life with everyone he met. He will truly be missed.
He was a genuine kind-hearted hero.
A Mass of Christian Burial took place at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 7, at Saint Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, with visitation an hour prior. A graveside committal service for him and his wife, Mary Fitzpatrick Horn, will be held 11 a.m., Monday, June 3, 2024 at Arlington National Cemetery, 1 Memorial Avenue, Arlington, VA 22211.

KIDWELL



CLAUDIA BRUSH KIDWELL (Age 83)

Richmond, VA - Claudia Brush Kidwell passed peacefully on February 29, 2024 at Westminster Canterbury.
Claudia was a beautiful, strong, independent woman whose poise and grace have left a profound legacy. During her 38 years as the curator of the costume collection at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, she was an author and guest lecturer on many topics as varied as women's bathing and swimming costume, the democratization of clothing in America, and the role of style in Colonial American portraits. Her finesse, fortitude, and accomplishments elevated her to become the first and only female acting director of the Museum. Following her retirement in 2002, Claudia was named Curator Emeritus in the Division of Social History. Highlights from her career include exhibits, "Suiting Everyone", "Getting Dressed: Fashionable Appearance, (1750-1800)", "Men and Women: A History of Costume, Gender, and Power", and "Looking American". She was a longstanding member of the Costume Society of America.
In 2015, she moved to Richmond, VA to be an active grandmother. She continued writing, researching personal family history, and taught her grandchildren how to fish and bake pumpkin pies. When not being grandmother extraordinaire, Claudia cherished her friendships and vibrant community at Westminster Canterbury.
Born in Washington, DC and raised on the rivers of Maryland, Claudia earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Maryland and her master's degree from Pennsylvania State University.
She is survived by her daughters Alison Kidwell, Rachel McNulty (Patrick); two grandchildren; brother Charles Brush (Claire); and niece Claudine Fitzgerald (Mark).
Private family services have been held.

PERSICO



FRANK G. PERSICO

Frank G. Persico was born in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, November 27, 1952, to the late Frank J. and Margaret G. Persico. He died suddenly on May 14, 2024, at his summer home in Ocean City, New Jersey. Frank is survived by his wife, Stephanie, of 48 years; his daughter, Lauren McCarthy (Tim) of Alexandria, Virginia, their four children, Logan, Brendan, Margaret, and Devin; his son, Robert (Maranda), Agoura Hills, California; his sister, Sister Mary Persico, IHM, of Scranton, Pennsylvania; and his brother Attorney Joseph (Patrice) and their children and grandchildren, of Shavertown, Pennsylvania.

For more than four decades of his life, Frank served in multiple administrative capacities at The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC., including the most recent, Vice President for University Relations and Chief-of-Staff. Before that, he served as Assistant to the President and General Secretary, Associate Dean for External and Student Affairs, Executive Director of Student Affairs (Columbus School of Law), Executive Director of Alumni Relations, among others. His service to the University was far-reaching and comprehensive, and touched the lives of the Board of Trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, alumni, and students in memorable ways. Before his service at the University, Mr. Persico earned his BA in Speech and Drama, his MA in Higher Education Administration, and ABD doctoral education at The Catholic University of America.

As part of his roles at the University, Frank took part in planning the visits of three Popes to Washington, DC, The Catholic University of America, and to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, starting with Saint John Paul II in 1979. He later planned, organized, and flawlessly implemented the visits of Pope Benedict XVI in 2008 and Pope Francis in 2015. The visits of these Popes were a source of pride for the people of the United States and, in particular, to the people of our nation's capital. For his role in these Papal visits, Frank has been awarded the Benemerenti Medal by Pope Benedict XVI and the Pro Ecclisia et Pontiface Medal by Pope Francis.

Frank served in other capacities as well. As a consultant after his retirement from Catholic University, he shared his expertise in best practices of non-profit governing boards, as well as his well-grounded experience in today's educational and fiduciary environments. He worked with many universities and other educational institutions during this time. He was an inveterate trustee, mentor, emcee, and friend to all who engaged his skills and larger-than-life personality.

He had the reputation of never being able to say NO. Therefore, it wasn't unusual to find him volunteering as auctioneer, swim-meet referee and announcer, speaker, selling Christmas trees for the Lions Club, or serving on the City Council in Laurel, Maryland. A hallmark of all he did was his sense of humor, perfectly timed.

In addition to his educational endeavors, to which he dedicated most of his life's passion, Frank enjoyed sailing on the Chesapeake Bay as a member of the Chesapeake Yacht Club, traveling literally around the world with his wife and family, attending Broadway and Kennedy Center Theatre productions, cheering for the Washington professional sports teams, and enjoying life near the ocean.

Visitation on Friday, May 31 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC; followed by a Mass of Christian Burial from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Barry University (Miami Shores, Florida), DeMatha Catholic High School (Hyattsville, Maryland), Marywood University (Scranton, Pennsylvania), and Bishop Ireton Catholic High School (Alexandria, Virginia).

DEATH NOTICE

CAULEY



RONALD J. CAULEY "Ron"

On May 5, 2024, Ronald J. Cauley (Ron), age 92, reunited with his wife, Peggy, who predeceased him in 2021. Born November 1, 1931, Ron grew up in a small town in upstate New York with his parents, younger brother Keith and his twin brother Donald. Captain of the football team and an honors graduate, Ron earned a scholarship to Notre Dame, where he studied mechanical and nuclear engineering and developed a lifelong love for the Fighting Irish.

Following his college graduation, Ron moved to the Washington, DC area. He began his career working for the Navy, designing submarines as a civilian engineer. In 1954, he was set up on a blind date with a non-Catholic 4'11" 19-year-old named Peggy. They married within the year. Tragedy struck when they tried to build their family and discovered that each carried a cystic fibrosis gene. They had five children: Kevin, Karen, Sharon, Tim and Mary. Karen and Mary died at birth, Kevin died in college, and Tim, who kept defying his life expectancy, died shortly after turning 50 years old. In the unimaginable and heartrending pain of losing their progeny, they leaned into their faith, creating spiritual alchemy through their volunteer work as grief counselors.

Ron continued his work at the Navy, rising through the ranks and retiring in the senior executive service. Throughout his career, he was careful with his finances but always generous in his giving, especially to family members, paying for college tuition for great grandchildren and dozens of family getaways. In addition to their volunteer work as grief counselors, active participation in the Church, and raising children, he and Peggy traveled extensively across six continents.

In their 65th year of marriage, Peggy died; since then, Ron has lived quietly, increasingly leaning on Sharon while regaling her with stories about Peggy, "the boss," and falling in love with wife all over again. He liked to read obituaries out loud and commented on lives lived. We hope this one passes his critical eye. He continued to enjoy his white wine and chocolate, watching pickleball from the community gazebo, football games, golf tournaments, and a series of television shows saved on DVR. He loved his big family, weekly poker games, and dogs - probably Teddy the most. He sat outside enjoying his cigar, keeping a stack of dog treats for any passing pup, and looked forward to the Sundays that Teddy would visit.

Along with friends and neighbors from his community in Falls Run, Ron leaves behind his beloved daughter, Sharon; and her husband John, his daughter in law Claire; his grandsons, John III, Kevin and his wife Erica, Jimmy and his wife Christy, Tim and Demory; his great-grandchildren; Kyrstin, Lexi, Ashlin, Justin, JP, Drew, Nico and Matty, and his first great-great-grandchild, Waylon.

No services planned.

ROOSE



DON D. ROOSE
(1937 – 2024)

Our beloved Don D. Roose, 86, of Germantown, Maryland, passed from this life on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. He was the loving husband of Rosario Roose for nearly 50 years, and the father of five sons - Stephan, Daniel, Mateo, Joaquin, and David.

Born on May 22, 1937, in South Bend, Indiana, he was the son of the late H. Louis Roose and Margaret (Dubail) Roose. Don grew up in Michigan, graduated from Sexton High School in 1955, attended and graduated from the University of Michigan with a master's in social work on June 13, 1959.

Throughout his life, Don lived with his heart-on-his-sleeve, a passion for politics and international affairs, and dedicated his life to helping those in need. He was a social worker for many years and held a wide variety of roles: he was the Executive Director for Foster Parent's Plan International, a global non-profit organization (NGO), developed employee assistance services, and spent many years providing social services for the government of Montgomery County, Maryland. His overseas experience included years of nonprofit work in countries including Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, and Haiti.

No matter where he lived or whom he met, he constantly strived to help the vulnerable and the less fortunate and instilled the core values of civic responsibility and giving back to the community.

Don, who was lovingly known as Dad or Papa, was a very special person to many people around him. He made a positive impact on everyone he met and had a great love for and relationship with his family, who all loved him dearly. He will be missed immensely, as words alone cannot describe how much he was loved by everyone. He will always be a shining star in our hearts.

The family will receive friends from 12 to 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at Stauffer Funeral Homes, P.A., 1621 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, with a funeral service to begin at 12:30 p.m.

SULLIVAN

JULIA ANN SULLIVAN (Age 95)

Julia (Julie) Ann Monahan Sullivan born June 15, 1928, in New York City, NY, died peacefully at the age of 95 on May 23, 2024. Julie was a beloved mother, cherished sister, doting grandmother, and great-grandmother.

Julie grew up in Manhattan, NY in the Washington Heights neighborhood, with her mother, Anna and her three sisters, Mary, Rita, and Eileen, or as they are affectionally known "The Monahan Girls."

After graduating from high school, Julie went to work at the Cadwallader, Wickersham and Taft law firm, where she was promoted to a position coordinating the litigation calendar for the firm. During that time, she met a fledgling attorney, Richard (Dick) Joseph Sullivan. They were married on November 15, 1952. When Dick was offered an opportunity to work on a Congressional Committee, despite knowing no one and having no family in the area to help raise their growing family, Julie strongly encouraged Dick to take the position. During their 43 years of marriage, they raised seven children in Arlington and McLean.

Julie and Dick's fifth child, Teresa (Terry) Marie died in November 1971, following an 18-month battle with cancer. During Terry's treatment at Children's Hospital in the District, Julie would meet and become friends with other parents of children with cancer. Her relationships with those parents led to the establishment of the Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation (CCCF), whose mission was to provide support to families dealing with pediatric cancer and advocate for research funding. After running the foundation from the dining room table in her home, CCCF received funding from the American Cancer society and Julie became the first Executive Director. Julie was also a founding Board member and helped establish the Ronald McDonald House of Washington, DC.

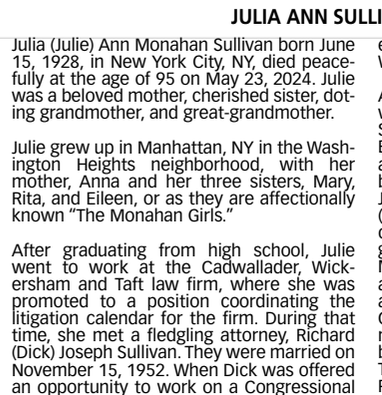
After her retirement, Julie's favorite activity was spending time with her grandchildren. She will be remembered for her special Easter egg hunts at her home, her chicken and stuffing dinners and cards for every birthday.
Julie is survived by her six children Richard (Ann), Regina (Joseph), Joseph (Cindy), Patricia (Tom), Kimberly (Steve) and James. Nine grandchildren Matthew (Carrie), Elizabeth, Mariel, Isabel, Julia, Thomas, Jack, Carson, and Lauren; one greatgrandchild Virginia, and her two sisters Mary Flannery, and Rita Quirk. She was proceeded in death by her mother Anna (Forde) Monahan; her husband, Richard Joseph Sullivan; her daughter Teresa Marie Sullivan; and her sister Eileen Patricia Monahan.

A celebration of life visitation for Julia will be held Wednesday, May 29, 2024, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Murphy Funeral Home, 1102 West Broad Street, Falls Church, VA 22046. A mass of Christian burial will occur Thursday, May 30, 2024, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 1315 35th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20007. An interment will occur Thursday, May 30, 2024, from 2 to 2:30 p.m. at Fairfax Memorial Park, 9900 Braddock Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for contributions in Julie's memory to St. Jude's Research Hospital. Stjude.org
www.murphyfuneralhomes.com

MURPHY FUNERAL HOMES
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VELIOTES



NICHOLAS A. VELIOTES

Nicholas A. Veliotes, a Foreign Service officer and Middle East specialist, who led the USG successful effort to implement the Egyptian-Israeli Treaty and to craft The Reagan Plan to broker a peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians in 1982, died on May 14, 2024. Ambassador Veliotes served 31 years in the Foreign Service. As a career officer, he worked away from the glare of publicity for most of his career. An unexpected exception occurred in October 1985 when his call from the hijacked cruise ship Achille Lauro was intercepted by the media …. he insisted that the Egyptians prosecute the hijackers … was heard around the world.

Mr. Veliotes received his commission in the Foreign Service in 1955 and served in Naples and Rome (Italy), New Delhi (India), Vientiane (Laos). In 1969 he was selected as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at Princeton University.

Mr. Veliotes was the Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of State from 1971 until 1973. In 1973 he served as Deputy Chief of Mission and Charge d'Affaires in Tel Aviv, Israel. In 1975 he returned to the Department of State as Deputy Director of the Policy Planning Staff and then Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs(1977-1978).

Mr. Veliotes was appointed Ambassador to Jordan (1978-1981). In 1981 he was appointed Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. In late 1983 he was appointed Ambassador to Egypt until his retirement from the Foreign Service in April, 1986. The notorious hi-jacking of the cruise ship Achille Lauro occurred during his tenure in Cairo. During his career, he was known as an activist, outspoken leader of the foreign affairs community and widely admired for his integrity and dedication to the goal of preserving and promoting the interests of the United States.

Ambassador Veliotes became President of the Association of American Publishers (AAP) in May, 1986, and retired from the AAP in 1997, as President Emeritus. During his tenure as President of the AAP, he was very active in the international arena and led publisher delegations to a large number of countries in Western and Eastern Europe, East and South Asia, the Middle East and Cuba. Upon retirement from the AAP he became an international consultant and lecturer and periodically appeared on US and foreign media, as well as the Voice of America.

At the request of the Secretary, in 1990 he chaired a year long Congressionally mandated study of the Departments personnel policies and practices. The report of this study-The State Team of the Future—- reconfirmed the need for a separate Foreign Service working in tandem with a strong Civil Service to carry out the mission of the State Department. Many of the recommendations of the report were adopted by the successor Clinton Administration.

Mr. Veliotes was a member of the Middle East Institute, the Council on Foreign Relations, Veterans of Foreign Wars and The Society of Berkeley Fellows (University of California). He served on the Boards of the American Academy of Diplomacy, AMIDEAST, Foundation for Middle East Peace, ANERA (American Near East Refugee Aid, and The Hollings Center for International Dialogue.

Mr. Veliotes received the Department of State Distinguished Honor Award and the Presidential Superior Service Award. The French Government decorated him with the award of "Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres" for his contribution in the field of international publishing. He received the B'nai Brith Shield of our Fathers Award for his contribution to peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Veliotes was born on October 28,1928 in Oakland, California to Irene Kiskakis and Alexander Veliotes, both immigrants from Greece. His brother John was a musician and artist and a member of the Rhythm and Blues and Rock and Roll Halls of fame. He was married to the, former Patricia Nolan, a University of California graduate, musician and teacher.

As a high school student leader he attended the founding conference of the United Nations in San Francisco in 1945. After service in the U.S. Army from 1946-1948, he attended the University of California,Berkeley and was awarded both a Bachelor's and Masters Degree. He was a student -athlete who participated in rugby and football. He was a member of the Berkeley High School Hall of Fame, The BIG C society at UC, and Pappy's Boys, and the Berkeley Fellows. In 2008 he was awarded the Glen Seaborg Award for Life Achievement of a former Cal football player.

Ambassador Veliotes is survived by his wife of 72 years and two sons. Services are private. Online condolences and fond memories may be offered to the family at:
www.moneyandking.com

DEATH NOTICE

MORINA-SMITH



DOLLIE J. MORINA-SMITH
Entered into eternal rest on May 11, 2024. She was a resident of Capital Heights, MD and a faithful member of Beulah Baptist Church. She was the wife of the late, John Morina, Sr, and Harold Xavier Smith and mother of the late, John Morina, Jr., "Winky." Mrs. Morina-Smith is survived by her beloved children, Darlene Harper, Andrea Morina, Angela (Bennie) Rogers, Sheryl (Elvis) Long, William and Donnell Morina; 23 loving grandchildren, eight adored great-grandchildren; cherished siblings, Thomas Jr., William, Arthur, Michael, Tyran, Brett and Rodney Brannum; sister-in-law, Alma Brannum, many nieces, nephews and host of other relatives and friends.

Mrs. Morina-Smith will lie in state at BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH, 5820 Dix Street, NE, Washington, DC 20019, on Friday May 31, 2024, from 9 a.m. until Celebrate of Life service 11 a.m. Final resting place at Washington National Cemetery, Suitland, MD.
www.stewartfuneralhome.com

NICKLAS



DONALD CHARLES NICKLAS
Of Clarksburg, MD passed away on May 14, 2024 at home. Born in Washington, DC, the son of the late Charles E. and Margaret (Maguire) Nicklas. He was the beloved brother of Nancy M. Nicklas.

Donald was a retiree of The David Taylor Model Basin. A Vietnam War Veteran, he served in The U.S. Army and was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic service.

Visitation will be held in PUMPHREY'S COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME, 300 W. Montgomery Avenue, Rockville, MD on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 from 12 to 1 p.m. followed by a Funeral Service at 1 p.m. Interment in Gate of Heaven Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Vietnam Veterans of America at vva.org

Please sign the family online guestbook at:
www.pumphreyfuneralhome.com

SAVOIE

MARY LEE SAVOIE
Mary Lee Savoie, 75 of Jessup, MD passed away on May 23, 2024. She is survived by her husband, Ronald Savoie and her two children Steve Savoie and Dawn White. She has four grandchildren: Lily and Kaley Savoie, and Katelyn and Jullian White. She has one sister: Sandra Hakl and one brother Jeff Michalski.

"Celebration of Life" will be held at Donaldson Funeral Home, P.A. 313 Talbott Ave, Laurel, MD on Friday. May 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at St. Augustine Church, 5976 Old Washington Blvd on Saturday, June 1 at 10 a.m. followed by inurnment ceremony at the church columbarium.

Memorial donations to Leukemia and Lymphoma Society on behalf of Mary would be appreciated in lieu of flowers.
Online condolences can be made at:

www.donaldsonfuneralhome.com

SILBERNAGEL



FRED SILBERNAGEL
Fred Silbernagel, 69, passed away on Friday, May 3, 2024 after an 8-year battle with Alzheimer's Disease. Born August 22, 1954 in Baltimore, MD, Fred graduated from Frederick High School (1972) and from Washington & Lee University with an accounting degree (1976). He became a CPA shortly thereafter and initially worked with local Washington, DC-based accounting firms, specializing in non-profit financial management. In the early 1990s, he joined the Brookings Institution, serving as Treasurer, CFO, and VP of Finance & Administration. In 2010, Fred was appointed CFO and VP at The Wilderness Society where he served until moving to Vermont where he and his spouse maintained a cabin on Lake Champlain. In VT, Fred worked with a local non-profit before having to retire for health reasons. Fred was predeceased by loving parents Larry and Shirley (Swarm) Silbernagel. He is survived by his beloved husband and caregiver, Doug Cardin; three sons from a previous marriage, Lawrence (Lindsay), Jay (Ashley), and Andrew (Julia); six grandchildren; his sister, Janie; his brother, John (Carrie), two nieces and a nephew. A memorial cookout is planned for later this summer in VT.

DEATH NOTICE

BUSSEY



MARGARET NANCY DOUGLAS BUSSEY (Age 104)
Deaconess Margaret Nancy Douglas Bussey affectionately known as "Ma Bussey" transitioned from labor to reward on Friday, May 17, 2024. She loved the Lord, her late husband, her family, her church family, and all people. She liked peace and happiness, good singing, fun and laughter, fabric shopping, caring for children and church outings. She is survived by children Charlie Douglas (Jackie), David Douglas (Elizabeth), Vivian Lewis, 24 grandchildren, 53 great-grandchildren, and 43 great-great grandchildren and many cousins, nieces and nephews. The viewing will be held on Thursday, May 30, 2024 at 10 a.m., with the Celebration of Life beginning at 11 a.m., services will be held at Isle of Patmos Baptist Church, located at 1201 Rhode Island Ave, NE Washington, DC 20018. Interment Harmony Memorial Park.

RENNER



KATHLEEN BONK RENNER "Katje"
Kathleen "Katje" Bonk Renner, of College Park, passed away in the company of her family on May 11, 2024 at the age of 87. Beloved mother to Theresa Renner and her husband Mark Herrup; sister to Donald Bonk and his wife Patricia (Kochem) Bonk and Karen (Bonk) Buehler; and sister-in-law to Noreen (Knuckey) Bonk; as well as a relative and friend to a multitude to others. She was a talented artist, hard working volunteer and avid traveler. No formal services to be held, but a gathering of drinking chocolate milkshakes (her favorite) and celebrating her life is being planned.
View her full obituary and leave condolences at:
www.robertevansfuneralhome.com

SHANNON



HERBERT KENT SHANNON SR.
Our beloved Herbert Kent Shannon, Sr., departed this life peacefully on Friday, May 17, 2024 at the age of 86. He is survived by his loving wife Shirley Shannon, three children, and five grandchildren. Family will receive friends from 9 a.m. until service at 10 a.m to celebrate Herbert's remarkable life as a pillar of strength for his family and the community on Friday May 31, 2024, at First Baptist Church of Ken-Gar, 3922 Hampden Street, Kensington, MD. Interment will take place at Union Cemetery in Burtonsville, MD. Arrangements by Snowden Funeral Home, PA.
www.Snowdencares.com

When the need arises, let families find you in the Funeral Services Directory.

To be seen in the Funeral Services Directory, please call paid Death Notices at 202-334-4122.

The Washington Post

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DEATH NOTICE

TOMSON



BILL TOMSON
Bill lived a beautiful and vibrant life, his family is saddened to announce his passing on Sunday May 12, 2024 at the age of 55.
Bill was born in Washington, DC and after living in Michigan, California, England, Germany and Brazil he made his way back to the nation's capital region where he built a home with his wife and welcomed their daughter, and grew his journalistic career.
Bill's passion for reporting, the desire to understand and make sense of food and agriculture policy was shown in his dedication to Agri-Pulse, where he was a senior trade editor. Bill loved to consume information and enjoyed reading newspapers daily. His family and friends will miss his stories, advice, jokes and how he made them laugh.
Bill is survived by his wife Marcia and daughter Chloe, siblings Jeff and Amy, and parents Bill and Anne.
The memorial service will be on Saturday June 15, 2 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross, 2455 Gallows Rd., Dunn Loring, VA. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Glioblastoma Foundation.

When the need arises, let families find you in the Funeral Services Directory.

To be seen in the Funeral Services Directory, please call paid Death Notices at 202-334-4122.

The Washington Post

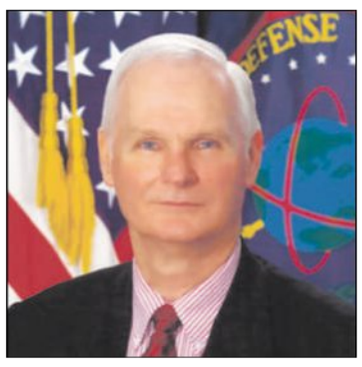
DEATH NOTICE

KARSKA



ERNEST JOSEPH KARSKA
Ernest Joseph Karska, 86, of Adamstown, Maryland, passed peacefully from this life on Saturday, May 18, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. He was the devoted husband of his bride of 66 years, Dianne Lee Dameron Karska.
Born on May 14, 1938, in Washington, DC, he was the son of the late Joseph Karska and Lily Zahn Karska.
Ernie will be remembered for his big heart, loving presence, funny stories, abundant fun facts, and the deep impression he left on all who met him. Also known as Pop or Poppy, he was a pillar of strength for his family and a rock in his community. Although he has left his loved ones with many fond memories to be grateful for, the world will never be as bright a place without him.
Carrying on his legacy of kindness and positivity are his son, David Karska and wife Cathy, daughter, Debbie Bermudez and husband Manny; grandchildren Cheri Abramson and husband Eric, Sean McHugh and wife Alaina, Dennis McHugh, five great grandchildren; and his sister Lillian Moore.
To celebrate Ernie's life, a private family gathering will be held in his old stomping grounds of Four Corners, Silver Spring, MD.
In lieu of flowers, and in honor of the many dogs he rescued during his lifetime, memorial donations may be made to the animal rescue organization of your choice.
Expressions of sympathy or your favorite Ernie story may be shared with the family at:
StaufferFuneralHome.com

LINEHAN



DR. PATRICK EUGENE LINEHAN
Dr. Patrick Eugene Linehan passed away in the loving arms of his wife on May 20, 2024, at the age of 81. He is survived by his wife, Josephine Linehan; two children, Eric Linehan (Allison Guy) and Crystal Mayers (Ira Mayers); brother, John Michael Linehan; sister, Diane Linehan; and two grandchildren, James and Ian Mayers. Pat is preceded in death by his parents, Jack and Elizabeth Linehan, and his brothers, Thomas and Daniel Linehan.

Pat was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, the oldest of 5 children. He grew up in Miami, FL and attended Coral Gables Senior High School. He earned both a Ph.D. and an M.A. degree from the School of International Service, College of Public Affairs, The American University, and a B.A. degree from the Department of International Affairs, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida. Florida State University is where Pat met the love of his life, Joy. They remained happily married for over 57 years. Pat would introduce Joy as "the best decision he ever made" and that love continued until his last breath.

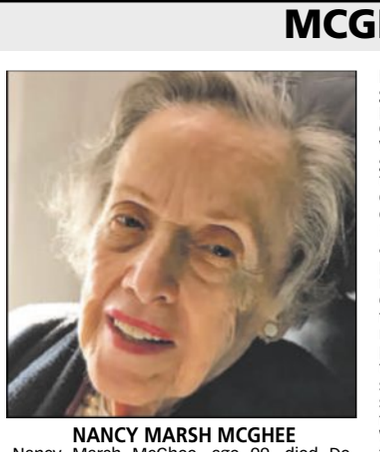
Pat was a man of faith, a supporter of the military, and a true American patriot. He loved his country and serving it was one of his greatest accomplishments. He served 4 years in the U.S. Army (March 1966-January 1970) with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam, from June 1967-July 1968, 111th Military Intelligence Group, Special Agent (Field); and 82nd Airborne Division (MP), where he earned an Honorable Discharge, Combat Infantry Badge, and Parachutist Badge.

Pat retired from a distinguished career with the Defense Intelligence Agency in 2021. His career with the DIA began in 1976 and took him across the globe with assignments in Africa, Bosnia, Kosovo, the Middle East, and South Korea. His career reflected a breadth of experience, including combatant command experience and field operational experience. He was the recipient of numerous awards for distinguished and outstanding service, to include: DIA Unit Achievement Award, DIA Civilian Combat Support Medal, NATO Medal for Service in Kosovo, NATO Medal for Service in Bosnia, DIA Director's Annual Agency Unit Award (Iraqi Task Force), Unit Citation for Superior Performance from the Intelligence Community, and Defense Intelligence Director's Award.

Pat's smile would light up the room, he would always welcome you with a kind word and a wave. In his final days, Pat was surrounded by his family, caregivers, and friends. He will be remembered as a loving husband, devoted father, and all-around wonderful person.

A celebration of life will be hosted at Arcola Methodist Church, 24757 Arcola Mills Drive, Dulles, VA 20166, on May 30 at 6 p.m. All friends and family are welcome. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Fund or The Fisher House Foundation.

MCGHEE



NANCY MARSH MCGHEE
Nancy Marsh McGhee, age 99, died December 27, 2023, in Pacific Palisades, California, surrounded by family. Nancy lived most of her life in northwest Washington, DC. She was predeceased by her husband of 65 years, William Morrow McGhee. Bill's career in the Central Intelligence Agency took their family to places around the world in a wonderful life full of friends, travel and adventure.
Nancy was an avid and curious reader, a dedicated walker and a keen environmentalist. She was born in 1924 in Albuquerque, NM, daughter of Lillian Sutherland and Raymond Eugene Marsh, who was Assistant Chief of the U.S. Forest Service and instilled in Nancy a passion for protecting the natural environment. She graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, DC and at a time when women's education was limited, Nancy persuaded her parents to let her attend George Washington University, graduating with a degree in English. Two post-college trips exemplified Nancy's love of the outdoors and adventure, one was a wilderness canoe trip she led on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway in Maine with two friends, and the other, when she travelled alone to Europe shortly after the end of WW2.
Right after their marriage in 1951, Nancy and Bill travelled to Philippines for their first posting overseas. She enjoyed the excitement and challenges of living overseas, and over three decades, established residence for her family in five countries in Asia, Africa and Europe. Nancy appreciated every place she lived but felt a special connection to her time in Ethiopia from 1958-61 where some of her most important life-long friendships began. Later in life, she was a docent for many years at the National Cathedral in Washington. Nancy was a gracious and intelligent host, had a broad circle of friends abroad and in Washington, and was a supportive partner to Bill throughout his successful career.
Nancy felt most at peace and deeply rooted at her family's cottage on Swanzey Lake in New Hampshire, where she stayed nearly every summer of her long life. A founding member of the Swanzey Lake Association, she was an active advocate for protecting the lake environment.
Nancy is survived by sons William Rutledge McGhee, Christopher Marsh McGhee (Jane Richardson), and Edward Raymond McGhee (Joyce McGhee); grandchildren James, Nathaniel, Kathryn, Zachariah, Julia and Eleanor; and two great grandchildren, Cora and William. She was predeceased by her brother, James Sutherland Marsh. A memorial service will be held in August in Swanzey, NH.

DEATH NOTICES

MONDAY- FRIDAY 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
SATURDAY-SUNDAY 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

To place a notice, call:
202-334-4122
800-627-1150 ext 4-4122
EMAIL:
deathnotices@washpost.com

Email and faxes MUST include name, home address & home phone # of the responsible billing party.
Email deadline - 3 p.m. daily
Phone-In deadline
4 p.m. M-F
3 p.m. Sa-Su

CURRENT 2023 RATES:
(PER DAY)

MONDAY-SATURDAY
Black & White
1" - $160 (text only)
2" - $370 (text only)
3" - $525
4" - $575
5" - $725

SUNDAY
Black & White
1"- $191 (text only)
2" - $405 (text only)
3" - $580
4" - $610
5" - $790

6"+ for ALL Black & White notices
$160 each additional inch Mon - Sat
$191 each additional inch Sunday

MONDAY-SATURDAY
Color
3" - $670
4" - $725
5" - $885

SUNDAY
Color
3" - $710
4" - $810
5" - $985

6"+ for ALL color notices
$268 each additional inch Mon - Sat
$299 each additional inch Sunday

Notices with photos begin at 3"
(All photos add 2" to your notice.)

ALL NOTICES MUST BE PREPAID

MEMORIAL PLAQUES:
All notices over 2" include complimentary memorial plaque

Additional plaques start at $26 each and may be ordered.

All Paid Death Notices appear on our website through www.legacy.com

LEGACY.COM
Included in all death notices
Optional for In Memoriams

PLEASE NOTE:

Notices must be placed via phone or email. Photos must be emailed. You can no longer place notices, drop off photos and make payment in person. Payment must be made via phone with debit/credit card.

The Washington Post

DEATH NOTICE

MOBLEY



ROBERT WILSON MOBLEY
Robert Wilson Mobley was born in Washington, DC in 1938, but lived everywhere from Alaska to North Carolina before entering Annandale High School as a member of its first graduating class, the class of 1956.

One day he happened across drawings his brother Tony was doing for his architecture classes, and was immediately hooked: he would become an architect! He never deviated from that path, in a career that lasted 60 years until his death on March 29, 2024.

After graduating from the VA Tech School of Architecture in 1964 he worked in offices around Washington, DC, including those of Chloethiel Woodard Smith and Ted Mariani. He went into practice for himself to be free to practice his own style of design. He was first and foremost a designer, building dozens of houses, condos and subdivisions at the Delaware beaches, grand homes from McLean to Seattle to Santa Fe, banks, office townhouses, and small shopping centers. Early partners included most notably Donald Chandler, AIA and Tom Moscati, AIA and later Matthew Arnold, AIA and Andrew Caldwell, AIA; in later years he practiced alone as Robert Wilson Mobley, AIA.

Like his role model Frank Lloyd Wright, he enjoyed new challenges, such as an acoustically perfect music room for small concerts in a private home. His proudest achievement was the Center for Education at Wolf Trap, a timeless design that fit smoothly into its setting. He bid against teams from larger firms, winning the job with the simple promise to dedicate his life to personally making every detail perfect. His many design awards over the years included a First Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects for his own home in McLean in 1969.

His deep belief in the importance of aesthetics drove him to serve for three decades on the Fairfax County and Herndon Architectural Review Boards. He was determined that the present and the future should coexist gracefully with the past, applying humanistic standards that would ennoble life in often unnoticeable but critical ways for the citizens of Northern Virginia. He helped preserve and restore historical properties in his community of Great Falls including the Old Schoolhouse, and repurposed old farm buildings into welcoming, elegant houses in Hickory Vale; he is best known for turning a small 1930's Sears catalog home on Georgetown Pike into the gracious, harmonious property known as Grey Gables, which still retains the charm of its era.

He worked with civic associations to make his community more cohesive and walkable, and to ensure that new projects within the commercial area enhanced the sense of a village. Any citizen with a question or a project in mind was welcome at the door of his office in the Village Centre, in a building he occupied for almost fifty years.

He married his high school classmate Carolyn Gapen while still in school in 1961 and together they had three sons, Mark (Magda Westerhout), Matthew (Linda Mosca) and Mike (Arie Sitthichai), who gave him five grandchildren. Carolyn died in 1995, and in 2001 he married Lynn Peterson, starting a new chapter. They enjoyed traveling and hiking in the American West and in Europe, but he never stopped practicing his craft..

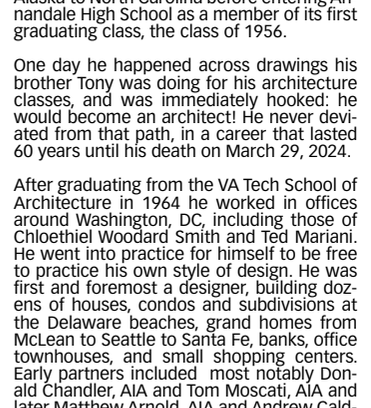
He felt privileged to have been among the mass of humanity on the Mall with his friend Donald Chandler the day that Martin Luther King told them, "I have a dream." He was just as proud and happy to be on the Mall with his grandson Emmett when Barack Obama was sworn in as the first Black President of the United States. The anger he felt at discrimination, oppression and economic disparity only increased with the years. That so many have so little and so few have almost everything was a great source of pain for him.

He also found much to enjoy as he grew older. Walks along the Potomac, visits to the State Arboretum at Blandy, the museums of Washington, warm beaches in February, any and all boats, trout fishing every spring in Bath County, watching his grandkids Emmett, Carolyn, Dylan, Alyssa and Cristina turn from cute babies into increasingly interesting people. Though plagued with worsening Peripheral Neuropathy which made walking difficult, he fought it through exercise and by successfully spearheading an effort with the Foundation for Peripheral Neuropathy to secure government funding for research into a disease which afflicts over 30 million Americans.

Robert was blessed with an iron will and broad vision. His work was exceptional because he never did anything halfheartedly. He was a father by 23 when he had yet to graduate from college, in the toughest of programs and with a family to support, when financial aid was hard to come by. He had to develop discipline and focus to become an Architect, and he retained them always. And he considered that his had been a wonderful life.

Memorial held May 17, 2024. In lieu of flowers donations may be sent to the Foundation for Peripheral Neuropathy at:
www.foundationforpn.org

SCHOENECKER



ELIZABETH SCHOENECKER (Age 78)
On May 1, 2024, Elizabeth Schoenecker, peacefully passed away at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD with her husband, Lee; and two sons, Steven and John, at her side. She also had five grandchildren.

Elizabeth, or "Liz," Schoenecker was born November 9, 1945 and raised in Neenah, Wisconsin. She has an undergraduate major in economics from Marquette University and a graduate degree in the Foreign Service from Georgetown University. From 1966 to 1974 she worked as a housing economist with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban development. When her husband went to the State of Wisconsin on a federal employee exchange program, she was very active in the Madison League of Women Voters, including programs on the future of the Presidency.

In her return to Washington, DC. she became heavily involved in an effort to secure one voting Congressman and two United States Senators for the District of Columbia under Article V of the Constitution. It passed the U.S. Congress, but failed to get the required three-fourths approval from the 50 states. During most of the 1980s she was involved in numerous civic affairs, including serving as President of the Lafayette Elementary School Home and School Association in northwest Washington, DC.

In the late 1980s she went to work for the U.S Agency for International Development (AID), focusing on family planning in developing countries. In that job, she served as a Division Chief for Policy, Evaluation, and Communication until retirement in 2012. In her 2012 retirement, she received the AID Administrators Distinguished Careers Service Award. In retirement she was appointed to the Board of the Population Reference Bureau, including serving as its Chair for two years.

A reception will be held at Joseph Gawler's Sons Funeral Home, 5130 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20016 from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, June 3. The funeral Mass will be held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, in Georgetown, 3513 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20007, starting at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 4, 2024.
JosephGawlers.com

JOSEPH GAWLER'S SONS, LLC FUNERAL DIRECTORS

WALKER



THOMAS LATHEN WALKER (Age 66)
Major Thomas "Tommy" L. Walker, U.S. Army (Ret.) passed away at his home on Thursday, May 9, 2024. He was born in Gary, IN, May 11, 1957 and was preceded in death by his parents and was the youngest son of Lieutenant Colonel William "Bill" W. Walker, III, U.S. Army, (Ret.) and Willa Ann "Billye" (née Robinson) Walker. Tommy and his brother, were part of a military family who moved frequently throughout their father's military service that included Ulm, Germany; Fort Riley, KS; Fort Benning (now Fort Moore), GA.; Honolulu, HI; Chicago, IL; Fort Bragg (now Fort Liberty), NC; and Alexandria, VA.

After graduating from Fort Hunt High School in Alexandria, VA, in 1975, Tommy attended Hampton Institute (University). He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in finance and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Finance Corps through ROTC. He later earned a Master of Business Administration from Florida Institute of Technology.

Tommy's military service included military schooling and duty stations at Fort Harrison, IN; Brussels, Belgium; Heidelberg, Germany; Warren, MI; Fort Riley, KS; and assignments in the United States Army Military District of Washington. His military awards included a Bronze Star for service in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, three Meritorious Service Medals, two Army Commendation Medals, the Army Achievement Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the National Defense Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

After retirement from active duty in 1996, Tommy worked in the family business, Logistics Applications, Inc., and later pursued a career in business development. He loved teaching and was an adjunct professor for more than 30 years at the University of Maryland Global Campus.

Tommy was initiated in the Beta Chi (BX) Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. at Hampton University. He was an active and proud life member, including the Eastern Province and Alexandria-Fairfax Alumni Chapter where he served as their 15th Polemarch (president). Tommy gave his time and talents to organizations that had a philanthropic and service focus. He was a member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (Boulé), a connecting link of The Links, Incorporated, a member of The ROCKS Inc., The Baggers, and Birdies & Bogeys golf groups.

Tommy's love of golf was unmatched, and he could be found on the golf course at every opportunity. Starting out as a caddy when he was a youngster, he learned and practiced the sport, worked hard to perfect his swing, and was proud of his low handicap. He introduced golf to many friends and family members and strongly encouraged his wife, sons, daughter, and granddaughters to learn to play. Tommy enjoyed traveling to golf courses across the U.S. and loved golf outings with friends.

Cycling was also one of Tommy's beloved activities, and he participated in many long-distance cycling events, including century rides (100 miles). He worked hard organizing group participation in fundraising cycling events such as the Tour de Cure for the American Diabetes Association.

Tommy loved his family most of all. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, proudly attending their clubs, school events, scouts, sports, plays, and parties. He communicated with his extended family members regularly, and a day did not pass without a call or text message to his children and grandchildren. Tommy and Suzanne, his wife of 27 years, enjoyed attending concerts, plays, dances, banquets, and so many events together. At the family's annual summer beach vacation, Tommy was the life of the party and coordinator of the many fun things the entire family enjoyed together. Tommy appreciated every moment of life and was always happy, kind, positive, helpful, and hopeful every single day.

Tommy was a faithful Christian, and he was a devoted attendee at Fort Belvoir Chapel for nearly 30 years.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Lieutenant Colonel Suzanne Walker, U.S. Army (Ret.); and their son, Malachi J. Walker (Jordan Dudley Walker); his two children from his first marriage to Barbara Aikens Walker: Thomas L. Walker II (Cindy Najhram Walker) and Brittney L. Walker (Rob Blanchard); grandchildren, Kennedy, Riley, and Willa; brother, William W. "Wes" Walker, IV (Pamela L. Walker); a dear aunt, Barbara R. "Bobbie" Blackmon of Gary, IN.; sister-in-law, Nancy Walker-Hunter (Byron Hunter); and nephews, cousins, and devoted friends.

The family appreciates expressions of sympathy made in memory of Thomas L. Walker to the Kappa Scholarship Endowment Fund.

There will be a visitation for guests and organizational memorial tributes on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at Demaine Funeral Home, 5308 Backlick Road, Springfield, VA 22515, from 6 to 8 p.m. Funeral services will be Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at the Fort Belvoir Chapel, 5950 12th St., Ft Belvoir, VA. Visitation from 10 to 11a.m. and the service begins at 11 a.m. Please allow additional time for visitors without base access credentials to enter Ft. Belvoir at the Leiber Gate.

Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a future date.

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The Washington Post

THE WEATHER

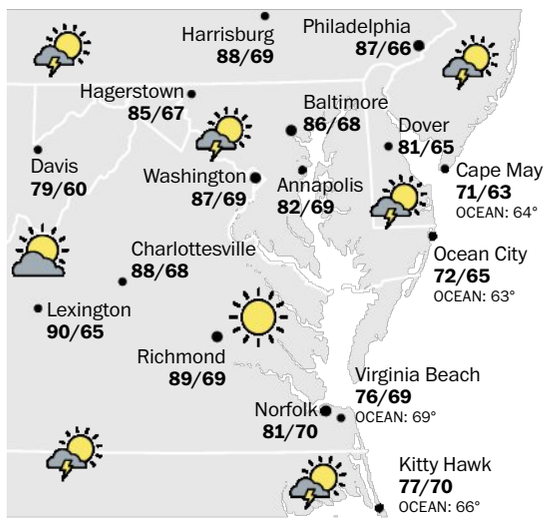
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Hot, with a chance of storms

Summerlike mid-80s to near 90 degrees could feel hotter, thanks to uncomfortable dew points in the mid-60s to near 70 degrees. Clouds may oscillate, filtering the sunshine, but it's a bright day overall ahead of the storm potential during the afternoon. While rain chances are higher than Saturday, it's not too high of a chance for rain in absolute terms. Overnight looks humid, cloudy, with a moderate chance of showers and storms. Temperatures may hover in the mid- to upper 60s.

Today	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A t-storm around	T-storms	Partly sunny	Showers around	Partly sunny; pleasant	Showers around
87° 69°	**81°** 67°	**82°** 61°	**77°** 59°	**73°** 55°	**76°** 58°
FEELS*: **95°**	FEELS: **84°**	FEELS: **86°**	FEELS: **80°**	FEELS: **75°**	FEELS: **79°**
CHNCE PRECIP: **40%**	P: **95%**	P: **25%**	P: **65%**	P: **10%**	P: **55%**
WIND: **E 4–8 mph**	W: **S 8–16 mph**	W: **WSW 7–14 mph**	W: **NNW 7–14 mph**	W: **WNW 8–16 mph**	W: **N 7–14 mph**
HUMIDITY: **Very High**	H: **Very High**	H: **Moderate**	H: **Moderate**	H: **Low**	H: **Low**

REGION



Pollen: High

Grass	High
Trees	Moderate
Weeds	Low
Mold	High

Air Quality: Moderate
Dominant cause: Ozone

UV: Very High
9 out of 11+

Blue Ridge: Today, partly sunny, a thunderstorm around in the afternoon; humid in northern parts. High 70 to 79. Winds south–southwest 4–8 mph. Tonight, a shower, thunderstorm. Low 59 to 63. Winds southwest 6–12 mph.

Atlantic beaches: Today, an afternoon thunderstorm in spots in the south; sunny in central parts. Partly sunny, humid in the north. High 72 to 81. Winds south–southeast 6–12 mph. Tonight, clear to partly cloudy, but turning cloudy in the north. Low 63 to 70.

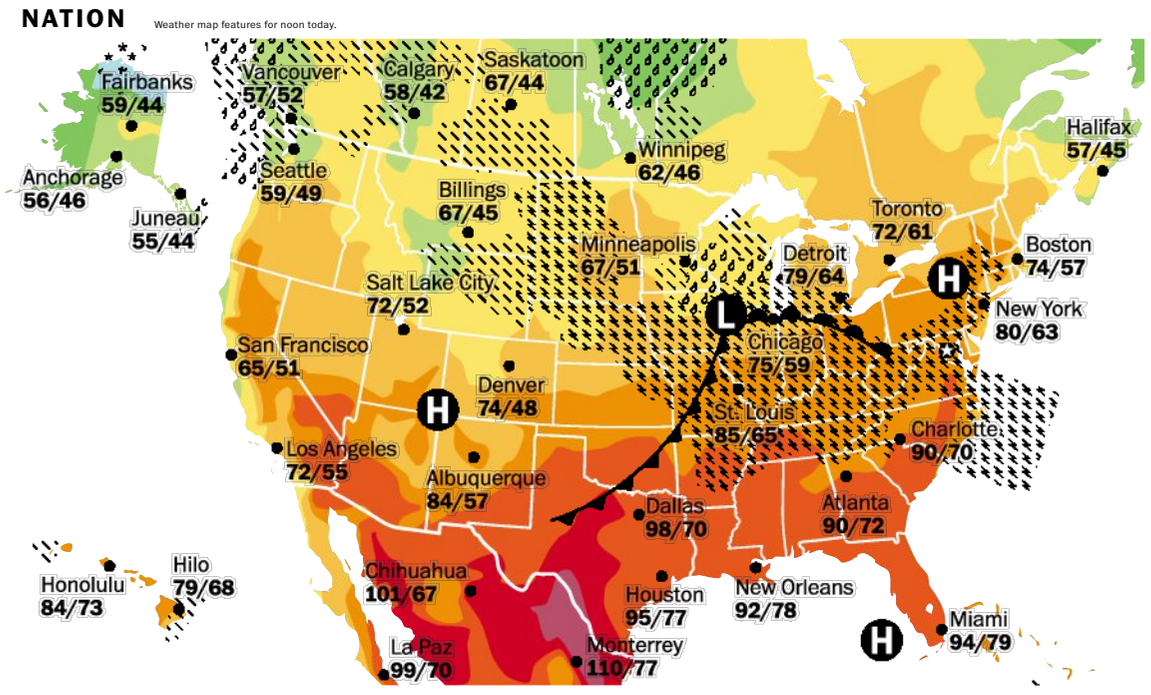
Waterways: *Upper Potomac River*: Today, partly sunny, a t-storm around in the afternoon. Wind southeast 4–8 knots. Waves 0–1 foot. • *Lower Potomac and Chesapeake Bay*: Today, mostly sunny, a t-storm around in the afternoon. Wind southeast 6–12 knots. Waves 0–1 foot on the Lower Potomac; 1–2 feet on the Chesapeake Bay.• *River Stages*: The stage at Little Falls will be around 3.90 feet today, with no change of 3.90 Monday. Flood stage at Little Falls is 10 feet.

Today's tides (High tides in **Bold**)

Washington	5:09 a.m.	**10:30 a.m.**	6:11 p.m.	**11:15 p.m.**
Annapolis	1:09 a.m.	**8:07 a.m.**	2:57 p.m.	**8:02 p.m.**
Ocean City	4:25 a.m.	**10:16 a.m.**	4:11 p.m.	**10:41 p.m.**
Norfolk	6:17 a.m.	**12:16 p.m.**	6:07 p.m.	**none**
Point Lookout	**3:53 a.m.**	11:23 a.m.	**4:14 p.m.**	9:44 p.m.

NATION

Weather map features for noon today.



T-storms · Rain · Showers · Snow · Flurries · Ice · Cold Front · Warm Front · Stationary Front

<–10 | –0s | 0s | 10s | 20s | 30s | 40s | 50s | 60s | 70s | 80s | 90s | 100s | 110+

Yesterday's National
High: Laredo, TX **107°**
Low: Gothic, CO **19°**
for the 48 contiguous states

World
High: Jacobabad, Pakistan **120°**
Low: Paso De Indios, Argentina **7°**
excludes Antarctica

NATIONAL	Today	Tomorrow
Albany, NY	84/64/t	74/65/t
Albuquerque	84/57/s	86/61/s
Anchorage	56/46/c	55/44/c
Atlanta	90/72/pc	85/67/t
Austin	98/74/s	100/71/t
Baltimore	86/68/t	83/65/t
Billings, MT	67/45/pc	73/49/pc
Birmingham	91/74/c	89/65/t
Bismarck, ND	68/49/t	70/46/pc
Boise	73/49/pc	82/56/s
Boston	74/57/t	64/61/c
Buffalo	79/66/pc	77/59/t
Burlington, VT	79/62/s	73/65/t
Charleston, SC	91/75/t	94/73/pc
Charleston, WV	86/65/t	81/58/t
Charlotte	90/70/t	87/65/t
Cheyenne, WY	68/43/pc	72/42/s
Chicago	75/59/t	73/57/c
Cincinnati	81/67/t	74/59/t
Cleveland	82/67/pc	78/58/t
Dallas	98/70/pc	95/72/t
Denver	74/48/pc	77/49/s
Des Moines	72/55/t	76/56/pc
Detroit	79/64/t	74/57/t
El Paso	94/65/s	98/70/s
Fairbanks, AK	59/44/pc	65/44/pc
Fargo, ND	75/53/pc	68/48/t
Hartford, CT	88/64/t	71/65/t
Honolulu	84/73/pc	83/74/sh
Houston	95/77/s	98/78/t
Indianapolis	76/64/t	74/60/t
Jackson, MS	93/74/pc	93/67/t
Jacksonville, FL	94/70/pc	94/70/pc
Kansas City, MO	77/57/t	81/57/pc
Las Vegas	94/72/s	97/74/s
Little Rock	92/70/t	89/66/s
Los Angeles	72/55/pc	74/57/pc
Louisville	89/70/t	81/61/t
Memphis	90/72/t	88/66/s
Miami	94/79/t	94/80/pc
Milwaukee	69/58/t	73/55/c
Minneapolis	67/51/r	67/51/t
Nashville	92/71/t	87/63/t
New Orleans	92/78/pc	93/77/t
New York City	80/63/t	70/65/t
Norfolk	81/70/t	87/70/t
Oklahoma City	92/62/c	88/63/s
Omaha	72/56/t	78/53/pc
Orlando	98/73/pc	100/75/pc
Philadelphia	87/66/t	78/66/t
Phoenix	97/73/s	101/74/s
Pittsburgh	84/67/pc	79/58/t
Portland, ME	70/50/pc	58/54/sh
Portland, OR	71/52/pc	75/54/pc
Providence, RI	76/61/pc	68/62/c
Raleigh, NC	91/72/t	90/66/t
Reno, NV	79/53/pc	83/54/s
Richmond	89/69/t	86/65/t
Sacramento	83/52/s	84/54/s
St. Louis	85/65/t	81/64/pc
St. Thomas, VI	90/81/pc	87/81/t
Salt Lake City	72/52/pc	81/61/s
San Diego	66/59/pc	68/59/pc
San Francisco	65/51/pc	65/52/pc
San Juan, PR	92/80/c	89/78/r
Seattle	59/49/sh	67/50/c
Spokane, WA	64/48/pc	73/53/pc
Syracuse	82/63/pc	78/61/t
Tampa	93/77/pc	95/80/s
Wichita	86/57/c	86/60/s

WORLD	Today	Tomorrow
Addis Ababa	81/55/c	81/55/s
Amsterdam	69/53/sh	64/51/sh
Athens	77/64/pc	79/61/s
Auckland	63/54/pc	61/51/c
Baghdad	101/75/pc	104/76/pc
Bangkok	95/82/t	96/83/t
Beijing	84/54/pc	87/59/pc
Berlin	76/57/t	74/59/sh
Bogota	68/50/c	68/50/sh
Brussels	68/53/sh	63/47/sh
Buenos Aires	54/45/c	55/46/c
Cairo	97/82/s	94/69/s
Caracas	78/67/sh	79/67/t
Copenhagen	69/57/t	68/55/c
Dakar	86/75/pc	85/75/pc
Dublin	60/46/t	61/49/c
Edinburgh	59/50/sh	61/47/sh
Frankfurt	75/55/pc	72/51/t
Geneva	74/55/pc	66/51/sh
Ham., Bermuda	79/71/s	79/72/pc
Helsinki	74/52/pc	81/53/s
Ho Chi Minh City	97/81/t	97/81/c
Hong Kong	86/79/t	88/81/t
Islamabad	105/79/s	105/78/s
Istanbul	73/58/s	70/57/s
Jerusalem	82/66/s	91/63/s
Johannesburg	72/46/s	72/45/pc
Kabul	83/53/s	84/53/s
Kingston, Jam.	91/81/pc	91/81/r
Kolkata	85/77/r	84/79/r
Kyiv	78/57/pc	81/59/s
Lagos	90/78/t	90/79/t
Lima	68/60/pc	68/61/s
Lisbon	74/55/pc	72/56/s
London	66/49/t	63/48/pc
Madrid	84/58/pc	85/58/pc
Manila	85/80/t	91/81/t
Mexico City	90/62/s	90/60/s
Montreal	77/58/pc	74/63/t
Moscow	76/54/pc	75/56/s
Mumbai	95/86/sh	95/85/t
Nairobi	78/58/t	78/59/t
New Delhi	114/90/pc	115/91/pc
Oslo	82/58/t	69/55/sh
Ottawa	76/57/pc	69/58/t
Paris	71/51/sh	65/49/sh
Prague	71/53/t	72/55/t
Rio de Janeiro	74/68/sh	77/70/r
Riyadh	111/82/pc	108/81/pc
Rome	77/56/s	78/59/s
San Salvador	88/71/t	89/72/t
Santiago	60/33/r	63/42/pc
Sarajevo	64/53/t	72/51/pc
Seoul	76/57/c	72/55/r
Shanghai	95/72/t	76/62/t
Singapore	88/80/t	92/82/c
Stockholm	75/53/pc	76/55/pc
Sydney	70/50/s	69/50/s
Taipei City	91/76/t	91/76/sh
Tehran	85/70/s	91/70/s
Tokyo	76/67/pc	75/70/r
Toronto	72/61/pc	76/57/t
Vienna	75/56/t	79/55/pc
Warsaw	84/56/pc	84/55/s

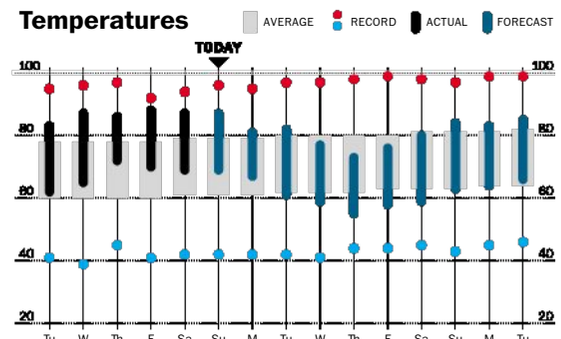
Key: **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **r**-rain, **sh**-showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Sources: **AccuWeather.com**; US Army Centralized Allergen Extract Lab (pollen data); airnow.gov (air quality data); National Weather Service

* AccuWeather's **RealFeel Temperature®** combines over a dozen factors for an accurate measure of how the conditions really "feel."

OFFICIAL RECORD

Temperatures

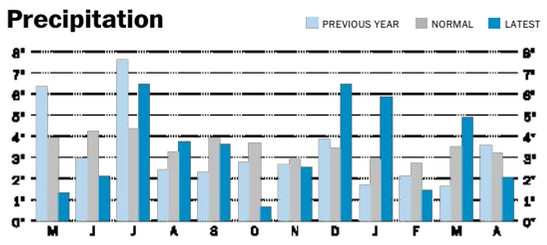


Statistics through 5 p.m. Saturday

	National	Dulles	BWI
High	**87°** 2:00 p.m.	**89°** 2:42 p.m.	**87°** 3:00 p.m.
Low	**69°** 5:00 a.m.	**62°** 4:43 a.m.	**64°** 4:27 a.m.
Normal	79°/61°	77°/56°	78°/56°
Record high	94° 1880	92° 1991	94° 1991
Record low	42° 1877	36° 1967	38° 1956

Difference from 30–yr. avg. (National): this month: **+2.3°** yr. to date: **+3.1°**

Precipitation



	National	Dulles	BWI
Past 24 hours	0.00"	0.00"	0.00"
Total this month	3.30"	3.21"	2.37"
Normal	3.18"	3.80"	3.09"
Total this year	17.54"	16.29"	19.90"
Normal	15.47"	16.42"	16.58"

Moon Phases

May 30	June 6	June 14	June 21
Last Quarter	New	First Quarter	Full

Solar system

	Rise	Set
Sun	5:47 a.m.	8:23 p.m.
Moon	11:57 p.m.	8:00 a.m.
Venus	5:42 a.m.	8:09 p.m.
Mars	3:40 a.m.	4:29 p.m.
Jupiter	5:32 a.m.	7:51 p.m.
Saturn	2:27 a.m.	1:53 p.m.

THE DISTRICT

Members of rival drug crews arrested on federal drug, gun-related charges

BY JENNY GATHRIGHT

Two dozen people have been arrested on drug and gun-related charges as part of a crackdown on two rival criminal groups operating in Northeast Washington, authorities said Thursday.

The arrests targeted members of a crew operating in the Carver Langston neighborhood, near 21st Street and Maryland Avenue, along with members of a rival crew operating around the 1100 block of Raum Street in the Trinidad area, prosecutors said.

At a news conference Thursday, U.S. Attorney Matthew M. Graves said the arrests and conspiracy charges are part of a broader push by authorities to aggressively target the crews responsible for driving a large share of D.C.'s gun violence and drug trafficking.

"No place is naturally dangerous," Graves said. "Places become dangerous because a relatively small number of people who live or come to the place make it dangerous. Typically, these are people operating drug markets, often while armed with guns."

Graves said the indictments stem from a new strategy, with federal agents and D.C. police moving to take down members of rival crews at the same time. Graves said this is the first time in memory that his office has simultaneously targeted two rival crews so close together in time.

"One of the things that makes these corners so dangerous is that they typically have long-standing feuds with crews associated with other corners," Graves said. "Past actions have dismantled one side of the crews. We believe that taking out both sides could have an even more profound impact."

He said accused members of the Carver Langston crew were charged with drug and gun crimes, as were the people accused of drug trafficking in the Trinidad neighborhood.

The arrests capped what prosecutors said was a months-long investigation in which police surveilled the suspects with cameras and made undercover purchases of crack cocaine, fentanyl, methamphetamine and phencyclidine. Authorities said the simultaneous investigations and resulting arrests led to the seizure of about 35 guns and nearly $150,000 in cash as well as a large quantity of illegal drugs.

Court documents show that many of the defendants have long histories with the criminal justice system. Some have been arrested more than 20 times, according to prosecutors, and one of the defendants has 10 convictions.

The arrests "will bring immediate relief to the neighborhoods that these suspects were operating in," D.C. Police Chief Pamela A. Smith said in a statement.

The Carver Langston area has regularly endured street violence. Last month, six people were shot after police said two assailants got out of a car and opened fire on 21st Street. A 29-year-old man died at the scene, and the injured victims included a 9-year-old and a 12-year-old. Prosecutors said the investigation of the Trinidad crew began last summer after a spate of 59 violent crimes and 119 "bursts of gunfire" from January to July.

Multiple investigations are underway as part of the new approach of targeting rival crews simultaneously, Graves said: "If you are part of a drug trafficking organization … you should assume your organization is under investigation."

Md. district and principal settle harassment lawsuit

LAWSUIT FROM **C1**

tiny of district leaders.

The Post has reported that the school system received at least 18 complaints alleging misconduct by him going back to 2016. Additional complaints were identified by a Baltimore-based law firm hired by Montgomery school officials to investigate The Post's findings.

In the meantime, the county's inspector also launched investigations.

The first dug into Beidleman's alleged pattern of behavior, which included complaints that the principal pressured job applicants for sex, sent inappropriate text messages to teachers, spoke inappropriately about students and encouraged teachers to consume alcohol in excessive amounts at staff events.

That investigation found that Beidleman had violated the school system's sexual harassment and bullying policies, and that his "verbal comments of a sexual nature that unreasonably affected their work performance and created an offensive work environment."

A second investigation looked at how the district could have ignored complaints — both formal and informal — about his behavior. The second report, released in January, found that the complaint system for Maryland's largest school district was "chaotic."

But the Beidleman scandal lit a firestorm of controversy within the district. In January, amid the scrutiny, McKnight said the county school board indicated it wanted her to step down. The school board did not say whether McKnight's characterization was accurate.

McKnight, the first woman to serve as the system's head, agreed to leave in February.

Hyatt said his client was satisfied the district seems to be learning from the Beidleman case.

"They seem to be making policy changes and are putting more resources and effort into claims of misconduct," Hyatt said. "I think she's been very heroic."

Dan Morse contributed to this report.



DONNA ST. GEORGE/THE WASHINGTON POST

Principal Joel Beidleman, left, with reporters at Farquhar Middle School in Olney in February 2021. The Montgomery County school system received at least 18 complaints against Beidleman alleging sexual harassment and bullying going back to 2016.

The Washington Post
SPORTS
SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2024



JOSHUA MELLIN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Williams's stuff keeps Mariners guessing

NATIONALS 3, MARINERS 1

Right-hander fans eight to match his career high

BY ANDREW GOLDEN

Dominic Canzone's eyes must have deceived him. There was no way the Washington Nationals' Trevor Williams, who has one of the slowest four-seam fastballs in the major leagues, had blown one by him to end the top of the fourth inning Saturday afternoon.

So as the Seattle Mariners' designated hitter sauntered back to the visiting dugout at Nationals Park, he glanced at the scoreboard and saw this under Williams's name: "89.0 mph fastball." Well, then. Canzone was Williams's eighth and final strikeout victim, which tied his career high, in the Nationals' 3-1 win.

"He controls the ball in the bottom of the zone really good," catcher Keibert Ruiz said. "And when he wants to go up, he does it, too. . . . He can put the ball wherever he wants."

Williams didn't get the win — he allowed a solo home run to Julio Rodríguez in the fifth inning, which tied the score at 1. Williams jumped on the mound as the ball carried, hoping it wouldn't reach the seats. Still, for five-plus innings, Williams continued a stellar 2024, lowering his ERA to 2.29 through 10 starts. The 32-year-old right-hander has allowed three earned runs or fewer in every start — and one or none in seven of those outings.

"We did a good job of executing and keeping our team in it," Williams said. "It feels good to get a series win, especially against a first-place team like this. And I'm thankful that we get a chance to get a sweep tomorrow."

The Nationals (23-27) grabbed a 1-0 lead in the second inning on Ruiz's sacrifice fly. In the seventh with the score still tied and runners on the corners, Ildemaro Vargas pinch-hit for Nick Senzel.

SEE NATIONALS ON D5

Mariners at Nationals
1:30 p.m., MASN2

Baseball's next great disrupter

Sasaki is a superstar in Japan and still just 22. He's coming to MLB — the only question is when.

Roki Sasaki, who has a 1.94 ERA in his Japanese career, will not be eligible to be posted until after the 2026 season. But the 22-year-old is expected to jump to MLB sooner than that.

BY CHELSEA JANES

CHIBA, JAPAN — The next big star is coming. Everybody knows it. They will not say so because he will not say so. He will not say so because Japanese baseball stars are not supposed to leave home early, and he has already broken a few rules.

But Roki Sasaki, a 6-foot-4 right-hander with a tantalizing arsenal, is coming to Major League Baseball as soon as he can. And because he is so eager and because MLB teams are so eager for what he can offer, Sasaki seems almost certain to eschew tradition by pushing to leave for the United States sooner than almost any other Nippon Professional Baseball player has.

Sasaki, 22, is in his fourth NPB season with the Chiba Lotte Marines, a team headquartered east of Tokyo. His fastball hits 103 mph. His splitter leaves hitters shaking their heads. He has a 1.94 ERA in 59 career outings. MLB executives have known his name for years.

What those executives do not know — and still don't know for sure — is when Sasaki will make the move across the Pacific and into their eager arms. But conversations with multiple executives, scouts and agents revealed a shared suspicion: MLB teams are

SEE SASAKI ON D5

As college sports change, is the NCAA ready to lead?



Barry Svrluga

That college sports aren't what they once were — students going out for teams, pulling on the school colors and playing for their classmates and alumni — has been obvious for generations. A multibillion-dollar industry built on the backs of unpaid labor was neither fair nor sustainable, and it probably shouldn't have taken three more lawsuits against the NCAA — settled last week to the tune of almost $2.8 billion — for that organization to make sure the people who create the product actually share in its financial success.

Still, it can seem jarring.

"I don't think it's an overstatement to say that this is the biggest change in the history of college sports," said Gabe Feldman, the director of Tulane University's sports law program and an expert on the NCAA, antitrust law and the relationship between the two.

An entity that argued for decades that its very essence — its base-level attraction — was that the players were amateurs will now be paying the players, in some cases handsomely. With the advent of name, image and likeness rights for athletes three years ago, it was clear this sea change was coming. But the sea change can still feel sudden.

"This is going to make NIL seem relatively quaint," Feldman said. "And it's not clear what the stopping point will be."

Yes, clarity is lacking, and implementation of such a system will take time. Still, in the midst of all this tumult, it would behoove the people who resisted this shift — only to have it foisted upon them because the legal writing was spray-painted in giant letters on the wall — to get together now and say: "Okay, what do college sports look like in 10 years? In 20? And how can we shape them? Because if we don't, we'll be shaped by the courts."

More movement is already afoot. Be wary.

At least two private investor groups reportedly have been in talks with schools about the possibility of injecting cash into athletic departments in exchange for a cut of future revenue. That's potentially appealing to the people in charge of those athletic departments, in no small part because it's easy. Why take stock of your entire operation, make hard decisions on cutting programs and staff and completely overhaul how your budget is distributed —

SEE SVRLUGA ON D6



YOAN VALAT/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK

Rafael Nadal will face No. 4 seed Alexander Zverev in the first round of the French Open on Monday.

Drama should arrive quickly in Paris

This year's French Open might feature some early-round gems

BY AVA WALLACE

A word of advice to those time-conscious viewers who tune in to tennis's major tournaments only in the second week, when the fourth round or quarterfinals begin: Adjust your schedules this year. The French Open, which begins Sunday in Paris, will make it worth your while.

There are treasures buried in these early rounds sure to stir even the casual fan.

Two of the seven major champions in the men's draw will face each other when Andy Murray, 37, and Stan Wawrinka, 39, each with three majors to his name, meet in a first-round time machine of a match Sunday. And reigning Australian Open champion Jannik Sinner will drag his injured hip into Roland Garros to play last year's Wimbledon darling, Chris Eubanks, in the first round Monday.

In the women's draw, a pair of four-time major champions could meet in the second round should Iga Swiatek, the overwhelming favorite to win her fourth French Open title, and Naomi Osaka triumph in their opening matches.

And still none of that compares with what the draw plopped at Rafael Nadal's feet.

What is expected to be the final French Open of the Spaniard's career will begin Monday with a match against No. 4 seed Alexander Zverev, the German who is one of a handful of good bets to win a wide-open tournament despite the fact that he will be playing while a domestic abuse hearing begins at the end

SEE FRENCH OPEN ON D6

French Open, first round
5 a.m., Tennis Channel

Terrapins rout Cavs, advance to title game

MARYLAND 12, VIRGINIA 6

BY GENE WANG

PHILADELPHIA — Luke Wierman scored just once for seventh-seeded Maryland in Saturday's NCAA men's lacrosse tournament semifinal. Still, the graduate midfielder was invaluable during a 12-6 triumph over sixth-seeded Virginia at Lincoln Financial Field.

A deeper dive into the box score underscored as much: Wierman won 15 of 22 faceoffs, including 10 of 12 in the first half. That disparity not only provided extra possessions, a handful of which led to goals, but also kept the ball away from Virginia's prolific graduate attack duo of Connor Shellenberger and Payton Cormier.

The Terrapins (11-5) are headed to Monday's national championship game against top-seeded Notre Dame, a 13-6 winner against fifth-seeded Denver in Saturday's other semifinal. As they try to deny the defending champion Fighting Irish, the Terps will seek their second national title in three years.

Maryland will be making its

SEE MARYLAND ON D6

NCAA men's lacrosse final: Maryland vs. Notre Dame
Monday, 1 p.m., ESPN

NBA PLAYOFFS

The Celtics overcome an 18-point deficit for a win over the Pacers and a 3-0 lead in the East finals. D3

SOCCER

D.C. United struggles in the second half, sputters to a 1-1 draw with the visiting Chicago Fire. D6

THE DAY IN SPORTS

GOLF

Murray, 30, dies after exit from PGA event

Two-time PGA Tour winner **Grayson Murray** died Saturday morning, the organization announced. He was 30.

"I am at a loss for words," PGA Tour Commissioner **Jay Monahan** said in a statement. "The PGA Tour is a family, and when you lose a member of your family, you are never the same. We mourn Grayson and pray for comfort for his loved ones."

The cause of death was not disclosed. Murray withdrew from the second round of the Charles Schwab Challenge on Friday, citing an illness. He was 5 over par with the final two holes remaining in the round at Colonial in Fort Worth.

A North Carolina native, Murray grew into a standout golfer in his youth, becoming the second-youngest player to make the cut on the Korn Ferry Tour at 16 and playing as an amateur in the U.S. Open at 19. After attending Wake Forest, East Carolina and Arizona State, he earned full status on the PGA Tour for the 2016-17 season. He won the 2017 Barbasol Championship during that campaign, earning his first victory on tour at 23.

Murray struggled in subsequent seasons and had publicly discussed his battles with alcoholism and mental health issues. He said he received treatment for addiction and worked to return to form.

He twice won on the Korn Ferry Tour last year and reclaimed his PGA Tour card that fall. In January, he won the Sony Open in Hawaii for his second victory on tour.

— Glynn A. Hill

Davis Riley shot a 4-under 66 to take a four-shot lead over **Scottie Scheffler** into the final round of the Charles Schwab Challenge. . . .

Ernie Els kept the mistakes to a minimum down the stretch and hit a birdie on his final hole for a 2-under 69, giving him a share of the lead with **Greg Chalmers** going into the final round of the Senior PGA Championship in Benton Harbor, Mich.

Chalmers, a left-handed Australian renowned for his putting, had a 66 while making only two bogeys.

Els, a four-time major champion, is in a great position to finally get a first major title on the senior circuit. This is his 17th attempt. . . .

Spanish golfer **Nacho Elvira** will take a four-shot lead into the final round of the Soudal Open in Antwerp, Belgium, where he's chasing his second European tour win. . . .

In Hurricane, Utah, **Angela Stanford** became the first player to successfully defend the LPGA Senior Championship title, closing with a 3-under 69 in breezy conditions for a three-stroke victory over **Cristie Kerr**.

SOCCER

Barca women top Lyon to win European crown

With a triumph over the rival it could never beat, Barcelona made it clear who's in charge of women's soccer.

Barcelona ended its losing streak against the game's most successful club, beating Lyon, 2-0, in Bilbao, Spain, to clinch its third women's Champions League title in four years.

World player of the year **Aitana Bonmatí** scored in the second half and former player of the year **Alexia Putellas** added a second deep in stoppage time for defending champion Barcelona in front of a record crowd of 50,827 for a final.

"This team has made history," Bonmatí said. "With each passing year, we just want more."

Barcelona had lost its previous four matches against Lyon, including two Champions League finals. The French team was seeking a record-extending ninth European trophy.

Jonatan Giráldez coached his final match for Barcelona before arriving in D.C. to take over the NWSL's Washington Spirit. . . .

Paris Saint-Germain beat the Lyon men, 2-1, in the French Cup final in Villeneuve-d'Ascq in **Kylian Mbappé**'s last game for PSG.

Ousmane Dembélé and **Fabián Ruiz** scored in the first half. . . .

Granit Xhaka's early strike was enough for Bayer Leverkusen to win the German Cup final, 1-0, over Kaiserslautern in Berlin. . . .

Adam Idah's last-minute strike earned Celtic a 1-0 win over Rangers in the Scottish Cup final in Glasgow. . . .

Manchester United icon and former D.C. United coach **Wayne Rooney** was appointed manager of second-tier English club Plymouth Argyle.

The former England striker takes over the second-tier club four months after he was fired by Birmingham.

"Taking this role at Plymouth Argyle feels like the perfect next step in my career," Rooney told reporters. . . .

Sergio Santos scored in the 93rd minute as FC Cincinnati defeated Toronto FC, 4-3, on the road to extend its winning streak to a club-record seven games.

TENNIS

Consecutive wins give Ruud the Geneva title

Casper Ruud did double duty and won back-to-back matches to take his third Geneva Open title in four years.

Ruud won the final, 7-5, 6-3, against **Tomas Machac**, who eliminated **Novak Djokovic** in the only semifinal completed Friday, returning to the court less than three hours after defeating **Flavio Cobolli**.

He rallied from a slow start at 10:30 a.m. to beat Cobolli, 1-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7-4), in a match delayed Friday because of heavy rain. . . .

Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard completed a dream week when the French wild card won his maiden ATP title in just his fourth tour event — in his hometown of Lyon to boot.

The 20-year-old saved a match point in the tiebreaker and beat sixth-seeded **Tomás Martín Etcheverry** of Argentina, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (9-7), in the final of the Lyon Open. . . .

Madison Keys won the Strasbourg International in France when she thrashed **Danielle Collins**, 6-1, 6-2, in an all-American final.

The fourth-seeded Keys broke the third-seeded Collins six times and didn't drop a set in the tournament. She won her eighth WTA singles title and first of the year.

AUTO RACING

Elliott holds on in N.C. to take Xfinity race

Chase Elliott proved he still knows how to win an Xfinity Series race.

Running on fresh tires, Elliott held off **Brandon Jones** at Charlotte Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C., to win his first race on NASCAR's lower circuit since 2016 and his sixth overall. It was a rare cameo for Elliott, who has only run four Xfinity races in the past five years.

It also gives Elliott some track knowledge heading into the Coca-Cola 600 on Sunday, the longest race in the Cup Series. . . .

Charles Leclerc took the pole position for Ferrari at the Monaco Grand Prix and ended **Max Verstappen**'s bid for a record-breaking ninth straight pole.

Verstappen, who shares the Formula One record with the late **Ayrton Senna**, will start Sunday's race from sixth place.

PRO BASKETBALL

Wilson outshines Clark as Indiana falls again

A'ja Wilson racked up 29 points and 15 rebounds as the Las Vegas Aces rolled to a 99-80 win over the visiting Indiana Fever.

Caitlin Clark was limited to eight points on 2-for-8 shooting for Indiana, which dropped to 1-6. . . .

Napheesa Collier had 15 points and 12 rebounds and the Minnesota Lynx hit 14 three-pointers to hand the New York Liberty its second straight loss, 84-67, in Minneapolis.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Tide forces Game 3 with marathon win

In Knoxville, Tenn., **Kristen White**'s infield chopper with the bases loaded allowed **Lauren Johnson** to score from third base as Alabama forced a decisive third game, beating Tennessee, 3-2, in 14 innings in the longest-ever Super Regional game.

The winner Sunday will face UCLA at the College World Series starting Thursday. . . .

Shaylon Govan hit a three-run home run and Baylor pushed its series against fourth-seeded Florida to Game 3 with a 5-2 win in the Gainesville (Fla.) Super Regional. . . .

Laurin Krings and two relievers combined on a two-hitter and seventh-seeded Missouri forced a third game in the Columbia (Mo.) Super Regional with a 3-1 win over Duke. . . .

Ashton Maloney drove in **Kayden Henry** for the go-ahead run in the ninth inning and top-seeded and top-ranked Texas defeated Texas A&M, 9-8, in nine innings to stay alive in the Austin Super Regional.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Seminoles secure spot in the final of the ACC

Max Williams went 3 for 5 with four RBI and a two-run homer, carrying Florida State to a 9-6 win over Wake Forest in an ACC tournament semifinal in Charlotte.

The win sent Florida State to its first ACC final since 2018. The Seminoles will face Duke next. . .

Steven Milam hit a two-run home run in the bottom of the 10th inning to rally LSU to a 12-11 victory over South Carolina in a wild SEC tournament semifinal in Hoover, Ala. . . .

Adam Cecere drilled a two-run home run in the top of the 10th inning to propel eighth-seeded Penn State into its second Big Ten tournament championship game ever with a 7-6 win over fourth-seeded Michigan in Omaha.

Penn State will face Nebraska, which defeated Indiana, 4-2 and 10-4, in a doubleheader.

MISC.

Switzerland advances to hockey title game

Switzerland prevailed in a penalty shootout to stun Canada, 3-2, and set up a final against the Czech Republic at the ice hockey world championship in Prague.

Sven Andrighetto scored the decisive shootout goal after the game finished 2-2 in regulation, with neither team scoring in the 10-minute overtime.

Kevin Fiala scored, added an assist and netted one of the two Swiss goals in the shootout. **Nino Niederreiter** also scored for Switzerland.

Earlier, the Czech Republic produced a three-goal second period as it downed Sweden, 7-3, and advanced to the final for the first time since 2010. . . .

Two-time Tour de France champion **Tadej Pogacar** all but secured the Giro d'Italia in his debut in the Italian grand tour.

In Bassano del Grappa, Pocagar once again destroyed his rivals in the mountains to claim a sixth stage win out of 20 and extend his already considerable advantage to nearly 10 minutes.

He has only Sunday's mainly ceremonial ride in Rome to confirm the triumph. . . .

