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**Subject:** Vice Presidential News Clips for Thursday, October 23, 2014

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TO: THE VICE PRESIDENT AND STAFF

DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2014 -- 6:15 AM EDT

-----TODAY'S EDITION-----

#### BIDEN IN THE NEWS:

- + Biden In Illinois: Each Vote For Democrats Crucial (AP)
- + Biden Tries To Give Democrats Boost In Suburbs (CHIT)
- + Vice President Joe Biden Comes To Vernon Hills For Democratic Rally (CHIST)
- + Hundreds Fill Vernon Hills Gym To See Vice President Joe Biden (CHIDH)
- + Biden Denounces 'Cockamamie' Republican Values At Vernon Hills Rally (LAKECNTY)
- + Vice President Joe Biden Comes To Vernon Hills For Democratic Rally (LINCNR)
- + Vice President Joe Biden To Return To Illinois (AP)
- + Vice President Joe Biden Campaigns In Illinois (WLSTV)
- + Biden To Campaign Monday With Braley (DMR)
- + Biden To Campaign For Braley Next Week In Iowa (WHOTV)
- + Biden Will Be In Davenport Monday To 'Encourage All Iowans To Vote Early' (DMR)
- + Vice President Biden To Be In Davenport Next Week (WATCEDFA)
- + Vice President Biden To Promote Early Voting During Visit Quad Cities (WQADTV)
- + VP Joe Biden Endorses Long Shot Democrat McClelland Over Rothfus (PITTCITP)
- + Here's Exactly How Great Joe Biden's Amtrak Love Affair Is For The Planet (SALON)
- + The Bidens Are Not Like Us (CHIT)
- + The Women In The World Texas Forum (DAYBEST)
- + Powerful Voices And Inspiration At Women In The World Texas (SACURR)
- + Famous Females Gather In SA For Women In The World Texas Conference (KSATTV)
- + Obama, Biden Press Secretaries Bet On World Series (USAT)



#### NEW YORK TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST OP-EDS:

- + The Fed At The Crossroads (NYT)
- + A Verdict On Blackwater (NYT)
- + The Times Recommends Re-electing Eric Schneiderman And Thomas DiNapoli (NYT)
- + Women's Issues Dominate 2014 Campaigns (NYT)
- + Yan Lianke On Writing In China (NYT)
- + The Battle For Gay Rights In Rural America (NYT)
- + The Ben Bradlee Who Hired Me - Finally (NYT)
- + Retweet If You're Grieving - NYTimes.com (NYT)
- + How To Defeat Ebola (NYT)
- + Azerbaijan's Increasingly Intolerant Regime (NYT)
- + Turkey's New Kurdish Problem (NYT)
- + Military Success Has Bred Popular Support For The Islamic State (WP)
- + The Post's Endorsements For Montgomery County House And Senate Elections (WP)
- + Ben Bradlee's Relentless Presumption Turned My Life Around (WP)
- + Raises Right Around The Corner? (WP)
- + IBM's Big Blues (WP)
- + George Will: Restoration Of Senate's Dignity Rides On Mitch McConnell (WP)
- + The Politics Of Ebola (WP)
- + Alison Lundergan Grimes Finally Goes Off-script (WP)

#### WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL STORIES:

- + Delaware Candidates Discuss Pressing Issues In Dover (WILNJ)
- + Expenses Questioned In Audit Of Marydel Fire Company (WILNJ)
- + For Top State Teacher, Class Is A Performance (WILNJ)
- + For Horse Owner, First Help, Then Criminal Charges (WILNJ)
- + FedEx Distribution Center Ready To Open (WILNJ)
- + Delaware Subdivision Plantings Win Blue Ribbon (WILNJ)

#### WILMINGTON JOURNAL NEWS EDITORIALS:

- + Congratulate Delaware's Teacher Of The Year (WILNJ)
  - + Oyster Farming Industry Would Harm Inland Bays (WILNJ)
  - + Voter Eligibility Isn't Based On Gender, Age (WILNJ)
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#### BIDEN IN THE NEWS:

##### BIDEN IN ILLINOIS: EACH VOTE FOR DEMOCRATS CRUCIAL (AP)

By Kerry Lester

Associated Press, October 23, 2014

VERNON HILLS, Ill. (AP) - Vice President Joe Biden pressed Illinois voters Wednesday to rally behind Democrats during the approaching election, calling each vote crucial to advancing the party's progress in health care, education and women's rights.

The vice president headlined a rally in suburban Vernon Hills in support of Democratic Congressman Brad Schneider, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin and Gov. Pat Quinn. Schneider is battling Republican Bob Dold to retain his 10th District seat.

Biden's stop is the latest evidence of the attention Illinois' close congressional races are receiving from national interests, including campaign donations and high-level visits. It follows an announcement that former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg would spend \$1.9 million on television ads supporting Dold - by far the largest outside expenditure in the race so far. Illinois Republicans are aiming to reinforce GOP control of the U.S. House by reversing their losses from 2012 in the state's congressional races, when they were nearly swept in every competitive race. Democrats currently outnumber Republicans 12-6 in the state's House delegation.

"If we lose more ground in the House, the very progress we're making is going to come to a



screeching halt," Biden told hundreds packed into a community center. "Even if we win (the presidency) in 2016, we're starting back at square one. A lot of people's lives depend on this election."

Biden plans a return trip to Illinois next week, when he will stump in Rockford for Democratic Rep. Cheri Bustos in a rematch with her 2012 Republican opponent, pizza shop owner Bobby Schilling. Schneider, of Deerfield, is seeking a second term. He faces a rematch from Dold of Kenilworth, for the seat held for a decade by now-U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk, a Republican. Schneider won the 2012 race by slightly more than 1 percentage point, in a year when President Barack Obama topping the ticket was credited to boosted Democratic turnout.

In an off-year election, with a tight governor's race between Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn and Republican Bruce Rauner, Republicans feel they have a good shot at reclaiming Kirk's former seat.

Also competitive is the race in southern Illinois' 12th Congressional District, where Democratic first-term incumbent Bill Enyart faces 20-year Republican state lawmaker Mike Bost, and the 13th District in central Illinois, where Republican Rep. Rodney Davis faces former Madison County judge Ann Callis, a Democrat.

The Dold-Schneider race, which stretches along much of Chicago's wealthy northern suburbs, has quickly become one of the most expensive congressional contests. Records show Schneider has raked in about \$4 million this cycle, compared to Dold's \$2.9 million, with outside groups including Bloomberg's jumping in and spending millions on ads.

Both candidates have tilted toward the center and attempted to paint the other as partisan in an attempt to net moderate, independent voters who could swing the race either way. Dold supports abortion rights, as does Schneider. Both favor raising the federal minimum wage, and have made statements backing gun control - with Dold's support of what he calls "reasonable gun control restrictions" making him one of several moderate candidates on both sides of the aisle supported by Bloomberg's group.

Republicans dismissed Biden's visit Wednesday, saying Dold was spending his time getting to know voters in the district.

"Rather than spending his time with party bosses, Bob Dold is focused on listening to voters about the challenges they are facing and sharing his commitment to putting people ahead of politics," spokeswoman Danielle Hagen said.

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Follow Kerry Lester on Twitter at ><http://twitter.com/kerrylester><

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## BIDEN TRIES TO GIVE DEMOCRATS BOOST IN SUBURBS (CHIT)

By Michelle Manchir

Chicago Tribune, October 23, 2014

Vice President Joe Biden campaigned in Lake County on Wednesday, trying to boost Democratic prospects in races for U.S. Senate, governor and Congress.

"It's not 2016, it's today," Biden told the cheering crowd, offering a warning about Republicans: "If they take control of the Senate, if we lose more ground in the House, the very progress we're making (is) going to come to a screeching halt."

Biden spoke to hundreds of supporters in hoodies and windbreakers packed on a basketball court inside a Vernon Hills community center.

The open-to-the-public event was billed as a rally for Gov. Pat Quinn, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, Rep. Brad Schneider who seeks a second term in the 10th Congressional District in a rematch against former Republican Rep. Robert Dold.

Appearing on a platform with Durbin, Schneider and Quinn's running mate, Paul Vallas, Biden told the crowd about his close ties with the governor.

"You know why I like Gov. Quinn so much? His mother says I'm the best-looking Irishman she knows," Biden joked.

Quinn did not attend the rally, however. An aide said the governor had no public schedule. The rare absence of Quinn from the public eye came the same day a federal judge granted a request by a Chicago attorney to appoint a monitor to oversee hiring at the Illinois Department of



Transportation. The move dealt an ethics blow to Quinn less than two weeks before Election Day. The vice president praised Durbin, who worked with Biden for years in the U.S. Senate, saying Durbin's among the senators with the most "gumption."

"He's always there. Sometimes when no one else has the courage to stand up," Biden said.

Durbin faces Republican state Sen. Jim Oberweis in the Nov. 4 election.

Most of Biden's remarks centered around what he said are the Republican initiatives that are dwindling away at the American middle class.

"This is not your father's Republican Party," he said to the crowd, holding signs that said "fired up ready to vote!"

After arriving more than a half hour late to the event, Biden stayed for several minutes after his remarks, posing for photos and signing autographs.

With less than two weeks until Election Day, the vice president's visit is one in a revolving door of political celebrities visiting the state to back the candidates for governor. Former President Bill Clinton campaigned with Quinn on Tuesday, while New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie headlined a Rockford rally with GOP candidate Bruce Rauner.

First Lady Michelle Obama and former Secretary of State and possible presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton helped raise money for Quinn earlier this month.

Biden is scheduled to return on Monday for a Democratic rally in Rockford.

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## VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN COMES TO VERNON HILLS FOR DEMOCRATIC RALLY (CHIST)

By Rick Kambic

Chicago Sun-Times, October 22, 2014

A vital need to preserve and rebuild the middle class appeared to be the message most people took away from Vice President Joe Biden's Oct. 22 visit to Vernon Hills.

Biden headlined a rally at the Sullivan Community Center to urge independents and moderate Democrats to reelect U.S. Rep. Brad Schneider, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and Illinois Governor Pat Quinn.

He told the hundreds of people gathered at the event that his single biggest mission in office is to restore the middle class, and that Schneider, Durbin and Quinn could help in that goal.

More on Biden's speech: Vice President denounces 'cockamamie' Republican values

"A top-down priority is not sustainable and will ultimately hurt even the Republicans who are pushing this," Biden said. "This is not your father's Republican Party. They say the same things, but they don't value the same thing in actions."

Being middle class means owning your own house, not worrying about replacing the tires on your cars and being able to see your kids before going to bed, Biden said. Keeping healthcare and college education affordable to everyone were also key points in his speech.

"The message about the middle class was very well spoken by both Vice President Biden and Congressman Schneider," said Sheila Olsen of Grayslake. "I consider myself fortunate that I haven't suffered through what some of my friends have. They are just what Mr. Biden said - they went to work, they worked hard, they did what they were told, and yet they were hurt by decisions made far above their heads. They did nothing wrong."

Olsen said she believes that Schneider's opponent, Bob Dold, originally campaigned against raising the minimum wage, then flipped his stance while at certain events.

"It's disingenuous," Olsen said. "He just wants the vote. He voted 28 times to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and then later said he was trying to revise and fix it. He won't help us."

Matt Brackett of Glenview also agreed with Biden's analyses of the middle class.

"I think Biden's description of the middle class was spot on," Brackett said. "It's a major issue, and he's right, America has promise if we're not standing in our own way."

Brackett said he attended the event to support Schneider, but is also curious about Quinn because he and his wife are living off a teacher's pension that could be altered by pending reform bills.

"We worked hard our whole life and fulfilled our end of the bargain," Brackett said.

Jerry Vigue of Libertyville said he agreed with Biden's statements that the disparity between the country's "top 1 percent" and the rest of the population had grown wider than ever.

"He made a great point about the income inequality," said Vigue. "It's infuriating to see some of



these millionaires continue to make bigger and bigger profits, without investing in or rewarding the people who got them there."

But the rally wasn't completely full of the already-converted.

A crew of students from Stevenson High School attended the event as an activity for their politics club. George Vasilyev, a senior from Vernon Hills, said his family is pretty conservative and supported President George W. Bush, but that he's open to learning about both sides.

Will Lucas, a junior at Vernon Hills High School, was another story. Lucas said he was permitted to enter the building and later decided to put a quarter-inch "Bob Dold" pin on his shirt. Lucas said he didn't say a word to anyone, and was randomly approached by staff member and asked to leave.

"I spent all of yesterday reaching out to my teachers telling them I'd be taking off school to immerse myself in politics, and now I won't be able to," Lucas said, admitting that he's also recently volunteered with Dold's campaign. "I came here on my own, they didn't send me. I'm 16 years old; it's not very often the vice president of the United States comes to your hometown. Of course I'd want to see him."

Representatives from Schneider's campaign could not confirm or deny that Lucas' story.

But Lucas wasn't alone when he left the Sullivan Center just as the guest speakers first started.

Eric Hjerpe of Vernon Hills lives behind the community center and decided to stand on the sidewalk holding a Dold sign.

Hjerpe said his retirement healthcare company is raising their rates by 40 percent and he might have to sign up for healthcare under the Affordable Care Act until he qualifies for Medicare in 2017.

"I wrote to Schneider two times in recent months and he never got back to me," Hjerpe said. "I was worried about losing my regular doctor under Obamacare. His literature says I won't, but my research says I will."

About a week ago, Hjerpe said he got an email from Durbin about his healthcare options.

"I didn't reach out to Durbin," Hjerpe said. "Who else is Schneider giving my letters to? And why can't he call his constituents and answer questions about something he voted for?"

Throughout the speeches and pre-rally socializing, snipers from the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System, a consortium of police departments, were watching from undisclosed locations, while Secret Service agents with dogs searched cars and bags.

The Secret Service inspected the Sullivan Center for four days leading up to the rally. No security incidents occurred, though one woman did faint from the heat in the gymnasium.

## HUNDREDS FILL VERNON HILLS GYM TO SEE VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN (CHIDH)

By Russell Lissau

Chicago Daily Herald, October 22, 2014

Vernon Hills resident T.J. Marciniak was so excited to see Vice President Joe Biden speak Wednesday in his hometown, he got to the Sullivan Community Center more than three hours before the doors opened to ensure a good spot in the audience.

"It's not something that happens every day," said Marciniak, who was joined by his brother and a friend. "We wanted to be up front and center."

An estimated 750 people packed the Sullivan Center's gym Wednesday afternoon for Biden's appearance, part of a rally for three Democrats on the Nov. 4 ballot: U.S. Rep. Brad Schneider, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin and Paul Vallas, who's running for lieutenant governor as Gov. Pat Quinn's mate.

It was the vice president's first visit to Lake County since taking office.

Round Lake resident Sara Madlock Coleman was one of the first people outside the Sullivan Center on Wednesday, too.

She was accompanied by her mother, Cynthia Madlock, and her 11-year-old daughter, Cyndi.

"I wanted to show her how the system works," she said of Cyndi, a sixth grader at Big Hollow Middle School. "I wanted her to have an idea of the issues going on."

Libertyville residents Greg and Karen Drecoll also attended the rally.

"You don't very often get to see the vice president of the United States," Greg Drecoll said.

It's not the couple's first brush with Washington elite. Decades ago, they were in New York City and saw then-President Richard Nixon's motorcade drive by.

"I was never a fan, but it was still a thrill to see a president," Drecoll said.



The Secret Service and suburban police departments provided security at the event, limiting traffic on Aspen Drive and checking vehicles and people for potential threats. Crews from the local Countryside Fire Protection District were on hand for any emergencies. When a woman near the stage became ill during Biden's remarks, they quickly took her outside for a health evaluation.

"It's very exciting and truly an honor for us to serve and protect the vice president," Chief Jeff Steingart said.

The Vernon Hills venue was chosen to highlight Schneider's campaign. It's in the 10th Congressional District, where Schneider - a freshman lawmaker from Deerfield - is running a tight re-election race against Republican challenger Robert Dold of Kenilworth.

Dold spent part of Wednesday making calls to potential voters at his headquarters in Libertyville, a campaign spokeswoman said. He also walked and talked with people in Buffalo Grove, Libertyville and Northbrook and did some interviews, the spokeswoman said.

## BIDEN DENOUNCES 'COCKAMAMIE' REPUBLICAN VALUES AT VERNON HILLS RALLY (LAKECNTY)

By Steve Sadin

Lake County (IL) News-Sun, October 22, 2014

Calling Republican values "cockamamie," Vice President Joe Biden laid out an agenda to restore the middle class and praised the efforts of Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Springfield) and Rep. Brad Schneider (D-Deerfield) in Vernon Hills Wednesday, Oct. 22.

Biden deplored the rising income inequality in the United States and blamed Republican ideas for the problem during an early voting rally that drew more than 800 people to the Sullivan Recreation Center, 635 Aspen Drive.

Criticizing Republican plans to turn Medicare into a voucher system and cut funding for education and other programs, Biden condemned the GOP's budget proposals.

More coverage and photos of Biden's visit.

"Show me your budget and I'll show you your values," he said, before going into attack mode.

"These guys believe it. These guys mean what they say. As cockamamie as it sounds, they believe it."

Talking about his own vision for the country, Biden spoke of the need to give people the opportunity for a good education without creating so much debt they cannot enjoy a middle class lifestyle.

"Middle class means people should be able to send their children to a good high school so, if they do well, they can send them to college and not be in debt," Biden said. "No more than 10 percent of a person's disposable income should be used to repay college loans," he added, praising Schneider for his vote on the issue.

Biden also criticized the growing disparity between the compensation of the people at the top of the corporate world and those who work for them. He said it ran contrary not only to his party's values but also to the values Republicans once held.

"We used to have a basic bargain in this country," Biden said. "When the company you worked for did well you got to share. The Republicans believed that too."

When Ronald Reagan was president, Biden said the average CEO earned 45 times more than the company's average employee - but today, that same CEO makes on average 331 times more.

"Standard and Poor's warns if this continues it will hurt the economy," he added.

While the income gap has grown, Biden said it has also become harder for Americans to attain and remain in the middle class. Citing Standard and Poor's again, Biden said the increase in middle class wages over the last 20 years is just 14 cents in today's dollars.

Schneider echoed Biden's concern for the middle class in his remarks before the vice president spoke. He talked about his hope not only for today's middle class but also for those who want to achieve that status in the future.

He also spoke of his commitment to improvements that health care reform has brought to the country.

"We can never go back to the day when a preexisting condition meant you would lose your health care," Schneider said.

While the crowd was waiting for Biden, Durbin, Schneider and Illinois lieutenant governor



candidate Paul Vallas to arrive, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan stepped up to podium. She listed three things she liked most about Schneider: his commitment to the environment, his passion for women's rights and his manner as a public servant. In particular, she recounted Schneider's appearance at an event she attended commemorating the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht.

"He didn't just get up for his five minutes like (so many) politicians," Madigan said. "He stayed for the entire event. When it was his turn, he spoke passionately."

#### VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN COMES TO VERNON HILLS FOR DEMOCRATIC RALLY (LINCNR)

By Rick Kambic

Lincolnshire (IL) Review, October 22, 2014

Speaking at a rally in Vernon Hills Wednesday, Oct. 22, Vice President Joe Biden told voters that "people's lives depend on this election."

Biden arrived around 4:00 p.m. at the Sullivan Center for the event supporting Rep. Brad Schneider, Sen. Dick Durbin and Paul Vallas, who is campaigning for lieutenant governor alongside incumbent Gov. Pat Quinn.

He told the nearly 1,000 people gathered at the event that his single biggest mission in office was to restore the middle class, and that Schneider, Durbin and Quinn could help in that goal.

More on Biden's speech: Vice President denounces 'cockamamie' Republican values

Being middle class means owning your own house, not worrying about replacing the tires on your cars and being able to see your kids before bed, Biden said.

But most people are "not optimistic," he added.

He placed the blame squarely on the GOP.

"This is not your father's Republican Party," he said. "They say the same things, but they don't value the same thing in actions."

"They say college is important, but they take away the PELL grant," he continued. "27,000 college students could drop out if that grant is cut."

He also noted the increasing disparity in income in the United States.

"A top-down priority is not sustainable and will ultimately hurt even the Republicans who are pushing this," Biden said.

The Secret Service spent hours sweeping the Sullivan Center and its surroundings before the event, and no parking was allowed overnight last night.

We will update this story as we get more information. Follow @VernonHillsPPN, @Rick\_Kambic and @sadinsteve for live updates from the scene.

#### VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN TO RETURN TO ILLINOIS (AP)

Associated Press, October 23, 2014

ROCKFORD, Ill. (AP) - Vice President Joe Biden is planning a second trip to Illinois, this time to campaign for Gov. Pat Quinn, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin and Democratic U.S. House candidates.

Both Quinn's and U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos' campaigns say the vice president is expected to headline an early voting rally in Rockford Oct. 27.

The announcement follows Biden's planned visit Wednesday to the Chicago suburb of Vernon Hills to support Democratic U.S. Rep. Brad Schneider in his race against Republican Bob Dold. Bustos is in a race with Republican Bobby Schilling in Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Quinn is in a tight re-election bid with GOP challenger Bruce Rauner (ROW'-nur) and Durbin faces Republican Jim Oberweis.

Biden is one of many big-name Democrats in Illinois in recent days.

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#### VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN CAMPAIGNS IN ILLINOIS (WLSTV)

WLS-TV Chicago, October 23, 2014

VERNON HILLS, Ill. (WLS) -

Vice President Joe Biden is in the Chicago area Wednesday night to help raise funds for and support area Democrats, including Senator Dick Durbin.



The vice president was over an hour late for an event in suburban Vernon Hills because he said he was being briefed on the Canadian shooting situation. Once he arrived, he was joined on stage by Senator Durbin, 10th District Congressman Brad Schneider, as well as Paul Vallas, Governor Pat Quinn's running mate.

The re-match race between Schneider and challenger Bob Dold has been closely watched nationwide. Millions of dollars are flowing in from outside the district and state. Schneider is hoping a campaign visit from Vice President Biden will help rally the Democratic troops.

Schneider reminded the audience that he won his last election against Dold by just 1 percent, and Biden reminded the audience what Dold stood for when he was in Congress.

"They say they care, yet they opposed when Brad supported cutting the interest rate debt owed by student debt, they opposed it," Biden said.

"Elections like these where every phone call, every door knocked, every single vote makes a difference," Schneider said.

Dold said there is a stark difference between his campaign. While Schneider brings insiders, Dold said he is being endorsed by 27 mayors in the 10th District.

"The Democrats have pulled up stakes in a lot of different races and tried to bring it back in here to try to buy their way out of this election and frankly we're not going to have it," Dold said. "I think what the voters are looking for is that thoughtful, independent leadership, they're looking for people to work together to end the gridlock and solve problems, and that's exactly what I'm going to do."

Biden will be attending a fundraiser in Chicago Wednesday night at the home of David Axelrod.

The vice president will be back in Illinois on Monday, when he will attend another campaign event in Rockford with Durbin and Quinn.

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#### BIDEN TO CAMPAIGN MONDAY WITH BRALEY (DMR)

By Jennifer Jacobs

Des Moines (IA) Register, October 23, 2014

Joe Biden will do a public rally with U.S. Senate candidate Bruce Braley on Monday.

Vice President Joe Biden will do a public rally with Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Bruce Braley in Davenport on Monday where he will "encourage all Iowans to vote early," Braley campaign aides say.

Details on the time and location of the event are forthcoming, a Braley campaign news release says.

Biden was last in Iowa a month ago.

On that visit, he didn't do a public campaign rally for Braley, who is struggling to overcome a fierce challenge from Republican Joni Ernst for Democrat Tom Harkin's open U.S. Senate seat.

Instead, Biden helped kick off a 10-state voter turnout tour for a liberal group called Nuns on the Bus.

Braley, a 56-year-old courtroom lawyer who has served in Congress since 2007, has recruited a number of high-profile Democrats to campaign for him in Iowa in the final stretch before the Nov. 4 election. First lady Michelle Obama has appeared twice. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is also reported to be on her way to Iowa.

- Jennifer Jacobs

#### BIDEN TO CAMPAIGN FOR BRALEY NEXT WEEK IN IOWA (WHOTV)

WHO-TV Des Moines (IA), October 22, 2014

DAVENPORT, Iowa - Vice President Joe Biden is coming back to Iowa next week.

Organizers say Biden will be in Davenport on Monday to campaign for U.S. Senate Candidate Bruce Braley. It's one of the several stops Biden is expected to make in the Midwest.

The event will be open to the public but the details are still being worked out.

The Vice President was just in Iowa last month. He went to the Statehouse in Des Moines to help a group called "Nuns on the Bus" kick off a tour.

#### BIDEN WILL BE IN DAVENPORT MONDAY TO 'ENCOURAGE ALL IOWANS TO VOTE EARLY' (DMR)



By Jennifer Jacobs

Des Moines (IA) Register, October 22, 2014

Vice President Joe Biden will do a public rally with Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Bruce Braley in Davenport on Monday where he will "encourage all Iowans to vote early," Braley campaign aides say.

Details on the time and location of the event are forthcoming, a Braley campaign news release says.

Biden was last in Iowa a month ago. On that visit, he didn't do a public campaign rally for Braley, who is struggling to overcome a fierce challenge from Republican Joni Ernst for Democrat Tom Harkin's open U.S. Senate seat. Instead, Biden helped kick off a 10-state voter turnout tour for a liberal group called "Nuns on the Bus."

Braley, a 56-year-old courtroom lawyer who has served in Congress since 2007, has recruited a number of high-profile Democrats to campaign for him in Iowa in the final stretch before the Nov. 4 election.

First lady Michelle Obama has appeared twice. (WHO-TV's Dave Price reported late last night that the White House transcript on Obama's event on Tuesday referred to Braley as a candidate for governor. Days earlier, the first lady called the congressman "Bruce Bailey" several times, and a month earlier, former President Bill Clinton also botched Braley's name during an Iowa trip.)

Obama opened her speech

in Iowa City Tuesday by acknowledging that she misspoke and saying she often mixes up her own daughters' names, as well. She urged Braley backers to vote early; Democrats need to bank a hefty cache of early votes to overcome the traditional GOP voter turnout advantage on Election Day.

One politician who has not come to Braley's aid is President Barack Obama. Fifty-two percent of Iowa likely voters think Obama's support does more to hurt Braley than help him, The Register/Bloomberg Politics Iowa Poll in early October found.

Forty-four percent of Iowa likely voters have a favorable view Biden, a potential 2016 presidential candidate, but 51 percent have a negative opinion of him, the poll found.

Aides in the Office of the Vice President said Biden, after the event with Braley, will then travel to Rockford, Illinois to headline a rally for three Illinois Democrats - Gov. Pat Quinn, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin and U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos.

Read or Share this story: ><http://dmreg.co/1tL9bG9><

#### VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN TO BE IN DAVENPORT NEXT WEEK (WATCEDFA)

By Ed Tibbets

Waterloo and Cedar Falls (IA) Courier, October 23, 2014

DAVENPORT | Vice President Joe Biden will make a stop in Davenport on Monday to campaign for Democratic Senate hopeful Bruce Braley.

The details of the visit haven't been released yet, but Biden is making a swing through the Midwest next week. After the Davenport event, he will make a stop Monday in Rockford to rally support for Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-Ill.

The Davenport event will be open to the public, according to the vice president's office.

Braley, a Democratic congressman from Waterloo, is locked in a tight race for the open U.S. Senate seat in Iowa with Republican Joni Ernst, and the past few weeks have seen a flurry of visits from national political figures seeking to boost the respective campaigns.

#### VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN TO PROMOTE EARLY VOTING DURING VISIT QUAD CITIES (WQADTV)

By Shellie Nelson

WQAD-TV Davenport (IA), October 22, 2014

Vice President Joe Biden was scheduled to visit Davenport, Iowa on Monday, October 27, 2014.

The vice president was scheduled to attend a campaign event at which Iowans would be encouraged to vote early in advance of the November 4, 2014 General Election.

Early voting began in Iowa on September 25 and continued until November 3, 2014. For information about how and where you can vote early in Iowa, [click here](#).

Early voting began in Illinois on October 20 and continued until November 2, 2014. To find out how



and where you can vote early in Illinois, click here.

Related: Early voting already setting records in Scott and Rock Island counties

## VP JOE BIDEN ENDORSES LONG SHOT DEMOCRAT MCCLELLAND OVER ROTHFUS (PITTCITP)

By Charlie Deitch

Pittsburgh City Paper, October 22, 2014

The Erin McClelland campaign, which is trying to mount a challenge to incumbent tea-party Congressman Keith Rothfus, announced this afternoon an endorsement from Vice President Joe Biden.

"Erin McClelland will bring new leadership to Washington, work to create jobs, ensure equal pay for women, and expand access to affordable education," a press release quotes Biden as saying. "The people of Pennsylvania are looking for a change from this reckless Republican Congress, and Erin McClelland will always put the middle class first."

The endorsement probably won't help the McClelland campaign much: As I reported last week, the race doesn't appear to be close, even though the district was among the most competitive in the country in 2012.

What is interesting about the endorsement, though, is what it confirms about Obama's unpopularity in the district. "The McClelland people probably figure that Biden is a better surrogate for them in that district than the president is," says Kyle Kondik, a Rust Belt native with the University of Virginia Center for Politics.

Still, with just about \$50,000 cash on hand compared with Rothfus' \$1 million, "Far more valuable than an endorsement [for McClelland] would be the [Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee] putting \$2 million into Pittsburgh television," Kondik says.

The endorsement coincides with two new TV ads from team Rothfus, neither of which mention McClelland or the fact that he's running for re-election - another possible indicator Rothfus isn't expecting a strong challenge.

## HERE'S EXACTLY HOW GREAT JOE BIDEN'S AMTRAK LOVE AFFAIR IS FOR THE PLANET (SALON)

By Jamie Kilstein and Allison Kilkenny

Salon, October 22, 2014

On Tuesday, Vice President Joe Biden gave a speech on commuter issues in which he revealed a mind-blowing but not unsurprising detail about his personal travel habits:

"Now, there are a lot of rumors about how many trips I've taken on Amtrak. It's estimated that I've made roughly over 8,000 round trips. 250 miles a day. Average 210 days a year for 36 years. And the last six years since being Vice President not nearly as much."

The number is, frankly, absurdly high. And, from an sustainability standpoint, also admirable.

Biden could have opted to drive, or take a commuter plane. But he didn't. He stayed true to his first love: Amtrak. So, we decided to do some nifty math to see how Biden's romance with trains has benefitted the environment.

We chose to focus on his daily roundtrips as Delaware's senator, when he would have been making a daily roundtrip from Wilmington, Delaware, to Washington, D.C., everyday, 210 days a year. Using BeFrugal.com's travel calculator, we found that the same round trip by car would produce about 219 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions, while the plane trip would produce 314 pounds. The train trip, however, only produces 100 pounds of carbon dioxide (per capita), according to Carbonfund.org's calculator.

That means that over 8,000 round trips, Biden would have produced 2,512,000 pounds (1256 tons) by plane or 1,752,000 pounds (876 tons) by car, but his decision to devote his life and his heart to the train means that he only produced 800,000 pounds (400 tons) of carbon dioxide as a result of his grueling daily commute.

In 2009, Biden spoke of a governmental push to implement a high-speed rail system across the country: "Investing in a high-speed rail system will lower our dependence on foreign oil and the bill for a tank of gas; loosen the congestion suffocating our highways and skyways; and significantly reduce the damage we do to our planet." Indeed, relying more heavily on trains would put a serious dent in reducing emissions.



In 2010, residents of the United States produced 35,200 pounds or 17.3 tons of carbon dioxide emissions per capita, with transportation taking up about 32 percent of total U.S. emissions. The U.S. Department of Transportation has written extensively on the benefits to commuter rails and increased public transportation. One info sheet on the topic reads:

"National averages demonstrate that public transportation produces significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions per passenger mile than private vehicles. Leading the way is heavy rail transit, such as subways and metros, which produce 76 percent less in greenhouse gas emissions per passenger mile than an average single-occupancy vehicle (SOV). Light rail systems produce 62 percent less and bus transit produces 33 percent less."

If one driver per household took public transportation instead for a daily commute of 10 miles each way, they would save 4,627 pounds of carbon dioxide per household per year, which amounts to an 8.1 percent reduction per household. So, we would all do well to follow Joe's example.

#### THE BIDENS ARE NOT LIKE US (CHIT)

By Michelle Malkin

Chicago Tribune, October 22, 2014

Everything you need to know about Beltway nepotism, corporate cronyism and corruption can be found in the biography of Robert Hunter Biden.

Where are the Occupy Wall Street rabble-rousers and enemies of elitist privilege when you need them? Straining their neck muscles to look the other way.

The youngest son of Vice President Joe Biden made news last week after The Wall Street Journal revealed he had been booted from the Navy Reserve for cocaine use. His drug abuse was certainly no surprise to the Navy, which issued him a waiver for a previous drug offense before commissioning him as a public affairs officer at the age of 43. The Navy also bent over backward a second time with an age waiver so he could secure the cushy part-time job.

Papa Biden loves to tout his middle-class, "Average Joe" credentials. But rest assured, if his son had been "Hunter Smith" or "Hunter Jones" or "Hunter Brown," the Navy's extraordinary dispensations would be all but unattainable. Oh, and if he had been "Hunter Palin," The New York Times would be on its 50th front-page investigative report by now.

Despite the disgraceful ejection from our military, Hunter's Connecticut law license won't be subject to automatic review. Because, well, Biden.

Biden's bennies are not just one-offs. Skating by, flouting rules and extracting favors are the story of Hunter's life.

Hunter's first job, acquired after Joe Biden won his 1996 Senate re-election bid in Delaware, was with MBNA. That's the credit card conglomerate and top campaign finance donor that forked over nearly \$63,000 in bundled primary and general contributions from its employees to then Sen. Biden. As I've reported previously, Daddy Biden secured his custom-built, multimillion-dollar house in Delaware's ritziest Chateau Country neighborhood with the help of a leading MBNA corporate executive. Average Joe went on to carry legislative water for MBNA in the Senate for years. Hunter zoomed up to senior vice president by early 1998 and then scored a plum position in the Clinton administration's Commerce Department, specializing in "electronic commerce," before returning to MBNA three years later as a high-priced "consultant." While he collected those "consulting" (translation: nepotistic access-trading) fees, Hunter became a "founding partner" in the lobbying firm of Oldaker, Biden and Belair in 2002.

William Oldaker was Papa Biden's former fundraiser, campaign treasurer and general counsel - a Beltway barnacle whose Democratic machine days dated back to Teddy Kennedy's 1980 presidential bid. Under Oldaker's tutelage, Hunter lobbied for drug companies, universities and other deep-pocketed clients to the tune of nearly \$4 million billed to the company by 2007. Coincidentally, then-Illinois Sen. Barack Obama personally requested and secured cozy taxpayer-subsidized earmarks for several of Hunter's clients.

Hunter got himself appointed to multiple corporate board positions, including a directorship with Eudora Global. It's an investment firm founded by one Jeffrey Cooper, head of one of the biggest asbestos-litigation firms in the country. SimmonsCooper, based in Madison County, Ill., donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to Biden the Elder's various political campaigns over the past decade - all while the firm poured \$6.5 million into lobbying against a key tort-reform bill, which former Sen. Biden worked hard to defeat. Cooper also contributed to the Delaware attorney-



general campaign of Hunter's older brother, Beau, and paid Beau for legal work on lucrative asbestos-litigation cases.

Hunter also was previously a top official at Paradigm Global Advisors, a hedge fund holding company founded with Vice President Biden's brother, James, and marketed by convicted finance fraudster Allen Stanford. As Paradigm chairman, Hunter oversaw half a billion dollars of client money invested in hedge funds while remaining a lobbyist at Oldaker, Biden and Belair. Cooper chipped in \$2 million for the ill-fated venture, which went bust amid nasty fraud lawsuits. Continually failing upward, Hunter snagged a seat on the board of directors of taxpayer-subsidized, stimulus-inflated Amtrak, where he pretended not to be a lobbyist but, rather, an "effective advocate" for the government railroad system serving the 1 percenters' D.C.-NYC corridor.

So, where does a coke-abusing influence peddler go after raking in gobs of Daddy-enabled dough and abusing the U.S. Navy's ill-considered generosity? Back to Cronyland! Hunter joined Ukrainian natural gas company Burisma Holdings - owned by a powerful Russian government sympathizer who fled to Russia in February - this spring. The hypocritical lobbyist-bashers at the White House deny he will be lobbying and deny any conflict of interest.

Meanwhile, Just Like You Joe was whipping up class envy in South Carolina last week.

"Corporate profits have soared," he railed, thanks to "these guys running hedge funds in New York," who are to blame for "income inequality."

You know, like his son and brother and their Beltway back-scratching patrons.

The Bidens: They're not like us.

Washington Post

Michelle Malkin is the author of "Culture of Corruption: Obama and his Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks and Cronies"

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#### THE WOMEN IN THE WORLD TEXAS FORUM (DAYBEST)

The Daily Beast, October 22, 2014

The Women in the World Texas Forum

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Forum", "link": ">http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/10/22/the-women-in-the-world-texas-forum.html<", "image\_url": ">http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/the-women-in-the-world-texas-

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Robin Jerstad/DA Media for Women in the World

Tina Brown's live journalism event traveled to San Antonio to take on issues from honor killing to Ebola. Appearing live: Dr. Jill Biden, Gloria Steinem, Eva Longoria, Diane Von Furstenberg and many more. Read all the highlights here.

View Photos From the Texas Women in the World Forum

Jehmu Greene, Ambassador Karen Hughes, Liz Chadderdon, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison On moderator Mark McKinnon's right was a powerhouse of Texas politics-including Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison. The senator said she got into politics as a journalist, when her local party chairman invited her to run for an open seat in the Texas legislature. "I ran and won," she recounted. "It's so important that our experiences are brought to the table." Political consultant Liz Chadderdon lamented voter apathy. "When I sit out an election, that says I don't care," she said. "In two weeks, please go vote." Karen Hughes, a former advisor to President George W. Bush,



said she became attracted to the political process after realizing as a journalist how much effect policy decisions have on people. "We need more women on every level of office," said Hughes. "Women are practical and women are problem solvers." More women in office could lead to political compromise, said Jehmu Greene, founding board member of Vote Run Lead. "We are about unleashing technology and each other as peers to encourage 500,000 women to run by 2016." Women must "not just run, but win," said Chadderdon. "And winning takes guts." What about Hillary Clinton, McKinnon asked the panel. "She was a very good senator," said Republican Hutchison. "I respect her very much. I think she's very solid, and she does have the experience." Clinton needs to remember that campaigns are about voters, not candidates, said Chadderdon. "I hope she has learned she needs to speak to her audience." On Barack Obama's presidency, Hughes urged compromise between the White House and the GOP. "We desperately need that." Maile Molin

Most programs that teach English to adults have a major problem: they compete with the adult's work schedule, offer transportation difficulties or lack childcare. Maile Molin has tried to address that by bringing English-language classes to workplaces themselves as founder and director of English@Work. After Molin described her program, Sandra Phillips, vice president and deputy general council of Toyota Motor Sales, took the stage. Molin has been chosen by Toyota as a Mother of Invention. "In recognition of the remarkable work you have accomplished, and the inspiring things you know you will do in the future," Phillips said, "we are delighted to award you our Toyota Driving Solutions award in the amount of \$50,000." Molin was thrilled-and the audience rose to its feet.

Sister Rosemary Nyirumbe and Florence Modo Arukude

Moderator Alyse Nelson, CEO of the Vital Voices Global partnership introduced her as "a saint who lives among us." Sister Rosemary Nyirumbe is a nun of the Sacred Heart who rescues young girls from sexual slavery and rebel attacks in Uganda. That country has suffered 25 years of terror by Joseph Kony, leader of the Lord's Resistance Army. Working at St. Monica's Girls Tailoring Center, Sister Rosemary offers girls and young women and their babies refuge and skills training-including young women who have given birth to children of Kony. Today all of "these girls are living their lives in dignity, using needles and sewing machines," said Sister Rosemary. "They are winners." Florence Modo Arukude lives with Sister Rosemary. At four years old, she was struck with polio. During a rebel attack, she left her family after being unable to keep up. Today, she creates purses with the other women at St. Monica's that are sold to support the mission. (><http://sewinghope.com/supporters><) Of the girls she helps, Sister Rosemary said, "the journey is not one day or two days. It is a long journey."

Diane von Furstenberg

The iconic designer began her remarks with a remembrance of Oscar de la Renta, who died earlier in the week. "He was an extraordinary man, an American man who loved his Latin roots and his European training," she said. "He had the best of everything." Von Furstenberg is set to release her memoir, "The Woman I Wanted to Be." And who was that? "I wanted to be a little bit of a man in a woman's body." She described the influence of her mother, a concentration camp survivor. "My mother said I was her flag of freedom, the child who never should have been born." Moderator Alicia Menendez, an anchor on the Fusion network, asked about the influence of her children. "Do you have children?" "No," answered Menendez. "Well hurry up! Every woman should have children." Aging doesn't intimidate her, von Furstenberg said. "I realized early on that the most important relationship you have is with yourself. You have to be your own best friend." Her motto: "Fake it, make it, do it."

Robi Damelin

"I discovered that I am not a victim," Robi Damelin, international spokesperson for The Parents Circle told moderator Tina Brown in a discussion about Breaking the Cycle of Revenge. They discussed Israel, Palestine, and other places in the world where people can be trapped in generational cycles of violence and revenge. The Parents Circle is a group of 600 Israelis and Palestinians who have all lost an immediate family member in the ongoing conflict. Damelin's son, David, was killed by a Palestinian sniper while serving in the Israeli army. "We believe our mission is to create a framework for a reconciliation process to be a part of any future agreement," Damelin told the rapt audience." Members of the group go to Israeli schools and Palestinian clubs to preach a message of reconciliation-and are often met with hatred from both sides. At one



meeting, a girl told Damelin that her son deserved to die-only to reveal that she was coping with her own grief after a relative died in the conflict. Damelin also described how she came to meet a Palestinian woman she now travels with to share their stories. Damelin had gone to speak to Palestinians and when she arrived the crowd initially was hostile "They came to shout at me," She said. The woman "was sitting with her back to me, more or less, which is really rather rude. And I started to ask her, 'Who have you lost?' And she said, 'My son.' And I said, 'what was his name?' And she told me. Suddenly, I said, 'Do you want to see a picture of David?' and she said, 'Ok.' She looked and she said, 'Haraam,' which means what a pity. It was the first time she recognize her pain and my pain is the same pain." The Parents Circle is "not affiliated with any political party. But we are political." To those who view the cycles as unbreakable-and peace as impossible-Damelin had a message: "Maybe you have the luxury of giving up, but I do not."

Rosie Castro, Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-Texas), Dolores Huerta, and Eva Longoria

The multigenerational group of Latino powerhouses on stage embodied the topic for its panel: Latino Power on the Rise. Rosie Castro, the San Antonio political activist and mother of Rep. Castro and Julian Castro, secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Affairs exhorted the audience to take action. "Nobody's going to change it for you," she said. "You have to change it for yourself." Moderator Jan Jarboe Russell, an author and writer for Texas Monthly, asked Rep. Castro whether politics was in his blood. "We resisted it for a while," he said of his brother and himself. "We were ambivalent about it growing up. We were going to marches and campaign rallies and handing out flyers from the age three on. But we also developed a real civic conscience." Actress Eva Longoria described how she developed a passion for reforming farmworker conditions (she's producing two documentaries on the subject). Her inspiration was activist Dolores Huerta, who famously coined the phrase, "Yes We Can!" (Si se puede!). "Long before I was remotely famous, my friend David said 'come to this rally, Dolores Huerta will be there,'" Longoria recalled. "When I met her, she told me 'One day you're going to have a voice so be sure you have something to say.' So I started learning more and more about farmworkers. No one thinks about the human cost of getting a tomato from the field to your table." Huerta herself told the audience that change only happens with political power. "We know the only way we can get power is to vote." The panel heated up again around the issue of immigration reform. Huerta has supported President Obama's decision to put off immigration reform until after the mid-term elections. "We've been waiting for a decade, we can wait another few months." Rep. Castro said he was confident the president would take action after the vote, but said a long-term solution requires congressional action.

Sarah Crowe and Bishop Nathan S. Kortu

"The terrible loneliness of Ebola," intoned moderator Tina Brown as she opened the forum's panel on the disease. Sarah Crowe, chief of crisis communication for UNICEF in New York, said Ebola has "eroded every aspect of life in Liberia," a country that had just begun to recover from civil war. "It has changed the way people live, the way people die and the way mothers give birth," Crowe said. Bishop Kortu, pastor at the New Life Fellowship Church, described the challenge for communities where families have lost nearly all their members and have no professional counseling to help. The country needs ambulances, bleach, hand sanitizer, medical supplies. "What we are asking for is just basic supplies," Kortu said. "Here, we need education so Liberians are not discriminated against." Ebola "is the defining crisis of our time," Crowe said. "It's a test of our compassion and our humanity." At the end of the panel, Thomas Eric Duncan's fiancé, Louise Troh, spoke. He was the first to die of Ebola in the United States. Ebola "took my love away, my whole life is gone," Troh said. It's a whole worldwide fight."

Dr. Jill Biden

America's "second lady" urged the Women in the World audience to continue the fight against breast cancer. And she discussed the challenges faced by women in the military and military wives at home. Biden showed a brief film detailing the story of female marines working with women in Afghanistan. "Women service members love to serve their country," she said. "But as moms, it's hard for them to miss the milestones in their children's lives." Biden is a co-founder, with Michelle Obama, of Joining Forces, which supports returning service members with employment and other assistance. Biden returned repeatedly to the challenges of families at home. Military children attend six to nine schools before they graduate from high school, she said. "Think of how much we are asking of our military families." And she asked the audience to help support them in turn.



When her son Beau Biden was deployed to Iraq, granddaughter Natalie's teacher, for instance, hung a photo of her father's unit in the classroom. "And every child in the room was reminded every day that her daddy was at war."

Two military spouses took the stage after Biden. They described the challenges of finding work and of dealing with the military bureaucracy. "Employers see that you're a military spouse and say, 'you're only going to be here two years,'" said Janet Sanchez, founder and president of Esposas Militares Hispanas. "I'm encouraged every day," said Betty Easley, Foundation Fellow at the Elizabeth Dole Foundation.

Marie Brenner with Deeyan Khan and Xael Pamos

Journalist Marie Brenner moderated a panel on "honor" killings with documentary film makers Deeyan Khan and Xael Pamos. "They could be, amazingly enough, the girl next door," Brenner said of victims of such killings. Khan discussed her Emmy award-winning film "Banaz A Love Story," about an Iraqi girl killed by her family in London because she was seeking to leave her arranged marriage to a violent man. Banaz appealed five times to the London police. "Authorities don't want to touch [such cases] because they're afraid they'll be labeled racist," Khan said. "When you're talking about honor crimes, I don't care about those sensitivities."

Pamos discussed his documentary "Price of Honor," about the murders of Amina and Sarah Said, two sisters who were allegedly killed by their Egyptian father, Yaser Said, in Irving Texas. The case has never been solved, and the father has never been found by law-enforcement. Pamos was threatened with death as he investigated the crime.

Gloria Steinem with Eva Longoria

America's seventh largest city is the site of the latest meeting of Women in the World. First up: activist Gloria Steinem with actress Eva Longoria. The two were greeted with a standing ovation from the audience in the sold-out Empire Theatre. Now 80 (and still fabulous), Steinem recalled the roots of the feminist movement. Today "it's a majority movement, but that means there is a backlash," she said. "And nowhere is it written the backlash may not win." The two talked about reproductive freedom (with a dig at recent efforts in Texas to highly regulate abortion clinics). "To say our bodies belong to ourselves is revolutionary," Steinem said. They also discussed violence against women. "I think of these crimes as supremacy crimes," Steinem said. "There's nothing to gain but the idea of supremacy."

Tim Mak is the Senior Congressional Correspondent for The Daily Beast. He covers Congress, politics and national security. He previously reported on politics and defense at Politico and the Washington Examiner.

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An unprecedented attack shook Canada on Wednesday as at least one gunman attacked parliament and the country's war memorial in the capital, Ottawa.

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A fundamentally quiet and orderly town, Ottawa was rocked by the shooting of a uniformed Canadian soldier as he stood guard over the National War Memorial, located right across the street from Parliament Hill and the prime minister's offices at Langevin

Block. \n\n", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/terrorists-end-canada-s-innocence/jcr:content/body/text1"}, {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text", "textIsRich": "true", "text": "

It was the second attack inside Canada this week. The shootings come just two days after a 25-year-old man described by police as a "radicalized" Muslim drove his car into two Canadian



soldiers in a city outside of Montreal, killing one and seriously injuring the other. Martin Couture-Rouleau, the suspect in that incident, was arrested in July while trying to travel to Turkey.

Following his rampage, Courture-Rouleau was shot and

killed." , "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/terrorists-end-canada-s-

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22, 2014. ", "credits": ["Chris

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On Wednesday morning, a man arrived by car, with a blanket concealing a rifle, and shot the

soldier four times at the memorial, a witness told a Canadian news station.

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The situation quickly escalated, with reports that Parliament itself was under attack and dozens of



shots had been fired inside the legislature. Members of Parliament were caucusing in the building, and the building was promptly locked down. According to local&nbsp;Canadian press reports, a gunman wounded a security guard on Parliament Hill before he was shot by the sergeant-at-arms.&nbsp;\n","id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/terrorists-end-canada-s-innocence/jcr:content/body/text4"},"resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/text","textIsRich":true,"text":

A Globe and Mail reporter posted on YouTube a harrowing video of shots fired during a police sweep of Parliament Hill.\n","id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/terrorists-end-canada-s-innocence/jcr:content/body/text5"},"resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/video/youtube","dynamicDataChecksum":3039629752,"src":>http://www.youtube.com/embed/XrGqolSd-do?fs=1&wmode=opaque&showinfo=0<,"videoStillUrl":>http://img.youtube.com/vi/XrGqolSd-do/0.jpg<,"id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/terrorists-end-canada-s-innocence/jcr:content/body/youtube","autoPlay":false,"ytplayerid":"ytplayer8074842145629204","width":588,"height":392,"extendedCaption":"","resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/text","textIsRich":true,"text":

Entire blocks of the city remained in lockdown Wednesday, though police would not say at an afternoon press conference whether they were looking for more gunmen-only that they want the city to remain alert.\n","id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/terrorists-end-canada-s-innocence/jcr:content/body/text7"},"resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/text","textIsRich":true,"text":

Swarms of police, gunfire, panic-all foreign to&nbsp;a city known for its quaint, Commonwealth style, still air, and orderliness.\n","id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/terrorists-end-canada-s-

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Earlier this month, the House of Commons voted to approve an anti-ISIS air combat role for  
Canada. One purported ISIS fighter from Canada praised Rouleau and encouraged others to  
follow suit with violence. Whether this incident is connected or not, it has been a week of violence  
never before seen in Canadian political  
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Canada is no stranger to terrorism, having endured the kidnappings of government officials by  
radical domestic terrorists known as the Front de liberation du Quebec in 1970, during what was  
known as the October Crisis. Mass shootings are also not unprecedented, having happened at  
Ecole Polytechnique in 1989 and at Dawson College in  
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But never before has an attack so brazenly targeted Canadian institutions in the nation's  
capital. With at least one attack linked to Muslim extremism this week, and violence at the  
very symbols of Canadian democracy Wednesday, this is an unprecedented assault on my home  
country.  
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Perhaps that's the reason why security around Ottawa's parliamentary precinct has been so  
haphazard, with at least four different and uncoordinated protective services roaming the area. In  
2012, an internal Canadian government report called for the consolidation of these forces. Two  
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MEXICO CITY, Mexico-Through all the battles waged in Mexico in recent years over the shipment routes and markets for narcotics, San Miguel de Allende has remained as neutral as Switzerland in the Second World War. San Miquel, a 500-year old city nestled high in the Baïío Mountains of



central Mexico, seemed to be literally above the fray, and to most of the artists and expats who inhabit it the drug violence at lower altitudes is a distant affair. The prevailing wisdom has it that narcos don't shoot up the places where they invest their money."

On October 1, a black Mercedes SUV with license plates from Querétaro pulled to a stop on a cobblestone street 10 blocks from San Miguel's central plaza. Two men stepped out and entered a modest seafood restaurant called Mario's Fresh Shellfish. They were the restaurant's only customers. Mario himself waited on them. There was nothing remarkable about the appearance of either man. They ordered the house specialty of scallops in lemon and chile piquín for an appetizer, plus two bowls of shrimp soup and two orders of ceviche. The older of the two men tasted the food and told Mario, "You have no idea of the customer you have just won over."

Had Mario been more attuned to the affairs of local real estate or politics in San Miguel he might have recognized the younger man in the cargo pants and Indiana Jones hat. He was Germán Goyeneche, the developer of the Otomí Equestrian Club in San Miguel, and the posh Otomí residential complex beside it on the Ignacio Allende Reservoir, two miles outside of the city. He might have known that the previous mayor of San Miguel spoke at the inauguration of the development and commended Goyeneche by name as a fighter who believed in a dream and made it a reality. He might have known that the governor of the neighboring state of Querétaro (San Miguel is in the state of Guanajuato), who is a friend of the Goyeneche family, praised the men behind Otomí as the admirable type of investors who are prepared to put money in the land and generate progress."

The older man at Goyeneche's table, wearing a violet plaid button-down shirt and jeans, was Hector Beltrán Leyva, alias El Elegante, the most wanted drug-trafficker in Mexico and the head of a cartel that bears his name. He was living under the alias Alonso Rivera Muñoz as a middling real estate developer and art collector in Querétaro. As he and Goyeneche sampled the tamales that Mario served them on the house, two couples entered Mario's and opted for a table against the wall. They ordered appetizers and lemonades. Nothing seemed out of the ordinary. Beltrán Leyva, a gourmand, was savoring his tamale with its filling of roasted corn. The couples sprang from their seats with handguns drawn and ordered both men to put their heads on the table. They shouted that they were with Mexican Special Forces, and just then a team of gunmen rushed into the restaurant. "I thought it was the end," one of the cooks later told a reporter."