American sprinter **Sha'Carri Richardson** continued her march toward the Paris Olympics at the Prefontaine Classic in Eugene, Ore., winning the women's 100 meters in 10.83 seconds.

Kenyan **Beatrice Chebet** set a world record in the 10,000 meters earlier in the day with a time of 28 minutes 54.14 seconds, while **Christian Coleman** of the United States won the day's other notable event, the men's 100, in a season-best 9.95. . . .

In Stillwater, Okla., **Filip Planinsek** of Alabama and **Alexa Noel** of Miami rallied to win singles titles, and the Ohio State men and Georgia women won thrilling doubles crowns at the NCAA tennis tournament.

— From news services and staff reports

SPOTLIGHT: SOCCER



KIN CHEUNG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Erling Haaland, left, Bernardo Silva and Manchester City suffered an upset loss to Manchester United in the FA Cup final.

Man. U stuns rival City to take FA Cup crown

MANCHESTER UNITED 2, MANCHESTER CITY 1

Ten Hag lifts silverware amid speculation over coach's future

BY JAMES ROBSON

LONDON — If this was Erik ten Hag's final game in charge of Manchester United, it was a sensational way to go out.

Against the backdrop of intense speculation that he is about to be fired, ten Hag and United stunned defending champion Manchester City, 2-1, to lift the FA Cup on Saturday at Wembley Stadium.

Receiving his medal from Prince William, the Dutchman then got his hands on his second trophy in as many seasons to end a troubled campaign on a high.

Is it enough to save his job?

"I'm not satisfied with it," Ten Hag said. "We have to do better, and if they don't want me anymore then I go somewhere else to win trophies because that is what I did my whole career. We are constructing a team, and when I took over it was a mess at Manchester United."

First-half goals from Alejandro Garnacho and Kobbie Mainoo powered the win. City piled the pressure on after the break and pulled a late goal back through substitute Jeremy Doku.

United's owners, who were watching from the executive seats at Wembley, have a decision to make.

"We are all very proud of the players and the staff who work tirelessly to support them," co-owner Jim Ratcliffe said.

The British billionaire bought a 27.7 percent stake in United in February and is overhauling the club. There is widespread anticipation that Ten Hag will become the latest casualty of his revamp, regardless of the cup final triumph.

That assumption will be put to the test after this win, which deprived crosstown rival City of the first back-to-back English league and cup doubles and also saw United qualify for next season's Europa League.

"My game plan was not good," City Manager Pep Guardiola said.

— Associated Press

TELEVISION AND RADIO

MLB

1:30 p.m.	**Seattle at Washington** » MASN2, WJFK (106.7 FM), WDCN (87.7 FM)
1:30 p.m.	**Los Angeles Dodgers at Cincinnati** » MLB Network (joined in progress)
2 p.m.	**Baltimore at Chicago White Sox** » MASN, WIYY (97.9 FM), WSBN (630 AM)
4:30 p.m.	**New York Yankees at San Diego** » MLB Network (joined in progress)
7 p.m.	**Chicago Cubs at St. Louis** » ESPN

NBA PLAYOFFS — WESTERN CONFERENCE FINALS

8 p.m.	**Game 3: Minnesota at Dallas** » TNT, WSBN (630 AM)

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS — EASTERN CONFERENCE FINALS

3 p.m.	**Game 3: New York Rangers at Florida** » WJLA (Ch. 7), WMAR (Ch. 2)

AUTO RACING

9 a.m.	**Formula One: Monaco Grand Prix** » WJLA (Ch. 7), WMAR (Ch. 2)
12:30 p.m.	**IndyCar: Indianapolis 500** » WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11)
6 p.m.	**NASCAR Cup Series: Coca-Cola 600** » WTTG (Ch. 5), WBFF (Ch. 45)

GOLF

5 a.m.	**DP World Tour: Soudal Open, final round** » Golf Channel
1 p.m.	**PGA Tour: Charles Schwab Challenge, final round** » Golf Channel
3 p.m.	**PGA Tour: Charles Schwab Challenge, final round** » WUSA (Ch. 9), WJZ (Ch. 13)
3 p.m.	**PGA Tour Champions: Senior PGA Championship, final round** » Golf Channel
4 p.m.	**PGA Tour Champions: Senior PGA Championship, final round** » WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11)

SOCCER

Noon	**Italian Serie A: Lecce at Napoli** » CBS Sports Network
Noon	**Turkish Super Lig: Galatasaray at Konyaspor** » beIN Sports

TENNIS

5 a.m.	**French Open, early rounds** » Tennis Channel

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL

2:30 p.m.	**United Football League: D.C. at Memphis** » WTTG (Ch. 5), WBFF (Ch. 45)

IIHF MEN'S HOCKEY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

9 a.m.	**Bronze medal game: Canada vs. Sweden** » NHL Network
2 p.m.	**Gold medal game: Switzerland at Czech Republic** » NHL Network

JUNIOR HOCKEY

7:30 p.m.	**Memorial Cup: Saginaw vs. Drummondville** » NHL Network

COLLEGE BASEBALL — CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT FINALS

11 a.m.	**Big Ten: Penn State vs. Nebraska** » Big Ten Network
Noon	**ACC: Florida State vs. Duke** » ESPN2
Noon	**American: Tulane vs. Wichita State** » ESPNews
2 p.m.	**Conference USA: Dallas Baptist vs. TBD** » CBS Sports Network
3 p.m.	**SEC: LSU vs. Tennessee** » ESPN2

NCAA WOMEN'S LACROSSE TOURNAMENT — FINAL

Noon	**Boston College vs. Northwestern** » ESPN

COLLEGE SOFTBALL — NCAA TOURNAMENT SUPER REGIONALS

2 p.m.	**Baylor at Florida** » ESPN
4 p.m.	**Alabama at Tennessee** » ESPN
6 p.m.	**Duke at Missouri** » ESPNU
6:30 p.m.	**Texas A&M at Texas** » ESPN2
7:30 p.m.	**Teams TBD (if necessary)** » ESPN2
9:30 p.m.	**Teams TBD (if necessary)** » ESPN2

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

7 p.m.	**Big 33 Classic: Maryland vs. Pennsylvania** » MASN

As Doncic rises to the moment, it looks too big for the Timberwolves

On the NBA

BEN GOLLIVER



DAVID BERDING/GETTY IMAGES

Luka Doncic's go-ahead three-pointer over Rudy Gobert with 3.1 seconds remaining in Game 2 on Friday gave Dallas control of the series.

MINNEAPOLIS — Luka Doncic did whatever he wanted, then said whatever he liked.

For the second time in three days, the Dallas Mavericks guard held the ball with a chance to administer heartbreak to the Minnesota Timberwolves. For the second time in three days, he did exactly that, leaving Timberwolves stars Anthony Edwards, Karl-Anthony Towns and Rudy Gobert to look powerless by comparison.

After hitting a breezy midrange jumper to steal Game 1 of the Western Conference finals Wednesday, Doncic came through with a sequel that was better than the original. With his team trailing by two points in the closing moments of Friday's Game 2, Doncic sashayed side-to-side to shake Gobert before tiptoeing backward for a three-pointer that swished through with 3.1 seconds left to deliver Dallas a 109-108 victory. The 25-year-old sensation underscored his latest game-winner — which capped an 18-point comeback and reduced Target Center crowd to a queasy silence — with a string of expletives in Gobert's direction.

"I was speaking Slovenian," Doncic joked after finishing with 32 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds to give the Mavericks a 2-0 lead with the series shifting to Dallas for Sunday's Game 3. "I don't decide what I'm going to look for before the play. I just see what the defense gives me. I just saw some space and decided to shoot a three. Get to my spot and step back. That's it."

Doncic's silky dribbling, pure shot and crude expulsion provided a fitting end for the Timberwolves, whose three stars continued to flunk the biggest test of their careers. A frazzled Edwards remained mired in a shooting slump. An invisible Towns, unable to find his scoring touch, was benched for the final eight minutes. And an overwhelmed Gobert, the Pinocchio to Doncic's Geppetto on the fateful final play, lost the interior battle to Dallas's unheralded center tandem of Daniel Gafford and Dereck Lively II, who combine to make less than half of his $41 million salary.

This was a cataclysmic and unforgivable loss for the Timberwolves, who opened the night with an appropriate level of urgency before crumbling in the fourth quarter and blowing a five-point lead with a little over a minute to play.

Minnesota built a 55-37 lead midway through the second quarter with aggressive early drives by Edwards, quality outside shooting by Naz Reid and steady game management from Mike Conley. The Timberwolves looked determined to move past a lethargic Game 1 showing, taking a 60-48 lead into halftime. Doncic briefly left the court for the locker room late in the first quarter with ongoing knee pain, further raising Minnesota's hopes to even the series.

But strong nights from Reid, who scored a team-high 23 points and hit seven three-pointers, and Conley, who posted 18 points and five assists, were not enough to compensate for Minnesota's struggling stars. If one of Edwards, Towns or Gobert had played to his typical standard, the Timberwolves would have been breathing easier on their flight to Texas. None did, and Reid's last chance to save the day with a three-pointer rimmed off at the buzzer.

Edwards, who topped 40 points three times in a five-game stretch earlier this postseason, has hurtled back to the mean and managed just 21 points on 5-for-17 shooting in Game 2. The 22-year-old guard has shot 17 for 57 (29.8 percent) over his past three games, and he has alternated between playing too fast and too passively in the West finals. The result has been a slew of ugly, backbreaking turnovers: He spent Game 1 sailing passes into the stands as if he were armed with a free T-shirt cannon, and he threw the ball away with 12 seconds left in Game 2 to set up Doncic's game-winner.

"[Edwards] has got to get more in transition," Timberwolves Coach Chris Finch said. "He started the game with great burst and was really going downhill well, and then he phased out as the game went along. He went in [the paint] a few times. I thought he could have done it more, and we need him to do it more. He's got to pick up his decision-making."

Towns was also maddening to watch as he made 4 of 16 shots and rustled up a meek 15 points. Finch decided he had seen enough and pulled Towns with 8:40 remaining, a no-brainer given Reid was shooting better and making smarter decisions.

"I'm with winning," Towns said of his benching. "Whatever it takes to win. Naz had it going, and it was Coach's decision. I'm fully supportive of my coaching staff. I wouldn't question them one bit."

With Dallas's defense packing the paint and giving extra attention to Edwards, Towns's inability to stretch the floor has been a critical weakness. The four-time all-star, who once dubbed himself the "greatest big man shooter of all time," has seen his three-point percentage plummet from 41.6 percent during the regular season to a paltry 21.2 percent (7 for 33) over Minnesota's past six games. Unsurprisingly, the Timberwolves are 2-4 during that stretch.

Yet Gobert's struggles defensively might be the biggest issue of all. The Mavericks have exploited him at every turn, pulling him away from the hoop in pick and rolls that he has struggled to defend and feasting on lob passes to Lively and Gafford that he hasn't been able to interrupt.

Doncic and Kyrie Irving have consistently found quality midrange shots when given room by Gobert. In a drastic attempt to stop the bleeding, the Timberwolves took their four-time defensive player of the year off the court for stretches of crunchtime in Game 2.

Of course, Doncic delighted in ending Gobert's tough night in cutthroat fashion, luring him out to the perimeter with help from a Lively screen. Mavericks Coach Jason Kidd said he had empowered Doncic to decide whether to take the potential game-winning three or to try to force overtime with a two-point shot.

Following a pair of quick crossover dribbles to get Gobert off balance, Doncic used a third to feint to his left and force the 7-foot-1 center to overcommit by the arc. Smelling blood, Doncic then ripped the ball between his legs from left to right, causing an off-balance Gobert to stumble toward the paint.

Though he stayed on his feet, Gobert couldn't recover in time to stop Doncic's three-pointer from just behind the line. Finch said he had hoped to guard Doncic tightly on the perimeter to discourage him from taking a potential go-ahead three-pointer.

"We switched on the pick and roll," Gobert said. "I was in [isolation] on Luka, and he hit a big-time shot. I let my team down on the last play. They believed in me to get a stop, and he scored a three."

The sequence reflected as poorly on Minnesota's coaches as it did on Gobert. The Timberwolves didn't learn their lesson after single-covering Doncic at the end of Game 1, and the best player remaining in these playoffs made it look easy as he burned them again.

Now, the wobbly Timberwolves are left to wonder whether they can recapture the magic of their second-round dethroning of the Denver Nuggets. Their stars need to step forward and muster an immediate response, otherwise Doncic's Game 2 winner will be remembered as the series-deciding kill shot.

"We wanted to get [Doncic] space and let him do what he does," Kidd said. "He loves that stage. He doesn't run from it."

West finals, Game 3: Timberwolves at Mavericks
8 p.m., TNT

NBA PLAYOFFS

Holiday's heroics put Boston in command

CELTICS 114, PACERS 111

BY MICHAEL MAROT

INDIANAPOLIS — Jrue Holiday overcame an illness to convert the go-ahead three-point play with 38 seconds left, then make the game-saving steal to help the Boston Celtics rally from an 18-point deficit to beat the Indiana Pacers, 114-111, on Saturday night for a 3-0 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

Boston can clinch its second NBA Finals trip in three seasons with a Game 4 win Monday in Indianapolis.

Jayson Tatum matched his playoff career high with 36 points and had 10 rebounds and eight assists. Jaylen Brown added 24 points, and Al Horford had 23 points and seven three-pointers as the Celtics won their sixth straight playoff game and stayed unbeaten on the road this postseason.

Holiday played despite being listed as questionable with an illness unrelated to covid.

Andrew Nembhard led the Pacers with a career-high 30 points before Holiday stole the ball from him with 3.3 seconds remaining. T.J. McConnell finished with 23 points, nine rebounds and six assists, while Myles Turner and Pascal Siakam each had 22 points.

Indiana played without all-NBA guard Tyrese Haliburton, who sat out with a left hamstring injury, and certainly missed him as Boston closed the game on a 13-2 run. It's the first loss in seven postseason home games for the Pacers.

— Associated Press

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS

Marchment is unlikely hero with a late goal

STARS 3, OILERS 1

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS

DALLAS — Mason Marchment scored for the first time since the playoff opener and the Dallas Stars beat the Edmonton Oilers, 3-1, on Saturday night to even the Western Conference finals at a game each.

Marchment broke a tie at 3:41 of the third period when he deflected a shot that went through the legs of defenseman Vincent Desharnais, then bounced on the ice and went between the right arm and body of goalie Stuart Skinner. Stars defenseman Ryan Suter, whose 1,444 career regular season games without a Stanley Cup title are the most among active players, shot the puck from against the board inside the blue line that Marchment deflected.

Stars captain Jamie Benn had a goal and assisted on Esa Lindell's empty-netter with 2:03 left. Wyatt Johnston had two assists.

Dallas goalie Jake Oettinger stopped 28 shots, including a reaching glove save on Mattias Ekholm's shot with about 3½ minutes left and also gathered in the Edmonton defenseman's long shot about a half-minute after that.

Connor Brown had Edmonton's goal. Skinner, who had won the previous three games since being benched two games in the last round, stopped 22 shots.

Game 3 is Monday night in Edmonton, where the Stars won, 4-3, in their only trip there this season. That was Nov. 2, during the Oilers' 3-9-1 start that led to Jay Woodcroft getting fired as coach and replaced by Kris Knoblauch.

Edmonton center Leon Draisaitl was scoreless, ending his playoff-opening points streak ended at 13 games.

— Associated Press

Caps prospect is vibing during stint at Hershey

BY BAILEY JOHNSON



JOHN MCDONNELL/THE WASHINGTON POST

Winger Andrew Cristall, 19, was selected by the Capitals with the 40th pick in the 2023 NHL draft.

HERSHEY, PA. — Andrew Cristall never stops smiling.

The Washington Capitals prospect always has a grin on his face, whether he's racking up 111 points — in just 62 games — with the Western Hockey League's Kelowna Rockets, skating in practice with the Hershey Bears as a "black ace" during Hershey's American Hockey League playoff run or working through hours of drills with Barb Aidelbaum, his skating coach back home in Vancouver.

The Capitals selected the 19-year-old winger with the 40th pick in the 2023 draft, taking a swing on Cristall's high-end skills while calculating that his skating, which had widely been considered a weakness by scouts and evaluators, would improve. Washington was willing to trade up to snag Cristall but ultimately didn't need to.

"I really thought that he probably had a chance to go more in that 22 to kind of 30 range in the first round, so we were really happy," assistant general manager Ross Mahoney said. "I guess all the teams probably say that, but we were really happy to get him there. . . . He's not the biggest guy and obviously needs to, like a lot of guys his age, get stronger. Do a lot of work in the gym to get himself a little bit stronger on his skates, but really, really bright player."

Cristall was listed as 5-foot-10 and 175 pounds by NHL Central Scouting ahead of the draft. Those measurements didn't change when he joined Hershey, Washington's AHL affiliate, after his season with Kelowna ended, but in nearly a year since the draft, he has added strength and has started to mature.

"My voice dropped a little bit, so maybe I'm getting a little bit older," Cristall joked recently, his trademark grin firmly in place.

Though Cristall hasn't seen game action since the Rockets' season ended in the second round of the WHL playoffs in mid-April and is unlikely to join Hershey's lineup unless there's a significant spate of injuries, he's having a blast soaking up the environment in Hershey as the Bears push for a second consecutive Calder Cup championship. (Hershey begins the Eastern Conference finals against the Cleveland Monsters on Thursday.)

"We've just seen him in practice. Obviously, a really good skill set," Bears Coach Todd Nelson said. "He's a player — he's just a young guy. Boy, he's going to develop into a real nice hockey player in the future. His skill set around the net is great, and he's smart with the puck."

Aware that his skating was a weakness, Cristall began working with Aidelbaum, a former figure skater who also works with the Capitals' Beck Malenstyn and Vincent Iorio, in the summer of 2022. With limited time together that summer, the focus was on improving Cristall's natural agility — making a strong attribute even stronger.

Last summer, squeezing work in around the draft preparation process and Cristall's high school graduation, the focus turned to the fundamentals of the forward stride, tackling everything from weight distribution to knee-over-toe alignment.

Even when the work was taxing, Cristall's attitude never wavered.

"He is on such a mission to the be the very best that he can be," Aidelbaum said. "He's a delight to spend time with every day on the ice. He has that grin about him. He grins and his eyes light up and they sparkle when he talks about hockey and his future in hockey."

Cristall felt the difference when he took the ice with the Capitals for his first NHL training camp in September.

"I definitely thought that I felt like I could play with the pace and I was kind of up in the play," he said. "I wasn't really chasing it too much. That was kind of the first time I noticed it."

The improvements carried over to his season in Kelowna, where he was an alternate captain and scored 40 goals while dishing out 71 assists in 62 games; he was fifth in the WHL in points. In the postseason, Cristall tied for the team lead with 15 points in 11 games.

"I was pretty confident throughout the year. I thought every night, I could be a difference-maker," Cristall said. "I thought I got better in a lot of areas, so I was pretty happy. My skating definitely came along a little bit. I felt like I had a little bit of an extra step, and [it] kind of allowed me to have some more room out there."

Aidelbaum sees the difference, too.

"This season, when I saw some of the Kelowna Rockets games, I could see that he could move anywhere on the ice that he needed to," Aidelbaum said. "Not everybody can recognize that. If skating isn't your profession, you may look at it and go, 'Oh, he still looks the same as what he did last year.' They might not be able to see the small, little improvements. But what I'm saying now about his speed is evidence-based, because when he is in timing gates or on a stopwatch, his forward sprinting times are faster.

"It doesn't matter how pretty it looks. The evidence is there."

As a 19-year-old, Cristall isn't eligible to join Hershey full-time next season; his two options are to return to Kelowna or make the NHL roster, which is unlikely. But as he continues to develop physically and improve his skating to pair with his highlight-reel skill, he has the makings of a valuable piece of the Capitals' future.

And the experience he is getting in Hershey will pay dividends down the line, even if he never plays for the Bears.

"It's pretty cool to be in this atmosphere on this team in the playoffs," Cristall said. "Obviously, they're the best team in the league and these guys are so established. It's just good for me to learn."

"We want supper! We want supper!"
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BASEBALL

National League

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STR
x-Philadelphia	37	15	.712	—	8-2	L-1
Atlanta	29	20	.592	6½	3-7	L-2
Washington	23	27	.460	13	3-7	W-2
New York	21	30	.412	15½	2-8	L-5
x-Miami	18	34	.346	19	7-3	W-2

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STR
Milwaukee	30	21	.588	—	6-4	W-2
Chicago	27	25	.519	3½	3-7	L-3
St. Louis	24	26	.480	5½	8-2	W-4
Pittsburgh	25	28	.472	6	6-4	W-2
Cincinnati	22	30	.423	8½	4-6	W-2

WEST	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STR
Los Angeles	33	21	.611	—	4-6	L-4
San Francisco	27	26	.509	5½	8-2	W-4
x-San Diego	27	27	.500	6	5-5	L-1
x-Arizona	24	27	.471	7½	5-5	L-1
x-Colorado	17	33	.340	14	5-5	W-1

x-Late game

American League

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STR
x-New York	36	17	.679	—	8-2	W-3
Baltimore	32	18	.640	2½	6-4	W-3
Boston	26	26	.500	9½	4-6	L-2
Tampa Bay	25	28	.472	11	4-6	L-6
Toronto	23	28	.451	12	4-6	L-2

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STR
x-Cleveland	34	17	.667	—	9-1	W-7
Kansas City	34	19	.642	1	9-1	W-8
Minnesota	28	23	.549	6	4-6	W-4
Detroit	25	27	.481	9½	4-6	W-2
Chicago	15	38	.283	20	2-8	L-4

WEST	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STR
Seattle	27	26	.509	—	4-6	L-4
Texas	24	29	.453	3	2-8	L-6
Houston	23	29	.442	3½	6-4	L-1
Oakland	22	32	.407	5½	3-7	W-1
x-Los Angeles	20	31	.392	6	5-5	L-1

x-Late game

Nationals 3, Mariners 1

MARINERS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Crawford ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.206
Moore lf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.244
Raley rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.271
Raleigh c	4	0	0	0	0	4	.215
Canzone dh	2	0	1	0	0	1	.216
Garver ph-dh	2	0	0	0	0	1	.177
Rodríguez cf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.252
France 1b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.238
Polanco 2b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.191
Rojas 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.279
TOTALS	32	1	5	1	0	12	—

NATIONALS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Abrams ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.257
Rosario rf-lf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.177
Meneses dh	3	0	0	0	0	1	.230
García 2b	3	1	1	0	0	0	.280
Winker lf	3	0	2	0	0	0	.230
Robles pr-rf	0	1	0	0	0	0	.087
Ruiz c	2	1	2	1	0	0	.186
Senzel 3b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.196
Vargas ph-3b	1	0	0	1	0	0	.310
Gallo 1b	3	0	1	1	0	0	.129
Young cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.262
TOTALS	28	3	6	3	0	6	—

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LOB: Seattle 5, Washington 2. **2B:** Moore (10), Ruiz (3). **HR:** Rodríguez (3), off Williams. **RBI:** Rodríguez (15), Ruiz (11), Vargas (7), Gallo (6). **SB:** García (8), Winker (6). **CS:** Gallo (1). **SF:** Ruiz.

MARINERS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gilbert	6	3	1	1	0	4	78	3.06
Speier	⅓	2	2	2	0	0	10	6.75
Thornton	⅔	1	0	0	0	0	6	2.95
Stanek	1	0	0	0	0	2	10	3.71

NATIONALS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Williams	5	5	1	1	0	8	85	2.29
Garcia	1	0	0	0	0	2	16	5.06
Floro	1	0	0	0	0	0	13	0.35
Harvey	1	0	0	0	0	1	13	2.42
Finnegan	1	0	0	0	0	1	18	1.80

WP: Floro (1-0); **LP:** Speier (0-2); **S:** Finnegan (14). **Inherited runners-scored:** Thornton 2-2, Garcia 1-0. **HBP:** Harvey (Moore). **T:** 2:21. **A:** 30,791 (41,376).

HOW THEY SCORED

NATIONALS SECOND
Luis Garcia singles. Jesse Winker singles. Luis Garcia to third. **Keibert Ruiz out on a sacrifice fly, Luis Garcia scores.** Nick Senzel lines out. Joey Gallo pops out.
Nationals 1, Mariners 0
MARINERS FIFTH
Julio Rodriguez homers. Ty France singles. Jorge Polanco grounds out. Ty France to second. Josh Rojas flies out. Ty France to third. J.P. Crawford grounds out.
Mariners 1, Nationals 1
NATIONALS SEVENTH
Luis Garcia grounds out. Jesse Winker singles. Keibert Ruiz singles. Jesse Winker to third. Ildemaro Vargas pinch-hitting for Nick Senzel. **Ildemaro Vargas grounds out, Keibert Ruiz to second, Victor Robles scores. Joey Gallo singles, Keibert Ruiz scores.** Joey Gallo picked off and caught stealing second base.
Nationals 3, Mariners 1

NL leaders

Entering Saturday's games.

BATTING

Ohtani, LA	.340
Betts, LA	.338
Contreras, Mil	.337
Arraez, SD	.335
Profar, SD	.331
Wade, SF	.328
Ozuna, Atl	.318
Bohm, Phi	.314
Díaz, Col	.311

HOME RUNS

Ozuna, Atl	15
Ohtani, LA	13
Harper, Phi	12
Alonso, NY	12
Hernández, LA	12
Walker, Ari	10
Marte, Ari	10

RBI

Ozuna, Atl	47
Bohm, Phi	46
Contreras, Mil	42
Hernández, LA	38
Harper, Phi	37
Ohtani, LA	35
Steer, Cin	34
Cronenworth, SD	34

ERA

Imanaga, Chi	0.84
Suárez, Phi	1.36
Assad, Chi	1.70
Sale, Atl	2.22
Hicks, SF	2.38
Wheeler, Phi	2.53
Abbott, Cin	2.68
Gomber, Col	2.76
Webb, SF	3.03

SAVES

Helsley, StL	15
Suarez, SD	14
Finnegan, Was	13
Iglesias, Atl	12
Bednar, Pit	10
Alvarado, Phi	9
Doval, SF	9

STRIKEOUTS

Glasnow, LA	87
Wheeler, Phi	76
Cease, SD	73
Peralta, Mil	71
Sale, Atl	70
Jones, Pit	68
Suárez, Phi	68

AL leaders

Entering Saturday's games.

BATTING

Perez, KC	.330
Peña, Hou	.320
Soto, NY	.315
Paredes, TB	.307
Witt, KC	.305
Rutschman, Bal	.303
Altuve, Hou	.298
Guerrero, Tor	.288

HOME RUNS

Tucker, Hou	17
Henderson, Bal	17
Judge, NY	16
Ramírez, Cle	14
Soto, NY	14
Stanton, NY	13
Naylor, Cle	13
García, Tex	12

RBI

Ramírez, Cle	49
Soto, NY	43
Perez, KC	39
Judge, NY	37
Henderson, Bal	37
Tucker, Hou	36
García, Tex	36
Naylor, Cle	35

ERA

Lugo, KC	1.74
Houck, Bos	1.94
Gil, NY	2.11
Olson, Det	2.16
Gray, Tex	2.21
Skubal, Det	2.25
Anderson, LA	2.52
Schmidt, NY	2.59

SAVES

Clase, Cle	15
Holmes, NY	14
Foley, Det	11
Kimbrel, Bal	11
McArthur, KC	11
Muñoz, Sea	10
Miller, Oak	9
Jansen, Bos	8

STRIKEOUTS

Flaherty, Det	81
Ragans, KC	76
Crochet, Chi	74
Skubal, Det	72
Gil, NY	70
Castillo, Sea	69
Burnes, Bal	66

Tigers 2, Blue Jays 1

Kerry Carpenter hit a two-run homer for a second straight game, and Detroit edged Toronto.

Reese Olson limited the Blue Jays to one unearned run and three hits in 6⅓ innings to earn his first victory of the season.

Tyler Holton got the last three outs for his second career save.

Blue Jays starter José Berrios gave up two runs and seven hits.

BLUE JAYS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Schneider lf	3	0	1	1	1	2	.246
Turner dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.225
Guerrero 1b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.289
Bichette ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.243
Springer rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.188
Kirk c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.209
Kiner-Falefa 2b	3	1	2	0	1	0	.264
Clement 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.244
Kiermaier cf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.226
Jansen ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.309
TOTALS	33	1	6	1	3	5	—

TIGERS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Pérez cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.274
Greene lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.230
Canha 1b	3	1	2	0	0	0	.234
Carpenter rf	3	1	2	2	0	0	.285
Urshela 3b	3	0	2	0	0	1	.271
Keith dh	3	0	0	0	0	1	.231
Báez ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.203
McKinstry 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.192
Rogers c	3	0	2	0	0	0	.210
TOTALS	29	2	8	2	0	7	—

TORONTO ..... 000 000 100 — 1 6 0
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E: Canha (2). **LOB:** Toronto 8, Detroit 3. **2B:** Schneider (11), Kiner-Falefa (4), Canha (9), Rogers (4). **3B:** Kiermaier (2). **HR:** Carpenter (8), off Berríos.

BLUE JAYS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Berríos	7	7	2	2	0	5	2.94
Romano	1	1	0	0	0	2	4.50

TIGERS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Olson	6⅓	3	1	0	3	4	1.92
Faedo	⅔	1	0	0	0	0	3.52
Foley	1	1	0	0	0	0	2.29
Holton	1	1	0	0	0	1	3.76

WP: Olson (1-5); **LP:** Berríos (5-4); **S:** Holton (1). **Inherited runners-scored:** Faedo 2-1. **T:** 2:04. **A:** 35,331 (41,083).



PAUL SANCYA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Good wood

Kerry Carpenter slugged a two-run homer, his second in as many days, in the first inning Saturday to help the host Tigers turn back the Blue Jays. Detroit has won two straight following a five-game losing streak.

Giants 7, Mets 2 (10)

Mike Yastrzemski hit a three-run triple during a five-run 10th as San Francisco topped New York.

The Giants forced extra innings on LaMonte Wade Jr.'s RBI single in the ninth.

GIANTS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Matos cf	4	1	1	0	1	1	.278
Estrada 2b	4	1	0	0	0	1	.239
Bailey dh	4	1	1	2	1	0	.299
Chapman 3b	4	0	0	0	1	2	.240
Flores 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.216
McKenna pr-lf	1	1	0	0	0	1	.000
Yastrzemski rf	5	0	1	3	0	2	.224
Ramos lf	2	0	0	0	1	1	.271
Wade ph	1	0	1	1	0	0	.333
Luciano ss	1	0	0	0	0	0	.391
Casali c	4	1	0	0	0	1	.294
Wisely ss-1b	4	2	3	1	0	0	.385
TOTALS	38	7	8	7	4	9	—

METS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Lindor ss	4	0	1	0	1	1	.209
Alonso 1b	5	0	0	0	0	1	.234
Nimmo cf-lf	5	0	1	0	0	4	.216
Martinez dh	4	0	0	0	1	3	.277
Stewart lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.217
Bader ph-cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.273
Marte rf	4	1	1	1	0	2	.259
McNeil 2b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.236
Baty 3b	3	1	1	1	1	2	.229
Narváez c	2	0	0	0	1	0	.150
Nido c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.234
TOTALS	35	2	4	2	5	14	—

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NEW YORK.. 010 000 100 0 — 2 4 1

E: Luciano (5), Alonso (2). **LOB:** San Francisco 7, New York 10. **2B:** Lindor (12). **3B:** Yastrzemski (2). **HR:** Marte (6), off Hicks; Baty (4), off Hjelle.

GIANTS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Hicks	5	2	1	1	2	8	2.33
Ta.Rogers	⅔	1	0	0	0	1	3.20
Hjelle	⅔	1	1	1	1	1	3.26
Rodríguez	1⅓	0	0	0	1	2	2.03
Jackson	1	0	0	0	1	0	5.40
Doval	1	0	0	0	0	2	2.91

METS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Severino	7	2	1	1	3	6	3.22
Ottavino	1	1	0	0	0	1	3.60
Díaz	1	2	1	1	0	1	5.40
Reid-Foley	⅔	2	5	0	1	1	1.35
J.Walker	⅓	1	0	0	0	0	2.35

WP: Jackson (3-1); **LP:** Reid-Foley (1-2). **Inherited runners-scored:** Hjelle 1-0, Rodríguez 1-0, J.Walker 3-3. **HBP:** Hicks (Stewart), Ottavino (Estrada). **T:** 3:03. **A:** 32,971 (42,136).

Twins 5, Rangers 3

Alex Kirilloff hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the eighth inning to lead Minnesota over Texas.

Kirilloff, who also hit a go-ahead home run in the Twins' victory over the Rangers on Friday, drove a 1-0 pitch from David Robertson into the bullpen in left-center, helping Minnesota win its fourth straight.

RANGERS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Semien 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.258
Seager ss	4	1	1	0	0	0	.254
Smith 3b	3	1	0	0	1	0	.274
García dh	4	0	1	1	0	3	.247
Taveras cf	4	0	2	1	0	0	.246
Lowe 1b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.250
Heim c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.253
E.Duran lf	3	1	1	1	0	0	.284
Jankowski lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.246
Carter rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.190
TOTALS	32	3	5	3	2	7	—

TWINS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Julien 2b	4	0	0	0	1	2	.201
Correa ss	2	1	0	1	1	1	.271
Miranda 3b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.287
Margot lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.196
Kepler rf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.303
Buxton cf	3	1	1	0	1	0	.250
Jeffers c	3	0	1	1	1	1	.255
Kirilloff dh	4	2	2	3	0	1	.215
Santana 1b	2	0	0	0	2	0	.205
Castro lf-3b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.260
TOTALS	29	5	7	5	7	7	—

TEXAS..... 000 111 000 — 3 5 0
MINNESOTA.. 100 000 13X — 5 7 0

LOB: Texas 4, Minnesota 8. **2B:** García (10), Taveras (8), Jeffers (13). **HR:** E.Duran (1), off Paddack; Kirilloff (5), off Robertson.

RANGERS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Lorenzen	6	3	1	1	3	4	3.35
Tinoco	⅓	1	1	1	1	1	7.71
Robertson	1	3	3	3	2	1	3.28
Yates	⅔	0	0	0	1	1	0.95

TWINS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Paddack	5	4	2	2	0	3	4.39
Funderburk	1	1	1	1	2	1	5.48
Sands	2	0	0	0	0	2	4.35
J.Duran	1	0	0	0	0	1	3.86

WP: Sands (2-0); **LP:** Robertson (2-2); **S:** J.Duran (6). **Inherited runners-scored:** Robertson 2-1. **T:** 2:36. **A:** 30,957 (38,544).

Athletics 3, Astros 1

JP Sears allowed one unearned run and two hits in six solid innings, and Brent Rooker hit a two-run double in the first for Oakland. It was the Athletics' first victory over the Astros this season after dropping the first five games.

With a win Sunday, Oakland would earn its second straight series win.

ASTROS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Altuve 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.294
Tucker rf	3	0	0	1	0	0	.281
Alvarez dh	3	0	1	0	1	0	.270
Bregman 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.204
Peña ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	.318
Meyers cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.289
Diaz c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.260
McCormick lf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.222
Singleton ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.231
Dubón 1b-lf	3	1	2	0	0	0	.321
TOTALS	30	1	4	1	1	6	—

ATHLETICS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Toro 3b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.274
Bleday cf	2	1	0	0	2	0	.245
Rooker dh	3	0	1	2	1	1	.286
S.Brown rf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.209
McCann c	2	0	1	0	1	1	.346
Langeliers ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.212
Soderstrom 1b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.211
Gelof 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.188
Cameron lf	4	0	1	1	0	1	.333
Schuemann ss	3	0	0	0	1	1	.242
TOTALS	30	3	6	3	6	8	—

HOUSTON ..... 000 001 000 — 1 4 0
OAKLAND ..... 200 001 00X — 3 6 1

E: Schuemann (3). **LOB:** Houston 5, Oakland 9. **2B:** Rooker (10).

ASTROS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Arrighetti	5	5	3	3	3	7	6.93
Scott	1	1	0	0	1	1	1.73
Mushinski	1	0	0	0	1	0	5.00
Martinez	1	0	0	0	1	0	2.15

ATHLETICS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Sears	6	2	1	0	1	1	3.88
Adams	⅓	1	0	0	0	1	2.60
Erceg	1	1	0	0	0	1	2.86
Alexander	⅔	0	0	0	0	0	3.86
Miller	1	0	0	0	0	3	1.96

WP: Sears (4-3); **LP:** Arrighetti (2-5); **S:** Miller (10). **Inherited runners-scored:** Scott 2-1, Erceg 1-0, Alexander 1-0. **HBP:** Sears (Altuve). **WP:** Mushinski, Erceg. **T:** 2:24. **A:** 10,617 (46,847).

Brewers 6, Red Sox 3

Joey Ortiz hit a two-run double to cap a five-run third inning, and Milwaukee beat Boston.

Brice Turang added a solo homer for the Brewers, who beat the Red Sox for the second straight day.

Ceddanne Rafaela drove in two runs for Boston, which went hitless through six innings.

BREWERS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Turang 2b	4	1	1	1	1	2	.301
Contreras c	5	0	1	0	0	2	.333
Yelich lf	4	1	1	0	1	0	.323
Adames ss	4	1	1	0	1	1	.244
Bauers 1b	5	1	2	1	0	0	.231
Sánchez dh	3	1	1	1	1	2	.228
Frelick rf	4	1	2	1	0	1	.248
Ortiz 3b	4	0	2	2	0	0	.285
Perkins cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.231
TOTALS	37	6	11	6	4	8	—

RED SOX	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Duran cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.272
Wong c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.333
O'Neill lf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.236
Refsnyder lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.333
Devers 3b	4	2	2	0	0	1	.276
González dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.276
Abreu rf	3	1	1	1	0	0	.271
Cooper ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.205
Smith 1b	1	0	0	0	0	3	.210
Rafaela ss	4	0	2	2	0	0	.200
Hamilton 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.250
TOTALS	32	3	5	3	4	7	—

MILWAUKEE . 005 000 010 — 6 11 0
BOSTON..... 000 000 201 — 3 5 0

LOB: Milwaukee 8, Boston 6. **2B:** Adames (16), Yelich (4), Ortiz (8), Contreras (15), Devers (11), Abreu (13). **HR:** Turang (3), off Kelly.

BREWERS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Koenig	1⅓	0	0	0	0	3	2.45
Rea	5⅔	3	2	2	3	2	3.98
Milner	1⅓	1	1	1	1	2	1.19
Megill	⅓	1	0	0	0	1	1.93

RED SOX	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Pivetta	3⅓	7	5	5	3	3	4.20
Booser	1⅓	2	0	0	0	3	3.38
Kelly	3	2	1	1	0	2	2.16
Weissert	1	0	0	0	1	0	2.11

WP: Rea (4-2); **LP:** Pivetta (2-3); **S:** Megill (8). **Inherited runners-scored:** Megill 2-1, Booser 1-0. **T:** 2:41. **A:** 34,822 (37,755).

Orioles 5, White Sox 3

ORIOLES	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Henderson ss	3	0	0	0	2	0	.268
Rutschman c	4	1	0	0	1	0	.296
O'Hearn rf	4	1	1	2	0	1	.276
Hays rf-lf	1	0	1	0	0	0	.179
Mountcastle 1b	5	1	1	0	0	0	.271
Santander dh	3	1	1	2	1	2	.205
Cowser cf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.248
Westburg 2b-3b	4	1	3	1	0	1	.285
Stowers lf-rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.250
Urías 3b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.180
Mullins ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.193
Mateo 2b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.245
TOTALS	35	5	8	5	5	9	—

WHITE SOX	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Pham cf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.327
Vaughn dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.198
Sheets 1b	4	0	1	3	0	1	.242
Julks rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.333
DeJong ss	3	0	1	0	1	1	.240
Ramos 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Benintendi lf	2	1	0	0	2	0	.181
Lopez 2b	2	1	2	0	1	0	.234
Mendick ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.203
Maldonado c	2	0	0	0	0	1	.086
Lee ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.276
TOTALS	30	3	5	3	5	10	—

BALTIMORE... 000 000 050 — 5 8 0
CHICAGO..... 000 030 000 — 3 5 0

LOB: Baltimore 8, Chicago 6. **3B:** Sheets (1). **HR:** O'Hearn (7), off Leasure; Santander (9), off Kopech; Westburg (8), off Kopech. **RBI:** O'Hearn 2 (18), Santander 2 (29), Westburg (31), Sheets 3 (17). **S:** Maldonado.

ORIOLES	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Suárez	4	2	0	0	2	3	1.53
Akin	1⅓	3	3	3	3	2	3.70
Tate	2⅓	0	0	0	0	4	2.40
Pérez	1	0	0	0	0	1	5.06

WHITE SOX	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Fedde	6⅓	3	0	0	3	6	2.80
Leasure	1	1	2	2	1	2	2.91
Kopech	⅔	3	3	3	0	1	4.18
Hill	1	1	0	0	1	0	2.84

WP: Tate (2-0); **LP:** Kopech (1-4); **S:** Pérez (1). **Inherited runners-scored:** Tate 2-0, Leasure 2-0. **T:** 2:51. **A:** 22,283 (40,241).

ORIOLES' LEADERS

Entering Sunday's game.

Batters	Avg	R	H	2B	HR	RBI	BB
McKenna	.375	3	3	0	2	2	1
Rutschman	.296	27	59	7	9	33	11
Westburg	.285	26	51	10	8	31	14
O'Hearn	.276	17	35	4	7	18	13
Mountcastle	.271	26	48	13	6	19	11
Henderson	.268	39	52	5	17	37	25
Stowers	.250	1	3	1	0	1	0
Cowser	.248	16	34	11	6	23	19
Mateo	.245	18	23	9	3	9	6

With three homers, O's rally in the eighth

ORIOLES 5, WHITE SOX 3

BY MATT WEYRICH

CHICAGO — It took eight innings, but the Baltimore Orioles' offense woke up in a hurry Saturday with three home runs against the Chicago White Sox bullpen to spark a 5-3 comeback win.

Ryan O'Hearn and Anthony Santander each hit two-run homers to erase a 3-0 de

Williams's stuff is striking as Nationals top Mariners

NATIONALS FROM D1

With Ruiz in motion off first base, Vargas's weak grounder to short brought home Victor Robles, who pinch-ran after Jesse Winker exited with cramps. Joey Gallo added a single that brought Ruiz home from second.

Williams, who had a 5.55 ERA in 30 starts a season ago, is throwing his fastball less often and using breaking balls more to make that fastball seem faster. That's why Canzone appeared so perplexed as he gazed at the scoreboard — and he wasn't alone.

Six of Williams's eight strikeouts against the Mariners (27-26) came on fastballs; the other two were on sweepers. The velocity of those fastballs: 90.1, 88.9, 88.8. 89.5, 90.2 and 89.0.

"He's been pitching really well," Manager Dave Martinez said. "The biggest thing is mixing all of his pitches, keeping guys off balance. His fastball up played well today with two strikes. He did a great job."

He has all season, which could force the Nationals into a difficult decision soon.

Before the game, Josiah Gray threw a 23-pitch live bullpen session, his first since he was sidelined with a strained right flexor muscle in early April. Nasim Nuñez and Riley Adams rotated in the batter's box; a horde of coaches, staffers and players watched.

Gray tested out his full arsenal. His takeaways? The fastball, cutter and change-up were sharp. So was his slider, though he said his other breaking pitches weren't as crisp as he develops a feel for them. Gray will throw his next live bullpen session in five days. He admitted it has been difficult to remain patient, but strong performances from the rotation in his absence have made it easier.



JOHN MCDONNELL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trevor Williams allowed one run on five hits in five-plus innings of work Saturday to lower his ERA to 2.29 over 10 starts this season.

"These guys have been phenomenal," Gray said. "From Trevor to MacKenzie [Gore], all five of them have been phenomenal, and it's fun to watch. I want to be a part of it sooner rather than later."

Gray isn't the only pitcher whose return is getting closer. Cade Cavalli, on his way back from Tommy John surgery, threw 47 pitches over four innings in a intrasquad game in Florida and struck out eight, Martinez said. Like Gray, he will throw again in five days. Martinez said the Nationals haven't decided when they will shift him to rehab starts at their minor league affiliates.

Both still have some time until they return. Other injuries could occur. But if the rotation remains as it is, a choice would have to be made soon. As the season opened, it seemed Williams was the leading contender to shift to the bullpen to make room for younger arms. That seems unlikely now — he has turned himself into a potential trade candidate on an expiring contract.

The Nationals could shift to a six-man rotation. They could designate Patrick Corbin for assignment or move him to the bullpen, but Martinez hasn't done the latter in the past despite the left-hander's struggles. They also could send lefty Mitchell Parker back to the minors for more seasoning, but the rookie has transitioned smoothly since he was called up to fill in for Gray. Gore and Jake Irvin seem locked into the rotation during solid seasons.

No matter what, the Nationals will have to make a move. With each outing, Williams is making the choice more difficult.

"[Gray and Cavalli] still got quite a ways to go," Martinez said. "These other guys are pitching well, so my focus is on getting these guys ready to play every day and continue to do what they're doing."

NATIONALS ON DECK

vs. Seattle Mariners		
Sunday	1:35	MASN2
at Atlanta Braves		
Monday	4:10	MASN2
Tuesday	7:20	MASN2
Wednesday	7:20	MASN2
Thursday	7:20	MASN
at Cleveland Guardians		
Friday	7:10	MASN
Saturday	4:10	MASN
June 2	1:40	MASN

Radio: WJFK (106.7 FM), WDCN (87.7 FM)

A Japanese pitching prodigy is ready to disrupt the norms of the major leagues

SASAKI FROM D1

planning for Sasaki to be posted this offseason, long before he would become an international free agent, even though neither Sasaki nor his team will confirm the plan.

His careful push comes as an unprecedented number of Japanese stars are making their presence felt in MLB, and it's a high-profile challenge to the system that requires those players to wait until their teams decide they are ready to make them available to major league teams. If a player leaves before he turns 25, he qualifies only for a limited signing bonus and rookie salary when he reaches the United States. If he qualifies only for a rookie salary, his NPB team does not receive the same amount of financial compensation that it would if he signed a traditional free agent deal. To date, only Los Angeles Dodgers star Shohei Ohtani left before he turned 25, though the consensus was that he was as ready to jump as he was rare.

But as more and more Japanese stars find their way to stateside stardom, the dutiful wait becomes more and more difficult for both players and MLB teams to tolerate. The uncomfortable reality for Japanese clubs is that talent is starting to outweigh tradition, and those in the industry on both sides of the Pacific see Sasaki's situation as both a product of changes underway and a harbinger of change to come.

The Marines, Sasaki's NBP team, did not make the pitcher available for an interview. But even if they had, he probably would never admit publicly what people around him say is evident behind closed doors: Despite NPB's long tradition of waiting to depart, the 22-year-old wants to play in MLB as soon as possible.

"He asks me about [the big leagues] every day," said his Chiba Lotte teammate Gregory Polanco, who played eight seasons for the Pittsburgh Pirates. "I go in there, and he's joking around: 'I'm going to this [MLB] team, I'm going to that [MLB] team!' He's so ready to go."

MLB scouts and executives seem to think Sasaki is coming, too. They are scouting him regularly. They are traveling to Japan to see him. And they are keeping international bonus space clear for him, just in case: Because of the limitations on how much any team can pay him, almost every team in baseball, not just the usual free-spending suspects, is likely to make a run.

But an early posting would have financial implications for Sasaki, the Marines and whichever MLB team lands him.

The way Japanese players become available to MLB suitors, known as the posting system, sets the parameters by which a Japanese player who has not played the nine years needed to become a free agent in Japan can make a move to MLB anyway. That system mandates that both the team and the player agree to make him available for major league teams to sign, and it sets out the percentage of his eventual deal that his NPB team will receive as compensation. The more he signs for in MLB, the more his NPB team makes.

But if a player is posted to MLB before 25 — Ohtani remains the lone player to have taken that route — he receives the same treatment as teenagers from Latin America. He enters the majors on a rookie salary, unable to immediately negotiate full free agent contracts. At best, he can negotiate a signing bonus, but his deal is subject to international bonus pool restrictions. Those players cannot make as much money right away, and their NPB teams get less compensation as a result.



KAZUHIRO NOGI/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

MLB teams are planning for Roki Sasaki, bottom left, to be posted this offseason, long before he would become an international free agent.

Japanese teams have little incentive to post players before they turn 25. A player can work with a team to include a clause in his contract, which could, in theory, dictate an earlier posting. But those clauses are not standard and are rarely made public. If Sasaki has one, neither he nor anyone around him is saying so.

And while Japanese players do not normally negotiate with their NPB teams through agents, rumors have long swirled that Wasserman's Joel Wolfe, who represents Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto and San Diego Padres star Yu Darvish, is helping Sasaki through the process and will handle his move to MLB. Wolfe declined to comment for this story.

Despite everyone's best efforts to keep them politely out of sight, hints of a disagreement between player and team wafted out of Chiba this winter. Sasaki's annual contract negotiations with the club took far longer than normal, stretching toward spring training and requiring the Marines to hold a news conference in which Sasaki said any delay was because his agent and the team "went over many details meticulously until we arrived at a deal both sides were satisfied with," as reported by Jim Allen, a writer who covers Japanese baseball.

The Marines, too, avoided making any firm commitments to a posting timeline, in keeping with NPB norms that dictate such announcements come after the season. If the Marines have stipulated a checklist Sasaki must complete before he goes, no one is making that clear, either. In fact, both sides are showing a dogged commitment to obfuscation rather than acknowledging any tension.

"We talk about it every year. I can't predict the timing," Chiba Lotte head of baseball operations Naoki Matsumoto told reporters, including Allen. "[His departure before he turns 25] is something I absolutely do not know about."

'Monster of the Reiwa Era'

Sasaki was still in high school when observers anointed him "The Monster of the Reiwa Era," the greatest pitcher of this Japanese imperial age. The nickname placed him in an impressive lineage, one that includes Ohtani, Yamamoto, Darvish and Daisuke Matsuzaka and traces its way through the likes of Hideo Nomo in the mid-1990s.

But as monsters go, Sasaki is an unproven predator, a pigeon-toed, baby-faced savant whose legend grew as much around things he could not control as it did the arsenal he is learning how to harness.

He was 9 when an earthquake hit Japan and triggered a massive tsunami in the Iwate prefecture where he and his family lived. His father and grandparents died in the disaster, which took an estimated 20,000 lives. The wave washed away his childhood home, forcing his mother to take his family to Ofunato, where the baseball portion of his story began.

His middle school was a shelter for disaster victims. His baseball hero, Masahiro Tanaka, and the Rakuten Eagles, whose home city of Sendai had been among the hardest hit, earned a stunning NPB championship in 2013. That offseason, Tanaka, having reached the apex of his NPB career, became a New York Yankee.

And soon after, Sasaki became a Japanese high school legend. He touched 101 mph in a high school game. He was so good, so young, that his high school coach did something high school coaches simply did not do: He benched his biggest star in a must-win game to preserve his miraculous right arm. The game, the 2019 Iwate prefecture championship, came in Japan's vaunted high school baseball tournament, known as Koshien. Sasaki sat — and his team lost, 12-2, to Ohtani's alma mater.

Sasaki told reporters he wanted to pitch. Locals criticized his coach as if the decision cost the team a Super Bowl victory, peppering his school with angry phone calls. But Sasaki had arrived just as long-entrenched Japanese training norms were starting to give way to less dogmatic American influences. In a Japanese baseball culture that for so long had prized duty to present team — high school team, professional team, whatever — Sasaki became a somewhat polarizing figure because of a decision that prioritized his future.

He had every right to aspire. He debuted in May 2021 and pitched to a 2.27 ERA in his first 11 professional starts. In 2022, he threw the first perfect game in NPB in 28 years, striking out 19 hitters and adding to the buzz growing on both sides of the Pacific.

Last season, Sasaki held opponents to a 1.78 ERA, which would have trailed only Yamamoto, the right-hander now with the Dodgers, and Shoki Murakami, had Sasaki thrown enough innings to qualify. At 21, he averaged 13.4 strikeouts per nine innings. Reporters snapped pictures of upper-level MLB executives watching him in Japan. A photo of Dodgers executive Andrew Friedman standing by as Sasaki throws often circulates online when fans wonder about Sasaki's eventual destination.

Multiple teams are rotating scouts through his starts, making sure more than one person sees him, vetting the man whose legend has so far outpaced his résumé.

Polanco, his Chiba Lotte teammate, said he has little doubt Sasaki not only will make it to the majors but succeed there. At the same time, as someone who made his MLB debut at 22 and never quite found the stardom he anticipated, Polanco admitted he is trying to remind Sasaki that he has plenty of time to do so.

"Now that Yamamoto's gone, he's the best pitcher in Japan. He throws super hard. He's tall. The split is nasty. Breaking ball. Everything," Polanco said. "I tell him, he's really young, he needs more experience. I'm like, 'Hey, stay a little bit longer.' He's like, 'No, I want to go!' "

In Japan, something to prove

On this chilly March day, with the wind blowing in from Tokyo Bay whipping off hats of fans, Sasaki looks uncomfortable. His fastball keeps missing to his arm side, making it easy to take, which means no one has much reason to bite on his devastating splitter. His velocity is fine, jumping as high as 98 mph and sitting a few ticks slower. But he is clearly hunting for command, and he is looking for it in the rosin bag, which he visits after every pitch.

Through two innings, Sasaki allows four runs on four hits and walks three, looking nothing like the once-in-a-lifetime ace the people here are braving the cold to see throw a meaningless preseason game.

But those people — and others who have watched Chiba regularly during Sasaki's tenure — know the pitcher is still very much a work in progress. While stateside dreamers pencil him in at the top of their teams' 2025 rotations, Sasaki did not even serve as his team's Opening Day starter in 2024. Here, he still has something to prove.

"Some people think he's not physically ready yet. They've been saving him a lot," said Hiroshi Sasaki, a prominent high school baseball coach who helped mold Ohtani. "Because of that, his team seems hesitant to send him off now in a state where he's maybe not fully ready."

"Fully ready," of course, means different things to different people, and how Chiba Lotte's management defines it is intentionally unclear. At a news conference in March, Matsumoto, Lotte's head of baseball operations, did not say whether he felt Sasaki was ready or what more the 22-year-old might need to do to demonstrate that he is. So much of Sasaki's situation exists in that intentional uncertainty: The team hoping to keep a young talent as long as possible does not want to disparage him publicly, and Sasaki would never want to disclose anything that might discourage Lotte from posting him at the first possible chance.

But people familiar with the way NPB teams operate suggested that the main question about Sasaki, who was treated with such care in high school and beyond, is whether he can handle a full season of work: He threw 129⅓ innings in his first full season in 2022, then sat out part of last summer because of an oblique injury and threw just 91 innings. Most Japanese aces, who throw weekly instead of every five days, threw 150 to 170 innings in 2023.

If Sasaki needs to prove he can handle a full season or simply provide a full season of dutiful dominance before the Marines are willing to post him, he is on track to do so. That uncomfortable March spring training start was followed by a few others in which Sasaki did not look like a man about to seize the global baseball spotlight. And as he began the regular season in April, his fastball velocity — normally in the high 90s with regular flashes of 100 — dipped into the mid-90s enough that some MLB evaluators started to ask around about it, according to a person familiar with the situation.

But in recent weeks, as he moved further from the stress of drawn-out contract negotiations — a more awkward and less regular part of NPB culture than it is in MLB — Sasaki seemed to settle into more regular dominance. Through eight starts, he is pitching to a 2.18 ERA with 61 strikeouts in 53⅔ innings. This past week, Sasaki tossed seven scoreless innings against one of NPB's more talented lineups, throwing 119 pitches without issue. Fairly or not, outings such as those are what is expected of him, and they always have been.

"I know the pressure, especially here. I think that pressure is why he wants to be perfect every time he goes out there," Polanco said. "We were talking last week, and he had thrown a bullpen. A bullpen! And he was shaking his head because it wasn't good. I said: 'It's March! It's spring training. You will start feeling better!' Every day I try to tell him: 'You're a great pitcher. Just relax. You have a great arm. You know how to pitch.' It's hard because he's really young and everybody is watching every time he plays catch."

Relatively speaking, Sasaki is not as established as many Japanese aces who made the leap to MLB. Yamamoto won three Sawamura Awards, NPB's version of the Cy Young, before he made the jump. Sasaki has not won one. Chicago Cubs left-hander Shota Imanaga led his league in strikeouts the season before heading stateside. Sasaki has not done that, either. While Ohtani's bat made him a special case, even he led his league in ERA and pitched three seasons of 140 innings or more before he made the leap. Sasaki is untested by comparison.

But for MLB teams, Sasaki has already passed the requisite tests: He would be 23 on Opening Day 2025. He throws 100 mph with the kind of splitter his countrymen have used to great effect against MLB hitters in recent years. And if he is posted this year, while he is still subject to international signing rules, he will come cheap. Ready or not, Sasaki will be on his way to MLB sooner than later. He seems to believe, as do MLB teams, that he is far too talented to be held back by convention.

D.C. United stumbles to home draw against sputtering Chicago

D.C. UNITED 1, FIRE 1

BY STEVEN GOFF



AMBER SEARLS/USA TODAY SPORTS

Defender Christopher McVey, left, put D.C. United in front with a first-half goal, but the home team had to settle for a draw at Audi Field.

D.C. United's first season under Coach Troy Lesesne has brought both thrills and frustration — an anticipated range of emotions as long-term plans take hold. Amid the growing process, though, matches such as Saturday's against the stumbling Chicago Fire carry higher expectations.

Anything shy of three points would be considered a failure in the moment and a setback to United's ambitions of returning to the MLS playoffs after four consecutive misses.

United was headed in the right direction before veering off course in the second half and settling for a 1-1 draw before 19,081 at Audi Field.

D.C. (4-5-6) is winless in three straight and fell to 3-3-2 at home. After a run of seven goals in three matches, it has managed two in its past three outings — both by central defenders.

Chicago (2-8-5) is winless in eight (0-5-3) and has scored three goals in that time.

"Chicago was better than us in the second half," Lesesne said. "We're fortunate to get a point out of that, and that's not good enough."

Christopher McVey scored midway through the first half, but Chicago's Kellyn Acosta responded early in the second.

United's frustration was heard throughout the locker room.

"We know how we want to play," captain Steven Birnbaum said. "We've shown spells of it. It's frustrating to not put a full performance together over the last couple of games, and so that needs to be addressed. We know it needs to be addressed."

Goalkeeper Alex Bono said: "We come out for the second half, and we look like a different team. It's self-inflicted. . . . We can't keep playing like this and expect to do what we want to do this year."

United has failed to protect leads six times, resulting in two defeats and four draws.

"Story of the season," right back Aaron Herrera said. "Take the lead and then come out the second half super lackadaisical and give them a bad goal. It's shocking we haven't figured it out yet. Can't just keep doing the same thing over and over. It's getting ridiculous at this point."

United went ahead in the 20th minute on McVey's first goal of the season and second in 65 MLS appearances. Mateusz Klich launched a free kick from the center circle. Birnbaum won the header in the penalty area, flicking it into McVey's path at the top of the six-yard box for a right-footed poke past goalkeeper Chris Brady.

After finishing the half without a shot on goal or corner kick, the Fire set the terms after intermission.

"We were too passive," Birnbaum said.

"You can see in the first half we disrupted them," Lesesne said. "We were [performing] in our way. I think you could see our identity. You could not see that in the second half."

In the 53rd minute, Andrew Gutman's cross set up one-touch passing between Acosta and Hugo Cuypers before Acosta drove an 18-yarder into the low left corner. United has not recorded a shutout since March 30.

United's energy remained high, but its execution was poor and its defensive effort conceded ample space. United could not find a rhythm, and top scorer Christian Benteke didn't receive quality service in the box.

"Second half, we were one-dimensional at best," Lesesne said.

Late in the game, Birnbaum's header flew wide of the back post and Chicago's Maren Haile-Selassie threatened twice.

"We're past the point of taking small positives and trying to work them into our process," Bono said. "It's time the results need to come."

The match began the start of another stretch of three games in eight days for United, which will visit Montreal (3-7-4) on Wednesday and host Toronto (7-7-1) next Saturday.

Here's what else to know about United's draw:

Roster shortage

Winger Martín Rodríguez (concussion) and defender-midfielder Pedro Santos (hip) were ruled out, leaving United with just 15 non-goalkeepers. The 17-man active squad was three fewer than the maximum.

Midfielder Russell Canouse (colon surgery) and defender Conner Antley (ACL) are out for the year. Left back Mohanad Jeahze's contract was bought out by the team, people close to the matter said, and David Schnegg (Austria's Sturm Graz) is expected to debut after the transfer window opens July 18.

National team call-ups

While United is off during the FIFA window June 3 to 11, Herrera will join Guatemala for World Cup qualifiers vs. Dominica and the British Virgin Islands.

He will skip the June 14 friendly vs. Argentina in Landover because it falls outside the window and United plays the next day in Charlotte. Defender Matti Peltola is scheduled to join Finland for friendlies at Portugal and Scotland.

New field planned

Badly scarred by football games, Audi Field's grass is set to be replaced early this summer, though a date has not been disclosed.

The D.C. Defenders' final home game is June 2. The U.S. women's national team is scheduled to visit July 16 for its final Olympic tune-up.

D.C. United at CF Montreal
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Apple TV Plus

French is wide open, with drama a possibility

FRENCH OPEN FROM D1

of this month in Berlin. He is charged with assaulting a former girlfriend in 2020, denies the charges and continues to play because there is no specific policy in tennis regarding punishment for domestic abuse charges. He said at a pretournament news conference Friday that the trial is "not at all" on his mind because he believes in the German court system.

Zverev learned of his match with Nadal after a practice session Thursday when his brother told him.

"I actually thought he's joking in the beginning," Zverev said Friday.

No joke. Zverev will face the 37-year-old titan with a record 14 titles at Roland Garros and, oh, yeah, a statue near the grounds' entrance. Nadal has never lost in the first round there, but he has never faced a top-five seed so early.

The pair will meet on footing so unequal that they might as well be standing on the slope of a mountain.

Nadal returns to Roland Garros having missed the tournament last year for the first time since 2005 because of a hip injury. After missing most of 2023 and playing in only four tournaments this year, his ranking has dipped to No. 276 and he is unseeded for the first time. In three clay-court events in April and May, he had two second-round exits and one fourth-round defeat. He has long said the 2024 season will be his last.

Zverev, meanwhile, is 28-9 in singles matches this year and won the Italian Open in Rome last week with his deft touch, snappy power and fluid mobility on full display. Despite his success, he is mentally preparing to play Nadal the 22-time Grand Slam champion, not Nadal the limping veteran. The Spaniard still has the strongest willpower in tennis no matter his physical state, and plenty of impending retirees have rattled off improbable runs at major tournaments with less.

"I expect him to be at his absolute best," Zverev said.

If he is, Nadal will be one of the few big names in the men's draw who could say that. He is far from the only top player whose health is in question entering the tournament, and as a result the men's field is truly open for the first time in 20 years. The women? Not so much. Top-seeded Swiatek leads women's tennis's burgeoning big three alongside second-seeded and reigning Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka and fourth-seeded Elena Rybakina — together, the trio have won six of the past eight Grand Slam titles. Third-seeded Coco Gauff, a 2022 French Open finalist and the reigning U.S. Open champion, lurks as well.

Swiatek will be difficult to topple. The defending champion arrives in Paris on a 12-match winning streak and is looking to become the first woman since Serena Williams in 2013 to win titles in Madrid, Rome and Roland Garros.

The men are in varying states of disarray.

Third-seeded Carlos Alcaraz is dealing with a right forearm issue that forced him to miss clay-court tournaments in Barcelona, Monte Carlo and Rome. Sinner, the No. 2 seed, pulled out of his quarterfinal match in Madrid after injuring his hip and skipped his home tournament, the Italian Open. Casper Ruud, the No. 7 seed and a French Open finalist in 2022 and 2023, has complained of a back issue of late. Top-seeded Novak Djokovic hasn't played his best tennis all year, lost in the third round in Rome and continued his search for answers by playing a lower-level tournament in Geneva before coming to Roland Garros.

And Zverev, of course, has the Nadal thing.

There is a silver lining to the first-round meeting for the German. Zverev wanted to face Nadal once more in his career because, during the previous match they played, a semifinal in the 2022 French Open that was on its way to becoming a classic after three hours and just two sets, Zverev fell and shredded several ligaments in his ankle. Zverev said Friday he didn't want his last memory of playing Nadal to be rolling off Court Philippe Chatrier in a wheelchair.

"I really wanted to play him here," Zverev said. "I did not want to play him in the first round."

With help from Wierman, Terps move to title game

MARYLAND FROM D1

17th appearance in the NCAA final and its eighth under Coach John Tillman.

"We didn't maybe get off to the greatest start at first, but . . . [Wierman] seemed to be locked in and ready to go," Tillman said of the Terps' career leader in faceoff wins and groundballs. "So offensively I think that definitely gives us some confidence. Luke is awesome."

With senior attackman Daniel Kelly contributing three goals and Wierman collecting 10 groundballs, both game highs, Maryland continued its offensive resurgence. In three NCAA tournament games, the Terps have scored 42 times while limiting two of their opponents to eight goals or fewer. Before a crowd of 32,269, Maryland avenged a 14-10 loss March 16 in College Park. Wierman went 16 for 28 on faceoffs in that one.

Goalie Logan McNaney had eight saves Saturday, five of which came in the second half as Maryland opened an 11-4 lead going into the fourth quarter. The decisive third period featured the Terps scoring four of the five goals. Graduate midfielder Ryan Siracusa and junior attackman Eric Spanos (two goals, three assists) buried the last two within three minutes of each other.

The close defense tandem of senior Ajax Zappitello, the No. 3 selection in the Premier Lacrosse League draft and the most decorated player at his position in program history, and junior Colin Burlace limited Shellenberger and Cormier to two goals on 10 shots while forcing them into six turnovers. Shellenberger is Virginia's career leader in points, and Cormier is the NCAA's all-time leader in goals.

"Ajax is incredible," Burlace said of Zappitello stifling Shellenberger after getting beaten for a one-on-one goal in the first quarter. "We have the utmost confidence in him to win his matchup and do his job, which allows us to kind of do our own thing and not worry about that as much. And being able to take a player like Connor Shellenberger and kind of put him on an island with Ajax, I mean, Shellenberger is going to get his every now and then, but we trust Ajax."



BILL STREICHER/USA TODAY SPORTS

Daniel Kelly scored three goals for the Terps, who are a win away from a second title in three years.

Freshman attackman McCabe Millon scored two goals for the Cavaliers (12-6), whose undoing included a 38-29 deficit in groundballs and just 15 shots on goal. Sophomore goalie Kyle Morris stopped five shots after getting the starting nod over Matthew Nunes. The junior, who was uneven this season, had started every game of his career except for two appearances coming off the bench during senior day in Charlottesville.

Last week, during an 11-10 upset of No. 3 seed Johns Hopkins in the quarterfinals, Virginia Coach Lars Tiffany pulled Nunes in the first quarter after he permitted four goals on five shots. This time, Nunes replaced Morris at the start of the fourth quarter with the outcome all but decided. Maryland had a 7-3 lead at halftime after stringing together an early 6-1 run.

"Unfortunately, we were on the wrong side of possession today, and [credit] Luke Wierman — credit that first half, where it was really lopsided," Tiffany said after the Cavaliers scored their fewest goals since he took over in 2016. "We were generating a lot of shots, but we just weren't putting them on cage, and we were playing too much defense as it went on.

"It was one of those days where we needed the ball more. Luke Wierman wouldn't allow that to happen."

BARRY SVRLUGA

NCAA must get out in front of changes in college sports

SVRLUGA FROM D1

with a massive new entry for athlete pay — when a guy in a trench coat is leaning against a lamp post saying: "Psst. Over here. I got some cash"?

The alternative would be sitting down with, say, Clemson football coach Dabo Swinney and saying: "Now, Dabo. I know your contract says you make nearly $11 million annually. That's not going to work going forward because we have to pay your quarterback and your linebackers and your linemen. Would $2 million a year be enough to get by in the greater Greenville, S.C., area?"

Those would be hard talks across every major college athletic department and coaching staff. So if someone's offering new funding — given that, under terms of the settlement, each college would be allowed to spend roughly $20 million on what would amount to player "salaries" in the future — it's going to be awfully tempting for schools to take it. And in taking money, they cede authority.

"If the free market is permitted to operate," Feldman said, "then the schools are going to say, 'The way that we're going to win is by, yes, getting the best players but also the best coach and the best facility.' They'll compete every way they can. And this competition now includes a much bigger line item for compensation to athletes. But that doesn't mean they still don't want to get the best coach."

So why not recalibrate?

The reality is that the NCAA has been willfully behind in evaluating the merits of its model for four decades. In 1984, the Supreme Court ruled the NCAA couldn't set its own market for television broadcasts. In 1988, it lost the right to cap earnings for certain assistant basketball coaches. In 2014, it lost the ability to prevent former athletes from profiting off NIL. In 2021, it lost the ability to prevent athletes from earning perks beyond a regular scholarship. In 2024, it was faced with losing four more cases — the three that were settled last week and another that's ongoing — so it came up with billions of dollars.

So now, how to control the costs? Not to suppress payments to athletes but to make sure the new system is sustainable and stable. Take the projected $20 million each school would be allowed to pay its athletes. That's way more than athletes made, say, a decade ago because, by my math, $20 million > $0.

But that cap could be agreed to one year and questioned the next by a new athlete who — correctly — assesses that it's not proportionate to what the athletes contribute.

"That [$20 million] — or whatever the cap ends up being," Feldman said, "absent federal legislation or absent a union, that cap can be challenged."

Here's how on-its-head the world of college sports is at the moment: Some school officials are starting to *like* the idea of athletes unionizing. Sound crazy? Maybe it's not. Athletes unionizing would allow schools to collectively bargain with them. And collective bargaining takes antitrust law out of the equation.

Maybe that happens. Maybe it doesn't. These settled lawsuits and the new landscape they will yield represent a beginning, not an end. What happens from here is still to be determined.

It's important for the NCAA, for college presidents and athletic directors, to understand that. Don't exhale and act as if it's settled, because it's not. They all need to be predictive and productive — they need to *lead* — because if they aren't and they don't, they're more likely to end up back in a courtroom or around a negotiating table, having decisions made for them, continuing a college sports tradition that should have ended long ago.



LINDSEY WASSON/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jade Melbourne scored 13 points off the bench, but the Mystics shot 34.3 percent from the field Saturday in a 101-69 loss at Seattle.

On offense, the Mystics are streaky, struggling

BY KAREEM COPELAND

SEATTLE — Real streaky.

That's the way Washington Mystics Coach Eric Thibault described his team's offense over the season's first five games, all losses for the new-look squad. It was more of a struggle than expected even with a retooled roster that lost a two-time WNBA MVP and the organization's career leader in assists.

Those stretches of stagnant offense have buried the Mystics and left them as the league's last winless team. Before Saturday night's 101-69 loss to the Seattle Storm dropped them to 0-6, their first five games featured these hiccups:

- A 10-0 drought in the fourth quarter against New York in the season opener, a five-point loss.
- A 15-0 fourth-quarter skid at Connecticut, a seven-point loss.
- An 11-point fourth quarter against Seattle, a nine-point loss.
- A 10-1 spell in the fourth quarter in Los Angeles, a two-point loss.
- A 15-0 stretch in the third quarter in Phoenix, a three-point loss.

The struggles weren't surprising for a team scoring the fewest points in the WNBA at 75.4 per game entering Saturday. The Mystics' field goal percentage of 41.4 ranked 10th out of 12 teams.

"We're trying to do a couple of things just to simplify so we know what we're in," Thibault said. "I feel like, in games right now, it's sometimes when we have a couple-possession lead and a chance to stretch it off of some stops and we're not converting. That's killing us. We've got to get in transition."

Added Ariel Atkins: "We have times where we're doing really well, and there's other times where we look like we have no idea what's going on on the court."

That simplification, Thibault explained, means the Mystics won't call as many set plays. He wants the players to know one or two things to run coming off a make or a miss so everyone can play fast. There will be more sets coming off breaks in play.

Offensive struggles were expected without Elena Delle Donne and Natasha Cloud, particularly early in the season with three new starters, including Shakira Austin, who is returning from a season-ending torn labrum in her hip. Chemistry and flow remain a work in progress. On top of incorporating Stefanie Dolson and Karlie Samuelson into the starting lineup, Austin remains on a minutes restriction; she had a planned day off against the Storm last weekend in D.C. and then left the team for personal reasons before Saturday's game here. Also, new starting point guard Brittney Sykes went down with an ankle injury in the second game and has yet to return. She's the best downhill attacker on the roster, and Thibault said the Mystics don't put pressure on the rim the same way without her. That leaves them having to create in other ways — with spacing, ball movement and post players running to the rim.

Thibault is looking for more opportunities in transition. He also wants the Mystics to be more purposeful in the offense instead of just swinging the ball around, waiting for something to open up.

"We're just letting a lot of opportunities slide," Thibault said. "We're executing okay when [it's] a dead ball or we know what we're in. But you don't want to do that every time, either, because if you try to call something and set people in the right spots, you're not going to play with any pace. So it's that in between want to play with pace but need to be organized where we have the biggest area for some growth here."

Streaky also applies to the Mystics' top offensive option. Atkins, a two-time all-star, has alternated between high-scoring games and ones in single digits.

Atkins wants to simplify her game and stop overthinking, but she's happy about her growth with the ball in her hands more this season. She wants fewer turnovers and to get in the paint more but believes all of that will come.

"It's pressure," she said. "I mean, there's no other way to put it. I'd be lying if I said there's no pressure for me to perform. I'm one of the highest-paid players. I've been here. I know what the coaches want. It is pressure. It's not bad pressure. It's exciting. Again, it comes with the territory of wanting to grow, wanting to get better. You want more responsibility. You want more accountability. You want to be great, [so] you've got to be challenged."

Inconsistency has been an early plague, but the Mystics got a much-needed boost from their bench in Thursday's loss to the Mercury. Shatori Walker-Kimbrough, who had 11 points, seems to be finding her aggression. A bump from Myisha Hines-Allen would have a significant impact; she's averaging just five points and has yet to score more than the seven she had Thursday.

The transition for 31-year-old rookie Julie Vanloo came faster than anyone thought; she has been thrust into the starting unit with Sykes sidelined. She entered Saturday averaging 9.4 points and 6.0 assists (tied for fifth in the league) and shooting 36.7 percent from behind the arc. Aaliyah Edwards also has had a strong start to her rookie season as the No. 6 draft pick, and her scoring numbers would be higher if not for struggles finishing around the rim.

But converting near the basket has been an issue for the entire team.

"Probably each game, [if] we make a few relatively easy layups, we're in the mid-80s instead of high 70s," Thibault said. "And we've defended well enough that if we get in the mid-80s, we've got a good chance to win the game."

Skid hits six

Not much changed Saturday night as the Mystics fell to the Storm. The Mystics are now 0-6 for their worst start since 2007, when they began 0-8. Defense, obviously, was an issue as well: The 101 points were a season high for the Storm and the most allowed by Washington.

A 15-4 run to close the first quarter gave Seattle a 25-15 lead, and Washington never got closer than seven points from there. Late-game scenarios have plagued the Mystics, but a 6-for-21 start put them in a hole this time. It would have been worse if Vanloo hadn't started 4 for 4 from the field.

The few positives: Vanloo (12 points) continued to play well in Sykes's absence, and Jade Melbourne had the best game of her career with 13 points off the bench against her former team. Atkins had the worst shooting game of her career at 0 for 12; she finished with two points. Samuelson had a team-high 16 as Washington shot 34.3 percent.

Nneka Ogwumike scored a game-high 19 points for the Storm, which had five players in double figures and shot 61.7 percent.

Dream at Mystics

Wednesday, 7 p.m., Monumental

SCOREBOARD

PRO BASKETBALL

NBA playoffs

SECOND ROUND

Best of seven

EASTERN CONFERENCE
CELTICS ELIMINATED CAVALIERS, 4-1
Game 1: at Boston 120, Cleveland 95
Game 2: Cleveland 118, at Boston 94
Game 3: Boston 106, at Cleveland 93
Game 4: Boston 109, at Cleveland 102
Game 5: at Boston 113, Cleveland 98

PACERS ELIMINATED KNICKS, 4-3
Game 1: at New York 121, Indiana 117
Game 2: at New York 130, Indiana 121
Game 3: at Indiana 111, New York 106
Game 4: at Indiana 121, New York 89
Game 5: at New York 121, Indiana 91
Game 6: at Indiana 116, New York 103
Game 7: Indiana 130, at New York 109

WESTERN CONFERENCE
TIMBERWOLVES ELIMINATED NUGGETS, 4-3
Game 1: Minnesota 106, at Denver 99
Game 2: Minnesota 106 at Denver 80
Game 3: Denver 117, at Minnesota 90
Game 4: Denver 115, at Minnesota 107
Game 5: at Denver 112, Minnesota 97
Game 6: at Minnesota 115, Denver 70
Game 7: Minnesota 98, at Denver 90

MAVERICKS ELIMINATED THUNDER, 4-2
Game 1: at Oklahoma City 117, Dallas 95
Game 2: Dallas 119, at Oklahoma City 110
Game 3: at Dallas 105, Oklahoma City 101
Game 4: Oklahoma City 100, at Dallas 96
Game 5: Dallas 104, at Oklahoma City 92
Game 6: at Dallas 117, Oklahoma City 116

CONFERENCE FINALS

Best of seven; x-If necessary

EASTERN CONFERENCE
CELTICS LEAD PACERS, 3-0
Game 1: at Boston 133, Indiana 128 (OT)
Game 2: at Boston 126, Indiana 110
Game 3: Boston 114, at Indiana 111
Monday's game: Boston at Indiana, 8
x-Wednesday's game: Indiana at Boston, TBA
x-Friday's game: Boston at Indiana, TBA
x-Sunday, June 2: Indiana at Boston, TBA

WESTERN CONFERENCE
MAVERICKS LEAD TIMBERWOLVES, 2-0
Game 1: Dallas 108, at Minnesota 105
Game 2: Dallas 109, at Minnesota 108
Sunday's game: Minnesota at Dallas, 8
Tuesday's game: Minnesota at Dallas, 8:30
x-Thursday's game: Dallas at Minnesota, TBA
x-Saturday's game: Minnesota at Dallas, TBA
x-Monday, June 3: Dallas at Minnesota, TBA

NBA FINALS
TBD VS. TBD
Thursday, June 6: Team TBD at Team TBD, TBA
Sunday, June 9: Team TBD at Team TBD, TBA
Wednesday, June 12: Team TBD at Team TBD, TBA
Friday, June 14: Team TBD at Team TBD, TBA
x-Monday, June 17: Team TBD at Team TBD, TBA
x-Thursday, June 20: Team TBD at Team TBD, TBA
x-Sunday, June 23: Team TBD at Team TBD, TBA

Celtics 114, Pacers 111

BOSTON	32	25	24	33 — 114
INDIANA	31	38	21	21 — 111

BOSTON: J.Brown 10-18 3-4 24, Tatum 12-23 7-11 36, Horford 8-14 0-0 23, Holiday 4-10 5-5 14, White 3-11 5-6 13, Hauser 0-3 0-0 0, Tillman 1-1 0-0 2, Brissett 0-0 0-0 0, Pritchard 1-3 0-0 2. **Totals** 39-83 20-26 114.