Héctor Beltrán Leyva is the last in a line of brothers who built a drug cartel into a family dynasty. He is also known as El H, but of all his nicknames El Elegante is the most salient. Héctor's older brothers Arturo and Alfredo were men with the right temperament to preside over a multinational crime syndicate. Arturo in particular built up the organization and aligned it with the Sinaloa and Juarez cartels in the early 2000s. It was Arturo who waged war on the Zetas on their home turf and Arturo who later joined forces with the Zetas to challenge the hegemony of El Chapo Guzmán. Arturo was big, brash, impulsive, and menacing. He had all the money and power to win influence in politics and law-enforcement, but he lacked the social graces. They called Héctor El Elegante because he mixed easily with the élite of Mexico: the politicians, showbiz stars, foreign diplomats, even visiting royalty. It was a role every bit as important to the Beltrán Leyva Cartel as coordinating delivery of a load of cocaine or settling a score with violence: Héctor not only bought political influence, he built relationships with the wealthy men and women from good families to help him and his brothers turn the proceeds from their drug sales into assets and investments."

In 1999, El Elegante threw a fashion benefit for more than 600 guests on the beach at the Hyatt



Regency Hotel in Acapulco. The fashion designer was Armando Mafud, the emcee was the famous model and television host Montserrat Oliver, the guests included an Italian baron, the French ambassador to Mexico, the owner of the Hyatt Regency Acapulco, the director of Fashion Week Mexico, and several telenovela actresses who were household names at the time in Mexico.

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Much blood has passed under the bridge since then. Arturo was shot down during a Mexican Special Forces raid on his high-rise condominium in Cuernavaca the week before Christmas 2009. The year before that Alfredo had been taken alive in a police raid on a safe house in Culiacán. Héctor assumed the day-to-day responsibilities for the family business and the challenges to his authority occurred early and often from regional strongmen who broke off to form rival organizations. No city has borne a greater share of pain from the fracturing of the Beltrán Leyva Cartel than Héctor's beloved Acapulco. The glamour of the seaside resort has long since been eclipsed by spectacular violence." id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-

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News." id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/body/text10"}, {"resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/text", "textIsRich":"true", "text":"

Goyeneche practices yoga and follows the Dalai Lama on Twitter. He juices with vegetables, romances on Tinder, and shops for rustic furniture built with reclaimed materials. The Mexican subsidiary of Anheuser-Busch awarded him a certificate of recognition for planting trees in San Miguel, and he the Mexican Green Party was advancing him for positions of leadership within its ranks. Goyeneche hails from what the newspapers in his native Querétaro call an "ancestral" family; his father is reputed to be a large landowner. He studied agricultural engineering at an elite private university in Mexico, speaks fluent English and passable Portuguese, and is publicly identified as the owner of three separate real estate and construction

firms." id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/body/text11"}, {"resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/text", "textIsRich":"true", "text":"

Goyeneche's reputation in San Miguel was that of a man-about-town who fashioned himself after Harrison Ford in the Indiana Jones films and even wore the hat. His Facebook profile has a photograph of Ford as Indiana Jones above a caption that reads, "The other me." Given his alter ego, it may not come as a surprise that Goyeneche is into antiquities, especially of the pre-Colombian variety. The name of his equestrian club and residential land development derives from the Otomí native people of central Mexico. Indeed, the web site for Otomí Lake & Villas



advertises as a selling point that the exclusive community is "nestled in an ancient pre-Hispanic ceremonial center." The asking price for a villa ranges upwards from \$265,000." ,{"id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/body/text12"}, {"resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/text", "textIsRich":"true", "text":

Indeed there is a pre-Hispanic ceremonial site located a scant 400 meters from the outer edge of the Otomí Lake & Villas property. It is known as La Cañada de la Virgen, and studies from the Mexican Institute of Archaeology conclude the natives constructed it as a lunar calendar to guide their activities of hunting and gathering. Ceramic pieces, metal fragments, seeds and human remains have been uncovered by archeologists at the site. This might go part of the way toward explaining why Goyeneche and his partners had to slog through paperwork with city hall for three years before finally gaining land use approval." ,{"id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-

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The Mexican Justice Department has made no details public about the art collection of Héctor Beltrán Leyva. But there are likely clues to be found in Germán Goyeneche's outspoken passion for the buying and selling of art. In May he attended the inauguration of a museum to house the works of the Ecuadorian painter Santiago Carbonell in Querétaro. Last year he purchased three paintings by the Mexican surrealist Meme Artist at the Galeria Libertad in Querétaro. One of his purchases was Music for the heart, a painting, he wrote on Facebook, "that personally has captivated me deeply." The painting is of a human heart set inside a wind-up music box that has a metal rod poking out of the pulmonary artery. A ballerina, nude but for a pair of striped knee socks, sits beside the heart pressing the rod to her lips as if to play it like a

flute." ,{"id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/body/text15"}, {"resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/text", "textIsRich":"true", "text":

There is a consistent aesthetic to the art that catches Goyeneche's eye. He showed no interest in the abstract. He is rather drawn to figures in pain, to the primordial, and to gloom. The painters he follows on social media use figures to represent allegories. In the work of Jaroslaw Kukowski moral and social concerns are raised symbolically through deformed human and mystic figures in great pain. In the work of Erik Thor Sandberg, human nudes are contorted in a dream state, in some cases suspended in the act of self-mutilation. Animals in agony or danger are used by Martin Wittfooth, often to hint at the future of the human condition. Many of the painters who appealed the most to the alleged financial operator of El Elegante toyed with notions of the exact, taking a concept like photorealism or classical portraiture in the style of Rembrandt and veering off in the direction of the surreal or grotesque. The portraits of Christian van Minnen are composed along the lines of the old masters but their faces are macabre, distorted, mutated, hosts to prosperous and colorful parasites." ,{"id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-

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As all this came out in recent days, Congressman Arturo Escobar of the Mexican Green Party, in distancing himself and his party from Goyeneche, claimed, "We have no way of knowing about the private lives of our activists." There are so many mysteries. Whether it was in real estate, the stock market, fine art, or political campaigns, to Héctor Beltrán Leyva the act of investing money is what mattered most. Germán Goyeneche, on the other hand, was a man born into wealth who ingratiated himself with every corner of the high society in San Miguel de Allende. Two days before his arrest, Goyeneche appeared in a photograph wearing his Indiana Jones hat and seated in the front row of a campaign event for a Mexican congressman who is running for mayor of San Miguel. After the two were picked up, the photo was paired with Beltrán Leyva's mugshot and splashed across the front page of more than one daily newspaper in

Mexico." ,{"id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/body/text17"}, {"resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/text", "textIsRich":"true", "text":



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The congressman, Ricardo Villarreal, denied that friendship is what brought him and Goyeneche together. "San Miguel is a very small place and when someone shows up to invest lots of money, everyone hears about it," he said. "I assure you there isn't a single local businessman who doesn't know the name Germán Goyeneche." Back in Querétaro, Governor José Calzada Rovirosa omitted any mention of Goyeneche from his public remarks on the capture of Beltrán Leyva. Gov. Calzada made it seem as though the drug lord were captured

alone.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/body/text18"}], "dek": "The head of the cartel is called 'El Elegante.' His rich-boy buddy styles himself 'Indiana Jones.' One tried to corner the drug market-the other went after art.", "description": "The head of the cartel is called 'El Elegante.' His rich-boy buddy styles himself 'Indiana Jones.' One tried to corner the drug market-the other went after art.", "external": false, "hideByline": false, "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s", "image": {"caption": "", "credits": ["Dair Massey/The Daily Beast"], "href": "", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/image", "placeholder": false, "sizes": {"w8\_h5\_large": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/image.crop.800.500.jpg/1413773801467.cached.jpg", "w4\_h3\_medium": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/image.crop.300.225.jpg/1413773801467.cached.jpg", "w5\_h6\_large": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/square.crop.490.600.jpg/1413773801467.cached.jpg", "decorate\_stream.wide": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/image.crop.960.640.jpg/1413773801467.cached.jpg", "w3\_h2\_medium": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/image.crop.300.200.jpg/1413773801467.cached.jpg", "default": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/image.crop.410.273.jpg/1413773801467.cached.jpg", "thumbnail": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/image.crop.60.60.jpg/1413773801467.cached.jpg", "w3\_h2\_large": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/image.crop.600.400.jpg/1413773801467.cached.jpg", "w4\_h3\_large\_nocrop": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/image.img.800.jpg/1413773801467.cached.jpg", "w3\_h5\_large": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/tall.crop.360.600.jpg/1413773801467.cached.jpg", "w4\_h3\_large": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/image.crop.800.600.jpg/1413773801467.cached.jpg", "w1\_h2\_large": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/tall.crop.300.600.jpg/1413773801467.cached.jpg", "w16\_h9\_medium": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/jumbotron.crop.400.225.jpg/1413773801467.cached.jpg", "w1\_h1\_medium": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/square.crop.250.250.jpg/1413773801467.cached.jpg", "w2\_h1\_large": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/jumbotron.crop.1200.600.jpg/1413773801467.cached.jpg", "w3\_h2\_small": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/image.crop.174.116.jpg/1413773801467.cached.jpg"}}, "title": "141017-mcgahan-art-dealer-tease", "longTitle": "Trading Dime Bags for Salvador Dali", "modifiedDate": 1413773801488, "publicationDate": 1413711900000, "rubric": "Drugs and Art", "section": {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/pages/wrap", "external": false, "hideByline": false, "id": "/content/dailybeast/world", "longTitle": "World News", "rubric": "", "shortTitle": "World", "specialContentFlag": "", "title": "world", "type": "wrap", "url": "/world.html"}, "shortTitle": "From Drug Dealer to Art Dealer", "specialContentFlag": "", "subTitle": "The head of the cartel is called 'El Elegante.' His rich-boy buddy styles himself 'Indiana Jones.' One tried to corner the drug market-the other went after



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Check out the awesome trailer here:"id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron/jcr:content/body/text5"},{"resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/snippet","snippet":"Avengers : Age of Ultron Trailer from MikaelDorian on Vimeo.","id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron/jcr:content/body/snippet"},{"resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/text","textIsRich":true,"text":"","id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron/jcr:content/body/text8"}],{"dek":"The trailer for one of the most anticipated films of 2015 has leaked online and offers an embarrassment of riches, from a glimpse at Marvel's pending Civil War to new cast members. Watch it here.","description":"The trailer for one of the most anticipated films of 2015 has leaked online and offers an embarrassment of riches, from a glimpse at Marvel's pending Civil War to new cast members. Watch it here.","external":false,"hideByline":false,"id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron","image":{"caption":"","credits":["Marvel"],"href":"","id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron/jcr:content/image","placeholder":false,"sizes":{"w8\_h5\_large":"http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron/jcr:content/image.crop.800.500.jpg/1414023538573.cached.jpg","w4\_h3\_medium":"http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron/jcr:content/image.crop.300.225.jpg/1414023538573.cached.jpg","w5\_h6\_large":"http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron/jcr:content/square.crop.490.600.jpg/1414023538573.cached.jpg","decorate\_stream.wide":"http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron/jcr:content/image.crop.960.640.jpg/1414023538573.cached.jpg","w3\_h2\_medium":"http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron/jcr:content/image.crop.300.200.jpg/1414023538573.cached.jpg","default":"http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron/jcr:content/image.crop.410.273.jpg/1414023538573.cached.jpg","thumbnail":"http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron/jcr:content/image.crop.60.60.jpg/1414023538573.cached.jpg","w3\_h2\_large":"http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron/jcr:content/image.crop.600.400.jpg/1414023538573.cached.jpg","w4\_h3\_large\_nocrop":"http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron/jcr:content/image.img.800.jpg/1414023538573.cached.jpg","w3\_h5\_large":"http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron/jcr:content/tall.crop.360.600.jpg/1414023538573.cached.jpg","w4\_h3\_large":"http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron/jcr:content/image.crop.800.600.jpg/1414023538573.cached.jpg","w1\_h2\_large":"http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron/jcr:content/tall.crop.300.600.jpg/1414023538573.cached.jpg","w16\_h9\_medium":"http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-



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It looks like Dr. Nancy Snyderman, the object of near-universal criticism since she violated a self-imposed 21-day quarantine last week after returning from reporting on the Ebola epidemic in Liberia, is keeping her job as NBC News's chief medical correspondent." "id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/body/text0"},"resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/text","textIsRich":true,"text":

In a staff memo released late Wednesday, NBC News President Deborah Turness praised Snyderman-who was caught waiting in her Mercedes outside a New Jersey restaurant, where another colleague was fetching a take-out meal-and indicated Dr. Nancy will be back on the case in November." "id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/body/text1"},"resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/text","textIsRich":true,"text":

Snyderman's quarantine, which New Jersey health authorities made mandatory after her lapse, was set to end at midnight Wednesday." "id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/body/text2"},"resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/text","textIsRich":true,"text":

"While in Liberia Dr. Nancy and her team delivered first class, first-hand reporting from the front lines of this tragic and monumental story," Turness wrote in her memo. "Their subsequent departure from Monrovia, their return to the U.S. and period of quarantine has been a challenging time. We have encouraged them - and they have agreed to take some time off with their families and friends to help restore some normalcy to their lives. We very much look forward to their return next month." "id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/body/text3"},"resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/text","textIsRich":true,"text":

Snyderman's initially voluntary quarantine was widely publicized by NBC after she and members of her journalistic team had worked briefly in Liberia with a freelance cameraman who became symptomatic and was diagnosed with the often-lethal virus, and then flown to the United States for treatment." "id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/body/text4"},"resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/text","textIsRich":true,"text":

But her violation-for which she obliquely apologized-was greeted by harsh criticism by commentators and viewers alike, some of whom claimed her credibility had been severely damaged and she should no longer be permitted to report on the Ebola crisis." "id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/body/text5"},"resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/text","textIsRich":true,"text":

Among her detractors was Dr. Bob Arnot, who covered medical issues for NBC before Snyderman



joined the network from ABC News. While praising her willingness to put herself in harm's way, he also accused her of "grandstanding." ""; "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-

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"The big problem now in journalism," Arnot told CNN's Brian Stelter on Sunday's Reliable Sources media-criticism program, "is when you become the story, and this team became the story... There are thousands of people covering it, but why did they have to become the story and, sort of posturing as they put their suits on and off and... scrubbed and whatnot out in West Africa, as if they were actually treating patients. So, by coming back and sort of grandstanding and saying, 'Look, we are self-quarantining,' they really put a target on their

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Aside from Turness, among Dr. Nancy's defenders was freelance cameraman Ashoka Mukpo, who was declared Ebola-free and sent a series of pro-Snyderman tweets as he prepared to leave the hospital in Nebraska and join his family in Rhode

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"Special shout out to Nancy Snyderman at NBC News," Mukpo tweeted. "For the record me and her were never within 3 feet of each other once. Be nice to her

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In an interview Wednesday with NBC News's Kate Snow-excerpts were released along with Turness's memo-Mukpo expressed gratitude for his recovery and said, "I am just so fortunate to be alive." ""; "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/body/text10"}; {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text", "textIsRich": "true", "text": "

He added: "And every breath I take, every step I take, is just a reminder of how valuable and precious life is. And you know, how important it is to make good use of it. And, you know, I think in the future I'll be much more delicate about the risks that I take."

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Huerta, whose organization fought for higher wages, health care, and fair working conditions for California's agricultural farmers, said that what most people overlook about UFW's work is the group's voter registration and outreach efforts that ultimately led to the policy changes.

"A lot of the work that we did was register people to vote, we went back and got them out to vote ... they're the ones who passed the laws in California," she said. "The political work is what made the difference in California, and it can make the difference in Texas, New York, and other states."

According to Mi Familia Vota, there are more than 4.3 million Latino citizen of voting age in Texas and just under 3 million are registered, making up 23 percent of Texas' registered voters.

Rosie Castro, one of the founders of La Raza Unida political party, community activist and mother to San Antonio's Julián and Joaquin Castro, remembers life for Latinos in San Antonio as being "atrocious" when she was young. She also remembers an 80 percent high school dropout rate among Latinos and poor infrastructure on the east, west and south sides of San Antonio. At 23, she founded La Raza Unida, the nation's first Latino political party and ran for local office.

"Something had to be done," she said. "There were a lot of young people, like there are today, that said 'enough is enough.'"

Longoria, actress, philanthropist, producer and activist who rose to national political prominence after serving as national co-chair of President Barack Obama's reelection campaign in 2012, remembers meeting Huerta for the first time more than 10 years ago. Huerta, who Longoria considers her personal hero, shared with Longoria the plight of farm workers in California at a local rally where both appeared on stage.

"She goes, 'ya know, you're an actor?'" Longoria recalled on stage. "'One day you're going to have a voice, so be sure you have something to say.'"

Castro, Longoria, and Huerta are also participating in a Get Out the Vote rally for Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, the Democratic candidate for Texas lieutenant governor.

Along with this panel, Deeyah Khan, a filmmaker and founder of Fuuse, shared the stage with Xael Pamos, executive producer of the documentary The Price of Honor to discuss their work documenting stories of young women killed by their families in so-called "honor" killings. Betty Easley with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation and Janet Sanchez of Esposas Militares Hispanas USA, shared their work with military wives and spouses, and Robi Damelin with Parents Circle-Families Forum told her profound story of losing her son to a Palestinian sniper.

#### FAMOUS FEMALES GATHER IN SA FOR WOMEN IN THE WORLD TEXAS CONFERENCE (KSATTV)

KSAT-TV San Antonio, October 22, 2014

SAN ANTONIO - The Second Lady of the United States, a fashion icon, a famous feminist and well-known actress were among America's leading ladies who took center stage at the Charline McCombs Empire Theater for the Women in the World Texas event.

"Texas has built a long legacy of bold, feisty women who don't take no for an answer," said the events founder and creator, Tina Brown, an award-winning journalist and editor-in-chief of The Daily Beast.

Among the famous faces that graced the stage were political and social activist Gloria Steinem, fashion icon Diane von Furstenberg and actress Eva Longoria.

Various speakers during the forum also highlighted the achievements of women from around the world who have made a significant impact in their community despite substantial obstacles.

The Second Lady of the United States, Dr. Jill Biden, delivered the keynote speech. She began her address urging women to continue their efforts to raise awareness of breast cancer.

"I'm asking all of you here today to continue dedicating your time and your heart to combating this disease," said Biden.

She focused the majority of her speech on the sacrifices women make, especially those in the armed forces and military spouses.

"What I've learned along the way is that no matter the situation, there are exceptional individuals who step up to the challenge who go above and beyond and make an even bigger difference in their community," she said.

Included in the political heavy hitters of the event was former Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, who spoke about the impact of the female gender in politics and the importance of the female perspective.



"I brought forward some issues that men weren't against, they just hadn't thought about," said Hutchison. "I think that's a value you want, especially in your legislative bodies." When asked about her thoughts on the gubernatorial race between Wendy Davis and Greg Abbott, Hutchison said she is glad to see a female candidate in the running, but hopes voters will base their decision on the issues most important to them, not on gender.

The event featured a panel on the growing influence of the Latina voice in America, which Rep. Joaquin Castro.

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#### OBAMA, BIDEN PRESS SECRETARIES BET ON WORLD SERIES (USAT)

USA Today, October 22, 2014

The World Series is generating a little contest between White House press secretaries.

Josh Earnest, spokesman for President Obama and backer of the Kansas City Royals, has a wager with Kendra Barkoff, press secretary to Vice President Biden and fan of the San Francisco Giants.

The stakes are smallish: The losing press secretary takes a selfie wearing the winning team's cap.

Tweets Earnest: "Hey @VP: your presssec says @SFGiants will win #WorldSeries. If so I'll wear SF cap in selfie w her. If not she wears @Royals cap. It's on!"

Earnest hails from Kansas City, Barkoff from the Bay Area.

So far, it's looking good for Barkoff and the Giants: San Francisco beat Kansas City on Tuesday night in game one of the best-four-of-seven series, on KC's home field.

Read or Share this story: <http://usat.ly/1tKFzIV>

#### NEW YORK TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST OP-EDS:

##### THE FED AT THE CROSSROADS (NYT)

New York Times, October 23, 2014

Barring unexpected bad economic news in the next several days, the Federal Reserve will finish its bond-buying program at the end of this month. In all, the program has pumped \$3.5 trillion into the economy since 2008, helping to revive financial markets and stabilize the economy.

Now comes the hard part.

In its effort to wean the economy off of extraordinary monetary support, the Fed's next task is to decide when to raise interest rates from their prolonged ultralow levels.

Technically, the decision is straightforward. It is appropriate to raise rates when the economy shows signs of overheating, as measured by inflation in wages and prices. Currently, there are no such signs. Wages have long stagnated, even for college-educated workers. As for prices, the Fed's preferred annual inflation measure was recently 1.5 percent, well below its 2 percent target. Politically, however, the decision is fraught. The Fed is not supposed to be swayed by elected officials or special interests. But bond holders - a powerful political constituency that includes financial firms, investment funds and wealthy individuals - generally want the Fed to raise rates sooner rather than later, and they have ample opportunity to dominate public discourse. Their aim is to pre-emptively attack inflation, which diminishes the value of their bonds.

But it is not the Fed's job to protect investors' bond portfolios. Its job is to foster both stable inflation and full employment. With the American economy still operating below par, low interest rates would pose an inflation threat only after they had succeeded in spurring credit, strong growth and robust employment. Since those results have not yet been achieved, there is no inflationary pressure and no reason to raise rates in the near term.

In fact, inflation has been so low for so long that the economy would not be in danger of overheating even if there were a period of inflation above the 2 percent target. That target is an average that the Fed would like to maintain over time, not a level that necessarily signals the need for a rate increase.

Similarly, wages can rise at a rate well above inflation without pushing up prices. That's because wage increases do not even begin to pose an inflation threat until they exceed the rate of inflation plus the rate of labor-productivity growth, roughly 3.5 percent currently.

Fed officials have indicated that they plan to start raising rates in mid-2015. They have stuck to



that timetable, even as wage-and-price increases have failed to materialize. That policy consistency is understandable on one level: With many months to go before it has to either raise rates or admit that the economy is too weak to warrant an increase, the Fed rightly wants to project optimism.

It is crucial, however, for the Fed to keep rates low as long as inflation is in check. If rates are raised too soon, growth would be slowed before pay raises and adequate credit are restored to workers and consumers.

If that happens, the Fed effort to rescue the economy would, in the end, only further entrench inequality.

#### A VERDICT ON BLACKWATER (NYT)

New York Times, October 23, 2014

It took far too long, but four former gunslingers with the Blackwater Worldwide security firm have at last been held accountable for the killing of 17 Iraqi civilians in Nisour Square in Baghdad in September 2007. It was one of the darkest episodes of America's long war.

The verdict on Wednesday brings a measure of justice for the innocent victims and their families and offers some assurance that private contractors will not be allowed to operate with impunity in war zones. What it does not do is solve the problem of an American government that is still too dependent on private firms to supplement its military forces during overseas conflicts and is still unable to manage them effectively.

The Federal District Court in Washington found one defendant, Nicholas Slatten, guilty of murder and three others - Dustin Heard, Evan Liberty and Paul Slough - guilty of manslaughter and weapons charges. The men said they were ambushed by insurgents and that the civilian deaths were the unintended results of urban warfare. The jury concluded that the killings, which occurred when the contractors fired into the crowd using machine guns and grenade launchers, were criminal. One former Blackwater colleague told the court he saw "people completely unarmed, people doing nothing wrong, get shot."

The killings inflamed tensions with Iraqis, who had good reason to doubt that anyone would be punished. The State Department, which used Blackwater to guard its diplomats, gave the contractors limited immunity at one point and there was evidence it gathered shell casings after the shooting to try to protect the firm, which has since been sold and renamed.

Seven months after the killings, the department even renewed the Blackwater contract. The case was bogged down in legal battles for years. A judge threw out the charges in 2009, but the case was reinstated on appeal.

The problem goes far beyond the four men who were convicted. Over more than a decade in Iraq and Afghanistan, and in the Balkans before that, contractors accounted for 50 percent or more of the American military force, according to a 2013 report by the Congressional Research Service. Many played noncombat support roles (transportation, construction, intelligence-gathering), but thousands were used to protect convoys, diplomats and others. The security guards, in particular, operated with no real legal accountability and were often viewed as reckless.

As the Nisour Square incident and the abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison showed, contractors who feel they are outside of the law damage American credibility and strategic goals, cost billions of dollars in waste and fraud and create more anti-American insurgents.

Following the Blackwater debacle, there has been a sensible international response to the problem. More than 600 private security contractors have pledged to abide by a code of conduct that in theory should encourage more professional, ethical behavior.

In the meantime, the Pentagon and the State Department, under pressure from Congress, have improved their use and oversight of contractors but not nearly enough. The C.R.S. report said defense officials expect it will take at least until 2018 to put in place fully a better system of managing contractors on the battlefield. That date should certainly be moved up.

Although there had been talk of reducing reliance on private contractors, they seem likely to continue to play a central role in new American military missions. With the Blackwater verdict, the United States must fully commit itself to making sure that modern-day mercenaries are strictly managed and held accountable for their actions.

THE TIMES RECOMMENDS RE-ELECTING ERIC SCHNEIDERMAN AND THOMAS DINAPOLI



(NYT)

New York Times, October 23, 2014

The attorney general and the comptroller of New York State are two of the most powerful officials in the state. The incumbents in those offices - Eric Schneiderman, the attorney general of New York, and Thomas DiNapoli, the state comptroller - have exercised their powers in ways that have benefited the public, and both deserve re-election.

ATTORNEY GENERAL Mr. Schneiderman has done much in his four years as attorney general to hold the banks, financial institutions and the mortgage industry accountable for reckless actions that contributed to the financial crisis. He was a national leader in securing an estimated \$60 billion in settlements designed to help homeowners caught in the 2008 meltdown.

As attorney general he has pioneered efforts to stem the prescription drug epidemic by establishing a real-time database of prescriptions to stop patients from doctor shopping. He reached an accord with virtually all gun-show operators in the state to require background checks for all sales at gun shows. He has acted against employers who cheat workers by refusing to comply with wage and overtime laws. Over all, he has used the broad authorities of his office to advance public safety and to protect consumers and the environment.

His Republican challenger, John Cahill, was an aide to Gov. George Pataki and a respected environmental conservation commissioner for the state. Mr. Cahill, however, has not presented a coherent and compelling agenda for how he would use the office and its more than 650 attorneys. He opposes the sensible gun safety package that Gov. Andrew Cuomo pushed through last year. He has not shown that he would be more effective than Mr. Schneiderman in going after abuses on Wall Street.