INDIANA: Nesmith 2-4 0-0 4, Siakam 9-18 4-4 22, Turner 9-16 4-4 22, Nembhard 12-21 4-4 32, Sheppard 0-4 0-0 0, Jackson 1-4 0-0 2, McDermott 1-1 0-0 2, Toppin 2-6 0-0 4, McConnell 10-17 2-2 23. **Totals** 46-91 14-14 111.

Three-point Goals: Boston 16-46 (Horford 7-12, Tatum 5-10, White 2-8, J.Brown 1-5, Holiday 1-6, Pritchard 0-2, Hauser 0-3), Indiana 5-22 (Nembhard 4-7, McConnell 1-4, Nesmith 0-2, Sheppard 0-3, Siakam 0-3, Turner 0-3). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Boston 36 (Tatum 10), Indiana 43 (Turner 10). **Assists:** Boston 24 (Tatum 8), Indiana 32 (Nembhard 9). **Total Fouls:** Boston 18, Indiana 21. **A:** 17,274 (20,000)

WNBA

EAST	W	L	Pct	GB
Connecticut	5	0	1.000	—
New York	4	2	.667	1½
Atlanta	2	1	.667	2
Chicago	2	2	.500	2½
Indiana	1	6	.143	5
Washington	0	6	.000	5½

WEST	W	L	Pct	GB
Las Vegas	3	1	.750	—
Minnesota	3	1	.750	—
x-Phoenix	3	1	.750	—
Seattle	3	3	.500	1
x-Dallas	1	2	.333	1½
Los Angeles	1	3	.250	2

x-Late game

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
at Seattle 101, Washington 69
Minnesota 84, New York 67
Connecticut 86, at Chicago 82
at Las Vegas 99, Indiana 80
Dallas at Phoenix, late

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Minnesota at Atlanta, 6
Dallas at Los Angeles, 9

Storm 101, Mystics 69

WASHINGTON	15	26	18	10 — 69
SEATTLE	25	25	26	25 — 101

WASHINGTON: Edwards 2-8 0-0 4, Samuelson 5-8 5-5 16, Dolson 2-4 2-2 8, Atkins 0-12 2-2 2, Vanloo 5-8 0-0 12, Engstler 1-6 0-0 2, Hines-Allen 0-3 0-0 0, Richards 3-5 1-2 7, Melbourne 5-9 2-2 13, Walker-Kimbrough 1-7 2-2 5. **Totals** 24-70 14-15 69.

SEATTLE: Ogwumike 8-12 3-4 19, Vivians 1-2 0-0 2, Magbegor 5-7 4-4 16, Diggins-Smith 6-9 2-2 16, Loyd 6-13 2-3 18, Horston 3-6 2-2 8, Fankam Mendjiadeu 1-1 2-3 4, Russell 3-3 0-0 6, Mühl 0-0 0-0 0, Whitcomb 4-5 0-0 12, Williams 0-2 0-0 0. **Totals** 37-60 15-18 101.

Three-point Goals: Washington 7-20 (Dolson 2-4, Vanloo 2-5, Melbourne 1-2, Samuelson 1-2, Walker-Kimbrough 1-3, Engstler 0-1, Atkins 0-3), Seattle 12-22 (Whitcomb 4-5, Loyd 4-7, Diggins-Smith 2-3, Magbegor 2-3, Ogwumike 0-1, Williams 0-1, Horston 0-2). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Washington 27 (Atkins, Edwards, Hines-Allen 5), Seattle 33 (Russell 7). **Assists:** Washington 13 (Melbourne, Vanloo 3), Seattle 27 (Diggins-Smith 9). **Total Fouls:** Washington 15, Seattle 19. **A:** 8,846 (15,354)

Lynx 84, Liberty 67

NEW YORK	17	23	18	9 — 67
MINNESOTA	31	13	22	18 — 84

NEW YORK: Laney-Hamilton 2-8 0-0 4, Stewart 8-18 3-3 20, Jones 1-5 2-2 4, Ionescu 5-14 1-1 13, Vandersloot 5-12 1-2 12, Fiebich 4-7 0-0 11, Thornton 0-2 0-0 0, Burke 0-0 0-0 0, Sabally 1-2 0-0 2, Davis 0-0 0-0 0, Dojkic 0-0 1-2 1. **Totals** 26-68 8-10 67.

MINNESOTA: Carleton 5-8 2-2 14, Collier 6-16 2-2 15, Smith 5-9 2-2 15, McBride 5-10 0-0 14, Williams 3-7 0-0 7, Juhász 2-3 0-0 4, Koné 2-2 0-0 4, Pili 0-1 0-0 0, Zandalasini 2-4 0-0 6, Hiedeman 2-7 0-0 5, Époupa 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals** 32-67 6-6 84.

Three-point Goals: New York 7-29 (Fiebich 3-5, Ionescu 2-6, Vandersloot 1-4, Stewart 1-8, Thornton 0-1, Jones 0-2, Laney-Hamilton 0-3), Minnesota 14-28 (McBride 4-6, Smith 3-3, Zandalasini 2-3, Carleton 2-5, Williams 1-2, Collier 1-4, Hiedeman 1-4, Pili 0-1). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** New York 30 (Stewart 11), Minnesota 35 (Collier 12). **Assists:** New York 18 (Vandersloot 6), Minnesota 26 (McBride, Williams 5). **Total Fouls:** New York 11, Minnesota 16. **A:** 7,010 (19,356)

Sun 86, Sky 82

CONNECTICUT	23	19	27	17 — 86
CHICAGO	24	26	17	15 — 82

CONNECTICUT: Bonner 6-15 4-5 19, Thomas 3-6 3-4 9, Jones 7-8 2-2 16, Carrington 5-11 6-7 16, Harris 6-10 1-1 15, Ndour-Fall 0-1 0-0 0, Nelson-Ododa 0-2 0-0 0, Banham 3-4 0-0 7, Jefferson 0-0 0-0 0, Mitchell 1-6 2-2 4. **Totals** 31-63 18-21 86.

CHICAGO: DeShields 1-6 1-2 3, Reese 4-9 5-6 13, Williams 4-8 2-2 10, Evans 3-10 4-4 13, Mabrey 8-18 3-3 23, Onyenwere 1-3 0-2 3, Turner 0-0 0-0 0, Allen 3-3 0-0 6, Carter 4-7 3-3 11. **Totals** 28-64 18-22 82.

Three-point Goals: Connecticut 6-17 (Bonner 3-9, Harris 2-4, Banham 1-2, Mitchell 0-1, Ndour-Fall 0-1), Chicago 8-17 (Mabrey 4-7, Evans 3-6, Onyenwere 1-1, Reese 0-1, DeShields 0-2). **Fouled Out:** Connecticut None, Chicago 1 (Carter). **Rebounds:** Connecticut 38 (Bonner 8), Chicago 21 (Mabrey, Reese, Williams 5). **Assists:** Connecticut 17 (Thomas 6), Chicago 18 (DeShields 5). **Total Fouls:** Connecticut 16, Chicago 24. **A:** 9,025 (10,387)

Aces 99, Fever 80

INDIANA	28	10	18	24 — 80
LAS VEGAS	24	22	26	27 — 99

INDIANA: Fagbenle 4-7 5-5 13, Samuelson 1-6 0-0 3, Boston 6-14 0-0 12, C.Clark 2-8 2-2 8, Mitchell 6-14 1-2 16, Saxton 0-0 0-0 0, Smith 4-5 0-2 8, Wallace 0-0 0-0 0, Berger 1-2 0-0 3, Hull 4-7 2-2 12, Taylor 0-0 0-0 0, Wheeler 2-7 0-0 5. **Totals** 30-70 10-13 80.

LAS VEGAS: A.Clark 3-7 0-0 8, Wilson 12-18 4-4 29, Stokes 0-1 0-0 0, Plum 7-18 3-4 20, Young 7-16 5-6 22, Cannon 1-1 0-0 2, Gustafson 0-1 0-0 0, Colson 2-4 0-0 6, Fair 0-2 0-0 0, Martin 3-5 4-4 12. **Totals** 35-73 16-18 99.

Three-point Goals: Indiana 10-27 (Mitchell 3-10, Hull 2-3, C.Clark 2-5, Berger 1-1, Wheeler 1-3, Samuelson 1-4, Fagbenle 0-1), Las Vegas 13-35 (Young 3-9, Plum 3-10, Colson 2-2, Martin 2-4, A.Clark 2-5, Wilson 1-2, Fair 0-1, Gustafson 0-1, Stokes 0-1). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Indiana 36 (Fagbenle 8), Las Vegas 36 (Wilson 15). **Assists:** Indiana 20 (C.Clark 7), Las Vegas 24 (Plum 7). **Total Fouls:** Indiana 16, Las Vegas 14. **A:** 10,399 (12,000)

HOCKEY

Stanley Cup playoffs

FIRST ROUND

Best of seven

EASTERN CONFERENCE
RANGERS ELIMINATED CAPITALS, 4-0
Game 1: at New York 4, Washington 1
Game 2: at New York 4, Washington 3
Game 3: New York 3, at Washington 1
Game 4: New York 4, Washington 2

HURRICANES ELIMINATED ISLANDERS, 4-1
Game 1: at Carolina 3, New York 1
Game 2: at Carolina 5, New York 3
Game 3: Carolina 3, at New York 2
Game 4: at New York 3, Carolina 2 (2OT)
Game 5: at Carolina 6, New York 3

PANTHERS ELIMINATED LIGHTNING, 4-1
Game 1: at Florida 3, Tampa Bay 2
Game 2: at Florida 3, Tampa Bay 2
Game 3: Florida 5, at Tampa Bay 3
Game 4: at Tampa Bay 6, Florida 3
Game 5: at Florida 6, Tampa Bay 1

BRUINS ELIMINATED MAPLE LEAFS, 4-3
Game 1: at Boston 5, Toronto 1
Game 2: Toronto 3, at Boston 2
Game 3: Boston 4 at Toronto 2
Game 4: Boston 3, at Toronto 1
Game 5: Toronto 2, at Boston 1 (OT)
Game 6: at Toronto 2, Boston 1
Game 7: at Boston 2, Toronto 1 (OT)

WESTERN CONFERENCE
AVALANCHE ELIMINATED JETS, 4-1
Game 1: at Winnipeg 7, Colorado 6
Game 2: Colorado 5 at Winnipeg 2
Game 3: at Colorado 6, Winnipeg 2
Game 4: at Colorado 5, Winnipeg 1
Game 5: Colorado 6, at Winnipeg 3

OILERS ELIMINATED KINGS, 4-1
Game 1: at Edmonton 7, Los Angeles 4
Game 2: Los Angeles 5, at Edmonton 4 (OT)
Game 3: Edmonton 6, at Los Angeles 1
Game 4: Edmonton 1, at Los Angeles 0
Game 5: at Edmonton 4, Los Angeles 3

CANUCKS ELIMINATED PREDATORS, 4-2
Game 1: at Vancouver 4, Nashville 2
Game 2: Nashville 4 at Vancouver 1
Game 3: Vancouver 2, at Nashville 1
Game 4: Vancouver 4, at Nashville 3 (OT)
Game 5: Nashville 2, at Vancouver 1
Game 6: Vancouver 1, at Nashville 0

STARS ELIMINATED GOLDEN KNIGHTS, 4-3
Game 1: Vegas 4, at Dallas 3
Game 2: Vegas 3, at Dallas 1
Game 3: Dallas 3, at Vegas 2
Game 4: Dallas 4, at Vegas 2
Game 5: at Dallas 3, Vegas 2
Game 6: at Vegas 2, Dallas 0
Game 7: at Dallas 2, Vegas 1

SECOND ROUND

Best of seven

EASTERN CONFERENCE
RANGERS ELIMINATED HURRICANES, 4-2
Game 1: at New York 4, Carolina 3
Game 2: at New York 4, Carolina 3 (2OT)
Game 3: New York 3, at Carolina 2 (OT)
Game 4: at Carolina 4, New York 3
Game 5: Carolina 4, at New York 1
Game 6: New York 5, at Carolina 3

PANTHERS ELIMINATED BRUINS, 4-2
Game 1: Boston 5, at Florida 1
Game 2: at Florida 6, Boston 1
Game 3: Florida 6, at Boston 2
Game 4: Florida 3 at Boston 2
Game 5: Boston 2, at Florida 1
Game 6: Florida 2, at Boston 1

WESTERN CONFERENCE
STARS ELIMINATED AVALANCHE, 4-2
Game 1: Colorado 4, at Dallas 3 (OT)
Game 2: at Dallas 5, Colorado 4
Game 3: Dallas 4, at Colorado 1
Game 4: Dallas 5, at Colorado 1
Game 5: Colorado 5, at Dallas 3
Game 6: Dallas 2, at Colorado 1 (2OT)

OILERS ELIMINATED CANUCKS, 4-3
Game 1: at Vancouver 5, Edmonton 4
Game 2: Edmonton 4, at Vancouver 3 (OT)
Game 3: Vancouver 4, at Edmonton 3
Game 4: at Edmonton 3, Vancouver 2
Game 5: at Vancouver 3, Edmonton 2
Game 6: at Edmonton 5, Vancouver 1
Game 7: Edmonton 3, at Vancouver 2

CONFERENCE FINALS

Best of seven; x-If necessary

EASTERN CONFERENCE
RANGERS AND PANTHERS TIED, 1-1
Game 1: Florida 3, at N.Y. Rangers 0
Game 2: at N.Y. Rangers 2, Florida 1 (OT)
Sunday's game: N.Y. Rangers at Florida, 3
Tuesday's game: N.Y. Rangers at Florida, 8
x-Thursday's game: Florida at N.Y. Rangers, TBA
x-Saturday's game: N.Y. Rangers at Florida, TBA
x-Monday, June 3: Florida at N.Y. Rangers, TBA

WESTERN CONFERENCE
OILERS AND STARS TIED, 1-1
Game 1: Edmonton 3, at Dallas 2 (2OT)
Game 2: at Dallas 3, Edmonton 1
Monday's game: Dallas at Edmonton, 8:30
Wednesday's game: Dallas at Edmonton, 8:30
Friday's game: Edmonton at Dallas, TBA
x-Sunday, June 2: Dallas at Edmonton, TBA
x-Tuesday, June 4: Edmonton at Dallas, TBA

Stars 3, Oilers 1

EDMONTON	1	0	0	— 1
DALLAS	1	0	2	— 3

FIRST PERIOD

Scoring: 1, Dallas, Benn 4 (Johnston, Heiskanen), 3:39. 2, Edmonton, Brown 1 (Foegele, Ceci), 4:23.

THIRD PERIOD

Scoring: 3, Dallas, Marchment 2 (Suter, Steel), 3:41. 4, Dallas, Lindell 2 (Johnston, Benn), 17:57 (en).

SHOTS ON GOAL

EDMONTON	16	8	5	— 29
DALLAS	4	11	10	— 25

Power-play opportunities: Edmonton 0 of 2; Dallas 0 of 1. **Goalies:** Edmonton, Skinner 8-4-0 (24 shots-22 saves). Dallas, Oettinger 9-6-0 (29-28). **A:** 18,532 (18,532). **T:** 2:28.

Rangers 2, Panthers 1 (OT)

Late Friday

FLORIDA	1	0	0	0	— 1
N.Y. RANGERS	1	0	0	1	— 2

FIRST PERIOD

Scoring: 1, N.Y. Rangers, Trocheck 7 (Fox, Panarin), 4:12. 2, Florida, Verhaeghe 8 (Bennett, Lundell), 18:09 (pp).

OVERTIME

Scoring: 3, N.Y. Rangers, Goodrow 4 (Trocheck, Trouba), 14:01.

SHOTS ON GOAL

FLORIDA	7	9	5	6	— 27
N.Y. RANGERS	8	9	8	6	— 31

Power-play opportunities: Florida 1 of 2; N.Y. Rangers 0 of 4. **Goalies:** Florida, Bobrovsky 9-4-0 (31 shots-29 saves). N.Y. Rangers, Shesterkin 9-3-0 (27-27). **A:** 18,006 (18,006). **T:** 3:12.

GOLF

PGA Tour

CHARLES SCHWAB CHALLENGE
At Colonial Country Club; in Fort Worth
Purse: $9.1 million
Yardage: 7,289; **Par:** 70

THIRD ROUND

Davis Riley	66 64 66 — 196	-14
Scottie Scheffler	72 65 63 — 200	-10
Hayden Buckley	67 65 69 — 201	-9
Pierceson Coody	67 65 69 — 201	-9
Robby Shelton	67 68 67 — 202	-8
Tony Finau	66 69 68 — 203	-7
Keegan Bradley	68 66 70 — 204	-6
Sungjae Im	70 64 70 — 204	-6
Collin Morikawa	68 69 67 — 204	-6
Kevin Tway	69 66 69 — 204	-6
Rickie Fowler	70 69 66 — 205	-5
Tom Kim	69 68 68 — 205	-5
Min Woo Lee	69 68 68 — 205	-5
David Lipsky	70 69 66 — 205	-5
Keith Mitchell	72 67 66 — 205	-5
Sepp Straka	68 66 71 — 205	-5
Alejandro Tosti	69 69 67 — 205	-5
Ryan Fox	68 67 71 — 206	-4
Seonghyeon Kim	66 71 69 — 206	-4
Denny McCarthy	70 66 70 — 206	-4
J.T. Poston	68 69 69 — 206	-4
Adam Scott	69 68 69 — 206	-4
Davis Thompson	70 70 66 — 206	-4
Gary Woodland	72 64 70 — 206	-4
Brian Harman	66 69 72 — 207	-3
Billy Horschel	69 71 67 — 207	-3
Mac Meissner	71 70 66 — 207	-3
Ryan Moore	69 68 70 — 207	-3
C.T. Pan	69 70 68 — 207	-3
Patrick Rodgers	72 67 68 — 207	-3
Justin Rose	70 71 66 — 207	-3
Joel Dahmen	70 70 68 — 208	-2
Cameron Davis	69 70 69 — 208	-2
Lee Hodges	72 70 66 — 208	-2
Kevin Kisner	71 71 66 — 208	-2
Martin Laird	66 73 69 — 208	-2
Ben Martin	69 70 69 — 208	-2
Chandler Phillips	70 69 69 — 208	-2
Zach Johnson	68 70 71 — 209	-1
Si Woo Kim	71 71 67 — 209	-1
Matthew NeSmith	69 68 72 — 209	-1
Aaron Rai	71 71 67 — 209	-1
Ben Silverman	69 73 67 — 209	-1
Jordan Spieth	71 67 71 — 209	-1
Adam Svensson	70 71 68 — 209	-1
Brendon Todd	68 70 71 — 209	-1

SOCCER

MLS

EAST	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Cincinnati	10	2	3	33	23	14
x-Inter Miami CF	9	2	4	31	36	20
New York City FC	8	5	2	26	19	16
Columbus	6	2	6	24	21	13
New York	6	3	5	23	25	21
Toronto FC	7	7	1	22	24	24
Charlotte FC	6	5	4	22	14	13
Philadelphia	4	4	6	18	25	21
D.C. United	4	5	6	18	21	25
Orlando City	4	6	4	16	15	22
Nashville	3	4	7	16	17	20
Atlanta	3	7	4	13	17	17
CF Montreal	3	7	4	13	17	31
Chicago	2	8	5	11	14	27
New England	2	10	1	7	9	26

WEST	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Real Salt Lake	8	2	5	29	30	17
x-Minnesota United	7	2	3	24	21	14
Los Angeles FC	7	4	3	24	25	19
x-Austin FC	6	4	4	22	19	17
x-LA Galaxy	5	2	7	22	25	21
x-Colorado	6	5	3	21	24	23
x-Vancouver	5	4	4	19	19	15
x-Houston	5	5	3	18	12	13
Seattle	4	6	5	17	18	18
St. Louis City SC	3	4	7	16	20	22
x-Portland	3	7	4	13	26	29
FC Dallas	3	6	4	13	16	20
x-Sporting KC	2	6	5	11	21	24
x-San Jose	3	10	1	10	22	33

x-Late match

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
Chicago 1, at D.C. United 1
Los Angeles FC 1, at Atlanta 0
Philadelphia 0, at Charlotte FC 0
Nashville 0, CF at Montreal 0
New York City FC 1, at New England 0
Columbus 2, at Orlando City 0
Cincinnati 4, at Toronto FC 3
Real Salt Lake 3, at FC Dallas 3
Seattle 2, at St. Louis City SC 1
Minnesota at Colorado, late
Miami at Vancouver,late
Houston at LA Galaxy, late
Sporting KC at Portland, late
Austin FC at San Jose, late

WEDNESDAY'S MATCHES
D.C. United at CF Montreal, 7:30
Nashville at Cincinnati, 7:30
Atlanta at Miami, 7:30
Charlotte FC at New York, 7:30
Toronto FC at Philadelphia, 7:30
Portland at Austin FC, 8:30
Orlando City at Chicago, 8:30
Colorado at Houston, 8:30
Vancouver at Sporting KC, 8:30
FC Dallas at LA Galaxy, 10:30
Real Salt Lake at Seattle, 10:30
Minnesota at Los Angeles FC, 10:45
New England at Columbus, ppd.

Fire 1, D.C. United 1

CHICAGO	0	1	1
D.C. UNITED	1	0	1

First Half: 1, D.C. United, McVey, 1 (Birnbaum), 20th minute.
Second Half: 2, Chicago, Acosta, 2 (Cuypers), 53rd.
Goalies: Chicago, Chris Brady, Spencer Richey; D.C. United, Alex Bono, Tyler Miller.
Yellow Cards: Arigoni, Chicago, 36th; Dajome, D.C. United, 42nd; Teran, Chicago, 45th; Benteke, D.C. United, 46th; Birnbaum, D.C. United, 83rd.
Chicago, Chris Brady; Allan Arigoni (Jonathan Dean, 66th), Rafael Czichos, Andrew Gutman (Arnaud Souquet, 85th), Mauricio Pineda, Carlos Teran; Kellyn Acosta (Fabian Herbers, 65th), Brian Gutierrez, Federico Navarro; Tom Barlow (Georgios Koutsias, 78th), Hugo Cuypers (Maren Haile-Selassie, 85th).
D.C. United, Alex Bono; Lucas Bartlett (Garrison Isaiah Tubbs, 79th), Steven Birnbaum, Aaron Herrera, Christopher McVey (Matti Peltola, 47th); Jackson Hopkins (Gabriel Pirani, 83rd), Mateusz Klich, Theodore Ku-DiPietro (Kristian George Fletcher, 72nd), Jared Stroud (Jacob Murrell, 71st); Christian Benteke, Cristian Dajome.

Union 0, Charlotte FC 0

PHILADELPHIA	0	0	0
CHARLOTTE FC	0	0	0

First Half: None.
Second Half: None.
Goalies: Philadelphia, Oliver Semmle, Andrew Rick; Charlotte FC, Kristijan Kahlina, David Bingham.
Yellow Cards: McGlynn, Philadelphia, 25th; Harriel, Philadelphia, 64th.

Nashville SC 0, Montreal 0

NASHVILLE	0	0	0
MONTREAL	0	0	0

First Half: None.
Second Half: None.
Goalies: Nashville, Joe Willis, Elliot Panicco; Montreal, Jonathan Sirois, Sebastian Breza.
Yellow Cards: Godoy, Nashville, 25th; Lassiter, Montreal, 28th; Sosa, Montreal, 84th; Yankov, Montreal, 90th+2.

New York City FC 1, Revolution 0

NEW YORK CITY FC	0	1	1
NEW ENGLAND	0	0	0

First Half: None.
Second Half: 1, New York City FC, Parks, 2 (Gray), 81st minute.
Goalies: New York City FC, Matt Freese, Luis Barraza; New England, Aljaz Ivacic, Henrich Ravas.
Yellow Cards: Kessler, New England, 13th; Bakrar, New York City FC, 33rd; Martins, New York City FC, 41st; Borrero, New England, 73rd; Arreaga, New England, 86th.

Crew 2, Orlando City 0

COLUMBUS	1	1	2
ORLANDO CITY	0	0	0

First Half: 1, Columbus, Rossi, 3 (penalty kick), 45th+2 minute.
Second Half: 2, Columbus, Rossi, 4 (Yeboah), 61st.
Goalies: Columbus, Patrick Schulte, Nicholas Hagen Godoy; Orlando City, Pedro Gallese, Mason Stajduhar.
Yellow Cards: Araujo, Orlando City, 45th; Camacho, Columbus, 56th; Schulte, Columbus, 70th; Martins, Orlando City, 89th.

Los Angeles FC 1, Atlanta United 0

LOS ANGELES FC	0	1	1
ATLANTA	0	0	0

First Half: None.
Second Half: 1, Los Angeles FC, Bogusz, 5, 63rd minute.
Goalies: Los Angeles FC, Hugo Lloris, Abraham Romero; Atlanta, Brad Guzan, Joshua Cohen.
Yellow Cards: Atuesta, Los Angeles FC, 10th; Lennon, Atlanta, 26th; Mosquera, Atlanta, 76th.
Red Cards: Guzan, Atlanta, 60th.

FC Cincinnati 4, Toronto FC 3

CINCINNATI	0	4	4
TORONTO FC	1	2	3

First Half: 1

HIGH SCHOOLS

MARYLAND CLASS 2A BASEBALL FINAL

Indefatigable Gladiators finally run out of rallies

MIDDLETOWN 6, GLENELG 5

BY EMMETT SIEGEL

The Glenelg baseball team went down doing what it has done best all year — battling. The Gladiators twice erased multi-run deficits in Saturday's Maryland Class 2A championship game, never allowing Middletown any breathing room. Trailing by a run in the seventh inning, Glenelg threatened after putting the tying run in scoring position with two outs.

But Middletown's Preston Yost shut the door, inducing a flyout to give the Knights a 6-5 victory at Regency Furniture Stadium in Waldorf for their second state championship and first since 2017.

It wasn't the ending Glenelg (19-4) had hoped for, but as tears led to moments of reflection, pride prevailed.

"Our guys just never give up. It's the never-quit mentality," Gladiators Coach Steve Tiffany said. "We battled, and that's all I can ask. We competed every second of this game."

There was never a shred of panic from the Gladiators. Not when they gave up two first-inning runs to the potent lineup of Middletown (20-5) or when they faced a three-run sixth-inning deficit.

In the bottom of the first, the Gladiators evened the score at 2. After Middletown extended its advantage to 5-2, Glenelg equalized during a sixth inning that included four walks, a hit by pitch, a bloop single and a fielder's choice.

However, Glenelg's momentum was undone after a Fredy Diaz leadoff triple in the seventh put the Knights in position to retake the lead. Keller Routzahn dropped down a perfect squeeze bunt to bring him home. Minutes later, the Gladiators were resigned to disbelieving stares as the Knights turned toward their fans and hoisted the trophy.

Middletown had three days off after a 13-inning semifinal triumph over Patuxent in which it also produced a squeeze bunt to push across the winning run. The Knights had to call on much of their pitching staff in that matchup but withheld senior ace Tyler Haupt, who entered Saturday with a 0.77 ERA and a 5-0 record.

But the Gladiators had confidence, both in pitcher Zach Lafountain and their ability to come from behind by way of timely hitting. They have shrugged in the face of adversity all season, making comebacks a habit. Multiple times during their playoff run, they faced similar situations to Saturday's and came out on top.

"We were counted out. We were doubted every game we went into," senior Logan Pusheck said. "We might not be the biggest team, but we fight, we fight, we fight. And a team that fights is hard to beat."

The sting of coming so close will linger for this Gladiators squad, but the season was a continuation of one of the most successful stretches in program history. They captured a third consecutive region crown and advanced to a second state title game in three years.

Said Tiffany: "The legacy they've built, this senior class, is remarkable."

MARYLAND CLASS 3A BASEBALL FINAL

Headen stars to power Colonels' landmark win

MAGRUDER 4, CHESAPEAKE 0

BY EMMETT SIEGEL

Saturday will go down as one of the greatest nights in Magruder baseball history because Xavier Headen was up to the occasion. The senior southpaw dazzled in the Maryland Class 3A championship game, throwing six scoreless innings and going 3 for 3 at the plate to spark a 4-0 win over Chesapeake at Regency Furniture Stadium in Waldorf.

His pitching day done, Headen caught the final out at first, turned around and pointed to his ring finger, which will soon don some fresh jewelry. The Colonels (20-5) stormed out of the dugout to celebrate something their program had never achieved before: a state title.

"This is everything to me," said Headen, who has signed with Barton College. "I would be lying if I said I wasn't a little bit nervous before the game, but look where we are now. We did our thing. We're a perfect team."

Headen had to navigate trouble early, with the first three hitters reaching base for the Cougars (16-6). For a fleeting moment, the energy was squarely on Chesapeake's side.

But Headen mastered the art of damage control, retiring the side to work out of the jam unscathed. Later, when the Cougars started the sixth inning with back-to-back singles, Magruder took advantage of a base-running mistake before Headen set the next two batters down on strikes.

Headen recorded eight strikeouts and allowed just three hits.

"This game was led by him. He did a hell of a job," senior Hudson Green said, gesturing to Headen. "Everybody talks about the bats, but the pitching's what led this team."

Saturday was the Colonels' first appearance in a state championship game, and they weren't going to let the opportunity pass them by. In the bottom of the first, Headen flared a single over the third baseman's head to score a pair of runs. Magruder added two more in the fourth and fifth innings on wild pitches.

But Headen was Saturday night's star, his performance earning him a spot in the program's pantheon. He was unafraid to show his emotion, his mannerisms reflecting the gravity of the moment.

When he strutted off the mound after the conclusion of an inning, he would play to the cheers and jeers of the crowd. After his two-run single, he stomped on the bag with authority. Following his third hit of the night, a double ripped down the first base line, he lifted himself onto the pedestal of second base and took a bow.

To win a championship requires playing your best baseball at the most important time of the year, and Magruder embodied that. After an 0-3 start, the Colonels rattled off 20 wins in their next 22 games, ending the season on a 14-game winning streak that spanned over five weeks. They didn't allow a run in their final three playoff games, with Headen's performance Saturday putting the exclamation point on a historic campaign.



WESLEY LAPOINTE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Sophomore Vanessa Brooks homered to begin the game and then hit another one, above, in the fourth inning Saturday in College Park.

MARYLAND CLASS 4A SOFTBALL FINAL

For Leonardtown, it's a perfect finish to the season

LEONARDTOWN 14, E. ROOSEVELT 0 (5)

Program's first state title comes via mercy rule

BY NOAH FERGUSON



Junior Claire Radford had 11 strikeouts — passing 200 for the season — in a five-inning perfect game.

The Leonardtown softball team took a long bus drive from St. Mary's County to College Park on Saturday afternoon on a quest to make program history. The players blasted music all the way to their Class 4A championship game at the University of Maryland, pumping themselves up with the program's first state title at stake.

Hours later, they had completed their season-long journey with a lopsided 14-0 victory over Eleanor Roosevelt, earning that first state championship on a sweltering day.

"They jumped on board, and they never jumped back off," Coach Kim Schrader said.

Junior Claire Radford threw a perfect game, striking out 11 of the 15 batters she faced. Radford's commanding performance was the culmination of an impressive season for the ace, who eclipsed 200 strikeouts for the season in the fourth inning.

"[I was] reading batters, knowing exactly which pitch to throw to each of them," Radford said. "Just not getting in my head or getting nervous."

Schrader, coaching in her first state championship game in her 17th season at the helm, made sure her team arrived early enough to the stadium to soak in the moment and get out any pregame jitters. She then gathered her players for a pep talk, during which she encouraged them to maintain the level of consistency that earned them this championship appearance.

"We got here today, and I was like, 'Listen, you play ball the way you know how to play, you'll walk away [winners],' " Schrader said.

Leonardtown's domination of Roosevelt (21-1) started in the first at-bat of the afternoon, when sophomore Vanessa Brooks pummeled a leadoff home run over the left field wall. Leonardtown kept hitting after that.

Leonardtown (17-8) scored a run in each of the five innings of the mercy-rule victory, highlighted by an eight-run third. Freshman Ashley Watson smacked the team's second home run of the day, and that was followed by five more Leonardtown hits in the inning as the game was blown open.

Brooks hit her second home run of the game in the fourth inning, then Radford finished the job with two more strikeouts in the bottom of the fifth to seal it. After her final pitch thudded into junior catcher Sarah Fortescue's mitt, Radford tossed her glove into the dirt and sprinted toward home plate as the team converged to embrace one another.

"It all culminated right there," Schrader said. "It was everything they've worked for to get to this point. . . . I'm just extremely proud."

MARYLAND TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Broadneck tops Churchill on tiebreaker in Class 4A

BY AARON CREDEUR

After Broadneck finished last year in a three-way tie for the Maryland Class 4A tennis title, the Bruins went into Saturday's championships at Columbia's Wilde Lake Tennis Center knowing they would have to fend off Churchill if they wanted the trophy to themselves. But when both teams finished with 17 points, new tiebreaking rules took effect. Broadneck ended up earning its second consecutive title thanks to two extra games won by mixed doubles team Charlie Ernst and Anissa Jean-Claude.

After a flurry of foot fault calls interrupted their momentum up 4-1 in the first set of their finals match against Northwest's Eileen Dai and Magnus Smith-Peters, Ernst and Jean-Claude had to find a way to get back on track.

"It was a crucial point that they called the foot faults on, so it gave the other team the point they needed to get that game," Jean-Claude said after the 7-6 (7-5), 6-2 win. "After that it was just back and forth, and we were very frustrated. But after winning that tiebreaker, we had confidence from fighting through it to say: 'We got this. We can win this second set.' "

Thanks in large part to that extra tiebreaking game in the first set, as well as one the duo played in the quarterfinals, the Bruins were able to edge Churchill for the team title. According to MPSSAA rules established this season, in the event of a tie for the team title, winners are determined first by which team has fewer conduct violations (both teams had none), then by which has the most wins in the finals (both had two) and finally by which wins the most individual games over the course of the state tournament.

Broadneck finished with 98 total games won. The Bulldogs had 96.

Broadneck's second finals win came from junior Olivia Mellynchuk, who scored a 6-4, 6-0 victory over Eleanor Roosevelt's Ivanna Canesa to defend her 2023 title.

Despite missing out on the title, the Bulldogs were in good spirits after concluding a stellar season with a tooth-and-nail fight. They secured finals wins with junior Bert Mackey in boys' singles and freshmen Aakash and Roshan Deodhar in boys' doubles. Richard Montgomery came in third place.

Elsewhere at Wilde Lake, Wootton overcame a rash of injuries and a change in classification to capture the Class 3A crown. The banged-up Patriots previously competed in 4A.

"It was a little bit mental because I knew if I hit a backhand harder than just, like, a bunt, I knew it would hurt me," said senior Naomi Esterowitz, who won, 6-4, 6-3, in mixed doubles with sophomore Anthony Hall. Esterowitz suffered a right wrist injury during the regular season that kept her out of the final few matches before the tournament. "But being with [Hall] was just so helpful, just to have someone there to control those emotions and control those mistakes."

Wootton senior Ben Wang, who tweaked an old quadriceps injury during his semifinal loss in boys' singles Friday, came away with a bronze medal after his final opponent withdrew, adding more points to the Patriots' team score of 18. Last year's champion, River Hill, came in second with 14, followed by Severna Park with 10.

In the Class 2A competition, even the state's new tiebreaking formula wasn't enough to prevent a split between Poolesville and Centennial. Both teams finished with 14 points, followed by La Plata with eight. For Poolesville, the win was the third straight team title.

The Falcons secured wins at boys' singles from sophomore Andy Wu and boys' doubles from senior Jeeva Padmanabhan and freshman William Chen. Centennial matched them with a pair of victories from seniors Michelle Fradlin and Joanna Blackman in girls' doubles and senior Vijay Jagarapu and sophomore Ariela Dumesh in mixed doubles.

"I always come into matches with high hopes but no expectations set," Blackman said. "We earned our spot here, and we're super proud."

For Poolesville, a third straight title felt surreal.

"It's all kind of slowly coming to me," Padmanabhan said. "This is my last tennis match ever for high school. So I think it'll all settle in a couple days, but right now, I'm just very happy to get the win, very happy for my school.

"It's all just good feelings right now."

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A Black rising star lost his elite orchestra job.

HE WON'T GO QUIETLY.

BY GEOFF EDGERS IN KANSAS CITY, MO.

Josh Jones wasn't expecting to lose his dream job that day. He had heard some grumbling during his time as the principal percussionist with the Kansas City Symphony, but everyone agreed that he was a stunning performer — not to mention the first Black musician in the orchestra's history to land a leadership position. In his first season, his marimba solo in a Vivaldi performance prompted the maestro himself to send a handwritten note: "I am so happy to make music with you," Michael Stern wrote, "and there's no doubt everybody onstage agrees." ¶ But two years later, Stern had called Jones in to inform him of his deficiencies, particularly his organizational skills overseeing a tiny section made up of one other full-timer and a rotating cast of substitute players. ¶ "Josh, there's a problem," Stern told him, according to the symphony's transcript of the meeting. "It's not working in the section. It's frustrating to me because I wanted it to work." ¶ Jones tried to argue. He denied that he had failed to rent equipment or assign parts on time, and he had the email records to prove it. But Stern kept going: complaints about his work in "The Nutcracker," something about the marimba during a Rufus Wainwright performance, though Stern wasn't there for either show.

SEE SYMPHONY ON E5

Josh Jones plays the marimba at Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Chicago. After winning his role as principal percussionist for the Kansas City Symphony in 2020, Jones recalled a new colleague telling him: "I've never heard an audition like that. Like, ever."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LOREN TONEY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

PERSPECTIVE

'Fury Road' flipped the script and became a singular sequel

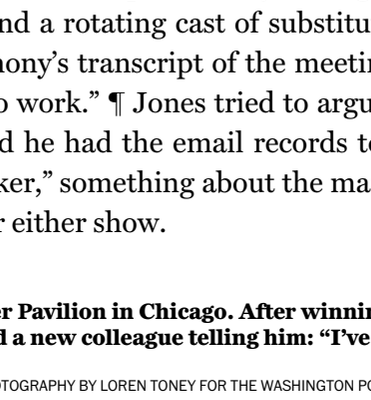
BY A.A. DOWD

Tom Hardy grimaces in close-up, his face constrained under a metallic muzzle, his arms pinned back, his body chained to a war machine racing right at the camera. There are countless jaw-dropping images in "Mad Max: Fury Road" but none quite as memorable or definitive as the moment where fury meets road. More than just a snapshot of speed, danger and intensity, this instant captures the subversive edge of George Miller's 2015 car-chase spectacular — how it turns one of cinema's most iconic action heroes, the Outback outlaw Max Rockatansky, into a glorified hood ornament.

Hardy is nowhere to be found in "Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga," which speeds into multiplexes everywhere this holiday weekend. Defying its own subtitle, Miller's latest trip to the lawless, post-apocalyptic future takes the Road Warrior himself almost entirely out of the equation, opting instead to tell the mythic backstory of a kindred spirit: the metallic-limbed, conscience-burdened driver whom Charlize Theron played with such grit and gravitas in "Fury Road." Though explicitly a prequel, this decades-spanning, downright Dickensian epic has certainly been made in the anti-fan-service spirit of its predecessor. Without simply recycling its astonishing pageant of burning-rubber mayhem, it points to what made Miller's Oscar-feted extravaganza so special.

Nearly a decade after its premiere, "Mad Max: Fury Road" remains a glorious anomaly of the modern blockbuster machine: an oasis of forward thinking in a desert of old ideas, a belated sequel that truly reinvents the wheel. The movie arrived at a particularly nostalgic moment for Hollywood event cinema, during the year that gave us "Jurassic World," "Terminator Genisys" and "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" — so-called

SEE 'FURY ROAD' ON E10



LaToya Ruby Frazier's unique work weds art and activism E8-9

Dining: STK Steakhouse turns the volume and the prices up beyond the comfort level. **E16**

PERSPECTIVE

In Broadway houses, patrons are having a bawl this season

BY ELISABETH VINCENTELLI

NEW YORK — "I've been going to shows for many years, and I don't remember being in a theater and hearing mass sniffles, or even wailing at times, as much as I have this season," said Ben Glidden, a 32-year-old New Yorker who has seen all the new Broadway productions.

If you've been to Broadway lately, you might have noticed that productions — including "The Notebook," "The Outsiders," "Water for Elephants," "Suffs" and even "Merrily We Roll Along" — are provoking audibly strong reactions. The first two shows may feature rain onstage, but the waterworks coming from the audience are even more impressive.

Naturally, the unabashedly romantic "The Notebook," based on a bestseller that inspired a hit movie, is prompting bawling; the merchandise includes branded tissue boxes. Two scenes in particular stand out: one in which lovers Noah and Allie (Ryan Vasquez and Joy Woods) reunite and kiss passionately in a downpour, and a latter one involving the older version of the couple (Dorian Harewood and Maryann Plunkett), with Allie now suffering from Alzheimer's.

"I was audibly sobbing, and I was glad I wasn't the only one because you could hear the entire audience," longtime theater critic Melissa Rose Bernardo said of that late scene. "Thank goodness I was wearing a mask, because that muffles the sound quite nicely. That's a pro tip." She also recommended wearing waterproof makeup.

Long Island resident Sara Hickis, who works in retail at a beauty-supply store, has seen "The Notebook" 14 times so far, but familiarity has not lessened its impact. The song "Iron in the Fridge," for example, always gets her. "That one, I'm crying every time the second it starts," said Hickis, 21. "Other nights, it's completely random. Sometimes I cry because I'm so overwhelmed with how lucky I feel

SEE CRYING ON E3

IN THE GALLERIES



ARTECHOUSE

An installation view of "Isekai: Blooming Parallel Worlds," the gallery's seventh annual blossom-themed show that fuses art, technology and tradition.

Cherry blossoms meet high tech in eye-popping show

BY MARK JENKINS

To Artechouse, spring means cherry blossoms — and Japan, the country with which the delicate flowers are so strongly associated. The computer-arts showcase's seventh annual blossom-themed show, "Isekai: Blooming Parallel Worlds," is inspired by manga and anime stories set in alternate universes. ("Isekai" literally means "different world.") The main room's 20-minute animated video is a fast-motion swoop through seven environments, glimpsed as a flying robot searches for a dragon named Haru (Japanese for "spring"). The creature's serpentine coils turn out to be garlands of pink petals.

Produced in-house, the CGI journey through various cities and what appears to be a moon base is dazzling and immersive, if not as thematically provocative as some previous Artechouse programs. As always, there are many additional attractions in the venue's side rooms and back corridors. Most are virtual and interactive, as might be expected. But there's also a robotic arm, developed in collaboration with Philadelphia's BRDG Studios, that draws manga-style illustrations. The mechanical artist's solid presence is an agreeable contrast to the ephemeral pixels that flit across the show's many screens.

While it mostly offers intense audiovisual sensation and eye-popping backdrops for selfies, "Isekai" does pack some educational content. One video-game-like installation allows visitors to follow cherry blossoms through renderings of actual Japanese sites, and a separate screen provides histories of both D.C.'s cherry blossoms and the high-tech gallery's spring bloom shows. Bleeding edge as it is, Artechouse is also morphing into part of a tradition.

Isekai: Blooming Parallel Worlds
Through June 1 at Artechouse, 1238 Maryland Ave. SW. artechouse.com/location/dc.

Rich in Blessings

Ancient Greece's embodiment of the hearth, the goddess Hestia presided symbolically over homes throughout the Hellenized world. Now she oversees "Rich in Blessings: Women, Wealth and the Late Antique Household," taking the form of a 6th-century wall hanging that belongs to Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection. Seldom exhibited, the rare tapestry is at the center of a small but literally opulent array of ancient artifacts. These evoke the lives of affluent women in an era when pagan and Christian ideas overlapped and intertwined.

The fascinating show's title was taken from the tapestry, which was made in Egypt but features text in Greek, notably an identifying phrase: "Hestia, rich in blessings." The goddess sits on a gold throne and wears precious jewelry, which is echoed by the objects — many also from the 6th century — on display around the woolen hanging. The exquisitely fashioned necklaces, bracelets and earrings were produced for exceptionally wealthy women, whose continued family fortunes are represented by a wedding ring and a marriage belt. For prosperous families, matrimony was most likely a commercial merger as well.

At the time these items were crafted, Christianity preached against displaying wealth. Soon, Islam would adopt similar teachings. Yet golden adornments continued to be made, and accumulated. As the show's catalogue notes, it was mostly the inherited fortune of Mildred Barnes Bliss, a noted jewelry collector, that funded Dumbarton Oaks. Before she and her husband, Robert Woods Bliss, donated the estate and their collections to Harvard University, they added a music room. There they hung the tapestry that inspired "Rich in Blessings," paying tribute to the values embodied by Hestia.

Rich in Blessings: Women, Wealth and the Late Antique Household
Through June 9 at Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, 1703 32nd St. NW. doaks.org. 202-349-6400.

Jenne Glover

The collages in Jenne Glover's "Made With Chi" teem with details, but usually center — emotionally if not literally — on one or more human faces. These are sometimes plucked whole from a photograph but are more often assembled from multiple parts. The latter technique exemplifies the eclectic outlook of the Art of Noize show, which the venue's statement describes as "Afrocentric" but which invokes Chinese concepts such as chi, or vital energy.

Fittingly, one of the D.C. artist's inspirations is Mardi Gras, New Orleans's exuberant mélange of European, African and Native American traditions. Glover's hot colors and kinetic compositions evoke street parades, and among her motifs are images of musicians. The subjects of the collages, which are joined by a few paintings and prints with a similar cut-together aesthetic, include a horn player whose instrument spews ribbons of sheet music.



JENNE GLOVER



GREG STALEY

LEFT: Jenne Glover's "Playing With Attitude Ritual Bowl" in her exhibit "Made With Chi" at the Art of Noize gallery. BELOW: "Spilled Milk" by Elizabeth Casqueiro, included in "Borderline Edge." The artist said the show's title refers to the boundary "between man-made and natural."

The artist's creations are celebratory, but not simplistically so. Interspersed with scraps of glossy crimson wrapping paper are images of cotton, civil rights protests and a pair of Black hands whose wrists are wrapped in chains. Righteous outrage is one manifestation of vital energy.

Jenne Glover: Made With Chi
Through June 1 at Art of Noize, 821 Upshur St. NW, rear #2, artofnoize.com.

Elizabeth Casqueiro

Trained as an architect, Elizabeth Casqueiro has an appreciation of structure. But her mixed-media paintings don't just depict things made by humans, and they are arranged in a manner that appears more intuitive than analytical. Italianate domes, towers and arches abut flowers, leaves and insects, and solid colors liquefy into watery drips in the pictures in "Borderline Edge," the local artist's Park View Gallery show.

The show's title refers to the boundary "between man-made and natural," according to Casqueiro's statement. But such perimeters are porous and shifting in the seven large and four small paintings, which were executed with acrylic, gouache, ink and an occasional dusting of glitter. Forms may be fully defined or merely outlined, and the mostly vivid colors are sometimes shadowed by gray or black.

In these collagelike compositions, humans are represented by the things they build; the only elements that resemble people seem to be details of sculptures. But the artist does include items that are specific rather than generic, such as the traffic circle and segment of coffered Metrorail ceiling that anchor in D.C. one of the paintings. Amid her brightly hued archetypes, Casqueiro splashes dabs of local color.

Elizabeth Casqueiro: Borderline Edge Through June 2 at Park View Gallery, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. glenechopark.org/partnershipgalleries. 301-634-2222.

THEATER



ILLUSTRATION BY JOSÉ L. SOTO/THE WASHINGTON POST; ISTOCK

Patrons let their emotions overflow as Broadway dives into big feelings

CRYING FROM E1

to be watching this story. Little scenes, like when they go to the dock, especially in the beginning when Noah and Allie meet for the first time. There's such an innocence there. I remember being 17 and you meet someone for the first time."

Emotions have also been overflowing at "The Outsiders" and "Water for Elephants" (the scene involving the horse Silver Star tends to open floodgates), as well as at the dramas "Mary Jane" and "Mother Play," both of which are often very funny, although not in a sarcastic way. If anything ties all of these shows, it's their commitment to big feelings — whether drama, love, friendship or hope — without any ironic distance.

Of course, past shows as different as "War Horse," "Les Misérables," "Dear Evan Hansen" and the Bette Midler revival of "Hello, Dolly!" have brought on sobs — in the latter case, of pure joy at being able to witness a charismatic star being herself. But making people cry is not easy, and pulling at the heartstrings too hard can severely backfire. Tim Etchells, artistic director of the British company Forced Entertainment, once wrote: "To be really moving in theatre, you have to work much harder but, at the same time, somehow work less hard. First of all, you can't afford for anyone to see you coming. Asking for tears directly is like a comic demanding laughter.

SEE CRYING ON E4

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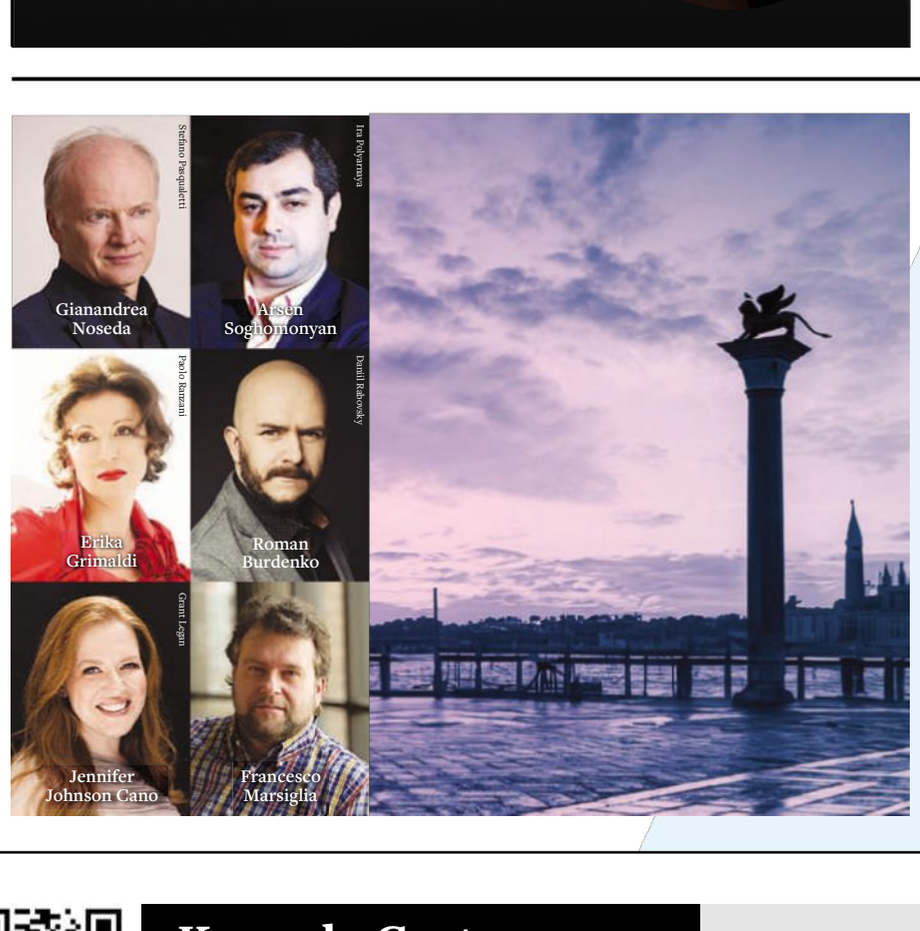


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Theatergoers seek an emotional release

CRYING FROM **E3**

Forget it. Won't work."

Critics often see heavy-handed attempts at stirring up strong emotions, be they laughter or tears, as cheap or pandering — although there is no comedy equivalent to the word "tear-jerker," which usually has negative connotations.

"'Treacly' or words like that, what does that even mean?" asked Plunkett (who, along with co-star Harewood, has been nominated for a Tony Award). "It's life, especially our lives now. And coming out of covid, to come together into a space that lets us laugh and cry together, and to witness people who are attempting and failing, perhaps, to reach each other, but then finally find each other — I think it's something we have been starving for."

That sense of community is particularly important at Shaina Taub's "Suffs," about the suffragists' fight in the 1910s for the right to vote. The musical features some poignant scenes that touch theatergoers, including the death of activist Inez Milholland, played by Hannah Cruz. "That one really got me," Glidden said. "It was like Hannah was singing into the depths of my soul."

But it's the fiery speeches and hopeful numbers about, say, solidarity or the possibility of change that seem to really get to theatergoers, especially women.

Serene Williams flew to New York from the Bay Area with her mother to see "Suffs" on its Equal Rights Amendment Night in April. Williams, a high school teacher and suffrage historian, thought she was well prepared. Then, she "cried the whole time."

"I know the story extremely well, so it was very surprising to me how emotional it was to see it," said Williams, who describes herself as Gen X. She was particularly moved when suffragist Milholland sang the line "I want my great-granddaughter to know I was here" in the song "The March (We Demand Equality)."

"I'm the mother of teenage daughters, so that's incredibly important to me," Williams said.

Many theatergoers find community or catharsis, or both, at those shows. Although he is not particularly prone to tears in his everyday life ("My wife would tell you I'm somewhat stoic"), Glidden finds himself seeking them at the theater. When he needs an outlet, he often goes to "Hadestown," a musical account of the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice that opened on Broadway in 2019. Or, he looks for a newer production with strong emotional beats.

"I leave the theater almost like I just went to a therapy session," said Glidden, who works in marketing for a travel company. "Just feeling so relieved and like a weight is lifted off my shoulder. I prefer the more uplifting cry moments, but even the sad ones get the job done. I've only seen 'The Notebook' once, but I can tell you every time I go back, I will be crying. There's something about Alzheimer's, that loss of memory, that just really hits you deep. I think next time I need a blubber, that's where I'll head."

On social media, saying that a movie or song "destroyed" you generally is a compliment. Crying "can be like a badge of honor for people and, like, almost a measure of how much they enjoyed the show, and I'm someone who embraces it," said Danielle Allen, 27, who works in social media marketing for an arts-focused company. She found herself crying at "The Outsiders." A section of Act II that ends with the number "Stay Gold" had her — "and the rest of my section, by the sound of it" — weeping.

"Why be embarrassed?" theater critic Bernardo asked about the emotional outpouring. "Isn't it a compliment to the show? They're doing something right if they're getting to all of us this way. It's like applauding or any kind of other reaction."

Like so many audience members, I have cried at shows this season. It was humbling, in a way, to admit I was emotional putty. But it was also satisfying on an elemental level, especially when it happened during those triggering scenes (Silver Star, "Stay Gold," Plunkett's pathos, "The March"), because I could sense my neighbors were losing it as well, creating a feeling of fellowship you just don't get from Netflix.

And there was more: Tears streamed down my cheeks at Cole Escola's "Oh, Mary!" — but it was from laughing so hard. This uproarious off-Broadway comedy was such a hot ticket after opening in February that it's transferring to Broadway, where performances start in June. Whatever the reason, I can't wait to reach for my tissues again.



JULIETA CERVANTES

Reunited lovers played by Joy Woods and Ryan Vasquez kiss passionately in "The Notebook" at Broadway's Schoenfeld Theatre. The scene has prompted audible sobbing at the show, at which branded tissue boxes are available for purchase at the merchandise stand.



LIZ LAUREN

From left, Maryann Plunkett, Woods and Jordan Tyson play the character of Allie at different stages in her life in "The Notebook."



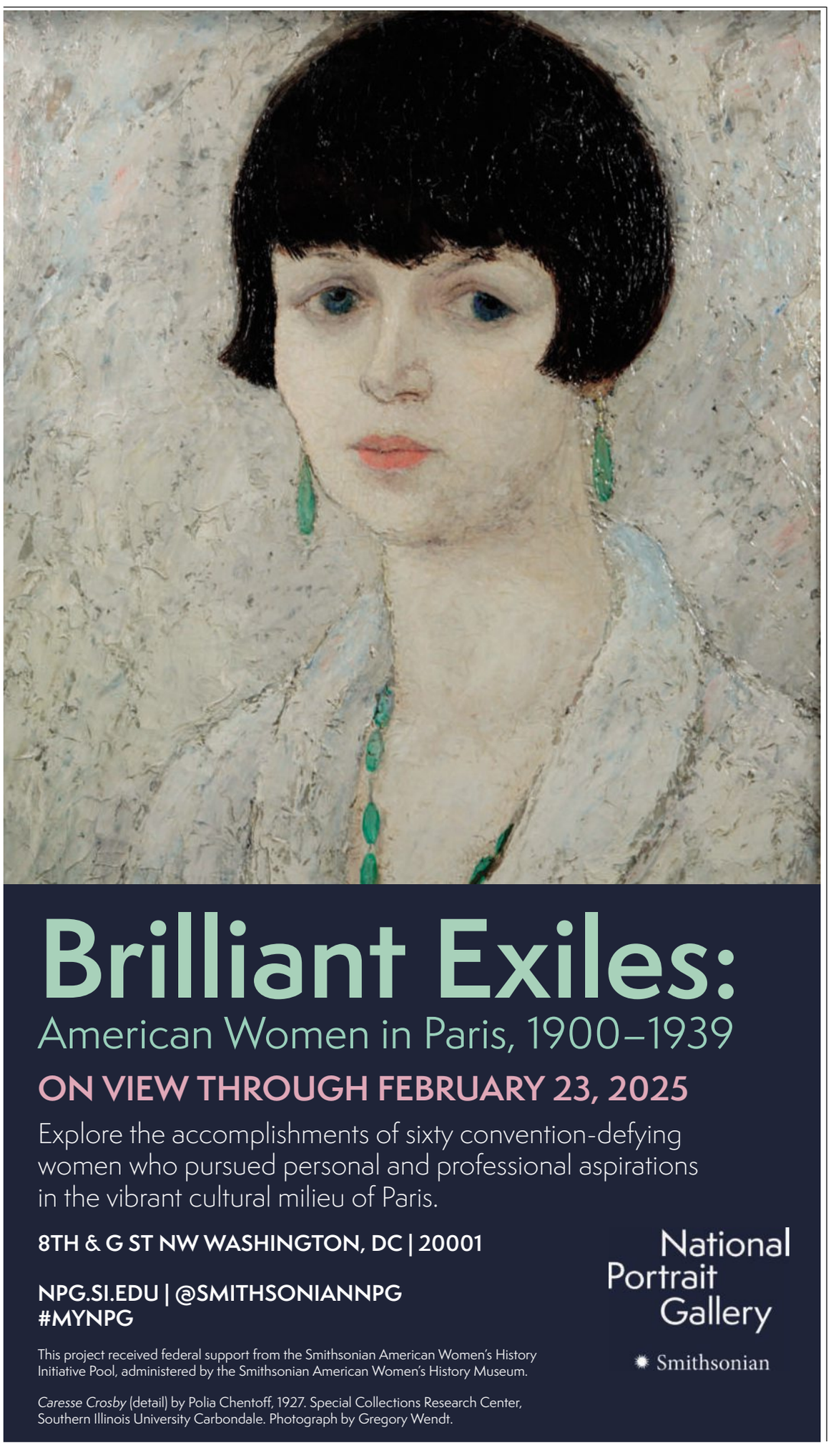
JOAN MARCUS

Jessica Lange earned a Tony Award nomination for her role in "Mother Play."



MATTHEW MURPHY

Emotions have been overflowing at the Broadway drama "Mary Jane," which stars April Mathis, left, and Rachel McAdams.



Percussionist denied tenure opts to break 'code of silence'

SYMPHONY FROM **E1**

'We had time to deal with this, and now we are at an end," Stern concluded.

Jones's reply was terse.

"That's show business," he conceded.

Technically, Stern was denying Jones tenure with the Kansas City Symphony that day in January 2023, but it was equivalent to ending his career there — he would be obligated to leave at the end of his initial short-term contract. And it would soon trigger a larger debate in the orchestra world about race, tradition and how the profession welcomes, or resists, new members.

Instead of going quietly like most denied musicians, Jones decided to challenge the system. He went public about the microaggressions and undermining moves that he says affected his on-the-job morale before a decision he argues was unjust. Now, he has shared with The Washington Post the performance reviews, emails and texts that shed light on a typically confidential process. Far beyond Kansas City, prominent musicians and supporters have seized upon his case. Jones, they say, stands for so many other promising young performers whose careers have been hobbled by an antiquated system in bad need of repair.

"Our industry does have a code of silence," says Titus Underwood, the principal oboist in the Nashville Symphony. "And Josh broke that code of silence."

Orchestra life has never been for the faint of heart. Conservatories can be crucibles that are just as crazy-making competitive as the music school from the jazz-ensemble psychodrama "Whiplash." If you manage to graduate from one of the nation's top programs, your odds of securing a reasonably paid symphony job are still as long as making an NFL roster. And if you make it, you'll find yourself under an authoritarian structure centered around the maestro — a breed of boss whose temperaments, at the extremes, have been known to include baton-snapping screamers like the legendary Arturo Toscanini and frosty, unapproachable geniuses reminiscent of Cate Blanchett's "Tár."



LOREN TONEY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Josh Jones auditioned for the Kansas City Symphony over two days in March 2020, and won the position by a unanimous vote.

There have been encouraging signs of change. Symphonies, contending with the demographic threat of aging patrons and rising classical-music illiteracy, have taken steps to diversify their orchestras as well as their audiences, launching programs to lure a wider range of young people to the performing arts.

And until last year, Jones's career trajectory seemed to serve as an inspirational tale about the right way to nurture young, diverse talent.

Now 32, he grew up on Chicago's South Side. His parents, a construction worker and a detox nurse, did not allow their three children to play outside. He remembers huddling on the floor with his family as gunshots sounded in the street.

Jones's strong test scores and grades earned him a spot in a selective magnet school, where his fourth-grade music teacher introduced him to the bongos. She also got him to apply to the Chicago Symphony's percussion scholarship program for low-income children. Many fall off after a year or two. But Jones spent nine years working closely with the program's husband-and-wife founder-directors, Patricia Dash and Douglas Waddell.

SEE **SYMPHONY** ON **E6**

PATEK PHILIPPE
GENEVE

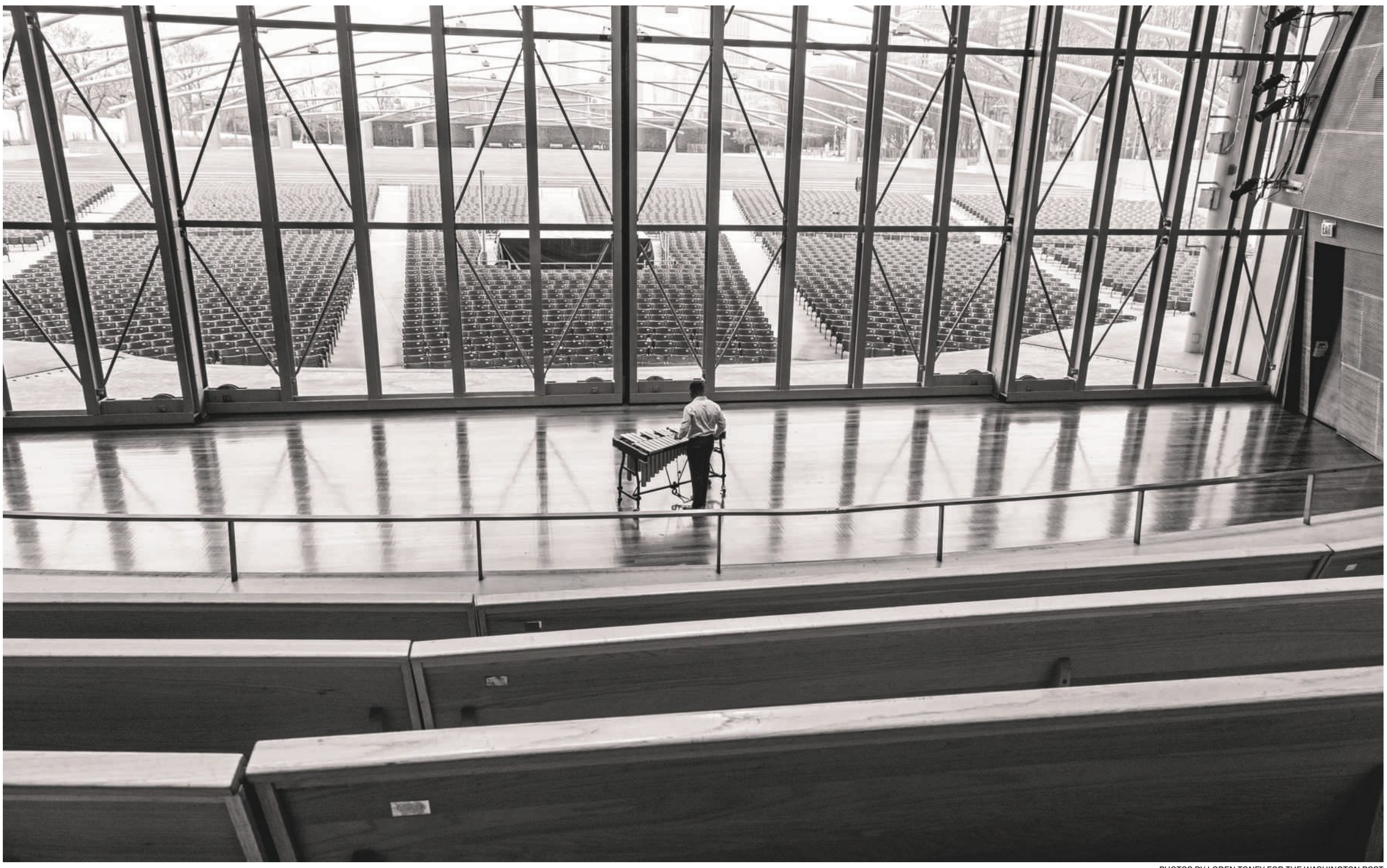




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PHOTOS BY LOREN TONEY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

“I’m not saying that these [orchestra leaders] are bad people. But Kansas City has no Black tenured principal musicians. Zero.”

Titus Underwood, principal oboist in the Nashville Symphony and a founder of the Black Orchestral Network

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

At 16, he made his Carnegie Hall debut in a performance taped for PBS. After graduating from DePaul University’s School of Music, he performed with the Detroit and Pittsburgh symphonies before winning an audition and eventually tenure with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. His playing, at every stop, got attention. So did his enthusiasm, marked by a smile as he played.

“Josh is known for being a freakishly talented guy,” says Dylan Moffitt, a percussionist who met him at a music festival in 2017.

In March 2020, Jones auditioned for Kansas City.

Symphony auditions are not typical job interviews. Players travel on their own dime and can be dismissed within minutes. But the process is carried out with a strict focus on performance. You can’t name-drop or schmooze your way into the final round, because nobody knows who you are: Musicians play behind a screen placed onstage to hide their identities from the committee.

This protocol emerged half a century ago, largely to address concerns about inequity. In 1970, more than 95 percent of the players in Boston, Cleveland, Chicago, Philadelphia and New York were men. Suspecting that audition committees were biased against female musicians, orchestra leaders tried leveling the playing field by not letting the judges see whom they were listening to. It worked. The percentage of women in U.S. orchestras rose from 38 in 1978 to 47 in 2022, according to reports from the League of American Orchestras.

So over two days in Kansas City, Jones played from behind a screen all the way to the final round. There, in a slightly awkward but not uncommon kind of matchup, he competed against David Yoon, a Juilliard graduate who had for months held the principal percussionist job in a temporary capacity.

Both were in the audition room when the orchestra personnel manager delivered the news: Jones had won by a unanimous vote. He began to cry, envisioning the new life that he and his soon-to-be wife, bassist Sara Neilson, would start in Kansas City.

His excitement was shared by many in the orchestra, recalls its principal harpist at the time.

“It was such a huge win for the symphony to gain such an amazing player,” says Katherine Siochi, who now plays for the San Francisco Symphony.

Timothy Jepson, the orchestra’s timpanist since 1983, drove Jones to meet Yoon, who would continue with the symphony, and another young orchestra part-timer at a pizza place to celebrate. Jepson, who had served on the audition committee and would now oversee his tenure process, delivered words of praise that Jones would remember years later.

“I’ve never heard an audition like that,” Jones recalls Jepson saying. “Like, ever.”

A principal needs to do more than just play beautifully. The job is comparable to being a department head at a small college. You have to manage others while determining what equipment is needed or how many outside players must be hired for a certain performance. Matthew Howard, principal percussionist of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, estimates that 75 percent of his work is about planning, not playing.

“Most of this job is logistics,” he says. “You are part librarian. You’re part production. You are doing a lot of different things and not only playing the most challenging parts.”

Yet musicians are rarely informed during their audition exactly what the role entails, notes Elizabeth Rowe, the longtime principal flutist for the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

“There’s nothing in my job description that says that I do anything other than just kind of come up, come to work, and play the notes in front of me on the stand,” says Rowe, who now coaches other musicians through the tenure process.

Audition winners begin their job on probation; only later does a secret committee of musical peers — their identities never revealed to the probationer — decide whether to recommend them to the orchestra director for tenure. That’s where the scrupulous objectivity of the blind audition is abandoned for something more akin to a high school popularity contest. Any orchestra member can share their critiques with the committee — anonymously if they please.

Ultimately, the committees play merely an advisory role. The power to decide whether a musician gets tenure generally lies with the music director. Yet many maestros — including Stern — are typically only in town for a few months each season, with guest conductors at the podium for most concerts.

The mysteries of the process have confounded orchestra newcomers for decades. In recent years, it is Black musicians in particular who have questioned the system.

They say that they have had to prove themselves in ways their White counterparts have not — and they point to the scarcity of Black faces onstage.

About 2.3 percent of musicians surveyed by the League of American Orchestras identify as Black, barely up from 1.8 percent in 2014. In 2022, a group of Black musicians founded the Black Orchestral Network to advocate for their peers.

“I’m not saying that these [orchestra leaders] are bad people,” says Underwood, the Nashville oboist and one of the founders. “But Kansas City has no Black tenured principal musicians. Zero. So I’m supposed to be like, you know, this place is really, really, really fair? That’s an act of faith.” (Leaders of the Kansas City Symphony say race does not play a role in hiring.)

Underwood had an unusually fraught experience after joining the Nashville Symphony. He clashed with a clarinetist who he says made him uncomfortable with comments about race, such as asking him about the use of the n-word in rap music; later, the man sent another orchestra member a rambling, five-page letter, viewed by The Post, that criticized Underwood’s playing and made unnerving references to a brewing “war” and his family owning a gun. The clarinetist, who did not respond to The Post’s requests for comment, was eventually fired. Some allies have said he was stressed out over Underwood’s HR complaint against him; he has since portrayed himself in conservative media as a victim of “woke” orchestra politics, saying that he initially supported Underwood’s hiring but was ostracized after questioning the fairness of the process, which he believed gave more weight to the oboist’s race than his talent.

Yet Underwood received tenure and was backed by the orchestra in the conflict. Other Black musicians, though, have sensed a frostiness from orchestra leadership after they win their auditions.

“I knew from the minute that screen came down and I walked into that room that this guy was never for me,” says Shea Scruggs. The oboist only got a two-month tryout at the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra after members of his audition committee lobbied hard to overcome the maestro’s reservations — and then was dismissed with no explanation, even after begging for feedback. (The maestro declined to comment for this story.)

But some see a system that is unjustifiably callous to young hopefuls of all races — as was the experience of a White violinist who joined Kansas City during Josh Jones’s final season.

Autumn Chodorowski’s first four months with the orchestra coincided with several personal calamities: Her husband, a double bassist in St. Louis, nearly died of Lyme disease, forcing her to miss most of her debut concert series; and then she missed another week after coming down with covid.

Back with the orchestra, a minor mistake during a performance of “The Nutcracker” seemed to seal her fate. In her first one-on-one meeting with Stern, in January 2023, he informed her she had been denied tenure.

In shock, she demurred when Stern asked her to defend herself, she says. “I just wanted to get out of the room.” Later, she asked the orchestra for a second chance but was denied.

Could the Kansas City Symphony have cut more slack to a new member grappling with

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE





TOP: Josh Jones stands at the vibraphone at Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Chicago, where he performs as the principal percussionist for the summer-season Grant Park Orchestra. Jones is still searching for a permanent slot in a full-season orchestra after losing his position in Kansas City.
ABOVE: Family photos show Jones as a youngster growing up on Chicago’s South Side. Talented from an early age, he made his Carnegie Hall debut at 16.



PHOTOS BY LOREN TONEY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

her husband's near-death? Stern declined to comment — but the orchestra's executive director, Danny Beckley, expressed regret about the handling of her case. He called the tenure process "outdated, out of touch and flawed."

While Chodorowski's tenure decision "technically" complied with the rules, he added, "I believe the process fell short."

Other orchestra leaders now appear open to reconsidering a culture of highhanded leadership and unforgiving protocols — if only with the benefit of hindsight.

Today, Weston Sprott is a trombonist with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and a dean and director for Julliard's Preparatory Division. But in 2004, he was a senior at Curtis Institute of Music who had just won an audition for the part-time Delaware Symphony.

Early on, music director David Amado sent word through an intermediary that he wanted the young Black musician to meet with him in Wilmington — up to an hour by commuter rail from Sprott's Philadelphia campus — without conveying the purpose of the meeting. When Sprott asked if he could schedule a different time, Amado never replied.

A month later, Sprott returned home from a weekend of concerts to find a letter from Amado. He had been denied tenure, with no explanation.

Sprott was crushed. Though he soon moved on to better things, 20 years later he has kept a copy of the letter of protest he sent to the orchestra.

"I'm a student, I don't have a full-time performing job, and I'm thinking, 'My God, I can't even get tenure in a regional orchestra,'" he recalls.

Amado stepped down from his position in 2017. Reached for comment, the maestro listened as a reporter described Sprott's account of his dismissal. He conceded that he had handled it poorly — and acknowledged that he could find no documentation of issues that would have justified the firing.

In February of this year, Amado sent Sprott an apology.

The trombonist told The Post he remains concerned that orchestras aren't doing enough to address their hiring and retention procedures.

But on a personal level, Sprott said — yes, the apology offered him a measure of closure on that chapter of his life.

Early in Jones's Kansas City stint, the orchestra hosted a social event at Ever Glades Farm, in the rural Missouri exurbs. Jones and Neilson exchanged glances as they drove up to the sprawling, white-columned mansion. Then they Googled. As they suspected, enslaved people once worked at what was then called Everglades Plantation.

The choice of a venue tapping into antebellum nostalgia unnerved Jones, who complained in a note to the orchestra. Other moments left him uncomfortable. Twice, when trying to enter the performance hall, security staff made him feel singled out by stopping him and pressing him for identification.

Symphony leadership declined to comment on these incidents or others that Jones described.

From Jones's point of view, the deterioration of his relationship with Jepson — the symphony's veteran timpanist assigned to oversee his tenure process — was a harbinger of his downfall. But while Jones recalls a climate of disrespect and what he perceived as subtle racial slights, Jepson offers a very different perspective.

They were friendly at the outset. Jepson gave Jones rides to rehearsals and looked after their dog when he and Neilson traveled. But Jones felt that Jepson was quick to criticize him. At a run-through of the opera "Carmen," Jepson disagreed with Jones's decision to let a pair of substitute percussionists depart before the end of rehearsal. When he realized they were gone, Jepson "gave me this look of anger, disgust and shook his head aggressively," Jones remembers.

Another time, Jepson scolded Jones so loudly for tuning another player's snare drum during intermission that Jepson later sent him a note apologizing for the outburst.

Jepson, though, told The Post that Jones is misremembering how their relationship soured. He and Jones were friends, he said, "until the day he didn't get tenure."

One of the more startling details in the early news coverage of Jones's departure from the Kansas City Symphony was his allegation that his tenure committee chair joked during a ballet rehearsal that a certain dance step reminded him of "Sambo" — a reference to a racist stereotype from a long-discredited storybook.

That tenure committee chair was Jepson, who told The Post he has no recollection of making such a reference in a musical context. Instead, Jepson recalled a conversation in which he told Jones about the overt racism he witnessed as a child — including the existence of a restaurant chain, now defunct, that was called Sambo's.

Jones also raised concerns about his interactions with Yoon, the fellow percussionist he had beaten for the job of principal.

Once, Yoon assigned a couple of his parts to a substitute without talking to Jones, which Jones considered insubordination. And after a tense meeting with Stern in May 2022, Jones received a text from Yoon.

"Sorry to hear about your meeting today," Yoon wrote. "You are a wonderful player and a colleague to have, and I'm sure that any concerns can be taken care of."

It was a kind gesture, but Jones was baffled: Yoon wasn't on the tenure committee and should not have known about the meeting. Meanwhile, Jepson told him that Yoon was complaining about Jones's organizational skills. Yet Jones had emailed Yoon and the rest of his section asking for feedback and got none.

To Jones, it seemed like a conflict that the man he had beaten for the job was able to offer criticism to the head of his tenure committee behind his back. Yoon declined to comment for this story.

Other musicians say discussions like these can undermine the fairness of the process. Jessica Phillips, a Metropolitan Opera clarinetist involved with revamping its audition and tenure system noted the blurry lines. "When somebody doesn't win the audition … what is their role in the tenure process?"