COMPTROLLER Mr. DiNapoli's job is to analyze and report on the state's \$140 billion budget, ferret out government fraud and oversee investments by the state's \$177 billion public pension fund, the nation's third largest. In 2007, Mr. DiNapoli replaced Alan Hevesi, the former comptroller who went to prison for participating in a pay-to-play scheme involving the state pension fund. Partly as a result of that scandal, Mr. DiNapoli has worked hard to require more disclosure on these investments, ban interim "placement agents" or lobbyists and control investment fees. While New York still has an outdated system that makes the comptroller the sole trustee of the huge pension fund, Mr. DiNapoli has added stronger internal controls and an advisory committee of financial experts.

Robert Antonacci, Mr. DiNapoli's Republican opponent, is comptroller of Onondaga County. He is the first statewide candidate to test a pilot program for public financing that started this year. The program provides a \$6-to-\$1 match for contributions of \$175 or less, once a candidate has raised \$200,000 in small donations. (The program only covers the comptroller race and only this year.) So far, Mr. Antonacci says he has found it hard to raise the \$200,000. Still, he says that he would not have entered the race had it not been for the possibility of receiving some public money. Mr. DiNapoli chose not to sign up for the program, arguing that it was started too late to meet his needs for this year's election. He should help persuade lawmakers to pass a public financing system for competitive races in all state offices.

New Yorkers would be well-served to keep Eric Schneiderman as attorney general and Thomas DiNapoli as comptroller.

## WOMEN'S ISSUES DOMINATE 2014 CAMPAIGNS (NYT)

By Gail Collins

New York Times, October 23, 2014

Women are big this election season. No group is more courted. It's great! The issues are important. Plus, we all enjoy the occasional pander.

Candidates are re-interpreting their old arguments in a new, woman-centric way. In Michigan, the Democratic Senate candidate defines his opponent's opposition to Obamacare as a plan to "cut women's access to ... mammograms." In Kentucky, Republican Mitch McConnell has female surrogates claiming that his opponent, Alison Grimes, is trying to convince women that they "can't graduate from college without raising your taxes." This appears to be an oblique reference to Grimes's call for reduced rates on student loans.

The College Republican National Committee has been investing heavily in online ads aimed at fans of the TV show "Say Yes to the Dress," in which the dresses are named after gubernatorial



candidates. If you are in, say, Florida, you'll see a happy young woman trying on wedding gowns, twirling around and announcing that "The Rick Scott is perfect," while her irritating mother demands that she take the Charlie Crist dress, even though it's unflattering and costs more money. As a writer in Jezebel noted, it seems to have been made by people who felt the best way to communicate with female voters is "to explain things in terms of bridal wear."

In Colorado, some commentators have given Democrat Mark Udall the nickname "Mark Uterus" because Udall has run so hard on women's reproductive rights. It is definitely true that Udall has devoted a prodigious amount of ad-time to the fact that his opponent, Representative Cory Gardner, is a longtime supporter of the personhood movement, which declares all fertilized eggs are human beings. Voters find this idea so unnerving that a personhood amendment to the Constitution was soundly defeated in Mississippi. As well as Colorado, twice. Where it is on the ballot in November, yet again.

Gardner said he had changed his mind about the state constitutional amendment after it was overwhelmingly rejected in 2010 and he suddenly realized that it would have an effect on contraceptives. He is still a co-sponsor of a federal personhood bill, which he claims is merely "a statement that I support life." Personally, I can see why Udall might feel that this matter deserves more inquiry.

To rise to the level of hard-core pandering, a candidate has to float free of issues and waft into the ether of personal feelings. Consider Michigan, where Terri Lynn Land, the Republican candidate for Senate, has been running as a person who's been victimized for being a mother.

The issue here is that Land has developed a tendency to deflect questions by mentioning that she's a parent. Local columnists have begun to make jokes about it, and there were suggestions that the mom-mentions might make a good drinking game. A spokesperson for Land's opponent, Gary Peters, said that being a mom was a good thing, but a strange point to bring up when the issue at hand was, say, ISIS.

"Well, I'm a mom, and I tell you, moms look at things from their perspective," said Land in a comment that her staff mass-mailed under the headline " 'Well, I'm a Mom,' Terri Lynn Land Fires Back." Soon, prominent female Republicans were dropping hints that Michelle Obama might want to intervene on behalf of motherhood.

What do you think? How much mom-mentioning is too much? Here in New York, we have a candidate for Congress who's running under the slogan "Doctor. Mother. Neighbor." Does that sound a little ... vague?

One thing we know: male candidates who get in trouble over issues of sexism are not allowed to get out of it by marshaling all the women in their family to pose for a campaign ad. Really, that's just one step short of dragging your wife into the press conference where you announce you're resigning due to those sexting charges.

We are thinking here about Representative Steve Southerland, a Florida Republican who sent out invitations to a male-only campaign event that suggested his guests "tell the misses not to wait up" because "the after dinner whiskey and cigars will be smooth & the issues to discuss are many." Southerland is running against Democrat Gwen Graham, and doing such a swell job of it that in a year that House Republicans are expecting a big sweep, he's in trouble. Possibly more endangered than the guy in Staten Island who was indicted for perjury and tax fraud shortly after threatening to throw a TV reporter over a Capitol balcony.

When The Tampa Bay Times asked him about the male-only event, Southerland laughed and said: "I live with five women. That's all I'm saying. I live with five women. Listen: Has Gwen Graham ever been to a lingerie shower? Ask her. And how many men were there?"

Now he's up with a new ad in which he stands surrounded by his sister, mother, daughters and his wife, who announces: "Steve's heart is in the right place."

#### YAN LIANKE ON WRITING IN CHINA (NYT)

By Yan Lianke

New York Times, October 23, 2014

BEIJING - China's efforts to promote socialism in the late 1950s and early 1960s resulted in what is euphemistically known as the three years of natural disasters, during which more than 30 million people starved to death. One evening when I was a young boy, not long after the catastrophe, I followed my mother as she went to dump garbage outside the wall that surrounded our village, a



poor and isolated town in central China.

Holding my hand, my mother pointed to the white clay and yellow earth of the wall, and said, "Son, you must always remember, when people are starving to death they may eat this white clay and elm tree bark, but if they try to eat that yellow earth or the bark of any other kind of tree they will die even faster."

Mother went back inside our house to cook and left behind a long shadow. I stood in front of the edible clay gazing out at the sunset, the village and the fields, and an enormous sheet of darkness gradually approached.

From that point on, I developed a keen appreciation for the somber side of our existence. I came to understand that darkness is not the mere absence of light, but rather it is life itself. Darkness is the Chinese people's fate.

Today's China is no longer the China of my childhood. It has become rich and powerful, and because it has solved the basic problem of providing 1.3 billion people with food, clothing and some spending money, it has come to resemble a bright ray of light that illuminates the East. But beneath this light lies a long shadow.

When I look at contemporary China, I see a nation that is thriving yet distorted, developing yet mutated. I see corruption, absurdity, disorder and chaos. Every day, something occurs that lies outside ordinary reason and logic. A system of morality and a respect for humanity that was developed over several millennia is unraveling.

Life is gloomy and depressing. Everyone is waiting for something dreadful to happen. This uneasy and fearful expectation has produced a collective sense of anxiety.

No one can tell us where the nation's speeding locomotive of economic development will end up. No one can tell us what price should be paid for human feelings, human nature and human dignity, now that money and power have replaced socialism and capitalism. What is the price for abandoning the ideals of democracy, freedom, law and morality?

More than a decade ago, I went several times to visit an AIDS village in my home province of Henan. The village had close to 800 residents and more than 200 were infected with H.I.V. The majority were workers between the ages of 30 and 45 who had become infected because, in the pursuit of wealth and a better life, they had gone in groups to sell their blood and became infected in the process. Death was as frequent and inevitable as the setting sun. It became so dark it seemed as though the sun had disappeared permanently.

China may boast of having several thousand years of civilization, but when an old man collapses in the street, everyone refrains from helping him out for fear of being implicated, even as the old man bleeds warm, red blood. What kind of society do we live in when a pregnant woman dies on the delivery table and all of the medical technicians flee in order to avoid responsibility, leaving behind a tiny soul uttering a feeble cry?

It is a writer's job to find life within this darkness.

I am reminded of Job, in the Old Testament, who after experiencing countless misfortunes said to his wife as she was urging him to curse God, "Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" This simple response demonstrates that Job understood that his suffering was merely God's way of testing him, and was evidence that darkness and light must exist together.

I don't pretend that I have been uniquely selected by God, as Job was, to endure suffering, but I do know that I am somehow fated to perceive darkness. From these shadows I lift my pen to write. I search for love, goodness and a perpetually beating heart.

At a symposium last week, President Xi Jinping met with a group of artists, including the Nobel Laureate Mo Yan, and talked about the value of art in China. According to the official China Youth Online, he said, "For art workers to be successful, they must breathe together with the people, share their fate and feel their feelings, rejoice at their joy, grieve at their grief, and serve the people like a willing ox."

But only the pursuit of true art, unencumbered by anyone, can help us find the delicate light, beauty, warmth and love that are hidden in the darkness.

Yan Lianke is a novelist whose most recently translated work is "Lenin's Kisses." This article was adapted from his acceptance speech for the 2014 Franz Kafka Prize. It was translated from the Chinese by Carlos Rojas.



## THE BATTLE FOR GAY RIGHTS IN RURAL AMERICA (NYT)

By Silas House

New York Times, October 23, 2014

BEREA, Ky. - I WAS raised amid the coal fields of eastern Kentucky, but I was always drawn to nearby Berea. The hamlet, tucked into the lush green hills on the western side of the Appalachians, has a long legacy of equality and free inquiry - among other things, it's home to Berea College, the first integrated and coeducational college in the South.

There are lots of folks like me in Berea, who came here for its professed openness and diversity. But we had a rude shock last week, when the City Council voted 5 to 3 against an ordinance to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

The vote illuminates a new reality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans. The equality divide we face is no longer between red and blue states, but between urban and rural America. Even as we celebrate victories like this month's Supreme Court order on same-sex marriage, the real front in the battle for equality remains the small towns that dot America's landscape.

Until a decade or so ago, few gay people would have considered moving to Kentucky; as recently as 1992 consensual sex between two people of the same gender was a criminal offense punishable by law. But Louisville and other cities have since attracted a sizable gay population and a new generation of leaders who are more open and progressive in their social views.

But step outside the cities and the picture changes, just as in most states. Kentucky is one of 29 states where it is perfectly legal to refuse service to anyone even perceived as being gay or transgender, and protections vary locally. Once we enter small towns we can be kicked out of restaurants, refused places to rent or fired from our jobs just because of who we are.

Kentucky's equality activists, under the banner of the Fairness Campaign, have worked hard to spread those patches of acceptance beyond the big cities; in recent years they have won local ordinances in seven jurisdictions, including the tiny town of Vicco, population 334. Yet Vicco remains the exception instead of the rule.

The measure should have easily passed in Berea. After all, the town was founded by abolitionists, it boasts ethnic diversity and a strong environmental movement, and the town of about 14,000 souls includes Union Church, which flies a rainbow flag and preaches a Christ-centered version of social justice.

Yet our group, Bereans for Fairness, had to work for three years to drum up support for the ordinance. We marched on City Hall by the hundreds, held large rallies and wrote dozens of letters to the local paper.

The opposition was mostly two large church congregations. At council meetings, they wore shirts embossed with "Vote No to Favoritism," an ironic phrase, since religious groups are specifically protected from discrimination on state law books. Sometimes the protesters held signs that read "Against Fairness." During the public hearing, anti-fairness folks uttered words like "sick" and "abomination" when the topics of transgender people and gay marriage arose.

Their disinformation campaign paid off. One council member said he voted against the ordinance because it would allow transgender people to "be one gender until there is a line at the men's restroom, then another whenever it is convenient." Another said she had never witnessed any kind of discrimination here.

Small American towns like Berea are not teeming with the mean, ignorant people that many urban dwellers have come to expect. Instead, these are places where, I've learned, the loudest and most powerful are in constant fear of change, of difference, of losing votes, while the many rural Americans with more inclusive values tend to be quieted as the perceived minority.

I am very proud of where I live, but I can't deny the unsettling fact that fundamentalism, so often driven by economic despair and religious fervor, has helped to foster a suspicion of "the other" among many rural Americans.

Homophobia and racism are not unique to rural America; I have seen them in New York and Chicago, in sudden, violent spurts. Of course, cities also offer the opportunity to surround ourselves with like-minded people in a way that small towns do not. And intolerance pervades rural thinking in a different way, mostly brought about by constant preaching in the small white churches lining country roads, a dogma that is often welcomed into the public schools and takes up residence beneath the skin of the people. Rural homophobia can be quiet, but steady. It is a slow



assault on the spirit sanctioned by states that refuse to enact legislation offering everyone equal protection.

The more the issue of gay rights makes progress nationally, the more fear is stirred up in the bellies of small towns. Too many preachers and politicians, refusing to trust their constituents or congregants to come to their own conclusions, feed on that fear, creating an endless cycle. Unfortunately, this alarm and misunderstanding pervade even a town like Berea. It was named after a town in the Bible. Acts 17 tells us the people of Berea were more open-minded than others, always studying the Scripture to try to better understand its complexities and discovering the right path.

I believe that many people in this little town - including the three council members who proudly cast a Yes vote - are intent on following that path to justice. But for now, Berea has become representative of countless small communities that like to talk about freedom for all but are falling behind the rest of the country in ensuring it.

Silas House is the author, most recently, of the novel "Same Sun Here," with Neela Vaswani.

#### THE BEN BRADLEE WHO HIRED ME - FINALLY (NYT)

By Ted Gup

New York Times, October 23, 2014

I first met Ben Bradlee in the winter of 1969. I was a 19-year-old kid from Canton, Ohio, who had never taken a course in journalism, never published an article, rarely read the newspaper and had little notion of what I would do with my life. Yet somehow as a Brandeis sophomore I had made my way to be a finalist for the Washington Post internship. It must have been my essay. And there I was sitting at Ben Bradlee's right hand in a Boston restaurant surrounded by other finalists, all of whom went to Harvard, were working on The Crimson, and had dazzling credentials. By the time lunch was over, I was sure I was no longer in the running. But as I got up to leave, Ben placed his hand on my arm and asked me if I had a few minutes to talk. A half-hour passed. He asked me what I thought of the Vietnam War. I remember telling him I was torn. He seemed pleased by my confusion. We talked about writing. I honestly don't remember what else we talked about except that when we parted I knew what I wanted to do - I wanted to work for him. (Mind you, that was two years before Watergate.)

A couple of months later, I received a letter from Ben dated March 6, 1970. It began: "Dear Ted: You got nosed out in the finals of the toughest competition we have ever had... You are really a year premature and your lack of previous experience in journalism was a tough hurdle for us to overcome. I was particularly sorry about you, because I was attracted by your love of writing, and your attitude generally. I hunch that you have a hell of a future in this business, and I hereby urge you to reapply again and again. I enjoyed my time with you enormously. Keep up your interest in this business. You will make it. Sincerely, Ben Bradlee"

That was all the encouragement I needed. Four years later my father died and I went to Ben and asked him if he had any advice for me. He first told me that I made him uncomfortable - I was wearing a three-piece suit. Take off your vest, he said in that gravelly voice. "You make me nervous." He asked me where I might want to work. Somewhere near my family, I said. He got on the phone and called the editor of The Akron Beacon Journal and said he had someone sitting across from him who he thought might make a good reporter. And so I got my foot in the door of journalism.

For several years thereafter I would send him my better stories and he would send back comments - just a line or two of encouragement, always signed "Ben Bradlee."

"Ted, Keep going; you're doing fine, Best, Ben Bradlee," read one of his notes.

On Feb. 10, 1976, he wrote "I'll reactive your name and if this bloody strike ever ends, maybe things will change. All the best, Ben Bradlee." (The contentious strike pitted pressmen against management and was then already in its fifth month and far from resolved.) That summer he made a call on my behalf to The Virginian-Pilot and helped me get an internship there. By now I had come to look upon him as a kind of gruff guardian angel.

Finally in the summer of 1977, between my second and third years of law school, I was given my shot at The Post as an intern - more than seven years after my initial try. I guess Ben figured anyone this relentless might make a persistent reporter. A year later I joined The Post as a staffer. I had my moments and my stories, but was never one of The Post's true heavyweights. But Ben



never stopped watching over me - or the rest of us.

I remember one afternoon I was called into his office along with another reporter and two senior editors. A Republican senator had gone to Ben's house in the middle of the night, Ben said, alleging that the candidate Ronald Reagan had a number of gay staffers. The question was raised whether we should pursue it as a story. A senior editor weighed in, referring to "queers." Ben interrupted him. "We do not use that term," he scolded. In 1980 there were not so many in the newsroom who would have objected. We pursued the story, confirmed the obvious - that there were gays on the candidate's staff (as there are doubtless on most staffs) but with Ben's support, chose not to run it, concluding that it was a nonstory.

I also remember another senior editor disparaging a story I had worked on for months. Ben knew I was upset about the editor's comments and even considering resigning. Ben never mentioned the editor or his comments; he just came over to me at the end of the day, put his arm around my shoulder and asked me if I needed a lift home. I (foolishly) declined, but the gesture was enough to restore my confidence that I was at the right place.

In 1980 a series I co-authored was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. I remember going into Ben's office and giving him a copy of the rejection letter he had sent me a decade earlier with a note appended, saying thanks for giving me a shot. I think we all felt that way about Ben. It was personal. Sure, we were ambitious. Sure, we owed it to the paper and the country and all those other grand principles. But honestly, I think a lot of us felt like we owed it to Ben. His faith in us was a debt we did not take lightly.

I remember writing a story about President Jimmy Carter that a Times reporter took issue with and called Ben for comment. I was on the line as well. The reporter told Ben The Times would blow a hole through The Post's story. Ben's response: Sounds like a great story, can't wait to read it. (A part of me feels guilty even writing this for The Times - do forgive me, Ben.) I remember only too well the Janet Cooke episode in which The Post was forced to return a Pulitzer Prize after it was learned the story had been a fabrication. It anguished us all, but none more than Ben. I also remember that a series I co-authored that same year drew tremendous fire and that though The Post's defensive shield was weakened, Ben did not flinch.

I left The Post in 1987, but continued to write for it nearly every year thereafter. In 2011, I sent Ben a copy of a book I had written and wrote an inscription to him that said how much I admired him, that he had changed the course of my life, and that there was no man, save my own father, whom I respected more. A few months later I was visiting The Post and found myself alone with Ben in the elevator. He told me he had received my book and had read the inscription. "You know," he said, "After I read it, I walked around all day with my chest puffed out." You think Ben Bradlee needed Ted Gup? And yet, there it was. He knew the power of a few right words, a gesture, a smile. I remember after a story I did I felt his hand patting my back. Didn't say a word. I also remember thinking I wouldn't have traded that for any kind of raise.

I saw him only twice after that, once in 2012 on the 40th anniversary of the Watergate break-in, and once at a 2013 tribute for a departing Donald Graham. But by then, the Ben I knew - that we knew - was largely gone, a victim of dementia.

Last night, reading of his death, I called a friend from The Post and we comforted each other, and shared our memories of Ben, profane and inspired, steely-edged and sweet-centered. For us, working for Ben had been the privilege of a lifetime. I for one often imagined Ben as a kind of journalistic King Arthur and we, his Knights of the Round Table. He was not only my gruff guardian angel, but the nation's as well. He will be missed.

Ted Gup is a Boston-based journalist, professor and the author, most recently, of "A Secret Gift."

RETWEET IF YOU'RE GRIEVING - NYTIMES.COM (NYT)

New York Times, October 22, 2014

"Rest in peace. That three-word phrase, expressing a sincere hope that the dead will find peace in the afterlife, is a fitting inscription for a tombstone," writes Bella Mackie for The Guardian. It is now also "a very popular hashtag on social media."

The occasion for Ms. Mackie's column is the death this week of Lynda Bellingham, a popular English actress. Fans, family members and public figures took to Twitter and other social media to express their grief and pay their respects. Many, Ms. Mackie writes, relied on the hashtag #RIPLyndaBellingham. "Often it's used on its own, without any further comment on a person's life,



and is widely seen as an acceptable tribute," Ms. Mackie remarks. "The problem is that the one-size-fits-all epitaph surely does little justice to the dead."

Ms. Mackie isn't the first person to question the etiquette and meaning of mourning online. A Tumblr created in 2013 by Fast Company's Jason Feifer called *Selfies at Funerals* attracted heavy criticism - is everyone a narcissist? - before finding some defenders. Scott Simon, the host of NPR's *Weekend Edition Saturday*, tweeted his mother's last days in the hospital to his 1.3 million followers, to mixed but mostly appreciative reviews. When Robin Williams committed suicide last August, people tweeted everything from their favorite clips of the comedian to the actor's New York Times obituary.

To start with, what happens to our social media accounts when we die? Depending on the wishes of the next of kin, Facebook either deactivates the account or converts an individual's page into a memorial site. Jonathan Strickland writes for *How Stuff Works* that a memorialized page deletes addresses and contact information and prevents the individual's name from appearing as a potential invitee for events. That status helps avoid some unpleasant scenarios that Stephanie Buck documents in an article for *Mashable*, like when friends don't know that a person has died and continue to post on someone's profile. ("Have a good time on your birthday, Cheryl. You only live once," read one such uninformed post after a woman's death from cancer.)

Some companies don't have explicit policies for how to handle a user's death, so Mr. Strickland mentions a few services that can help prepare family with instructions for what to do. These include *Legacy Locker*, a company that allows you to designate how you would like your digital assets handled, and even lets you compose letters to loved ones to be distributed after your death. Another service, *My Wonderful Life*, offers those services as well as the opportunity to design your own funeral or write your own obituary. (Gregory S. McNeal observes for *Forbes* that leaving such matters unattended to can result in a lawsuit.)

That still leaves the question of how we should actually behave when mourning online. Mr. Feifer's "*Selfies at Funerals*" provoked real opprobrium: The *Huffington Post* posted an article entitled "*Funeral Selfies Are the Latest Evidence Apocalypse Can't Come Soon Enough*."

But Christina Chaey at *Fast Company* is more even-keeled. She wonders, "should our thoughts on the dying remain a private affair?" Or "is it fair to bring others into our own, deeply personal experiences with death through very public mediums?" Katy Waldman at *Slate* asks, "Is it somehow more tasteful, even nobler, to keep grief private?"

Ms. Waldman allows that the tone of social media - true loss mixed in with memes - can feel off. "Perhaps it's the ephemerality of online mourning that trivializes it - the word limits mocking death's enormity. (Boil down your feelings about grandma into 140 characters; leave room for a clever hashtag!) Social media platforms favor a tone of snark and irony, not earnestness, which can make plaintive expressions of grief hard to parse."

Ms. Waldman is ultimately permissive of this contradiction. "Of course, this makes our online interactions pretty much the same as our offline ones: a stream of true and false statements mixed together, adding up to a social self that is sort of us and sort of not."

People who sympathize with online mourners point out that, in many cultures, grief is a public, communal process. Increasingly, Facebook and Twitter are our public square. Elijah Wolfson and Sabrina Bachai write for *Newsweek*, "since everything else happens on Facebook, why wouldn't it be the place where people go to mourn?" Mr. Wolfson and Ms. Bachai, like many others, reference Elizabeth Kübler-Ross's five stages of grief; in our modern era, the first stage, of denial and isolation, is changed, and perhaps by the existence of social media. "Maybe that's a good thing," they write.

Meghan O'Rourke, who wrote a book about mourning her mother, responded to both Scott Simon's live-tweeting at his mother's bedside and to criticism of the compulsion to respond to Robin Williams's death. Like Mr. Wolfson and Ms. Bachai, she argues that mourning on social media is a response to how detached our modern lives have become from death. "The extraordinary response to Simon's tweets," she writes for *The New Yorker*, "suggests a hunger on the part of Americans for a way to integrate death and mourning into our lives."

The medium is also, in some ways, uniquely suited to the moment. "Watching someone die brings us powerfully in touch with how brief - yet intense - each life here is. The tweets, which felt almost aphoristic (a mere hundred and forty characters each), underscored one of the strangest things about being with someone at the end of her life: the surreality of time, the way that time bends and



distorts, becomes material."

That doesn't mean mourning online is without its pitfalls. Mr. Wolfson and Ms. Bachai recognize "the danger that new technologies might foster denial and make it harder to let go." And the ease of retweeting someone else's pithy remembrance shouldn't allow us to get lazy. "If the Internet allows us all to participate in collective mourning, then it should also demand that we do so more creatively," writes Ms. Mackie. But as Ms. Waldman concludes, the desire to share your feelings with your community, whether momentary or deeply felt, is essentially human: "I believe that's called grieving."

## HOW TO DEFEAT EBOLA (NYT)

By Nicholas Kristof

New York Times, October 23, 2014

An alarming new symptom of Ebola in America: It seems to make brains mushy and hearts hard. In New Jersey, two students from Rwanda, which has had no Ebola cases and is 2,800 miles from the affected countries in West Africa, are being kept home. Navarro College in Texas rejected applicants from Nigeria, initially stating that it would not accept students from countries with Ebola cases - a bit problematic because that would mean no longer accepting Americans.

The former executive director of the South Carolina Republican Party, Todd Kincannon, suggested (perhaps satirically) one way to control the disease: All people who tested positive for the Ebola virus could be "humanely put down."

Many Republicans and some Democrats have been calling for a ban on flights from the Ebola-affected West African countries. A Reuters poll indicated that almost three-quarters of Americans favored such a ban on flights.

It's a superficially attractive idea, but also a reflection of our mixed-up notions of how to protect ourselves. The truth is that Ebola is both less serious and far more serious than we think.

It's less serious here because, in the end, the United States and other countries with advanced health systems can suppress Ebola outbreaks. Granted, the Dallas hospital bungled its response. Still, if Nigeria and Senegal can manage Ebola successfully, so can the United States. We won't have an epidemic here.

Yet Ebola is more serious because there is a significant risk that it will become endemic in West Africa and spin off to other countries in the region or to India, Bangladesh or China. Ebola in India would be a catastrophe.

Oxfam rightly warns that more resources are needed to prevent Ebola from becoming the "definitive humanitarian disaster of our generation." And if the virus lingers or spreads among poor countries, it will periodically travel to America. In a globalized world, Ebola anywhere is a threat to people everywhere.

There are also security risks. Aum Shinrikyo, a Japanese terrorist group, tried to collect Ebola samples in Congo in 1992 for bioterror weapons but failed. Today, it would be easy to collect the virus, and a few suicide operatives could deliberately contract Ebola and then travel to the United States to spread the virus. (However, if the aim is mass murder, it would be simpler and probably more effective just to set off bombs.)

In any case, the point is that global health is not just a warm and fuzzy kind of aid. It's also self-interest. It's also national security. The best way to protect ourselves is to eradicate Ebola at its source.

A flight ban would hamper that effort by making it more difficult to get health workers and supplies to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Dr. Peter Piot, who helped identify Ebola in 1976, tells me that flight bans would be counterproductive because they would "make aid really more difficult and expensive."

Likewise, Dr. Paul Farmer, founder of Partners in Health, tells me bluntly: "A ban would be worse than ineffective, and would certainly hamper the efforts of groups like ours - and worsen the epidemic."