Jepson maintains that he and Yoon were trying to help Jones make it though the tenure process. At a time when Jepson was coping with family illnesses, Stern called and begged him to try to help salvage Jones's position in Kansas City. Jepson said he offered Jones more direct feedback and coaching on his organizational duties — but Jones, for whatever reason, didn't show enough improvement.

How the tenure committee voted on Jones is unknown; ultimately, though, it was Stern's decision.

In an interview, Stern dismissed the idea that Jones was treated unfairly.

"Listen, I don't wish Josh Jones ill, not one single part of me," he said. "But the facts are the facts. There were requirements for this job. There was a consensus over 13 months."

And Stern blanched at Jones's accusation that race played into the process that led to his dismissal. "The fact that he's Black is irrelevant."

The maestro — son of the legendary violinist Isaac Stern — will step down at the end of this season after 18 years with Kansas City. While some players have complained about his temperament and his skills, he has also been credited with transforming the symphony. He personally hired nearly three-quarters of the musicians in the current 80-member orchestra. "Which actually fills me up," he said. "I get very emotional thinking about this."

As the Jones dispute was covered in the Kansas City press and spread through the close-knit orchestra world, some wondered why Stern couldn't have managed the situation better. If Jones was such a special player, as many agreed, couldn't the symphony have mentored him through the organizational duties he had been criticized for or delegated some of them?

In May, leaders of the Black Orchestral Network — including Sprott, Underwood and Scruggs — met with Stern to suggest potential remedies. Why not restart Jones's tenure process?

Stern and Beckley explained that a collective bargaining agreement between musicians and management left them no opportunity to make tenure choices that would impinge upon Stern's successor. It was an answer the Black Orchestral Network found unsatisfactory.

"If Michael Stern and the CEO of the organization determined that they wanted to do something to make every opportunity available to Josh, they could have," Sprott told The Post. "They made a choice not to."

Earlier this year, Jones headed to the VanderCook College of Music in Chicago to rehearse with a group of students, who cheered when he walked into the practice room.

After rehearsal, he headed home for a late afternoon dinner with Neilson. Her bass and his marimba sat in the living room of their apartment, ready for practice. Their dog, Olive, lay on the couch. Then it was off to Lyric Opera, where Jones, as a regular sub, would be in the pit for a performance of Terrence Blanchard's "Champion," an opera about the life of boxer Emile Griffith.

Jones now has a tenured role as principal percussionist for the summer-season Grant Park Symphony, which plays in a beautiful outdoor pavilion designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry.

Things aren't perfect in this job either: Early on, he heard grumblings in the section about some of his assignments and organizational decisions. The stage crew had a slightly different idea of where they wanted the chairs and music stands, and some of his fellow musicians wanted him to play louder.

However, this time Jones heard the critiques directly, from Waddell, his longtime mentor who plays in the percussion section. Waddell set up a meeting with Jones and the other players to talk through their issues.

"What is not working? What is working? I went to Josh several times with our timpanist, and we talked about that stuff," Waddell says. "His second year was much improved to the point where it almost got to be like the best principal we've ever had. That happened because we had communication."

Jones continues to audition for a permanent slot in a full-season orchestra. But he hasn't forgotten Kansas City.

He and Neilson decided not to sue because of the cost, and he feared that a complaint with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission would take years to resolve and be hard to prove.

Yet Jones says he's not ready to move on from Kansas City, where his old job remains open with Yoon serving as acting principal pending new auditions.

What does he want? Not an apology. Not even a better explanation.

"I want my job back," he says.

Alice Crites contributed to this report.

"Listen, I don't wish Josh Jones ill, not one single part of me. But the facts are the facts. There were requirements for this job. There was a consensus over 13 months."

Michael Stern, Kansas City Symphony maestro



TOP: Josh Jones rehearses with a group of students at the VanderCook College of Music in Chicago, where he was cheered walking into the practice room. ABOVE: Jones plays the vibraphone at Jay Pritzker Pavilion. As principal percussionist, he plays the most challenging parts and also oversees the section.

CRITIC'S NOTEBOOK

LaToya Ruby Frazier's photographs challenge art world assumptions

BY **SEBASTIAN SMEE**
IN NEW YORK

























When women band together, things get done. And the things that get done — have you noticed? — are almost always helpful to others.

A sweeping statement — and my evidence, I admit, is only anecdotal. But my observations chime, I think, with the experience of LaToya Ruby Frazier, a Black photographer in her early 40s, whose body of work is the subject of a show at the Museum of Modern Art.

"LaToya Ruby Frazier: Monuments of Solidarity" is an ode to sisterhood. There are more than a few magnificent men in the show, too. But in the end, it's an exhibition about how (mostly) women — families, friends, communities, unions — respond to crises by banding together.

Frazier has specific crises in mind.

She grew up in Braddock, Penn., an outer suburb of Pittsburgh where Andrew Carnegie built his first steel mill. Her first body of work, begun when she was still a teenager, documented the crises of ill health, industrial decline and civic neglect that roiled her youth there. The photographs in "The Notion of Family" focused on Frazier; her mother, Cynthia (a nurse's aide and bartender); and her grandmother and guardian Ruby.

We see these three women — as well as "Gramps," Grandma Ruby's stepfather, who worked in the steel mill — in and around their home, at the bar where Cynthia worked, in the hospital, and at the funeral parlor.

Frazier's photographs are incredibly intimate. The interiors include both mirrors and patterned wallpaper, hinting at self-reflexiveness and opacity, revelation and reticence. Some are claustrophobic and taut, resembling close-up stills and sequences from Ingmar Bergman's "Persona." Others are detached and matter-of-fact — the sort of thing you might find in the appendix of a geological survey.

Freighted with silence, "The Notion of Family" makes you wonder about the unaccountable things families share — the things no one outside can possibly understand but which children, tumbling into adulthood, begin to see freshly as they stumble on dark clues about how the rest of the world regards them.

Two things make "The Notion of Family" special. One is the construction, through a photographic practice that is manifestly collaborative, of a rich complicity between women. The other is Frazier's awareness, deepening before your eyes, of the social, economic and historical forces buffeting not only her family but also her whole community. Both qualities have fed into her subsequent projects.

When, in the wake of the closure of Braddock Hospital, the town's mayor partnered with the denim company Levi Strauss & Co. to use Braddock in its marketing campaign (slogan: "Go forth to work"), Frazier made work that mocked the campaign.

She annotated photolithographs of the campaign ads ("How can we go forth when our borough's buses and ambulances have been cut?"). She staged a performance outside a pop-up Levi's store in Manhattan, dragging her denim-clad body over the sidewalk pavement until the fabric was shredded. And she overlaid a salvaged Levi's billboard with an excerpt from a speech by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. critiquing advertising: "Few people have the toughness of mind to judge critically and to discern the true from the false, the fact from the fiction."

Frazier's response to the water crisis in Flint, Mich., when public officials allowed lead-contaminated water into the homes of Flint's predominantly Black community, revealed her at her best. Her project, "Flint Is Family in Three Acts," took shape from 2016 to 2020. Frazier went repeatedly to Flint, where she befriended Shea S. Cobb, a poet, bus driver, songwriter and activist. She made photographs and video footage of Cobb; her daughter Zion; her mother, Reneé; and her best friend, Amber N. Hasan.

Frazier's photo essay, published in the September 2016 issue of Elle magazine, documented the group's struggle against a deeply pernicious civic affliction — a poisoned water supply — made worse by denial, inaction and indifference. She later photographed Cobb and Zion on Cobb's father's farm in Mississippi, where he had invited them because "This water won't kill you." And on Frazier's next trip to Flint, she adopted a format with which she has since persisted.

She photographed Army veteran Moses West, the man responsible for the installation of an atmospheric water generator in the town, and the residents who benefited from this novel source of safe water. Beside these photo portraits, Frazier displayed long, first-person texts, distilled from interviews, explaining each person's story in the context of the water crisis.

Frazier used this same format in "The Last Cruze" (2019). This project was her response to General Motors' 2018 announcement that it would lay off nearly 15,000 workers and stop production at five of its North American plants. Frazier went to Lordstown, Ohio, the site of a GM plant making Chevrolet Cruzes. She spent countless hours interviewing, filming and photographing the union workers who were fighting to keep the plant open.

The results are displayed at MoMA on partition walls that form part of a long structure designed to resemble a factory assembly line. It takes time to read the texts, but it's worth it. As rich as short stories, they repeatedly reinforce what is at stake. Against the tendency of many to demonize unions, both the portraits and the accompanying texts are deeply humanizing.

When the covid-19 pandemic hit, Frazier spent time in Baltimore interviewing community health workers, then presenting her portraits of them alongside long, first-person narratives. These workers are heroic — that's the first thing you register. But when we call people "heroes," we put them on another plane, robbing them of a certain reality, which Frazier here restores. These people all have engrossing backstories, interesting motivations and great hearts. Their narratives are more compelling than any number of biographies of the great and the good.

When it first appeared, "The Notion of Family" left you in no doubt that the art world needed LaToya Ruby Frazier. It needed her to break art out of its solipsistic bubble. It needed her to reveal perspectives that challenged — and at times made a mockery of — certain urban liberal assumptions.

Since then, Frazier has continued to show the art world that certain fights are neither notional nor academic. They are urgent and necessary. They are about shelter and water, sickness and medical care, decency and dignity.

Whether Frazier needs the art world — whether her unique alloy of activism, photography, video and interviewing is best carried forth by art world mechanisms (gallery shows, collectors, art press, museums) — is less clear. My own sense is simply that if Frazier wants to leverage art world structures for her own excellent purposes, art — and our idea of what it can be — is the better for it.

LaToya Ruby Frazier: Monuments of Solidarity Through Sept. 7 at the Museum of Modern Art, New York. moma.org.





ABOVE LEFT: LaToya Ruby Frazier's "Mary A. Williams, Tuklor's Mother, Holding the Water Hose at the Atmospheric Water Generator on North Saginaw Street Between East Marengo Avenue and East Pulaski Avenue, Flint, Michigan" (2019-2020).

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Frazier's "Louis Robinson, Jr., UAW Local 1714, (34 years in at GM Lordstown Complex, die setter), Recording Secretary, at UAW Local 1112 Reuther Scandy Alli union hall, Lordstown, OH" (2019); "Momme" (2008); "Momme Silhouettes" (2010); "Shea Brushing Zion's Teeth with Bottled Water in Her Bathroom, Flint, Michigan" (2016-2017); and "Edgar Thomson Plant and the Bottom" (2013).



‘Mad Max: Fury Road’ a progressive masterpiece

‘FURY ROAD’ FROM **E1**



JASIN BOLAND/WARNER BROS. PICTURES/EVERETT COLLECTION

TOP: “Mad Max: Fury Road” arrived as high-octane Hollywood cinema in 2015, which was an especially big year for legacy blockbusters. ABOVE: Furiosa, right, played by Anya Taylor-Joy, and Praetorian Jack (Tom Burke) hit the road in “Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga.”

legacy sequels that were more than happy to simply trade on a prospective audience’s lingering affection for dormant intellectual property. “Fury Road” almost certainly secured a green light under the assumption that it, too, would dig old fun out of the landfill of discarded IP. Instead, Miller broke with the franchise past.

“Fury Road” is almost entirely devoid of callbacks, cameos or winks to the previous demolition derbies on Miller’s résumé. There are few references to the other Mad Max movies. No plot elements link it directly to the events of the 1979 original or the director’s two other sequels, “The Road Warrior” and “Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome.” The closest the film comes to the crowd-pleasing reprisals of contemporaneous legacy sequels is the casting of the actor who played the villain in the first “Mad Max,” Hugh Keays-Byrne, as the villain of “Fury Road” — and there’s no indication that Toecutter *is* Immortan Joe.

You don’t have to have watched a single other Mad Max movie to appreciate “Fury Road,” a film completely uninterested in continuity. With the exception of the new “Furiosa,” every “Mad Max” is a play on the mythology of the character and the baked-hellscape setting, not a continuation of some larger canon. This has led some to read the franchise as a kind of fictional folklore, with each new story a different fable told by the survivors of Miller’s junkyard tomorrow. The thrills are blessedly self-contained, the antithesis of the “shared universe” approach adopted by Marvel and its imitators.

Miller’s refusal to chase the easy dopamine hit of an Easter egg hunt extends to the decision to recast Max, wresting the role away from the aging star of the original Ozploitation trilogy. The official explanation offered during the press cycle was that Mel Gibson was too old for the part, that “Fury Road” wasn’t angling to tell a valedictory installment, an Old Max story. Whether the star’s toxic public image was the true culprit for putting Hardy in the weathered leather instead, Miller must have known that Gibson was a bad fit for the new direction of Mad Max — for how the director was reconceiving his popular franchise through a feminist lens.

For much of the opening stretch of “Fury Road,” Hardy’s Max is a helpless spectator, mouth and limbs bound, his co-star literally driving the story. Talk about refusing to pander to the fan base! As the movie progresses, Max gets off the hood but settles into the passenger seat. He becomes the platonic ideal of an ally, around to lift up the movie’s

MOVIES



JASIN BOLAND/WARNER BROS. PICTURES/EVERETT COLLECTION

Anya Taylor-Joy, left, as the title character in "Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga," which opens Memorial Day weekend. Charlize Theron, right, in "Fury Road," the 2015 Mad Max sequel set in a baked hellscape.

true protagonist, Theron's steely Furiosa. There's a clever, sneakily poignant moment when Max tries to snipe an approaching marauder, misses the shot and hands the rifle to his uneasy new comrade, who then uses his shoulder to steady her own aim. Without a line of dialogue, Miller communicates a new power dynamic — one that flips the mythic-macho optics of his original trilogy on its ear. In the least corny way imaginable, "Fury Road" says that the future is female.

The Mad Max movies have always possessed a political conscience: They're parables of environmental crisis, allegories of capitalism as a world-ending force. They're about the powerless fighting back against the powerful. But with "Fury Road," Miller refused to let the subtext of his vehicular combat remain static. He twisted metal and theme alike, transforming the material into an urgent race against toxic masculinity. There's no way that the filmmaker could have predicted that his big bad would come to look rather conspicuously like America's: a vain, lecherous tyrant with silly hair and an idiot sycophant son. Nor could he have guessed how Furiosa's pilgrimage away from a patriarchal prison would abstractly mirror the #MeToo movement. But "Fury Road" tapped the spirit of its cultural moment like a derrick pulling precious dark fuel from the soil.

In almost all senses of the word, it's a progressive blockbuster — a franchise movie that rejects the past. While so many of today's Hollywood sequels are content functioning like flashback machines, rewarding fans' desire to see something they once loved faithfully replicated, Miller fought to truly bring Mad Max into the new century — to make him as relevant to the 2010s as he was to the 1980s. In the most eyeball-dazzling way, that meant spectacularly upgrading the action; the other Mad Max movies look like Matchbox-car preludes to the hailstorm of automotive carnage he orchestrated out there in the Namib Desert. But it also meant overhauling Max's role in the story, and even putting a new heroine front and center.

You could say that "Furiosa" completes that passing of the mantle. In tracing the origins of Theron's cyberpunk angel of vengeance — played this time, in a taciturn and strikingly ocular performance, by Anya Taylor-Joy — it imagines a franchise future without Hardy or Gibson or the roadster desperado they both portrayed. It says that Mad Max is bigger than Mad Max. In that respect, it too thinks beyond the conventional wisdom and standard operating procedure of an industry determined only to chase yesterday's triumphs. Not that Miller strays *too* far from "Fury Road." Once you've reinvented the wheel so successfully, you're permitted to take it for another spin.

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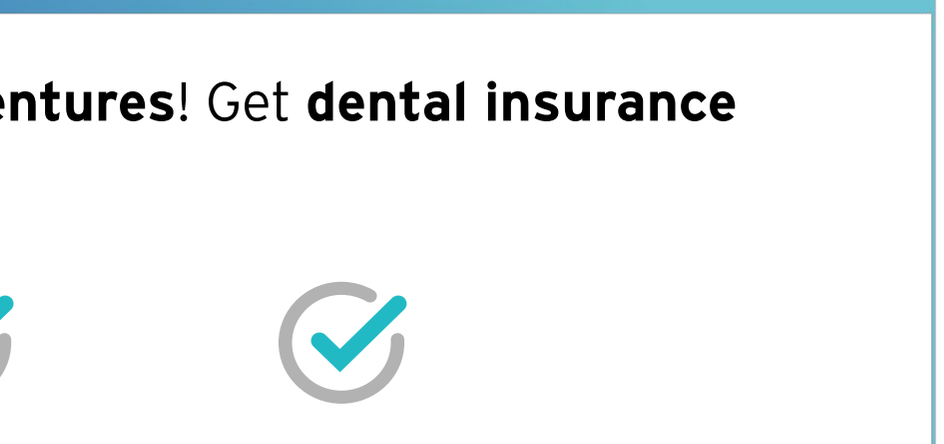
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Parent keeps pushing son not to exclude abusive mom from his wedding



Carolyn Hax

Dear Carolyn: My son and his lovely fiancée are planning a fall wedding. I have been divorced from my son's mom for over 15 years. He is an only child.

My ex was extremely emotionally abusive to both my son and me. My son has struggled with his mental health as a result. Fortunately, he was very proactive in seeking care and is doing well now. I am in a stable long-term relationship and doing well myself.

The issue is that he has cut off contact with his mom and has decided not to invite her to the wedding. My son is very fond of my significant other and has included her on the guest list.

Although I have no contact with my ex, I do feel she should be included in the wedding. I have talked with my son, suggesting alternatives such as including her in the ceremony only. I have also talked with his fiancée, who agrees with me. We also agree it is ultimately up to my son to decide, but I am concerned that my son's decision will negate any chance to repair the relationship with his mom.

I am struggling with how to handle this. My son has asked me not to talk to his mom about it and stated unequivocally that he does not care what the consequences are of his decision. As I am sure you have surmised, the hurt from the abuse he suffered growing up is still very much there. He does still see his therapist occasionally. My partner thinks my son should include his mom, but also that I should not push the issue. There is still plenty of time before the wedding.

— Dad



ILLUSTRATION BY NICK GALIFIANAKIS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Dad: Stop — all of you, but you especially.

The issue is not that your son has cut ties to his mom and left her off the guest list. The issue is that *you won't accept his decision.*

You won't grant him full respect for his hard work to get healthy, or for his courage in making a tough decision, or for his standing as the person best able to determine what is good for him. The issue is that you won't drop it. You're hanging on to the asterisk that says you all know what he needs better than he does.

To be fair — maybe you have dropped the subject around him, since you do say you and the advisory panel are in agreement that the decision is ultimately his.

Still, you're treating it as a live issue in your mind, hoping your son will change his. You're hoping I can help you figure out something you can say or do between now and autumn to make that happen.

There is a risk to your refusal to accept his decision as final, and it is fourfold.

The first part, as you can attest, is that it will keep eating at you.

Second: Few of us are persuasive actors. If all you're doing is summoning your willpower to keep your mouth shut on the subject around your son, then your son will pick up on that. He has had more than enough family stress for his young lifetime; he does not need to feel your eyes on him, imploring him to do what you and others think he "should" do.

Third, you've made wanting him to reconcile with his abuser your primary purpose, and that is so problematic that I urge a good, gnarly think about why you chose it and why you won't let it go. Top of your to-do list.

Fourth, and most important, is that it keeps alive the certainty that you know your son better than he knows himself. If you want a healthy relationship with a healthy son, then kill that certainty right now. If you want a healthy relationship with a healthy son, then *trust him.*

He will be wrong sometimes, sure. He may even be wrong enough about excluding his mom from his wedding that he one day comes to regret it. But as an adult now, he has every right to be wrong about things without everyone up in his grill about it.

Especially since undermining his judgment and negating him is exactly what an abuser does — so you're targeting your invite-Mom campaign right at the part of himself he has had to work hardest to rebuild.

You made, apparently, a catastrophic choice in marrying your ex. Maybe that ripple is still in effect as you hold on to your protective role past its usefulness to your son.

But he has used his agency toward seeking care to piece himself back together after an abusive childhood, then toward choosing someone "lovely" as his life partner. Please consider giving him the gift of confidence — in the form of a dad who respects his son's ability to run his own life for himself. That has a next-level protective effect.

Write to Carolyn Hax at *tellme@washpost.com*. Get her column delivered to your inbox each morning at *wapo.st/gethax*.

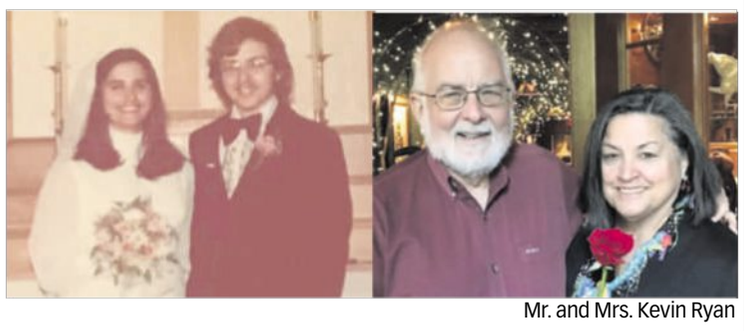
Join the discussion live at noon Fridays at washingtonpost.com/live-chats.

Engagements | Weddings
Anniversaries

To place an announcement:
email: weddings@washpost.com
phone: 202-334-5736
fax: 202-334-7188

—— Anniversaries ——

Ryan 50th Anniversary
—June 1, 1974—



Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Ryan

Kevin and Mary Lyman Ryan of Silver Spring, Maryland were married on June 1, 1974 in Ft. Dodge, Iowa. They will be celebrating their 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary with their children and grandchildren on Saturday June 1, 2024.

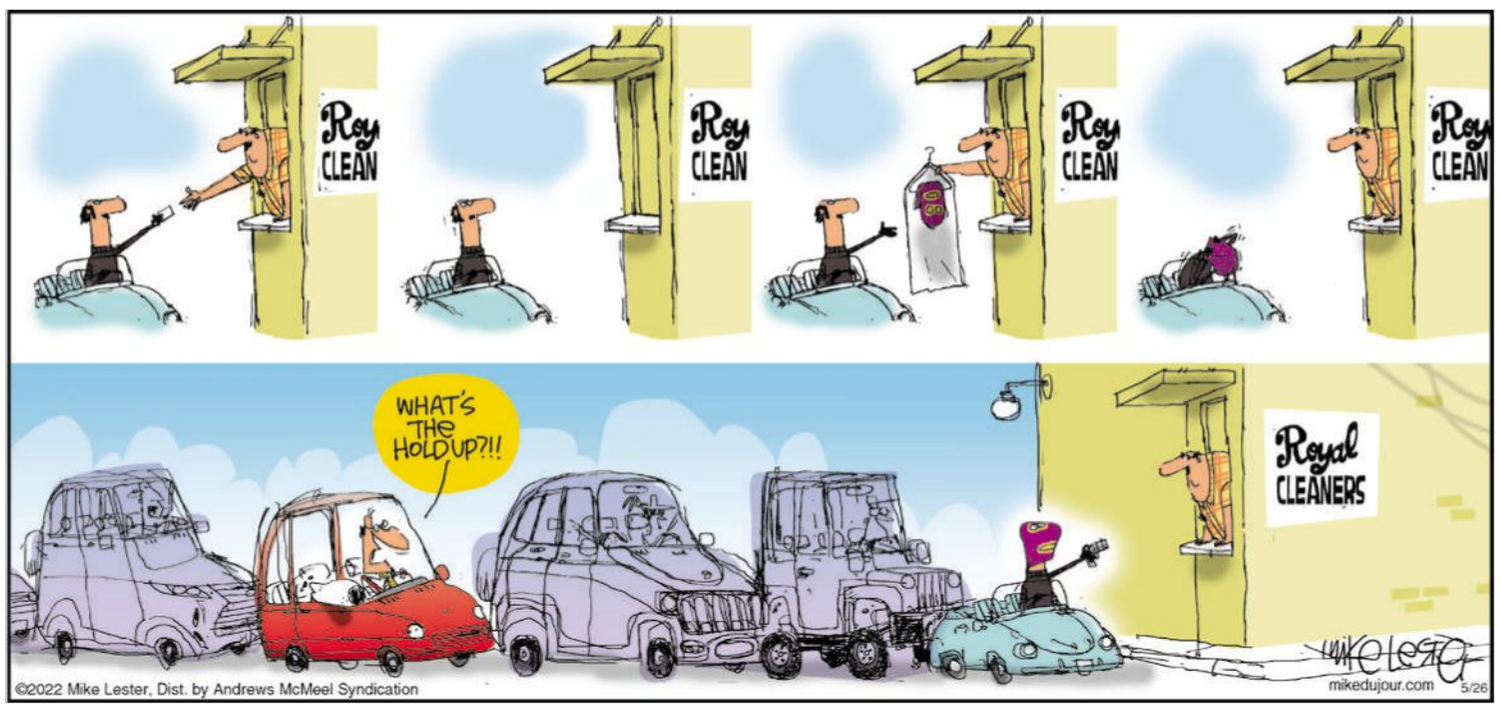
Declare Your Love!

Announce your Engagement, Wedding or Anniversary in The Washington Post's Sunday Arts & Style Section. (Birthdays, Graduations & other Special Events have moved to Thursdays.) You may provide text and photos. Color is available.
Many packages include keepsake plaques of your announcement.

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All materials must be received by Monday at 1 p.m.

MIKE DU JOUR BY MIKE LESTER



Widower finds new love with a married neighbor

Ask Amy
AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: Since my spouse of over 40 years died last year, I have moved forward in my life in a positive manner.

I am having a relationship with a married woman ("Brenda"). As a widower, I have found this to be very helpful. Brenda's adult son and daughter have supported her in allowing this relationship to continue and grow. Brenda's husband is clueless to everything going on. Brenda and I enjoy our time together and we have very long phone calls, and we have a very exciting sexual relationship.

Her house is across the street, and she has her own bedroom separate from her husband. He is distant, withdrawn and very unsociable. Brenda doesn't want to leave her house and move in with me because her daughter and granddaughter are also living in the home with her.

At what point should Brenda's husband be clued into this development, and what approach should we take to "clear the air" at some point?

— Archie

Archie: I appreciate the fact that you believe you are moving onward "in a positive manner" after your loss, but I would ask you to reconsider the meaning of the word "positive," and at least acknowledge the possible negative consequences your and "Brenda's" behavior might have on others.

You don't offer any real clues about the status of Brenda's husband, and I wonder whether you and Brenda could consider what course of action will be the least destabilizing for him. He might be withdrawn and unsociable, but he is the innocent party here, and his life might be turned upside down if he and Brenda split.

Using the modern vernacular, Brenda might propose that they "open up" their marriage. This is often suggested by a spouse who is already having an affair, but wants to stay married. Might he also want to step out, or would he prefer to maintain a "don't ask, don't tell" sort of arrangement, where he and his wife basically live separate lives under the same roof?

A divorce might take an extreme toll financially, affecting the entire household, but he should be presented with the truth, because he has the right to make some informed choices about his own life. The coziest course might be for Brenda to move across the street to cohabit with you, allowing her husband to stay in his home, but so far she doesn't seem to want to make any substantial changes to be with you.

Dear Amy: My father is serving a long term in prison for a violent crime he committed many years ago. He was hardly a model citizen or dad of the year before his incarceration. I was a teenager when he was convicted, and the whole thing consumed a lot of my childhood, but after he was gone, I hate to admit, my life improved a lot.

Although I think about him from time to time, I don't miss him. Aside from two visits early on, I have not seen him or been in touch. Honestly, I don't miss him. I have a great husband and we have a 5-year-old son. So this is my son's grandfather. My son has asked only a couple of times about his grandfather (I think he's still trying to get family relationships straight).

I know I need to tell him something about my dad, but I don't know how to do that. Can you help get me started?

— Loving Mom

Mom: Make a choice to tell the truth, but do so in a way that is age-appropriate and simple. We parents tend to ramble and pile on too much detail when we're nervous. Try not to do this. You can say, "My Dad's name is John. When I was a kid, my dad broke the law and hurt someone. He had to go to jail for doing that, and he is still in jail."

Do not portray him as a scary person (you don't want to scare your son). Answer questions honestly, and if the answer is, "I don't know," you can say that.

Dear Amy: The question from "Holding It" made me mad. She is disabled and is upset that able-bodied people use the bathroom stall intended for her. Anyone can use these stalls. Is it supposed to stay empty, just in case she comes along?

— Upset

Upset: I don't think "Holding It" is asking that the stall stay empty, but that able-bodied people shouldn't linger. They should be aware that they can use other stalls — and she cannot.

Amy's column appears seven days a week at *washingtonpost.com/advice*. Write to *askamy@amydickinson.com* or Amy Dickinson, P.O. Box 194, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. You can also follow her *@askingamy*.

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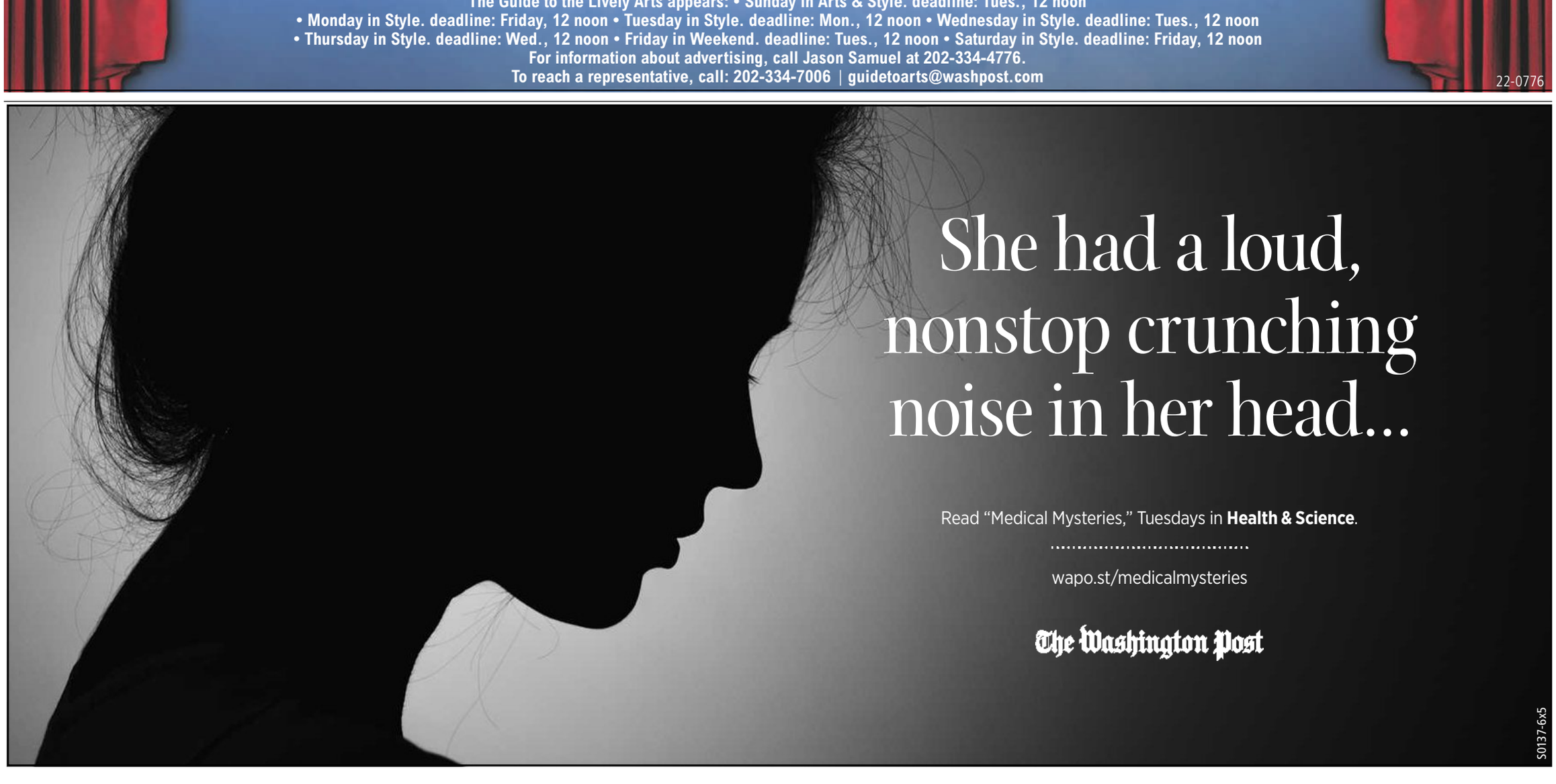


the GUIDE to the Lively Arts

SHOW NAME	DATES & TIMES	DESCRIPTION	DETAILS	PRICE	ADDITIONAL
THEATRE					
"Mama, I'm a Big Girl Now" The Three Leading Ladies of "Hairspray"	Saturday, June 8, 7 p.m.	Twenty years ago, the musical "Hairspray" debuted on Broadway. Reunited for the first time are the original Tracy, Penny and Amber—Tony Award-winner Marissa Jaret Winokur and Tony nominees Kerry Butler ("Xanadu") and Laura Bell Bundy ("Legally Blonde")—for an evening of songs and stories.	**The Alden at the McLean Community Center 1234 Ingleside Avenue McLean, Virginia 22101 Box Office: 703-790-9223 alentheatre.org**	$75/$60 student, seniors; VIP: $100/$85 student, seniors	Free onsite parking
Metamorphoses by Mary Zimmerman	Now on Stage Through June 16!	The tales of Midas, Aphrodite, Zeus, Cupid, and more showcase the transformative power of myths in this contemporary "gorgeously realized" (Washington Post) staging of gods & mortals within the African diaspora, directed by Psalmaynene 24 at the historic Folger Theatre on Capitol Hill.	**Folger Theatre 201 E Capitol St., SE 202-544-7077 folger.edu/meta**	$20 - $84; discounts available	"The best kind of theater" - Broadway-World "Transcendent" - DC Theater Arts
MOMIA EN EL CLOSET **Evita's Return**	Thru June 9 Thurs - Sat at 8 pm Sun at 2 pm	Eva Peron's afterlife pulses with rhythms of samba, bachata, tango, and tarantella in this dark political musical comedy that will leave you breathless.	**GALA Theatre 3333 14th Street NW' 202-234-7174 www.galatheatre.org**	$25-$50	In Spanish with English surtitles
Shear Madness The Kennedy Center Theater Lab	Regular Schedule: Tuesday–Friday at 8 Saturday at 6 & 9 Sunday at 3 & 7	Take a stab at catching the killer at this wildly popular comedy whodunit that keeps audiences laughing all over the world. "Shrieks of laughter night after night at the Kennedy Center." (Washington Post)	**The Kennedy Center Theater Lab Student Rush Tickets Available Tickets: 202-467-4600 Groups: 202-416-8400 www.shearmadness.com**	Tickets Available at the Box Office Great Group Rates for 15 or More	Added Shows: Mon at 8PM Tue at 5PM Wed at 5PM Thu at 5PM
MUSIC - CONCERTS					
A Salute to Service: Honoring America's Heroes featuring The War and Treaty	Sunday, May 26 at 7:30 P.M.	This Memorial Day weekend join The United States Air Force Band for a FREE concert at the Theater at MGM National Harbor as they perform alongside GRAMMY nominated, husband-and-wife duo, The War and Treaty!	**The Theater at MGM National Harbor 101 MGM National Ave Oxon Hill, MD 20745 REGISTER at USAFBAND.TICKETLEAP.COM**	FREE	Find The U.S. Air Force Band on FB/IG @ USAFBand and YouTube @ TheUSAF Band
Pasión y Fuego: The Music of Spain	Saturday, June 15, 2024 at 7:30 PM	With Washington National Opera's Cafritz Young Artist Program mezzo-soprano Allegra De Vita and Spanish flamenco dancer Maria Juncal.	**Music by Manuel de Falla and Isaac Albeníz https://panamsymphony.org/concert-season/**	$65-$85	https://www.kennedy-center.org/whats-on
Summer Concert Series	Saturday, June 1 at 7 P.M.	Join The U.S. Air Force Band for a FREE concert in the Summer Concert Series on Saturday evening at the National Harbor Waterfront. FREE and open to the public, no tickets required! All outdoor concerts are subject to weather cancellation. Check our social media for cancellation information.	**Plaza Stage National Harbor Blvd Oxon Hill, MD MORE INFORMATION AT USAIRFORCEBAND.COM**	FREE	Find The U.S. Air Force Band on FB/IG @ USAFBand and YouTube @ TheUSAF Band
MUSIC - CHORAL					
An Homage to Music Erin Freeman, Artistic Director	June 2, 2024 at 5 p.m.	Our final concert of the season celebrates our favorite art form! Join us for an evening of music about music, featuring Elgar's rarely-performed *The Music Makers*, with works by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Reena Esmail, and Robert A. Harris. Featuring mezzo-soprano Winona Martin.	**Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall 4915 E Campus Dr. Alexandria, VA 22311 www.citychoir.org**	Tickets $15-50	Free parking
Misa a Buenos Aires with QuinTango	Sunday, June 2 at 5 PM	The Arlington Chorale joins forces with QuinTango to present Martin Palmeri's *Misa a Buenos Aires* and a world premiere commission.	**Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington arlingtonchorale.org**	$30, free for children 17 and under	Ticket includes post-concert reception
MUSIC - ORCHESTRAL					
Symphonic Metamorphosis Mahler 4 + Hindemith featuring David Chan & Ying Fang	June 2, 2024 at 4 PM	The Apollo Orchestra presents the final in concert in the 2024-2025 season with principal conductor David Chan and soprano Ying Fang. The program will feature Hindemith's Symphonic Metamorphosis of themes by Carl Maria von Weber and Mahler's Symphony No. 4 in G major.	**Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center 7995 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910 https://www.apolloorchestra.com/events/june2/**	Free	Free parking

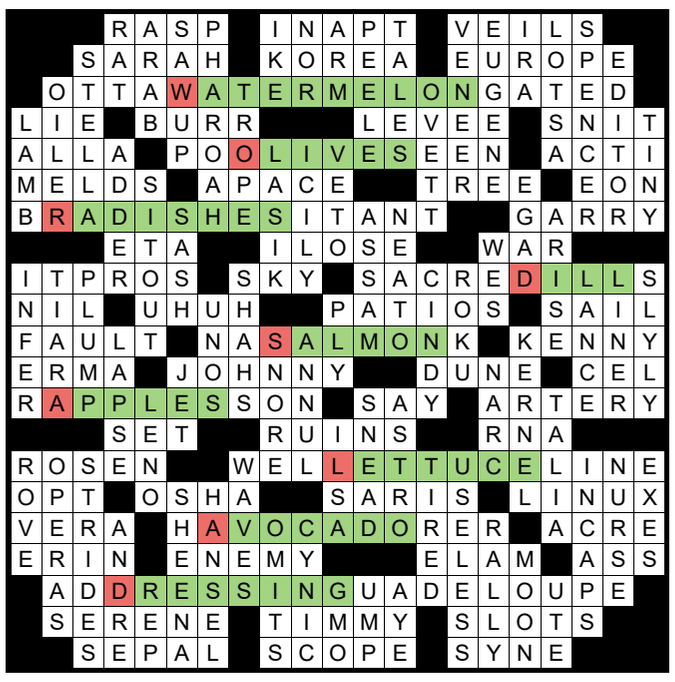


The Guide to the Lively Arts appears: • Sunday in Arts & Style. deadline: Tues., 12 noon • Monday in Style. deadline: Friday, 12 noon • Tuesday in Style. deadline: Mon., 12 noon • Wednesday in Style. deadline: Tues., 12 noon • Thursday in Style. deadline: Wed., 12 noon • Friday in Weekend. deadline: Tues., 12 noon • Saturday in Style. deadline: Friday, 12 noon
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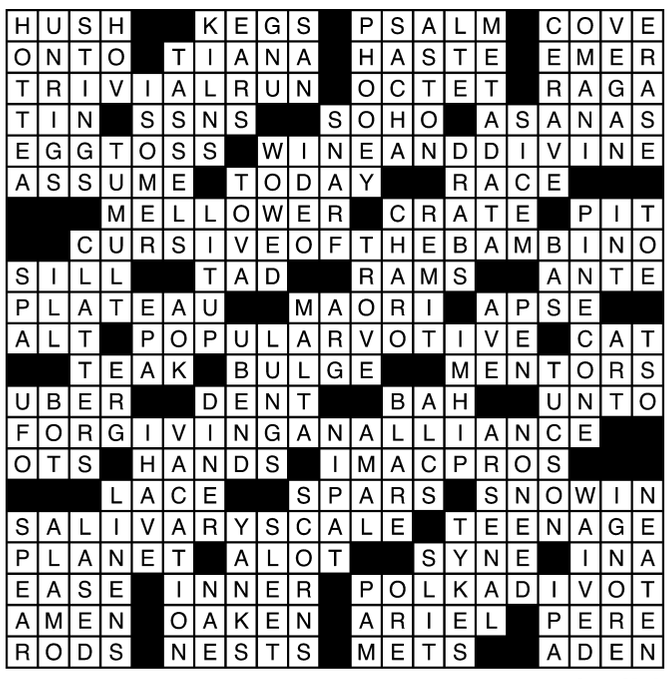
Answers to last week's puzzle.

BOWL GAME (MAY 19)



Each bizarre theme answer hides a salad ingredient. The first letters of these ingredients spell **WORD SALAD**.

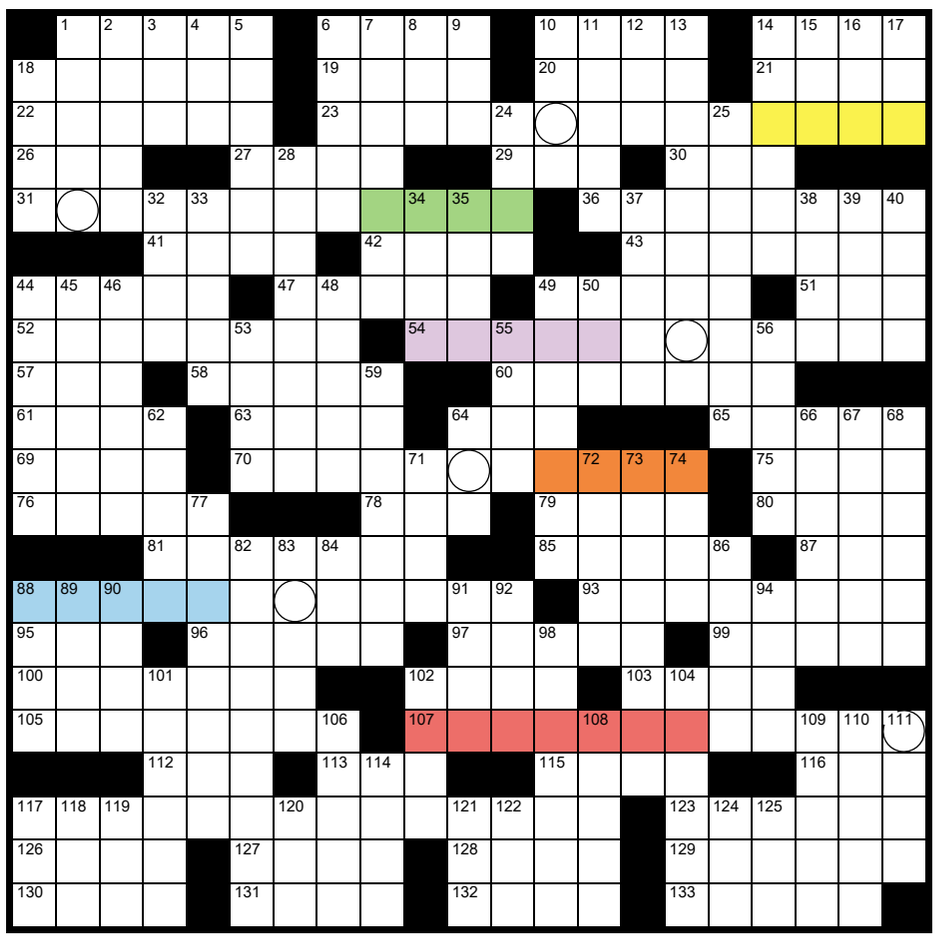
Answers to last week's L.A. Times Sunday puzzle.



5/19/24

CROSSWORD

"SCREEN GEMS" BY EVAN BIRNHOLZ



ACROSS

1 Makes less lumpy, as flour
6 With 131 Across, dish that may be prepared with Shaoxing wine
10 Snitch (on)
14 Pirate ship post
18 Social outcast
19 ____ and hearty (in good health)
20 Jump at the rink
21 Shallowest Great Lake
22 70 Across shade
23 2001 Oscar-winning film about the mathematician John Nash
26 Snitch (on)
27 "Umbrella" singer's reduplicative nickname
29 "I spoke ____ soon"
30 A few paragraphs about yourself, say
31 2012 romantic comedy about teenagers in love
36 Surface-to-air weapons, perhaps
41 "Will do!"
42 "Eureka!" moments
43 Euchre declaration that makes aces the highest cards
44 ____ papa
47 Be flirtatious with
49 Magna cum ____
51 Forte carmaker
52 Act of retaliation
54 2017 superhero film featuring Zords (battle vehicles modeled on prehistoric creatures)
57 Berg stuff
58 Unfinished room, maybe
60 Certifies
61 Email program folder
63 One with log-in info
64 Pursuer of tax evaders
65 "Get ____ here!"
69 ____ Pretenders (Norwegian baseball team)
70 1947 film that topped Christina Newland's "50 Best Boxing Movies" list in Paste magazine
75 "Bearded" flower
76 "It's Gonna Be Me" pop group
78 Roll that may be sticky
79 Cathedral area
80 Ginormous amounts
81 "In case you missed it ..."
85 Like questions asked of a Magic 8 Ball (although it gives 20 different responses)
87 Lamentation emotion
88 2000 adventure film in which "Fly Me to the Moon" plays during the end credits
93 Buys more supplies of
95 French water
96 "Waiting for Guffman" actress Parker
97 "Come on!"
99 Bouches-du-Rhône city
100 Soup-serving dishes
102 Card above a deuce
103 Having the talent
105 Competitor dealing with stress?
107 1994 romantic dramedy starring Winona Ryder as an aspiring documentary filmmaker
112 Tennis player Shriver
113 ____ Speedwagon
115 Words of understanding
116 "If you ask me," online
117 Colorful artifacts of Avengers films, represented by the puzzle's shaded words
123 Josh who played the supervillain who collected the 117 Across (this supervillain is spelled out in the puzzle's circled squares)
126 Wilderness home
127 Wilderness home
128 Brand of pizza sauce
129 Performs "The Lonely Goatherd," say
130 Instrument plucked in ancient Greece
131 See 6 Across
132 Hoskins's role in "Hook"
133 Nail-filing abrasive

DOWN

1 "A Court of Thorns and Roses" author ____ J. Maas
2 Hopping mad
3 Piranha's propeller
4 Chasing game
5 "Trial & Error" actress Shepherd
6 Record in a hospital
7 Polar region, for a polar bear
8 Atlético Madrid fans' chant
9 Split ____ soup
10 Brussels-based alliance
11 Math class statement
12 One not loved by fans
13 Party mixers
14 Roxane Gay's book "Hunger," e.g.
15 Shapiro on public radio
16 Theological violation
17 ____ Talks
18 Dessert wine
24 Beehive State people
25 Heed
28 "Oh, yeah?"
32 Beryllium's atomic number
33 Origin of Rajasthani music
34 Breakfast chain
35 Spanish word for "hand"
37 Accustom to hardship
38 "Beverly Hills, 90210" co-star Perry
39 Kuwaiti leader
40 Sauna venues
44 Shawshank, in "The Shawshank Redemption"
45 When children play
46 Without hiding your thoughts and feelings
48 "Please ignore my earlier comments"
49 "Imagine, for the sake of argument ..."
50 Hirshhorn Museum display
53 Evidence of admission
55 Voting district
56 "Top Gun" garb
59 One throwing a fit
62 Gin's partner
64 Comfort ____ (Choice Hotels option)
66 Bricklayer's implement
67 Contents of a lode bearing element No. 50
68 Impose, as a fine
71 Dealership offering
72 Work with big numbers?
73 D.C. chamber
74 2014 Television Hall of Fame inductee Jay
77 Piece of cookware at a French brunch
82 Subject of interest?
83 Band hunting bandits
84 Female in a flock
86 Canine-brushing brand
88 Complete collections
89 Musical McCartney
90 Field of pseudoscience?
91 Days of old
92 Mets' former home
94 Number that follows and rhymes with zwei
98 Lord's address
101 Target of opposition in decolonization efforts
102 Turkey ____ (Thanksgiving fun run)
104 "Catch you later!"
106 "I might know more than you think I do"
108 We can discuss it
109 Ceramic flooring pro
110 R&B singer King
111 Cain and Abel, to Eve
114 Award for Serena Williams or Simone Biles
117 Feeling sick
118 Political thumbs-down
119 Pine tree relative
120 Letter before upsilon
121 Surg. locales
122 "Apocalypse Now" locale, briefly
124 CD-____
125 Exaltation in verse

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY PATTI VAROL AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

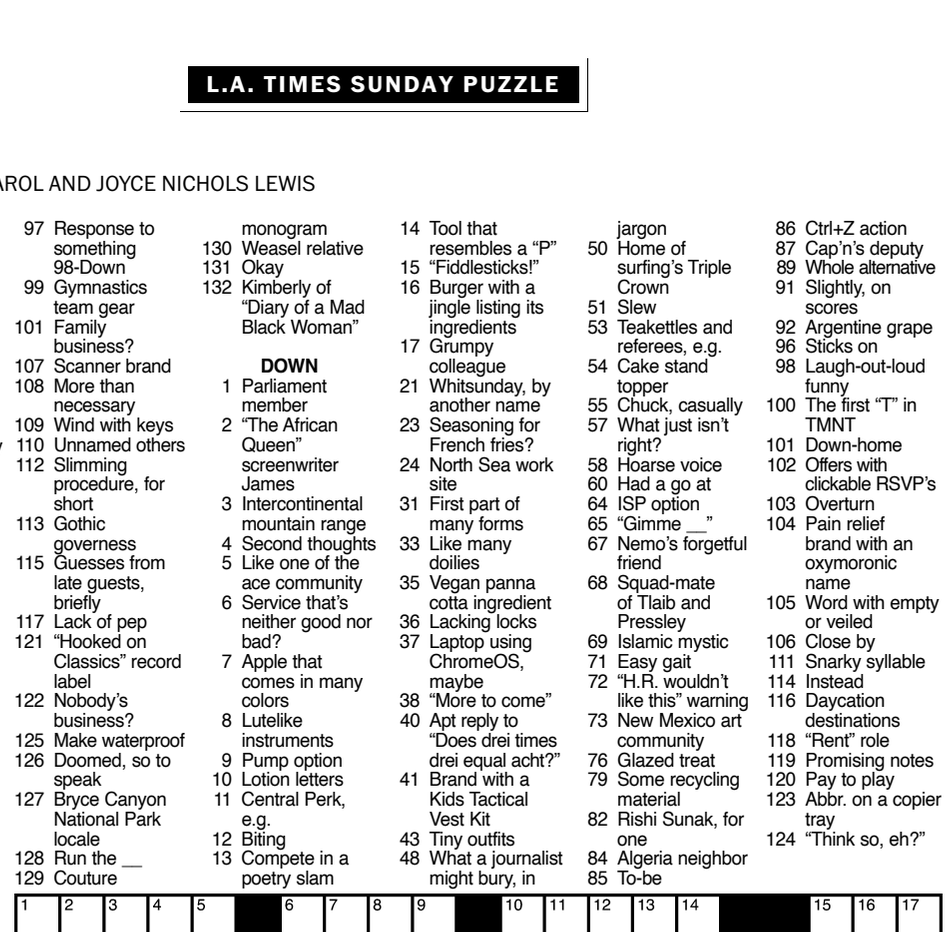
"WORKPLAY"
BY SAMUEL A. DONALDSON & DOUG PETERSON

ACROSS

1 FLOTUS after Hillary
6 Result of a lost front tooth, perhaps
10 Winter accessory
15 Docs doing deliveries
18 Fairy tale bullies
19 Kuwaiti ruler
20 Gainbridge Fieldhouse player
21 "Sussudio" singer Collins
22 Home business?
25 Sword side
26 Ritzy
27 PJ top, perhaps
28 Change one's story?
29 Handle
30 Sift through
32 Small stream
34 "They set us up!"
36 Italian "That'll do!"
39 Risky business?
42 Fail to cooperate?
44 Timid souls
45 Division I org. based in Arlington, Texas
46 Efficient
47 Diamond with hits
49 Pita sandwiches
52 Rough and disorderly
56 Pressing business?
59 Checker's concern
61 Loafer, e.g.
62 Souvenir shop staples
63 Pop, to baby
66 Real struggle
68 Buckeyes' sch.
70 Core business?
74 Venn diagram grouping
75 1960s sitcom family with a pet dragon named Spot
77 Entreaty
78 Formerly, once
80 Amount countable on one hand
81 Partially melted
83 Funny business?
88 Six Flags attractions
90 Afternoon class hour
93 127-Across's Bonneville __ Flats
94 Homeowner's overhaul, for short
95 ICU readout
97 Response to something 98-Down
99 Gymnastics team gear
101 Family business?
107 Scanner brand
108 More than necessary
109 Wind with keys
110 Unnamed others
112 Slimming procedure, for short
113 Gothic governess
115 Guesses from late guests, briefly
117 Lack of pep
121 "Hooked on Classics" record label
122 Nobody's business?
125 Make waterproof
126 Doomed, so to speak
127 Bryce Canyon National Park locale
128 Run the __
129 Couture
130 Weasel relative
131 Okay
132 Kimberly of "Diary of a Mad Black Woman"

DOWN

1 Parliament member
2 "The African Queen" screenwriter James
3 Intercontinental mountain range
4 Second thoughts
5 Like one of the ace community
6 Service that's neither good nor bad?
7 Apple that comes in many colors
8 Lutelike instruments
9 Pump option
10 Lotion letters
11 Central Perk, e.g.
12 Biting
13 Compete in a poetry slam
14 Tool that resembles a "P"
15 "Fiddlesticks!"
16 Burger with a jingle listing its ingredients
17 Grumpy colleague
21 Whitsunday, by another name
23 Seasoning for French fries?
24 North Sea work site
31 First part of many forms
33 Like many doilies
35 Vegan panna cotta ingredient
36 Lacking locks
37 Laptop using ChromeOS, maybe
38 "More to come"
40 Apt reply to "Does drei times drei equal acht?"
41 Brand with a Kids Tactical Vest Kit
43 Tiny outfits
48 What a journalist might bury, in jargon
50 Home of surfing's Triple Crown
51 Slew
53 Teakettles and referees, e.g.
54 Cake stand topper
55 Chuck, casually
57 What just isn't right?
58 Hoarse voice
60 Had a go at
64 ISP option
65 "Gimme __"
67 Nemo's forgetful friend
68 Squad-mate of Tlaib and Pressley
69 Islamic mystic
71 Easy gait
72 "H.R. wouldn't like this" warning
73 New Mexico art community
76 Glazed treat
79 Some recycling material
82 Rishi Sunak, for one
84 Algeria neighbor
85 To-be
86 Ctrl+Z action
87 Cap'n's deputy
89 Whole alternative
91 Slightly, on scores
92 Argentine grape
96 Sticks on
98 Laugh-out-loud funny
100 The first "T" in TMNT
101 Down-home
102 Offers with clickable RSVP's
103 Overturn
104 Pain relief brand with an oxymoronic name
105 Word with empty or veiled
106 Close by
111 Snarky syllable
114 Instead
116 Daycation destinations
118 "Rent" role
119 Promising notes
120 Pay to play
123 Abbr. on a copier tray
124 "Think so, eh?"



5/26/24

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HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | May 26: You are strong-willed and popular. You also have an independent streak, which makes you unique. You march to the beat of your own drum. This is a fun-loving, playful year for you! Give yourself permission to enjoy yourself. Let your hair down. (But do keep your goals in mind.)

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in Capricorn.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
This is an excellent day for discussions with parents, bosses, teachers, VIPs and the police. Others will respect you and listen. It's a good day for important discussions, as well as thinking about your life direction in general.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
This is a great day to make travel plans, because you have the patience to deal with details. This is also a great day to study and learn something new; you have excellent concentration.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Today is the perfect day to tackle red-tape details related to taxes, debt, insurance issues and inheritances because you have excellent powers of concentration. Just begin.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Discussions with partners and close friends will be useful. Naturally, two heads are better than one. Sit down with someone to discuss how to travel, work and deal with issues to get things done.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You will be productive. You have the motivation and endurance to follow through. Be the wise carpenter: "Measure twice; cut once."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Your creative efforts will bear fruit if you're an artist or working on a creative project, because you will persist to get the job done. Meanwhile, romance with someone older might begin.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
This is an excellent day to sit down and have an important discussion with a parent or an older family member to discuss practical matters that affect home and family.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
This is the perfect day to learn something, because your powers of concentration will help you. Furthermore, you're patient and willing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
If shopping, you won't buy frivolous items. Instead, you will buy items that are long-lasting and practical, because you feel prudent economically and do not want to waste your hard-earned money.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
The Moon is in your sign dancing with your ruler Saturn. Because of this, you might prefer to be alone with your thoughts. In everything you do, you will be thrifty and careful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
This is a wonderful day for research. You have the necessary powers of concentration; furthermore, you have the persistence to keep working.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Someone older might have excellent advice for you. It doesn't hurt to listen. After all, you don't have to reinvent the wheel. Welcome practical advice and suggestions.

MOVIE DIRECTORY

(!) No Pass/No Discount Ticket

Sunday, May 26, 2024
www.washingtonpost.com/movies

DISTRICT

AMC Georgetown 14
3111 K Street N.W.

Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) OC: 3:00
The Fall Guy (PG-13) CC: 1:00-4:00-7:30-10:30
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) CC: 10:30-1:50-5:15-8:40
Civil War (R) CC: 10:50-7:20-10:40
Challengers (R) CC: 12:30-3:30-5:20-7:00-8:20-10:00
If (PG) CC: 10:40-11:20-4:40-7:20-10:00
The Garfield Movie (PG) CC: 11:00-12:10-2:45-7:00-9:40
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) CC: 11:30-1:15-4:30-7:10-10:30
The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare (R) CC: 1:30
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) CC: 2:20-5:20-7:50-10:10
Sight (PG-13) CC: 11:30-4:45-7:15-9:45
Babes (R) CC: 11:45-5:10-7:45-10:20
Back to Black (R) CC: 11:10-4:30
I Saw the TV Glow (PG-13) CC: 10:30AM
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 12:40-4:10-7:40-11:00
Blue Angels (G) CC: 2:50
The Garfield Movie 3D (PG) CC: 1:40
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) CC: 11:40-6:30-9:50-10:20
Civil War (R) OC: 4:40
If (PG) OC: 2:00
The Garfield Movie (PG) OC: 4:20
Sight (PG-13) OC: 2:10
Babes (R) OC: 2:30
I Saw the TV Glow (PG-13) OC: 8:00

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema - DC Bryant Street
630 Rhode Island Ave NE

Back to the Future (PG) 11:30AM
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 11:15-3:00-6:45-10:30
I Saw the TV Glow (PG-13) 10:45-1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30
Challengers (R) 12:45-3:30-7:00-10:15
The Garfield Movie (PG) 12:00-6:00-9:00
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Babes (R) 10:30-4:15-7:15-10:15
Back to Black (R) 11:45-3:00-6:15-9:45
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 8:00
If (PG) 10:45-1:45-4:45-7:45-10:45
The Garfield Movie (PG) 3:00
Babes (R) 1:15
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 4:15

Angelika Pop-Up at Union Market
550 Penn Street NE - Unit E

Challengers (R) 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:25
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 12:00-1:00-3:20-4:10-6:30-7:30-9:30

Avalon Theatre
5612 Connecticut Avenue

Farewell, Mr. Haffmann (Adieu Monsieur Haffmann) 1:45-7:15
The Old Oak 11:15-4:30
Back to Black (R) 11:30-2:15-5:00-7:45

Landmark Atlantic Plumbing Cinema
807 V Street Northwest

The Fall Guy (PG-13) 1:40-4:30-7:30-10:10
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 2:00-4:00-5:00-7:00-8:00-9:30
Challengers (R) 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:50
If (PG) 1:50-4:10-6:30-10:00
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 12:50-3:45-6:45-9:40
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 1:00

Landmark E Street Cinema
555 11th Street Northwest

Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 12:00-1:00-3:15-4:15-6:00-7:00-8:00-9:00-10:10
Challengers (R) 1:45-5:45-7:45-10:30
Evil Does Not Exist 12:45-3:25-9:15
Babes (R) 12:25-1:30-4:00-5:30-7:15-10:00
Back to Black (R) 12:30-4:10-7:30-10:25
I Saw the TV Glow (PG-13) 1:15-3:45-7:20-9:45

Regal Gallery Place
701 Seventh Street Northwest

The Fall Guy (PG-13) 1:30-3:40-7:20-9:25
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 3:30-7:00-10:30
Civil War (R) 11:10AM
Challengers (R) 1:35-4:20-7:10-9:50
If (PG) 10:40-12:50-4:35-6:40-10:20
The Garfield Movie (PG) 10:30-11:40-1:10-2:20-4:10-5:10-6:50-7:50-9:20
Sight (PG-13) 10:10AM
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) 10:50-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:10
Back to Black (R) 10:00
The Garfield Movie 3D (PG) 9:50-12:40
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 10:00-11:00-11:30-12:30-1:00-2:00-2:30-3:00-4:30-5:00-5:30-6:00-6:30-8:00-8:30-9:00-9:30
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 10:20-11:20-1:40-2:50-5:20-6:20-8:40-9:40

MARYLAND

AFI Silver Theatre Cultural Center
8633 Colesville Road

Cinema Paradiso (Nuovo Cinema Paradiso) (1988) (R) 4:00
Sansho the Bailiff (Sansho dayu) (NR) 4:30
The Tingler (NR) 11:10AM
Curse of the Demon (1957) (NR) 9:15
Hit Man (R) OC: 11:00AM
The Third Man (2016) (NR) 2:15-7:00
Hotel by the River (Gangbyun Hotel) 7:25
Vengeance Is Mine (1984) 11:45AM
Evil Does Not Exist 12:55-5:15-9:35
Hit Man (R) 1:30-6:30-8:50
Wildcat 3:05

AMC Academy 8
6198 Greenbelt Road

Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) CC: 10:30-11:40-1:00-3:00-4:20-6:00-7:15-9:15-10:30
Challengers (R) CC: 10:20-4:00-9:40
If (PG) CC: 10:20-1:30-4:15-7:10-10:00
The Garfield Movie (PG) CC: 10:50-1:50-4:40-7:40-10:20
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) CC: 11:00-1:30-4:00-6:45-9:40
Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire (PG-13) CC: 1:20-7:00
Tarot (PG-13) CC: 6:30-9:00
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) CC: 11:10-2:10-4:40-7:10-9:30
The Garfield Movie 3D (PG) CC: 10:00-12:45-3:30

AMC Annapolis Mall 11
1020 Annapolis Mall Road

The Fall Guy (PG-13) CC: 1:00-4:00-7:50-10:20
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) CC: 12:30-4:00-7:20-10:40
Challengers (R) CC: 11:10-10:10
The Garfield Movie (PG) CC: 10:30-2:15-3:50-4:40-7:30-9:05
Sight (PG-13) CC: 11:20-1:50-4:20-6:50-9:20
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) CC: 1:20-3:40-6:00-8:30-10:50
Back to Black (R) CC: 10:00-11:25
Babes (R) CC: 12:00-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:45
I Saw the TV Glow (PG-13) CC: 10:15-11:30
The Garfield Movie 3D (PG) 1:15-6:30
If (PG) CC: 10:10-12:40-2:00-3:30-6:20-9:00
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) CC: 10:00-12:50-4:30-7:00-10:15
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) CC: 10:20-11:30-4:50-6:10-9:30; 2:50-8:10

AMC Center Park 8
4001 Powder Mill Rd.

The Fall Guy (PG-13) CC: 1:45-4:45-7:15-10:15
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) CC: 1:00-2:30-4:00-7:00-8:45-10:30
If (PG) CC: 12:30-3:00-5:30-8:00-10:30
The Garfield Movie (PG) CC: 12:00-4:30-10:00
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) CC: 12:00-3:15-6:30-9:45
Sight (PG-13) CC: 12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30-10:00
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) CC: 2:15-4:45-7:45-10:15
The Garfield Movie 3D (PG) CC: 1:30-7:30
The Garfield Movie (PG) 6:00

AMC Columbia 14
10300 Little Patuxent Parkway

Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) OC: 5:00
The Fall Guy (PG-13) CC: 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) CC: 11:00-2:30-6:00-9:20
Challengers (R) CC: 12:15-3:15-4:15-7:15-10:15
The Garfield Movie (PG) CC: 11:00-12:35-4:10-6:00-9:10
Kung Fu Panda 4 (PG) CC: 11:25-6:20
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) CC: 12:00-3:15-6:35-8:35-9:55
Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire (PG-13) CC: 2:10
Sight (PG-13) CC: 11:15-4:15-6:45-9:15
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) CC: 12:20-2:40-5:00-7:30-10:00
Babes (R) CC: 11:00-1:40-4:25-7:05-9:40
Back to Black (R) CC: 3:20-6:20-9:50
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 12:00-3:30-7:00-10:20
I Saw the TV Glow (PG-13) CC: 9:00
Blue Angels (G) CC: 11:45AM
The Garfield Movie 3D (PG) CC: 6:50
If (PG) CC: 11:10-12:35-1:50-3:10-4:30-7:10-9:30
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) CC: 8:20
The Garfield Movie (PG) OC: 1:35
Sight (PG-13) OC: 1:45
I Saw the TV Glow (PG-13) OC: 1:50

AMC DINE-IN Rio Cinemas 18
9811 Washingtonian Center

The Garfield Movie 3D (PG) 1:00-3:45-6:30
The Fall Guy (PG-13) CC: 10:45-1:45-4:45-7:45-10:45
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) CC: 3:00-6:30-10:00
Civil War (R) CC: 7:30-10:20
Challengers (R) CC: 11:30-2:45-6:00-9:15
Kung Fu Panda 4 (PG) CC: 12:00-2:30-5:00
The Garfield Movie (PG) CC: 12:00-2:45-5:30
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) CC: 11:45-3:15-4:30-6:45-7:45-10:15-11:00; 8:30
Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire (PG-13) CC: 12:30-3:30
Tarot (PG-13) CC: 3:45-6:20-8:45
Sight (PG-13) CC: 11:15-2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) CC: 10:15-12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45
Babes (R) CC: 10:45-1:30-4:15-7:00-9:45
Back to Black (R) CC: 10:30-1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 12:30-4:00-7:30-11:00
I Saw the TV Glow (PG-13) CC: 2:15-10:30
Blue Angels (G) CC: 10:45-1:15
Love Me If You Dare 6:30-10:00
Three Old Boys 10:30-1:30
If (PG) CC: 10:30-11:30-1:15-4:00-5:00-6:45-7:45-9:30
Raju Yadav 10:00-10:15
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) OC: 11:30AM
The Garfield Movie (PG) CC: 11:00-1:45-4:30-7:15-9:15

AMC Magic Johnson Capital Center 12
800 Shoppers Way

The Fall Guy (PG-13) CC: 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) CC: 1:45-5:10-8:30
Challengers (R) CC: 7:10-10:15
If (PG) CC: 1:00-2:00-3:40-4:45-7:20-10:00
The Garfield Movie (PG) CC: 1:15-4:20-6:25-7:00
Kung Fu Panda 4 (PG) CC: 12:05-8:30
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) CC: 1:45-2:30-5:10-5:45-9:00
Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire (PG-13) CC: 6:15-9:00
Sight (PG-13) CC: 12:25-3:00-8:00-9:30
Tarot (PG-13) CC: 1:50-5:30-10:30
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) CC: 12:05-2:30-5:00-7:30-10:00
Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire (PG-13) CC: 1:30-4:15
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 12:25-3:45-7:10-10:30
The Garfield Movie 3D (PG) CC: 3:50-9:00

AMC Montgomery 16
7101 Democracy Boulevard

The Fall Guy (PG-13) CC: 10:05-1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) CC: 10:00-12:45-6:45-10:30
Challengers (R) CC: 7:00-10:00
If (PG) CC: 10:30-12:45-3:30-6:15-9:00
The Garfield Movie (PG) CC: 10:00-4:00-7:45-9:45
Kung Fu Panda 4 (PG) CC: 11:30-2:00-4:30
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) CC: 10:15-1:30-4:00-7:15-10:15
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) CC: 10:15-1:30-4:45-7:15-10:30
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) OC: 4:15
The Garfield Movie (PG) OC: 1:15

AMC St. Charles Town Ctr 9
11115 Mall Circle

The Fall Guy (PG-13) CC: 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) CC: 12:15-2:00-3:30-5:15-6:45-8:30-10:00
If (PG) CC: 12:45-3:00-3:30-6:15-9:00
The Garfield Movie (PG) CC: 4:00-9:30
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) CC: 12:00-3:15-6:30-8:15-9:45
Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire (PG-13) CC: 5:30
Tarot (PG-13) CC: 12:15-2:45-5:20-7:45-10:15
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) CC: 12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30-10:00
The Garfield Movie 3D (PG) CC: 12:15-1:15-6:45

Cinemark Egyptian 24 and XD
7000 Arundel Mills Circle

The Fall Guy (PG-13) 10:25-4:40-7:45-10:50
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 10:05-10:20-10:45-11:35-12:45-1:30-2:10-3:00-5:35-6:25-7:35-9:00-9:50-11:00; 4:10
If (PG) 1:35
The Garfield Movie (PG) XD: 10:55-1:40-4:25-7:10-9:55; 1:15
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 12:15-12:35-12:55-3:55-4:15-6:55-7:15-7:35-10:15-10:35-10:55; 3:35
Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire (PG-13) 1:30; 10:35-4:25-7:20-10:30
Tarot (PG-13) 1:45
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) 10:00-12:30-4:55-5:30-7:25-8:00-10:00-10:45; 3:00
Babes (R) 4:35
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 4:55-8:20
Challengers (R) 10:10-1:20-4:30-7:40
The Garfield Movie (PG) 11:30-2:15
Kung Fu Panda 4 (PG) 10:00AM
Sight (PG-13) 11:00-1:50-7:30-10:20
Tarot (PG-13) 10:05-4:15-6:45-9:15
Babes (R) 11:15-1:55-7:15-9:55
Back to Black (R) 10:00-4:20-10:40
I Saw the TV Glow (PG-13) 10:50
The Garfield Movie 3D (PG) 10:15-4:00-9:10
Love Me If You Dare 12:30-3:40-6:50-10:00
Turbo 1:00-7:20
The Fall Guy (PG-13) 1:35
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) XD: 12:10-3:35-7:00-10:25
If (PG) 10:05-10:20-10:50-11:10-1:05-1:55-3:50-4:20-4:40-6:35-7:05-7:25-9:20-9:45-10:05
The Garfield Movie (PG) 10:00-10:30-12:55-3:40-6:25-6:45-9:30
Sight (PG-13) 4:40

Cinépolis Gaithersburg
629 Center Point Way

The Fall Guy (PG-13) 10:00-1:15-4:30-7:45-11:00
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 10:15-11:30-2:15-3:15-6:00-7:00-9:45-10:45
If (PG) 10:30-1:30-4:15-7:15-10:15
The Garfield Movie (PG) 10:00-11:00-1:00-2:00-4:00-5:00-7:00-7:45-8:00-11:00
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 11:15-2:45-6:30-10:15
Sight (PG-13) 10:45-1:45-4:30-10:45
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) 11:00-2:00-4:45-10:30
Back to Black (R) 7:30
The Garfield Movie 3D (PG) 10:00

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway

If (PG) 5:15
Evil Does Not Exist 2:00-5:00
If (PG) 2:15

Landmark Bethesda Row Cinema
7235 Woodmont Avenue

The Fall Guy (PG-13) 1:45-7:20-10:05
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 1:00-4:00-5:00-7:00-10:00
Challengers (R) 1:15-4:15-7:10-9:55
If (PG) 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:00
The Garfield Movie (PG) 1:30-2:30-4:30-7:15-9:35
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 12:45-3:50-6:50-9:45
Back to Black (R) 1:10-3:45-6:40-9:30
The Fall Guy (PG-13) 4:25
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 8:00

Landmark at Annapolis Harbour Center
2474 Solomons Island Road Unit H-1

The Fall Guy (PG-13) 1:15-4:00-6:45-9:30
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 1:30-2:30-4:40-6:10-7:40-9:20
Civil War (R) 4:30
If (PG) 1:10-2:10-3:40-6:05-7:05-9:35
The Garfield Movie (PG) 1:00-2:00-3:00-4:20-5:00-6:35-7:00-8:50
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 1:05-4:05-7:15-9:05
Back to Black (R) 1:25-4:15-7:10-9:40

Phoenix Theatres Marlow 6
3899 Branch Avenue

Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 11:00-2:30-6:00-9:30-10:00
If (PG) 11:30-2:00-4:30-7:00-9:45
The Garfield Movie (PG) 11:00-12:30-1:30-3:30-4:00-6:30-9:00
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 12:05-3:30-6:45-9:55
Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire (PG-13) 6:35
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) 12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30-10:05

Regal Cinemas Majestic Stadium 20 & IMAX
900 Ellsworth Drive

Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 3:50
The Fall Guy (PG-13) 12:30-3:35-6:50-10:10
Civil War (R) 9:40
Challengers (R) 11:00-2:10-5:20-8:40
If (PG) 11:15-12:45-2:00-3:30-4:55-6:20-7:50-9:15
The Garfield Movie (PG) 9:55-10:25-11:30-12:20-12:50-1:20-2:20-3:15-4:15-6:10-7:10-9:05
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 10:10-1:40-3:40-5:10-7:45-8:45
Sight (PG-13) 12:55-3:45-6:40
Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire (PG-13) 10:00AM
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) 2:30-5:00-7:40-10:20
Babes (R) 11:05-1:50-4:35-7:20-10:15
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga: The IMAX Experience (R) 11:40-3:20-7:00
Back to Black (R) 5:15-8:20
Blue Angels (G) 12:40
The Garfield Movie 3D (PG) 10:05
Love Me If You Dare 1:45-5:30-9:10
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 11:10-12:10-1:10-2:15-2:50-4:20-4:50-6:00-6:30-7:30-8:00-8:30-9:35-10:00

Regal Germantown
20000 Century Boulevard

Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 10:40-11:40-12:20-1:10-2:00-4:40-5:30-7:00-8:20-9:10-10:30
The Garfield Movie (PG) 10:30-11:00-11:30-12:10-12:50-1:40-2:10-2:50-3:40-4:20-6:00-6:40-7:20-9:30-10:00-10:40
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 11:20-3:00-6:30-9:50
Sight (PG-13) 2:30-5:10-7:50-10:35
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) 12:00-2:40-5:20-8:10-10:50
Back to Black (R) 5:40-9:00
Blue Angels (G) 10:35-11:50
Love Me If You Dare 2:20-5:50-9:20
Turbo 5:00-8:50
The Fall Guy (PG-13) 1:20-3:45-6:50-10:10
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 3:20
If (PG) 12:30-3:10-6:20-9:40

Regal Hyattsville Royale
6505 America Blvd.

The Fall Guy (PG-13) 11:50-3:00-6:10-9:40
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 10:30-11:30-12:30-1:30-3:30-4:30-5:30-6:30-6:50-7:30-8:30-10:00-10:30
Challengers (R) 2:00-5:20-8:50
If (PG) 11:20-2:10-5:00-8:00-10:40
The Garfield Movie (PG) 10:40-12:40-1:40-3:40-4:40-7:40-10:20
Kung Fu Panda 4 (PG) 11:10AM
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 10:50-2:20-6:00-9:50
Sight (PG-13) 11:00-1:50-4:50-7:50-10:50
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) 11:45-2:50-5:50-9:00
Back to Black (R) 11:15-3:10-6:20-9:20
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 9:30
The Garfield Movie (PG) 11:40-2:40-5:40-8:40
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 2:30

Regal Laurel Towne Centre
14716 Baltimore Avenue

The Fall Guy (PG-13) 1:00-4:10-7:20
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 10:20-11:00-12:00-1:50-2:40-3:30-5:20-6:10-7:00-8:50-9:40
If (PG) 10:05-12:50-3:40-4:40-6:40-9:30
Challengers (R) 10:15
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 10:00-12:15-3:50-7:10
Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire (PG-13) 1:30-4:30-7:50
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) 11:40-2:20-5:00-7:30-10:10
Back to Black (R) 10:30-1:40-4:50-8:00
The Garfield Movie (PG) 10:10-10:45-11:15-12:30-1:20-2:00-3:10-4:00-6:00-6:50-7:40-8:40-9:50

Regal Rockville Center
199 East Montgomery Avenue

The Fall Guy (PG-13) 11:25-2:30-5:30-8:40
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 11:45-12:40-2:10-3:10-4:10-5:40-6:40-7:40-9:10-10:10
Civil War (R) 11:00-4:50-10:35
Challengers (R) 1:40-7:30
If (PG) 11:10-12:50-1:50-3:40-4:30-7:20-10:15
The Garfield Movie (PG) 1:20-4:00-6:50-9:40
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 11:50-3:30-7:00-10:25
Sight (PG-13) 11:30-2:40
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) 11:55-5:20-8:00-10:30
Back to Black (R) 6:20-9:20
Three Old Boys 5:00-7:50-10:40
The Garfield Movie (PG) 11:20-12:20-2:20-3:00-5:50-8:30

Regal Waugh Chapel & IMAX
1419 South Main Chapel Way

The Fall Guy (PG-13) 11:40-3:00-6:30-9:50
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 10:10-10:50-1:00-2:30-4:20-6:00-8:00-9:30
Challengers (R) 9:40
If (PG) 10:20-11:00-12:30-1:50-3:10-4:30-7:15
The Garfield Movie (PG) 10:00-11:30-2:10-3:30-4:50-6:10-7:30-8:50-10:20
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 11:10-12:50-4:10-5:50-7:45-9:10
Sight (PG-13) 10:30-1:10-3:50-6:50
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) 2:50-5:30-8:20
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga: The IMAX Experience (R) 11:50-3:20-7:00-10:30
Back to Black (R) 10:00
Blue Angels (G) 10:05-1:30-4:00-6:40
The Garfield Movie 3D (PG) 12:40

Regal Westview & IMAX
5243 Buckeystown Pike

Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 10:00-11:10-1:10-2:40-4:35-5:05-6:10-8:10-8:40-9:40; 4:10
The Garfield Movie (PG) 10:25-1:40
The Garfield Movie 3D (PG) CC: 10:00-12:45-3:30-6:15-9:00
Three Old Boys 10:00-3:20-8:40
Ai Ni Xin Dong Wei Zhi 12:50-6:10-11:30

AMC Potomac Mills 18
2700 Potomac Mills Circle

Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 6:45; 2:40
If (PG) 5:40
The Garfield Movie (PG) 3:15
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 4:30
The Fall Guy (PG-13) CC: 11:15-2:15-5:15-8:15-11:20
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) CC: 10:15-1:30-4:45-8:00-11:15
Civil War (R) CC: 12:20
Challengers (R) CC: 8:00-11:00
Kung Fu Panda 4 (PG) CC: 3:10
The Garfield Movie (PG) CC: 10:00-12:40-1:40-6:10-7:00-8:45-10:00
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) CC: 10:00-11:15-1:15-2:30-6:00-7:50-9:15-11:10
Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire (PG-13) CC: 11:10-2:00-4:50-7:40-10:30
Tarot (PG-13) CC: 10:50-1:20-3:45-6:10-8:30-11:00
Unsung Hero (PG) CC: 6:30
Sight (PG-13) CC: 10:20-12:50-3:30-6:15-8:45-11:15
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) CC: 10:10-12:30-3:00-5:20-7:40-11:30
Back to Black (R) CC: 10:45-1:50-4:50-7:45-10:40
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 1:00-4:15-7:30-10:45
Blue Angels (G) CC: 12:30-5:40
The Garfield Movie 3D (PG) CC: 11:00-4:20-9:40
Turbo 9:10
If (PG) CC: 11:30-12:10-2:10-2:50-4:50-7:30-8:15-10:20-10:50
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) CC: 11:15-11:45-3:15-6:00-9:30-10:15

AMC Shirlington 7
2772 South Randolph St.