Even airport screenings may be a feel-good distraction. An editorial in BMJ, a medical journal, noted that Canada used questionnaires and thermal scanners to screen hundreds of thousands of people for SARS, spent \$15 million, and didn't find a single case. The editorial suggests that airport screening "will have no meaningful effect" and that resources would be better used fighting Ebola in West Africa.



For all the fuss about our own borders, not nearly enough is being done where it counts most: in West Africa. Bravo to President Obama for pledging up to 4,000 troops to fight the disease there, but the United States and other countries must do far more - and quickly! - if Ebola is to be defeated.

The number of Ebola cases is still doubling every two to four weeks, and these countries can't defeat the outbreak on their own. Liberia is said to have only 50 practicing doctors, according to Reuters, and there appears to be more Liberian doctors practicing in the United States than in Liberia. That brain drain means that Liberia, in effect, is providing medical foreign aid to the United States.

These are lovely countries with friendly people and some heroic health workers, but roads, electricity and other infrastructure are desperately weak. All Liberia can produce less than one-third as much electricity as the Dallas Cowboys football stadium consumes at peak times. That's why the American military's help in West Africa is crucial, and why it's a disgrace that less than half of a Sept. 16 United Nations target for Ebola response funds has been raised. Our values and interests coincide here. So let's calm down and get to work protecting America from Ebola by stopping this disaster at its source.

#### AZERBAIJAN'S INCREASINGLY INTOLERANT REGIME (NYT)

By Gunay Ismayilova And Samir Kazimli

New York Times, October 23, 2014

BAKU, Azerbaijan - As human rights defenders, we must report that our own situation in Azerbaijan has been deteriorating fast.

Two years ago, human rights groups across Europe worried that holding the Eurovision Song Contest in our country would only prop up Azerbaijan's increasingly intolerant regime. Now their fears have been confirmed. Just in the past year, we have seen a cascading series of arrests of human rights defenders on trumped-up charges.

So imagine our dismay on hearing about Europe's latest approach to our country: The Council of Europe itself is holding a conference this Saturday and Sunday in Baku, on how to implement the European Convention on Human Rights. Those attending reportedly will include Judge Dean Spielmann, the president of the European Court of Human Rights, the very institution that is supposed to be the bulwark of our cause in Europe.

It would be humorous were it not so tragic.

There is only one reason for the choice of venue: It's Azerbaijan's turn, according to its place in the alphabet, to hold the chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers. By all other measures, the decision makes no sense at all.

Many leaders of the already limited number of independent nongovernmental organizations here are now in prison, most of them on sham charges of "illegal entrepreneurship," abuse of power, state treason and tax evasion.

Our European visitors probably won't get to see the 58-year-old human rights defender (and founding director of the Peace and Democracy Institute in Baku) Leyla Yunus. She was arrested on July 30 on charges of treason and other counts her lawyers say are fraudulent. Or her husband, Arif Yunus, 59, who was arrested six days later. On Sept. 23, according to the lawyers, Ms. Yunus was beaten by a guard at the Kurdakhany detention center, where she is being held. The Europeans probably won't visit Intigam Aliyev, either; he is a lawyer and human rights defender who was detained and charged on Aug. 8. There are serious concerns about the health of both Ms. Yunus and Mr. Aliyev, and indications that neither is receiving the medical attention they require.

Nor will the Europeans meet Rasul Jafarov, a young pro-democracy activist arrested on Aug. 2. He was about to kick off a "Sports for Rights" campaign protesting plans to hold the first-ever European Games in Baku in 2015, an event that has support from the international corporations BP, P&G, Tissot and others.

Journalists have also been systematically targeted. Last month, a criminal case was opened against the investigative journalist and corruption fighter Khadija Ismayilova (no relationship to the co-author of this article), after she spoke in Strasbourg, France, at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. She is now at risk of joining almost a dozen other journalists and bloggers who are already in prison.



Then there is Anar Mammadli, the recipient of the Council of Europe's Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize. Sadly, our friend, who was honored just last month for his work on monitoring elections and other democratic rights, is currently serving a five-and-a-half-year prison sentence, handed down in May.

All in all, Azerbaijan seems a particularly strange place to discuss the business of how better to implement human rights.

A string of recent European Court judgments has taken Azerbaijan to task for a long list of serious rights abuses, including police torture and brutality, detention of political opponents, imprisonment of journalists, interference in elections and refusal to register legitimate civil society groups.

Rather than uphold the principles of the European Convention on Human Rights, Azerbaijan has continued to use the law as a political club to silence critics. As in many countries whose economies run on oil revenues, Azerbaijan's corrupt ruling elite has no interest in implementing the rule of law, which would lead to its inevitable fall from power.

In our view, it is a travesty that the Council of Europe is sponsoring a conference about human rights in Azerbaijan. The event will only be used cynically by the state-controlled media to add legitimacy to the current government, which tramples the rights that the Council of Europe seeks to defend.

And still, the diplomats and European judges are planning to come.

Gunay Ismayilova works with the Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety, and Samir Kazimli with the Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center.

#### TURKEY'S NEW KURDISH PROBLEM (NYT)

By Mustafa Akyol

New York Times, October 23, 2014

Istanbul - "Nations do behave wisely once they have exhausted all other alternatives," the Israeli diplomat Abba Eban once quipped. The Turkish government finally seems to be doing so in Kobani, the northern Syrian city besieged by the Islamic State - after trying everything else. Turkey is now helping Kobani's defenders after standing, literally, on the sidelines for weeks as a battle raged just across the border.

As Kobani was encircled by Islamic State forces, despite air strikes by the United States and its allies, Turkey, a NATO ally, had tanks positioned only a few miles away. Why, many wondered, did Turkey do nothing to help the secular Kurdish fighters defend themselves against brutal religious fanatics?

Things looked more complicated from Turkey's perspective though. Kobani's defense is spearheaded by the Democratic Union Party, or P.Y.D., a Syrian Kurdish party that shares the ideology of the Kurdistan Workers Party, or P.K.K., a group that both Turkey and the United States define as a terrorist organization. The organization's 30-year war with Turkey has claimed 40,000 lives.

Therefore, for many Turks, the battle was not between heroic Kurdish fighters and bloody terrorists; it was between two different types of terrorists. Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, made this clear when he stated repeatedly that the Islamic State is "the same" as the P.K.K. and P.Y.D.

It would be unfair to depict Turkey's stance as categorically "anti-Kurdish." After all, it is the same Turkey that recently welcomed 180,000 refugees from Kobani, most of them Kurds, in addition to the 1.5 million Syrians who have already found a safe haven in Turkey.

Turkey also helped the Iraqi Kurds by secretly giving them weapons to use against the Islamic State, as Massoud Barzani, the president of the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq, recently declared. When it came to Kobani, Turkey's problem was not that the city was dominated by Kurds, but by a specific Kurdish party affiliated with the P.K.K. - Ankara's longstanding nemesis. Nevertheless, Mr. Erdogan should have been more amenable to helping Kobani's fighters. After all, it was under his own leadership that the Turkish government initiated a commendable "peace process" with the P.K.K. about two years ago. Since then, guns have been mostly silent and hopes have increased for a permanent resolution of Turkey's festering Kurdish problem.

But the process has been sluggish - partly due to the lack of trust on both sides. Mr. Erdogan is acting as if he wants to keep the peace process as a bargaining chip to help achieve his own political goals, such as drafting a new constitution that grants him even more power. Meanwhile,



the P.K.K. has repeatedly threatened to renew its armed struggle and is employing small-scale violence, such as arson and vandalism.

Kobani could have been an opportunity to help overcome these troubles, had the government used more empathetic language and taken the key step of allowing Kurdish fighters from Iraq to pass through Turkey to come to Kobani's aid a month ago. Instead, the government's language of indifference and its policy of inaction enraged Turkey's own Kurds. Some of them organized violent protests, during which some bystanders were killed by protesters simply because they had long beards and looked like Islamists.

This wanton violence by pro-P.K.K. militants deserves condemnation. At the same time, Turkey's stance toward Syria's Kurds needs an overhaul. First, Turkey should remind itself that despite the militancy of the P.K.K., the Kurds are still the best ally for Ankara at a time when both of its southern neighbors, Syria and Iraq, are dissolving in chaos.

Second, Turkey's government should also realize that while the brutal regime of Bashar al-Assad may indeed be the core trouble in Syria, the Islamic State is not a mere "symptom" of the Assad regime; it is now a deadly disease in itself, with a growing potential to hurt and destabilize Turkey.

Mr. Erdogan and Turkey's prime minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, should also strive to preserve Turkey's own internal peace by reconciling its tense society, which is now bitterly divided along political, ethnic and sectarian lines. They can do this only by using a language of moderation and empathy, tolerating criticism and peaceful protest, and offering fair and transparent governance. Unfortunately though, the government's response to Turkey's polarization is to flex its muscles, which is counterproductive. After the recent protests, the government proposed legal reforms that would give it sweeping powers to crack down on dissent.

If the law passes, it will be easier for the police to wiretap and search suspects, and lawyers will have limited access to the evidence against their clients. The authorities will also be able to seize money and property if they find that "crimes against the government" have been committed. Many fear that these broad definitions could be used to criminalize political opposition.

The underlying problem is that the government sees all opposition to its rule as a well-crafted conspiracy to topple it and bring back the much-demonized "old Turkey." Ironically, the main problem with that "old Turkey" was the same conspiratorial mindset, which resulted in the exact same manifestations of authoritarianism.

For a truly "new" Turkey, which will not be a part of the chaos in the Middle East but a cure to it, the government must move on with the "peace process" with the P.K.K. and fully realize its rapprochement with the Kurds. But it also needs to begin a new peace process with the opposition groups at home, which it has been demonizing as traitors and enemies within.

Mustafa Akyol is a columnist and the author of "Islam Without Extremes: A Muslim Case for Liberty."

#### MILITARY SUCCESS HAS BRED POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE ISLAMIC STATE (WP)

Washington Post, October 23, 2014

WESTERN LEADERS sometimes suggest that the Islamic State is its own worst enemy, so extreme in doctrine and practice that it will galvanize opposition within the Islamic world. While that is proving true to some extent - Muslim governments, senior clerics and even other jihadist groups have joined the fight against the would-be caliphate - the sobering truth is that the Islamic State also has picked up popular support and the allegiance of other militants in countries as far away as Algeria and Pakistan.

The spread of the group's medieval doctrine and tactics, such as beheading, is a product of its military successes in Iraq and Syria and its skill at social media, which bypasses the more traditional and restricted channels of communication in Arab autocracies. The contagion shows that the reversal of the group's momentum is crucial not just to the future of Iraq and its neighbors but also to the broader battle against Islamic extremism around the world.

Predictably, groups swearing allegiance to the Islamic State have appeared first in areas where state authority has broken down. Affiliates have declared themselves in at least two Libyan cities, and an Algerian cell swore allegiance to Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi before beheading a French hostage last month. The chief spokesman for the Pakistani Taliban and five of its commanders declared allegiance last week, shifting their fealty from the somewhat more moderate Afghan Taliban leadership of Mullah Omar.



In Egypt, the Sinai-based Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis group has beheaded at least nine captives since August, according to a report in the Los Angeles Times, and a commander boasted to a Reuters reporter that the Egyptian group had online contacts with the Islamic State. Even the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group in the Philippines has attempted to trade on the Islamic State aura; it released a statement last month threatening to kill two German hostages unless Germany withdrew from the U.S.-led coalition against the extremists.

Even more disturbing are signs that the Islamic State has the sympathy of many noncombatants in the region. In the Lebanese port of Tripoli, a longtime stronghold of radical Sunni groups, murals of the group's black flags are painted on buildings in the center of the city, according to the Wall Street Journal. In Turkey, pro-Islamic State students at Istanbul University have triggered a series of fights on campus, according to the Associated Press. In Jordan, a recent poll showed that only 62 percent of respondents considered the Islamic State terrorist, according to David Schenker of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Such popular sentiment explains why leaders such as Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan have been reluctant participants in the anti-Islamic State coalition.

The Obama administration has recognized the danger of the Islamic State's appeal and has pushed for political steps to combat it, such as public statements by clerical authorities. Ultimately, however, the group's pull will likely be governed by the maxim once formulated by Osama bin Laden: "When people see a strong horse and a weak horse, by nature, they will like the strong horse." Islamic extremism won't be defeated by military might alone. But to many in the Islamic world, the Islamic State now looks strong. The only way to reverse its influence is through its military defeat, sooner rather than later.

## THE POST'S ENDORSEMENTS FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY HOUSE AND SENATE ELECTIONS (WP)

By Editorial Board

Washington Post, October 22, 2014

MONTGOMERY AND Prince George's counties have contributed heavily to what has become one-party Democratic rule in Annapolis: Not a single Republican state delegate or senator represents either of Maryland's two biggest counties. That's not healthy for those localities or for the state. Unfortunately, it's also self-perpetuating: GOP candidates have been so marginalized that few have the money, political base and basic familiarity with state government to mount a credible campaign for office.

We make our endorsements in Maryland legislative races this year mindful of the imbalance in the State House and frustrated at the scarcity of credible Republican candidates. We do not offer endorsements in every district; rather, we've focused our attention on races where there is a choice between or among credible candidates. The names of candidates we've endorsed in Montgomery's races appear below in bold type; our picks in Prince George's will appear in the coming days.

(Identify your legislative district and current representatives by entering your address at [mdelect.net](http://mdelect.net). See a sample ballot in your district for the Nov. 4 elections by entering your name, date of birth and Zip code at [wapo.st/mdprimary](http://wapo.st/mdprimary) .

District 14: In the Senate race, Republican Frank Howard, a first-time candidate, has run a vigorous campaign while incumbent Democrat Karen S. Montgomery appears to be inert; her Web site has not been updated recently. Ms. Montgomery, who has served in the legislature since 2002 and was elected to the Senate in 2010, has been a marginal player in Annapolis, though she has been an advocate for seniors. Mr. Howard, a businessman, wants to repeal some of the legislature's recent tax increases but is appropriately focused on using gas tax revenues to improve roads in a district that ranges from Silver Spring along the county's eastern border. In the House, three capable Democratic incumbents merit reelection in this district: Anne R. Kaiser, Eric G. Luedtke and Craig J. Zucker. Mr. Luedtke and Mr. Zucker are promising freshmen who haven't yet made a major mark in Annapolis. Still, they are preferable to any of the three Republicans, who are well-meaning but very lightly versed in the issues and whose experience with state and local issues is scant.

District 15: Inveterate gadfly Robin Ficker, author of numerous anti-tax ballot questions, is the Republican candidate in the Senate, while his son Flynn is running for delegate. The two Fickers,



who say they have knocked on 60,000 doors in the sprawling upcounty district over the past 18 months, strike a moderate stance on taxes. They say they would not seek the repeal of existing levies but would try to divert funds to adding road and light rail capacity in the Interstate 270 corridor. Republican Ed Edmundson, a first-time candidate for delegate, strikes similarly moderate positions.

However, they are up against formidable incumbents who deserve reelection: Brian J. Feldman, the incumbent senator, is former chair of the Montgomery House delegation. Appointed to the Senate seat in 2013, he has been a leader in advocating for Montgomery's biotechnology corridor. In the House, Kathleen M. Dumais has been a smart and effective member of the Judiciary Committee, while Aruna Miller gained a spot on the powerful Ways and Means Committee in her first term. David Fraser-Hidalgo, who was appointed to Feldman's seat, made a good start in the 2013-2014 session and is one of the legislature's few Latinos.

District 16: In this competitive race for the House of Delegates, we endorse incumbent Democrat Bill Frick and two challengers, Democrat Marc Korman and Republican Rose Li.

Mr. Frick is a rising star in the legislature, a budget expert who has contributed on a range of issues. Mr. Korman, a lawyer, product of Montgomery County schools and party activist who has worked on Capitol Hill, has the makings of a productive legislator, especially on issues pertaining to Metro and transportation generally. Ms. Li, with degrees from the University of Chicago and Princeton University, is an impressive fresh face, the founder and manager of a small business involved in scientific writing and conferences. Ms. Li believes Montgomery County is not getting its fair share of state funds for school construction and other purposes, and she argues that a win by a moderate Republican like herself would inspire the Democratic delegation to fight harder with its leadership on behalf of local constituents.

District 19: Democratic incumbent delegates Benjamin F. Kramer and Bonnie L. Cullison make a strong team and deserve reelection. Maricé Morales, the third Democrat on the ballot, a young attorney and former House of Delegates staffer, is the person to join them. The lone Republican running in this three-seat district is Martha Schaerr, who doesn't talk about her past work to overturn the state's marriage-equality law in 2011 and 2012. Nor does she mention her 2007 push to include in the county's sex education curriculum the erroneous information that homosexuality is a "choice."

District 20: Of the three Democrats for delegate on the ballot in this district centered on Takoma Park, we endorsed just one, Sheila E. Hixson, a veteran incumbent, in the primary. In the general election we also endorse Democrat Will Smith and Green Party candidate Dan Robinson. Mr. Smith, a bright young lawyer, has served in the Department of Homeland Security and as an officer in the Navy Reserve, in addition to his extensive involvement in county affairs. Mr. Robinson, a thoughtful, experienced former Takoma Park city councilor and local businessman, advocates greater municipal control of resources currently allocated by the county.

## BEN BRADLEE'S RELENTLESS PRESUMPTION TURNED MY LIFE AROUND (WP)

By Rachel Jones

Washington Post, October 22, 2014

In early December of 1982, I was a 21-year-old recent college drop-back-in student at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, trying to play catch-up after taking a few years off the college track. For an English 101 class, I had written an essay about black English arguing that, while I embraced black slang as part of my identity, it was important for black Americans to master standard English if they wanted to succeed. The class lecturer thought the essay was so good that I should try to get it published somewhere.

One possible target was Newsweek magazine, which I'd at least thumbed through regularly since childhood (and which was then owned by The Washington Post). I'd always read the "My Turn" columns, because most had very strong, clearly articulated themes, and I liked the way the writers expressed their opinions, especially the humorous ones. I rewrote my classroom essay in a more conversational style and mailed it to Newsweek on a Friday afternoon. The following Tuesday, someone from Newsweek called and said they wanted to use my essay. A week later, I was being interviewed on radio stations across the country. Soon there were summer internship offers from the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and the Chicago Tribune. Even the dean of Yale's Business School wrote to say that he thought I had the type of mind they were looking for and that



I should consider applying one day.

Then came a letter from one Benjamin Crowninshield Bradlee, who died yesterday, asking me to accept a Washington Post internship during the summer of 1983.

I don't mention these things to brag about how incredibly talented I was in my youth. Actually what I thought, reading Bradlee's letter, was, "Here he goes again," taking a chance on another unknown and potentially risky young black female employee. Just the previous year, he'd been dazzled (well, really bamboozled) by Janet Cooke, whose creative skill, embellished personal history and fraudulent storytelling ended in one of the most embarrassing chapters in the Post's distinguished history. Obviously I wasn't lying about anything, nor was I a sophisticated, ambitious operator like Cooke was. I was just a meek, introverted young woman (intimidated and anxious under the spotlight that essay had shined on me) who'd heeded her mother's advice and used her brain to try to escape poverty and early pregnancy. But the willingness of so many people to take a chance both surprised me and made me think, for the first time, that maybe I did belong in journalism.

I wound up accepting the New York Times internship in 1983 instead of going to The Post. I can remember the fear as I wrote an apology letter to Ben Bradlee, trying to explain my path and thanking him for his generous offer. He wrote back. And he said, "That's okay. We'll get you next time."

There is a magic that is potent beyond human understanding when someone in a position of power extends himself or herself on your behalf, based on nothing more than a belief in your potential.

Well, the New York Times internship was less than stellar, because interns were still considered glorified copy boys and girls. We couldn't have bylines even if they had accepted our story ideas. By the end of the summer of 1983, I was so uninspired by journalism that I parked in an upstairs bedroom at my parents' house in Cairo, Ill., and vowed not to emerge until I had produced the next Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. One day, my mother shouted up the steps that there was a phone call for me from Washington. When I answered, the voice on the other end growled, "So, you tried the New York Times. Now you need to come work for us next year."

What was this guy's DEAL??? I mean, didn't Bradlee have enough to worry about at The Post without chasing down a black female two-time college dropout who wasn't really sure she wanted to be a journalist in the first place? I had never even reapplied for the Post.

But Bradlee wanted me to come to The Post because he was a powerful, privileged white male superhero of American journalism, and he could do whatever he damn well wanted to do - including tracking me down at my home and refusing to take no for an answer. Even though I was flattered, I was also baffled by his presumption. But he didn't care what people thought about him, and he definitely wasn't going to let the New York Times beat him at anything if he could help it.

And here he was asking me to accept an internship at The Post. Again! I can't remember what I stammered in reply, but he got his way. He probably always got his way. And thank goodness. I first entered The Post newsroom in June 1984 as a scared-out-of-my-mind intern. Sharing an elevator with Katharine Graham one morning almost gave me a stroke. When Donald Graham leaned over my desk to ask how things were going, I'm pretty sure I just stared at him like a startled calf. Lunchtime Brown Bag sessions with Bob Woodward feel like a dream. ... I still can't believe that summer happened to me.

The intern Class of 1984 contained stellar prospects such as Pulitzer Prize winners Dana Priest and Sari Horwitz; future Hollywood hotshot Paul Attanasio, who executive-produced "House, M.D."; and future multimedia design consultant extraordinaire Ron Reason, who became one of my closest friends.

The moment I knew I would commit to journalism occurred in Ben Bradlee's office that summer. There I sat, hands folded in my lap to keep them from trembling. On a shelf above his right shoulder sat a picture of John F. Kennedy. I was in the office of a legend who had been friends with a legend, and he was advising me on my journalism career. He said I probably wouldn't be ready for a job at The Post when the internship ended, but he promised to connect me with some of his contacts at the newspaper in Fredricksburg, Va., where he thought I should work for a few years to build my skills.

There is a magic that is potent beyond human understanding when someone in a position of



power extends himself or herself on your behalf, based on nothing more than a belief in your potential. It lights a fire that would take a hurricane to extinguish. I've faced a few tropical depressions through the years, mind you, but I have never stopped believing in my talent as a writer. Truthfully, it was another moment of astonishing presumption - the idea that he could direct the course of my career just because he was a master of the universe accustomed to having people take his suggestions. But he was right, and by taking the time to act as my personal career counselor, Ben Bradlee sealed my fate. I'm grateful for it every day.

News of his passing hits me hard, especially after reading about writer Rebecca Carroll, whose recent New Republic essay ("I'm a Black Journalist. I'm Quitting Because I'm Tired of Newsroom Racism") gave me some PTSD flashbacks. It reminded me why I have never been able to watch a full episode of the HBO series "The Newsroom," because it feels like I'm watching a parallel universe where people like me simply do not exist and wouldn't be welcome even if they did. But, most importantly, as far as I know, it doesn't contain a single character who is like what I remember about Benjamin Crowninshield Bradlee, whose ancestors came over on the Mayflower and who was a legend before most of the people in American newsrooms today were even born and who every now and then went out of his way to think, We have GOT to make an effort to include voices besides our own in this goddamned newspaper.

So as I spend my days in a foreign news bureau editing Voice of America scripts from young South Sudanese journalists whose first language isn't English but who risk their lives every second to report the news during their country's latest civil war, I'll remember how Ben Bradlee defined white privilege - and what a difference it made in my life. I believe that he knew what a fantastic hand life had dealt him by being born white, male, rich and charming, and that he saw the value of learning from people who weren't as privileged. And I will keep praying that one day, American newsrooms will finally reflect the world as it really is.

This piece is adapted from Rachel Jones's post on LinkedIn.

#### RAISES RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER? (WP)

By Catherine Rampell

Washington Post, October 22, 2014

Inflation-adjusted hourly earnings fell in September, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. As I mentioned in my column yesterday, though, some recent survey data suggest that both employers and consumers believe we're right on the verge of long-awaited raises. Here are the data points I was referring to.

The preliminary October data from the Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan Survey of Consumers found that 54 percent of Americans believe their household income will rise in the next year. That's the highest share since September 2008 (the month Lehman went bust). The median expected income increase reported by all households was 1.1 percent, the same as it was in September; the last time it was higher was November 2008.

The National Federation of Independent Business showed that small- and medium-size businesses are also anticipating their compensation costs to rise in the coming three months. The net share expecting compensation costs to rise (that is, the percent saying they expected worker compensation to rise minus the percent saying they expected it to fall) was 15 percent in September. The last time it was higher was October 2007.

This prediction may reflect the fact that businesses report they are having trouble finding qualified applicants for their available job openings (which should force employers to offer higher wages to the few qualified applicants out there):

Of course, survey predictions are often wrong. And there's lots of debate about the underlying causes of wage stagnation in recent years. But if businesses have already accepted that their compensation costs are going to rise soon, managers might be more amenable if and when workers start requesting raises.

#### IBM'S BIG BLUES (WP)

By Harold Meyerson

Washington Post, October 22, 2014

Big Blue's got the blues. On Monday, IBM's stock tumbled by 7 percent after it unveiled a dismal quarterly earnings report that showed a 4 percent drop in revenue - the 10th consecutive quarter



of flat or declining sales. Revealing these mournful numbers, the company also announced it would abandon a policy that set it apart from all other firms: the 2010 pledge from then-CEO Sam Palmisano to raise the earnings per share of its stock to \$20 by 2015.

No other company had so explicitly promised to raise the shareholders' return on their stock.

Maximizing shareholder value has been the North Star of U.S. corporate policy for decades now, but no other firm pursued it so openly - and disastrously - as IBM.

There are two ways to increase a company's earnings per share: Either you increase the earnings, or you reduce the number of shares. Unfortunately for IBM, it had trouble keeping up with the rapid pace of change in the high-tech world. Its earnings flat-lined. To meet Palmisano's pledge, the company embarked on an orgy of buying back its stock. This had already been an unstated policy at IBM; Palmisano merely made it more explicit. Since 2000, IBM has spent a mind-boggling \$108 billion - \$12 billion of that in the first half of this year - buying back shares. It devoted another \$30 billion to paying dividends. The Financial Times calculated that from 2003 to 2013, the company devoted nearly 80 percent of its cash to rewarding shareholders through buybacks and dividends. In 1993, IBM had 2.3 billion outstanding shares; 20 years later, it had 1.1 billion. As the Wall Street Journal's Dennis Berman has pointed out, at that pace the company would have no publicly traded shares at all by 2034.

The rise in earnings per share at IBM entranced big-time investors. No Carl Icahn's barraged its managers with complaints that it wasn't returning enough to shareholders (a complaint Icahn has repeatedly lodged against Apple and other companies more successful than IBM). Palmisano's pledge, and the company's history of buying back its shares, even persuaded Warren Buffett, who had previously shied away from investing in tech companies in a nod to the sector's penchant for creative destruction, to become IBM's biggest single shareholder. IBM's appeal, Buffett explained to CNBC, was clear: "They have this terrific reverence for the shareholder." Indeed, so great was this reverence that IBM even incurred major debt to finance its repurchases.