The Fall Guy (PG-13) CC: 1:10-4:05-7:00-10:00
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) CC: 11:50-3:10-6:30-9:50
Challengers (R) CC: 11:25-4:50-9:15
If (PG) CC: 1:20-4:00-6:40-10:40
The Garfield Movie (PG) CC: 11:30-2:20-7:30-10:05
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) CC: 12:20-3:45-7:00-10:15
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) CC: 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:50-10:10
Back to Black (R) CC: 2:00-7:50
The Garfield Movie 3D (PG) CC: 4:55

AMC Tysons Corner 16
7850e Tysons Corner Center

Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) OC: 4:50
I Saw the TV Glow (PG-13) OC: 8:10
The Fall Guy (PG-13) CC: 10:10-1:20-4:25-7:35-10:40
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) CC: 11:10-2:45-6:10-9:35
Dune: Part Two (PG-13) CC: 10:30-2:25-6:20
Civil War (R) CC: 5:35-8:15-10:55
Challengers (R) CC: 12:40-4:00-10:10
The Garfield Movie (PG) CC: 10:50-4:15-7:05-9:45
Kung Fu Panda 4 (PG) CC: 11:05-1:30-3:15-5:40
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) CC: 11:50-3:10-4:10-6:30-7:30-9:50-10:50
Sight (PG-13) CC: 11:35-2:10-4:45-7:20-10:05
Tarot (PG-13) CC: 10:15
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) CC: 12:00-2:35-5:05-7:45-10:20
Evil Does Not Exist 7:25
Babes (R) CC: 11:00-1:50-4:30-7:10-9:55
Back to Black (R) CC: 8:05-11:00
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 12:10-3:35-7:00-10:35
I Saw the TV Glow (PG-13) CC: 10:45
The Garfield Movie 3D (PG) CC: 12:05-2:50
If (PG) CC: 11:15-12:20-2:00-3:00-4:40-5:35-7:25-10:00
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) CC: 10:00-1:25-8:20
The Garfield Movie (PG) OC: 1:35

AMC Worldgate 9
13025 Worldgate Drive

The Fall Guy (PG-13) CC: 10:00-12:45-3:30-6:15-9:00
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) CC: 10:30-1:30-4:15-5:15-7:15-8:30-10:00
Challengers (R) CC: 10:00-4:15-10:30
If (PG) CC: 10:15-1:00-3:45-6:30-9:15
The Garfield Movie (PG) CC: 11:00-12:15-2:45-7:30-10:30
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) CC: 10:45-12:45-4:30-6:30-10:15
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) CC: 10:15-2:00-4:00-7:45-9:45
Sight (PG-13) CC: 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45
Back to Black (R) CC: 1:15-7:25
The Garfield Movie 3D (PG) CC: 1:45-4:45

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema - One Loudoun
20575 East Hampton Plaza

Back to the Future (PG) 11:30AM
The Fall Guy (PG-13) 11:05-12:55-4:10-7:30-10:45
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 11:45-6:30-10:15
The Garfield Movie (PG) 3:30
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 11:15-3:00-6:45-10:30
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) 10:50-1:30-4:20-7:00-9:45
Back to Black (R) 9:10
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 1:45-2:30-3:30-5:30-8:45-9:15
If (PG) 12:00-3:00-6:00-9:00
The Garfield Movie (PG) 10:40-12:35-5:45-6:15-7:15-10:10; 2:40

Angelika Film Center Mosaic
2911 District Ave

If (PG) 10:10-1:55-4:15-6:45-9:15
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 10:45-12:35-3:45-7:00-10:10
The Garfield Movie (PG) 10:30-11:30-1:00-3:30-6:00-8:30
Back to Black (R) 1:50-4:35-7:20-10:00
The Fall Guy (PG-13) 1:30-4:25-7:10-10:15
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 10:20-1:15-4:25-7:30-9:55
Babes (R) 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45
I Saw the TV Glow (PG-13) 1:05-3:20-5:35-7:55-10:30

CMX Village 14
1600 Village Market Boulevard

Saving Private Ryan (R) 3:30
The Fall Guy (PG-13) 12:45-4:20-7:35
Civil War (R) 11:10-1:50-4:30-7:45
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 11:20-12:20-1:20-2:40-3:40-4:40-6:00-7:00-8:00-9:20
If (PG) 11:35-1:00-2:10-3:30-4:50-6:10-7:20-8:45
The Garfield Movie (PG) 11:00-12:00-1:30-2:30-4:00-5:00-6:30-7:30-9:00
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 11:50-3:10-7:10-8:30
Sight (PG-13) 1:10-3:55-6:45-9:25
Unsung Hero (PG) 11:30AM
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) 12:35-6:40-9:05
Back to Black (R) 11:05-2:00-5:10-8:15

Cinema Arts Theatre
9650 Unit 14 Main St.

The Fall Guy (PG-13) 9:40-12:05-2:35-7:40-10:05
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 10:00-1:00-7:10-10:00
The Old Oak 9:50-4:55
Wicked Little Letters (R) 9:45-12:10-2:25-7:15-9:15
Evil Does Not Exist 9:55-2:30-4:35-7:00
Babes (R) 10:05-12:25-2:45-7:20-9:30
Back to Black (R) 12:00-7:30-9:55
I Saw the TV Glow (PG-13) 12:20-2:20-9:15
The Fall Guy (PG-13) 5:05
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 4:00
Babes (R) 4:55
Back to Black (R) 5:00

Cinemark Centreville
6201 Multiplex Drive

The Fall Guy (PG-13) 8:50-7:20-11:00
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) 12:00-3:25-6:50-10:15
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 8:40AM
Challengers (R) 1:45
If (PG) 9:00-11:40
The Garfield Movie (PG) 2:20
The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R) 7:40-10:10
The Garfield Movie 3D (PG) 5:00
Love Me If You Dare 7:50-10:55
Turbo 9:15
If (PG) 8:30-9:55-11:10-2:35-4:30-4:50-6:30-7:10-9:50
The Garfield Movie (PG) 8:45-10:45-11:00-11:55-12:35-2:50-4:



Inside the Marriott Marquis hotel, the STK Steakhouse bar features rhino horn decor and a ribbed white ceiling. The chain uses light sticks, DJs and curious design to promote a "VIBE dining experience."

Splashy STK Steakhouse is both too much and not enough

Lackluster versions of familiar fare fail to justify inflated prices

BY TOM SIETSEMA

The first signs that this isn't Just Another Meat Market are the rope and the suit positioned outside the new STK Steakhouse inside the Marriott Marquis hotel.

The second indication is the design. The passage from host stand to dining room is a sloped tunnel with a ribbed white ceiling. Walking through conjures amusement parks as well as Jonah's view from inside a whale.

Reservation holders are led to their table in a dining room so loud, you can't tell if the waiter just greeted you or asked for your water preference, and so expensive, you feel as if you're in Tokyo or London. I'm used to seeing high prices for beef. But $53 for routine roast chicken? I expect the main course to come with bells and whistles. Instead, it rests atop green beans and peas that are pretty to look at but bore the tongue. For a moment, I imagine myself at 30,000 feet, eating an airplane meal.

STK is part of a Denver-based chain that's almost 30 places big and uses surf and turf, light sticks, DJs and curious design to promote a "VIBE dining experience," according to a press release from ONE Group Hospitality, which is partial to uppercase letters. "Dare to be" reads a message in neon up front. Other parts of the interior draw eyes to white resin animal horns, bunches of flowers, and lighting that mixes pink and purple. I'm talking cotton candy crossed with Pepto Bismol.

This isn't the brand's first rodeo in the District. A decade ago, STK tried to distinguish itself with a black-and-white interior and a short-lived "female-friendly" concept in Dupont Circle. The establishment's business cards at the time bore a contradictory image: a short red dress, epic legs that ended in red heels and a piece of raw meat dangling from a hook. STK was a pickup joint that happened to serve food. That DNA remains. A loyalty program asks if you want to be "friends with benefits."

STK isn't a situationship you want to be in. With few exceptions, the dishes are lackluster versions of steakhouse staples. STK's Caesar salad sports a nice tang, but it's almost as much croutons as torn lettuce, while the tuna tartare on a base of avocado comes with a brown moat of sweet soy sauce and honey that masks the flavor of the already wan tuna. Taro chips play the role of both garnish and scoop; they also shatter when they encounter the dense tartare. Sometimes you receive gratis pull-apart bread topped with blue cheese butter that's warm and pillowy. Sometimes you get a free skillet of bread that's hard and dry, or gummy. All improve when you dunk then in a bright-green escort of chive oil, although gummy remains gummy.

It seems nobody told STK No. 28 that it opened in crab cake country. I've tried the loose seafood patties twice here. They are staged with a curl of shaved cucumber that the menu calls "cucumber mustard seed salad" and announce themselves with … an off-putting whiff of fish, not a fragrance I expect from crab. No thanks.

I have a beef with the meat, too. Most selections need a sauce as a booster. (Try horseradish cream.) New York strip is all chew and zero flavor. It was also grilled beyond the medium-rare we requested. Rack of lamb is warm, damp and vague. More to my taste is the dry-aged bone-in strip, lightly crusty from the grill. The saddest cut of all was beef short rib, whose appearance and overcooking made it look as if the meat took a spin in a clothes dryer before it was plated with creamy mashed potatoes and roasted pepper relish, highlights (middlelights?) of the $54 disappointment.



PHOTOS BY DEB LINDSEY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Crispy calamari is a highlight of the menu at STK Steakhouse. It comes with shishito peppers and a bright citrus aioli and a sweet chile sauce for dipping.

The hostesses are gracious no matter how busy they are, but once you're seated, be warned: Your entire order comes out at once. My first time at STK, a companion and I surrendered half-finished appetizers to make space for incoming entrees. The second dinner, I tried to avert the issue by telling our server we were in no rush and requesting first and second courses to arrive separately. "I'll ask the kitchen," our attendant responded with hesitation, as if I had just requested something special. Again, everything showed up en masse.

On my final visit, I explained what had happened on earlier dates to a sympathetic waiter. ("Are you in for a convention?" he asked.) Unfortunately, one of his colleagues and a manager delivered the food, and unfortunately, it was — again — pretty much the whole shebang. This time, I pointed at the unfinished business on the table and asked for the entrees to go back to the kitchen. Our minders paused. They didn't say anything, but their eyes spoke volumes as they retreated with full hands. Would the kitchen be angry? Frankly, it wasn't my problem. STK isn't a tapas bar or a dim sum parlor where customers might expect dishes to come out as they're ready.

Should you find yourself in STK's clutches — say, a friend who doesn't follow restaurant reviews invites you here, you're part of a business dinner whose host doesn't want to stray from the Marriott or your job is to warn people away from expensive land mines — first, you have my sympathy. D.C. has so many good new restaurants worthier of your time and attention.

Second, allow me to offer a survival guide, starting with a life ring of fried calamari. Presented as a bronzed heap scattered with shishito peppers for some heat and color, the bands of seafood are paired with a bright citrus aioli and a sweet chile sauce. Dip, dip away. Thick slices of smoky Nueske's bacon draped over sweet and creamy coleslaw look like they're ready for a picnic rather than a night on the town, but they make a pleasant if quirky warm-cool, crisp-smooth combination.

Dishes whose featured ingredient originated in the water trump those from the field. While overpriced at $61, the miso-brushed sea bass yields to the touch of a fork, and I appreciate the spark of fresh ginger in the entree, which is paired with bright-green bok choy. Bites of lobster are arranged over a turban of linguine, draped with a kicky cream sauce and rounded out with halved cherry tomatoes and a dusting of parmesan. The combination is rich and satisfying. I thought about ordering the fish and chips, only to see what $66 of halibut and potatoes looked like. For that sum, I could get *two* orders of fish and chips at Buck's Fishing & Camping, a D.C. hall of fame restaurant where you don't have to scream to be heard and the vastly superior food comes with pauses between courses.

The $19 sides include corn pudding and cider-glazed Brussels sprouts that both taste as if they were auditioning to be dessert and creamed spinach that needs something besides cream and spinach to break the monotony. The fried onions on top feel divorced from the union. Crave a vegetable? Enlist the simple sautéed asparagus.

The restaurant that preceded STK was the dashing and delicious Arroz from chef Mike Isabella, a star whose lights were extinguished after his restaurant empire fell apart amid #MeToo allegations. Arroz, which showcased a Moroccan/Portuguese/Spanish menu, was a personal statement from a local personality — the hotel's prized amenity. In contrast, the corporate replacement feels as if it could be anywhere (which it is, pretty much) and stands out mostly for what it lacks: taste, timing, a sense of value, and a vibe that makes me want to go back.

It's telling that no one who dined with me once at STK wanted to return, even as my guest. That's a lot of rejection.

On its website, ONE Group Hospitality says its mission is to be the global leader in Vibe Dining. On behalf of diners, I fear for the future. How much more I wish the chain would finish its neon thought: "Dare to be" … better, for starters.

STK Steakhouse

901 Massachusetts Ave. NW. 202-301-3791. *stksteakhouse.com*. Open for lunch 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday; for dinner 3 p.m. to midnight Monday through Thursday, 3 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday, 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday; for brunch 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. **Prices**: Dinner appetizers $26 to $71 (for oysters with caviar), entrees $52 to $163 (for 34-ounce dry-aged tomahawk). **Sound check**: 83 decibels/Extremely loud. **Accessibility**: No barriers to entry; certain tables are marked for wheelchair users and restroom are ADA-compliant.

The Washington Post
TRAVEL

Is the unfriendly Parisian a myth?

A local went undercover as a tourist to find out

BY CATHERINE BENNETT

Paris is in the home stretch of preparing for the Olympics. A new 8,000-capacity arena has been opened in the north of Paris, the Olympic Village was inaugurated by President Emmanuel Macron earlier this year, and authorities are still desperately trying to make sure the Seine is swimmable by the summer. The country is slowly but surely getting ready for the more than 15 million visitors that will descend on the capital and its suburbs between July and August. But there's still something to consider — something a bit less tangible.

Are Parisians ready to welcome these visitors? Like *really* welcome?

France gets a bad rap when it comes to friendliness. There's, of course, the long-standing cliché of the snooty French waiter or the surly Parisian, and a viral TikTok earlier this year of an American woman tearfully telling the camera that traveling in France was "isolating" and that French people were unwelcoming got thousands of comments — many from people agreeing with her.

SEE **FRANCE** ON **F2**

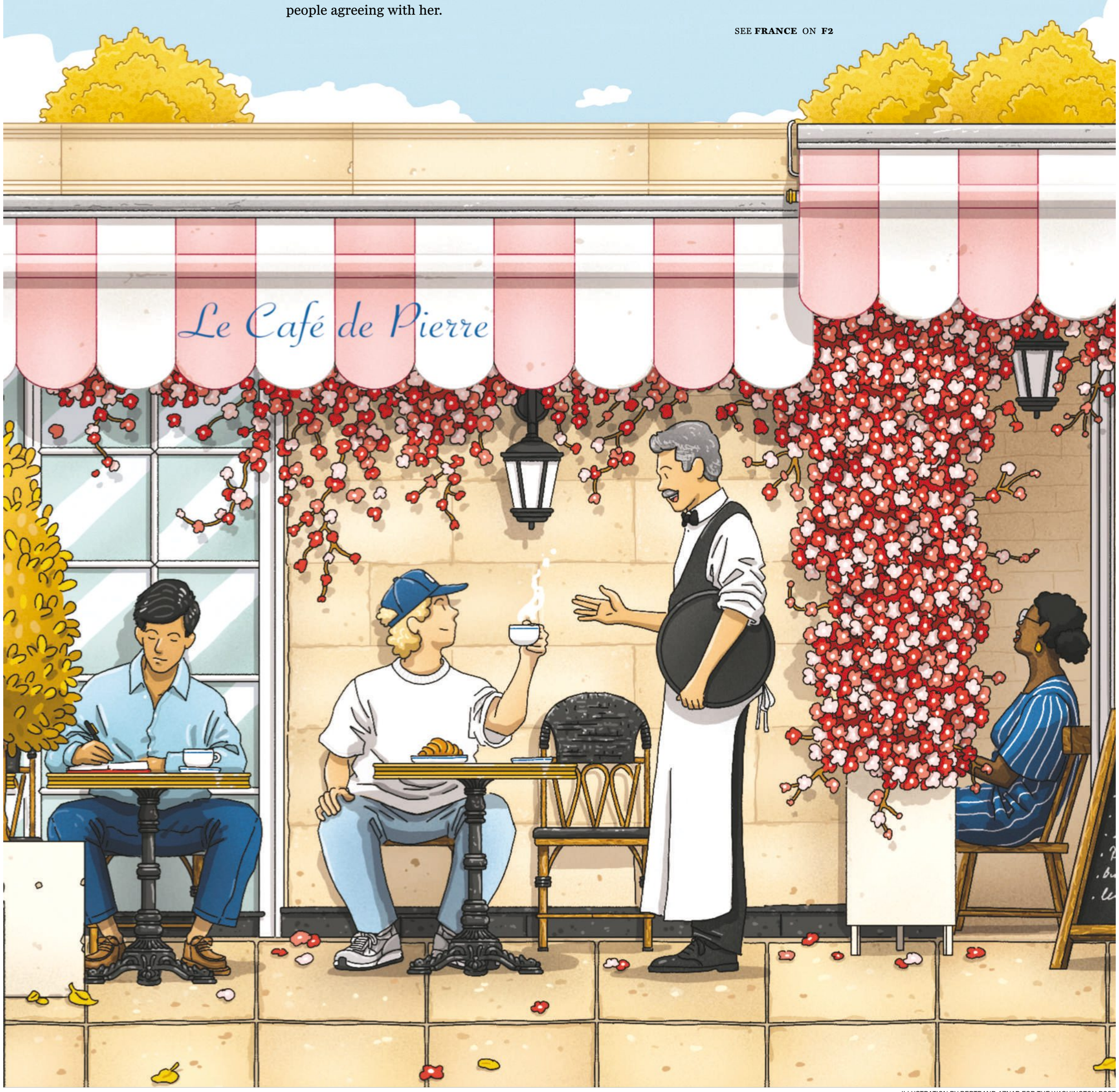


ILLUSTRATION BY BERTRAND AZNAR FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

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What is turbulence? And how dangerous is it? **F3**

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Do you need a passport for your cruise? It depends. **F4**

TRENDS
IV therapy has moved from hospitals to luxury spas, hotels and Airbnbs. **F5**

BEACHES
These etiquette tips will help you avoid being a jerk by the water. **F6**



PHOTOS BY CAROLYN VAN HOUTEN/THE WASHINGTON POST

France's friendliness campaign

FRANCE FROM **F1**

"This kind of bad PR doesn't worry me because it's anecdotal," says Corinne Ménégaux, the head of the Paris tourism office. "I think maybe 15 or 20 years ago, the French were less welcoming, but nowadays, we've got past that cliché. You inevitably have a small percentage of people who aren't nice, and there's not much you can do about it. It's a reality of big cities, just like in London or New York."

That hasn't stopped France from trying to clean up its rude image before foreigners come to town. Last year, the regional chamber of commerce updated a decade-old hospitality campaign called "Do You Speak Touriste?" in the run-up to the Rugby World Cup held in Paris. The official guide touched on cultural differences, gently reminding the French that "the cultural tendency in France is to openly show one's emotions, through one's gestures or tone of voice. [...] In other countries, disagreement is expressed a lot less openly."

"There's still the cafe waiter who doesn't speak to you and sullenly serves you a Coca-Cola for 15 euros. I'm not saying that doesn't exist anymore. But we have seen a real improvement," said Frédéric Hocquard, the city councilor responsible for tourism and nightlife in Paris. He says that the coronavirus pandemic was the great turning point.

"There was this period when we had no tourists at all. And the tourist industry realized it had to make a bit of effort."

A friendliness pledge

Part of Paris's effort to revamp its reputation is a "hospitality charter," which has been signed by more than 1,600 businesses in the tourism sector, including hotels, restaurants and tour guides. The agreement is based on three main principles: promote sustainable and environmentally friendly measures; make visitors' experiences more fluid; and support local businesses. Businesses that have signed up will be able to display a sticker or sign on their establishment so tourists know that they're a trusted place. The city is also training workers in newspaper kiosks, bakeries and tobacco shops to be able to answer tourists' questions.

Both Ménégaux and Hocquard agree on one point: Visitors to Paris also have to do their part. In an ideal world, Ménégaux would like tourists to sign a "good tourist etiquette" charter of their own. "When people come to Paris, we want them to commit to respecting certain things: to respect their neighbors' peace and quiet, to use a reusable water bottle and not buy plastic ones, and not to buy products made in China when you can buy local."

Differences in etiquette are among the first things some foreigners notice when they move to or visit France. American expats and social media content creators Ember Langley and Gabrielle Pedriani devoted a video to the thorny issue of French politesse in their lighthearted series "The ABCs of Paris." In a video, Langley warns that "what's considered polite in the U.S. might not be considered polite in Paris." The two go on to give tips such as "smile less," "get into a debate over dinner" and "arrive fashionably late."

"I see Americans in the Metro and it's like — read the room. Everyone else is being quiet!" Langley said in an interview. "When you're a traveler, and you're coming here on vacation, it's easy to forget that 2 million people are living their lives here. You need to be respectful of the local culture and approach your interactions humbly." But Langley says it's a misconception that the French are rude; it's just a matter of cultural differences. "The biggest thing here is that the customer is not always right; in the U.S., the customer is king."

Going undercover

I decided to put Parisians' friendliness to the test. As a Brit who has lived in Paris for a decade, speaks French and has obtained French nationality (with immense gratitude), I put on my best British accent and went to see how I was treated around the French capital.

The experiment began at ground zero: in front of Notre Dame cathedral, which is still undergoing renovation work after a fire engulfed the roof in 2019. With a friend, I headed into the archaeological museum in the crypt. "Hello! Parlez-vous anglais?" I asked the woman behind the ticket desk. I was greeted with a broad smile and a patient description (in English) of the museum and ticket prices. She wasn't even bothered by a patently stupid question about whether we could visit the cathedral, gently explaining that the site wouldn't be open to the public for months.

We thanked her and headed back up into the sunlight.

Next stop: a bouquiniste. These Seine-side booksellers have to tackle tourist questions day in, day out. The man running his stall opposite the cathedral cheerfully took the time to find books in English for us, before recommending that we try Shakespeare and Company just across the road, one of Paris's most famous English-language bookstores. It was the same at the tourist trinket shop, where we asked for directions to the Eiffel Tower or down in the Metro station, where the woman behind the counter told us that her English wasn't very good, yet valiantly answered all of our questions about transport passes with broken but determined English.

By this point, I had even ditched my poorly pronounced French icebreaker, just bouncing up to them and speaking directly in English. And yet everywhere we went, we were greeted with smiles and a genuine desire to help. I'll admit that I was surprised; it's been years since I was a tourist in the city, but I certainly remember eye-rolling, terseness and a certain unwillingness to help.

It was time for the ultimate test: asking for oat milk in a Parisian cafe. We chose a touristy spot on the Place Saint-Michel, where the servers were every inch the stereotype, in white shirts and black bow ties. Our server swept up to us haughtily but didn't blink when we responded in English, even though he initially couldn't understand my question. "Hot milk?" he kept repeating. When he finally understood, he laughed, waving his hands dismissively. "*Non, non*, it is not possible, soy milk, vegan milk, we do not have, only *la vache*." To make his point, he added with a flourish, "Moooo!"

My request had managed to elicit the famous "c'est pas possible" — well-known to anyone who has struggled with French bureaucracy and customer service — but it was said with such good humor (and a complementary animal sound), so how could I be offended?

The more than a dozen tourists I spoke to had also had largely positive experiences. Samantha Capaldi, visiting from Arizona with two friends, told me, "We love it here," before admitting with a wry smile, "We're trying to blend in, but we're so loud, everyone notices us." In the four days they'd spent in Paris, they'd observed the same cultural differences Langley mentions in her videos — such as not getting water automatically with your meal at a restaurant, or being given a funny look when ordering an appetizer alongside an entree. "They kind of laugh at us, but not in a mean way," she continued. "Trying to speak French helps a lot."

Carla, from Sheffield in the United Kingdom, was in Paris with her boyfriend, Brian, to celebrate the anniversary of their first date. She's visited Paris several times and has noticed a marked difference in the way she's been treated compared with previous trips. "I'm a bit of a weightier person, and I've been deliberately ignored in restaurants before: other people being given menus before me or served before me. But I rarely get that now. Everyone seems really nice."

It seems that the city's efforts in recent years are paying off, and Parisians are — dare I say it? — learning that a little hospitality goes a long way. The only thing left is being able to get oat milk in cafes — but maybe it's up to Americans to let that go and lean into France's love of dairy. Mooo!

Catherine Bennett is a writer based in Paris.



With the Olympics coming to Paris this summer, the city is making a concerted effort to be friendlier to visitors.

TRAVEL

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PHOTOS BY REUTERS

Just how dangerous is turbulence?

BY HANNAH SAMPSON

Intense turbulence can force pilots to change altitude, cause flights to divert for emergency landings and send passengers to the hospital. In the most recent high-profile incident, during a flight from London to Singapore, one man died and dozens were taken to the hospital.

A passenger identified as a 73-year-old from the United Kingdom may have suffered a heart attack aboard Singapore Airlines Flight 321 when it encountered severe turbulence, an airport official said Tuesday. After the pilot declared a medical emergency and diverted the plane to Thailand, 30 people among the 211 passengers and 18 crew members were either hospitalized or being treated at a hospital, the airline said.

Turbulence is classified by four levels of intensity, with "extreme" being the worst and "severe" the second-worst. According to the National Weather Service, turbulence is extreme when an aircraft is "violently tossed about and practically impossible to control." Singapore Airlines initially described the turbulence on Flight 321 as "severe" but in a later update called it "sudden extreme turbulence." (The airline did not immediately clarify whether it used the term "extreme" in reference to the intensity scale.)

Turbulence itself is a frequent occurrence, as any regular traveler can attest — and it typically isn't cause for alarm, experts say. But examples of passengers suffering serious injuries keep piling up.

What causes intense turbulence?

The Federal Aviation Administration describes turbulence as movement of air that usually can't be seen and that often happens unexpectedly. It can be created by factors including atmospheric pressure, air around mountains, cold or warm weather fronts, or thunderstorms.

"It can be unexpected and can happen when the sky appears to be clear," the FAA says on its website. "Turbulence can give an airplane a sudden jolt that can injure passengers and flight crewmembers who aren't buckled in."

Between 2009 and 2022, 163 people on U.S. air carriers suffered serious injuries due to turbulence, the FAA says.

Bob Thomas, a pilot, former weatherman and assistant professor of aeronautical science at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, told The Washington Post in 2022 that there are many different types of turbulence.

"The bad kind is always unexpected," he said. What's called "clear-air" turbulence happens without visual cues.

"You can have turbulence from a thunderstorm 20 miles away from the actual worst part of the storm," Thomas said. "Thunderstorms will create these huge up-and-down movements of air, and when you get that, you get these big waves that come through, and you can just fly through it."

"It can be associated with almost any kind of weather," said Patrick Smith, a commercial pilot for 30 years who runs the Ask the Pilot blog. "It doesn't always matter, and it's not always predictable."

Is turbulence a serious safety threat?

Smith said every flight every day "encounters some form of rough air. For crews, by and large, we look at it as a comfort issue, not necessarily a safety issue."

He said the tools that pilots have in the flight deck are "amazingly good" at predicting where, when and how bad turbulence might be. They can alter their route or altitude to try to avoid the rough air or, if that's not possible, give flight attendants plenty of warning to prepare the cabin.

"But in a lot of ways, it's more art than science, and sometimes you just don't know," Smith said. "It can get bumpy when you just don't expect." One place that will probably be slightly less bumpy: the middle of the plane over the wings, he said. The bumpiest place to sit is in the tail area of the plane, Smith said, though it doesn't make a lot of a difference.

Smith said the fear that a plane might flip upside down or lose a wing is, "at best, science fiction."

Although worst-case-scenario fears are extreme, experts say turbulence still poses a risk — especially if people are not buckled in.

"You want to be cautious, because the aircraft itself is going to survive," said Mark Baier, CEO of AviationManuals, which provides safety information and systems to smaller flight operators. "You're going to get thrown around the cabin, or loose objects are going to be thrown around the cabin and cause injury."



The interior, at top and above, of Singapore Airlines Flight 321, which encountered "sudden extreme turbulence" and diverted to Thailand. One person died and dozens were taken to the hospital.

"Turbulence can give an airplane a sudden jolt that can injure passengers and flight crewmembers who aren't buckled in."

Federal Aviation Administration, on its website

Can turbulence cause a plane to plunge?

The Singapore Airlines flight was cruising at 37,000 feet over Myanmar's Irrawaddy basin when it dropped to 31,000 feet in minutes, flight data captured by Flightradar24 shows.

Thomas Guinn, chair of the Applied Aviation Sciences Department at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, said Tuesday that he could not speculate on what happened with the Singapore Airlines flight but that the first thing a pilot will do to get out of turbulence is to try to change altitude. Guinn, an expert in aviation meteorology, described turbulence regions, outside of thunderstorms, as "kind of pancake-shaped."

"If you can adjust altitude either up or down, you can get out of the turbulence pretty well," he said.

Paul Williams, a professor of atmospheric science at the University of Reading who studies turbulence, said in an email that pilots will try to escape it "quickly."

"The rapid drop was almost certainly pilot maneuvering rather than the direct effect of the turbulence," he wrote.

There have been at least two incidents in recent years in which commercial airplanes frightened passengers with rapid plunges, though turbulence was not to blame.

In December 2022, a United Airlines flight from Hawaii dove 1,400 feet toward the Pacific Ocean, coming less than 800 feet from the water and causing people onboard to scream. According to the National Transportation Safety Board, miscommunication between pilots was responsible.

Last year, an American Airlines plane dropped nearly 15,000 feet in about three minutes, then another roughly 4,000 feet from its 30,000-foot cruising altitude. The airline cited a possible pressurization issue, and one passenger described it as "the flight from hell" after his ears popped, oxygen masks dropped and a burning smell filled the cabin.

How common is bad turbulence?

The FAA does not track general incidents of turbulence, though the National Transportation Safety Board requires U.S. airlines to report serious injuries and fatalities.

According to the National Center for Atmospheric Research, pilots report an average of 65,000 encounters with moderate or greater turbulence every year over the United States, and 5,500 encounters considered severe or greater.

Williams wrote to The Post that "0.1 percent of the atmosphere at cruising altitudes contains severe turbulence, and the fraction containing extreme turbulence will be even smaller."

"Extreme turbulence is so rare that we actually don't usually include it in scientific studies," he said.

But Williams co-wrote a study that found that clear-air turbulence has been on the rise because of climate change. In a statement Tuesday, Association of Flight Attendants-CWA President Sara Nelson said instances of severe and clear-air turbulence have been increasing as the climate changes. Nelson called it a "serious workplace safety issue" for flight attendants and urged passengers always to follow crew instructions and keep a seat belt on whenever seated.

"While details of Singapore Flight 321 are still developing, initial reports seem to indicate clear-air turbulence, which is the most dangerous type of turbulence," Nelson said. "It cannot be seen and is virtually undetectable with current technology. One second, you're cruising smoothly; the next, passengers, crew and unsecured carts or other items are being thrown around the cabin."

Can turbulence induce a heart attack?

Erica Spatz, associate professor of cardiology at the Yale School of Medicine, said the dangers of turbulence are far more likely to involve banged heads or bruised limbs than cardiovascular problems.

"I don't know that turbulence has been identified as a direct risk for any cardiac conditions," said Spatz, who is also director of Yale's Preventive Cardiovascular Health Program. "We usually think about turbulence with respect to injuries: people falling or hitting their head or the overhead bins coming down and luggage falling on top of them."

But Spatz explained that "different acute stressors," such as fear for one's life, can increase one's blood pressure, heart rate and stress hormones. The fight-or-flight response could cause plaque in the artery to rupture or induce an irregular heartbeat, experts said.

That said, "there's no evidence that a patient with underlying heart disease should not fly," said Saurabh Sharma, a preventive cardiologist and a member of the Prevention of Cardiovascular Diseases Council at the American College of Cardiology.

Sharma said he tells his patients with underlying heart disease to carry nitroglycerin tablets with them, to relieve chest pains temporarily and get blood flowing in a stressful situation, like flying can be. Spatz also recommended that passengers stick to their medication regimen and not skip a dose, especially on international flights. Incorporating relaxation techniques can help alleviate the stress of travel as well.

"The psychological trauma is just as risky as the potential for physical trauma," Spatz said.

Andrea Sachs, Ryan Bacic and Gabe Hiatt contributed to this report.

How to do more with less when packing a carry-on

BY NATALIE B. COMPTON

United Airlines pilot Carole Hopson spent years honing her craft while taking countless trips around the globe. Eventually, she realized she'd mastered it. Not flying the 737 (she does that, too), but packing.

Before a recent flight to the Caribbean, Hopson dropped her bag on a luggage scale. "My suitcase was 13 pounds," she said.

Years of discipline and sacrifice had brought her to this point: no throwing in another outfit at the last minute, no bulky hardcover beach reads.

"I'm so proud of myself. I didn't start out that way," Hopson said. "I've evolved to smaller. I find that the less I carry, the better."

Over nearly a decade of travel writing, I've learned the same. Less stuff means less time wasted checking a suitcase at the airport and picking it up at baggage claim (or tracking down lost luggage). There's also less money to spend on checked bag fees and less weight to heave into the overhead compartment.

We don't have to match Hopson's 13-pound achievement. But we can learn from her and other experts to become happier, more nimble travelers.

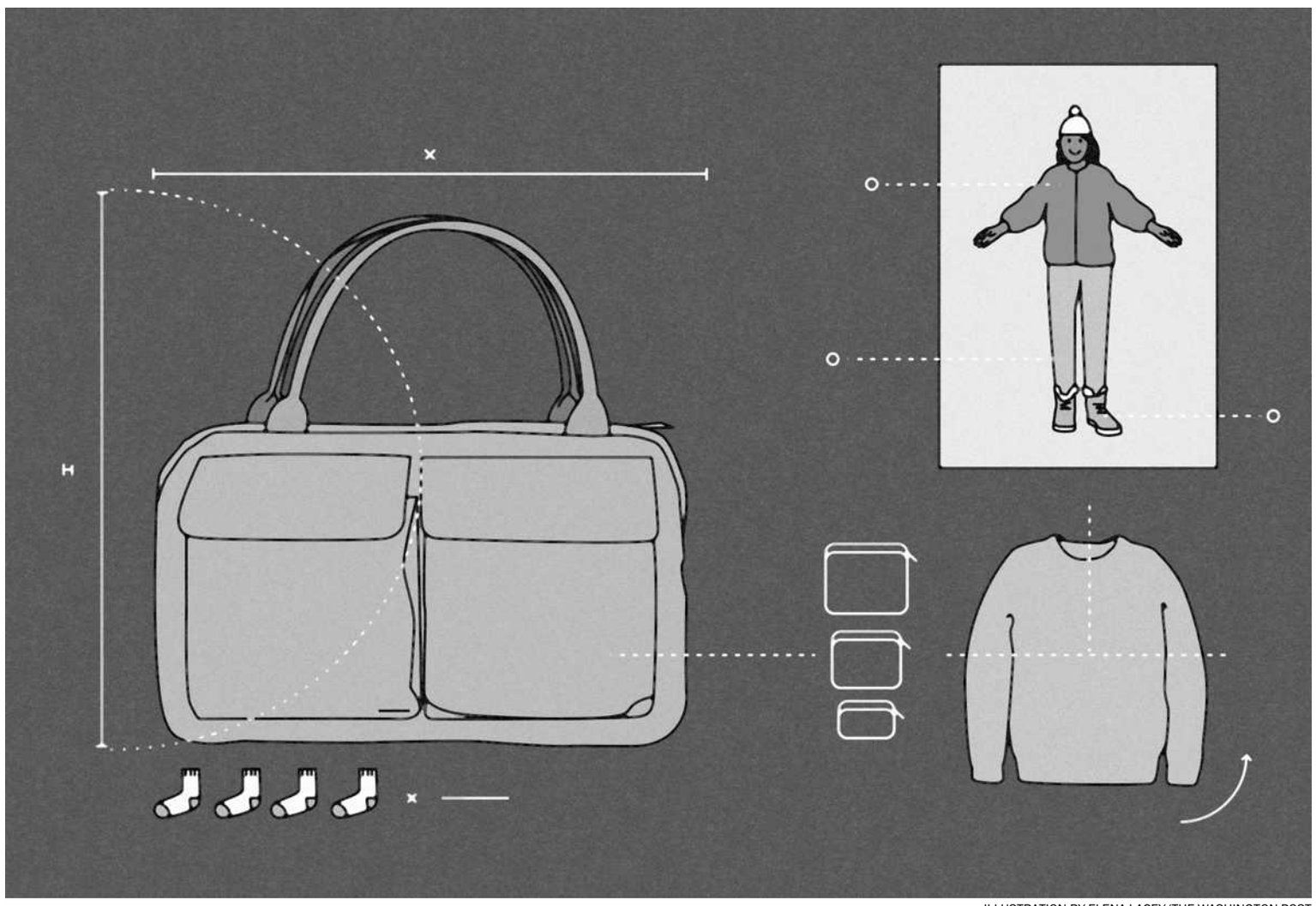


ILLUSTRATION BY ELENA LACEY/THE WASHINGTON POST

Be ruthless about nonessentials

The easiest way to go overboard is to start packing without a plan. How long is the trip? What's the climate? Are you going to Michelin three-star restaurants or sticking to street food? How many pairs of underwear is reasonable?

The world's most frequent flier is Tom Stuker, a New Jersey car dealership consultant who has clocked more than 23 million miles. He has a simple method: Instead of packing for the millions of "what if" scenarios, pack only what you absolutely need, plus one backup, and make sure it's easy to clean.

As you calculate those needs, be straight with yourself, says Yolanda Edwards, founder of the luxury travel magazine Yolo Journal. If you don't actually like working out on vacation, skip the exercise clothes. While you're doing that soul-searching, reflect on your past trips: What were items you definitely needed, and what could you have left behind?

"You're going to be the one who, when you get home, you're like, 'I didn't wear eight of those things, but I swore I needed them,'" Edwards said. "Try and remember all of those packing mistakes, and try not to repeat them."

Factor in a laundry day

Hopson usually travels with two T-shirts. This minimalist approach works because she stays in hotels with laundry facilities.

If your hotel doesn't have that amenity, you can still do a decent wash in a sink, or venture to laundromats. I've loved my many side quests finding detergent and laundromats in places such as Tokyo and Berlin. Sure, it'll suck up a few hours, but it's a great opportunity for people-watching, post-card-writing or appreciating ordinary facets of local life.

Choose versatility over volume

Packing less doesn't have to mean wearing the same outfit every day (although we do recommend locking in a travel uniform). Think back to the era of the fashion magazine Lucky (RIP), when we used to be constantly reminded of ways to mix and match our wardrobes to create more looks with less.

"You're going to be the one who, when you get home, you're like, 'I didn't wear eight of those things, but I swore I needed them.'"

Yolanda Edwards, founder of the luxury travel magazine Yolo Journal

"I know a lot of people don't like to repeat outfits, but … you don't have to wear it the same exact way," said flight attendant Ashlee Loree. "Versatility is everything when it comes to fashion and traveling, and making sure it's comfortable, too."

Jumpsuits, dresses and scarves are particularly flexible contenders, Loree says, as well as matching sets in different colors.

Edwards is a mega-fan of the Faye flare cropped pants from Ann Mashburn. They can be dressed up with a blazer but are comfortable enough to wear on long flights.

Stuker said that "Lululemon pants are very comfortable and versatile for business and pleasure."

Find your folding style

To roll or to fold? That is the question, particularly as some travelers swear that rolling your clothing saves more space and causes fewer wrinkles than "flat packing." That's not always accurate, though. T-shirts and underwear do great with a tight roll; formalwear and chunky sweaters? Not so much.

Edwards prefers a hybrid. "I like to roll all the things that can handle rolling, and then I fold my nicer things I don't want to have to iron and put that on top," she said. That means items such as workout clothes get rolled while blazers or pants get folded flat.

Stuker uses leftover dry-cleaner hangers and plastic coverings to pack some clothing, and rolls the rest. Loree is also a roller, but her duffel doubles as a garment bag, so she can hang a few items, too.

Loree believes the roll method takes up less space but said travelers should make their own decision. "If it's easier for you to fold and that takes up less space, do what works for you," she said.

Use packing cubes and compression bags

Bags within bags are crucial for staying organized during a trip. Loree travels with packing cubes to separate her dirty laundry and shoes from her clean clothes, as well as a toiletry bag that hangs up in the bathroom.

I, too, love packing cubes, but my secret weapons are compression bags. I use them to divide categories of clothing — underwear and socks in one, workout clothes in another — then toss them into a larger compression bag that can shrink the load to about half its original size.

Keep essentials in your personal item

If you're traveling with a rollaboard bag, you run the risk of it getting gate-checked. Prepare for that unfortunate fate by keeping critical items — medications, valuables — in your "personal item," the backpack, purse or other bag small enough to stash under a seat.

It doesn't hurt to keep other essentials close: a change of clothes, snacks, a portable power pack and a reusable water bottle.

Wear your bulkiest shoes and coats

Like all bulky items, shoes are a light packer's biggest obstacle.

Loree uses a duffel bag with a shoe pouch to store strappy black sandals and a pair of lightweight tennis shoes. (You may have a harder time stuffing multiple pairs if they are super-padded sneakers or boots.) If she's not using the duffel, she finds it most efficient to start packing her carry-on with shoes at the bottom and the rest of her items on top.

Edwards recommends saving your carry-on space by wearing your bigger items, such as big coats or clunky boots, on your travel day.

"Whatever's my heaviest shoe will be what I wear on the airplane," she said.

Pare down toiletries

Depending on your beauty routine, toiletry bags can get very full very fast. Be cutthroat about what you can take out, or use travel-friendly containers that meet Transportation Security Administration carry-on requirements.

Loree buys travel-size containers for her favorite products. Edwards skips makeup and brings about eight toiletry items in a Muji case. Hopson has whittled down her regimen: "I've got my little makeup bag down to about the size of my hand," she said.

Stuker's reminder: Most basic toiletry items can easily be replaced on the road.

Bring a collapsible backup bag

If you've packed to the limits of your carry-on, you'll be out of luck if you want to bring home a new suit from Hong Kong or a few bottles of wine from Italy. So carry a backup bag for such retail emergencies.

Loree always travels with a collapsible tote bag. For years, I've used Paravel's nylon fold-up bag, which zips up into the size of a Kindle and unfurls into a proper carry-on. It's so small, there's no downside to bringing it along.

You asked: Do I need a passport for my cruise?

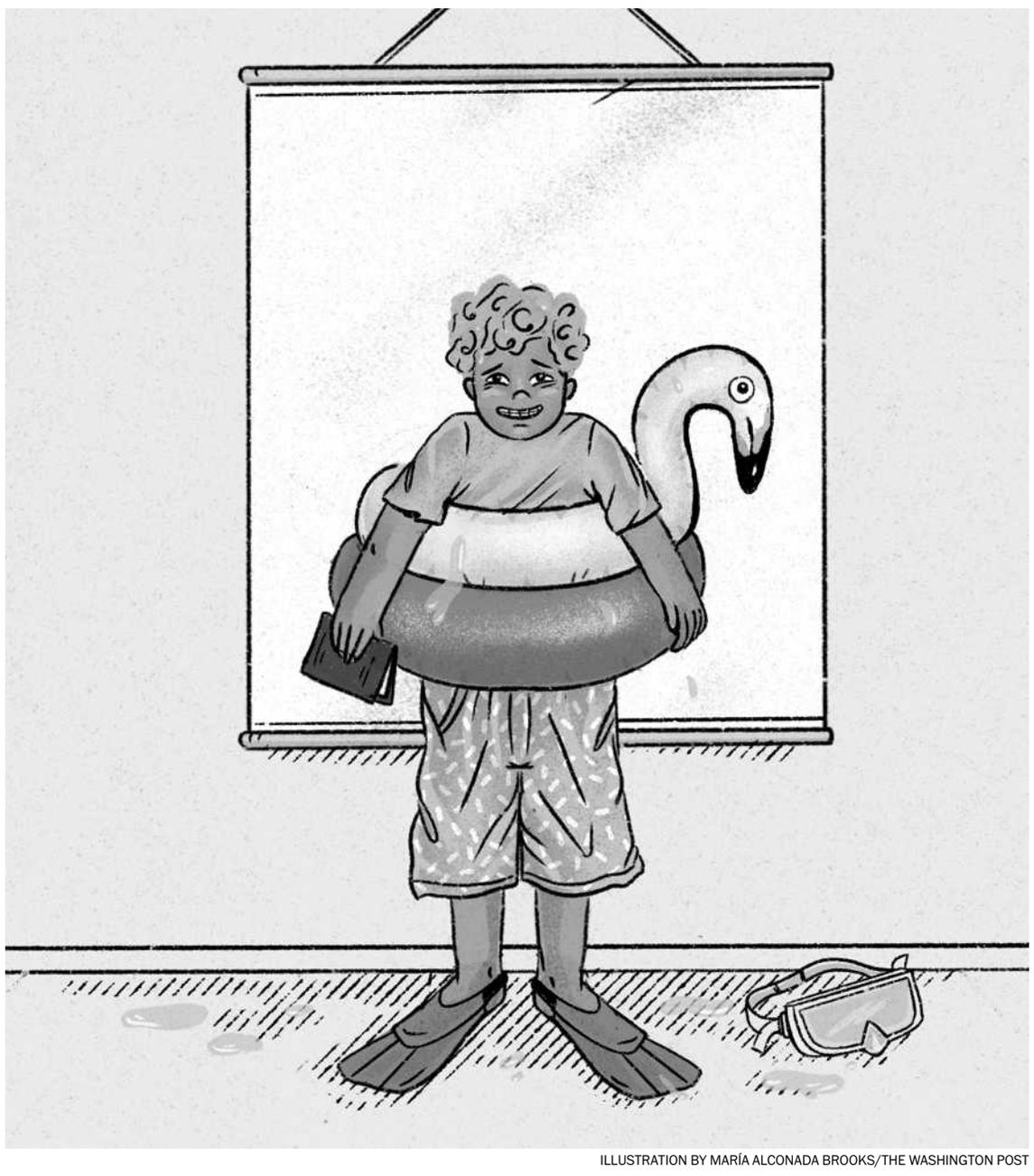


ILLUSTRATION BY MARÍA ALCONADA BROOKS/THE WASHINGTON POST

By The Way Concierge

HANNAH SAMPSON

Q: We're going on a very short cruise from California to Mexico this spring. Do we need passports for our kids, even if we don't get off the ship?

— Ben, Springfield, Va.

A: There's a difference between what you *need* and what is a good idea to have.

Let's begin with the first: On most cruise lines and for most itineraries, a voyage that starts and ends at the same U.S. port and stays in the Western Hemisphere will not require any American citizen — child or adult — to have a passport.

These are called closed-loop cruises, and they need only proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate plus a government-issued photo ID, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. For people under 16, a birth certificate will suffice. Popular cruise lines including Carnival, Royal Caribbean and Norwegian detail their requirements and any exceptions online.

A sailing that leaves from one U.S. port and ends at another — or that starts in the United States and ends at a foreign destination — would not be classified as a closed-loop cruise. Everyone, including kids, would need a passport in that case.

There are some caveats, warns Teresa Tennant, senior vice president of the travel planning company Cruise Specialists. Some cruise companies, including Holland America Line and Princess Cruises, say that all members of a party must have a passport if minors are traveling with only one adult.

Some other cruise lines, such as the luxury Regent Seven Seas Cruises, require a passport for all sailings.

"You should bring your passport even if your cruise says you won't need it."

U.S. State Department, on its website

"It's important to always check with the cruise line, because they can set their own rules that are actually above and beyond," Tennant said.

Customs and Border Protection also urges travelers to check with their cruise company, travel agent and destination to confirm what's required to enter foreign countries on an itinerary.

Whether or not you are required to have a passport, cruise lines and experts say it's smart to have one before setting sail. The task isn't quite as onerous as it used to be, now that wait times have returned to pre-pandemic norms of six to eight weeks for routine service and two to three weeks for the expedited process.

Cruise lines say they strongly recommend that passengers opt for the passport over other forms of identification.

"A passport is the hassle-free, gold standard for traveling between countries," Royal Caribbean says on its website. "Boarding and disembarking through customs with a passport is usually faster than other types of ID documents."

The U.S. State Department says travelers might need their passport "in the event of an unexpected medical evacuation or if the ship docks at an alternate port." Travelers would also need their passports if they showed up late in a foreign port and the ship left without them — which has happened to some U.S. passengers recently.

"You should bring your passport even if your cruise says you won't need it," the State Department says on its information page for cruise ship passengers.

Colleen McDaniel, editor in chief of the news and review site Cruise Critic, said in an email that it would be much more difficult to get home without a passport if someone had to leave the ship.

"In such a case, you might have to rely on help from a U.S. embassy or consulate to return, which can take time," she said.

Want to see your question answered? Submit it online at *wapo.st/btwc*.

One of the latest cure-alls for vacation excess: The IV drip



SEAN SCHEIDT FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Sophie Nolan, who modeled for this photo shoot, stands poolside after an IV drip appointment in California.

BY ANDREA SACHS

On a sunny Saturday afternoon, Noreen Tofel sat cross-legged on her couch in Alexandria, Va., with her left arm stretched out on a pillow. A vein rose like a riverlet on a relief map. As nutrients trickled into her bloodstream, she talked about how IV drips fit into her travel regimen.

Before a work trip, Tofel, who works in human resources risk management, will schedule a drip to boost her energy and immunity levels. If she is planning an indulgent vacation, she will reverse the order. The healthy intravenous cocktail, she said, will make amends for the boozy imbibed ones.

"I want to drink my margaritas and have my piña coladas and kind of take my body for granted," said Tofel, 39. "If I did the IV drip before, then I would feel bad drinking over it."

Once just in hospitals, IV drips have become a crossover sensation in the health, wellness and travel sphere. Travelers previously had to rely on pain killers and sunglasses (hangover), melatonin (jet lag), or copious amounts of caffeine or sleep (exhaustion) to recover from travel-related afflictions. Now, they are hooking up to IVs to erase the excesses that could derail their vacation. And you don't have to venture far to find them. IV drips are popping up in hotel spas, resorts, casinos and shopping districts. You can even order one from the cushiness of your rental property or hotel room.

"People get really dehydrated when they travel. They get hangovers and sun exposure. They're at high altitudes when they're flying," said Sarah Muniz, director of clinical operations at PureDropIV, which serves the D.C. area and counts Tofel as a client. "Having the ability to get the hydration and B-12 vitamins and vitamin C really helps people bounce back."

Ron Kapp, a Santa Barbara-based physician and anti-aging research clinician, said the therapy's evolution from medical procedure to self-care treatment started in the 1960s, when John Myers, an internist at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, discovered that injecting nutrients is more efficient than ingesting them. He created a rejuvenating concoction called the Myers' cocktail. It's now a staple on IV drip menus today.

In 2010, Jason Burke, a board-certified anesthesiologist and pioneer in the field, created an IV hydration remedy for folks who partied a little too hard. He cruised the Las Vegas Strip in a 45-foot-long Hangover Heaven bus, administering IV drips. The clinic-on-wheels is undergoing repairs and a refurbishment, but visitors can book an office appointment or schedule a rental house — or hotel — call.

"Taking it out of the hospital environment was his brilliant move," Kapp said. "Everyone jumped on the bandwagon."

According to the Global Wellness Institute, there were 7,000 medical spas worldwide and thousands of IV drip centers and facilities last year, including hotel spas, wellness retreats and mobile clinics. Restore Hyper Wellness, for instance, has more than 225 locations. Reviv boasts clinics in nearly 50 countries.

Adam Nadelson founded the I.V. Doc in New York City in 2013 after he suffered a bout of food poisoning during his medical residency and rebounded with the help of an IV drip. His company has expanded to 33 U.S. cities, plus London and Ibiza, Spain. He said his team serves guests at many luxury hotel brands, such as the Ritz, Aman and Four Seasons.

"You name the hotel," he said, "we've certainly been there."

Shortly after Nadelson spoke those words, the I.V. Doc received a text from the Plaza New York. The concierge requested an appointment for a guest that day — emphasis on "soon."

Hangover treatment to hotel amenity

Recreational IV drips may be most famously associated with hangovers, but they can purportedly alleviate a wide range of symptoms, such as dehydration, brain fog, nausea and lethargy. Prices vary by city and type of IV cocktail, but basic drips start at about $150 and can rise fivefold or more.

IV drip clinics have been proliferating around the world. A number of Four Seasons spas — Orlando, D.C., Maui, New York City — offer the amenity. At the Ranch, a wellness retreat in Malibu and New York's Hudson Valley, guests can receive a drip poolside or in the privacy of their room. Shoppers can indulge in a different kind of retail therapy at Harrods in London and the Dubai Mall. Even cruise ships are getting in on the trend.

"This is global," Kapp said. "I was in Honduras for a convention and they were doing IVs."

But like with pizza and barbecue, there are regional IV preferences.

In Type-A cities like Washington and New York City, travelers often book drips with the hopes of building their immunity and energy reserves. In avant-garde wellness destinations such as Los Angeles and Miami, the treatment is part of the broader longevity movement. In party towns with gaggles of bachelor and bachelorette parties, IV drips are fire hoses pumping out hangover cures.

Rose Salo, founder of San Diego IV, said she became of aware of IV drips as a wedding activity through actress Sofia Vergara, who provided the amenity at her 2015 nuptials. Since then, Salo said the "bougie luxury service" has gone mainstream. She said some groups book the treatment in advance, as part of their travel itinerary. Others call her in desperation, as if she were running an urgent-care clinic.

"A lot of times we get bookings on the day-of," she said. "They'll wake up feeling like complete garbage, and they have another day of shenanigans ahead of them. They'll call us and say, 'Can you have someone here ASAP?'"

At Reviv in the Cosmopolitan resort in Las Vegas, Jesse Schwartz, a registered nurse, recommends a reactive strategy: Do the damage first, then come in for a reboot. The IV bag will have the greatest effect when you are at your lowest point: dehydrated, exhausted, nauseous. After the IV flushes out the toxins, you can jump right back into the Vegas game.

"Once you get the hangover bag or the vitamin boost bag, you can go out and do what you want," he said.

Los Angeles resident Chris Harmon first tried an IV treatment not to tackle a hangover but to battle a virus. His doctor, who works at Cure Medical in the Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village, prescribed a Myers' cocktail. The drip did the trick, and he now averages 20 to 30 IVs a year.

The chief operating officer of a drug and alcohol treatment program in Malibu incorporates them into his travels. On a trip to the Sacramento area, he booked an appointment with a well-reviewed physician he found online. During the 45-minute session, he read his Kindle and relaxed while the IV worked its magic. He has also juiced up in his Austin hotel room during a visit with friends.

"It gave me more energy," Harmon said. "I remember feeling the benefit immediately."

The mechanics of the drip

Depending on state requirements, you may have to meet with a licensed medical practitioner for a consultation and vitals check before a drip. The treatment is usually administered by a registered nurse or a professional with comparable training. Some conditions could preclude you from treatment, such as pregnancy or certain heart, liver or kidney diseases.

"The reason that we rely very heavily on our medical team is that we sometimes have to turn people away who aren't great candidates," said Derek Hofmann, senior spa director at the Four Seasons Resort Orlando. "We err on the side of caution."

People suffering from trypanophobia will be relieved to know that the nurse uses a needle only briefly, to insert the catheter. The treatment can last from 30 minutes to several hours.

Despite their popularity outside of hospitals, many experts in the medical and wellness fields are wary of IV drips. Beth McGroarty, vice president of research at the Global Wellness Institute, said the injection can lead to serious infections caused by improperly sterilized equipment or unclean skin. A reaction might occur during the treatment or hours to a day later.

In addition, flooding your body with unnecessary vitamins, minerals and other substances can cause toxicity and overwhelm your kidneys. To underscore her point, she cited a Texas woman who died of cardiac arrest last year after an electrolyte injection.

McGroarty also takes issue with the lack of federal oversight. The states regulate the practitioners, though governmental agencies occasionally step in with warnings.

In 2021, the Food and Drug Administration alerted consumers about unsanitary conditions at medical offices and clinics that administer treatments involving compounded drug products such as IV drips. "Contaminated, or otherwise poor quality, compounded drug products can lead to serious patient illnesses, including death," the agency stated.

For Tofel's drip, Madison Gnan, a registered nurse, removed the sterile items from their packaging, pulled nine vials from her travel case and made the cocktail to order.

"I would not go to a place that doesn't open it in front of you," Tofel said.

Las Vegas: Ground zero for luxury IVs

Though the treatment is commonplace, Las Vegas still feels like the epicenter of IV drips. Like Elvis impersonators, they are inescapable. During a recent stay on the Strip, I would pass clinics on my morning coffee runs and during my aimless wanderings in the black hole of casinos. On a search for my hotel's fitness center, I ended up inside an IV drip lounge.

I get a little wigged out by foreign objects embedded in my skin, but I mustered up the courage to stop by several places and ask my inner elbow: Do we dare?

I started at Ageless Las Vegas in Caesars Palace, which evoked the mysterious and moody atmosphere of a speakeasy. Cofounder Rio Alabastro showed me a red pinprick in her inner elbow. She said she had felt a little sluggish that morning and gave herself a little Get-Up-and-Go, one of the options she recommended to a virgin dripper. On my way out, she handed me a QR code with a discount.

Regenerate Me has three locations on the Strip. The outpost in the Linq Hotel sits across from a Dunkin', so you can put your drip to work with a doughnut and chemically flavored coffee. The attendant told me that most people order a hangover cure. I showed up at lunchtime, so I was either too late or too early for the rush.

The company's clinic in Planet Hollywood was also empty. I peered through a gap in the treatment room and saw a row of reclining massage chairs arranged around a TV set. It felt like a den in Middle America.

Reviv has more than 80 locations, including the United Kingdom, Dubai and the Cosmopolitan in Vegas. The facility was predominantly furnished in white and emitted a vibe that was more Scandinavian lounge than sanitized hospital. Schwartz, whose arm displayed the mark of an IV, said about two dozen people had dropped in for IV treatments that day. Unless I drank more, I wouldn't be the next.



CRAIG HUDSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



CRAIG HUDSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

At left, an IV known as a "banana bag." At right, a nurse sets up her kit at a patient's home in Alexandria, Va.



ILLUSTRATION BY INÈS PAGNIEZ FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

9 ways to avoid being the absolute worst beachgoer

BY HANNAH SAMPSON

In the blockbuster film "Barbie," Ken gets big laughs when he says his job is "just ... beach." ¶ But face it: Not everyone is a beach pro. Some of you are actually very bad at beach. ¶ "I think going to the beach is an art," said Sarah Greaves-Gabbadon, a Caribbean-focused travel expert. "A lot of people don't know how to beach, but there is an art to it." ¶ Have you ever set your umbrella up directly in front of a fellow beachgoer? Blasted your "Beach Day" playlist at top volume on the crowded shore? Congrats, you flunk beach-art class. ¶ As prime sun-and-sand season approaches, it's time to bone up on the essentials of beach etiquette.

Personal space: Try respecting it

Julie Manquen, who lives in St. Pete Beach, Fla., remembers the day she was sitting near the water and a woman plopped down right in front of her.

"There was plenty of room," she said. "I was like: 'Why would you do that? How can you be that oblivious?'"

If you're going to sit far back from the shoreline, it's fair game for someone to get between you and your waves. But in close quarters, that's a faux pas.

"I don't want to be looking out at the water and then seeing your head," said Manquen, who has written about beach etiquette for her Hello South Blog.

Greaves-Gabbadon, who blogs as JetSetSarah, said the same goes for lounge chairs.

"There's nothing worse than there's 24 chaises on the beach and you just come and sit next to mine when you could have gone anywhere else," she said. "I think it's just nice to give people their personal space. So if you can avoid being right next to someone, please do avoid that."

Pick up your trash

Many beaches have trash cans. Use them! No receptacles? Pack up the garbage and haul it away.

"Please leave the beach the way you found it," said Wyatt Werneth, national spokesman for the American Lifeguard Association.

He recalled that before he retired as chief of Brevard County Ocean Rescue in Florida, he once pursued a group traveling in a giant bus who had left fast-food trash on the beach.

"It looked like a dump," he said. "I put my lights and siren on and went after them and pulled the bus over, made them come back and clean it up."

It's not just food trash that gets left behind, said Capri Mungeam, co-owner of the sand castle lesson company Beach Sand Sculptures in Florida's Panhandle.

Mungeam said people often will buy cheap beach equipment when they visit and never clear it off the beach.

"There's so much that ends up in the trash," she said. "It's really appalling. If you bring it to the beach, you should take it away from the beach."

Do not spread sand

We love the feeling of sand under our feet. The feeling of sand on our faces, arms, bellies or back, not so much.

"Here am I with my beautiful sunscreen-coated body all sticky and adhesive, and you kick up the sand, and I am just like a sugar doughnut, basically," Greaves-Gabbadon said. "It's stuck to me, and the only remedy is I have to get in the water, I have to dry off, and then I have to sunscreen all over again."

National etiquette expert Diane Gottsman said that adults and kids alike shouldn't kick sand on sunbathers as they walk, and that beachgoers should be careful with any actions that might spread sand around.

"When you're shaking out a blanket, sand is going all over," she said. "You've got a portable fan, and the sand is going all over somebody else's face. You just have to be cognizant of who is around us."

Do not feed the wildlife

Manquen said people often think it's "cute and funny" to feed the birds on the beach. She couldn't disagree more.

"They are like the rats of the beach," she said. "They can be very aggressive. They'll call like 20 of their friends, and so, before you know it, you're surrounded."

Recently, she saw a bird steal a pizza slice from a group of spring-breakers at the beach. "They were laughing. They thought it was so funny," she said.

Although seagulls can turn into a divebombing nightmare, they're not the only ones that need to avoid people food.

Lindsey Brendel, a park ranger at Assateague Island National Seashore, said she has seen people feeding chipmunks. At Assateague in Maryland and Virginia, the park's famous wild horses are "very attracted" to food that gets left out.

She said the Maryland district has about 80 wild horses that get their food from grasses that grow on the island.

"Human food is not good for their diet," she said. "You can't leave those items and go to a different location without somebody staying with them."

Do not blast your stereo at full volume

We have no doubt that your musical taste is impeccable, that your mixtapes are spot-on and that your sound system is pristine. But we *do* doubt that everyone else on the beach will want to hear your jams at the expense of their own music, conversation or thoughts.

"I think if you're on your own, you should absolutely have headphones," Greaves-Gabbadon said. "But I'm not such a Grinch that if it's like a bunch of you, I don't think you should have, like, a little boombox playing. But consider the other people around you, because some of us just want to listen to the seagulls or the waves rushing to shore."

Gottsman, founder of the Protocol School of Texas, said people who want to listen to music should consider whether it's appropriate for the setting and respectful of other beachgoers. But, she said, people who are bothered by music also need to understand that everyone is in a public place sharing the airwaves.

"The problem is when it steps over the line and it becomes invasive or offensive," she said.

There's also a safety reason for keeping the volume in check, Werneth said: Loud music might make lifeguards' jobs more difficult.

"You kind of depend on the noises of the natural environment to determine if there's an emergency: calls for help, whistles," he said.

Obey the speed limit

Driving is allowed on some beaches, and, in some cases, speed limits will be lower during months of heavy visitation or when people are in the area.

That's the case at Padre Island National Seashore in Texas, where drivers can go no more than 15 mph across the length of the island between March 1 and Labor Day. For the rest of the year, the speed limit on a vast stretch of the beach is 25 mph.

"Speed limit is the number one thing," said Kelly Taylor, spokeswoman for the park. "It drops for the safety of people who are recreating on the beach, for the safety of turtles, for the safety of birds that are trying to feed and raise their young."

No smoking around others

Many beaches ban smoking. Even if yours doesn't, think twice about filling the salty air with cigarette smoke when you have neighbors — or when you're near a lifeguard. If you do smoke, remember that the sand is not an ashtray.

"If you smoke, please be considerate of that lifeguard," Werneth said. "When they start smoking, I smoke that pack of cigarettes with them. I can't move."

Gottsman said that even if people are technically permitted to smoke, they should use common courtesy.

"We should not be smoking in the immediate distance of someone who is right next to us and not smoking," she said.

Digging holes is dangerous

A favorite beach pastime can also cause injuries or even be deadly. A 7-year-old girl died in February after a hole collapsed at a South Florida beach and trapped her under the sand. A similar tragedy unfolded in 2022 in New Jersey.

"Sand collapses. It doesn't hold up," Werneth said. "If you must dig a hole, make sure you don't dig it any deeper than the smallest person in your group. Cover it up when you leave."

Holes can also threaten such beach wildlife as sea turtles, which hatch in nests in the sand, then make their way to the water.

Mungeam, of Beach Sand Sculptures, said her company doesn't dig moats during sand castle lessons and teaches clients to avoid moats because of the danger for turtles and humans.

"Even after a big hole's been filled in, if it hasn't been kind of tamped down, you step in the middle of it and it's loose," she said.

Taylor said holes on beaches at Padre Island are a huge issue; in addition to threatening people and wildlife, vehicles can hit the holes and get damaged.

"Fill in your holes, people, fill them in," Taylor said. "It can be so freaking dangerous."

Your umbrella is not a kite ... or a weapon

Werneth recalled sitting at a lifeguard tower once and watching as three umbrellas went rogue.

He recommended checking for wind conditions before heading to the beach, and using umbrella systems that have weighted sandbags. It's not enough just to jab a pole into the sand.

"We don't want umbrellas lifting and flying across the beach and impaling people," he said.

Same goes for large canopies, Mungeam said, especially when people set them up to stake out a patch of beach and then leave them unattended.

"Canopies left unattended on the beach are dangerous," she said. "The wind catches them, they just break apart, and then they end up as trash."

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CHELSEA KYLE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

BY BRITT PETERSON

Every year Aarav Chavda goes scuba diving in the same Florida reefs. A former McKinsey analyst and mechanical engineer, Chavda has watched the corals blanch white over time, and he has noticed species dwindle — except the lionfish.

Local and federal officials near Atlantic and Caribbean waters have tried a number of methods to eradicate the lionfish, a gorgeously striped and spiny invasive species that has no predators in the region and eats many other fish. Chavda had a new idea: Make it fashion. Along with two other avid divers, Chavda founded a start-up called Inversa and invented a process that transforms lionfish skin into a supple, attractive leather. Next, they added two other invasive species — Burmese pythons from the Florida Everglades and carp from the Mississippi River. They've achieved some real success. A number of brands, including Piper & Skye and Rex Shoes, have used their leathers for wallets, footballs, flip-flops, and a cool-looking python dagger and sheath.

The toxic impact of the fashion industry — meaning not just high fashion brands, but the companies that make the materials that form our clothes, as well as the companies constructing the clothes — is well known. It's also responsible for up to 4 percent of global climate emissions, according to a McKinsey report, and an unknown but substantial percent of global water pollution. This is a baffling, often overwhelming problem. Humans require clothing to survive — plus, we love our clothes and derive deep meaning from how we present ourselves to the world.

SEE **FABRIC** ON **G4**

A year after paying off our 2.75% mortgage, we still have no regrets

Michelle Singletary
THE COLOR OF MONEY

A year ago this month, my husband and I became mortgage-free.

We took out our last mortgage in September 2016, refinancing a 30-year loan into a 15-year term. We paid it off in seven years.

Shredding the debt has been exhilarating. The first of the month no longer elicits deep sighs when the loan payment automatically flies out of our household checking account.

The feeling is probably not unlike a bird being freed from a cage. Confinement, after all, is said to make them susceptible to temper tantrums and mood swings.

Carrying debt has always made me feel constrained and cranky.

I had longed for the stillness that comes from knowing my home was *really* mine.

The decision to pay off our mortgage well ahead of the scheduled payoff was precipitated by my husband's retirement. He had intended to work a little longer, but an untenable situation at work necessitated his early departure.

But we were ready, having done preretirement planning for the last 10 years. We had been making extra principal payments and finally decided to take money from two retirement accounts I had from a previous employer to finally get that debt off our books.

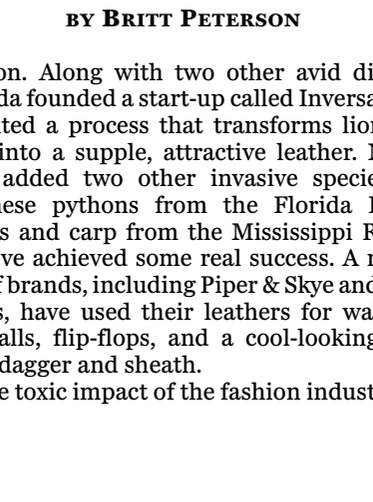
The choice didn't come without some second-guessing — initially.

Our interest rate was 2.75 percent. That's cheap money compared with current mortgage rates, which have been hovering between 6 and 7 percent. To some it makes no sense to dump debt at such a low rate; many readers contend we would have been better off investing all those extra house payments. But even a low rate adds up to thousands of dollars in interest payments each year.

My husband and I crunched our numbers and felt paying off the mortgage with one of us in retirement

SEE **SINGLETARY** ON **G2**

DEPARTMENT OF DATA
Mortgage rates, online shopping and the decline in eel consumption among American diners. **G3**



ELENA LACEY/THE WASHINGTON POST; ISTOCK

TECH FRIEND
Companies are now pitching you on the gory details of their fancy artificial intelligence. **G5**

Meta engagement plan could affect news industry — again

Tech giant using work from outlets for AI content could further complicate relationship

BY HEATHER KELLY

After years of Meta steadily walking away from news on its platforms, the company's new AI tool is now using the work of those outlets for content.

Meta's new chatbot, Meta AI, is happy to scan news outlets and summarize their latest stories and headlines for anyone who asks. It's even doing it in Canada, where the company banned links to news sources on Facebook and Instagram in August to get around a law that could require it to pay publishers.

It's CliffsNotes for the news. Meta AI draws on news outlets to give its users the day's top headlines, summaries of specific stories or deeper dives on current events without them having to leave its apps. And if the chatbot catches on, it could be the next clash in Meta's long, complicated relationship with the news industry.

In our tests of the chatbot, we asked about top headlines and recent news, then compared its answers to the sources Meta listed. We found the chatbot regularly responded with slightly rephrased versions of sentences that appeared in the original articles. In multiple cases, the chatbot reproduced sentences from the news sources verbatim.

There are no links to the stories or names of sources in the answers themselves. Instead, you need to click another button or link at the bottom of Meta AI's answers to see external links and sources, such as CNN, the Associated Press or NBC. In WhatsApp in the United States, the links are included below. There's also a link to a Google or Bing search on the topic.

In April, Meta began removing the News tab from Facebook in the United

SEE **META** ON **G2**

MICHELLE SINGLETARY

Paying off our mortgage early brought freedom

SINGLETARY FROM **G1**

was the right move.

A year later, we have no regrets. Here's the upside of not having a mortgage.

Less stress

Our mortgage took up about 20 percent of our net monthly expenses. By getting rid of it, we eliminated the biggest expense in our budget.

Of course, we still have to pay property taxes, but it's a fraction of the money we were shelling out in principal and interest payments every month.

When our insurance premium increased, as it has for so many homeowners, we weren't happy, but it didn't cause us to fret.

Market swings downward aren't as rattling because our housing expenses are lower.

More folks are taking a mortgage into retirement. But carrying that debt may delay your ability to retire and reduce your ability to spend the way you want, according to a University of Michigan Retirement and Disability Research Center working paper.

Researchers found that the share of homeowners entering retirement with mortgages increased from 37.9 percent for people turning 65 in the period from 1989 to 1995 to 50.8 percent for those turning 65 in the period from 2013 to 2018.

For some households, mortgage-financed housing wealth can be a liability in old age, the researchers concluded.

Cash flow is better

When you have cash coming in that's not obligated for bills or debt, you have more flexibility to fund your wants and needs.

Our 20-year-old home is showing its age. We needed a new roof. We have extra funds for home improvements without incurring debt or dipping into our retirement savings.



WASHINGTON POST ILLUSTRATION; ISTOCK

We also can build up our cash reserves and boost our investing knowing that eventually we may face a future with significant health-care costs.

I would caution that you shouldn't empty out or significantly deplete your savings to pay off your mortgage. You don't want to end up house-rich and cash-poor, meaning all your money is locked into the equity in your home. Equity, I might add, that you can only tap by borrowing other people's money or by selling your home.

Ability to delay claiming Social Security

If you claim early, at 62 rather than waiting until your full retirement age (which falls between 66 and 67 depending on your birth year), your monthly benefit may be reduced by as much as 30 percent. Every year you delay benefits beyond your full retirement age, your monthly payment will increase by 8 percent. It maxes out at 70.

The decision of when to collect Social Security is often hotly debated. It's such a personal choice and should be based on your own circumstances.

My husband is eligible to start now, but we decided he should wait.

If your budget allows, holding out a little longer increases your monthly payment at a time when you may need to cover such expenses as long-term care, which is not covered by Medicare. Waiting also adds a little extra cushion in the event we find ourselves unable to work to earn extra income.

No rush to tap retirement funds

The recent surge in the stock market has boosted our retirement funds. On May 17, for the first time, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed slightly above 40,000. This month, the S&P 500 index has been hitting some record highs.

Because my husband doesn't need to tap his Thrift Saving Plan, which is the federal government's version of a 401(k) plan, all of his retirement savings have continued to grow, benefiting from the market surges.

The C fund alone, which is a diversified portfolio of stocks of the largest U.S. companies, ended last year up a little over 26 percent.

Psychological payoff of being debt-free

A lot of folks want to second-guess our decision, pointing out how much more we might make in the stock market had we not paid off our mortgage.

Investing means taking on risk. We opted for the guaranteed return of an early mortgage payoff.

But there is another very tangible benefit to being mortgage-free — peace of mind.

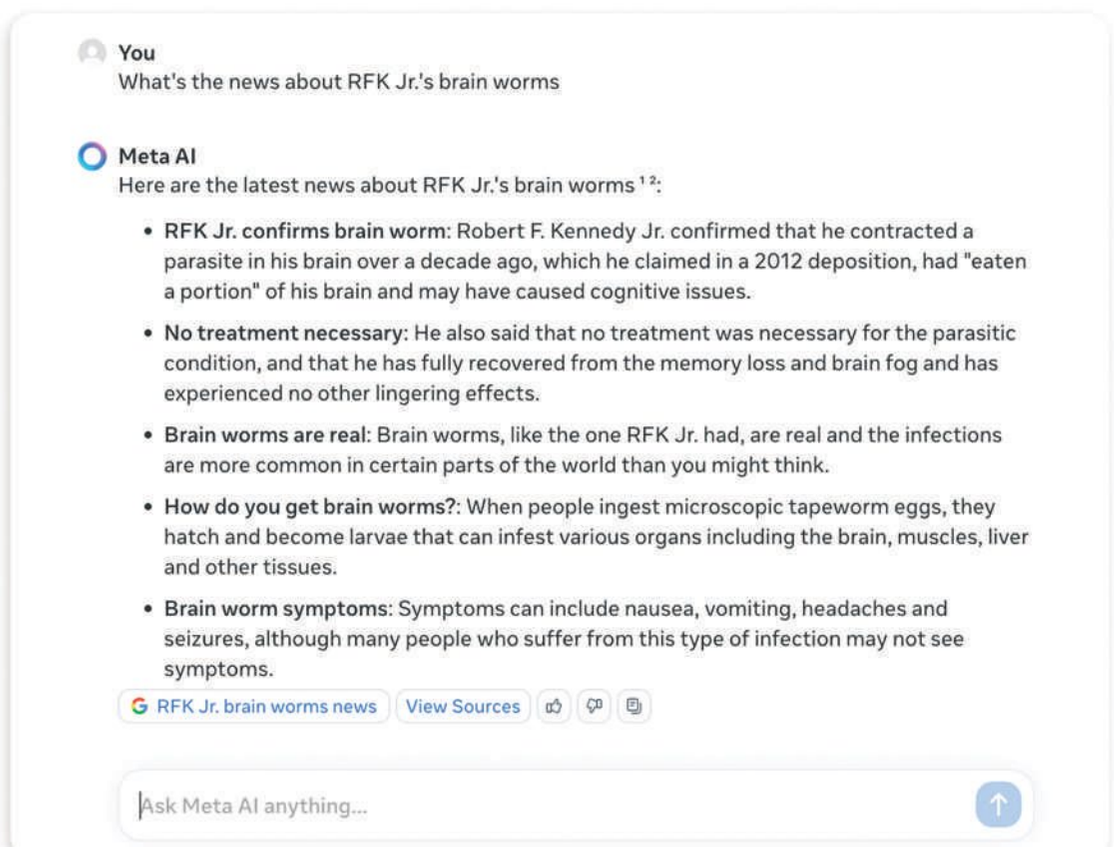
Maya Angelou said it best in her poem, "Caged Bird."