Over the past year, however, some analysts began arguing that increasing earnings per share by decreasing the number of shares wasn't really much of a strategy. David Stockman (once Ronald Reagan's budget director) called the company "a buyback machine on steroids." A company that once employed thousands of mathematicians and engineers to build the world's smartest machines had changed its focus from product to finance. The engineering that mattered most at IBM was financial. But placing so high a premium on rewarding shareholders ultimately proved unsustainable. On Monday, Buffett's investment lost \$1 billion as Big Blue's stock sank.

What makes IBM's decline a matter of moment to more than just company shareholders is that the course IBM elected to follow is more the norm than the exception among U.S. corporations.

William Lazonick's survey of the country's largest publicly traded companies - those listed on the S&P 500 from 2003 to 2012 - found that they devoted 54 percent of their net earnings during that time to repurchasing their own stock, and another 37 percent to shareholder dividends. Before the 1980s, by contrast, U.S. corporations retained more than half their net earnings for such things as new investments. That share steadily shrank as the goal of maximizing shareholder value and pressure from predatory large investors combined to make increasing earnings per share more important than, say, research and development. (That share also steadily shrank as CEO pay became linked to rising share value.)

Not every company that has subordinated expansion and investment to shareholder payouts has suffered the fate of IBM, of course - and IBM itself remains big enough to fund more productive investments, especially since it has now abandoned Palmisano's pledge. But its tale is nonetheless emblematic of a sad national story: how a nation that once made the world's smartest machines opted instead to try to make the world's smartest deals - many of which turned out to be abysmally dumb.

Read more from Harold Meyerson's archive or follow him on Twitter.

GEORGE WILL: RESTORATION OF SENATE'S DIGNITY RIDES ON MITCH MCCONNELL (WP)  
By George F. Will

Washington Post, October 23, 2014

Barack Obama lost Kentucky in 2012 by 23 points, yet the state remains closely divided about reelecting the man whose parliamentary skills uniquely qualify him to restrain Obama's executive overreach. So Kentucky's Senate contest is a constitutional moment that will determine whether



the separation of powers will be reasserted by a Congress revitalized by restoration of the Senate's dignity.

Even counting Justice Louis Brandeis as a Kentuckian - at 18, he defected to Harvard and New England - Mitch McConnell, 72, is second only to Henry Clay as the state's most consequential public servant. McConnell's skills have been honed through five terms. He is, however - let us say the worst - not cuddly. National Review has said he has "an owlish, tight-lipped public demeanor reminiscent of George Will." Harsh. But true.

On only one significant matter - McConnell opposes increasing the minimum wage, a symbolic issue of negligible economic importance - is he at odds with a large majority of Kentuckians. Thus he surely would be leading by more than a few points if he were less austere and more telegenic. Democrats selected McConnell's opponent, Alison Lundergan Grimes, Kentucky's 35-year-old secretary of state, largely to further their "Republicans loathe women" fable. McConnell, however, is running even with Grimes among women, partly because of the persuasiveness of his wife, Elaine Chao, the longest-serving labor secretary since World War II (2001 to 2009).

In 1952, a Republican member of the Phoenix City Council, Barry Goldwater, defeated Senate Majority Leader Ernest McFarland. For the next 52 years, until Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) lost in 2004, no party's Senate leader was defeated. But political polarization has increased leaders' conspicuousness and vulnerabilities. McConnell, who in 2002 won with 65 percent, won in 2008 with just 53 percent.

Grimes's cringe-inducing campaign has depended on a migraine-inducing argument: She broadly disagrees with her party's leader, but it is important that she help perpetuate Harry Reid's iron-fisted shutdown of the Senate for Obama's convenience. Her campaign has raised more money than McConnell's in three consecutive quarters, but money is not magic, which would be needed to make her candidacy coherent.

Although Senate races in many states remain close - McConnell remembers Republicans losing control of the Senate in 1986 by about 25,000 votes in five states - he anticipates a Republican majority in 2015. Then, he says, "a lot of institutional repair" will begin.

Since Republicans won control of the House in 2010, the Democratic-controlled Senate's function has been obstruction. Reid has prevented bills passed by the Republican House from coming to a vote and has prevented Republicans - and Democrats, too - from proposing amendments to Senate bills that would be awkward for Democrats to oppose or for Obama to veto. Obama has cast only two vetoes, both for technical reasons on minor matters. Since July 2013, McConnell says, there have been only 22 Senate roll-call votes on amendments - and says Mark Begich (D-Alaska) has never in his six Senate years had a roll-call vote on an amendment of his.

Such paralysis of the Senate leaves Obama uninhibited in his use of executive orders and bureaucratic mission-creep to advance goals that should require legislation. In January, in the most statesmanlike Senate speech in years, McConnell explained how, under Republican leadership, the Senate would be restored as the creator of consensus:

"An executive order can't [create consensus]. The fiat of a nine-person court can't do it. A raucous and precarious partisan majority in the House can't do it. The only institution that can make stable and enduring laws is the one we have in which all 50 states are represented equally, and where every single senator has a say in the laws that we pass."

Beneath McConnell's chilly exterior burns indignation about the degradation of the institution to which he has devoted much of his life. The repair of it, in the form of robust committee and amendment processes - and an extended workweek - will benefit Democratic members, too.

Kentucky's Senate election is 2014's most important, for a reason rich in irony: Although Grimes considers McConnell the architect of gridlock, electing her to inevitably docile membership in Reid's lockstep ranks would perpetuate this. But a reelected McConnell, with a Republican majority, would, he says, emulate his model of majority leadership - the 16 years under a Democrat, Montana's Mike Mansfield. He, like McConnell, had a low emotional metabolism but a subtle sense of the Senate's singular role in the nation's constitutional equilibrium.

Read more from George F. Will's archive or follow him on Facebook.

THE POLITICS OF EBOLA (WP)

By E.J. Dionne Jr.

Washington Post, October 23, 2014



## BOSTON

Seth Moulton, an Iraq veteran and Democratic congressional candidate on Massachusetts's North Shore, has done something with little precedent in political campaigning: He was caught underplaying his war record.

You read that right: An investigation by the Boston Globe found that, unlike politicians who go to great lengths to puff up their military backgrounds, Moulton, as the paper's Walter Robinson wrote, "chose not to publicly disclose that he was twice decorated for heroism until pressed by the Globe."

It took Robinson's reporting to discover that Moulton had won the Bronze Star and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for valor during the battles for control of Najaf and Nasiriyah. In a telephone interview, Moulton said his reluctance reflected a "healthy disrespect" among his comrades-in-arms for boasting about citations.

"The relative few of us who really were on the front lines don't like to talk about it and don't like to brag about it," he said. "I saw a lot of heroic kids who were on the front lines . . . and didn't get the recognition they deserved."

Moulton's story is a refreshing change of pace in a midterm election campaign short on displays of either courage or reticence. Voters are unhappy with both parties and there is no driving issue, so a play-all-the-angles approach takes whatever story is dominating the news cycle and tries to turn it into a wedge.

Nowhere has this pattern been clearer than in the rise of public worries about Ebola and the effort by Republicans to turn fear into a closing argument.

It is normal for the party that doesn't control the White House to be critical of how the incumbent has handled a crisis. And President Obama himself, according to the New York Times, was frustrated with aspects of the government's handling of the episode, one reason he called on Ron Klain, the Washington veteran, to coordinate the response.

But it's something else again to stoke alarm and to set up an unrealistic policy demand as a test of "toughness." (Yes, those quotation marks are intended to convey the cynicism involved.) Thus did many Republicans call for a travel ban from the countries affected by Ebola, even though there are no direct flights from them to the United States. This raised the prospect of grounding connecting flights from European cities, and the administration argued that the ban would encourage people to lie about their travel history, making screening for the disease much harder.

Now, Republicans have quietly conceded how problematic a travel ban would be. So they are rallying to a new tough-sounding backup position, calling for a suspension of visas for travelers from the affected countries. Trying to answer symbolic politics with practical measures, the administration announced Tuesday that travelers from Ebola-zone countries would be required to enter the United States through one of five airports equipped for screening.

To examine the way all this has played out in the congressional contest between Moulton and Republican Rich Tisei is to see how last-minute campaign pressures can push even independent-minded candidates to find ways of gaining a slight edge or avoiding political damage.

Tisei is one of the few socially moderate Republicans on the ballot this fall. Openly gay, Tisei got married in the summer of 2013, and he boycotted the state Republican convention this year to protest the party's conservative platform. Yet like other Republicans, he jumped on the idea of "banning flights" from countries where the disease is raging and of "quarantining people before they come into the country."

For his part, Moulton, after initially resisting the flight ban, sought to find middle ground by declaring that, "until we can get people properly screened, we may need to shut those flights down." But in the interview, he reiterated his view that "we can't pretend that we're going to win this fight simply by shutting ourselves off from the rest of the world." He also endorsed Obama's latest move on screening. And on Wednesday, Tisei's spokesman, Charlie Szold, said his candidate did not want a flight ban to force any interruption of aid to combat the disease in the affected countries.

One would like to hope that Ebola posturing will not be decisive in either the Moulton-Tisei race or in the larger campaign. There are signs that the issue is fading as reality catches up with the pandering. In the meantime, Moulton, who knows what courage means, could usefully bring a GI's "healthy disrespect" to the ways our country's politics makes problem-solving harder.



## ALISON LUNDERGAN GRIMES FINALLY GOES OFF-SCRIPT (WP)

By Dana Milbank

Washington Post, October 23, 2014

Last week, the national Democratic Party left Alison Lundergan Grimes for dead.

So why does she still have a pulse?

The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee a week ago said it was stopping its TV ads for Grimes, the Kentucky secretary of state and the Democrats' challenger to Mitch McConnell, the Senate Republican leader.

In political Washington, this was a nail in the coffin, coming after the candidate's embarrassing and repeated refusal to say whether she voted for President Obama and the televised pronouncement of "Meet the Press" host Chuck Todd that she had "disqualified herself" - a clip McConnell's campaign gleefully replayed in his ads.

But Grimes's look into the abyss did her some good. In politics as in medicine, near-death experiences have a way of changing one's outlook. When I visited Kentucky on Wednesday to see Grimes on the campaign trail, I saw a candidate who was much less cautious and scripted than the one I had been hearing and reading about. It was as if the reduced expectations had liberated her.

Grimes was venturing into Republican territory - Rand Paul country, to be specific - to speak to a gathering of Rotarians at the Bowling Green Country Club. She took some hostile questions from the crowd, and she gave as good as she got. Then she went outside and did something that, for her, is most unusual: She held a news conference.

I asked her to respond to the perception in Washington that last week's DSCC decision had been a death knell. "It's a lot of hyperventilating out there by the media," she said. "This campaign is Kentucky through and through, and it's going to be Kentuckians that carry it across the finish line." Another question about the national party's move produced another swipe at Washington. "We got into this race trying to change Washington. We will change Washington," she said, dismissing the loss of those TV dollars.

Was she surprised that the question of whether she voted for Obama became a dominant campaign issue? "I'm not going to be bullied by Mitch McConnell or Chuck Todd," she said with a smile.

It would go too far to say that Grimes has transformed. She repeated her absurd position that she won't reveal her presidential vote because of the "constitutional right to privacy." And, though the Rotary Club discourages stump speeches, Grimes gave her usual anti-McConnell spiel, dressed up with requisite references to the good works of her "fellow Rotarians" and folksy things she heard from "mah momma."

Her attacks on McConnell - "We have someone now that can't get back here without the aid of a GPS!" she said, though he had spoken to the same group three weeks earlier - were met with complete silence, folded arms and drumming fingers. Yet Grimes went on denouncing McConnell for the better part of 10 minutes. She mentioned both Hillary and Bill Clinton but tiptoed around President Obama and gave only passing reference to Obamacare, though it's popular in Kentucky. This was the Grimes I had heard of, the one who, as Jason Zengerle put it in the New Republic, has been plagued by "crippling caution and debilitating message discipline" - a candidate permanently in a "defensive crouch."

But then came the questions. One man complained that she never said "one way or the other" what she thinks about anti-union right-to-work laws.

"My position on right-to-work laws is it's right to work for less," she shot back. "I have seen firsthand the value of labor, of collective bargaining, prevailing wage. I've been on the picket lines." Yet another questioner said she had "waffled back and forth on the subject of coal." When she gave a pro-coal response that included a call to cut environmental regulations, the questioner mockingly asked whether that's just a message for coal-producing eastern Kentucky.

"It's the message I've sent all over the state. It's the message I'll send when we go to Washington!" Grimes returned.

From there, she went outside for her unscheduled news conference, saying her strong showing in this week's polls - two show her in a statistical dead heat with McConnell - means that "Kentucky won't be bought" and that "the energy and momentum is on our side."

Apparently the national party agreed. Half an hour after Grimes's feisty performance in Bowling



Green, the DSCC reversed its earlier decision and said it was pouring \$650,000 back into TV ads for Grimes.

It's tempting to wonder how much better Grimes would have done in this campaign if she had shed her crippling caution earlier.

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Read more from Dana Milbank's archive, follow him on Twitter or subscribe to his updates on Facebook.

## WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL STORIES:

### DELAWARE CANDIDATES DISCUSS PRESSING ISSUES IN DOVER (WILNJ)

By Jonathan Starkey

Wilmington (DE) News Journal, October 22, 2014

Democratic state treasurer candidate Sean Barney kept up his attacks on his Republican opponent during a Dover debate Wednesday night, saying Republican Ken Simpler's experience as an investment fund manager does not qualify him to serve as state treasurer.

"The challenge Delaware's next treasurer faces is to restore accountability and transparency to the office and to ensure that state government in a way that it uses your hard earned taxpayer dollars serves all of the people and not just the wealthy and well-connected," Barney said.

Barney said the hedge fund where Simpler worked was secretive and helped contribute to the 2008 financial collapse. Simpler largely brushed aside the attacks, saying the treasurer's office, which is tasked with helping manage a \$2 billion investment portfolio, should be led by someone with money management experience.

Sixteen statewide candidates participated in Wednesday night's debate, held at Delaware State University and hosted by the League of Women Voters of Kent County and American Association of University Women Dover branch.

Each candidate was offered a three-minute opening statement. But the forum's format offered little opportunity for substantial debate on any single topic, or between candidates in any single race.

Federal candidates for U.S. House and U.S. Senate discussed energy policy and marijuana legalization, among other topics.

U.S. Sen. Chris Coons, a Democrat seeking his first full six-year term, said he supports the legalization of medical marijuana but not its recreational use.

His congressional counterpart, U.S. Rep. John Carney said the decision is one that should be left up to the states. The Democrat said he does not support full legalization.

Poll: Have you found any compelling issues or candidates in the 2014 c...

Candidates in the race for Attorney General debated the subject as well, in addition to mandatory minimum sentences, tackling the state's recidivism rate and how best to address rehabilitation and re-entry into society amid a surging heroin crisis in Delaware.

Lt. Gov. Matt Denn said he would organize efforts to improve Delaware's substance abuse treatment programs. "I do think that the attorney general has an important role to play in terms of getting the General Assembly, and also the private sector - insurance companies [and] health care institutions - to contribute to the resources that are necessary to get our substance abuse treatment system where it ought to be," Denn said.

Catherine Damavandi, a Green Party candidate and former state prosecutor, said the fix does not lie with the state's attorney general but with the governor and his administration.

She said Denn talks about addressing these topics in the future, but he's been lieutenant governor for six years.

"I urge the governor's office to focus attention on this now," she said. "We don't have to wait for the election of the attorney general."

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### EXPENSES QUESTIONED IN AUDIT OF MARYDEL FIRE COMPANY (WILNJ)



By Jon Offredo

Wilmington (DE) News Journal, October 22, 2014

The Marydel Volunteer Fire Company could not account for more than \$30,000 in cash withdrawals in a recent one-year period, and paid thousands to a catering service owned by its chief, according to findings released by state Auditor Tom Wagner.

Wagner could not find documentation that the money paid to the chief's business was legitimate. The audit discovered that Chief Buffy Madden, and his wife, Denise, the fire company's treasurer, circumvented internal financial controls and failed to safeguard funds, including more than \$430,000 in state taxpayer money the department received during the last fiscal year.

Marydel Volunteer Fire Company received almost \$120,000 from the state's grant-in-aid budget last year. Recipients of state money have to follow certain restrictions on spending, including requirements that no funds be used to purchase capital equipment or hire lobbyists. Several individuals close to the fire company requested the auditor's office review the company's records.

Delaware's fire companies are all volunteer, except for Wilmington. The companies receive much of their income from fundraising efforts, state and county aid, firehouse rentals, ambulance runs and taxes on insurance premiums, among other sources.

Wagner said Denise Madden has since resigned as the fire company's treasurer.

Between June 2013 and May 2014, the Maddens' barbecue catering service, 1st Due BBQ, was paid \$13,845 in cash and fire company checks written out by Denise Madden to herself and the chief. According to the audit, \$10,000 in cash was withdrawn in December 2013 to pay the catering service for services related to the fire company's Christmas party and awards banquet. An additional \$6,579 went to the Sudlersville Meat Locker to pay for chicken breasts, bacon and seafood.

The report also identifies \$9,513.66 in fire company cash that was later withdrawn to pay for a Henny Penny pressure fryer.

Auditors also documented that the Christmas party cost just over \$25,000, and a ring ceremony cost nearly \$40,000. The company spent nearly \$28,000 on rings alone, and it is unclear whether any state money was used to purchase those rings.

Neither of the Maddens returned calls requesting comment. A call to Buffy Madden's fire company-funded cellphone described him as both the Marydel fire chief and owner of 1st Due BBQ.

The fire company emailed a statement about 10 p.m. acknowledging the need to change outdated accounting policies and have an outside accounting firm handle its funds, but defended its use of the chief's business.

"The Marydel Volunteer Fire Co Inc. intends to learn from this and to move forward in a positive direction," said the statement signed by Jason R. Mills, secretary.

Late Wednesday, the fire company emailed a statement acknowledging the need to change outdated accounting policies and have an outside accounting firm handle its funds, but defended its dealings with the chief's business.

"The Marydel Volunteer Fire Co Inc. intends to learn from this and to move forward in a positive direction," said the statement signed by Jason R. Mills, secretary.

Auditors were unable to determine whether the fire company properly used state money because the majority of the finances were commingled, and the heavy cash-based transactions made it "difficult to prove that someone directly pocketed money."

"The records were a mess. It's not like they didn't have good internal controls, they really didn't have any internal controls," Wagner said. "That's absolutely unacceptable."

More than \$30,000 was withdrawn from a fire company bank account between June 1, 2013, and May 31, 2014, and the company could not provide adequate supporting documents to verify how the funds were used, according to the audit. In April 2014, a fire company debit card was used 35 times to withdraw \$8,140.56.

The auditor's investigation into the fire company's finances came while lawmakers debated a package of bills that provided additional taxpayer support to assist companies in providing ambulance transport.

Many of the state's volunteer fire companies have reported surpluses, according to the most recently available documents filed with the Internal Revenue Service.

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## FOR TOP STATE TEACHER, CLASS IS A PERFORMANCE (WILNJ)

By Matthew Albright

Wilmington (DE) News Journal, October 22, 2014

It's funny how many Teachers of the Year say they never even wanted to be a teacher at first. Megan Szabo wanted to be a tap dancer. She loved the feeling of being in front of a crowd and wanted to be a performer.

But as she grew up, she began to pay closer attention to her parents, both of whom were teachers. She noticed that every day they had to stand in front of an audience of students, hook their attention and keep them interested in learning.

"Teaching is a performance in a lot of ways," Szabo said. "But you're not just entertaining. You're making a big difference in the lives of your students."

If teaching is performing, then Szabo, a seventh- and eighth-grade science teacher at Postlethwait Middle School, won Delaware's equivalent of an Oscar on Tuesday night when Gov. Jack Markell opened an envelope and named her the state's Teacher of the Year.

The win comes as no surprise to Szabo's fellow teachers - including her husband, Ago, an eighth-grade social studies teacher at Postlethwait - or principal Derek Prillaman.

"This is my second year here, and I realized immediately that I was very, very fortunate to have Ms. Szabo in my building," Prillaman said. "The relationships she develops with her students are really extraordinary."

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Talk with Szabo's students and you'll hear a few common threads: she's easy-going, optimistic and energetic.

"Every day is a new day in her class," said Deja Armstrong, an eighth-grader. "Sometimes you have a bad day and some teachers will hold a grudge. But she never holds a grudge. Every day she treats you like somebody she likes."

Students say Szabo smashes any notion of science classes that should be full of worksheets, memorization and lectures.

"She really does make science fun," said Tyler Sell, an eighth-grader. "Every day we do something different. We do a lot of experiments and do a lot of labs and they're a lot of fun, but you also get the sense that you're really understanding something important."

Sell said Szabo is one of the best teachers he's ever seen. That's high praise from the son of two educators, one of whom is former Teacher of the Year John Sell.

In most science classrooms, Szabo says teachers have traditionally started with lectures, worksheets or textbook assignments, then followed up with an experiment or demonstration to illustrate what students learned. She tries to flip that script in her classroom, starting with experiments that get students asking questions, then helping them find the answers.

"The way I see it, I should not be giving them the answer to any question that they should be able to find the answer to themselves," she said. "I am trying to teach them to become scientists, not just teach them science."

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On Wednesday, she was in and out of class dealing with some of the things that go along with being named Teacher of the Year. Instead of giving the substitute teacher a video to show or some worksheets for students to fill out, she set up an exercise where students had to work in groups to track down answers to questions about wave motion online.

All of these teaching strategies fit nicely with the Next Generation Science Standards, a national campaign to change how students learn. Put broadly, the standards seek to teach students scientific skills and critical thinking rather than simply memorizing content, trying to adjust to an age when information is instantly available online.

Delaware is currently somewhere near the start of the long slog toward changing over to "Next Gen," which means overhauling curricula, rebuilding or throwing out science kits and other changes.

Szabo is one of the "lead teachers" on Delaware's team that is driving the switch to the new standards.



"She has really emerged as a leader in this process," said Tonyea Meade, science education associate at the Department of Education. "She is constantly thinking about her own teaching and about how she can improve. She's really breaking new ground."

For Prillaman, Szabo is the perfect mix of a charismatic teacher whose students love her and an expert who knows how to implement cutting-edge educational techniques into her lesson plans. "Her classroom is fast-paced, very hands-on and very energetic," he said. "If you're going to have a classroom like hers, you need to have your students embrace it. And her students respect her so much as a person that they will follow her and pay attention."

Now that she's one of the state's official voices to represent teachers, Szabo said she hopes to counter a perception she sometimes hears that teachers are set in their ways and aren't changing with the times.

"Teaching isn't the same as it was," she said. "If you come into our school or most of the other schools in Delaware that I've been to, you will see a lot of people working very hard to prepare our students for a world that is changing right before our eyes."

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## FOR HORSE OWNER, FIRST HELP, THEN CRIMINAL CHARGES (WILNJ)

By James Fisher

Wilmington (DE) News Journal, October 22, 2014

Monica Ogle knew her horses were hungry all winter.

Ogle had a dozen horses under her care at her Neals School Road farm near Seaford, where she operated a horse rescue on the thinnest of budgets. Livestock rescue groups take in sick or unwanted horses and try to find owners willing to adopt them. Ogle, 60, had not taken in new horses for more than a year; she had a hard time adopting any out to willing owners; and hay was scarce.

"You'd go to this hay dealer, run him out of hay, go to the next one," spending \$200 to \$600 a month on hay, Ogle said in interviews. "Through the winter, some horses lost some weight." She leaned on backup feed: alfalfa cubes, hay stretcher pellets. Come spring, hay was easier to get, but her older horses showed lasting effects from the lean, cold months.

So when a Delaware SPCA investigator came to probe a cruelty complaint sparked by the horses' gaunt appearance, Ogle wasn't all that surprised. The investigator, Brett Conley, noted in a Sept. 2 report he saw horses "extremely thin and underweight," with one requiring "immediate nutrition." But how the Delaware SPCA dealt with what it found on Neals School Road has led Conley, the investigator, to leave his job under protest. And Ogle, who was initially grateful when the SPCA supplied her with grain and hay to help her rescue operation get back on its feet, feels betrayed that another animal welfare group, First State Animal Control and SPCA, took over her case on Sept. 30 - and then pressed 11 animal cruelty charges against her, including one count of felony animal abuse.

"I just needed to get these horses something that had more fat content, and that's what I did," Ogle said of her actions after Conley's Sept. 2 visit. "I was buying that feed and doing what Brett told me to do, feeding three times a day. And horses were picking up their weight."

Conley, for his part, calls the about-face - one animal welfare group giving aid to Ogle, then another charging her with hurting animals - unjust and unfair.

"Some people deserve to be locked up, and I've done that," Conley said. "But it felt really good to help someone ... She was deceived. We spent money, as the Delaware SPCA, to help her and then abandoned her."

First State Animal Control Director Kevin Usilton, though, said the cruelty charges only came after Ogle declined additional help from his agency. He said conditions on the farm were still dire more than a month after Delaware SPCA's first contact.

"Animals suffered, pretty horrifically in my opinion, because this rescue didn't ask for assistance," Usilton said Wednesday. "We rely on our veterinarians. If they see abuse and our officers see abuse, we're going to step up."

Patchwork of enforcement

The Delaware SPCA, under state code, has the power to "enforce all laws enacted for the



protection of animals," in keeping with what's become normal in Delaware: the General Assembly sets laws governing the treatment of animals but relies on nonprofit groups, not government agencies, to enforce them. It's the same model of governance that puts most dog control responsibilities in the hands of Kent County-based First State Animal Control and SPCA through negotiated contracts with county and city governments.

Andrea Perlak, the executive director of the Delaware SPCA, said her organization made a firm choice this year to delegate its animal cruelty responsibilities to First State Animal Control (which, until recently, operated under a different name, Kent County SPCA). The status quo had been for Delaware SPCA to handle most Sussex County and New Castle County cruelty reports - of beaten dogs, underfed livestock, or abused cats - since it has offices in Georgetown and Stanton. That decision, Perlak said, was made with the consent of the Office of Animal Welfare, a relatively new state agency charged with overseeing a patchwork of animal-focused groups and setting standards of care.

"We didn't have the infrastructure in place. Cruelty enforcement needed a more robust mechanism. Kent County SPCA had the infrastructure in place," Perlak said. "We have said that First State should do all enforcement for cruelty. It's a bit of a mission shift, but it's supported by everyone in the community."

The Neals School Road cruelty report, Perlak said, came in just as the two organizations were finishing details of how First State would handle all livestock cruelty cases, even when calls initially came to Delaware SPCA.

"It looked like you had some very thin horses," Perlak said of the initial investigation. "We tried to do the right thing by buying them some hay." But, she said, she could not comment on the case beyond that.

Records of Conley's investigation show he advised superiors that there was enough evidence of neglect on Ogle's part to pursue cruelty charges. "A seizure of the horses and an arrest of the homeowner and her boyfriend was warranted and justifiable," he wrote. But the report also shows staff considered, from the start, treating the case as a chance to offer aid to Ogle's group - "provid[ing] some financial assistance to the owners instead of prosecuting them," the report notes.