"The caged bird sings
with a fearful trill
of things unknown."

But, oh, the freedom you have outside the cage. As Angelou writes:

"A free bird leaps
on the back of the wind
and floats downstream
till the current ends
and dips his wing
in the orange sun rays
and dares to claim the sky."

If you have a personal finance question for Michelle, please call 1-855-ASK-POST (1-855-275-7678). Her award-winning column The Color of Money is syndicated by The Washington Post News Service and Syndicate and carried in dozens of newspapers.



PHOTOS BY HEATHER KELLY/THE WASHINGTON POST/META

The Meta AI chatbot summary of the latest news about Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and brain worms doesn't include links or names of news sources in the body, only in a pop-up when you click "View sources." Meta AI's answer also takes at least one entire sentence directly from a CBS News story.

Meta walked away from news. Now the company is using it for AI content.

META FROM **G1**

States and Australia, saying in a blog post that "people don't come to Facebook for news and political content." In February, the company said it would not proactively recommend political content on Threads and Instagram.

Publications have already seen large drops in traffic from Meta's shifts. AI summaries could herald another massive change in how people find and consume news, and further affect news outlets' traffic. According to a poll last year by Pew Research Center, vastly more people got news on their digital devices than from television, radio or print publications. Half of Americans said they already get their news from social media at least sometimes, with TikTok rocketing in popularity as a news source.

"These are platforms doing what platforms do, which is trying to optimize the time spent and the data collected. They don't really have much interest or care for what happens to news outlets or journalists," said Emily Bell, a professor at the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University.

News is just one of many things Meta AI suggests people ask about: It can create illustrations from prompts, make a packing list, write fiction, play games and even teach people to flirt. But those answers are also built on the work of other businesses, creators and regular people.

Meta AI's chatbot is powered by a large language model, or LLM, called Llama 3. This increasingly popular type of AI system is not programmed by an engineer. Instead, it learns to mimic human speech by ingesting huge amounts of text scraped from the internet and finding patterns between words. Meta AI says its model is trained on sources that include publicly available information online and annotated data.

There's ongoing debate — and lawsuits from news organizations — over whether it's ethical or legal for these generative AI tools to use content in this way. The AI companies have claimed it's fair use.

"Meta AI draws from content across the web to address timely questions from users, and provides sources for those results from our search engine partners. Since launching, we've made updates and improvements and we will continue to iterate on our products," Meta spokesman Daniel Roberts said in a statement.

Testing Meta AI's news summaries

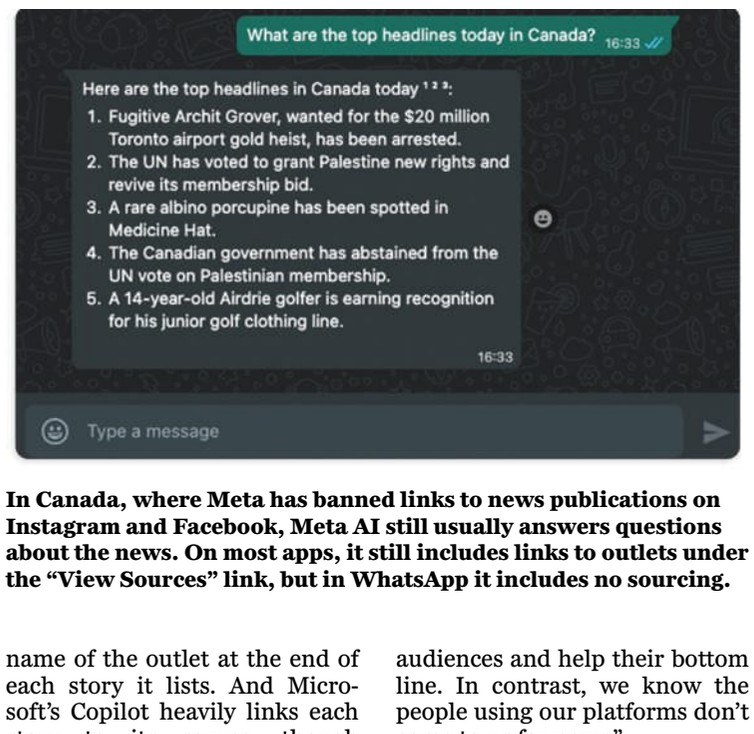
In April, Meta AI's bot was added to the search bar and chat windows on Facebook, Instagram, Messenger and WhatsApp in more than a dozen countries including the United States and Canada. There's no way to disable it in search, despite the chatbot itself incorrectly claiming you can.

You don't have to seek the bot out. Scroll through your Facebook feed and Meta AI might pop up under a news story with suggested questions related to the article. It's also available on its own stand-alone site, Meta.ai.

We started by asking the chatbot to recommend news-related queries it could answer. We then tested Meta AI's suggested news prompts across its apps in the United States and Canada.

In multiple examples, we asked Meta AI, "What are the top headlines for today?" and got lists of five stories, all of which repeated sentences word-for-word from CBS News, specifically the articles' meta descriptions. CBS News's homepage showed up as a source when we clicked for more info. In other tests, Meta AI's answers copied exact sentences from NBC News. A summary of the latest news about Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and brain worms also copied at least one line exactly, and many more with minor changes, from a CBS News article.

We asked other popular AI chatbots about the latest news, and all had more prominent links and sources. Google defaulted to a grid of links to news stories at different outlets and, in our tests, did not use its new AI Overview tool for news questions. The company's Gemini chatbot included a full link for each story. OpenAI's latest free version of ChatGPT puts a link and the name of the outlet at the end of each story it lists. And Microsoft's Copilot heavily links each story to its source, though doesn't name them until the bottom of the answer.



In Canada, where Meta has banned links to news publications on Instagram and Facebook, Meta AI still usually answers questions about the news. On most apps, it still includes links to outlets under the "View Sources" link, but in WhatsApp it includes no sourcing.

Meta's Canada problem

In Canada, where Meta has banned links to news articles, the chatbot offers a workaround to the company's own rules. It pulls information from the same sites it has blocked for users. The Washington Post had three people test Meta AI in Canada, and most received answers similar to what it gives in the United States, with links or sources similarly confined to the footnote.

There were some differences. In two searches, Meta AI said it couldn't find up-to-date information. "You might have better luck searching online for the latest updates," it responded. And when we ran searches in WhatsApp in Canada, it answered but did not show any links or sources — meaning it still used the work of outlets but didn't violate its rules against linking to them.

Meta announced it was banning news links in its apps in Canada late last year, after a law went into effect requiring Big Tech companies pay outlets for their content. In a blog post at the time, Meta claimed publications benefited more from the relationship: "News outlets voluntarily share content on Facebook and Instagram to expand their audiences and help their bottom line. In contrast, we know the people using our platforms don't come to us for news."

"Meta's running two games here. It's running a public-facing game in which it denies people the opportunity to access, distribute, and circulate shared news on its products in Canada," said Dwayne Winseck, a professor of communication and media studies at Carleton University in Ottawa. "The second game it's running is a game on the inside, where none of this [stuff] on the outside matters because Meta's just doing whatever it wants."

Paywalls and faking it

There are some limits to what the chatbot can do with news. Meta AI doesn't appear to be scanning content that is behind a paywall. If you give the chatbot a link to a specific article and ask for a summary, it will scan the story and generate a list of its main points. But if the story is behind a paywall, like a Post article, the AI will make up a summary about the topic drawn from other sources, without disclosing that it was unable to read the original story.

When we asked Meta AI's chatbot about the discrepancy, it gave us detailed advice on the best ways to get around publication paywalls.

Gerrit De Vynck and Amanda Coletta contributed to this report.



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BY ANDREW VAN DAM

DEPARTMENT OF DATA

Good mortgage rates are now precious. Who has snagged the sweetest deals?

Americans dance to the beat of their own drummers. And by "their own drummers," we mean interest rates, the disarming little numbers that quietly dictate the tempo of our lives.

When the Fed pushed its target rate near zero in 2020, the average home buyer could get a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage for less than 3 percent. Nearly all of us — 93 percent — were paying more than the market suddenly offered. So, we all moved or refinanced. And the housing market went haywire.

Fast forward four years, and the problem has flipped: New mortgages go for about 7 percent and virtually all of us — about 97 percent — pay less than we could get today. This is according to a big honkin' analysis of a representative sample of more than 14 million mortgages from 1998 to 2023 produced by our fine friends at the Federal Housing Finance Agency, economists Ross Batzer, Jonah Coste, William Doerner and Michael Seiler.

Good interest rates suddenly became precious. They're the ultimate bulwark against still-high inflation.

So, who's got the lowest mortgage rates?

California and Utah homeowners pay just 3.7 percent, while West Virginia and Mississippi pay 4.4 percent — underscoring the reality that higher rates correlate with the usual suspects: low incomes, low levels of education and high unemployment.

Folks in those struggling states tend to qualify for higher interest rates, the economists say, accounting for about a third of the gap in mortgage rates. The rest is a matter of timing: folks in struggling states got loans when rates were higher, and didn't (or couldn't) refinance.

"This group is slightly disproportionately from lower socioeconomic status groups as these groups are less likely, and in some cases unable, to refinance," said FHFA's Coste, whose earnest and careful speech perfectly accents his unruly ponytail.

The best way to snag a killer mortgage rate is lucky timing. Ask anybody who bought or refinanced in 2021. The second-best strategy is to earn a ton of money or have an awesome credit score. At the end of last year, someone with a score of 800 or higher was paying 3.6 on average, while someone with a score of 559 or lower paid 5.8 percent.

In practice, that knocks loose wide gaps along racial and geographic fault lines. Asian Americans on average paid just 3.7 percent, while their Black friends paid 4.4 percent. Similarly, Falls Church, Va., a top-earning enclave carved out of Fairfax County after the Second World War, has an average mortgage rate of 3.4 percent, while folks in parts of the rural South pay more than 5 percent.

Look at states that would pay the lowest rates if they all refinanced today — a financial strategy we strongly discourage — and we see a similar pattern: It's the high-poverty, low-credit-score states of the South and Appalachia.

There's one obvious-in-hindsight exception: the youths. They're least likely to own a house — and thus less able to hold out for better rates before getting a roof over their heads.

To put it another way, if you're older and have an option other than paying 7 percent on your mortgage, you're probably going to take it. And that option probably involves staying put — which has thrown a heavy-duty, long-handled monkey wrench into the U.S. housing market.

People with mortgages under 3 percent said they'd be about 60 percent more likely to move if they could hold on to their current rates, a recent New York Fed analysis found.

That's understandable. You don't have to be Michelle Singletary to know it makes questionable financial sense to swap a $2,108 monthly payment on a $500,000 home for a $3,327 payment on a $500,000 home.

In a little under two years, our reluctance to give up our ridiculously sweet mortgage deals has kept Americans from selling 1.3 million homes that would have otherwise gone on the market, the FHFA economists estimate. That has forced buyers to compete for fewer available homes and driven up housing prices by 5.7 percent — negating the 3.3 percent reduction they say rate hikes should have had on housing prices by now.

The states with the lowest rates and highest home values tend to face the most market gridlock. This drives home prices in those states higher still and widens the gaps with the lowest-cost markets — while perversely keeping folks from moving from high-cost to low-cost markets.

Even folks who do everything right, who work hard and save for a down payment, are struggling to enter the housing market without a lucky break.

"Younger people have been carrying considerably more student debt than before while trying to save for a home," Doerner said. "Essential workers have been priced out of buying in communities because the kinds of homes they could afford aren't on the market."

Who does the most online shopping?

When we charted how online retail ate the economy last year, reader William Darron — who you may recognize as the guy who once brought a 50-pound WWII bombsight to novelist Laura Hillenbrand's doorstep — asked for a deeper dive.

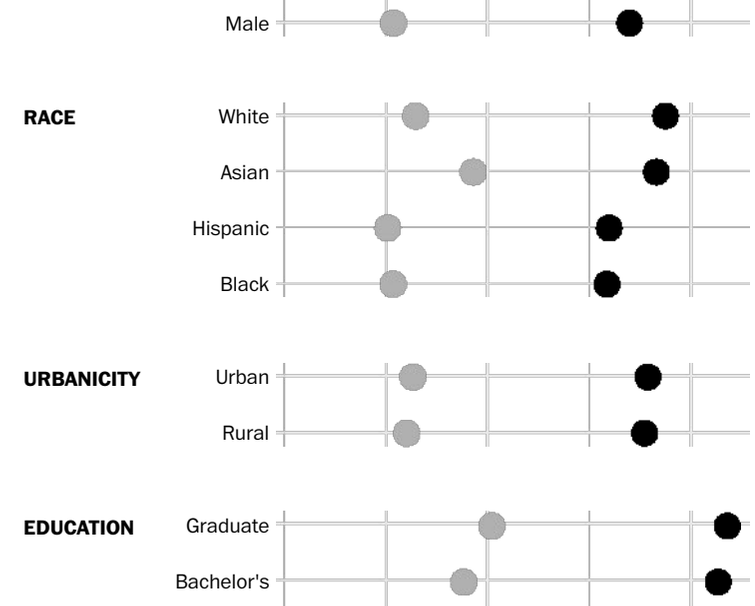
Good news! When measuring school-bus usage, we spotted fresh online shopping data from an unlikely source: the National Household Travel Survey from the fine folks at the Federal Highway Administration.

In 2022, the agency, which is responsible for spotting changes in when and how shoppers and delivery vans use our roads, asked almost 15,000 Americans how often they shop online and how often they return their purchases.

More than 70 percent of Americans age 16 or older buy something online in a given month, and 90 percent live in households that have done so. An impressive 11 percent of us order — on our own — 15 or more online packages, deliveries and visits in a single month. About 21 percent of households do the same.

Garden variety online shopping dominates. About 67 percent of us have bought goods, from tea bags to tourniquets, on websites or apps. Women shop slightly more than men, but people ages 30 through 50 shop the most — and online shopping doesn't truly settle down until we enter our 70s. (That could be a cohort effect, given today's 70-year-olds are the last generation to experience the peak online-shopping years of middle age without smartphones.)

Food delivery, on the other hand, is a young person's game.



AMERICAN UNAGI

As of 2018, there are seven U.S. eel farms, according to data.

We're most likely to hit up Door Dash between the ages 25 and 40. Thereafter, food orders drop rapidly — or at least the online orders tracked in this survey do. Perhaps folks over 40 crave delivery, too, but they're more comfortable simply dialing up Smoky Mountain Pizza & Pasta when they crave a large Hawaiian with extra pineapple.

Only 9 percent of us ordered groceries online in a given month, making it about half as popular as Uber Eats-style prepared food orders. While most people order more online as they earn more, lower earners are more likely to use grocery delivery than their middle-class friends.

Why? The data shows, predictably, that people without cars are more likely to get food and groceries delivered. (In contrast, rural Americans are just as likely as city folk to shop online, but they're much less likely to order food or groceries. We assume it has to do with those pesky delivery radii.)

A quarter of us return online purchases every month. The biggest returners are the most educated Americans, but that's partly because they're the biggest online shoppers.

Best question we can't answer

Why don't we Americans eat more lamb, domestic rabbit or eel? They're low in calories and rich in nutrients. I do wonder if eel are bottom feeders, however.

— Judith Raunig-Graham in Seattle

We may struggle to answer the why with data alone, but you're spot on about eating fewer lambs and rabbits!

The American lamb population has been in constant decline more or less since its 1941 peak, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (though we reckon that may have as much to do with wool production as eating habits).

Meanwhile, the number of live rabbits on U.S. farms fell by half from 2012 to 2022, according to our old friend, the Census of Agriculture.

Its wetter cousin, the Census of Aquaculture, reports a grand total of seven U.S. eel farms as of 2018. That's fewer farms than we have for tadpoles (19), snails (15) or frogs (9).

If you're a tadpole rancher or snail wrangler, we want to hear from you. But eel farmers can hold off: We already found one! A decade ago, Sara Rademaker founded American Unagi in Midcoast Maine. When we asked why Americans don't eat more eels, outside of the occasional sushi roll, she was stumped, too. They're a stellar source of vitamin D and a reliable eyebrow-raiser at potlucks.

As for any accusations of bottom feeding, Rademaker said via email: "Eels are omnivores in the wild so depending on what stage of life they'll eat anything from algae to insects to fish. While they live on the bottom, they're most active at night, hunting within the water column for their meals."

As Americans urbanize and lose their personal relationship to local fish, "people living in Eel habitats today may have very little awareness of an Eel's role ecologically and historically," self-described eel advocates Kristi Leora Gansworth and Christopher Bowser write in Frontiers in Human Dynamics. (The researchers capitalize "Eel" as a sign of respect.)

"Eels are often maligned as slimy, snakelike, and dangerous," they write. "Despite a long history of sustaining Indigenous societies and newcomers alike, in a contemporary sense Eels have slowly fallen out of culinary flavor at a mainstream level."

Bowser says that's an issue of supply as much as demand. Eels once made up almost a quarter of the fish, by weight, in East Coast streams, research shows. Scientists estimate that we lost nearly 3 out of every 4 from 1950 to 2006, in part caused by notorious eliminators such as hydroelectric turbines, overfishing and habitat loss.

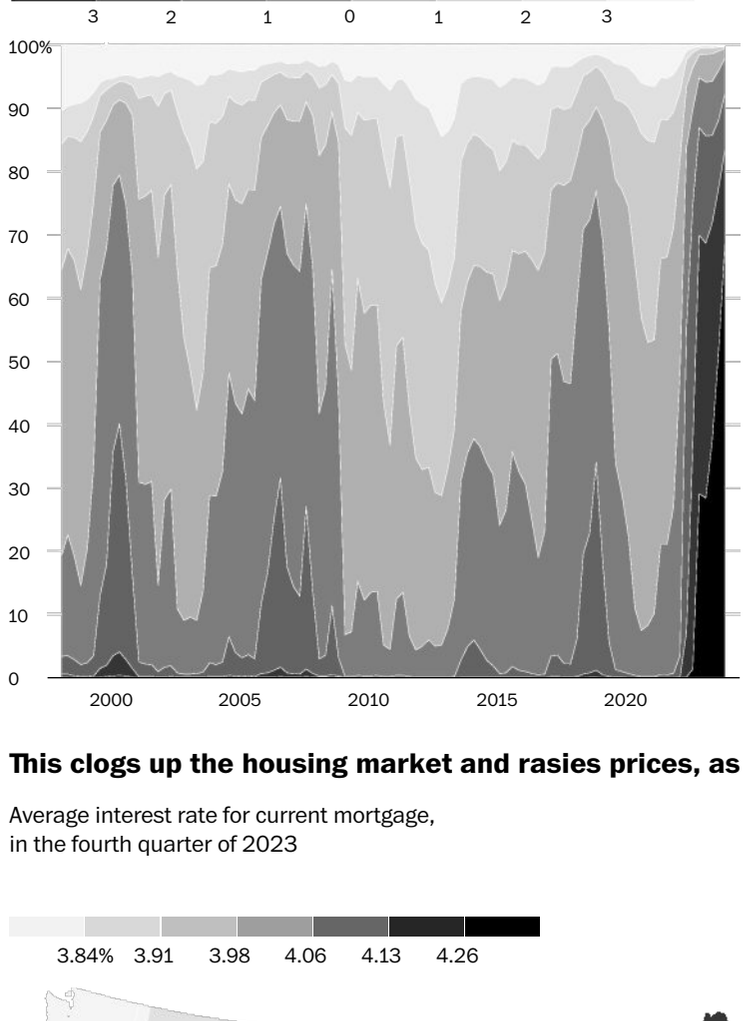
But the resilient fish still persists in much of the east, hatching in the Atlantic, growing up in rivers and ending their lives with a one-way suicide mission to spawn in the Sargasso Sea.

The Department of Data covets queries. What are you curious about: Who's most likely to use ride-sharing apps? The most-touristed sites in America? A bends-inducing deep dive into fish farming in America when a new aquaculture census drops in December? Just ask at *wapo.st/department-of-data*.

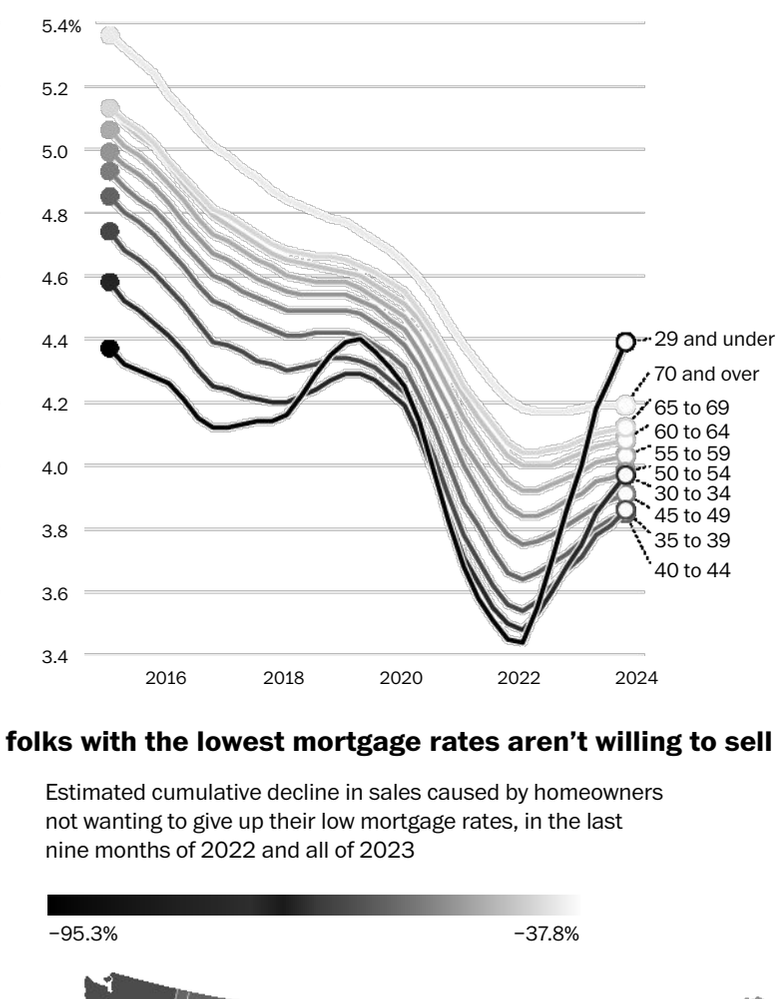
If your question inspires a column, we'll send you an official Department of Data button and ID card. This week's buttons go to Judith, who asked about eating rabbits and eels, and to William Darron in Fair Lawn, N.J., who tired of our bookstore coverage and wanted to know more about online retail.

Almost everyone has a mortgage well below current rates — with young folks being the one notable exception

Rates homeowners are paying, relative to the going rate on the market



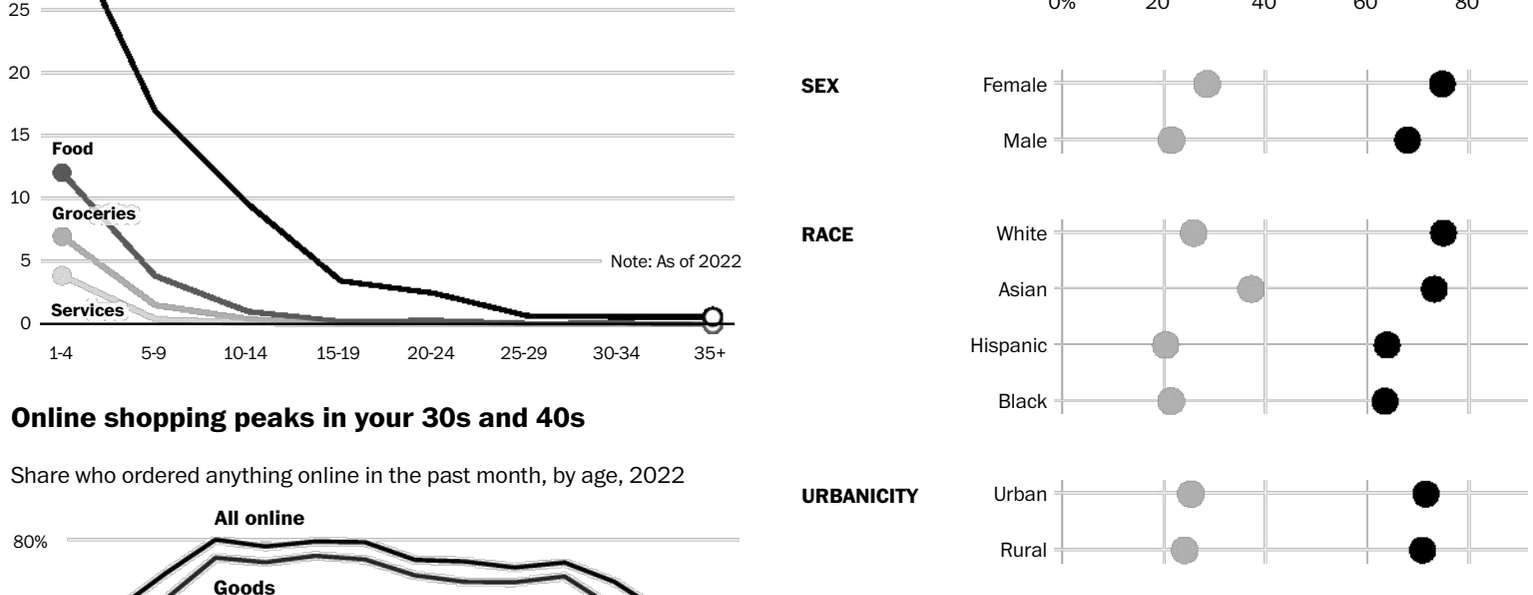
Rates current homeowners are paying on their mortgages, by age of householder



This clogs up the housing market and rasies prices, as folks with the lowest mortgage rates aren't willing to sell

Average interest rate for current mortgage, in the fourth quarter of 2023

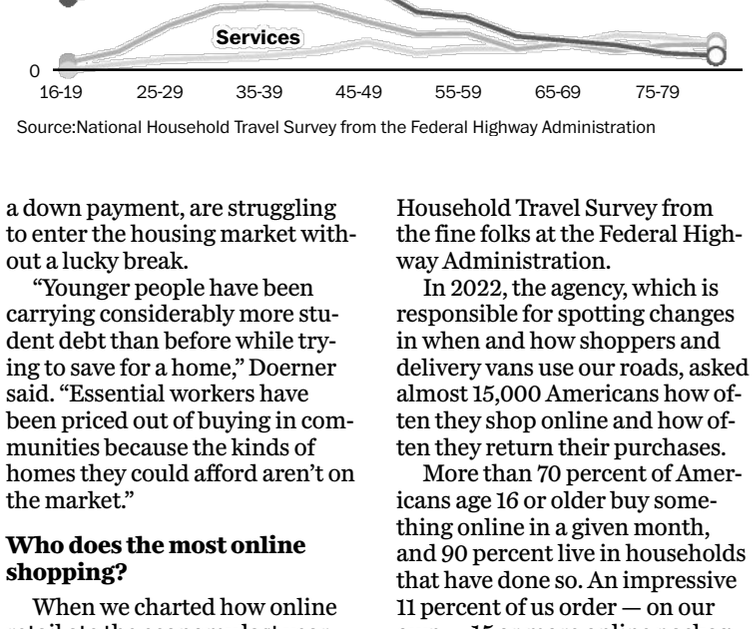
Estimated cumulative decline in sales caused by homeowners not wanting to give up their low mortgage rates, in the last nine months of 2022 and all of 2023



Source: Ross Batzer, Jonah Coste, William Doerner and Michael Seiler of the Federal Housing Finance Agency

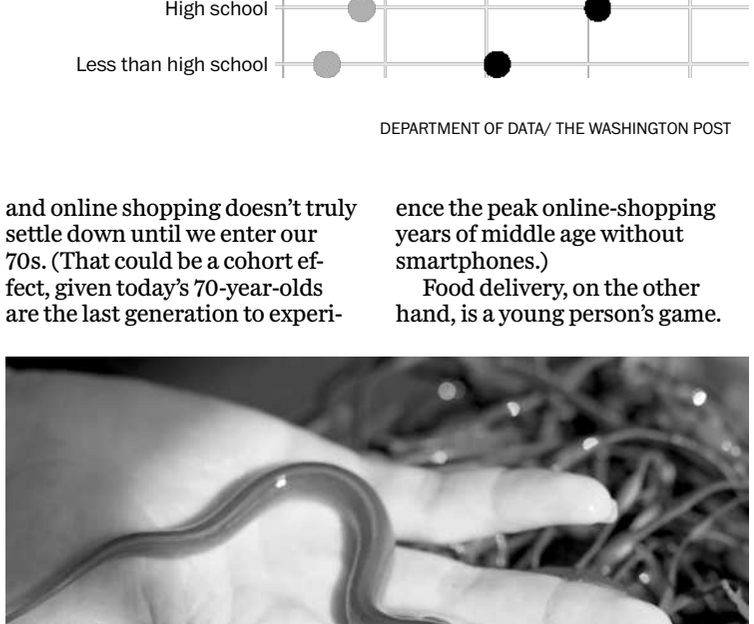
Most of us order at least one package each month

How many online orders did you place in the past month?



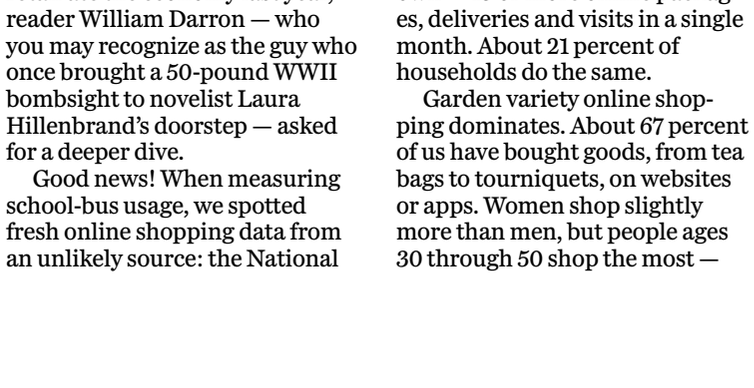
The most-educated Americans order the most

Share who ordered anything online in the past month, by age, 2022



Online shopping peaks in your 30s and 40s

Share who ordered anything online in the past month, by age, 2022



Source:National Household Travel Survey from the Federal Highway Administration

DEPARTMENT OF DATA/ THE WASHINGTON POST

An old co-worker is publicizing my cringey history at our new job. What do I do?



Work Advice

KARLA L. MILLER



ISTOCK

Reader: More than a decade ago, I used to work on the same team as "Brad," who pursued me romantically. I was initially not interested, but after two years we started dating. Then, after a few weeks, he ghosted me. It was messy and painful, because I was young and very much in love. I sent him two texts calling him a lying jerk, but in harsher terms. Our manager said I was hurting the team dynamic and transferred me to a different office in the same city. I was happy to go. I cringe just thinking about how immature and unprofessional my actions were after the breakup.

Also on our team was Abby, a toxic person who seeks out drama and creates conflict everywhere she goes. In the three months we worked together, Abby created workplace issues with two other people. She was also throwing herself at Brad. It was so obvious that her boyfriend broke up with her over it.

I am now happily married and work for a different company thousands of miles away. My company recently hired Abby. She has been asking people if I've been "harassing any men," and then retelling everything that happened. I was always friendly and professional with Abby, so it's not like she has a grudge against me.

How should I handle this? Do I ignore it and hope it dies down? Do I go to HR? Do I tell people she didn't come out of it smelling like roses either? Do I look for a new job? I'm just so tired.

Karla: I'll take you at your word that this was a one-time, sorely regretted incident when your youth and emotions overrode your professionalism, and you learned the hard way about love bombing. (I might even argue that the person truly responsible for hurting the team dynamic was the one who spent two years badgering a teammate into a relationship, but that's not helpful now.) Ordinarily, I'd tell you that people will catch on quickly that Abby is a drama-feeding muckraker, and you can safely ride out the gossip cycle by sticking to the high road.

But her language takes things well beyond dishing about a messy breakup. If she's falsely insinuating that you have a history of harassing men in general, that's potentially harmful to your reputation, depending on how credulous and cutthroat your colleagues are. You need to get ahead of that narrative as soon as possible.

Cornering her in the bathroom is tempting, but inadvisable. Asking if she's heard from her ex recently, as a coded way of letting her know you also keep receipts, would probably be too subtle a hint to burst her soap-opera bubble. Also, bear in mind George Bernard Shaw's adage about wrestling with swine in their own element: You'll both get dirty, and she'll like it. Instead, you would be best served by bringing the problem to a third-party authority who can intervene, whether that's your manager or your HR department.

Give your drama-free synopsis: "Ten years ago, in another job, I was briefly romantically involved with a co-worker. It ended badly, and I regret the experience and have never repeated that mistake." If pressed for more details, keep it brief but honest: "When he abruptly ended things, I was hurt and sent him a couple of rude texts." Subtext: You were unprofessional, but not violent or dangerous. You accepted the consequences and moved on.

Then outline the problem and your request: "Unfortunately, someone who worked with me back then is now spreading embarrassing and embellished stories about that time. I'm concerned her narrative is undermining me and hurting my reputation, and I would like it to stop." If your company has a general policy against bullying — including, for example, spreading rumors or gossip intended to humiliate — this would be the time to spell out how you believe Abby is violating it.

You might be counseled to go back and discuss the matter with Abby yourself. But getting it on the record with HR first may be useful if Abby ups her game to more blatant harassment or starts creating trouble for other colleagues.

Otherwise, should any co-workers care enough to inquire about your past, you can simultaneously own and defuse the intrigue with an eye-roll: "Yeah, that's when I learned firsthand why dating a co-worker is a bad idea." Assuming your colleagues know you as a mature, levelheaded professional, they will soon see Abby's hot gossip for the cold tea it is. They will realize, as you should, that this has nothing to do with you and everything to do with her.

karla.miller@washpost.com

Sustainable fabrics help fashion industry rid itself of a global waste problem

FABRIC FROM **G1**

"It's two sides of the coin," says Monica Buchan-Ng, a sustainability expert at the London College of Fashion's Center for Sustainable Fashion. "[Clothes] can be this incredible creative force of self-expression and identity. But also we know that the way the fashion system works at present — it's just destruction after destruction."

However, the sheer reach of the industry also makes it a tremendous potential tool for innovation and change, and a number of new fabrics are a crucial part of that change. So far, Chavda says, Inversa has removed 50,000 lionfish, Burmese pythons and carp. In a few years, he hopes to be removing tens of millions. "I'm bullish," Chavda says, "because I think the consumer cares."

Fashion addresses its sustainability problems

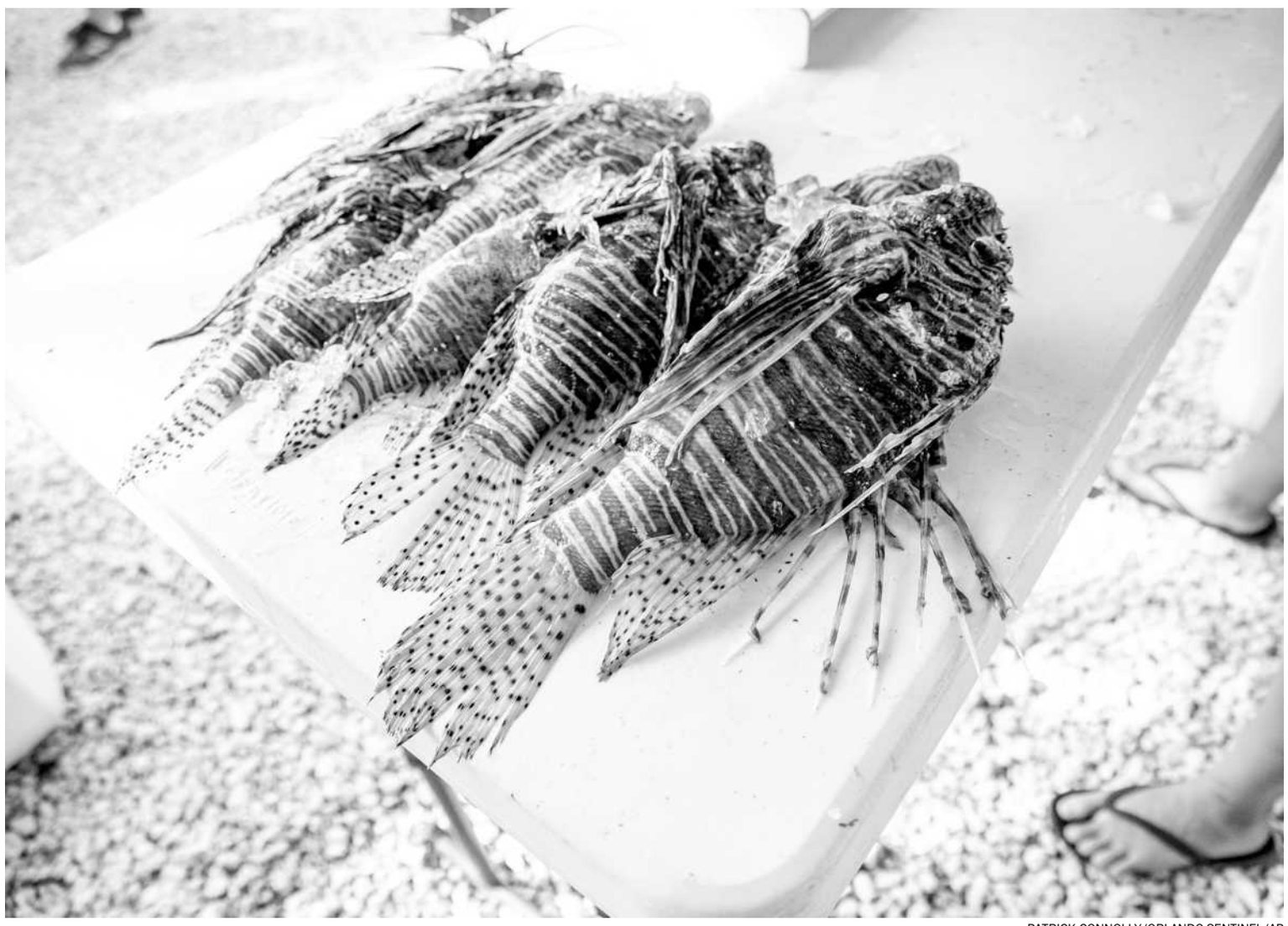
When asked about her favorite innovations in eco-friendly fashion, Julia Marsh, CEO of Sway, a company that makes a seaweed-based plastic used in delivery materials by large companies such as J.Crew, says simply, "Reuse and thrifting."

It's true that a cultural shift toward lower consumption, along with tighter governmental regulations, are the most effective long-term solutions for mitigating the industry's impact. But evolving the fabrics we use is an important piece of the puzzle as well.

Fabric waste is an increasingly toxic aspect of how fashion affects the planet. People bought nearly twice as much clothing in 2015 as in 2000, and most of that ended up in landfills. Fast-fashion brands such as Shein produce — and stimulate consumer demand for — ever cheaper clothing that falls apart quickly, adding to a global waste problem.

Many fabrics have a negative impact long before they are thrown away. Cheaper synthetic fabrics, such as polyester, contain microplastics that shed into the Earth's waters every time they are washed. Cotton, although a natural fiber, is farmed with high levels of pesticide, and in some regions, relies on forced and/or child labor. As for leather, the livestock production required to create animal leather is not merely cruel to animals, it also causes deforestation, water pollution and very high carbon emissions. But even "vegan" leather comes at a high cost, as it's frequently made from products derived from fossil fuels, including polyurethane.

At the moment it's very difficult — not to mention expensive — to buy any new clothing that doesn't have a negative effect on the planet, but as awareness of the issue increases, so have attempted solutions. Over the past decade, governments (especially in the European Union) have begun, slowly, to regulate fabric waste, pollution and emissions. And more people have found new, environmentally friendly ways to make clothes. Some of this effort starts with attacking supply chain problems, creating better systems for recycling or repurposing old clothing, or inventing dye processes that aren't poisonous to waterways. But the field of material development has seen some particularly fascinating innovations as well.



PATRICK CONNOLLY/ORLANDO SENTINEL/AP

Lionfish are measured and recorded at the Reef Environmental Education Foundation headquarters in Key Largo, Fla., in 2021. A start-up is using the skin of the striped and spiny invasive species and transforming it into leather used in wallets and flip-flops.

Innovators experiment with biodegradable materials

Uyen Tran grew up in the city of Danang, Vietnam, an area dominated by garment factories. Acutely aware of the global reach of fashion manufacturing, she was also aware from a young age of the global reach of fashion waste. Growing up, she and her family would shop at secondhand stores for brand-name clothing rejected by Westerners: "a lot of North Face, Ralph Lauren ... Nike," she says. After moving to the United States, where she studied at Parsons School of Design and worked for some of the brands she had first encountered in Vietnamese secondhand shops, she became interested in methods of fabric manufacturing that avoided those levels of waste.

Her curiosity drove her to research chitin, a natural polymer that can be extracted from shrimp shells — a regenerative, no-waste product that can be ethically sourced from the Vietnamese seafood industry. She turns it into a liquid and flattens it to create a shiny material that looks and behaves somewhat like pleather or leather. TômTex, Tran's company, also produces a second fabric derived from chitin found in mushrooms, a frequent favorite source of sustainable fabric innovators because of its quick growth and low environmental impact. TômTex has partnered with luxury brands such as Dauphinette and Peter Do to showcase its innovative, high-fashion, fully biodegradable fabric. "Waste is something that humans created," Tran says. "For me, if we create something, it should biodegrade and decompose as nutrients back to the soil, so animals can feed on it, a tree can grow on it."

The next stage for TômTex is going beyond small-run capsule collections to commercialization: scaling up production so TômTex can replace a larger chunk of traditionally produced materials and make a real impact. To do so, it needs significant investment. "Even brands that want to put in money: ... It's not going to be $20 million," Tran says. "We need that much to build a factory." She's working on brand relationships as a way of building visibility while pursuing venture capital.

Other sustainable fabric start-ups are searching for capital as well. Their innovations range from the fairly simple — adding sustainably farmed nettle fiber to a cotton blend, for instance, in the case of fashion company Pangaia — to the hugely complex: bioengineering processes that might take many years to develop.

"We are at the frontier of new biomaterials, which have the potential to have a lower carbon footprint, to use much less water and much less chemicals, and potentially biodegrade naturally at the end of their life, depending on how they're treated," says Suzanne Lee, founder of Biofabricate, a consultancy firm that helps companies working on this type of material.

Some companies are succeeding on a grand scale. The Japanese company Spiber, one of the more successful biotech companies working in fabric development, just announced that it had raised about $64 million to support mass production of its plant-based, spider-silk-inspired fibers.

Other companies have struggled. "The thing you learn about all these advanced materials is they always are super promising in the beginning, in the lab," says Dan Widmaier, the CEO of Bolt Threads, which recently had to pause production on a mushroom-based leather alternative called Mylo because of fundraising issues. "Can it work reproducibly at scale, meeting quality specs of the customer as they actually need them, meet their timelines and deliverables? Can it be financed to that scale? Those are the things that break all these."



MICHAEL STARGHILL FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Aarav Chavda is a co-founder of Inversa, which has removed 50,000 invasive lionfish, Burmese pythons and carp.

Innovations

A series that examines innovations, small and large, that can affect our daily lives in positive ways.

Innovation and finances meet in the middle

Earlier this year, a well-regarded Swedish fabric recycling company, Renewcell, declared bankruptcy, sending shock waves through this small and collegial world. Renewcell, which developed a process to turn old clothes into new cotton, had raised $10.6 million and opened its first factory in 2022. It had partnerships with a number of prominent brands including H&M, which had agreed to use 18,000 tons of its cloth, Circulose, in 2025. But orders still weren't enough to support production, and the company also ran into quality issues that slowed it down.

Lee thinks the shock of the Renewcell failure could actually motivate brands to invest more steadily in other, similar products. "We actually really need to back these things if we want them to happen, because we just can't assume they will naturally succeed on their own accord," she says.

Meanwhile, sustainable fabric companies are trying to get the word out. Spinnova is a Finnish company that turns cellulose from wood pulp into a biodegradable fiber. Brands such as Marimekko and Adidas have used it in their clothes, and the company is scaling up production. "I think that's actually the thing that speaks best for itself: having brands publish actual product and being able to show that, hey, look, this is real," CEO Tuomas Oijala says. "It works, it meets the needs of consumers and by the way, it's also a good value-for-money deal."

For the Inversa founders, the next step is reaching a larger audience of consumers, and they are optimistic that their story will resonate. "I think when you tell the consumer, like, 'Oh, buy this, you're sustainable,' you have to force them to acknowledge the guilt or the karma or whatever they were doing before," Chavda says. "If you just tell them, 'Hey, this wallet has saved these animals,' or 'You're protecting these coral reefs,' you just skip that whole piece."

Inversa has already started considering what other invasive species it might use as a basis for its fabrics while continuing to build relationships with local fishing collectives, governments and conservation NGOs to ensure it sources invasive species in the least harmful way.

Meanwhile, Chavda believes that the sustainable fabrics community is on its way to making real, lasting change. "We have different methodologies of doing it, but ... whether that's fiber made from seaweed or polyester spun in a different way that's biodegradable, we're all trying to do the same thing — make the planet a better place," he says.

BUSINESS

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TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

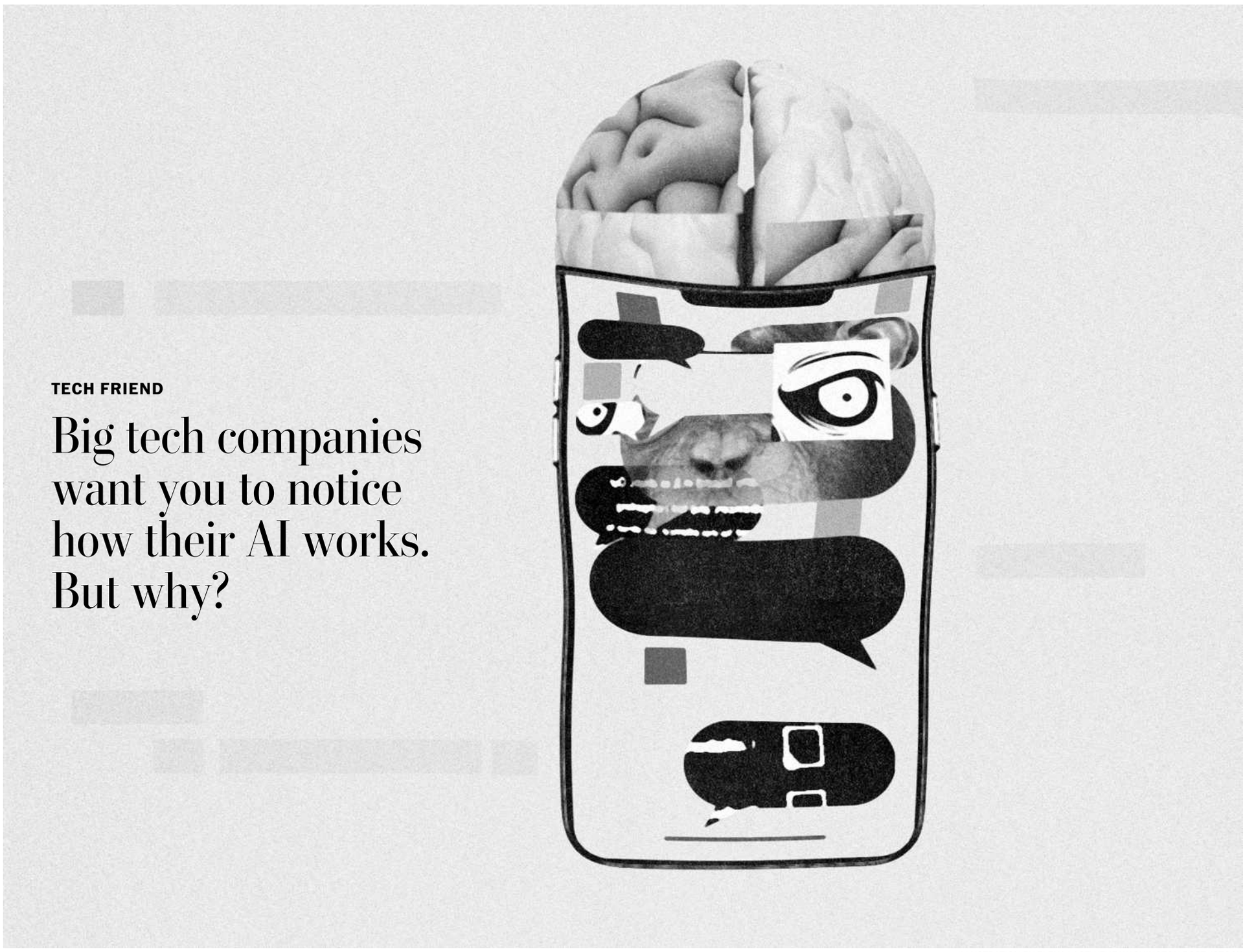


ILLUSTRATION BY ELENA LACEY/THE WASHINGTON POST; ISTOCK

TECH FRIEND

Big tech companies want you to notice how their AI works. But why?

BY SHIRA OVIDE

Technology has wormed its way into your life partly because you don't have to think about how it works.

You summon an Uber car, create a digital calendar appointment that family members can see or order a blender that Target's website shows is in stock.

You don't pay attention to the sophisticated technology that makes this possible — nor should you.

But now companies including Apple, Google and Microsoft are sweating to make you notice the gory details of their fancy technology. They're pitching you on how they're harnessing the brains and guts of your phone, tablet or computer to make artificial intelligence better.

It's like companies forgot that, for the past 15 years, they've won by making technology complexity fade into the background.

This flip-flop is more evidence that AI mania is making companies lose their minds.

Let's hash out why tech giants are trying so hard to draw your attention to how they make AI happen. I want to inoculate you against the AI hogwash you'll hear, including from Apple at its annual developers' conference next month.

The history of making technology seem simple

Just about everything you do on your phone is possible because of a big and boring technology revolution that's mostly invisible to you.

When you order an Uber, your phone connects with faraway Uber computers that pinpoint the nearest car. Target's connections among internet-connected computers assure you that the blender you want is available at your local store. (Yes, this is cloud computing.)

Apple, Google and Microsoft are now pitching you on the opposite approach, which they also say is a revolution.

They say some of the cutting-edge AI will be possible because of tailor-made features including a soon-to-be remodeled Siri and a searchable AI-powered time machine of everything you've ever done on your computer. The latter is a feature for some new PCs that Microsoft showed off last week.

The theory is that some AI features can be faster, more secure and more capable if they run on your phone, computer or other device rather than relying on internet-connected computers as Uber and OpenAI's ChatGPT mostly do.

In a few weeks, Apple is expected to detail how an AI-enhanced Siri can do some tasks, like summarizing notifications from your phone, by tapping into the smarts on your iPhone. (Apple reportedly will also pitch you on some ChatGPT-style AI that harnesses the cloud.)

The idea of "on-device" AI makes some sense. There are useful technologies, including the secure face or fingerprint identification for phones, that are possible because all the ID data processing never leaves your device.

"I think there are aspects of us doing AI on the device that solves what people care about," Aaron Woodman, vice president of Windows marketing, said in an interview on Monday.

Just keep tuning out the tech gibberish

But I'm just not sure that companies have justified making their "on-device" AI a meaningful selling point.

I'm guessing that you just want AI to be useful. You want your blender to be at Target. You want your phone to have foolproof security. It doesn't matter how.

It does matter to the companies, though, to have cool-sounding "AI PCs" or "AI smartphones" to persuade you to buy something new.

"What we want is that eventually you're going to say, you know, 'I've been keeping my phone for the past four years. … Now I need to buy a new phone because I really want this [generative] AI capability,'" Cristiano Amon, CEO of computer chip company Qualcomm, told the Financial Times.

In reality, you probably won't walk into a Best Buy or Verizon store to buy a device just because it's been redesigned for a few AI features. You buy a new phone or computer when you need or want one.

When you do, your new phone or computer will be better than your last one — for AI or anything. Everything else is marketing hogwash.

Gerrit De Vynck contributed to this report.

TECH BRIEF

How social media platforms can avoid fueling another Jan. 6

BY WILL OREMUS

With less than six months before the 2024 presidential election, social media platforms risk once again helping to fuel election-related violence, a working group of experts warns. But there's still time to change that, they say.

On a Tuesday in late March, a group of former tech company officials, academic researchers and think tankers with expertise on elections and political violence met privately to discuss what tech firms like Meta, Google, TikTok and X could do to avoid facilitating another Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection — or worse. The ad hoc group released a report with seven recommendations.

While other recent reports have focused on holding tech firms accountable for "backsliding" on content moderation in recent years, this one is forward-looking.

The overarching message: Tech companies need to start preparing for the worst, rather than waiting until it happens.

"On the heels of reporting that far-right extremist militias are once again organizing on Facebook in advance of the 2024 U.S. presidential election, it is urgent for platforms to assess — and immediately act on — threats to the peaceful conduct of elections and the holding and transfer of power," the report's authors write.

For starters, the report calls on tech platforms to explain how they evaluate the risk of political violence at any given time. Google's YouTube made a decision last year to resume allowing videos that deny the results of the 2020 election, saying they no longer pose a meaningful risk of real-world harm. But YouTube never said how it arrived at that conclusion or what might cause the company to revisit it, the report notes. Meta made a similar move in 2022, re-allowing political ads on Facebook and Instagram that included false claims that past elections had been stolen.

"Allowing people to lie about previous elections sets the stage for a false claim of a stolen future one," said report co-author Daniel Kreiss, principal researcher at the University of North Carolina's Center for Information, Technology and Public Life. "To me, this is the most shocking example of blatant disregard for really thinking through the political context that we're in."

Content moderation may be "imperfect," but it remains crucial, the report argues.

While several tech giants, including Meta and X, have scaled back on content moderation amid criticism from the right that it amounts to "censorship," the authors say that's a mistake. They recommend that platforms develop and articulate clear policies for election-related misinformation and incitement to violence; enforce them year-round; and increase spending on content moderation teams.

Those policies should include rules around "dog whistles" and "coded language," the authors add. While Twitter, now called X, set a policy for "coded incitement" after Jan. 6, 2021, the company later rescinded it before rolling out a new, vaguer policy last year. Companies should also think ahead of time about "break glass" measures to deploy when violence is imminent or happens, the report suggests.

"So much of how they address some of these biggest threats is 'fly by the seat of your pants,' siloed across the company," said report co-author Yael Eisenstat, a former Facebook policy official who is now a senior policy fellow at the multi-university research center Cybersecurity for Democracy. "The idea of true cross-company threat analysis and scenario planning just doesn't exist. … And then they continue to act surprised when a really big moment happens."

The report comes as state and local officials as well as election workers face growing threats to their safety.

The Justice Department said in March that it had charged 20 people for threatening election workers in recent years. But the problem will only grow if social media platforms don't crack down on online harassment, doxing and violent threats, the authors warn. "These should have a particularly low bar for enforcement," they said.

When companies do make major content moderation decisions, they need to be prepared to explain the rationale and processes behind them, the report says. It cites the seemingly never-ending controversy over platforms' 2020 decisions to block or throttle a New York Post story about Hunter Biden's laptop as an example of what can happen when there's no transparency.

Whether the tech companies will heed any of these calls remains to be seen.

"Relying on online platforms to 'do the right thing' without the proper regulatory and business incentives in place may seem increasingly futile," the authors write. But Kreiss said he's hopeful that at least some tech companies will take election integrity more seriously as the severity of the threat becomes more apparent. "I am optimistic that they can move in this direction, in part because I think they benefit from operating in stable democracies."

The report makes "a number of sensible observations and recommendations," said Tom Joscelyn, a senior fellow at the Reiss Center on Law and Security who was a principal drafter of the final report of the House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

The problem, Joscelyn said, is that "anti-democratic arguments and conspiracy theories are now part of the mainstream political right. These ideas are no longer fringe." For that reason, he suspects that the platforms will end up moderating "only some of the most direct calls for violence" in the 2024 election. And he said he has even less hope for moderation by X, which under Elon Musk has "embraced anti-democratic conspiracism as part of their business model."

Some of the largest social media firms say they're already doing more than the report gives them credit for.

A Meta spokesperson said the company works on election integrity year-round and has some 40,000 people around the world working on safety and security — more than it had in 2020. The company also has hundreds of people focused on countering dangerous organizations and has removed thousands of armed groups' pages.

"Our election policies go well beyond these recommendations, and we have had them in place for years," Meta spokesperson Tracy Clayton said.

TikTok spokesperson Jamie Favazza said the company is continuing to invest in content moderation, hiring for some 1,000 new roles and spending an estimated $2 billion on trust and safety globally this year.

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AN ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT TO THE WASHINGTON POST

How to build effective teams at work

By Bob Helbig

Leaders create an environment where people can operate effectively. When building an effective team, the key word is "effective." To be truly effective, teams must be in sync, committed to shared, actionable goals — and confident about their contributions.

Employees are more likely to invest discretionary effort in daily activities when things are moving smoothly, business is good and the whole team is engaged. This, in turn, boosts effectiveness, efficiency and productivity.

So, what makes a successful team? Higher levels of efficiency and effectiveness. Efficient teams are successful teams. Building effective teams requires leaders to:

- Work collaboratively toward shared goals.
- Use effective communication skills.
- Understand shared roles and responsibilities.
- Promote a positive workplace culture.
- Encourage flexibility and overcome obstacles together.
- Know the signs of a good leader, for themselves and those they manage.

To perform at a high level, organizations must be intentional about goals, communication, leadership, productivity and incentives. To operate as effectively as possible, follow these steps.

Set clear goals: Define precisely what you want to achieve and a timeline for getting it done. Clear, actionable goals and timelines make it easier for employees to understand company expectations and their contributions. Plus, clarity makes it easier to celebrate and recognize achievements, big or small.

Define roles: Workers need to know their responsibilities — and how those responsibilities support their teammates' goals and company vision. Giving employees clearly defined roles makes it easier for people to understand their jobs. And it helps leaders identify opportunities for development and improvement.

Communicate effectively: Think about how your teams brainstorm, collaborate and inform each other. Are workers familiar with their coworkers' communication preferences? Do leaders consider those preferences when motivating and recognizing their workforce? These are all moments when communication has a direct impact on team effectiveness.

Encourage collaboration: Collaborating on projects saves time and nurtures innovation and a diversity of perspectives. Additionally, brainstorming and problem-solving boost team morale and connection. All that makes teams operate more creatively, effectively and organically.

Create a conflict management strategy: Whether problem-solving involves issues around communication, competition, or performance, you must know how to handle conflicts. A strategy makes it easier for leaders



to respond to conflicts quickly and efficiently. That way employees maintain a healthy relationship with their leaders and teams.

Choose effective leaders: Choosing and developing effective leaders sets the tone for everyone. A strong vision, motivation skills, and a knack for performance are contagious. Before you know it, effective leaders will get everything and everyone in check.

Review and adjust: Look at your performance data and ask employees for feedback on their productivity. If opportunities for improvement emerge, jump on them and monitor for improvements. If none appear, keep iterating until you find the formula for peak performance.

Reward and recognize employees: Employee recognition makes people feel good and work harder, but it needs to be done right. Ask employees how they prefer to be recognized. Being intentional and asking for feedback maximizes results..

Bob Helbig is media partnerships director at Energage, an employee survey firm that is The Washington Post's survey partner for Top Workplaces. The production of this section did not involve the news or editorial staff of The Washington Post.

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jobshelp@washpost.com

A JOBS

[redacted]

Accounting
AMAZON.COM SERVICES LLC, an Amazon.com company - Arlington, VA: Senior Accountant: Works across organizations. Influences strategic decision-making & planning by making data driven recommendations. Solving multiple complex operational & accounting challenges. Telecommuting benefits available. Salary Range $121,222/yr-$163,200/yr. (AMZ8193578). Multiple job openings. Apply online: www.amazon.jobs – search by AMZ job #(s). EOE.

Business Analyst in Sterling, VA. Document findings of study & prep recommendations for implementation of new systems for remodeling projects; analyze data gathered & develop solutions or alternative methods of proceeding; prep manuals & train workers in use of new procedures & equip. Bachelor's Degree (or foreign equiv) in Business Admin, CompSci or Engineering + 6 months of exp in job offered or as Admin Manager or Admin Assistant req'd. Mail resume to Granite Center LLC, Attn: HR, 22446 Davis Dr, Ste 109, Sterling, VA 20164

Analyst - Int'l Trade (multiple positions) – Wash. DC 20006 - Support attorneys representing clients in anti-dumping & countervailing duties investigations. Apply SAS & other ERP utilities to extract & compile clients' cost & sales data. Exp. req. Submit resume to Curtis Mallet-Prevost Colt & Mosle, LLP: https://curtis.careers.micronapps.com Job ID 1092.

ASAP in Woodbridge VA is hiring Project Engineer for design/planning core drilling projects & fire prevention system; Estimates; Research components; Support biddings; Analyze drawings; Resolve execution problems; Respond supervisors/ installers' questions. Req: BS in Civil or Mechanical Engineering, 5y of Exp or MS Degree. Email: Jcastro@asapcore.com

ASSISTANT MANAGER
Supervise and coordinate activities of retail sale workers. Order, receive and display inventories. Schedule employees for shifts, make bank deposits, pay utility bills and invoices. Monitor sale activities and address customers complaints. Req. high school diploma, resume to Soby Inc 1329 Kenilworth Ave NE, Washington, DC 20019.

Assistant Manager wanted by bubble tea shop in Falls Church, VA. Reqs HS/GED. 24 mths of exp. as job offrd. Resume to: TEADM LOUNGE, INC. TEADM PLUS, 6779 Wilson Blvd, Falls Church, VA 22033.

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A JOBS

Senior Associate (Alexandria, VA): Assist in the evaluation, execution, monitoring & exiting of private equity investments in the Government & Engineering markets. Reqs.: 1) Master's + 5 yrs. exp. OR, 2) Bachelor's + 7 yrs. exp. Mail CV w/ cover letter to: DC Capital Partners Management, 99 Canal Center Plaza, Ste 400, Alexandria VA 22314, Attn: HR.

[redacted]

Associate Partner
– Africa Practice
Join Albright Stonebridge Group LLC in Washington, DC to support the firm's Africa practice through (i) preparing analysis of Africa's economy and economic development, (ii) providing advice to ASG clients on the economic impact of policies and trends, (iii) evaluating the impact of economic policy on key sectors of regional markets and leverage expertise to provide strategic economic intelligence and advice to Africa-focused clients, and (iv) works as a part of the team to identify and engage potential clients and monitors current client activity for potential expansion opportunities and cultivate leads and business development opportunities for the team. Position requires: a Master's degree, or its foreign equivalent in International Economics, Africa Studies International Affairs or a related field, and three (3) years of in a consulting or advisory capacity involving analysis of African markets, including economic forecasting, analyzing economic trends, and developing economic models related to Africa, evaluating policy, regulatory and fiscal measures on African economies, and providing geopolitical, regional, functional or sector/industry advice in multiple sectors of African economies. The position requires international travel approximately 20% of the time. Send resume with cover letter to: C. Solimini, Albright Stonebridge Group LLC, 1900 K Street NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20006 or e-mail resume to
hrcontact@
albrightstonebridge.com

B JOBS

Barista - prepare beverages; no exp req'd; full-time; RCHP USA, Inc. Reston, VA; kchpusa@gmail.com

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B JOBS

Bates White seeks a Senior Data Engineer in Washington, DC to design and develop ongoing data ingestion using Python and Spark. Support Requirements Gathering activities, especially from the data migration perspective. Use programming skills to create big data pipelines that can deal with both structured and unstructured data. Support other teams in effective use of big data tools and provide guidance in writing efficient code in SQL, Python and/or R. Analyze and load data for use by a larger audience. Analyze databases to improve speed of data access. Analyze data provided by project consultants and make it available in our database; provide access to the database to those that have a need. Develop strategies for data acquisitions, archive, recovery, and implementation of a database. Maintain the database and cleans data as required. Design and develop databases, data warehouses, and multidimensional databases. Remote work permitted 2 days per week. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Engineering, or a related field, plus 3 years of experience with Bigdata, Amazon Web Services, Scripting, and Data Visualization (Tableau.) 2 years of experience with R. *Experience can be gained through education or employment. To apply please visit http:// www.bateswhite.com/careers-careersapply.html, search for the position, and submit resume and transcript.

Bookkeeper: I Am Jolie, LLC in Great Falls, VA is looking for a Bookkeeper to record daily financial transactions, monitor and record all company expenses, prepare and process invoices, receipts, and payments, prepare monthly balance sheets, income statements, and profit and loss statements. No experience required. Min. Associate degree in Accounting, Finance, Economy, or related required. F/T. Email CV to Armaghan Amy Philippe at
armaghan.philippe
@gmail.com.

ZS Associates, Inc. has multiple openings for the following position in Bethesda, MD. Business Technology Solutions Manager: Manage IT projects by defining the IT project scope & strategies, analyzing & understanding the business issue, & developing IT project strategies using project management tools. Domestic/international travel required based on company/client need. (ref. code 017331.000506: $190000 - $250000) Related degree, experience &/or skills required. For full information & to apply, send resume to careers@zs.com & mention ref. code above.

Business Manager – Capital One, National Association in Northern VA; Mult pos avail: Manage econ rsrch & planning to dvlp bus strat. To apply, visit https://capitalone.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/Capital_One and search "Business Manager" or "R187176".

Business Operation Specialist /Bach+3 yrs exp. Under supervision , responsible for innovation and scaling innovation solutions to company challenges in operations . Remote work anywhere in the US allowed for this position. Rate: 96,096/ yr. Apply to HR, Alpha Therapy LLC, 2443 Linden Lane, Silver Spring MD 20910

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C JOBS

Enterprise Technology Solutions Inc.
Channel Manager (Ref: 102): Work with ETSI clients & vendors to furnish IT products & services. Detailed job duties, edu & exp at www.etsig.com Salary $169,645-$174,645/yr. Job site: College Park, MD. Send resume w/job title & ref # to Enterprise Technology Solutions Inc., 9658 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 300, College Park, MD 20740 or email to info@etsig.com.

Chile Enterprises Inc in Aberdeen, MD is hiring: Dishwasher to clean dishes, food prep equipment, and utensils. Cook to prep, season, and cook dishes as instructed. No min edu or exp req. David_carrillo86@yahoo.com

CNC Operator
Operate computer-controlled machines, review and set operations from blueprints, modify and save cutting programs, and maintain/replace machine tools with hand tools in Fairfax, VA. Requires high school diploma + 24 months experience. Full-time. Competitive salary. Send resumes to: FAIRFAX MARBLE INC., 2720 Dorr Ave Fairfax, VA 22031.

Construction Laborer (3 openings) – Montgomery Co., MD - F/T, No exp req'd. Call Mario Brothers Painting; 301-515-7296

Consultant, Business Consulting, Transformation Design & Execution (Manager) (Multiple Positions) (1506008), Ernst & Young U.S. LLP, Tysons (McLean), VA
Assist clients deliver business transformations by connecting strategy and execution across a variety of industries. Requires travel up to 80%, of which 20% may be international, to serve client needs. Employer will accept any suitable combination of education, training, or experience. $186,100 per year. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply online, go to: ey.com/en_us/careers and click on "Careers - Job Search", then "Search Jobs" (Job Number - 1506008).

Indian Cuisine Cook (Alexandria, VA) Prep & cook Indian cuisines incl Butter Naan, Garlic Naan, Saute Mushroom, Chicken Biryani, Lamb Biryani, Chili Chicken, Chicken Spring Rolls, Gobi Manchurian, & Samosa. Plan menu. Clean kitchen areas. Help customers. Reqd exp: 2 yrs as Indian Cuisine Cook. Reqd U.S. deg/diploma: none. Salary: min $41,059/yr. Send resume in dupl: Kumar K C, Managing Director, Shark Men LLC d/b/a Indochen, 4906 Brenman Park Dr., Alexandria, VA 22304.

Indian Tandoor Cook. Prep & cook Indian Tandoor recipes incl Tandoor Chicken, Tandoor Salmon, Tandoor Lamb Chop, Tandoor Shrimp, Naan, Paratha, Kulcha, & Tandoor Kabob. Plan menus. Operate kitchen eqpmt. Help staff in kitchen. Reqd exp: 2 yrs as Indian Tandoor Cook. Reqd U.S. deg/diploma: none. Salary: min $41,059/yr. Working loc: 2nd restaurant run by Shark Men LLC d/b/a Indochen Old Town at Alexandria, VA: 1615 King St, Alexandria, VA 22314. Send resume in dupl to primary loc of restaurant: Kumar K C, President, Shark Men LLC d/b/a Indochen, 4906 Brenman Park Dr., Alexandria, VA 22304.

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C JOBS

Curry Cook (Alexandria, VA): Prep & cook Indian curry items incl Chickpea Curry, Palak Paneer, Butter Chicken, Chicken Curry, Chicken Tikka Masala, Salmon Tikka Masala, Lamb Rogan Josh, & Tandoori Chicken. Plan menu. Help kitchen staff. Reqs 2 yrs exp curry cook. No US deg/diploma reqd. Salary: min $41,059.00/yr. Send resume in dupl: Kumar K C, Managing Director, Shark Men LLC d/b/a Indochen, 4906 Brenman Park Dr, Alexandria, VA 22304.

COOKS
The Black Sheep Kitchen & Bar, LLC
*We serve world inspired comfort foods and need three cooks.
*Have knowledge on Turkish cuisine
*Have ability to follow recipes
*Have knowledge on bake, grill, steam, and boil
*Maintain food safety and sanitation standards
Mail Resumes to "9935 Discovery Blvd. Manassas, VA 20109"

D JOBS

Bates White seeks a Data Engineer in Washington, DC to use programming skills to create big data pipelines that can deal with both structured and unstructured data. Understand new big data technologies where required and implement it in a project. Support other teams by effectively using data tools and providing guidance for writing efficient code in R, Python, and SQL. Analyze and load data for use by a larger audience. Develop strategies for data acquisitions, archive, recovery, and database implementation. Develop and maintain ongoing data ingestion using Python and Spark. Prepare data for econometricians for further statistical analysis. Remote work permitted 2 days per week. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Data Science, Engineering, or a related field, plus knowledge in R, SQL, Python, Data Visualization, Data Analysis, and Microsoft Excel. Knowledge can be gained through education or experience. To apply please visit http://www.bateswhite.com/careers-careersapply.html, search for the position, and submit resume and transcript.

Digital Media: Marriott International, Inc.: Manager, Creative Services, Bethesda, MD. Provide photography and video support to a wide range of projects. Req's master's degree or foreign equivalent degree in New Media, Communications, Marketing, Digital Media, Fine Arts or related field and 3 years of multimedia experience OR bachelor's degree or foreign equivalent degree in New Media, Communications, Marketing, Digital Media, Fine Arts or related field followed by 5 years of progressively responsible multimedia experience. Background check, which may include a pre-employment drug test, required. Hybrid position; part-time telecommuting authorized and up to 25% travel to domestic and international locations. Apply online at careers.marriott.com (Job # 24068150).

Director - Climate, Energy and Sustainability. US India Strategic Partnership Forum, Washington DC w/ trvl/reloc to proj sites w/in US. Build strategic & operational plans to scope, define & advance USISPF's practice on sustainability, energy & climate. Req's MS Energy Policy/Management, Sustainable Energy, or International Business field & 1 yr exp. Mail res to: USISPF, ATTN: HR: Job#2401, 2550 M Street NW, Washington DC 20037.

D JOBS

DIRECTOR
Ankura Consulting Group LLC (Wash., DC) needs a Director to assist w/ forensic sched. delay analy. rltd to constr. disputes. Resp. for supp. detail. anals. of constr. & eng. proj. sched. delays, claim reviews, overruns, contr. chng. orders, prod. & stat. anals., & other issues rel. to dsgn & constr. Req. a bach. in eng., constr. mgmt., or a rltd, & 5 yrs exp. in constr. & eng. inds. Exp. must incl.: 5 yrs. w/ MS Office prod. incl. Excel, PowerPoint, & Word, 5 yrs. w/ Primavera Proj Planner & proj scheduling tech.; 5 yrs w/ constr. proj. mgmt.; & 5 yrs. eval. incr. costs / damg. & chng. orders. Mail resumes to Ankura Consulting Group LLC, Job Code ACCD1001, Attn: April Elias, 485 Lexington Ave., Flr. 10, NY, NY 10017.

Drywall/Painting Supervisor – MD & Northern VA Area F/T, 1yr exp in job offered or 1yr in a related position. Call Capitol Hill Construction @ 202-543-5300

Domestic

Childcare: Josh Wachs and Molly Levinson seeks f/t Family Manager in Washington DC to provide care for family's children. Reqs 6 yrs of childcare exp including teenage childcare. Driver's license and clean driving record. Ability to work evenings and weekends as required and stay overnight when needed. CPR certified. Background checks required. References required. Email resumes to joshwachs@gmail.com

E JOBS

Bates White seeks an Economist (multiple positions available) in Washington, DC to perform advanced economic, financial, and econometric analysis; review documents and economic data to test and validate economic theory; conduct research on economic issues; and apply economic training to identify data, analyses, and arguments that may advance clients' projects. Remote work permitted 2 days per week. Requirements: PhD, ABD in Economics, or a related field with focus on economics. Degree must have included coursework in economic theory and econometrics, execution of high-quality economic research including sophisticated economic or econometric modeling. To apply please visit http://www.bateswhite.com/careers-careersapply.html, search for the position, and submit resume & transcript.

ENGINEERING
Micron Technology, Inc. has an opening for **Global Facilities O&M Engineer** in Manassas, VA. Job duties include: Implement and deploy BKMs of Mechanical systems. Assist with removing barriers, troubleshooting issues/concerns, and escalating issues to improve system/equipment reliability. May telecommute from home part-time

To apply, visit Micron.com/Careers . Search by requisition no. JR54712

ENGINEERING
Micron Technology, Inc. has an opening for **Facilities Mechanical Engineer** in Manassas, VA. Job duties include: Provide consultation and support to Mechanical Operations, Maintenance, and Manufacturing as a Technical Discipline Subject Matter Expert. Analyze system designs to identify improvements that will result in better performance, efficiency gains, reduced maintenance, and cost savings. May telecommute part-time.

To apply, visit Micron.com/Careers. Search by requisition no. JR53997.

E JOBS

Engineering: Fluence Energy, LLC seeks Sales Engineer in Arlington, VA (20% domestic travel required) to provide technical support on all Fluence power system products. Job requires a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, or related field, plus 1 year of experience in any occupation involving Power Systems Testing Equipment. E-mail resume to Emily Roy, Senior Benefits Manager, at Emily.Roy@fluenceenergy.com. Please reference Job Code SE24.

ENGINEERING
Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc. – Arlington, Virginia – **Staff Distribution Engineer** –Develop & prepare distribution voltage packages for both overhead & underground projects, including distribution equipment installation, feeder replacement, cable replacement, & new feeder design. Develop & prepare design sketches, cost estimates, bill of materials, & other required deliverables. Req. BS+3/MS+2. Telecommuting is allowed up to 30 days per year. Domestic travel up to 25% for internal meetings, project site, and client visits. To apply: Qualified applicants please submit resume to www.burnsmcd.com/careers. Requisition ID 241771. EEO/Minorities/Females/Disabled/Veterans.

ENGINEERING
Micron Technology, Inc. has an opening for RDA Process Engineer in Manassas, VA. Job duties include: Responsible for ownership of defect monitoring equipment types. Responsible for equipment setup, stability monitoring, capability improvement, and interaction with vendor reps for advanced functionality and application work.

To apply, visit Micron.com/Careers. Search by requisition no. JR53453

Engineering
Industrial Energy Advisor: Req. Bach + 3 yr exp. Use eQUEST/DOE2.1, Energy Plus & ASHRAE Level II audit skills to support energy efficiency projects. F/T. Leidos Engineering LLC. Reston, VA. May telecommute w/in the U.S. $100443 - $107100. Benefits: https://www.leidos.com/careers/pay-benefits CV to Ronald.C.Gillooly@leidos.com & ref. #6621. Principals only. No calls/visa sponsorship.

ENGINEERING-Micron Technology, Inc. has an opening for **Process Integration Engineer** in Manassas, VA. Job duties include: Coordinate efforts on yield improvement projects with worldwide counterparts, product engineering, Research and Development (R and D) and Central teams. Define technical scope, goals, and deliverables that support business goals in collaboration.

To apply, visit Micron.com/Careers. Search by requisition no. JR53649

Education

Guidepost A LLC seeks Head of School in Burke, VA to ensure Program Quality incl collab w/ Montessori Mentors to ensure quality implementation of Montessori pedagogy, curriculum, and programs. Reqs Master's degree in Education or related and 2 yrs of exp teaching in Montessori envir. Position also reqs Montessori Primary Diploma from the AMI, AMS, or equiv. Send resume to talent@guidepostmontessori.com.

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F JOBS

Flagger: resp. for placing barricades, signboards & traffic cones. Avail. work outdoors in diff. weather conditions, OT, wknds + holidays. Reply to G&A Flagging LLC, Attn: Mr. Munoz at 6318 Pioneer Dr, Springfield, VA 22150

Food Prep Wrkr (Bowie, MD) Prep food, slice/cut/grnd meats, sanitize dishes/area, obsrv prop temp. Must've HS, GED, or frgn equiv dplma or dgr. Give vrifble ref & crim bg chk. Be abl to wrk late shft, wknds & hldys. Send CV to Three Brothers of Bowie LLC, 15485 Excelsior Dr., Bowie, MD 20716 or email
peter.repole@
threebrotherspizza.com

H JOBS

Halal Butcher – Cut/trim/prep meat portions butchered per Halal, requisition supplies. Reqd 6mos exp. Resume by mail to Sana & Afzal, 7040 Spring Garden Dr, Springfield, VA 22150.

Helper: assist jewelers holding tools, passing materials + rel. duties. Reply to Vaz Evan Jewelers LLC, Attn: Mr. Vazquez at 267 S Van Dorn St, Alexandria, VA 22304

Helpers: Help HVAC techs supply & hold materials. Reply to Rocha Brothers LLC, Attn: Carol at 7950 Woodruff Ct, Ste 19, Springfield, VA 22151

Dolphin Pool Services, LLC seeks HR Specialist in Lorton, VA to recruit, screen, interview, place new employees within the organization. Req. bachelor's degree in human resources management or related field or foreign equivalent. Req. 2 years experience in HR. Email resume to Roman Soldo at: operations@dolphinpooldmv.com #399579

Healthcare - General

Dental Assistant – Ashburn, VA - F/T, 2yrs exp in job offered, X-ray Cert. Call Mr. Bhatia @ Dentistry Specialists Integrated LC.; 888-374-9411

Occupat'l therapist for nursing/rehab facility in Falls Church, VA. Apply to: HR, HealthPRO-Heritage, 1 Marcus Dr, #102, Greenville, SC 29615

Optician-Measure clients' bridge and eye size, temple length, vertex distance, pupillary distance, and optical centers of eyes, using measuring devices; Verify that finished lenses are ground to specifications; Evaluate prescriptions in conjunction with clients' vocational and avocational visual requirements; Repair damaged frames; Arrange and maintain displays of optical merchandise; Cooperate with Labs everyday and follow up with every single order; among all others.
Mail résumé to Asad Ramedani, Sar, Inc., 1330 Wisconsin Ave, N.W, Washington, DC 20007

I JOBS

INDUSTRIAL PHOTOGRAPHER 3yrs of work exp. Send resume to carsevencorp@msn.com, Leesburg, VA 20175. CARSEVEN CORPORATION.

J JOBS

Japanese Food Preparer
Perform food preparation duties for Japanese specialty entrees and desserts according to customers' orders or supervisors' instructions; Receive and store food supplies, equipment, and utensils; Clean and sanitize work areas, equipment, utensils, and dishes. Send resume with cover letter to Matsu Enterprises Inc 14107 St Germain Dr Centreville, VA 20121, Attn: Mr. Huh for interview.

J JOBS

JAP Construction in NW DC is hiring Construction Field Supervisors to directly supervise and coordinate activities of constructions workers, Prep reports to project Superintendent or Project Manager. Req HS Diploma+ 2yrs exp. office@japconstructionllc.com

L JOBS

Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC seeks Specialist, Laboratory Automation/IT (Elkton, VA) to transform org into an integrated & efficient org that connects lab data, processes, syst, & instruments with enhanced digital capabilities & compliance. Participate in validation engineering projects. 5% domestic & int'l travel req'd. Apply at https://jobs.merck.com/us/en. Reference job R276352.

Lead Installer – Northern VA & MD Area - F/T, 1yr exp in job offered or 1yr in any supervisory or related position, have or be able to obtain a DL. Call Ellis Page Company @ 703-464-9404

M JOBS

Manufacturing Operations Engineer (R0004297)

Dvlp, implmnt & mntn methds, operatn seqnces & processes in fabrctn of parts, compnents, sub-assmblies & final assmblies. Intrface w/ engrg in coordntng release of new prdcts. Estmte manfcturng cost, dtrmine time stndrds & make rcmmndatns for tooling process rqrmnts of new or exstng prdct lines. Mntn rcrds & rprtng systms for coordntn of manfcturng opratns. REQ: Mstr's degree in Industrl Engrg, Mechncl Engrg, Manfcturng Engrg or closely rltd fld + 6 mnths' exp in manfcturng/industr engrg OR Bchlr's degree in Industrl Engrg, Mechncl Engrg, Manfcturng Engrg or closely rltd fld + 5 yrs' exp in manfcturng/industr engrg. Exp must incld 6 mnths in each of the foll: mechncl engrg; MES; 5S; Kaizen; Six Sigma; Quality Tools; Lean manfcturng; VSM; PFMEA; & Computer-Aided Design (CAD) software. Hughes Network Systems, 19710 Observation Dr, Germantown, MD 20876. To apply, go to https://echostar.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/echostar. Enter job number R0004297 into Search Job field & follow instructions to apply.

Marketing Assistant - assist CMO; 40 hrs/wk; BA in Marketing, Business, or related and Chinese/Korean fluency req'd; IVY College, Inc. Vienna, VA; ivyccedu@gmail.com

Matt Camron Rugs Inc in NW DC is hiring Receptionist to answer, forward calls, provide products & service info, take messages & schedule appointments; Greet visitors & direct them to salesmen. Req.: HS Diploma. MS Office Proficient, and excellent comm skills. elizabeth@mattcamron.com

N JOBS

NIGHT SHIFT CASHIER. Use cash register, take customers cash, credit/debit pay & inform product data/loctn; monitor veh/gas pay & issue receipts; stock/fill shelves/cooler, keep invent. records for owner to reqstn suplies. Reconcile sales/do reports for bank's deposit/& owner records. Verif/refs. willing wrk OT, wkends/holidays, non-smkr onsite; Submit resume to job site: T. Choudhry, Pres. Exxon Gas/Sta/conv/store at Whala Star, Inc- 264 Missouri Ave., NW Washington, DC 20011.

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O JOBS

Office Clerk Needed: Req. min 24 mos. exp. in Office Clerk Position. Duties: Oper. equip., answer calls, manage comms, records, & DB. Handle mail, data entry, scheduling, doc. prep. & inventory. Org. & file office recs. Retrieve info. Input, verify & proofread data/docs. Sched. tasks & calendars. Type & edit docs. Maint. & order supplies. Run errands, do basic bookkeeping & banking. Process bills & invoices. Prep reports & monitor clerks. Arr. meetings, rec. minutes, train staff in comp. app., plan travel. Location: Chantilly, VA. Mail resumes: President, 26629 Marbury Estates Dr., Chantilly, VA 20152.

P JOBS

Poultry Trimmer -poultry trimming; no exp req'd; 40 hrs/wk; Bonchon VA, Inc. Fairfax, VA; bonchoninc@gmail.com

Prep Cook - food prep duties; no exp req'd; full-time; Hot Spot Hot Pot Corp, Fairfax, VA; hshp3232@gmail.com

PROGRAM DIRECTOR CONSERVATION
(Alexandria, VA): ID & evlte nw strtgc opps to frthr the Fndtns cnsrvtn gls. Bach deg in mngmnt or rltd pls 3 yrs exp in rle rltd to cnsrvtn effrts (will accpt 1 yr exp in rltd pstn in lieu of 1 yr bach deg study). Exp dvlpng, scrng & mngng int prtflio of cnsrvtn prjcts & grnts. Exp cpcty bldng & mngng a tm to dlvr sltns. Dmstc & Int trvl 25-35%/yr. $180k/yr. Resumes: K Van Horn, Paul M Angell Family Foundation, 8550 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Suite 100., Chicago, IL 60631.

PROJECT ARCHITECT (ALEXANDRIA) – HOSPITALITY SPECIALTY
Multiple jobs avail. for Project Architect (Alexandria) – Hospitality Specialty w/ Cooper Carry, Inc., located in Alexandria, VA. Job is responsible for utilizing hand drawings & computer software to prepare aesthetic graphic drawings of plans, elevations, & diagrams for presentation. Must have Bachelor's degree in Arch. or closely related field; 5 yrs' exp. as an Arch. Designer, Staff Arch., Entry-level arch. or closely related position; have valid arch. license w/ state licensing authority; 5 yrs' exp. w/ mixed-use hospitality projects, incl. all phases of design & construction & exp. on at least 1 project from early design thru construction; 5 yrs' exp. in design office w/ computer BIM software & 3D modeling software (Revit, AutoCAD, Sketchup, and Enscape); 5 yrs' exp. w/ visualization & presentation software (photo realistic rendering & Adobe Creative Suite) in design office env.; 5 yrs' exp. working w/ & coordinating among civil, structural, mech., & other building sys. eng., landscape consultants & interior designers on commercial arch. projects; 5 yrs' exp. analyzing & applying local zoning ordinance & adopted building codes. Must be able to travel domestically &/or internationally approx. 10% of time for project construction site visits. Apply w/ resume by email to nisharobertson@coopercarry.com. Ref Job Code #103. No Recruiters

Project Engineer. Endesco, Inc. seeking engineer for its Rockville, MD location to perform hydrology engineering design employing knowledge of hydraulics and water resource engineering; analyze requests for bids; draft proposals with budgets; participate in design of projects; prepare reports; make presentations. Resume to: HR, 15245 Shady Grove Rd, Suite 335, Rockville, MD 20850

P JOBS

Purchasing: Nestlé USA, Inc. seeks a Sr Procurement Bus Partner Specialist in Arlington, VA to assist in setting the strategic vision for BP procurement team & serve as the face of Procurement, represent all spend categories. Req: Bach deg or frgn equivt in Bus. Operations, Supply Chain, Finance or rltd fld + 6yrs exp in the job offered or in Procurement Buying or Category Mgmt Roles. Er also accept 8yrs of exp in Procurement Buying or Category Mgmt Roles. Req 3yrs of exp in: purchasing for Global Org; MS Suite prod incl Word, PPT & Excel; SAP, Ariba, or Power BI; Exp in dvlp'g global procurement sourcing strategies & category planning; dvlp'g Procurement savings improvement opportunities that influence TCO; Exp w/I-Nexus. Dom & int'l travel up to 15% of time. Telework permitted up to 3 days/week. Resume to: nestlejobsgm@us.nestle.com. Job Code 0497. No calls.

Q JOBS

Quality Control Specialist
Med Consultants, LLC seeks a Quality Control Specialist to conduct a comprehensive study, perform complex qualitative and quantitative research, monitor the clinical content and quality of contracts, develop records maintenance program to ensure it is complying with HIPAA regulations and implement new concepts. Bachelor of Busi. Admin. degree or equivalent in Project Mgt. or Health Care Mgt. is required. Job Location: Germantown, MD. Mail resume to Gurpreet Takhar at 12321 Middlebrook Road, Germantown, MD 20874

R JOBS

Religious Activities Director in Lanham, MD. Develop & direct religious activities including Islamic worship services, Hifz & Quran classes & sermons; counsel individuals re interpersonal, health & religious problems; plan, conduct & evaluate seminars & conferences dealing with interpretation of Islamic values & principles. High School/GED diploma (or foreign equiv) + 24 months of exp in job offered or as Imam, Assistant Imam/Muezzin or Quran Course Instructor req'd. Mail resume to Turkish-American Community Center, Inc. d/b/a Diyanet Center of America, Attn: HR, 9610 Good Luck Rd, Lanham, MD 20706.

S JOBS

Senior Consultant
Guidehouse Inc.
Rockville, MD

Prvde guidnce to clnts on anti-mny lndrng (AML) and fraud prvntn strategies. Req Bach deg or frgn equiv deg in Law, Accntng, Fin, Econ, or a rel fld + 2 yrs of rel wrk exp. Up to 25% dmstic and/or intl trvl req. Telcmmtng prmttd up to 50% of the time To apply, please email resume to: gh-jobs@guidehouse.com and reference: MD0019.

Shift Supervisor: Fairfax, VA; O.T. Req'd; to apply email resume to Four Friends, Inc. c/o Susan Clementi to susan.clementi@gmail.com

Software Developer, Ashburn, VA or remote, BA/BS Computer Science or similar req'd send CL/resume to Bekir Atahan, Cleverspeck 20130 Lakeview Center Plaza, Ste 400 Ashburn VA 20147

Store Supervisor at Namaste Market, Fallas Church, VA. Job requires Asso. degree or its foreign equiv. & 2 yrs exp. in job offered, retail associate or any other job. Resume to: Namaste Market, 2929 Gallows Rd, Ste 130, Falls Church, VA 22042

SUSTAINABILITY-FOCUSED PROJECT ARCHITECT – HOSPITALITY SPECIALIST
Job avail. for Sustainability-Focused Project Architect – Hospitality Specialist w/ Cooper Carry, Inc., located in Alexandria, VA. Job is responsible for utilizing hand drawings & BIM-Building Info. Modeling software to work on arch. drawings for presentations. Must have Bachelor's degree in Arch. or closely related field; 5 yrs' exp. as an Arch. Designer, Staff Arch. or closely related position; have valid arch. license w/ state licensing authority; 5 yrs' exp. in hospitality projects in all phases from Initial design to construction admin.; 5 yrs' exp. in coordination w/ consultants, mechanical, structural, electrical, plumbing & other building engineers; 5 yrs' exp. in 3D modeling using BIM tools, visualization tools & presentation using Adobe suite; demonstrated knowledge of sustainable design concepts thru coursework or design projects. Must be avail. to travel domestically to construction sites approx. once a mo. for 1-2 days. Apply w/ resume by email to nisharobertson@coopercarry.com. Ref Job Code #101. No Recruiters

ComputerPackages Inc
Serving The Intellectual Property Community Since 1968

IBM iSeries Programmer/ Analysts
Computer Packages Inc, an international business specializing in Intellectual Property management solutions is seeking programmers w/ strong knowledge of COBOL and/or RPG. Experience with Java, DB2, iSeries/AS400 application development a plus. Excellent salary & benefits incl health insurance, tuition reimbursement & opportunity for growth.
Job responsibilities include:
•Analyze, design, code, test, & maintain applications on the IBM AS/400 iSeries platform. This includes programming for data entry, update/file maintenance, reports generations, & auto-generations of emails for clients, agents, & patent office using COBOL, Control Language, DB2, & RPG.
•Meet with Data Analysts to discuss program designs to automate processes and problem resolution to enhance productivity of existing computer application systems.
•Evaluate codes for efficiency, debugging & quality assurance by reviewing programs on a frequent basis & making adjustment when they are necessary to ensure that the system is working properly.
•Develop and maintain technical documentation, guidelines, and procedures.
•Create job schedulers which will automatically execute batch application programs hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly as needed.
•Generate ad-hoc or query reports using SQL.
•Learn new technical concepts and programming languages as needed.
•Provide technical support to end-users
Please send resume to:
cpijobs@computerpackages.com

T JOBS

Technical Consultant. Excelacom Inc. Reston, VA w/ trvl/reloc to proj sites w/in US. Work with business intelligence data visualization tools. Req's BS in Comp Sci or Info Sys field & 3 yr exp. Mail res to: Excelacom, ATTN: HR-Technical Consultant, 11911 Freedom Drive, Suite 430, Reston, VA 20190.

V JOBS

Constellation Brands, Inc. seeks Vice President, Public Affairs for its Washington, D.C. location. JD or equivalent degree and 10 years of relevant experience with Mexican beverage alcohol production and distribution. Ability to travel up to 30% domestically and internationally. Partial weekly work from home is allowed on a regular basis. Apply online at: https://cbrands.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/CBI_External_Careers

V JOBS

Rahmania Moinia, Inc. has openings for Vice President of Operations in Woodbridge, VA. Reqs US Bach of Business Administration/foreign equiv + 5 yrs exp as Sr. General Manager or VP of Operations. Develop new customers and sustain current ones to increase sales volume & revenue. Direct/plan/implement policies, objectives, & goals. Lead Marketing, Sales, & Supply Chain teams to meet expected goals. Train/motivate teams to help achieve goals. Meet with execs & staff to discuss issues, coordinate activities, & address/resolve problems. Send resume to rahmaniamoinia.jobs@outlook.com w/ ref #2024-19 and ref this ad

Tech Jobs

AMAZON DATA SERVICES, INC., an Amazon.com company - Herndon, VA: System Development Engineer II: Build tools that automate & streamline processes to make fleet operations more efficient. Salary Range $129,200/yr - $174,800/yr. (AMZ8201924). Multiple job openings. Apply online: www.amazon.jobs – search by AMZ job #(s). EOE.

Associate Data Analyst
comScore, Inc. seeks Associate Data Analyst in Reston, VA to extract & manipulate large sets of consumer behavioral data. 100% telecommute permitted w/in US. Apply at
jobpostingtoday.com
Ref: 65807

Business Intelligence Analyst - System Modeling (R0004298)

Read, undrstnd, trnsfrm & extrct data drctly from dtbses (Oracle Dtbse, NOSQL/MongoDB, Google BigQuery, etc.) to dsgn & implmnt complete & cmplx data mdls & analysis in Tableau, Google Data Studio &/or SAP Web Intellgnce, which allow measuring prfrmncs of cmplx telecomm systms & assist in devisng fdbck cntrl to imprve systm efficncy. Use data analytics &/or data engrg skills to bld busnss & oprtnl metrcs needed to ensure cmpny prdcts & srvces wrk effctvly w/i given customr parameters & cnstrnts. REQ: Mstr's degree in Busnss Admin, Systms Engrg, Comp Sci or closely rltd fld + 6 mnths' exp in data analytics or Bchlr's degree in Busnss Admin, Systms Engrg, Comp Sci or closely rltd fld + 5 yrs' exp in data analytics. Exp must include 6 mnths in dsgn & dvlpmnt in each of the foll: Oracle dtbse; SQL; Google BigQuery; Tableau; Google Data Studio; SAP Web Intellgnce; & Salesforce. Hughes Network Systems, 11717 Exploration Ln, Germantown, MD 20876.
To apply, go to https://echostar.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/echostar. Enter job number R0004298 into Search Job field & follow instructions to apply.

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Developer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to research, design, devel, &/or modify enterprise-wide systs &/or apps s/w. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Engg, Info Systs, IT or rel f'ld & 5 yrs in any job title involving exp developing User Interface (UI) for Web Application. Up to 50% telework permitted. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locations throughout US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may also incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1296.

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Developer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to research, design, devel, &/or modify enterprise-wide systs &/or apps s/w. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Engg, Info Systems, IT or a rel field & 5 yrs in any job title involving exp working with Java, J2EE, & Spring. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locations throughout US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1322.

Computer/IT: CGI Federal Inc. seeks DevOps Engineer in Fairfax, VA to work closely with developers to facilitate coordination among ops, devel, & testing functions by automating & streamlining the integration & deployment processes. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Engg, Info Systems, IT or a rel field & 2 yrs in any job title involving exp with UNIX, Linux, & Windows. Up to 50% telework permitted. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may also incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1368.

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Developer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to research, design, develop, &/or modify enterprise-wide systems &/or apps software. Job req bach deg in Comp Sci, Engg, Info Systems, IT or a rel field & 3 yrs in any job title involving web and app development exp. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locations throughout US. Up to 90% telework permitted. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1272.

Computer/IT: Marriott International, Inc.: Senior Systems Analyst – Incident Management – Bethesda, MD. Lead the coordination for resolving application(s) incidents as a technical expert. Req's Bachelor's degree or foreign equivalent in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, or related technical field + 7 years of progressively responsible experience in information technology application development and/or support. 100% remote; position may be performed from anywhere within the U.S and Up to 5% domestic travel. Apply directly on-line at: https://jobs.marriott.com/marriott/jobs?lang=en-US&utm_medium=jobboard&utm_source=MarriottCareers Website and reference (Job #24074354)

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Project Manager in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to be responsible for the day-to-day tactical duties for technical IT projects focused on energy utility clients. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Engg, Applied Analytics, Info Systems, IT, Finance, or rel field & 5 yrs in any job title involving serving in an IT client-facing capacity. Up to 40% telework permitted. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locations throughout US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may also incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1375.

Tech Jobs

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Quality Assurance Analyst in Fairfax, VA to perform installations & run quality assurance programs to test, identify, reproduce, & report defects in s/w. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Engg, Info Systems, IT or rel field & 3 yrs in any job title involving client-facing software quality assurance exp. Full-time telework permitted. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1293.

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Developer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to research, design, develop, &/or modify enterprise-wide systems &/or apps software. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Engg, Info Systems, IT or a rel field & 5 years in any job title involving designing software apps, developing software apps, & delivering software apps. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locations throughout US. Up to 50% telework permitted. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may incl drug screen depending on work assignment.
Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1320.

Computer Network Architect
(Bach in CS, Business Admin, or equiv w/ 5 yrs exp. In lieu of a 4 year degree 1 additional yr of relevant exp & completion of 3 years of academic studies acceptable) - McLean, VA. Job entails working w/ & reqs exp incl: Design & test network solutions; Security, VPN, Switching, AAA, & Wireless; monitor, & troubleshoot network devices; feasibility; Simulate and Optimize networks; Config radius, TACACS, Etherchannels, STP, SPAN, RSPAN, dynamic ARP inspection, IP source guard, port security; CEF on catalyst switches; Configure QOS; DMVPN, AnyConnect; Policy based NAT; GRE tunnel; Mesh and RRM setup for DFS & TPC; Deploy 9800 series controllers, 9100 series 802.11ax series AP, 802.11ac module; Broadcom & Marvel wireless chip interface for data & compliance; Integrate IOT w/ Cisco Spaces; Config DNAC Machine Learning & AI. Various worksites: relocation & travel to project-based unanticipated locations within USA possible. Send resumes to Advanced Computer Concepts Inc., Attn: HR, 7927 Jones Branch Dr, Ste 600N, McLean, VA 22102.

IonIdea, Inc. - Fairfax, VA is looking for a Consultant (Devops Engineer) who will take part in AWS Cloud implementations and Azure migration. Will use Terraform, Terragrunt, and Cloudformation Infrastructure automation. Will use Java, Javascript, Pearl, Ruby, Python, PHP, Bash, and Ansible Scripting languages. Will use Linux-based infrastructure. Will use AWS RDS databases. Will Develop interfaces with third-party systems. Will follow the System Development Life Cycle methodology to produce efficient, maintainable, value-adding application products. Will provide services at unanticipated client worksites throughout the U.S. Requires a bachelor's degree in computer engineering, electronics engineering, or computer information systems and 6 months of experience in the skill sets listed in the job description. Must be willing to travel and relocate. Salary $114,026/year. Please apply via: https://www.jobpostingtoday.com/application/15567/apply

Consumer Networks Engineer (R0004285)

Dvlp, tst, implmnt & idntfy new ntwrkng tchnlgies & ntwrk infrstrcture for consumr ntwrks. Spprt mntnance of satellite comms eqpmnt & systms, configure, monitor & mntn entrprise & consumr Ntwrk Mngmnt Systms, incldng routrs, firewlls, swtchs & virtual & physical srvrs. Prvde on-call spprt for consumr custmr ntwrks. Mntn constant contact w/ custmrs & vndrs to enhance prfrmance & dsgn of ntwrks. Generate status rprts, prfrm ntwrk anomaly analyses, prfrm engrng chngs & upgrds, identify security vulnrblties & code to automate ntwrk chngs. REQ: Mstr's degree in Elect Engrng, Comp Engrng, Telecomms or closely rltd fld + 2 mnths' exp in ntwrk engrng OR Bchlr's degree in Elect Engrng, Comp Engrng, Telecomms or closely rltd fld + 5 yrs' exp in ntwrk engrng. Exp must incld 2 mnths in each of the foll: TCP/IP; NTP; Python; Packet switching, routing, internetworking, addressing; intrusion detection, security architecture, vulnerabilities prevention & running web server, deploy services & code in Linux environment.
Hughes Network Systems, 11717 Exploration Ln, Germantown, MD 20876. To apply, go to https://echostar.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/echostar. Enter job number R0004285 into Search Job field & follow instructions to apply.

Meta Platforms, Inc. (f/k/a Facebook, Inc.) has the following positions in Washington DC:
Data Engineer: Manage data warehouse plans for a product or a group of products. (ref. code REQ-2405-137143: $183,075/yr - $196,900/ yr). Individual pay is determined by skills, qualifications, experience, and location. Compensation details listed in this posting reflect the base salary only, and do not include bonus or equity or sales incentives, if applicable. In addition to base salary, Meta offers benefits. Learn more about benefits at Meta at this link: https://www.metacareers.com/facebook-life/benefits. For full information & to apply online, visit us at the following website http://www.metacareers.com/jobs & search using the ref code(s) above.

Data Engineer (Sterling, VA) Desn & develp data mgmt s/w applicatns. Req MS in CS, Computer Engg, or Data Analytcs + skills & knwldg in JIRA, SQL Server, Spark, Azure, Hadoop/Hive, Big Data. Req 100% travel to unantcptd client loctns in USA. Allow telecommtg. Send rés w/code NIA002 to HR, US Software & Consulting, 21165 Whitfield Place, #106, Sterling, VA 20165.

Data Scientist Sr. Elevance Health, Inc. Arlington, VA. Deve sophisticated visualization of analysis output for buss users. BS: Stats, CS, Math, Mach Learning, Econometrics, Physics, Biostats, Info Sys, or rel. 5 yrs data sci, analytics, and/or sw deve exp. Other exp reqd. Alt Reqs: MS & 3 yrs exp. Apply: https://careers.elevancehealth.com/. Job Ref: JR113761

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The local expert on local jobs

Tech Jobs

Digital Intelligence Systems, LLC dba Dexian DISYS has multiple FT job open'gs in McLean, VA, trav.& wrk in var. unantic'ptd US wrk loc'tns, elig for PT telecom'tg see details w/job + code# & submit resumes at **www.careers.dexian.com/ jobs.**
Data Architect- DA-0124 Dev. DB solutn's; cond'ct. archite'ral revws. Bach. deg. or for'gn. eqv. in CS, Info Sys, Electr'n Eng, EEE or rel, w/ 8 yrs exp. in sof'wr. dev. ocp'tn.
Senior Full Stack JAVA Engineer – VPT-0424 Des. & impl'mt IT solns using JAVA frmwrks. Design, deploy & ma'ntn cloud ready contain'rzd apps. Bach. deg. or for'gn. eqv. in CS, IT, Comp Sci & Eng, Comp Eng, Electr'l or Electr'n Eng or rel, w/ 6 yrs exp. in sof'wr eng. ocp'tn.
Full Stack Engineer – FSE-0324. Lead sofwr design & dev. Des.& build complex end-to-end systs. Bach deg or for'gn eqv in CS, Comp Eng, Info Sys Tech w/ conc in Info Ass'rce, or rel & 5 yrs exp in soft. dev ocp'tn.
Senior .Net Developer – SND-0224 Des., dev., impl'mnt, & v'rfy back-end syst. Design & dev. customer fac'g web app using adv. MS tech. Bach deg or for'gn eqv. in CS, IT, Info. Systs Scr'ty, Comp Eng, EE or rel. & 6 yrs. exp. in soft. eng. ocp'tn.
Senior Motion Graphics Designer - SMGD-0224. Lead visual proj design, create m'otn graphics. Job can be perf'rmd anywhere in US. Bach. deg. or for'gn. eqv. in Fine Arts or rel, w/ 5 yrs. exp. in mot'n graphics des'ng ocp'tn.

Financial Modeling Development Senior
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation has an opening for the f/t position of Financial Modeling Development Senior in McLean, VA to design, devel., & support systems within the financial modeling & research area. Req's master's or frgn eqv deg in financial eng., comp. eng., or rel quant. fl. + 2 yrs. of exp. in a financial modeling /analytics occup.; or bachelor's or frgn eqv deg in financial eng., comp. eng., or rel quant. fl.+ 4 yrs. of exp. in a financial modeling /analytics occup. Position eligible for part-time telecommuting. Multiple positions available. If interested, submit resume/cv via email to: im_jobs@freddiemac.com & reference #20-1202.

Information Technology Project Manager (R0004299)

Prvde Sbjct Mtr Exprtse, in depth analytics & rcmmndtns in support of LTE & VSAT trnsprt layer (RF & ntwrkng) esp in cntxt of intrnt app user exp in hybrid trnsprt tchnlgy. Prfrm root case analysis, trblshootng & reslve custmr issues pertaing to defined Key Prfrmnce Indctrs (KPIs) & idntfy & drve rslutn to systmc prblms. Act as tchncl intrface b/w consumr busnss & intrnl sftwre/hrdwre tchncl teams & extrnl LTE bandwidth prvdrs to incrprte busnss value into systms. REQ: Mstr's degree in Electrcl Engrg, Comp Sci, Comp Engrg or closely rltd fld + 6 mnths' exp in LTE wireless comms or Bchlr's degree in Electrcl Engrg, Comp Sci, Comp Engrg or closely rltd fld + 5 yrs' exp in LTE wireless comms. Exp must incld 6 mnths in each of the foll: Big Query; SQL; Tableau; Python; busnss systms integration & ntwrkng; coding, scripting, modeling & technical analysis; project management; & technical prsntations. Hughes Network Systems, 11717 Exploration Ln, Germantown, MD 20876. To apply, go to https://echostar.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/echostar. Enter job number R0004299 into Search Job field & follow instructions to apply.

IT POSITIONS: Ashburn, VA & various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S. **SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS:** Invlv in SDLC. Dsgn, dvlp, mnge & test sw apps, rusbl cmpnnts, Oracle forms, rpts & data extrctn scripts. Dsgn varus UI screens & rpts. Crat & dvlp strd prcdurs, cmplx quris & db triggers to implmnt buss logic. Prfm unit, intgrtn testing & rslv issues. Skills Req'd: Java, Oracle, PL/SQL, HTML, SVN, TOAD, Informatica, SQL Developer & JIRA. Master's in Sci, Tech, or Engg (any) w/1 yr exp in job offrd or rltd occup is req'd. **FUNCTIONAL CONSULTANTS:** Gthr & anlyz biz rqmts & 'as-is' processes. Prpr Functnl specn docs for RICEFWs & create functnl rqmts. Work on app dsgn actvts algnd to biz rqmt. Cndct gap analysis btw To- be process & as – is Processes & prpr biz blue print. Prfm unit & UAT. Cnfgrtn & mntnnc of Prdctn Plnng module. Skills Req'd: SAP, SAP SD, SAP MM, SAP PP, SAP ECC, S/4 Hana, FICO, & LSMW. Bachelor's in Sci, Tech, or Engg (any) w/5 yrs exp in job offrd or rltd occup is req'd BOTH JOBS: Mail CV: HR, Arise Global Services, Inc., 20130 Lakeview Center Plaza., Ste 400, Ashburn, VA 20147.

IT Project Manager (Scrum/Waterfall/Kanban) (R0004283)

Mng multpl prjcts simltneously & idntfy solutns for cmplx business probs by using agile scrum, waterfall or Kanban methdlgies. Dvlp & execute prjct plns & chrtrs for multpl prjcts using Microsoft Project. Coordnate prjcts for cross fnctionl teams & assist prjct team w/ matrix orgnztn. Prfrm launch & rollout of new sftwre, prdct & srvcs by using prjct mngmnt tools. Facltate & coordnate info for prjcts of various disciplines. Rprt prjct progress to higher mngmnt. REQ: Mstr's degree in Info Systems, Comp Sci, Info Technlgy or closely rltd fld + 6 mnths' exp in prjct planning, execution, monitoring & resource balancing OR Bchlr's degree in Info Systems, Comp Sci, Info Technlgy or closely rltd fld + 5 yrs' exp in prjct planning, execution, monitoring & resource balancing. Exp must incld 6 mnths in each of the foll: Microsoft Project; JIRA; Kanban methodology; Ntwrk security prjct planning; Agile scrum; MS Suite & Vendor mngmnt.
Hughes Network Systems, 11717 Exploration Ln, Germantown, MD 20876. To apply, go to https://echostar.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/echostar. Enter job number R0004283 into Search Job field & follow instructions to apply.

IT-Salem InfoTech Inc has multiple Openings in Herndon, VA.
Software Developer (Wage - $ 114,026 .00/Yr.): Analyze, Review, Become, Plan, Prep, Dsgn, Assist, Track all coding changes using help desk & version control software.
Software Engineer (Wage - $ 139,589 .00/Yr.): Respon, Involve, Dvlp, Work, Perform, Prep & test to satisfy biz reqmnts.
Programmer Analyst (Wage - $124,363.00/Yr.): Dvlp, Write, Perform, Provide, Monitor, Asses & Expand or modify system to serve new purposes.
Sr. Software Developer (Wage - $165,173 .00/Yr.): Dsgn, Resolve, Conduct, Research, Serve, & Provide project effort estimations. All position reqs trvl/ reloc to various unanticipated client locs throughout the U.S w/expenses paid by emplyr. Mail res & position President, Salem InfoTech Inc, 2201 Cooperative way, Ste. # 600, Herndon, VA, 20171 or email to wayyadurai@saleminfotech.com

Tech Jobs

Junior Business Systems Analyst
(Bachelor's or equiv. w/1 yr. exp OR Associates or equiv. w/3 yrs. exp) - Sterling, VA. Exp. to include: data analysis; budget reports; process change implementation; analyze & test systems; GAP analysis; & work/w GUI, Sharepoint, SQL, ServiceNow, Jira, Confluence, Balsamiq, visio & Power BI. Relocation & travel to various locations possible. Travel will not be international but national. Nature of travel could be incidental or extensive depending on the project. The frequency of travel is subject to frequent changes & cannot be predicted. Send resume: HR Incept Data Solutions Inc, 22365 Broderick Dr, Ste. 230, Sterling, VA 20166

Lead Data Engineer
MyDigitalOffice.com (Bethesda, MD) seeks Lead Data Engineer. Reporting to the CTO and work with large scale data pipelines on the cloud and the teams that run them. Responsible for engineering team and guiding technical and non-technical stakeholders to follow industry best practices while solving critical business challenges. Software design and seeing the design through to completion. Build and grow large-scale cross platform team of cloud engineers, responsible for the core ELT processes that drive all of MyDigitalOffice platforms. Communicate with leaders of other departments and establish re-usable solutions to solve similar business problems. Drive the development lifecycle of the team through agile methodologies. Provide architectural guidance to senior developers and fellow technical leaders. Support Product and QA teams for optimal quality and efficiency. Establish technical guidelines and best practices. Must have a Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering. Must have 3 years of experience in cloud-based development. Must have 3 years of experience developing data models and analyzing business logistics. Must have 3 years teaching programming languages. There is one position available, and the position will pay $115,919 a year. Apply by mailing resume with cover letter referencing job #14818 to Attention: Sophia Jones, MyDigitalOffice.com, 4350 East West Hwy, Ste 401, Bethesda, MD, 20814-4427.

Manager, Data & Analytics Technology (Mult Pos), PricewaterhouseCoopers Advisory Services LLC, Washington, DC
Hlp orgs uncvr entrprse insghts & drve bus rslts using smrtr data anlytcs. Req Bach's deg or foreign equiv in Comp Sci, Bus Admin, Fin, Stats or rel + 5 yrs post-bach's progrssv rel work exp; OR a Master's deg or foreign equiv in Comp Sci, Bus Admin, Fin, Stats or rel + 3 yrs rel work exp. 80% telecommtng permitted. Mst be able to commute to designated local office. Domestic and/or intl travel up to 80% req.
Please apply by sending your resume to US_PwC_Career_Recruitment@pwc.com, specifying Job Code DC4210 in the subject line.

Manager, Risk Assurance Compliance and Analytics (Mult Pos), PwC US Consulting LLP Washington, DC
Asst clnts in dvlpng anlytcs & tech solns that help them detect, monitr, & predict risk. Req Bach's deg or foreign equiv in IT, MIS, Info Sci, Info Mgmt, Acct or rel + 5 yrs post-bach prgrssv, rel wrk exp; OR Master's deg or foreign equiv in IT, MIS, Info Sci, Info Mgmt, Acct or rel + 3 yrs rel wrk exp. 80% telecommtng permitted. Mst be able to commute to designated local office. Domestic and/or intl travel up to 60% req. Please apply by sending your resume to US_PwC_Career_Recruitment@pwc.com, specifying Job Code DC4196 in the subject line.

Portal Java Architect: Bachelor's in CS, IT or rel. + 5 yrs exp OR Master's + 3 yrs exp. Use Java, PostGreSql, Microservice Architecture, & SDLC to lead team of TAs & dvlprs in design, dvlpmnt, testing of Java based app architectures. F/T. Leidos, Inc. Reston, VA. May telecommute w/in U.S. $95900- $152000/yr. Benefits: https://www.leidos.com/careers/pay-benefits.
CV to deric.dunn@leidos.com & ref. #6706. No calls/visa sponsorship.

Principal Software Engineer
Appian Corporation, McLean, VA seeks Java-fluent engineer to tackle the most complex engineering challenges across the full stack of the Appian platform, serving as reference to other engineers as a member of feature teams and a trusted advisor to the architecture and product management functions and promoting platform consistency, inspiring design discipline, and continuously advancing the state of Appian's technology. Effectively communicate technical designs verbally, visually and/or in writing for small to large sized technical audiences. Develop product features to the highest engineering standards, spiking robust solutions to clear architectural runway ahead of feature development. Perform code reviews with feedback on code quality, design and implementation. Identify opportunities for code refactoring and performance optimizations on a regular basis and champion these efforts within the team. Mentor junior software engineers by sharing best-practices and providing guidance on how to become more proficient. Identify, understand, and bring to fruition technology trends and innovations relevant to Appian. Contribute to Appian's long-term documentation through publishing relevant, high-quality content to Engineering's technical documentation site. Req: MS in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or related + min. 5 years of experience in job offered or as Software/Network Engineer in a high-volume critical production service environment or in lieu of the employer will accept BS in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or related + min. 10 years of experience in job offered or as Software/Network Engineer in a high-volume critical production service environment. Reply to Box Number M1000000780, The Washington Post, Washington DC 20071.

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Tech Jobs

Professional Application Designer
CSC Covansys Corporation hiring for Professional Application Designer in Ashburn, VA (Ref. #8328696). Prvds dsgn dcmnts & trnslts into cmpnnt-lvl dsgns to acclrt dvlpmnt. Prvds dsgn exprts in spprt of dvlpmnt team effrts to prvd flxbl rsbl cmpnnts to incrs cst effctvnss. Anlyzs, dsgns & rvws dsgn of applctns & sts of applctns to ensr tht cstmr spcfctns are stsfd. Pstn rqrs a Bchlr's dgr or a frgn eqvlnt in bsnss, sftwr engnrng, cmptr scnc or rltd fld & 3 yrs of wrk exprnc in job offrd, as a Prfssnl Applctn Dsgnr, or rltd occptn. Will work at unanticipated client sites throughout the U.S. Telecommuting is permissible. Annual Salary Offer: $114,026. Full-time hires are eligible to participate in the DXC benefit program. DXC offers a comprehensive, flexible, and competitive benefits program which includes, but is not limited to, health, dental, and vision insurance coverage; employee wellness; life and disability insurance; a retirement savings plan, paid holidays, paid time off; and much more.
To apply, email resume to globallmobility@dxc.com resume must include Ref. #8328696, full name, email, address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in the U.S without sponsorship. EOE

Programmer Analysts
SSA Tech, Inc. (Herndon, VA) seeks Programmer Analysts. Anlyz data. Code/dvlp shell scrpts. Dsgn SFTP/Anlyz & create Ab Initio graphs using Ab Initio. Mgrte apps from Unix to Linux. Crte app config w/ Express IT (ACE/BRE). $121,763/yr. REQ: MS in Comp. Sci., Info Tech, Engg/rel/equiv +2 yrs exp as ETL/SW Dvlpr/rel.
Email resumes to hr@ssatechinc.com. May be relocated to unanticipated sites around US.

Programmer Analyst
SSN GROUP LLC seeks Programmer Analyst w/ Bachelor's in Comp Sci, Engg (any), Tech or rltd & 2 yrs of exp; Resp for supporting full life cycle development includ requirements analysis, design, prototyping, coding, unit testing, integration, & testing. Effectively troubleshoot tech product implementation issues for products of chosen expertise. Enhance a custom component, to connect to Oracle or My SQL DB and fetch req'd info in the form of SOAP reqs or REST API responses. Resp for the expert technical knowledge & ability to effectively implement and customize products of chosen expertise both at the individual product level & solution level w/in client environmnt using REST APIs, SOAP Web Services, Spring Framework, and Angular. Work location is 'Fairfax, VA, with req'd to travel & work from various unanticipated client worksites throughout USA. Please mail resumes to 11350 Random Hills Rd, Suite 800, Fairfax, VA- 22030. (OR) e-mail: PREM.KUMAR@SSNGRP.COM

RF Engineer (R0004287)

Define archtcture of RF solutns in transceiver dsgns. Prfrm tests on transceivers, debug, make rprts of test data. Simulate dsgn circuits & prfrm circuit optmzatn incldg passive rewrk using RF eqpmnt. Rvw & update technal docmntatn, transceiver dsgns, schematic capture & layout for RF circuits. REQ: Mstr's degree in Electrcl Engrg, Electrncs Engrg, Comp Engrg or closely rltd fld + 6 mnths' exp in RF and/or analog electronics OR Bchlr's degree in Electrcl Engrg, Electrncs Engrg, Comp Engrg or closely rltd fld + 5 yrs' exp in RF and/or analog electronics. Exp must incld 6 mnths in each of the foll: RF performance optimization; spectrum analyzer; vector network analyzer; signal generator; RF circuits qualification/debug; & generating technical documentation. Hughes Network Systems, 11717 Exploration Ln, Germantown, MD 20876.
To apply, go to https://echostar.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/echostar. Enter job number R0004287 into Search Job field & follow instructions to apply.

Robotics Engineer:
Operate & maintain robotic sys & instruments; perform routine testing & calibration; configure, maintain & troubleshoot articulated robotic arms, scheduling systems & liquid handling. Collect data, analyze & interpret data prepare reports analysesvaluate & interpret data & make modifications as needed. Requires Master's in Robotics Engineering. Mail resumes to: AXLE INFORMATICS 6116 Executive Blvd# 400 N Bethesda, MD 20852

Satellite Coordination and Licensing Director (R0004286)

Prtnr w/ busnss units & engrg to dvlp, mnge & implmnt spctrm mngmnt & coordinatn plans for cmpny's exstng srvice & near-trm roadmaps. Prvde cmplx & spctrm mngmnt advice to intrnl stkhldrs & prfrm rqrd tchncl analysis for Int'l Telecomm Union (ITU) mtngs, licensing & coordntn. Rprsnt the cmpny b4 FCC & U.S. & foreign gvrnmnt officials & @ ITU & rltd orgs/dlgations. Collab w/ intrnl stkhldrs to undrstnd need for licenses globally & coordntn rqrmnts. Draft & prvde input to cmpny's regulatory filings in U.S. & globally. REQ: Mstr's degree in Telecomms, Electrcl Engrg or closely rltd fld & 8 yrs' exp in Satellite Comm Regulatory Affairs or Bchlr's degree in Telecomms, Electrcl Engrg or closely rltd fld & 10 yrs' exp. Exp must incld 8 yrs' exp in each of the foll: Satellite comms & regulatory processing; Technical & regulatory framework (Telecomms); Spectrum & satellite issues; ITU envrnmnt; Int'l Satellite coordination; Int'l negotiation of treaties & agreements for use of spectrum & orbital use; & radio frequency calculations/conversions pertaining to spectrum management/satellite coordination.
Hughes Network Systems, 11717 Exploration Ln, Germantown, MD 20876. To apply, go to https://echostar.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/echostar. Enter job number R0004286 into Search Job field & follow instructions to apply.

Senior Professional Product Developer
DXC Technology Services LLC hiring for Senior Professional Product Developer in Ashburn, VA (Ref. #6907326). Prfrms cmplx dsgn, implmntn, & mntnnc of mlti prdct mdls/sb systms to ensr tht bsnss needs are met. Assts in outlng new prdct/srvc bsnss cse jstfctn to ensr tht prpsd sltn is cpbl of dlvrng artcltd bsnss bnfts to clnts. Prtpts in prdct dsgn mtngs with mngmnt, othr dvlprs and crss-fnctnl tchncl tms to ensr tht prdct dvlpmnt adhrs to clnt spcfctns & is cnstnt acrss vrs unts. Pstn rqrs a Bchlr's dgr or a frgn eqvlnt in sftwr engnrng, infrmtn systms, cmptr scnc, or rltd fld, & 6 yrs of wrk exprnc in job offrd, as a Snr Prfssnl Prdct Dvlpr, or rltd occptn. Telecommuting is permissible. Will work at unanticipated client sites throughout the

The Washington Post

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SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2024

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:

All advertisements for the sale or rental of dwelling units published in The Washington Post are subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise 'any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination.' State law forbids discrimination based on factors in addition to those protected under federal law.

The Washington Post will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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EHO

Potomac

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Country Place $1,195,000
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Elegant renovation of this classic colonial in popular Country Place, adjacent to Wayside Elementary School.
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Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
May 14, 2024 to May 30, 2024
10am-2pm
2 & 3 Bedrooms Only

Must Apply in Person to:
DAMASCUS GARDENS
9829 Bethesda Church Rd
Damascus, MD 20872
Damascus-Gardens@gradymgt.com

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COLLEGE PARK/LANHAM - 1BR bsmt $1000. House to shr. All util inc. N/S. Male Pref. 240-423-7923

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EMPLOYERS: Searching for talent? Join some of D.C.'s top companies on the area's #1 job board. Washington Post Jobs has over 1.5 million registered online jobseekers across a variety of industries, occupations and career levels. Washington Post Jobs' Featured Employer packages offer a valuable and unique way to source qualified candidates. Become an FE today and leverage the power of Washington Post media. Contact your Jobs account rep and call 202-334-4101.

Featured Employers of The Week

Capital One
Financial Services and Banking–*We Don't Only Think Big Things—At Capital One, We Do Big Things. You're dedicated to your career. You deserve professional satisfaction and personal fulfillment. You belong at Capital One. Here, every day brings another chance to do impactful work that matters: helping millions of customers confidently manage their money, building stronger communities and delivering truly disruptive tech. You'll give your all alongside some of the brightest, most resilient people in the industry—and in return, you'll enjoy…*

Senior DevOps Engineer (AWS)–*Richmond, VA*
Do you love building and pioneering in the technology space? Do you enjoy solving complex business problems in a fast-paced, collaborative, inclusive , and iterative delivery environment? At Capital One, you'll be…

Senior Manager, Technical Program Management (Card Data Tech)–*Richmond, VA*
Are you interested in leading programs that deliver on critical business goals and build large scale products & platforms? About Capital One: At Capital One, we're changing banking…

Adventist HealthCare
Healthcare–*We are a faith-based healthcare organization, based in Montgomery County, Maryland. We are the largest employer in Montgomery County with over 6,000 employees! Our comprehensive approach to caring for our community includes three acute-care hospitals – Shady Grove Medical Center, White Oak Medical Center and Fort Washington Medical Center – as well as two Physical Rehabilitation hospitals, Outpatient centers, Imaging Centers, Urgent Cares, Home Care Services, Employer Health Programs and Physician…*

Cath Lab/IR Registered Nurse (RN), Day Shift, Cardiovascular–*Rockville*
Adventist HealthCare is hiring a full-time, Cardiac Cath Lab Department Registered Nurse (RN) in Rockville, Maryland. Qualified candidates with a minimum of 3 years of Cardiac Cath Lab RN experience will be eligible for a $15,000 sign-on bonus…

Radiology Aide, Day Shift, Radiology–*Silver Spring*
White Oak Medical Center seeks to hire an experienced Radiology Aide for our Radiology Unit who will embrace our mission to extend God's care through the ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing. As a Radiology Aide, you will: Greets patients as they arrive at the front…

George Mason University
Education–*George Mason University is a university with three campuses, each with a distinctive academic focus that plays a critical role in the economy of its region. At each campus, students, faculty, and staff have full access to all the university's resources, while duplication of programs and support services is minimized through the use of technology. In addition to the main campus in Fairfax, the university has campuses in Arlington and Prince William Counties.*

Associate Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations–*Fairfax*
Department: Costello College of Business - Advancement and Alumni Relations. Job Category: Administrative or Professional Faculty. Job Type: Full-Time. Work Schedule: Full-time (1.0 FTE, 40 hrs/wk). Location: Fairfax, VA. Workplace Type: Hybrid…

E-Resources Specialist–*Fairfax*
Department: University Libraries. Classification: Library Specialist 3. Job Category: Classified Staff. Job Type: Full-Time. Work Schedule: Full-time (1.0 FTE, 40 hrs/wk). Location: Fairfax, VA. Workplace Type: Remote Eligible. Pay Band: 05. Salary: Starting salary no less than…

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Delivery and Transportation–*The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority operates the second largest rail transit system and the fifth largest bus network in the United States. Safe, clean and reliable, "America's Transit System" transports more than a third of the federal government to work and millions of tourists to the landmarks in the Nation's Capital. Metro has earned a worldwide reputation for security and architectural beauty. WMATA is clearly the employer of choice for over 10,000 area residents. The Authority was created in 1967 by…*

Shift Supervisor ATC–
High School diploma or possession of a general equivalency diploma (GED) with satisfactory completion of an acceptable electronic/electro-mechanical course. Experience A minimum of two (2) years' experience in electro-mechanical train control maintenance and/or the maintenance of…

Structural Evaluation Tech A–
Education Bachelor's Degree in a Civil Engineering or related field In lieu of a bachelor's degree, a high school graduate or a GED with a minimum of 4 years of experience in structural construction, maintenance or inspections will be considered Successful completion of a…

Dewberry
Engineering–*Dewberry is a leading, market-facing professional services firm with more than 50 locations and 2,000 professionals nationwide. What sets us apart from our competitors are our people. At Dewberry, we seek out exceptional talent and strive to deliver the highest quality of services to our clients. Whether you're an experienced professional or a new graduate, you'll have the chance to collaborate with the best and brightest and work on innovative and complex projects at the forefront of the industry. Our commitment to excellence…*

Senior Web Developer–*Fairfax*
Dewberry is currently seeking a Senior Full Stack Web Developer to joinour Resilience Solutions Group in our Fairfax, VA office (note: a Iternate offices and remote locations may be considered on a case-by-case basis). The role will support federal, state, and local…

Quality Manager - Geospatial Technology Services–*Fairfax*
Dewberry is currently seeking a Quality Manager to support operations within our Geospatial Technology Services department. Typical responsibilities include detailed analysis and review of topographic lidar data, topobathymetric data…

Westat
Research–*Westat, headquartered in Rockville, Maryland, near Washington, D.C., is an employee-owned research corporation serving agencies of the U.S. Government, state and local governments, businesses, and foundations. We conduct surveys and program evaluations, provide statistical research, and offer related services. Our multiproject environment provides career opportunities in health, energy, education, transportation, the environment, human services, and the workforce. We combine the relevant research area expertise…*

Permanent Medical Records Abstractor–*Rockville*
Westat is seeking Medical Records Abstractors or individuals with some experience with medical records or health insurance records coding, quality control or review, or similar skills and/or experience to work on-site at our Rockville campus…

Principal Research Associate - Transportation Research - Hybrid–*Rockville*
Westat is an employee-owned corporation providing research services to agencies of the U.S. Government, as well as businesses, foundations, and state and local governments. Westat's research, technical, and administrative staff of more…

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Associations–*The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association was founded in 1925. It is a not-for-profit scientific and professional association for speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech and hearing scientists. ASHA is committed to the consumers of our services, the more than 42 million Americans with communication disorders. ASHA's mission is to ensure that all people with speech-language, and hearing disorders receive quality services from well-educated professionals. The American Speech-Language-Hearing…*

Senior Director, Facility Management–*Rockville*
The Facilities Director at ASHA plays a pivotal role in ensuring the seamless operation and security of our 140,000 square foot Gold LEED certified facility and a small, leased capitol hill office. This leadership position encompasses overseeing all aspects of building and…

Continuing Education, Administrative Assistant–*Rockville*
The purpose of this position is to provide administrative support for activities of the Continuing Education (CE) Team of the ASHA National Office, coordinating and maintaining an effective and efficient flow of work. The incumbent serves as the…

Fairfax County Government
Government and Public Services–*Fairfax County, Virginia is a diverse and thriving urban county. As the most populous jurisdiction in both Virginia and the Washington metropolitan area, the County's population exceeds that of seven states. The median household income of Fairfax County is one of the highest in the nation and over half of its adult residents have four-year college degrees or more educational attainment. Fairfax County also is home to an extensive commercial office market and is a major employment center. Fairfax County Government is a…*

Administrative Assistant II–*Reston*
This job announcement will be used to fill multiple full-time Administrative Assistant II vacancy in the department's offices located in Fairfax, Virginia. Demonstrates an end product that processes and integrates simple data within the agency's policies and…

Administrative Assistant II–*Annandale*
Are you ready to be part of a dynamic team dedicated to promoting health equity and serving diverse communities? The Fairfax County Health Department wants you to join us in our mission to protect and enhance the well-being of 1.2 million residents. With more than 100…

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
Airport Operations/Management–*The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority operates a two-airport system that provides domestic and international air service for the mid-Atlantic region. The organization consists of approximately 1,700 employees in a structure that includes central administration, airports management, and police and fire departments. In addition to operating Ronald Reagan Washington National and Washington Dulles International Airports, the Airports Authority is responsible for capital improvements at both airports and management of the Dulles Toll Road.*

Assistant Airport Operations Duty Manager (2 Positions Available)–*Washington D.C.*
Compensation Grade: S19-H. Salary Range: $38.41-$55.69. Opening Date: May 20, 2024. Closing Date: June 1, 2024. Please Note: All job announcements close at 11:59 p.m. of the day before the posted closing date. As an…

Airport Police Officer (VA Lateral & Out-of-State $10,00 Sign On Bonus)–*Washington D.C.*
Compensation Grade: P10. Salary Range: $31.33-$51.69. Opening Date: May 20, 2024. Closing Date: Please Note: All job announcements close at 11:59 p.m. of the day before the posted closing date. As an Airport Police Officer…

Fairfax Water
Science–*Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) is Virginia's largest water utility, serving one out of every five Virginians who obtain their water from public utilities. Nearly 1.5 million people in the Northern Virginia communities of Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William and Alexandria depend on Fairfax Water for superior drinking water. That's 1.5 million friends, neighbors and family members. We don't need any other reason to demand the highest in water quality standards! Chartered in 1957 by the Virginia State Corporation Commission as a…*

Maintenance Mechanic I/II–*Lorton*
Under close supervision of the Supervisor, Mechanical Maintenance or a senior maintenance mechanic, performs a variety of semi-skilled and skilled tasks in the installation, preventive maintenance, and repair of water supply facilities consisting of pumping stations…

Accounts Receivable Specialist I/II–*Fairfax*
Under general supervision of the General Accounting Supervisor, performs the day to day activities involved in the collection and posting of accounts receivable for Fairfax Water. Examples Of Essential Duties: Opens/Closes the customer payment center and maintains proper cash…

Alexandria City Public Schools
Education–*Alexandria City Public Schools is one of the most diverse school systems in the country and we celebrate that diversity. Our students come from more than 80 different countries, speak more than 60 languages, and represent a rainbow of ethnic and cultural groups. They are economically diverse, but all are rich in that the residents of Alexandria are dedicated to ensuring that each and every one of them achieves success. The children of Alexandria have benefited significantly from the strong support of City Council and the Alexandria…*

Assistant Football Coach (Offensive Coordinator)–*Alexandria*
The Assistant Coach carries out the aims and objectives of the sports program as outlined by the Head Coach; instructs athletes in individual and team fundamentals, strategies, and physical training necessary for them to realize a degree of…

Academic Interventionist-Student Improvement–*Alexandria*
The Interventionist provides targeted, strategy-based instruction that facilitates student success through planning, teaching, assessing, and adjusting learning opportunities that meet student needs in alignment with the ACPS Strategic Plan and each…

The MIL Corporation (MIL)
Government Contractor–*Established in 1980, MIL provides innovative cyber, engineering, financial, and information technology services to the federal government. Our subject matter experts help advance customer operations through proven tools and methodologies. Dedicated to excellence, service, and support, MIL recognizes that sustained high-quality service delivery is a critical contributor to our success. We are recognized by our clients and industry professionals alike for our integrity, diligence, and expertise across our core service areas: Cyber…*

Program Analysis, Associate–*Washington D.C.*
Clearance Required: Secret. Education Required: BA/BS. US Citizenship: Required. The MIL Corporation is seeking a Program Analysis, Associate to work with a Federal Client in Washington, DC. This position currently requires a hybrid schedule with 2 days on-site. Schedule is…

Mid to Senior Level Systems Administrator (Systems Administration, Senior Analyst)–*Lexington Park*
Clearance Required: Secret. Education Required: BA/BS or HS/GED and Equivalent Work Experience. US Citizenship: Required. The MIL Corporation seeks a Mid to Senior level Systems…

AARP
Associations–*AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, social welfare organization with a membership of nearly 38 million. Our aim is to disrupt preconceived notions about aging, turn goals and dreams into Real Possibilities, strengthen communities and fight for the issues that matter most to people 50-plus and their families; such as health care, employment security and retirement planning.*

Lead Attorney–*Washington D.C.*
AARP Foundation works to end senior poverty by helping vulnerable people over 50 build economic opportunity. Our approach emphasizes equitable outcomes for populations that have faced systemic discrimination. We serve all people 50 plus and their families. Through…

Procurement Operations Analyst–*Washington D.C.*
AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With a nationwide presence, AARP strengthens communities and advocates for what matters most to the more than 100 million…

City Of Alexandria Virginia
Government and Public Services–*The City of Alexandria is an award-winning, innovative, and progressive local government that brings together elected leaders, residents, businesses, and staff to foster a thriving community. We are an independent, full-service city, providing the services typically operated by both counties and cities in areas such as public safety, transportation, human services, parks and recreation, planning, and administration. We offer a wide range of exciting career opportunities in a variety of fields, with the resources…*

Residential Counselor–*Alexandria*
The City of Alexandria is located in northern Virginia and is bordered by the District of Columbia (Potomac River), Arlington and Fairfax counties. With a population of approximately 150,000 and a land area of 15.75 square miles, Alexandria is the seventh largest city in…

Chief Human Resources Officer–*Alexandria*
The City of Alexandria, VA (pop. 154,706) seeks an innovative and dynamic Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) who is a proven leader, change agent, and collaborator with the highest ethical standards. With a diverse workforce of approximately 2,400…

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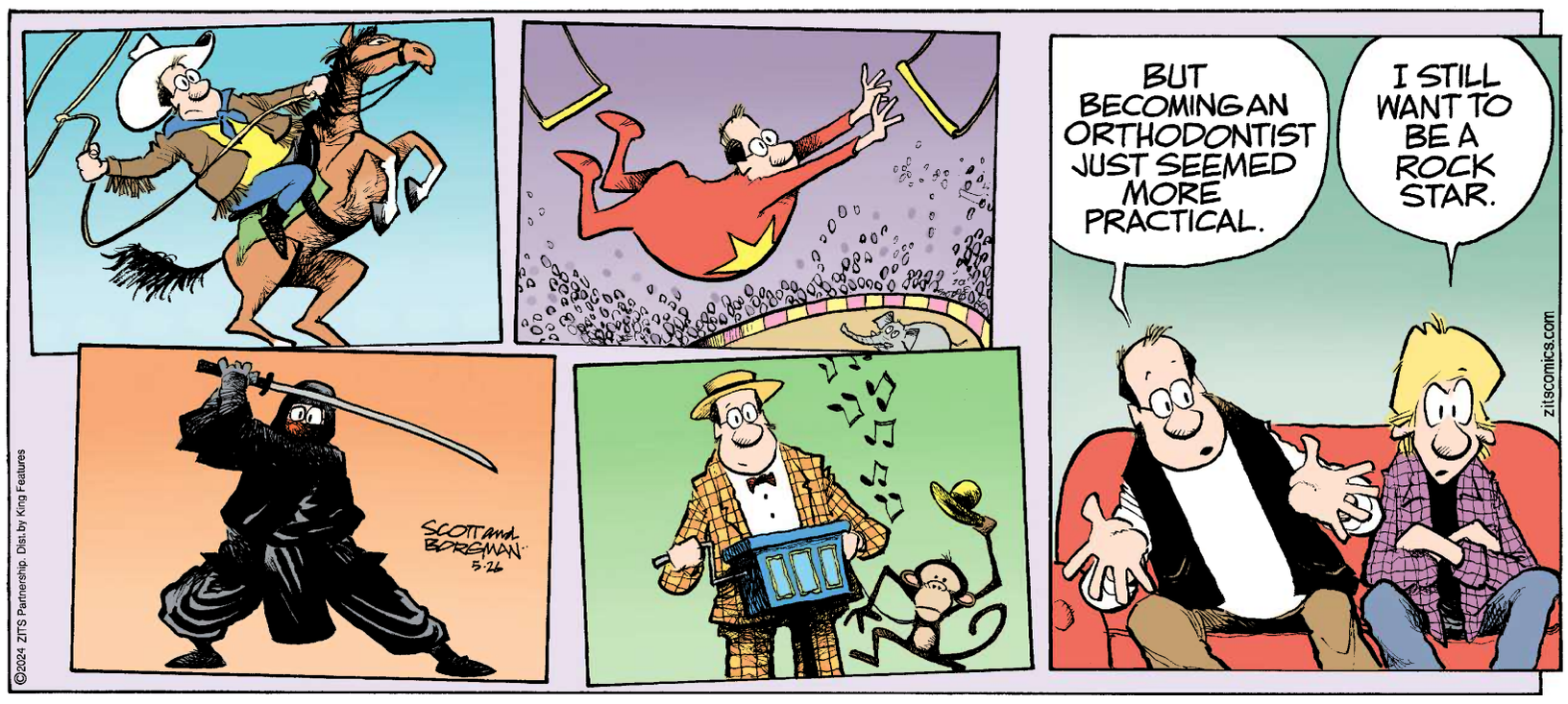
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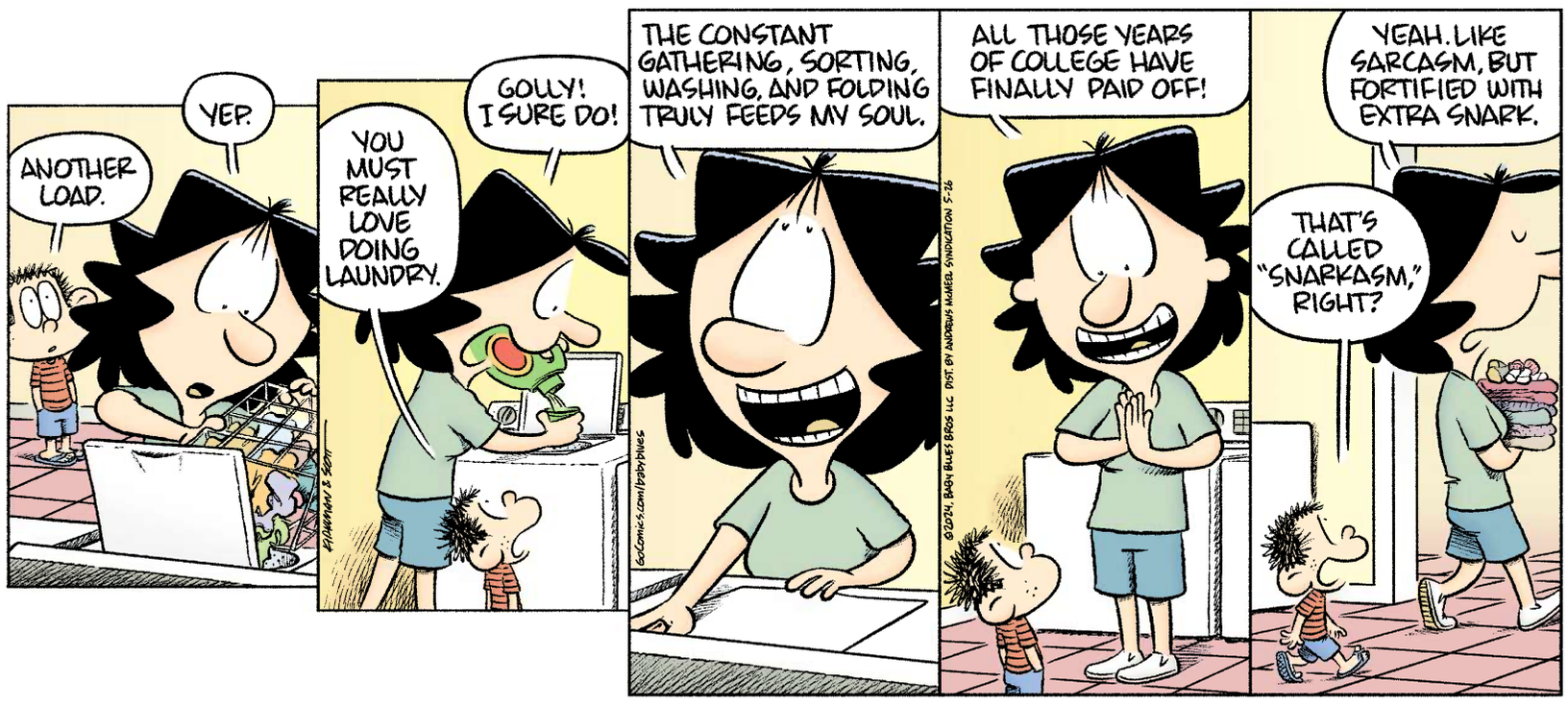
ZITS

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



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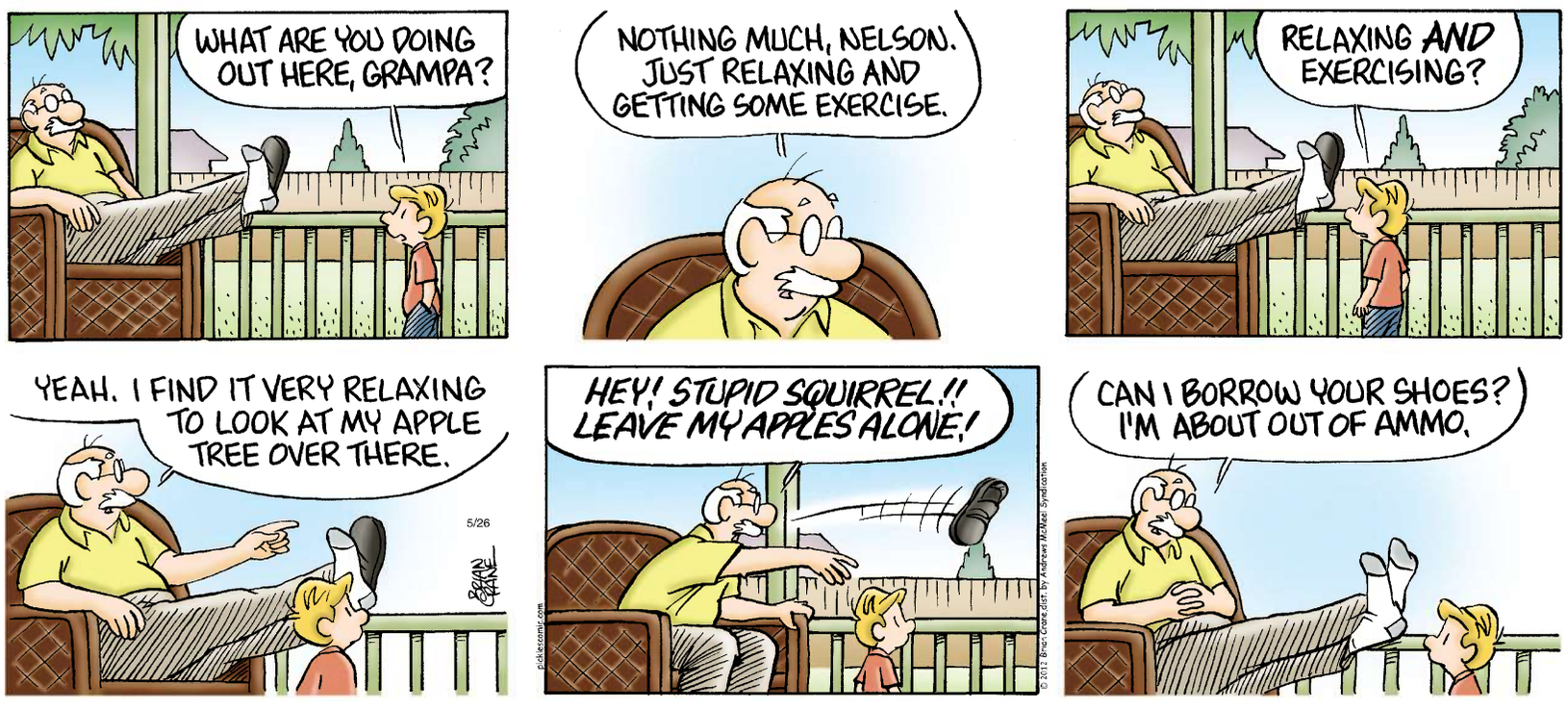
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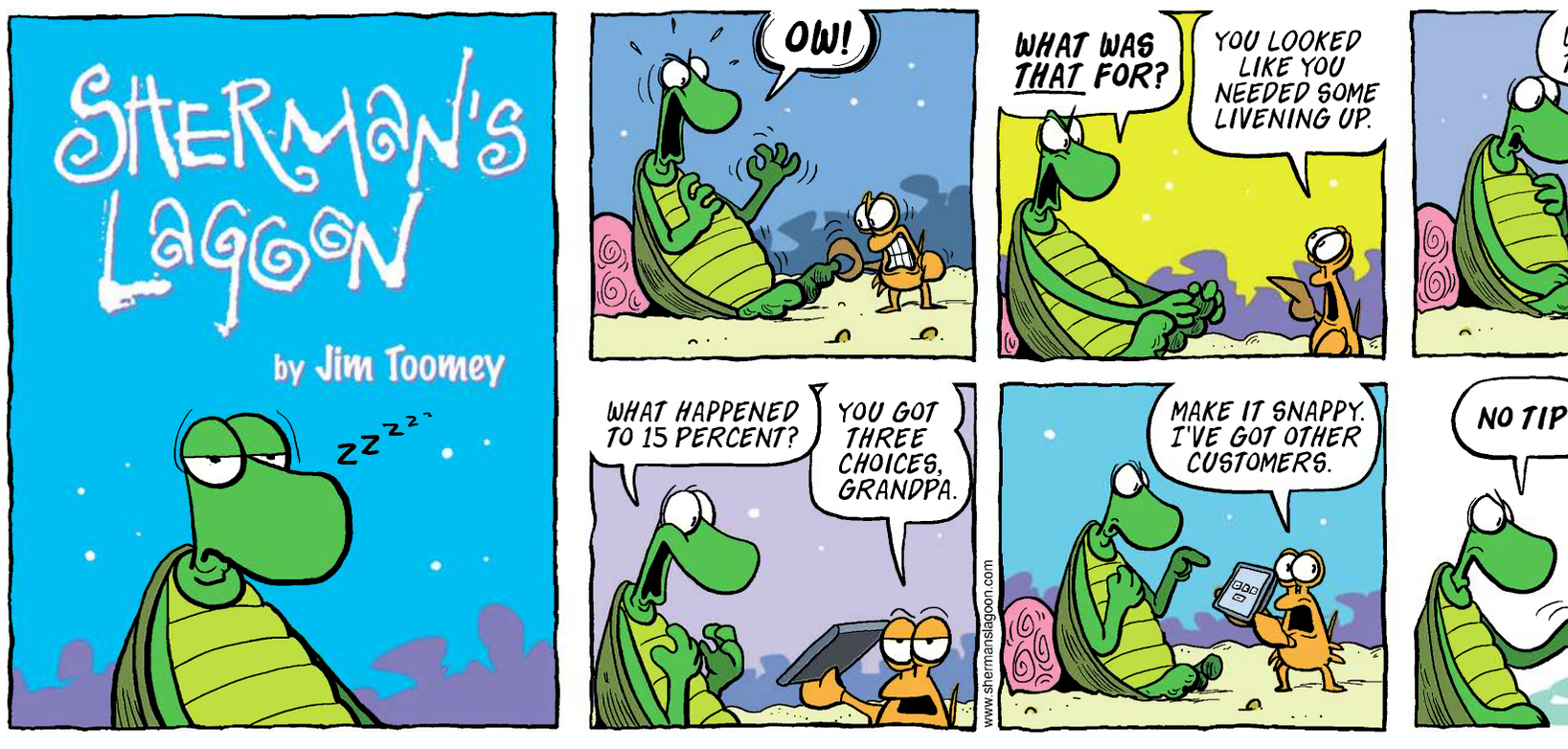






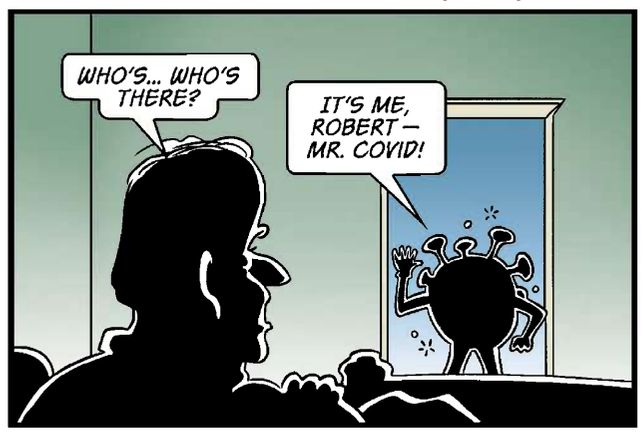
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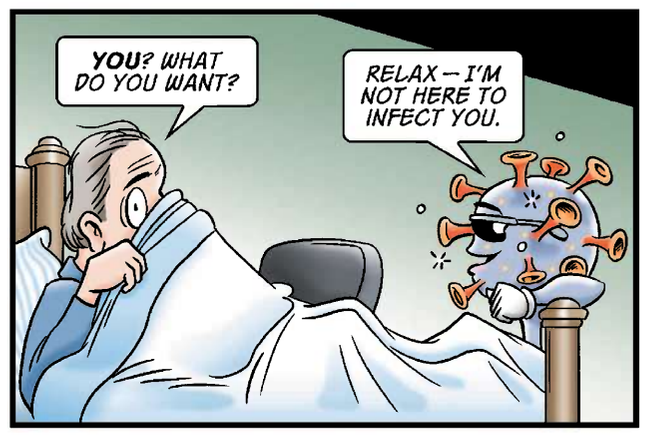
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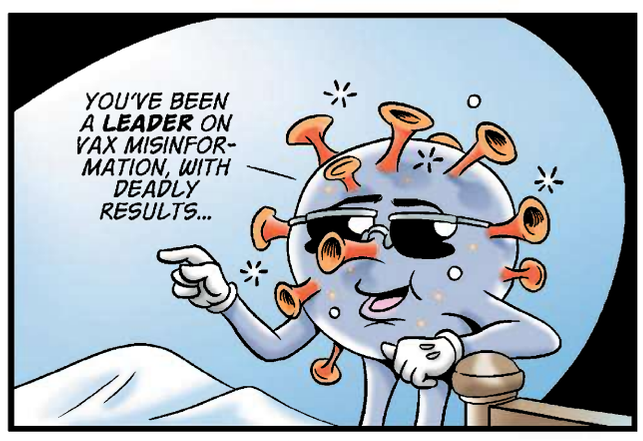


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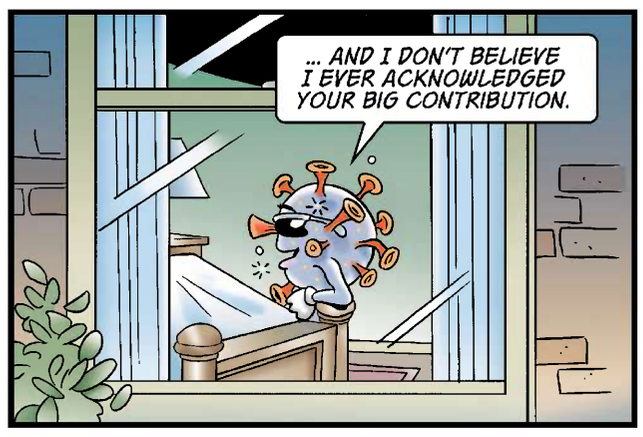
By Garry Trudeau