Conley's records, which he provided to The News Journal, say Perlak told shelter manager Bonnie Madonna that Delaware SPCA would take the aid route in Ogle's case. On Sept. 5, the records show, Conley and Lisa Boyce - a horse farm owner who has helped the SPCA with equine rescues in the past - returned to Neals School Road and delivered \$400 in grain. They also paid for delivery of \$400 in hay, which amounted to 80 bales.

"I issued Monica a correction order and advised her to use the grain and hay for the rehabilitation of the neglect rescue horses," Conley wrote in his log.

Ogle says she did that and more, attending a seminar on equine nutrition that the Delaware SPCA advised her to take. She saw her thinnest, oldest horses - one was 37, and two others were 27 - gaining weight after Conley's intervention, she said.

A second delivery of hay and grain "would have been helpful, but I wasn't going to ask for it. I was getting it and buying it," Ogle said. "I did want help in trying to place some horses [with new owners]. Some were rideable; that's what I did with the younger ones. I have adopted a mess of horses."

#### Change of plans

On Oct. 15, though, Ogle said she was surprised by the arrival of four First State animal-control officers on her farm, two weeks after First State took over her case. "They came on this property with horse trailers, state troopers and a search warrant. I mean, they bombarded me," Ogle said. Usilton confirmed in an interview that First State Animal Control recently started to handle cruelty complaints once addressed by Delaware SPCA. First State officers on the Sept. 30 visit, he said, documented four horses that were seriously emaciated and two others deemed very thin on a commonly-used scale of horse health.

"The officers noticed right away animals in dire need of groceries, and there were groceries sitting in the barn unused," Usilton said. They told Ogle to have a vet examine the horses within a week and urged her to feed them more.

By Oct. 15, Usilton said, Ogle had taken some required steps to avoid cruelty charges, including having a vet see the horses and having their hooves trimmed, but not all. First State's vets took



the view that "there's no way this person can sustain 11 horses in this condition," he said. "The stalls were 4 feet high in some cases with feces, and the horses were locked in there," Usilton said. "These animals were suffering, and we needed to halt their suffering immediately." All 11 horses were removed from the property, he said, and two have since been euthanized.

[Conley, the investigator who saw the horses in early September, disagreed with the evaluation that some of the horses were so far gone that euthanasia was called for. "Neither appeared to be in grave danger or [near] death when I was there," he said.]

Ogle was charged with one count of felony animal abuse and 10 counts of misdemeanor abuse. The charges and the euthanasia were both shocking, she said, and not at all what she expected after getting the Delaware SPCA's help at first. "I wanted to be the one with Doby" - the oldest of the horses, and one of the two put down - "when he left," she said.

Tim Willard, the attorney defending Ogle against the cruelty charges, said he thought she was "unfairly treated" by First State. "What strikes me as somewhat odd in this case is she was working with authorities to get the diets back in order," Willard said. "The charges seemed to come out of the blue."

Conley, a former New Castle County police officer, said he also felt betrayed by the Delaware SPCA's shift in mission away from cruelty enforcement. After the case was transferred, he said, he was asked by superiors to sign a confidentiality agreement. When he refused - "it was censorship," he said - he expected to be drummed out of his job in a constructive discharge. He resigned in early October. Perlak declined to discuss Conley's employment history.

"There are good people at the SPCA," Conley said. But under Perlak's oversight, he contended, "it is not about cruelty. It is not about animals." The First State searches on Ogle's farm, he asserted, were "a publicity stunt to get donations and show off."

Perlak said the change of roles for both agencies will lead to better service for complainants who report cruelty and will let Delaware SPCA focus more resources on its role as a shelter and rescue organization.

"It was in no-man's land. We said we were doing it, but we weren't, really," Perlak said. "It's a positive step for the people of Delaware... It's the best thing for the animals. A lot of people criticize First State, but they have a really tightly run organization."

Both Perlak and Usilton said the statewide cost of addressing cruelty complaints is about \$600,000. With the change in duties, Perlak said, the Office of Animal Welfare will likely devote all of a \$100,000 grant for cruelty investigations to First State.

Usilton acknowledged that Ogle's different treatment by the two agencies could be "confusing." But he said the evidence First State gathered in its probe of her farm, including the professional opinions of veterinarians, fully justified filing charges.

"Why we stepped up and did this was based on the testimony and evidence gathering that we did when we were on the property," Usilton said. "It had nothing to do with PR."

Contact James Fisher at (302) 983-6772, on Twitter @JamesFisherTNJ or [jfisher@delawareonline.com](mailto:jfisher@delawareonline.com).

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## FEDEX DISTRIBUTION CENTER READY TO OPEN (WILNJ)

By Maureen Milford

Wilmington (DE) News Journal, October 22, 2014

In what real estate experts are calling a model of fast-track development, work is finishing up on a new \$15 million distribution center for FedEx near New Castle just 18 months after plans were submitted to New Castle County.

"I've never seen this level of cooperation," said Bill Ganc, owner of Ganc Commercial Realty in Brandywine Hundred. "This was a complex situation here and everybody - the state, the county - came up with solutions."

The 186,000-square-foot building off Lambsons Lane is expected to open in November as a FedEx Ground distribution center and could eventually employ more than 100 people. The new facility will replace an existing station nearby on Dock View Drive, according to David Westrick, spokesman for FedEx Ground. Existing employees will move from the Dock View station in early November. Westrick did not say how many are currently employed. FedEx is expected to add to the workforce as demand increases, Westrick said.



The center is part of FedEx's expansion of its nationwide network designed to boost daily package capacity and enhance speed and service, Westrick said.

"Since 2005, the company has opened 11 new hubs featuring advanced material-handling systems and expanded or relocated more than 500 local facilities," Westrick said. "The network enhancements have resulted in accelerating ground service delivery by one day or more in more than two-thirds of the United States. With these changes, FedEx Ground is faster to more overall locations, including more residential locations."

The distribution center will serve as far north as North Wilmington, south to Townsend, east to New Castle and west to Perryville, Maryland, Westrick said.

The New Castle-area project was developed by Westmoreland Company Inc. of Huntsville, Alabama, a privately held real estate development company that has done work for FedEx, according to Bruce Puffer, a senior project manager with Westmoreland.

Puffer described the project as "a fast turnaround."

Alan Levin, director of the Delaware Economic Development Office, said his office assisted FedEx in its dealings with state and New Castle County agencies. No DEDO money was involved with the FedEx project, according to Karen Smith, strategic communications director with DEDO.

"This project creates good jobs and economic activity in an area that can desperately use it," Levin said.

Westmoreland, as Westco New Castle II LLC and Westco New Castle III LLC, bought the 72.65-acre site from Q.D. Saienni LLC for \$8.99 million, according to New Castle County property records. Ganc said Quentin Saienni was the owner of the property that had been owned by Material Transit and used as a borrow pit, where material is dug out for fill in another location.

The site was chosen because of its access to major highways, proximity to customers' distribution centers and a strong environment for recruiting employees, Westrick said.

The distribution center occupies just 20 acres because "the vast majority of the land is wetlands," Puffer said. The development includes the building, parking for tractor-trailers and parking for employees. Westco will own the building and lease it to FedEx Ground, Puffer said.

Puffer described it as a medium-sized project for FedEx.

The distribution center has a dock with 45 doors where tractor-trailers load and unload packages. Inside there is room for as many as 80 delivery vans, Puffer said. The packages go directly from the tractor-trailers to the delivery van by conveyor building - and vice versa when the vans return with packages to be shipped.

Roughly 6,000 square feet in the building is office space for the managers.

"FedEx gives us prototypical plans and specifications from which we design the building to meet the requirements of the local jurisdiction," Puffer said.

Contact Maureen Milford at (302) 324-2881 or [mmilford@delawareonline.com](mailto:mmilford@delawareonline.com).

Read or Share this story: <http://delonline.us/1tM3nw1>

#### DELAWARE SUBDIVISION PLANTINGS WIN BLUE RIBBON (WILNJ)

Wilmington (DE) News Journal, October 22, 2014

A Delaware man won a blue ribbon from the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society's gardening and greening contest.

David Resende of Heritage Hills in Pike Creek won the ribbon, the top prize in his category of Public Spaces for the plantings he maintains at the entrance to the subdivision. He was featured in Moira Sheridan's Sept. 11 column. His garden was one of 350 in nine categories visited by judges.

A lifelong neighborhood resident, Resende began a beautification project there in 2010 after becoming involved with the Heritage Grendon Civic Association. He started with his own money and labor, turning the plain Grendon Drive entrance into a colorful gateway.

Residents liked it so much, they began stopping while he was working and giving him \$10 or \$20 to help foot the bill. Now the neighborhood has a flower fund that covers the cost of plantings at the entrances at Grendon Drive, Heritage Farms and Grendon Farms. He also has help from teens and kids in the neighborhood.

Read or Share this story: <http://delonline.us/1wkTrtt>

WILMINGTON JOURNAL NEWS EDITORIALS:



## CONGRATULATE DELAWARE'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR (WILNJ)

Wilmington (DE) News Journal, October 22, 2014

What parent wouldn't want Megan Szabo as their child's classroom teacher in 2014 America?

Based on the press release alone from the Department of Education, Szabo's selection Tuesday evening as the 2015 Teacher of the Year was a sure shot.

Here's how the Caesar Rodney School District science teacher describes the classroom environment at Postlethwait Middle School:

"My students may not remember every itty bitty detail about what they learned in seventh- and eighth-grade science, but they leave my class as confident learners who are able to make observations, see connections, solve problems and think scientifically. ... For me, teaching them how to be a scientist is just as important as teaching them science.

"They are having scientific conversations with each other and asking each other analytical questions, but most importantly I have witnessed them using the science ideas they learn in class to think critically and solve real world problems."

Undoubtedly, this classroom success is linked to Szabo's personal philosophy about the elements of a successful teaching environment: "Kids will not learn from teachers they do not like in classrooms they do not want to go to."

It's being verified by improved student test scores, engaging lesson plans, creating an appetite for investigation, and a willingness to take on rather than shrink from the challenge of more rigorous academic inquiry. Szabo reminds herself of this as she designs lessons.

The result is a lot of hands-on activities, such as creating models and carrying out investigations. Often, she encourages student groups to design their own lab investigation rather than just following along a predetermined procedure.

In effect, Szabo unleashes her students to explore, which is always a good jumping-off point for higher learning.

Read or Share this story: <http://delonline.us/1wI99CL>

## OYSTER FARMING INDUSTRY WOULD HARM INLAND BAYS (WILNJ)

By Steve Callanen

Wilmington (DE) News Journal, October 22, 2014

The 200 irate citizens who gathered at the Millville Fire House on Oct. 6 to voice their extreme displeasure with the state's unknown plans for establishing a large commercial oyster farming industry in Beach Cove and Little Assawoman Bay might be interested to learn the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Fish and Wildlife Division's mission statement is to "conserve and manage the fish and wildlife resources of the state, to provide safe and enjoyable fishing, hunting, and boating opportunities to the citizens of Delaware and its visitors."

The proposed oyster farm industries in Beach Cove and Little Assawoman Bay are not consistent with these objectives.

A Center for the Inland Bays website identifies the Shellfish Aquaculture Tiger Team was aware of socio-economic issue constraints affecting Inland Bays shellfish aquaculture, including "conflicting use with other Bay stakeholders, recreational and commercial fisheries, recreational watercraft, waterfront views, NIMBY - not in my backyard, and machinery noise."

The weight assigned to these constraint factors in Tiger Team evaluations is not mentioned. It is not known if sail boating, kayaking, windsurfing, waterskiing and paddle boarding interests were considered or if the negative impacts on the successful business interests of Coastal Kayak were considered.

It is difficult to believe the claim that, "The 'Education and Outreach Sub-committee' identified and reached out to additional stakeholder groups locally and statewide who had an economic or environmental interest in the initiative ... and that, the team met monthly to study every aspect of the plan; to identify conflicts, and consider the needs and concerns of those who live on and use the Bays."

How can this be claimed when the Tiger Team failed to contact the vast majority of residents who live on the shores of Beach Cove and Little Assawoman Bay and who daily use these waters for recreational purposes?

This local outreach failure is especially hard to fathom in light of the claim the Tiger Team was



supported by work of the CIB, which reportedly "held meetings to inform and hear concerns expressed by constituent groups, ... held a working breakfast for federal, state and county decision makers on the goals and work of the Team," and educated "thousands of individuals" on aquaculture through presentations and materials developed with input from the team.

How difficult would it have been to obtain contact information for each of the communities surrounding Beach Cove and Little Assawoman Bay and solicit feedback from them?

The CIB has identified the Tiger Team as: E. J. Chalabala (Chair), Roy Miller, Bart Wilson, Chris Bason and Sally Boswell of the CIB; Nick Couch, Jeff Tinsman, Rick Cole and John Clark of DNREC Fish and Wildlife; Mike Bott and Debbie Rouse of DNREC Watershed Stewardship; Scott Figurski of DNREC Wetland and Subaqueous Lands; Mark Davis of the Department of Agriculture; John Ewart and Ed Lewandowski of the University of Delaware Sea Grant; Julie Wheatley of Sussex County Economic Development; Bill Baker representing Recreational Interests; Bob Dorman and Steve Friend representing Commercial Clamming Interests; Rob Robinson and Josh Thompson representing Shellfish Aquaculture Interests; and Steve Copp representing the Shellfish Advisory Council.

It is significant and dismaying that of the 22 persons on this Tiger Team, only one represented recreational interests.

Although highly optimistic claims have been made that proposed shellfish aquaculture will eventually generate millions of dollars in revenue, only "estimates" of the economic and environmental benefits of aquaculture apparently have been made. It appears that no thorough legitimate cost benefit analysis has been conducted.

Not addressed is the appropriateness of converting otherwise freely used public lands into restricted areas for the benefit of private (for profit) use - even by out-of-state commercial entities. The proposed oyster farms will constitute a detriment to the public's right to freely use Bay waters. Moreover, in addition to the area restrictions, the proposed oyster farms will result in both the visual degradation of an otherwise scenic area and the introduction of compromises to public safety.

Irrespective of whatever amount of benefit is derived from oyster filtering action in the highly tidally flushed Inland Bays, it is disturbing the Delaware legislature voted unanimously to establish an unsightly disruptive commercial oyster farming industry in the picturesque Inland Bays.

One would have hoped that, although oyster farming does not meet the legal definition of "heavy industry," the legislature would have been guided by the fundamental purpose of the Coastal Zone Act, which expresses the state's desire to "protect the natural environment of its bay and coastal areas and safeguard their use primarily for recreation and tourism." The CZA acknowledges that, "While it is the declared public policy of the State to encourage the introduction of new industry into Delaware, the protection of the environment, natural beauty and recreation potential of the State is also of great concern."

Steve Callanen of Ocean View, a Sierra Club member since 1998, is a mechanical engineer, retired from the U.S. Naval Surface Warfare Center.

Read or Share this story: <http://delonline.us/1wkVuvvm>

## VOTER ELIGIBILITY ISN'T BASED ON GENDER, AGE (WILNJ)

Wilmington (DE) News Journal, October 22, 2014

Here's a bit of savvy advice from some Fox News commentators for young women in this country. Thinking about voting in the mid-term elections?

Don't even bother. You're too young. Not intellectually developed enough. There are others pursuits to take on - like trolling Tinder or Match.com.

Kimberly Guilfoyle explained young women should excuse themselves because they don't share the same "life experience" as older women, reports the Huffington Post. "They're [young women] like healthy and hot and running around without a care in the world."

Yes, this shot was delivered from within the ranks of the female gender. Guilfoyle was tag-teaming male co-host Greg Gutfeld's observation that "with age comes wisdom" and the "older you get, the more conservative you get."

Then Guilfoyle let loose this beauty: "It's the same reason why young women on juries are not a good idea. They don't get it!"

But do you know who gets it? Americans who have not lost their respect for this nation's



Constitution and the rights it confers regardless of where your body falls on some TMZ channel Richter scale of sexual attraction.

Whether you are a Republican, Democrat, Green Party member or Independent, it's your duty to vote if you meet the citizenship and age requirements. This obligation is enshrined in the Constitution, as a protection of your right to participate in a democracy designed to show no preference based gender or if you are some "hot momma."

That's one of the coolest honors of being an American citizen.

Editorial correction: Tuesday's editorial incorrectly stated that Newark High School students "actively" prevented police officers from breaking up multiple fights in the school hallways Monday morning. Police confirmed it was the size of the crowd of more than 100 students, not their behavior, that prevented them from getting to students engaged in the brawls.

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# VICE PRESIDENTIAL *NEWS CLIPS*

PRODUCED FOR THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

TO: THE VICE PRESIDENT AND STAFF  
DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2014 -- 6:15 AM EDT

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# **BIDEN IN THE NEWS**

## **Biden In Illinois: Each Vote For Democrats Crucial**

By Kerry Lester

[Associated Press](#), October 23, 2014

VERNON HILLS, Ill. (AP) – Vice President Joe **Biden** pressed Illinois voters Wednesday to rally behind Democrats during the approaching election, calling each vote crucial to advancing the party's progress in health care, education and women's rights.

The vice president headlined a rally in suburban Vernon Hills in support of Democratic Congressman Brad Schneider, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin and Gov. Pat Quinn. Schneider is battling Republican Bob Dold to retain his 10th District seat.

**Biden's** stop is the latest evidence of the attention Illinois' close congressional races are receiving from national interests, including campaign donations and high-level visits. It follows an announcement that former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg would spend \$1.9 million on television ads supporting Dold – by far the largest outside expenditure in the race so far.

Illinois Republicans are aiming to reinforce GOP control of the U.S. House by reversing their losses from 2012 in the state's congressional races, when they were nearly swept in every competitive race. Democrats currently outnumber Republicans 12-6 in the state's House delegation.

"If we lose more ground in the House, the very progress we're making is going to come to a screeching halt," **Biden** told hundreds packed into a community center. "Even if we win (the presidency) in 2016, we're starting back at square one. A lot of people's lives depend on this election."

**Biden** plans a return trip to Illinois next week, when he will stump in Rockford for Democratic Rep. Cheri Bustos in a rematch with her 2012 Republican opponent, pizza shop owner Bobby Schilling.

Schneider, of Deerfield, is seeking a second term. He faces a rematch from Dold of Kenilworth, for the seat held for a decade by now-U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk, a Republican. Schneider won the 2012 race by slightly more than 1 percentage point, in a year when President Barack Obama topping the ticket was credited to boosted Democratic turnout.

In an off-year election, with a tight governor's race between Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn and Republican Bruce Rauner, Republicans feel they have a good shot at reclaiming Kirk's former seat.

Also competitive is the race in southern Illinois' 12th Congressional District, where Democratic first-term incumbent Bill Enyart faces 20-year Republican state lawmaker Mike Bost, and the 13th District in central Illinois, where Republican Rep. Rodney Davis faces former Madison County judge Ann Callis, a Democrat.

The Dold-Schneider race, which stretches along much of Chicago's wealthy northern suburbs, has quickly become one of the most expensive congressional contests. Records show Schneider has raked in about \$4 million this cycle, compared to Dold's \$2.9 million, with outside groups including Bloomberg's jumping in and spending millions on ads.

Both candidates have tilted toward the center and attempted to paint the other as partisan in an attempt to net moderate, independent voters who could swing the race either way. Dold supports abortion rights, as does Schneider. Both favor raising the federal minimum wage, and have made statements backing gun control – with Dold's support of what he calls "reasonable gun control restrictions" making him one of several moderate candidates on both sides of the aisle supported by Bloomberg's group.



Republicans dismissed **Biden's** visit Wednesday, saying Dold was spending his time getting to know voters in the district.

"Rather than spending his time with party bosses, Bob Dold is focused on listening to voters about the challenges they are facing and sharing his commitment to putting people ahead of politics," spokeswoman Danielle Hagen said.

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Follow Kerry Lester on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/kerrylester>

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## **Biden Tries To Give Democrats Boost In Suburbs**

By Michelle Manchir

[Chicago Tribune](#), October 23, 2014

Vice President Joe **Biden** campaigned in Lake County on Wednesday, trying to boost Democratic prospects in races for U.S. Senate, governor and Congress.

"It's not 2016, it's today," **Biden** told the cheering crowd, offering a warning about Republicans: "If they take control of the Senate, if we lose more ground in the House, the very progress we're making (is) going to come to a screeching halt."

**Biden** spoke to hundreds of supporters in hoodies and windbreakers packed on a basketball court inside a Vernon Hills community center.

The open-to-the-public event was billed as a rally for Gov. Pat Quinn, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, Rep. Brad Schneider who seeks a second term in the 10th Congressional District in a rematch against former Republican Rep. Robert Dold.

Appearing on a platform with Durbin, Schneider and Quinn's running mate, Paul Vallas, **Biden** told the crowd about his close ties with the governor.

"You know why I like Gov. Quinn so much? His mother says I'm the best-looking Irishman she knows," **Biden** joked.

Quinn did not attend the rally, however. An aide said the governor had no public schedule. The rare absence of Quinn from the public eye came the same day a federal judge granted a request by a Chicago attorney to appoint a monitor to oversee hiring at the Illinois Department of Transportation. The move dealt an ethics blow to Quinn less than two weeks before Election Day.

The vice president praised Durbin, who worked with **Biden** for years in the U.S. Senate, saying Durbin's among the senators with the most "gumption."

"He's always there. Sometimes when no one else has the courage to stand up," **Biden** said.

Durbin faces Republican state Sen. Jim Oberweis in the Nov. 4 election.

Most of **Biden's** remarks centered around what he said are the Republican initiatives that are dwindling away at the American middle class.

"This is not your father's Republican Party," he said to the crowd, holding signs that said "fired up ready to vote!"

After arriving more than a half hour late to the event, **Biden** stayed for several minutes after his remarks, posing for photos and signing autographs.

With less than two weeks until Election Day, the vice president's visit is one in a revolving door of political celebrities visiting the state to back the candidates for governor. Former President Bill Clinton campaigned with Quinn on Tuesday, while New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie headlined a Rockford rally with GOP candidate Bruce Rauner.



First Lady Michelle Obama and former Secretary of State and possible presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton helped raise money for Quinn earlier this month.

**Biden** is scheduled to return on Monday for a Democratic rally in Rockford.

Copyright © 2014, Chicago Tribune

## Vice President Joe Biden Comes To Vernon Hills For Democratic Rally

By Rick Kambic

[Chicago Sun-Times](#), October 22, 2014

A vital need to preserve and rebuild the middle class appeared to be the message most people took away from Vice President Joe **Biden**'s Oct. 22 visit to Vernon Hills.

**Biden** headlined a rally at the Sullivan Community Center to urge independents and moderate Democrats to reelect U.S. Rep. Brad Schneider, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and Illinois Governor Pat Quinn.

He told the hundreds of people gathered at the event that his single biggest mission in office is to restore the middle class, and that Schneider, Durbin and Quinn could help in that goal.

More on **Biden**'s speech: Vice President denounces 'cockamamie' Republican values

"A top-down priority is not sustainable and will ultimately hurt even the Republicans who are pushing this," **Biden** said. "This is not your father's Republican Party. They say the same things, but they don't value the same thing in actions."

Being middle class means owning your own house, not worrying about replacing the tires on your cars and being able to see your kids before going to bed, **Biden** said. Keeping healthcare and college education affordable to everyone were also key points in his speech.

"The message about the middle class was very well spoken by both Vice President **Biden** and Congressman Schneider," said Sheila Olsen of Grayslake. "I consider myself fortunate that I haven't suffered through what some of my friends have. They are just what Mr. **Biden** said — they went to work, they worked hard, they did what they were told, and yet they were hurt by decisions made far above their heads. They did nothing wrong."

Olsen said she believes that Schneider's opponent, Bob Dold, originally campaigned against raising the minimum wage, then flipped his stance while at certain events.

"It's disingenuous," Olsen said. "He just wants the vote. He voted 28 times to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and then later said he was trying to revise and fix it. He won't help us."

Matt Brackett of Glenview also agreed with **Biden**'s analyses of the middle class.

"I think **Biden**'s description of the middle class was spot on," Brackett said. "It's a major issue, and he's right, America has promise if we're not standing in our own way."

Brackett said he attended the event to support Schneider, but is also curious about Quinn because he and his wife are living off a teacher's pension that could be altered by pending reform bills.

"We worked hard our whole life and fulfilled our end of the bargain," Brackett said.

Jerry Vigue of Libertyville said he agreed with **Biden**'s statements that the disparity between the country's "top 1 percent" and the rest of the population had grown wider than ever.

"He made a great point about the income inequality," said Vigue. "It's infuriating to see some of these millionaires continue to make bigger and bigger profits, without investing in or rewarding the people who got them there."

But the rally wasn't completely full of the already-converted.



A crew of students from Stevenson High School attended the event as an activity for their politics club. George Vasilyev, a senior from Vernon Hills, said his family is pretty conservative and supported President George W. Bush, but that he's open to learning about both sides.

Will Lucas, a junior at Vernon Hills High School, was another story. Lucas said he was permitted to enter the building and later decided to put a quarter-inch "Bob Dold" pin on his shirt. Lucas said he didn't say a word to anyone, and was randomly approached by staff member and asked to leave.

"I spent all of yesterday reaching out to my teachers telling them I'd be taking off school to immerse myself in politics, and now I won't be able to," Lucas said, admitting that he's also recently volunteered with Dold's campaign. "I came here on my own, they didn't send me. I'm 16 years old; it's not very often the vice president of the United States comes to your hometown. Of course I'd want to see him."

Representatives from Schneider's campaign could not confirm or deny that Lucas' story.

But Lucas wasn't alone when he left the Sullivan Center just as the guest speakers first started. Eric Hjerpe of Vernon Hills lives behind the community center and decided to stand on the sidewalk holding a Dold sign.

Hjerpe said his retirement healthcare company is raising their rates by 40 percent and he might have to sign up for healthcare under the Affordable Care Act until he qualifies for Medicare in 2017.

"I wrote to Schneider two times in recent months and he never got back to me," Hjerpe said. "I was worried about losing my regular doctor under Obamacare. His literature says I won't, but my research says I will."

About a week ago, Hjerpe said he got an email from Durbin about his healthcare options.

"I didn't reach out to Durbin," Hjerpe said. "Who else is Schneider giving my letters to? And why can't he call his constituents and answer questions about something he voted for?"

Throughout the speeches and pre-rally socializing, snipers from the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System, a consortium of police departments, were watching from undisclosed locations, while Secret Service agents with dogs searched cars and bags.

The Secret Service inspected the Sullivan Center for four days leading up to the rally. No security incidents occurred, though one woman did faint from the heat in the gymnasium.

## **Hundreds Fill Vernon Hills Gym To See Vice President Joe Biden**

By Russell Lissau

[Chicago Daily Herald](#), October 22, 2014

Vernon Hills resident T.J. Marciniak was so excited to see Vice President Joe **Biden** speak Wednesday in his hometown, he got to the Sullivan Community Center more than three hours before the doors opened to ensure a good spot in the audience.

"It's not something that happens every day," said Marciniak, who was joined by his brother and a friend. "We wanted to be up front and center."