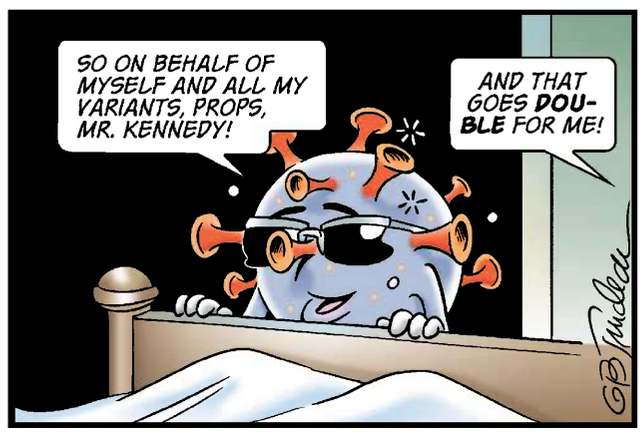


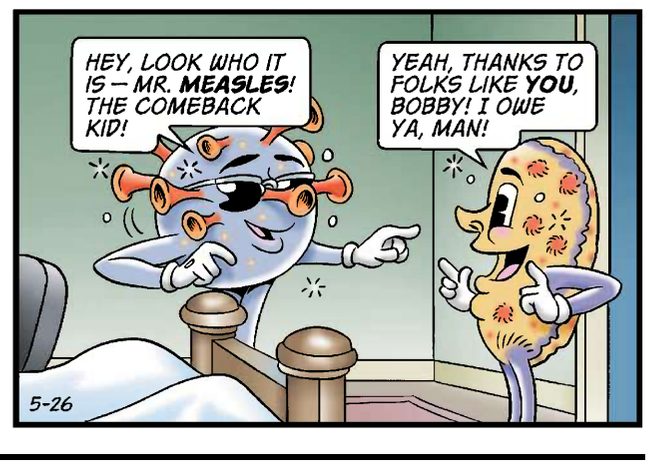


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CANDORVILLE

by Darrin Bell



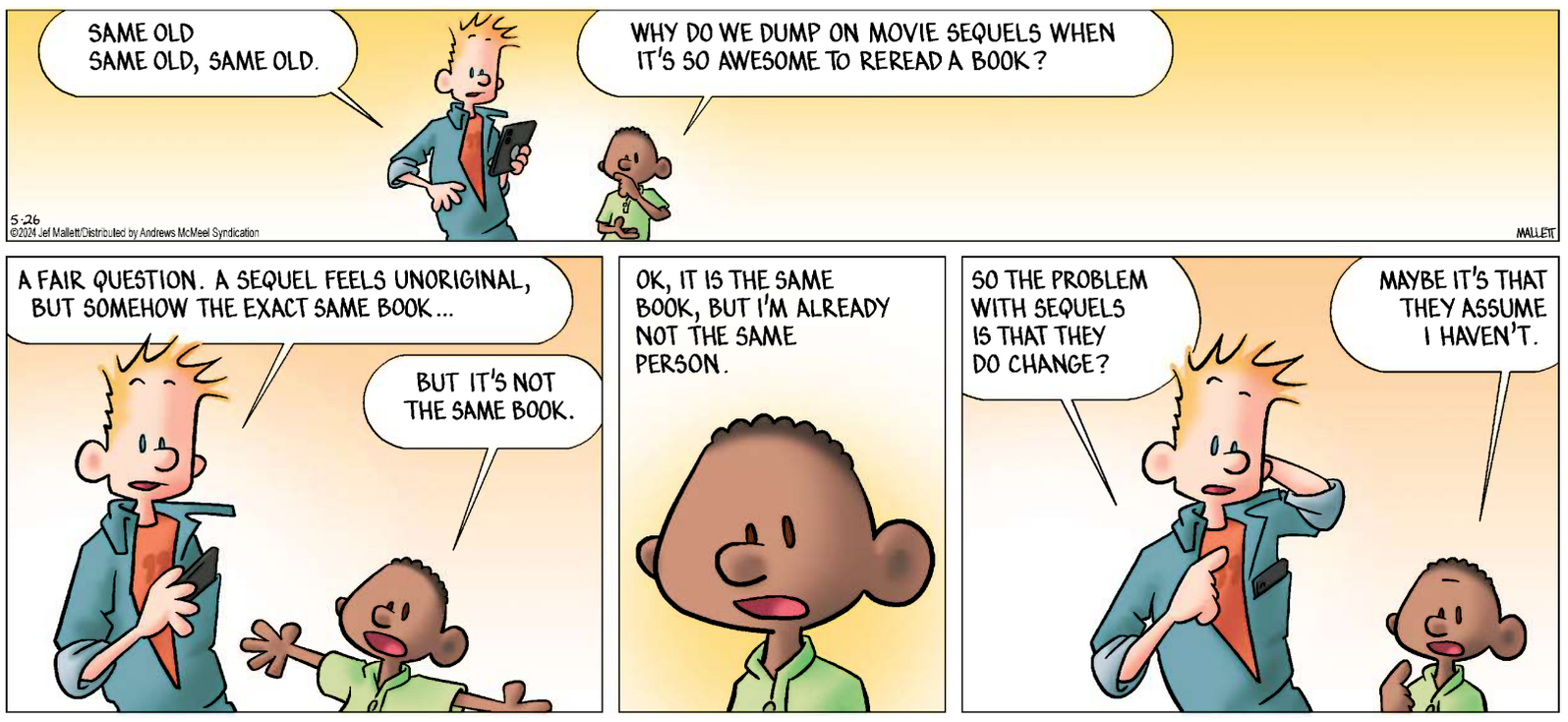
THE ARGYLE SWEATER

By Scott Hilburn



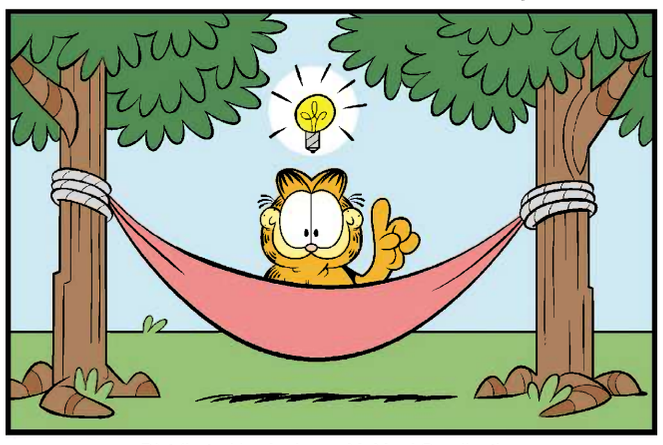
FRAZZ

By Jef Mallett

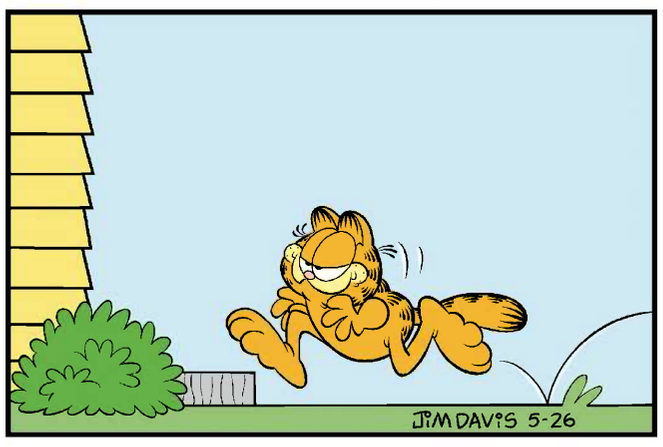


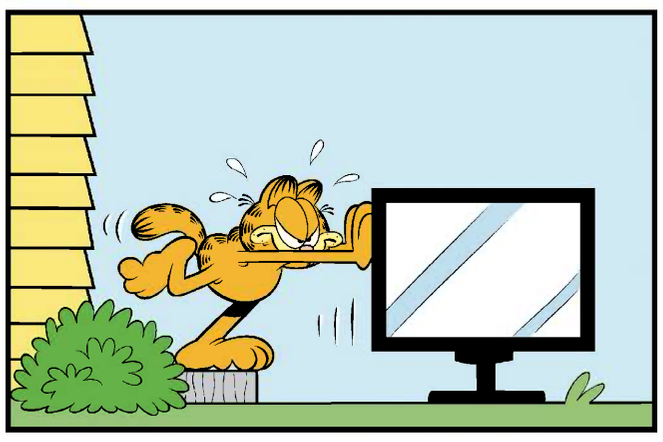
GARFIELD

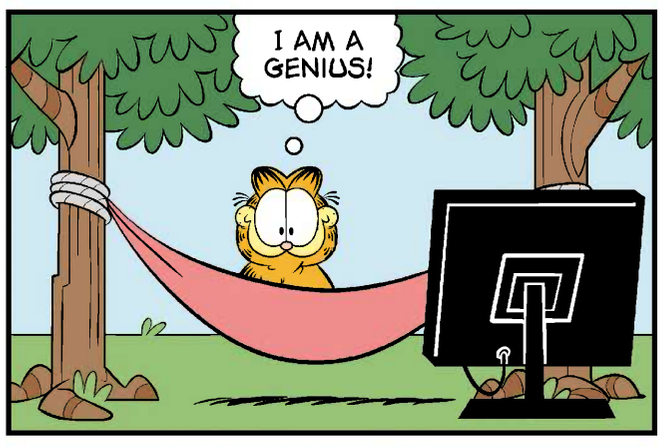
By Jim Davis



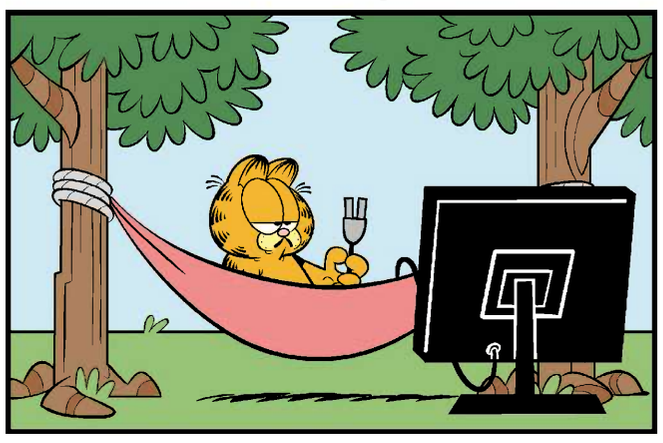
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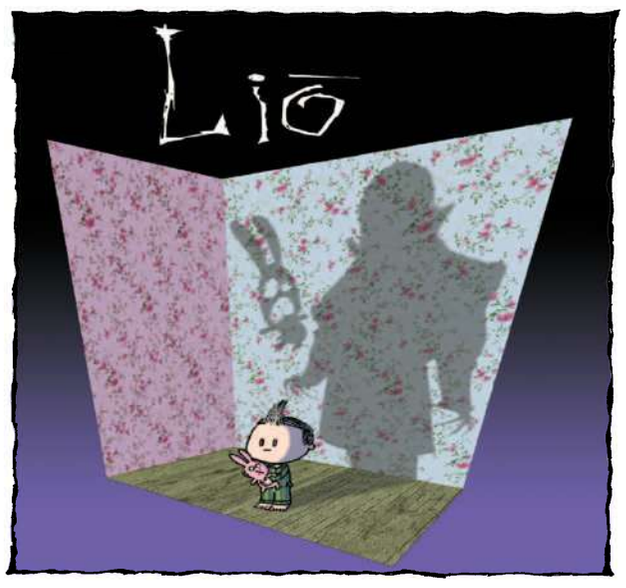


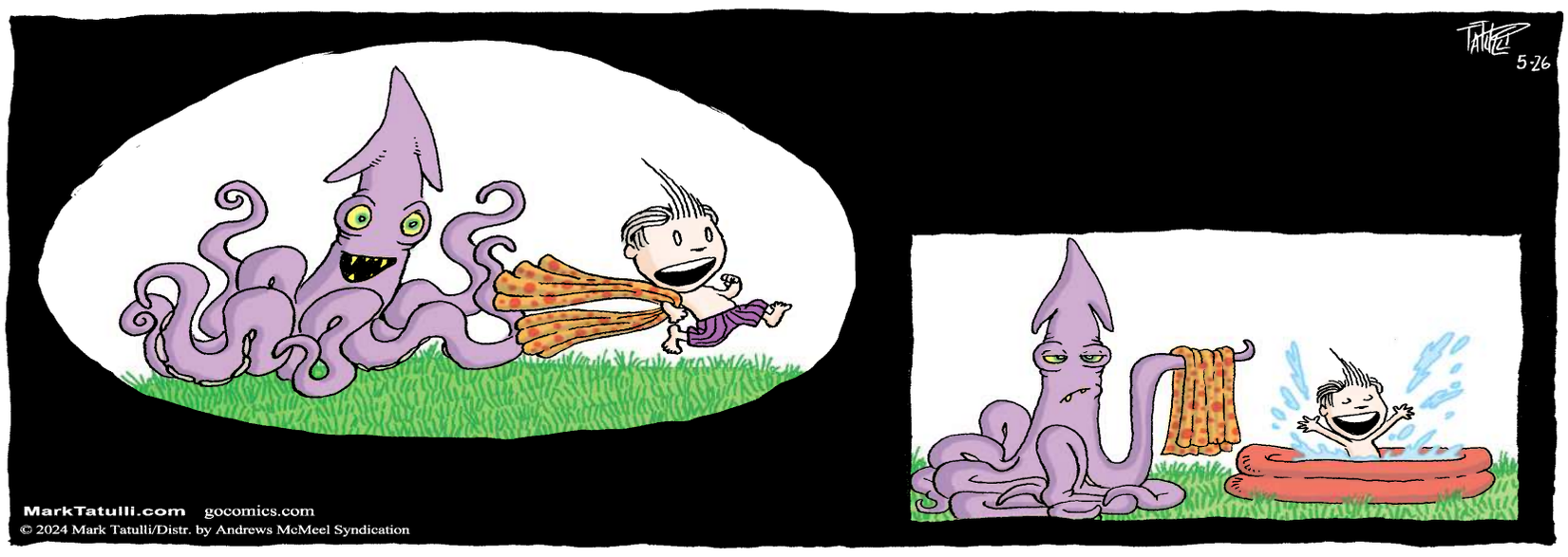


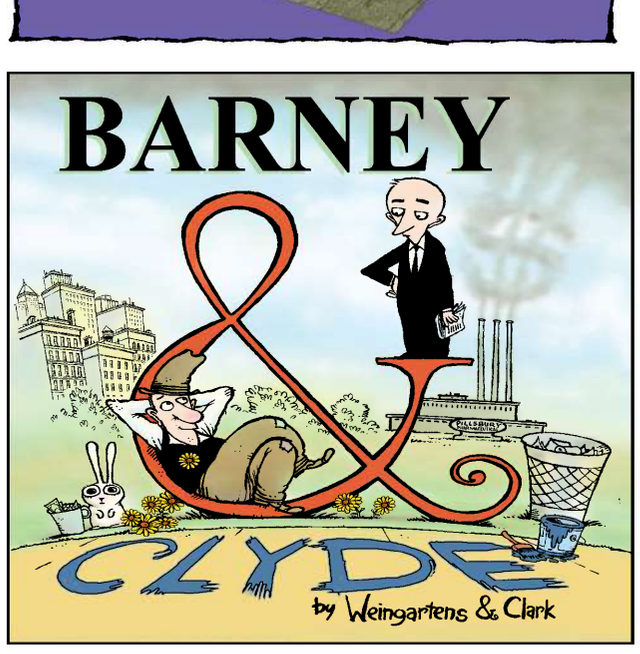


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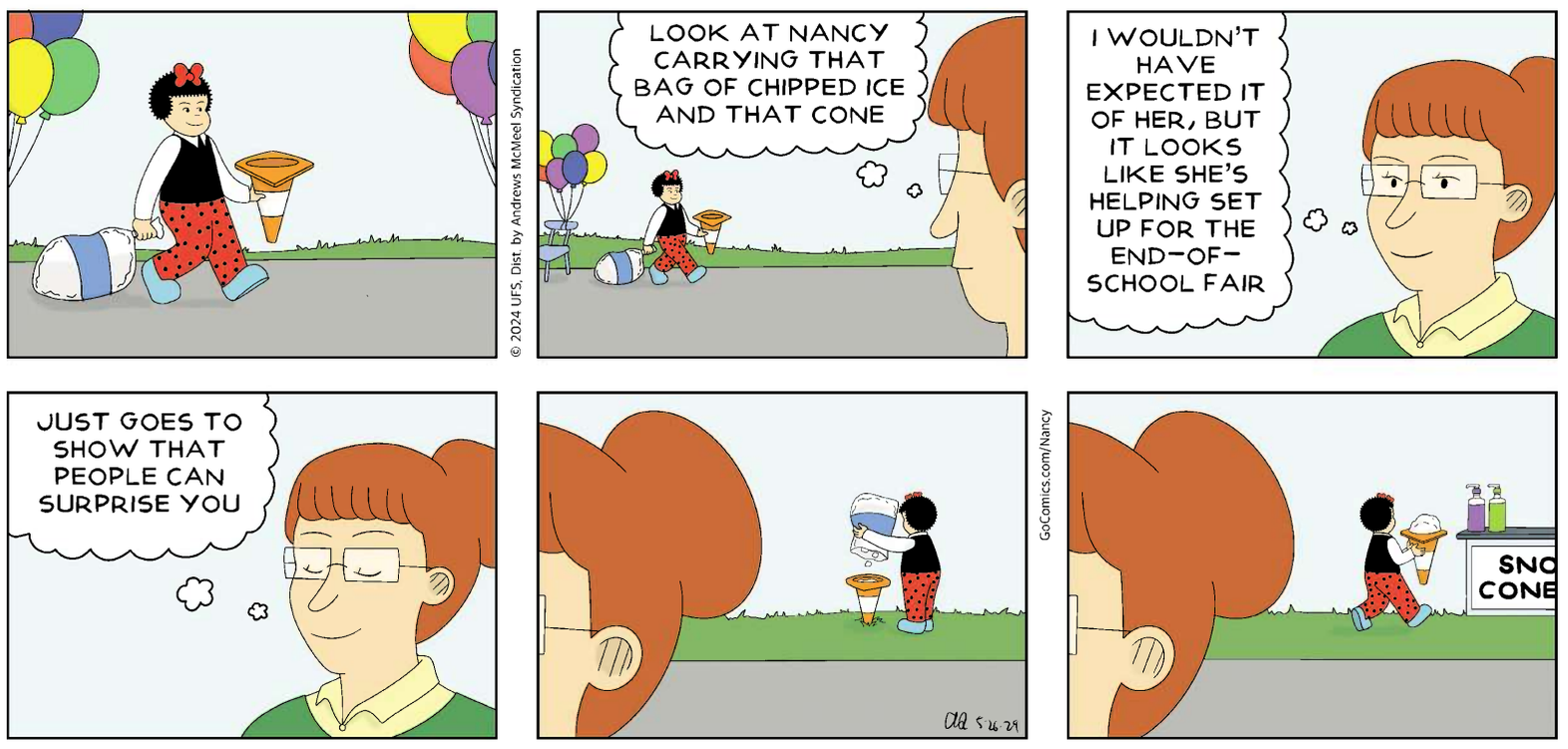






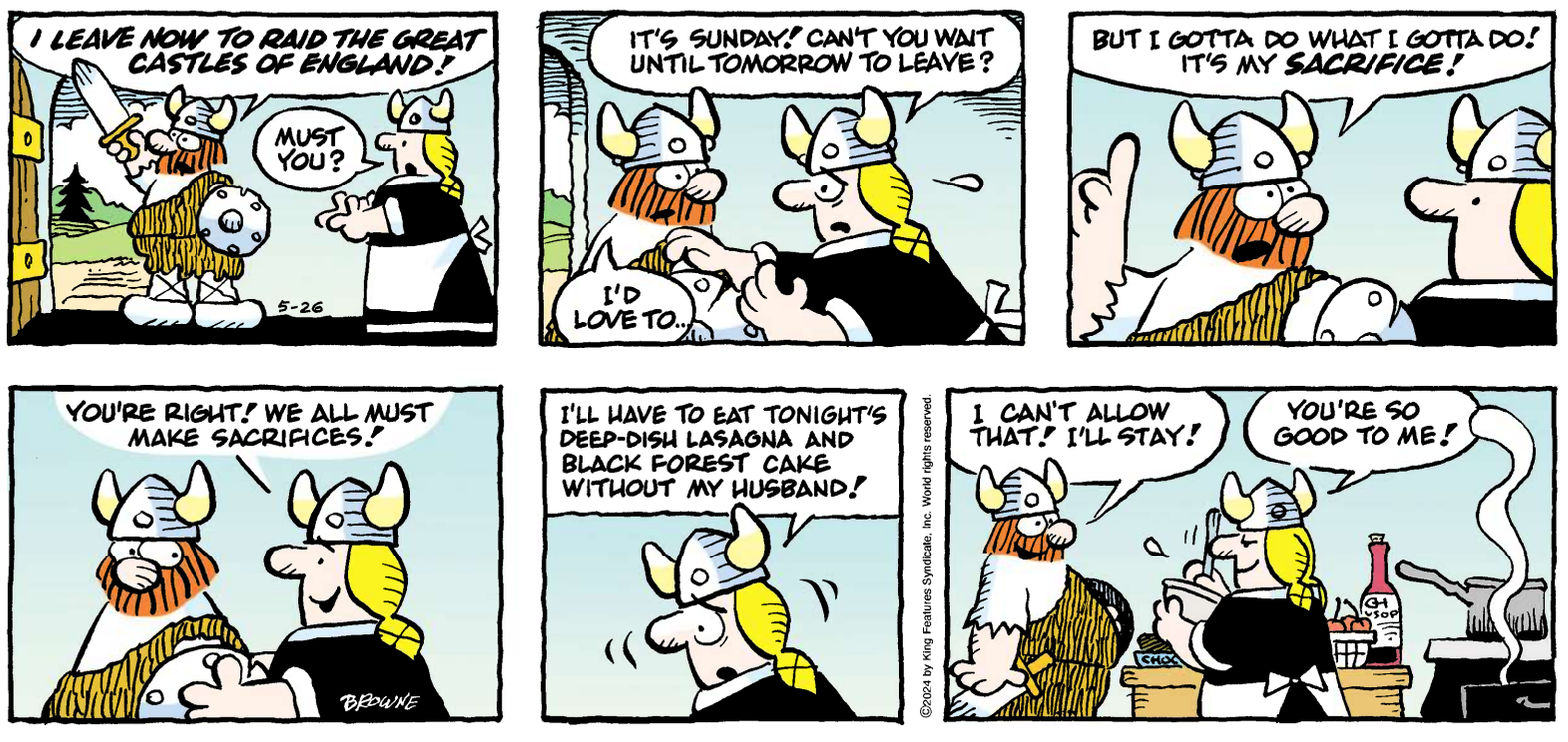
NANCY

By Olivia Jaimes



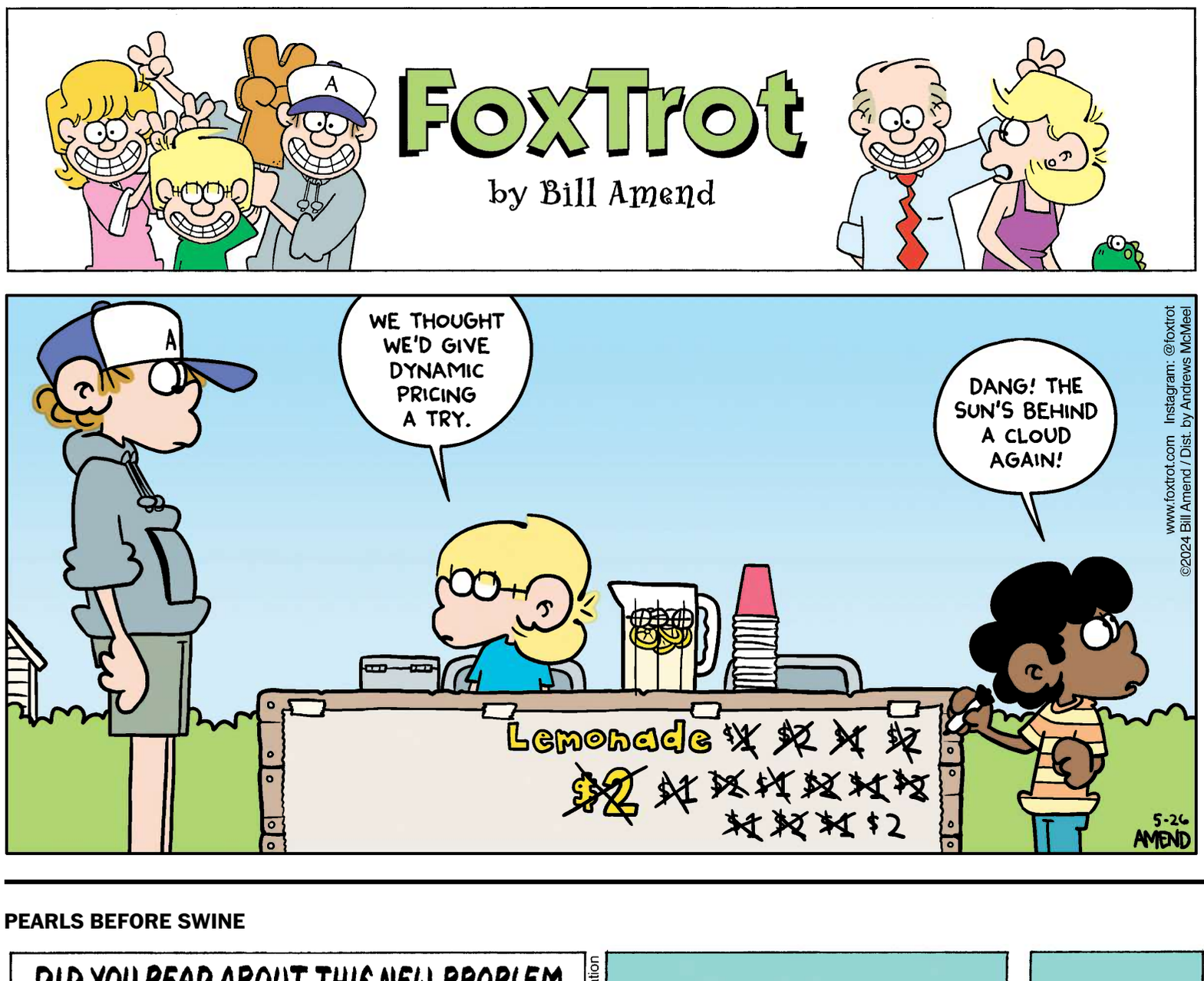
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Dik Browne



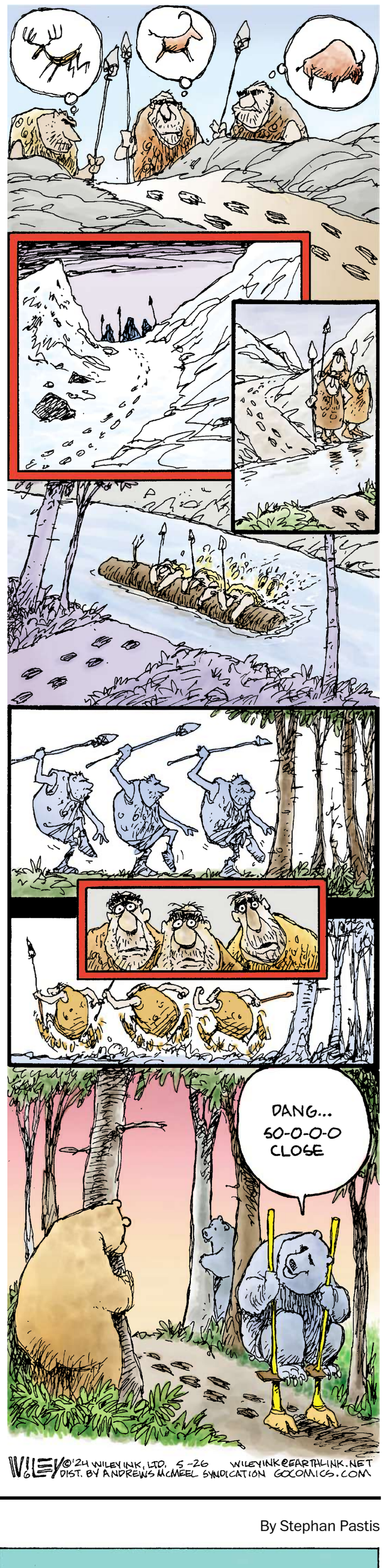
FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



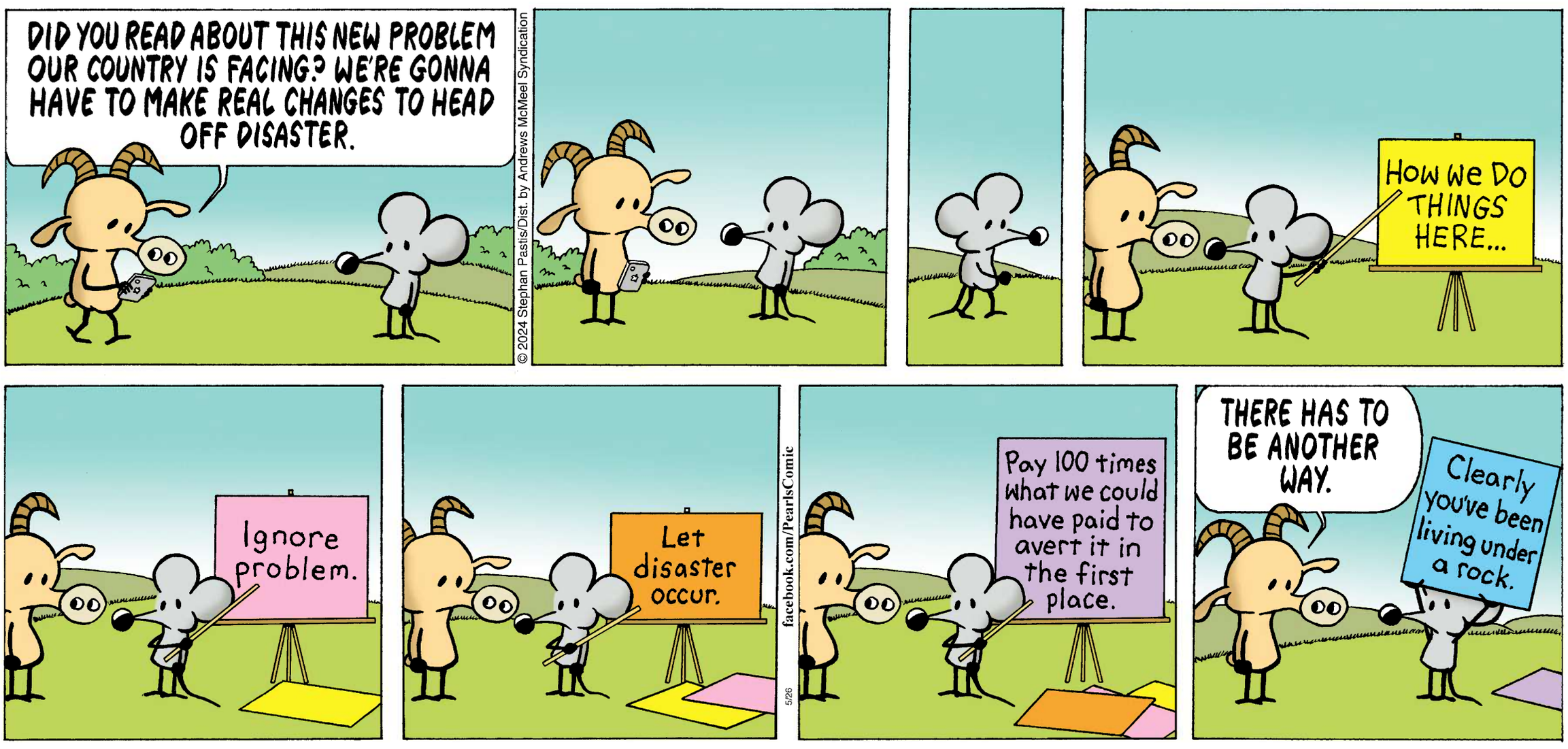
NON SEQUITUR

By Wiley



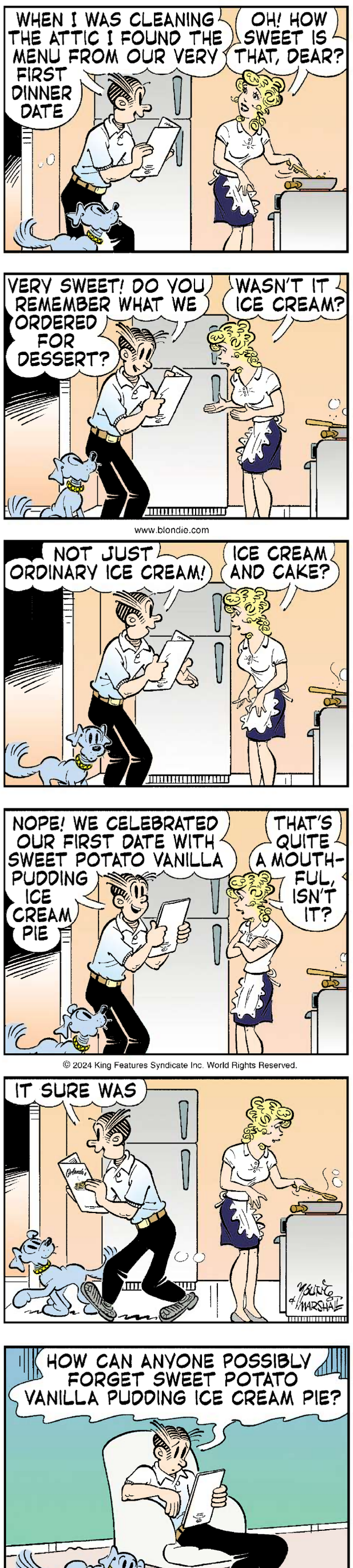
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

By Stephan Pastis



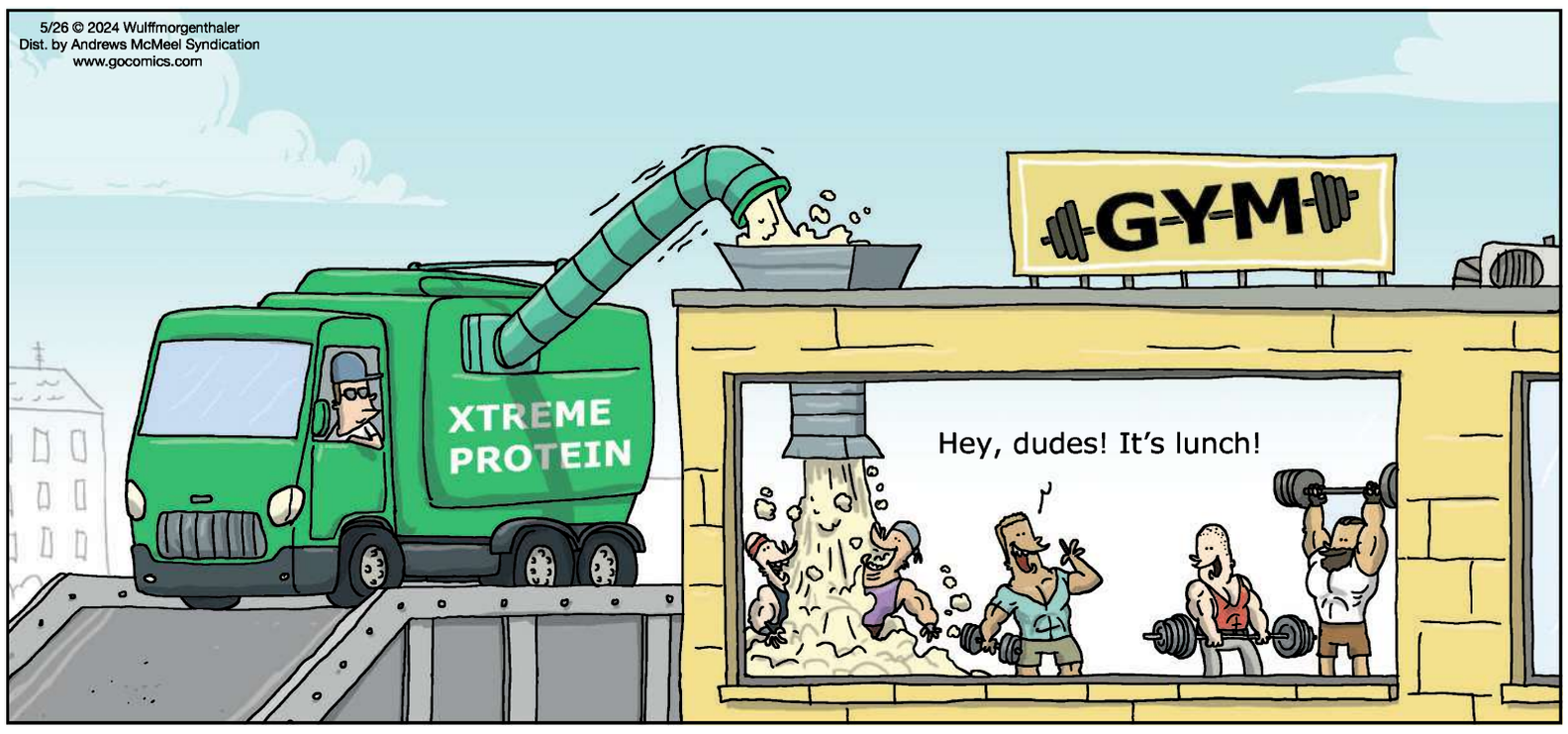
BLONDIE

By Dean Young & John Marshall



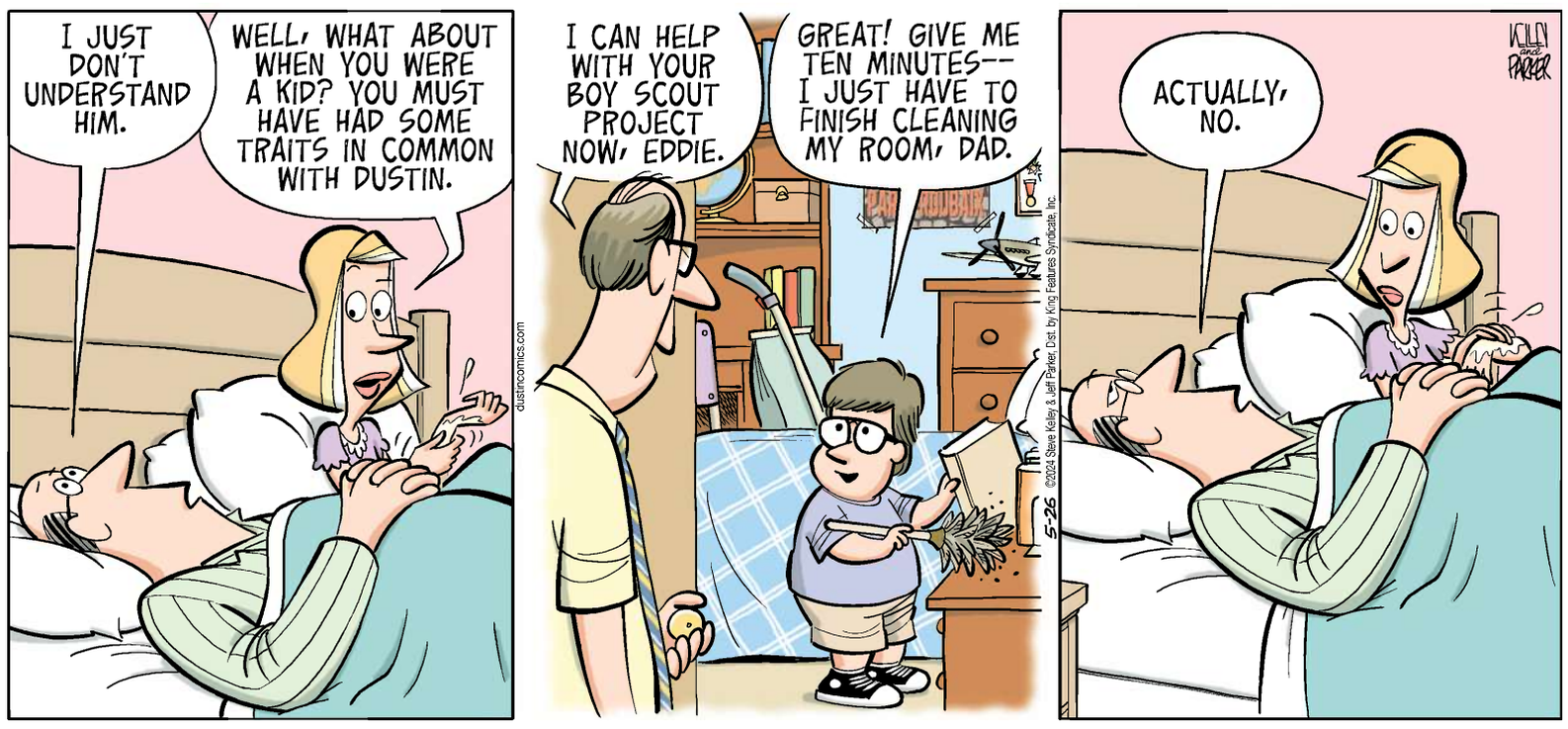
WUMO

By Mikael Wulff & Anders Morgenthaler



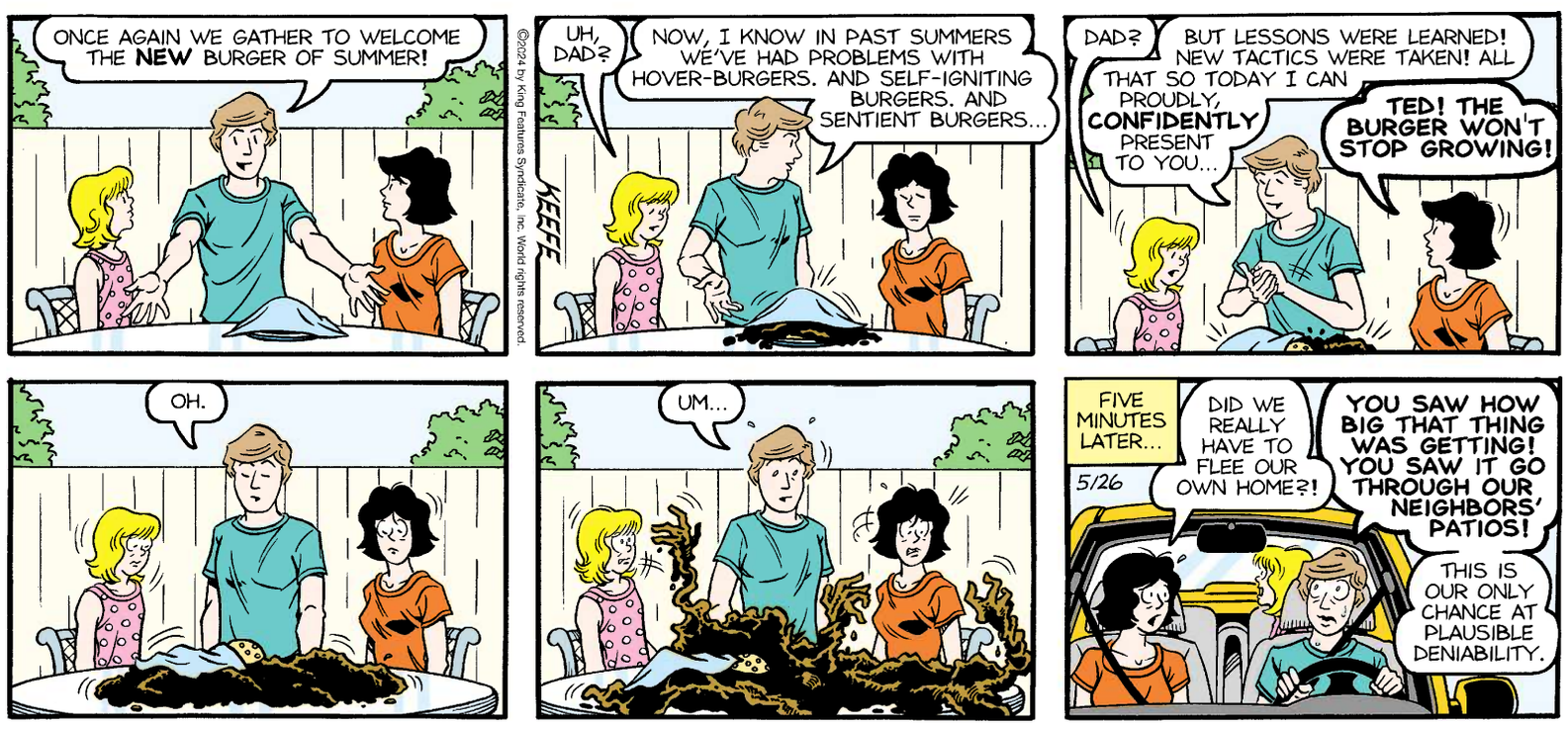
DUSTIN

By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



SALLY FORTH

By Francesco Marciuliano & Jim Keefe



BIG NATE

By Lincoln Peirce

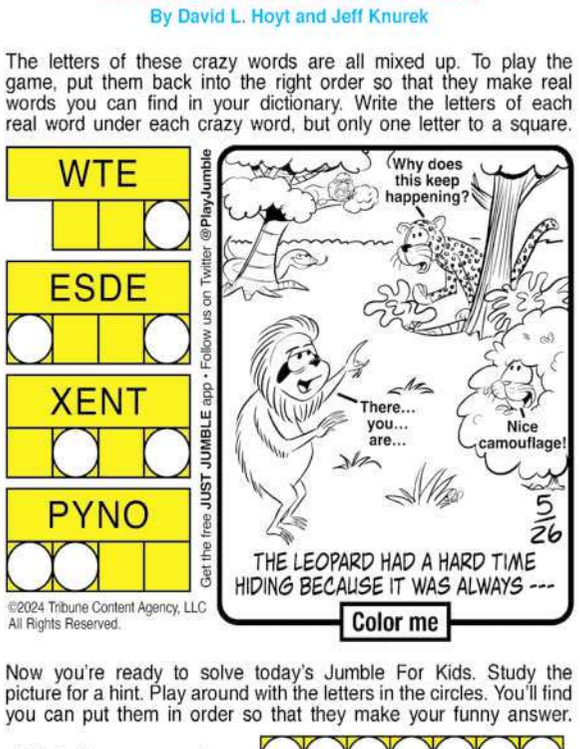


JUMBLE FOR KIDS

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME!®

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

The letters of these crazy words are all mixed up. To play the game, put them back into the right order so that they make real words you can find in your dictionary. Write the letters of each real word under each crazy word, but only one letter to a square.



Now you're ready to solve today's Jumble For Kids. Study the picture for a hint. Play around with the letters in the circles. You'll find you can put them in order so that they make your funny answer.

Print the answer here: ⬭⬭⬭⬭⬭⬭⬭

ANSWER (HOLD UP TO MIRROR)

Jumbles: wet seed next pony
Answer: Spotted

REPLY ALL LITE

By Donna A. Lewis

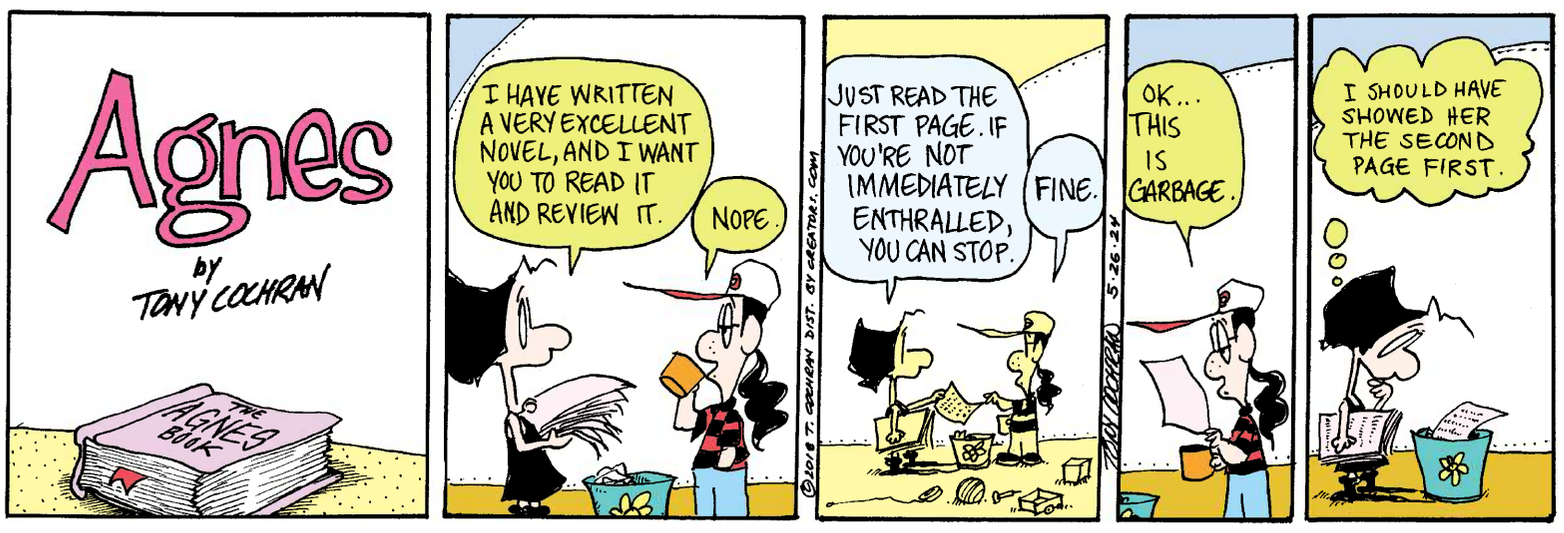


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5-26

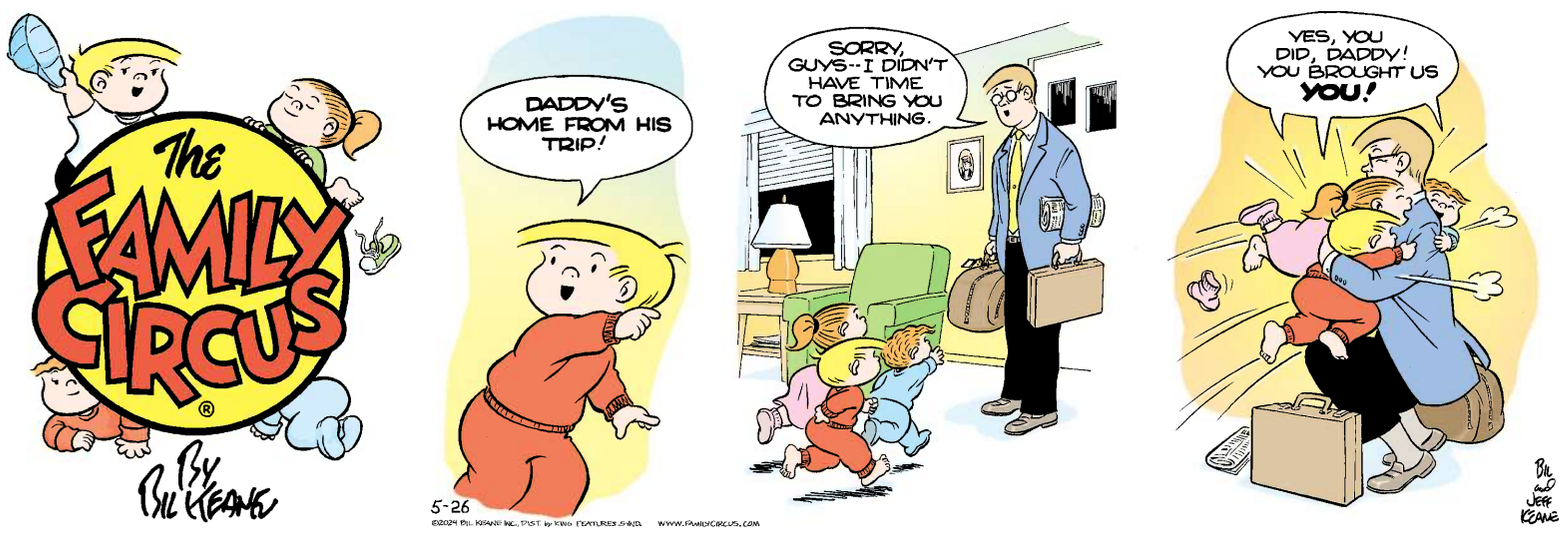
LOOSE PARTS

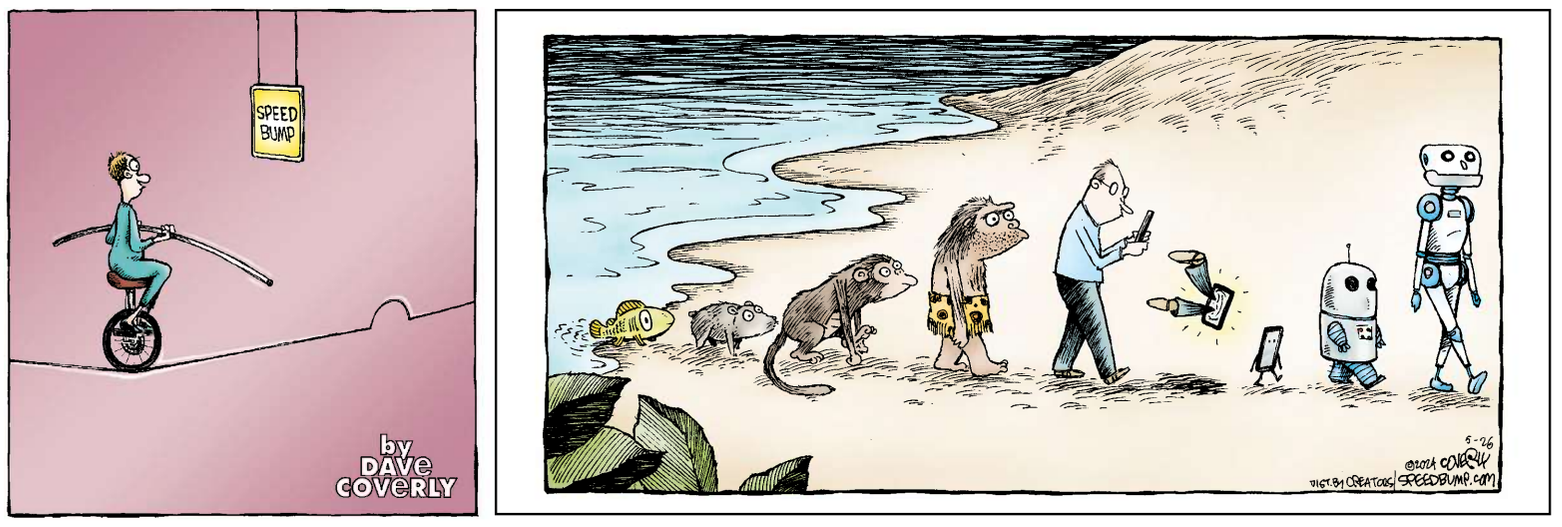
By Dave Blazek





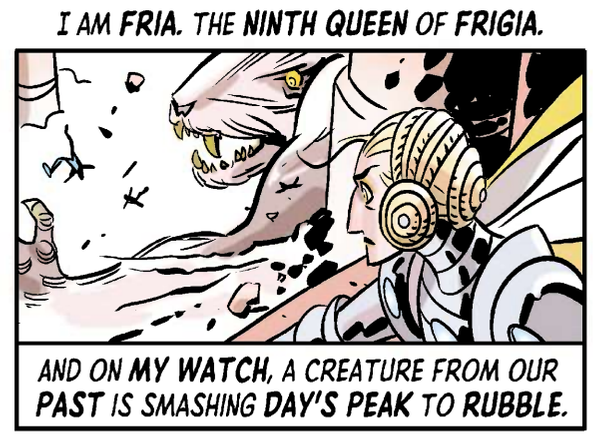


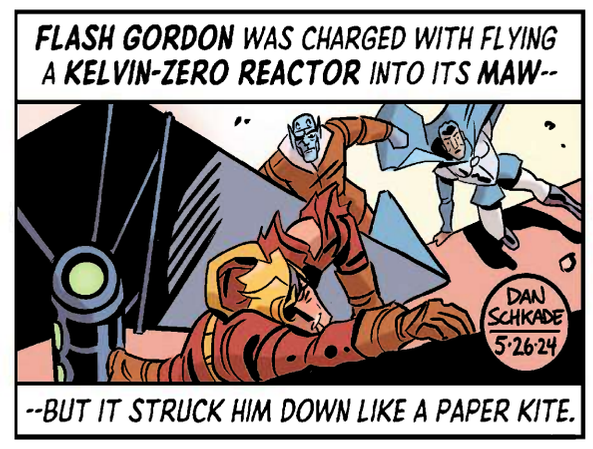






FLASH GORDON By Dan Schkade







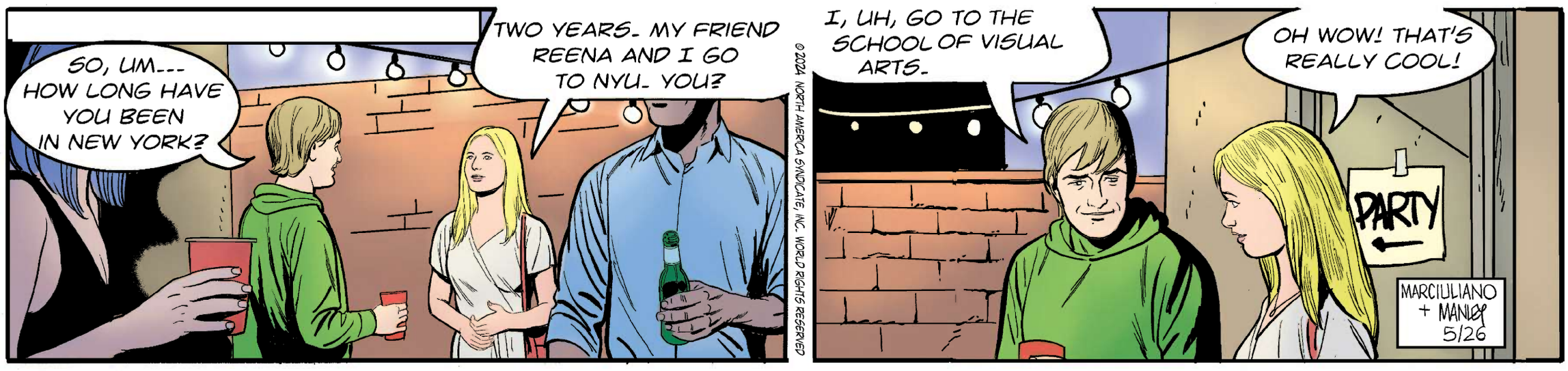




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JUDGE PARKER By Francesco Marciuliano & Mike Manley



Hal Foster's Prince Valiant®

BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

NO ONE IN THE HIBERNIAN COLONY OF DYFFLIN BELIEVED THAT BAEDWULF HAD ANY CHANCE IN COMBAT WITH THE MAD LORD WITGAR, BUT FORTUNE SMILED ON BAEDWULF, AND ALL IN THE SAXON COURT ARE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO HAIL HIM AS THE NEW LORD, AND BRONWYN HIS LADY.

JUST AS IMPORTANTLY, THE CAT THAT ALSO CAME FROM GWYNEDD IS RECOGNIZED AS A MYSTICAL SANCTION OF BAEDWULF'S VICTORY, AND SUITABLY ADORED.

BUT VAL'S ATTENTION GOES TO THE BLACK STONE. *"SO, THIS IS THE TERRIBLE THING SO IMPORTANT TO BOTH THE SNAKE PEOPLE AND THE AMBITIOUS WITGAR. FOR THIS, MY SINGING SWORD IS HELD HOSTAGE."*

4555 YEATES 5/26/24

BAEDWULF APPROACHES. *"STRANGE TO SAY OF A MAN I FIRST MET WHEN HE ABDUCTED ME, BUT YOU HAVE PROVED A TRUE FRIEND. I SWEAR THAT YOU SHALL RETURN THE STONE TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNERS.*

"UNTIL YOU DEPART, IT WILL BE SECURED IN THE CASTLE VAULT– WHILE WITGAR IS SECURED IN THE CASTLE DUNGEON."

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NEXT: All In Their Place

©2024 Andrews McMeel Syndication Written and illustrated by Steve McGarry

KIDTOWN

5/26

What's the largest number you can find in today's paper?

Use the News

TRUE but STRANGE

THE EYES HAVE IT!

In Greek mythology, a CYCLOPS is a giant with one eye in the middle of its forehead.

COLOSSAL SQUID have the largest eyes in the animal kingdom.

New Zealand's TUATARA has a third eye on the top of its head, concealed beneath a thin covering of scales and pigment.

"CUATRO-OJOS" – the four-eyed fish – is a South American fish that can see above and below the water at the same time!

Most spiders have eight eyes, but some, like the RECLUSE SPIDER, have six eyes.

A tiny marine creature called the OPABINIA, which lived 500 million years ago in what is now Canada, had five mushroom-shaped eyes.

The words BALL, GLASS, SORE and LID can all be added to EYE to make a new word. Which body part can be added to the following to make a new word?

1) CHAIR, REST, PIT, BANDS, HOLE and FORE
2) BASKET, SHAKE, FIRST, UNDER and CLAP
3) LOCKER, BRIDGE, BALL, STEP and WORK
4) SCARF, ACHE, MAST, LIGHTS and STONE
5) WASH, WATERING, PIECE and LOUD

Answers: 1) ARM 2) HAND 3) FOOT 4) HEAD 5) MOUTH

Can you work out the following words that contain an EYE?

a) Failed to follow a command: _ _ _ _ _ E Y E _

b) Traveled somewhere: _ _ _ _ _ E Y E _

c) Carefully examined an area: _ _ _ _ E Y E _

Answers: a) DISOBEYED b) JOURNEYED c) SURVEYED

Slylock Fox

Today is the Forestville Bowling Tournament. Kolton Kangaroo is the star bowler in the league, and his team is playing Shady Shrew's team. Shady told Kolton to rush home because he heard that his newborn son hopped out of his mother's pouch and is lost. Will Slylock Fox be forming a search party?

Solution -- No, Slylock advised Kolton to ignore Shady. The shrew is lying. Newborn kangaroos are about the size of a grape and cannot hop. They remain in the pouch for 6-9 months.

SNACKS
CASH ONLY
CRIKEY!! NOT LITTLE DAYMION!!
Let's Bowl!
TIME'S A' WASTIN'!
KOLTON
SHADY
WEBER/SMITH

HOW TO DRAW a dog in a car

5-26

YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Evan

Submit your drawing to www.slylockfox.com

Which of the following baby animals is called a joey?

a) Kangaroo
b) Hedgehog
c) Possum
d) Weasel
e) Koala

TOAD IS NOT ON THE LIST!

Answer -- a) c) e)

Spot six differences between these panels.

Answer -- Flame, head lump, branch, bush, cord and beaver.

Have fun solving a new comic puzzle every day at www.slylockfox.com

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Hank Ketcham's Dennis the Menace

PRESSURE POINT

www.comicskingdom.com

OH! YOU'RE HOME!

HOW DID YOUR DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT GO?

R. Ketcham and/or Ketcham 5-26

HE WANTS ME TO HAVE A STRESS TEST.

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DID YOU SCHEDULE IT?

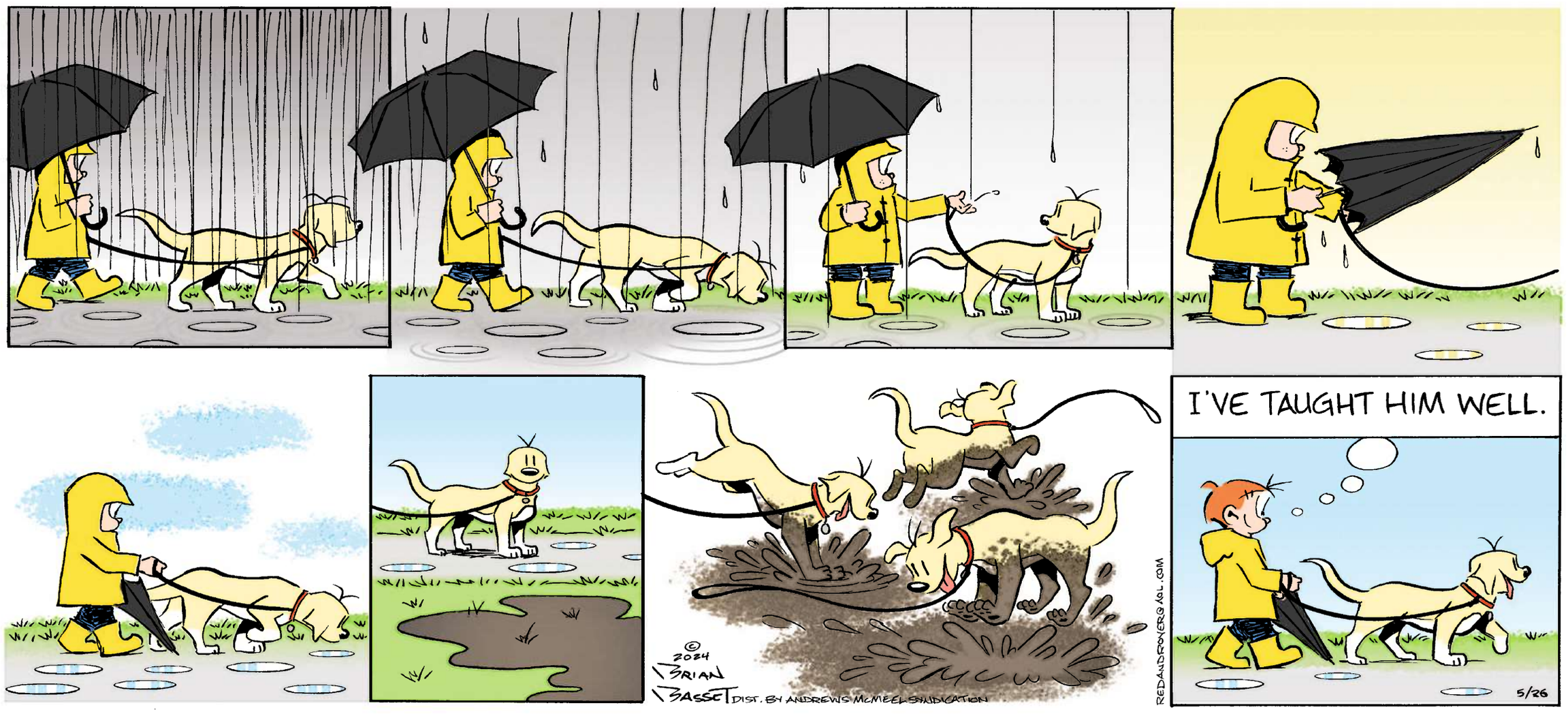
I DON'T THINK IT'S NECESSARY.

YOU'RE BACK!

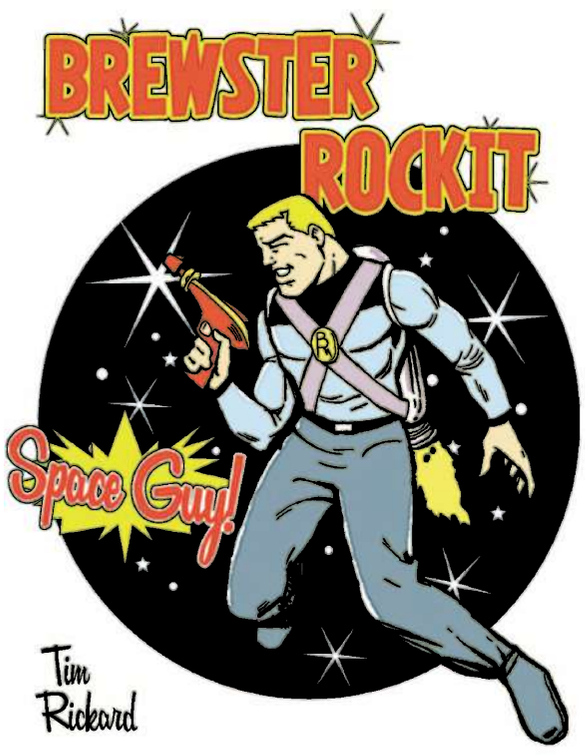
I HAVE ONE LIVING RIGHT NEXT DOOR.

RED AND ROVER

By Brian Basset

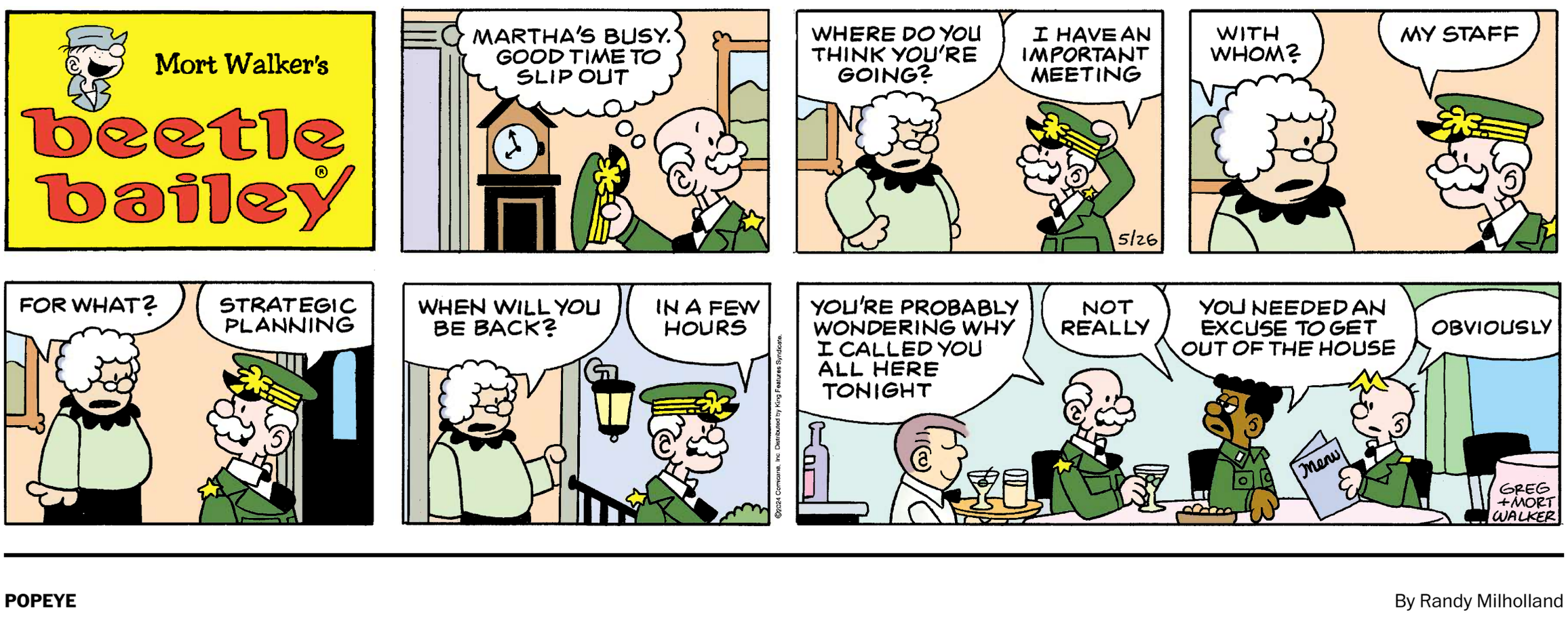


BREWSTER ROCKIT



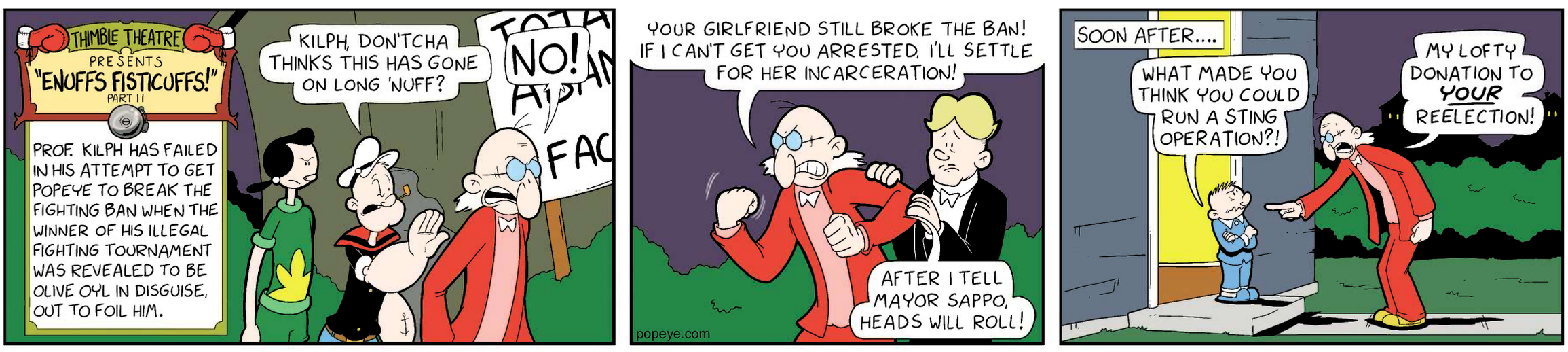


BEETLE BAILEY



POPEYE

By Randy Milholland





SAMURAI SUDOKU

(c) www.djape.net

7								5
		2		5		3		
4			3		8			1
2	9		1		5		3	4
	8						5	
3	5		7		2		1	8
1			5		9			
		9		1				
5								

4								7
		6		2		1		
2			6		4			9
3	4		2		6		7	8
	8						9	
7	9		4		8		1	2
			7		2			1
				4		9		
								5

			2	1		8		6
				8				
			6	3		5		7

						6		3
						7		
						5	3	

5								
		9		7				
1			6		4			
3	2		8		1		4	7
	5						1	
9	8		5		7		2	3
4			7		3			5
		5		8		1		
8								6

								4
1	5		4		3		6	7
	3						9	
9	6		5		2		4	3
5			9		1			4
		3		6		9		
8								1

Level of Difficulty: 4 (on a scale of 0-5)

How to Play

The rules of Samurai Sudoku are the same as in the popular Sudoku puzzles that appear in the daily comics section.

As with standard Sudoku, the Samurai version requires no math, just logic, reasoning ... and an iron will. The goal is to fill in each column, row and 3X3 box with the digits 1 through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles.

A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus completely on one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another. What's important to understand is this: Each Samurai puzzle is ONE puzzle, not five separate Sudoku puzzles that just overlap each other. Occasionally people claim that, for example, the "bottom right" 9X9 puzzle had more than one solution. Well, yes it may, but the entire puzzle can be solved in only one way. Never resort to guessing! For more tips, go to http://www.djape.net/sudoku/wp/?p=144.

Last Sunday's Solution

4	5	6	8	9	1	3	2	7
8	1	3	2	6	7	4	5	9
9	2	7	4	5	3	8	6	1
1	7	9	3	4	2	5	8	6
6	4	8	9	1	5	7	3	2
2	3	5	6	7	8	1	9	4
7	8	4	5	2	6	9	1	3
3	6	1	7	8	9	2	4	5
5	9	2	1	3	4	6	7	8

3	5	1	2	4	6	7	8	9
4	8	6	5	9	7	2	1	3
7	2	9	3	8	1	4	6	5
5	3	4	8	7	9	6	2	1
8	1	2	4	6	5	3	9	7
9	6	7	1	3	2	8	5	4
2	4	5	6	1	3	9	7	8
6	7	8	9	5	4	1	3	2
1	9	3	7	2	8	5	4	6

			7	5	6	3	8	4
			4	3	1	5	9	2
			8	2	9	6	7	1

6	4	3	5	7	9	1	8	2
5	7	9	8	2	1	3	6	4
8	2	1	6	4	3	5	9	7
4	1	6	3	8	7	2	5	9
2	8	5	9	1	6	4	7	3
3	9	7	4	5	2	6	1	8
1	3	4	7	6	8	9	2	5
7	5	2	1	9	4	8	3	6
9	6	8	2	3	5	7	4	1

3	5	1	2	4	6	7	8	9
4	8	6	5	9	7	2	1	3
7	2	9	3	8	1	4	6	5
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2	4	5	1	9	3	7	2	8	5	4	6

2	5	1	3	8	9	4	6	7
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9	6	7	5	4	1	3	8	2
4	2	6	3	1	8	5	9	7
1	3	8	2	9	7	6	4	5

CLASSIC PEANUTS

By Charles Schulz

SUMMER HVAC SPECIAL



Schedule A FREE In-Home Estimate
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NEW SYSTEMS
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Expires 30 days after mailing. Exclusions Apply. Call for Details

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$39 A/C Service, Cleaning, Tune-Up

Plus Next Years Heating & A/C Maintenance, Cleaning

$39 for Initial Visit with purchase of next years Maintenance agreement ($20/mo) per full system.

Regular price for this package is $603

Exclusive to New Members Only Expires 30 days after mailing. Exclusions Apply. Call for Details

HOW A NEW SYSTEM COULD PAY FOR ITSELF

- ✓ Lower Gas & Electric Bills
- ✓ Increase Value of your home
- ✓ Exclusive 15 Year Warranty
- ✓ Repairs on older systems can be as high as $2,900

FREE AIR CONDITIONER

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GOOD
FREE AIR CONDITIONER

18,000 BTU - ML



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EFFICIENCY ★★★★☆



Constant Torque - 1 Stage

as low as **$59** per month

BETTER
FREE AIR CONDITIONER

18,000 BTU -ML



WITH PURCHASE OF FURNACE, COIL, T-STAT

EFFICIENCY ★★★★☆



Variable Speed - 1 Stage

as low as **$78** per month

BEST
FREE AIR CONDITIONER

18,000 BTU -EL



WITH PURCHASE OF FURNACE, COIL, T-STAT

EFFICIENCY ★★★★☆



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AMAZING
FREE AIR CONDITIONER

24,000 BTU - XC



WITH PURCHASE OF FURNACE, COIL, T-STAT

EFFICIENCY ★★★★★



Communicating - 2 Stage

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- ✓ Lower Gas & Electric Bills
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- ✓ Exclusive 15 Year Warranty
- ✓ Repairs on older systems can be as high as $2,900

FREE AIR CONDITIONER

BBB A+ rating — 4.8 ★★★★★ 3,212 Reviews

GOOD
FREE AIR CONDITIONER

18,000 BTU - ML



WITH PURCHASE OF FURNACE, COIL, T-STAT

EFFICIENCY ★★★★☆



Constant Torque - 1 Stage

as low as **$59** per month

BETTER
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18,000 BTU -ML



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EFFICIENCY ★★★★☆



Variable Speed - 1 Stage

as low as **$78** per month

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Constant Torque - 2 Stage

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AMAZING
FREE AIR CONDITIONER

24,000 BTU - XC



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EFFICIENCY ★★★★★



Communicating - 2 Stage

as low as **$109** per month

SAVE UP TO $3000
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A/C TUNE UP
$39 $39 for Initial Visit with purchase of next years Maintenance agreement ($20/mo) per full system. Regular price for this package is $603.00

A/C Service, Cleaning & Tune-Up
Next years A/C Maintenance & Cleaning

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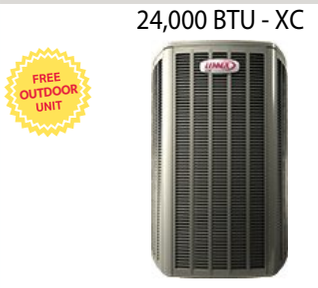


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starting at **$59** PER MONTH
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- Super Efficient Hybrid Systems
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A/C TUNE -UP

$39 A/C Service, Cleaning, Tune-Up

Plus Next Years Heating & A/C Maintenance, Cleaning

$39 for Initial Visit with purchase of next years Maintenance agreement ($20/mo) per full system.

Regular price for this package is $603

Exclusive to New Members Only — Expires 30 days after mailing. Exclusions Apply. Call for Details

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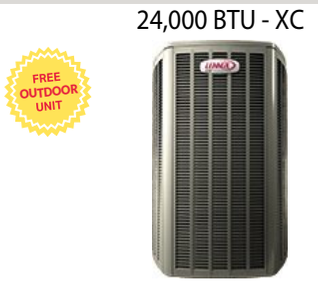


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