An estimated 750 people packed the Sullivan Center's gym Wednesday afternoon for **Biden's** appearance, part of a rally for three Democrats on the Nov. 4 ballot: U.S. Rep. Brad Schneider, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin and Paul Vallas, who's running for lieutenant governor as Gov. Pat Quinn's mate.

It was the vice president's first visit to Lake County since taking office.

Round Lake resident Sara Madlock Coleman was one of the first people outside the Sullivan Center on Wednesday, too.

She was accompanied by her mother, Cynthia Madlock, and her 11-year-old daughter, Cyndi.

"I wanted to show her how the system works," she said of Cyndi, a sixth grader at Big Hollow Middle School. "I wanted her to have an idea of the issues going on."



Libertyville residents Greg and Karen Drecoll also attended the rally.

"You don't very often get to see the vice president of the United States," Greg Drecoll said.

It's not the couple's first brush with Washington elite. Decades ago, they were in New York City and saw then-President Richard Nixon's motorcade drive by.

"I was never a fan, but it was still a thrill to see a president," Drecoll said.

The Secret Service and suburban police departments provided security at the event, limiting traffic on Aspen Drive and checking vehicles and people for potential threats.

Crews from the local Countryside Fire Protection District were on hand for any emergencies.

When a woman near the stage became ill during **Biden's** remarks, they quickly took her outside for a health evaluation.

"It's very exciting and truly an honor for us to serve and protect the vice president," Chief Jeff Steingart said.

The Vernon Hills venue was chosen to highlight Schneider's campaign. It's in the 10th Congressional District, where Schneider – a freshman lawmaker from Deerfield – is running a tight re-election race against Republican challenger Robert Dold of Kenilworth.

Dold spent part of Wednesday making calls to potential voters at his headquarters in Libertyville, a campaign spokeswoman said. He also walked and talked with people in Buffalo Grove, Libertyville and Northbrook and did some interviews, the spokeswoman said.

## **Biden Denounces 'Cockamamie' Republican Values At Vernon Hills Rally**

By Steve Sadin

[Lake County \(IL\) News-Sun](#), October 22, 2014

Calling Republican values "cockamamie," Vice President Joe **Biden** laid out an agenda to restore the middle class and praised the efforts of Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Springfield) and Rep. Brad Schneider (D-Deerfield) in Vernon Hills Wednesday, Oct. 22.

**Biden** deplored the rising income inequality in the United States and blamed Republican ideas for the problem during an early voting rally that drew more than 800 people to the Sullivan Recreation Center, 635 Aspen Drive.

Criticizing Republican plans to turn Medicare into a voucher system and cut funding for education and other programs, **Biden** condemned the GOP's budget proposals.

More coverage and photos of **Biden's** visit.

"Show me your budget and I'll show you your values," he said, before going into attack mode. "These guys believe it. These guys mean what they say. As cockamamie as it sounds, they believe it."

Talking about his own vision for the country, **Biden** spoke of the need to give people the opportunity for a good education without creating so much debt they cannot enjoy a middle class lifestyle.

"Middle class means people should be able to send their children to a good high school so, if they do well, they can send them to college and not be in debt," **Biden** said. "No more than 10 percent of a person's disposable income should be used to repay college loans," he added, praising Schneider for his vote on the issue.

**Biden** also criticized the growing disparity between the compensation of the people at the top of the corporate world and those who work for them. He said it ran contrary not only to his party's values but also to the values Republicans once held.

"We used to have a basic bargain in this country," **Biden** said. "When the company you worked for did well you got to share. The Republicans believed that too."



When Ronald Reagan was president, **Biden** said the average CEO earned 45 times more than the company's average employee — but today, that same CEO makes on average 331 times more.

"Standard and Poor's warns if this continues it will hurt the economy," he added.

While the income gap has grown, **Biden** said it has also become harder for Americans to attain and remain in the middle class. Citing Standard and Poor's again, **Biden** said the increase in middle class wages over the last 20 years is just 14 cents in today's dollars.

Schneider echoed **Biden's** concern for the middle class in his remarks before the vice president spoke. He talked about his hope not only for today's middle class but also for those who want to achieve that status in the future.

He also spoke of his commitment to improvements that health care reform has brought to the country.

"We can never go back to the day when a preexisting condition meant you would lose your health care," Schneider said.

While the crowd was waiting for **Biden**, Durbin, Schneider and Illinois lieutenant governor candidate Paul Vallas to arrive, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan stepped up to podium. She listed three things she liked most about Schneider: his commitment to the environment, his passion for women's rights and his manner as a public servant.

In particular, she recounted Schneider's appearance at an event she attended commemorating the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht.

"He didn't just get up for his five minutes like (so many) politicians," Madigan said. "He stayed for the entire event. When it was his turn, he spoke passionately."

## **Vice President Joe Biden Comes To Vernon Hills For Democratic Rally**

By Rick Kambic

[Lincolnshire \(IL\) Review](#), October 22, 2014

Speaking at a rally in Vernon Hills Wednesday, Oct. 22, Vice President Joe **Biden** told voters that "people's lives depend on this election."

**Biden** arrived around 4:00 p.m. at the Sullivan Center for the event supporting Rep. Brad Schneider, Sen. Dick Durbin and Paul Vallas, who is campaigning for lieutenant governor alongside incumbent Gov. Pat Quinn.

He told the nearly 1,000 people gathered at the event that his single biggest mission in office was to restore the middle class, and that Schneider, Durbin and Quinn could help in that goal.

More on **Biden's** speech: Vice President denounces 'cockamamie' Republican values

Being middle class means owning your own house, not worrying about replacing the tires on your cars and being able to see your kids before bed, **Biden** said.

But most people are "not optimistic," he added.

He placed the blame squarely on the GOP.

"This is not your father's Republican Party," he said. "They say the same things, but they don't value the same thing in actions."

"They say college is important, but they take away the PELL grant," he continued. "27,000 college students could drop out if that grant is cut."

He also noted the increasing disparity in income in the United States.

"A top-down priority is not sustainable and will ultimately hurt even the Republicans who are pushing this," **Biden** said.



The Secret Service spent hours sweeping the Sullivan Center and its surroundings before the event, and no parking was allowed overnight last night.

We will update this story as we get more information. Follow @VernonHillsPPN, @Rick\_Kambic and @sadinsteve for live updates from the scene.

### **Vice President Joe Biden To Return To Illinois**

[Associated Press](#), October 23, 2014

ROCKFORD, Ill. (AP) — Vice President Joe **Biden** is planning a second trip to Illinois, this time to campaign for Gov. Pat Quinn, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin and Democratic U.S. House candidates.

Both Quinn's and U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos' campaigns say the vice president is expected to headline an early voting rally in Rockford Oct. 27.

The announcement follows **Biden's** planned visit Wednesday to the Chicago suburb of Vernon Hills to support Democratic U.S. Rep. Brad Schneider in his race against Republican Bob Dold.

Bustos is in a race with Republican Bobby Schilling in Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Quinn is in a tight re-election bid with GOP challenger Bruce Rauner (ROW'-nur) and Durbin faces Republican Jim Oberweis.

**Biden** is one of many big-name Democrats in Illinois in recent days.

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### **Vice President Joe Biden Campaigns In Illinois**

[WLS-TV Chicago](#), October 23, 2014

VERNON HILLS, Ill. (WLS) —

Vice President Joe **Biden** is in the Chicago area Wednesday night to help raise funds for and support area Democrats, including Senator Dick Durbin.

The vice president was over an hour late for an event in suburban Vernon Hills because he said he was being briefed on the Canadian shooting situation. Once he arrived, he was joined on stage by Senator Durbin, 10th District Congressman Brad Schneider, as well as Paul Vallas, Governor Pat Quinn's running mate.

The re-match race between Schneider and challenger Bob Dold has been closely watched nationwide. Millions of dollars are flowing in from outside the district and state. Schneider is hoping a campaign visit from Vice President **Biden** will help rally the Democratic troops.

Schneider reminded the audience that he won his last election against Dold by just 1 percent, and **Biden** reminded the audience what Dold stood for when he was in Congress.

"They say they care, yet they opposed when Brad supported cutting the interest rate debt owed by student debt, they opposed it," **Biden** said.

"Elections like these where every phone call, every door knocked, every single vote makes a difference," Schneider said.

Dold said there is a stark difference between his campaign. While Schneider brings insiders, Dold said he is being endorsed by 27 mayors in the 10th District.

"The Democrats have pulled up stakes in a lot of different races and tried to bring it back in here to try to buy their way out of this election and frankly we're not going to have it," Dold said. "I think what the voters are looking for is that thoughtful, independent leadership, they're looking for people to work together to end the gridlock and solve problems, and that's exactly what I'm going to do."



**Biden** will be attending a fundraiser in Chicago Wednesday night at the home of David Axelrod. The vice president will be back in Illinois on Monday, when he will attend another campaign event in Rockford with Durbin and Quinn.

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## **Biden To Campaign Monday With Braley**

By Jennifer Jacobs

[Des Moines \(IA\) Register](#), October 23, 2014

Joe **Biden** will do a public rally with U.S. Senate candidate Bruce Braley on Monday.

Vice President Joe **Biden** will do a public rally with Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Bruce Braley in Davenport on Monday where he will “encourage all Iowans to vote early,” Braley campaign aides say.

Details on the time and location of the event are forthcoming, a Braley campaign news release says.

**Biden** was last in Iowa a month ago.

On that visit, he didn’t do a public campaign rally for Braley, who is struggling to overcome a fierce challenge from Republican Joni Ernst for Democrat Tom Harkin’s open U.S. Senate seat.

Instead, **Biden** helped kick off a 10-state voter turnout tour for a liberal group called Nuns on the Bus.

Braley, a 56-year-old courtroom lawyer who has served in Congress since 2007, has recruited a number of high-profile Democrats to campaign for him in Iowa in the final stretch before the Nov. 4 election. First lady Michelle Obama has appeared twice. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is also reported to be on her way to Iowa.

— Jennifer Jacobs

## **Biden To Campaign For Braley Next Week In Iowa**

[WHO-TV Des Moines \(IA\)](#), October 22, 2014

DAVENPORT, Iowa — Vice President Joe **Biden** is coming back to Iowa next week.

Organizers say **Biden** will be in Davenport on Monday to campaign for U.S. Senate Candidate Bruce Braley. It’s one of the several stops **Biden** is expected to make in the Midwest.

The event will be open to the public but the details are still being worked out.

The Vice President was just in Iowa last month. He went to the Statehouse in Des Moines to help a group called “Nuns on the Bus” kick off a tour.

## **Biden Will Be In Davenport Monday To ‘Encourage All Iowans To Vote Early’**

By Jennifer Jacobs

[Des Moines \(IA\) Register](#), October 22, 2014

Vice President Joe **Biden** will do a public rally with Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Bruce Braley in Davenport on Monday where he will “encourage all Iowans to vote early,” Braley campaign aides say.

Details on the time and location of the event are forthcoming, a Braley campaign news release says.

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Braley, a 56-year-old courtroom lawyer who has served in Congress since 2007, has recruited a number of high-profile Democrats to campaign for him in Iowa in the final stretch before the Nov. 4 election.



First lady Michelle Obama has appeared twice. (WHO-TV's Dave Price reported late last night that the White House transcript on Obama's event on Tuesday referred to Braley as a candidate for governor. Days earlier, the first lady called the congressman "Bruce Bailey" several times, and a month earlier, former President Bill Clinton also botched Braley's name during an Iowa trip.)

Obama opened her speech

in Iowa City Tuesday by acknowledging that she misspoke and saying she often mixes up her own daughters' names, as well. She urged Braley backers to vote early; Democrats need to bank a hefty cache of early votes to overcome the traditional GOP voter turnout advantage on Election Day.

One politician who has not come to Braley's aid is President Barack Obama. Fifty-two percent of Iowa likely voters think Obama's support does more to hurt Braley than help him, The Register/Bloomberg Politics Iowa Poll in early October found.

Forty-four percent of Iowa likely voters have a favorable view **Biden**, a potential 2016 presidential candidate, but 51 percent have a negative opinion of him, the poll found.

Aides in the Office of the Vice President said **Biden**, after the event with Braley, will then travel to Rockford, Illinois to headline a rally for three Illinois Democrats – Gov. Pat Quinn, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin and U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos.

Read or Share this story: <http://dmreg.co/1tL9bG9>

## **Vice President Biden To Be In Davenport Next Week**

By Ed Tibbets

[Waterloo and Cedar Falls \(IA\) Courier](#), October 23, 2014

DAVENPORT | Vice President Joe **Biden** will make a stop in Davenport on Monday to campaign for Democratic Senate hopeful Bruce Braley.

The details of the visit haven't been released yet, but **Biden** is making a swing through the Midwest next week. After the Davenport event, he will make a stop Monday in Rockford to rally support for Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-Ill.

The Davenport event will be open to the public, according to the vice president's office.

Braley, a Democratic congressman from Waterloo, is locked in a tight race for the open U.S. Senate seat in Iowa with Republican Joni Ernst, and the past few weeks have seen a flurry of visits from national political figures seeking to boost the respective campaigns.

## **Vice President Biden To Promote Early Voting During Visit Quad Cities**

By Shellie Nelson

[WQAD-TV Davenport \(IA\)](#), October 22, 2014

Vice President Joe **Biden** was scheduled to visit Davenport, Iowa on Monday, October 27, 2014.

The vice president was scheduled to attend a campaign event at which Iowans would be encouraged to vote early in advance of the November 4, 2014 General Election.

Early voting began in Iowa on September 25 and continued until November 3, 2014. For information about how and where you can vote early in Iowa, [click here](#).

Early voting began in Illinois on October 20 and continued until November 2, 2014. To find out how and where you can vote early in Illinois, [click here](#).

Related: Early voting already setting records in Scott and Rock Island counties



## VP Joe Biden Endorses Long Shot Democrat McClelland Over Rothfus

By Charlie Deitch

[Pittsburgh City Paper](#), October 22, 2014

The Erin McClelland campaign, which is trying to mount a challenge to incumbent tea-party Congressman Keith Rothfus, announced this afternoon an endorsement from Vice President Joe **Biden**.

“Erin McClelland will bring new leadership to Washington, work to create jobs, ensure equal pay for women, and expand access to affordable education,” a press release quotes **Biden** as saying. “The people of Pennsylvania are looking for a change from this reckless Republican Congress, and Erin McClelland will always put the middle class first.”

The endorsement probably won't help the McClelland campaign much: As I reported last week, the race doesn't appear to be close, even though the district was among the most competitive in the country in 2012.

What is interesting about the endorsement, though, is what it confirms about Obama's unpopularity in the district. “The McClelland people probably figure that **Biden** is a better surrogate for them in that district than the president is,” says Kyle Kondik, a Rust Belt native with the University of Virginia Center for Politics.

Still, with just about \$50,000 cash on hand compared with Rothfus' \$1 million, “Far more valuable than an endorsement [for McClelland] would be the [Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee] putting \$2 million into Pittsburgh television,” Kondik says.

The endorsement coincides with two new TV ads from team Rothfus, neither of which mention McClelland or the fact that he's running for re-election — another possible indicator Rothfus isn't expecting a strong challenge.

## Here's Exactly How Great Joe Biden's Amtrak Love Affair Is For The Planet

By Jamie Kilstein and Allison Kilkenny

[Salon](#), October 22, 2014

On Tuesday, Vice President Joe **Biden** gave a speech on commuter issues in which he revealed a mind-blowing but not unsurprising detail about his personal travel habits:

“Now, there are a lot of rumors about how many trips I've taken on Amtrak. It's estimated that I've made roughly over 8,000 round trips. 250 miles a day. Average 210 days a year for 36 years. And the last six years since being Vice President not nearly as much.”

The number is, frankly, absurdly high. And, from an sustainability standpoint, also admirable. **Biden** could have opted to drive, or take a commuter plane. But he didn't. He stayed true to his first love: Amtrak. So, we decided to do some nifty math to see how **Biden**'s romance with trains has benefitted the environment.

We chose to focus on his daily roundtrips as Delaware's senator, when he would have been making a daily roundtrip from Wilmington, Delaware, to Washington, D.C., everyday, 210 days a year. Using BeFrugal.com's travel calculator, we found that the same round trip by car would produce about 219 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions, while the plane trip would produce 314 pounds. The train trip, however, only produces 100 pounds of carbon dioxide (per capita), according to Carbonfund.org's calculator.

That means that over 8,000 round trips, **Biden** would have produced 2,512,000 pounds (1256 tons) by plane or 1,752,000 pounds (876 tons) by car, but his decision to devote his life and his heart to the train means that he only produced 800,000 pounds (400 tons) of carbon dioxide as a result of his grueling daily commute.



In 2009, **Biden** spoke of a governmental push to implement a high-speed rail system across the country: "Investing in a high-speed rail system will lower our dependence on foreign oil and the bill for a tank of gas; loosen the congestion suffocating our highways and skyways; and significantly reduce the damage we do to our planet." Indeed, relying more heavily on trains would put a serious dent in reducing emissions.

In 2010, residents of the United States produced 35,200 pounds or 17.3 tons of carbon dioxide emissions per capita, with transportation taking up about 32 percent of total U.S. emissions. The U.S. Department of Transportation has written extensively on the benefits to commuter rails and increased public transportation. One info sheet on the topic reads:

"National averages demonstrate that public transportation produces significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions per passenger mile than private vehicles. Leading the way is heavy rail transit, such as subways and metros, which produce 76 percent less in greenhouse gas emissions per passenger mile than an average single-occupancy vehicle (SOV). Light rail systems produce 62 percent less and bus transit produces 33 percent less."

If one driver per household took public transportation instead for a daily commute of 10 miles each way, they would save 4,627 pounds of carbon dioxide per household per year, which amounts to an 8.1 percent reduction per household. So, we would all do well to follow Joe's example.

## **The Bidens Are Not Like Us**

By Michelle Malkin

[Chicago Tribune](#), October 22, 2014

Everything you need to know about Beltway nepotism, corporate cronyism and corruption can be found in the biography of Robert Hunter **Biden**.

Where are the Occupy Wall Street rabble-rousers and enemies of elitist privilege when you need them? Straining their neck muscles to look the other way.

The youngest son of Vice President Joe **Biden** made news last week after The Wall Street Journal revealed he had been booted from the Navy Reserve for cocaine use. His drug abuse was certainly no surprise to the Navy, which issued him a waiver for a previous drug offense before commissioning him as a public affairs officer at the age of 43. The Navy also bent over backward a second time with an age waiver so he could secure the cushy part-time job.

Papa **Biden** loves to tout his middle-class, "Average Joe" credentials. But rest assured, if his son had been "Hunter Smith" or "Hunter Jones" or "Hunter Brown," the Navy's extraordinary dispensations would be all but unattainable. Oh, and if he had been "Hunter Palin," The New York Times would be on its 50th front-page investigative report by now.

Despite the disgraceful ejection from our military, Hunter's Connecticut law license won't be subject to automatic review. Because, well, **Biden**.

**Biden's** bennies are not just one-offs. Skating by, flouting rules and extracting favors are the story of Hunter's life.

Hunter's first job, acquired after Joe **Biden** won his 1996 Senate re-election bid in Delaware, was with MBNA. That's the credit card conglomerate and top campaign finance donor that forked over nearly \$63,000 in bundled primary and general contributions from its employees to then Sen. **Biden**. As I've reported previously, Daddy **Biden** secured his custom-built, multimillion-dollar house in Delaware's ritziest Chateau Country neighborhood with the help of a leading MBNA corporate executive. Average Joe went on to carry legislative water for MBNA in the Senate for years.



Hunter zoomed up to senior vice president by early 1998 and then scored a plum position in the Clinton administration's Commerce Department, specializing in "electronic commerce," before returning to MBNA three years later as a high-priced "consultant." While he collected those "consulting" (translation: nepotistic access-trading) fees, Hunter became a "founding partner" in the lobbying firm of Oldaker, **Biden** and Belair in 2002.

William Oldaker was Papa **Biden**'s former fundraiser, campaign treasurer and general counsel — a Beltway barnacle whose Democratic machine days dated back to Teddy Kennedy's 1980 presidential bid. Under Oldaker's tutelage, Hunter lobbied for drug companies, universities and other deep-pocketed clients to the tune of nearly \$4 million billed to the company by 2007.

Coincidentally, then-Illinois Sen. Barack Obama personally requested and secured cozy taxpayer-subsidized earmarks for several of Hunter's clients.

Hunter got himself appointed to multiple corporate board positions, including a directorship with Eudora Global. It's an investment firm founded by one Jeffrey Cooper, head of one of the biggest asbestos-litigation firms in the country. SimmonsCooper, based in Madison County, Ill., donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to **Biden** the Elder's various political campaigns over the past decade — all while the firm poured \$6.5 million into lobbying against a key tort-reform bill, which former Sen. **Biden** worked hard to defeat. Cooper also contributed to the Delaware attorney-general campaign of Hunter's older brother, Beau, and paid Beau for legal work on lucrative asbestos-litigation cases.

Hunter also was previously a top official at Paradigm Global Advisors, a hedge fund holding company founded with Vice President **Biden**'s brother, James, and marketed by convicted finance fraudster Allen Stanford. As Paradigm chairman, Hunter oversaw half a billion dollars of client money invested in hedge funds while remaining a lobbyist at Oldaker, **Biden** and Belair. Cooper chipped in \$2 million for the ill-fated venture, which went bust amid nasty fraud lawsuits.

Continually failing upward, Hunter snagged a seat on the board of directors of taxpayer-subsidized, stimulus-inflated Amtrak, where he pretended not to be a lobbyist but, rather, an "effective advocate" for the government railroad system serving the 1 percenters' D.C.-NYC corridor.

So, where does a coke-abusing influence peddler go after raking in gobs of Daddy-enabled dough and abusing the U.S. Navy's ill-considered generosity? Back to Cronyland! Hunter joined Ukrainian natural gas company Burisma Holdings — owned by a powerful Russian government sympathizer who fled to Russia in February — this spring. The hypocritical lobbyist-bashers at the White House deny he will be lobbying and deny any conflict of interest.

Meanwhile, Just Like You Joe was whipping up class envy in South Carolina last week.

"Corporate profits have soared," he railed, thanks to "these guys running hedge funds in New York," who are to blame for "income inequality."

You know, like his son and brother and their Beltway back-scratching patrons.

The Bidens: They're not like us.

Washington Post

Michelle Malkin is the author of "Culture of Corruption: Obama and his Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks and Cronies"

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**The Women In The World Texas Forum**

[The Daily Beast](#), October 22, 2014

The Women in the World Texas Forum



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Robin Jerstad/DA Media for Women in the World

Tina Brown's live journalism event traveled to San Antonio to take on issues from honor killing to Ebola. Appearing live: Dr. Jill **Biden**, Gloria Steinem, Eva Longoria, Diane Von Furstenberg and many more. Read all the highlights here.

View Photos From the Texas Women in the World Forum

Jehmu Greene, Ambassador Karen Hughes, Liz Chadderdon, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison

On moderator Mark McKinnon's right was a powerhouse of Texas politics—including Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison. The senator said she got into politics as a journalist, when her local party chairman invited her to run for an open seat in the Texas legislature. "I ran and won," she recounted. "It's so important that our experiences are brought to the table." Political consultant Liz Chadderdon lamented voter apathy. "When I sit out an election, that says I don't care," she said. "In two weeks, please go vote." Karen Hughes, a former advisor to President George W. Bush, said she became attracted to the political process after realizing as a journalist how much effect policy decisions have on people. "We need more women on every level of office," said Hughes. "Women are practical and women are problem solvers." More women in office could lead to political compromise, said Jehmu Greene, founding board member of Vote Run Lead. "We are about unleashing technology and each other as peers to encourage 500,000 women to run by 2016." Women must "not just run, but win," said Chadderdon. "And winning takes guts." What about Hillary Clinton, McKinnon asked the panel. "She was a very good senator," said Republican Hutchison. "I respect her very much. I think she's very solid, and she does have the experience." Clinton needs to remember that campaigns are about voters, not candidates, said Chadderdon. "I hope she has learned she needs to speak to her audience." On Barack Obama's presidency, Hughes urged compromise between the White House and the GOP. "We desperately need that."

Maile Molin

Most programs that teach English to adults have a major problem: they compete with the adult's work schedule, offer transportation difficulties or lack childcare. Maile Molin has tried to address that by bringing English-language classes to workplaces themselves as founder and director of English@Work. After Molin described her program, Sandra Phillips, vice president and deputy general council of Toyota Motor Sales, took the stage. Molin has been chosen by Toyota as a Mother of Invention. "In recognition of the remarkable work you have accomplished, and the inspiring things you know you will do in the



future,” Phillips said, “we are delighted to award you our Toyota Driving Solutions award in the amount of \$50,000.” Molin was thrilled—and the audience rose to its feet.

Sister Rosemary Nyirumbe and Florence Modo Arukude

Moderator Alyse Nelson, CEO of the Vital Voices Global partnership introduced her as “a saint who lives among us.” Sister Rosemary Nyirumbe is a nun of the Sacred Heart who rescues young girls from sexual slavery and rebel attacks in Uganda. That country has suffered 25 years of terror by Joseph Kony, leader of the Lord’s Resistance Army. Working at St. Monica’s Girls Tailoring Center, Sister Rosemary offers girls and young women and their babies refuge and skills training—including young women who have given birth to children of Kony. Today all of “these girls are living their lives in dignity, using needles and sewing machines,” said Sister Rosemary. “They are winners.” Florence Modo Arukude lives with Sister Rosemary. At four years old, she was struck with polio. During a rebel attack, she left her family after being unable to keep up. Today, she creates purses with the other women at St. Monica’s that are sold to support the mission. (<http://sewinghope.com/supporters>) Of the girls she helps, Sister Rosemary said, “the journey is not one day or two days. It is a long journey.”

Diane von Furstenberg

The iconic designer began her remarks with a remembrance of Oscar de la Renta, who died earlier in the week. “He was an extraordinary man, an American man who loved his Latin roots and his European training,” she said. “He had the best of everything.” Von Furstenberg is set to release her memoir, “The Woman I Wanted to Be.” And who was that? “I wanted to be a little bit of a man in a woman’s body.” She described the influence of her mother, a concentration camp survivor. “My mother said I was her flag of freedom, the child who never should have been born.” Moderator Alicia Menendez, an anchor on the Fusion network, asked about the influence of her children. “Do you have children?” “No,” answered Menendez. “Well hurry up! Every woman should have children.” Aging doesn’t intimidate her, von Furstenberg said. “I realized early on that the most important relationship you have is with yourself. You have to be your own best friend.” Her motto: “Fake it, make it, do it.”

Robi Damelin

“I discovered that I am not a victim,” Robi Damelin, international spokesperson for The Parents Circle told moderator Tina Brown in a discussion about Breaking the Cycle of Revenge. They discussed Israel, Palestine, and other places in the world where people can be trapped in generational cycles of violence and revenge. The Parents Circle is a group of 600 Israelis and Palestinians who have all lost an immediate family member in the ongoing conflict. Damelin’s son, David, was killed by a Palestinian sniper while serving in the Israeli army. “We believe our mission is to create a framework for a reconciliation process to be a part of any future agreement,” Damelin told the rapt audience.” Members of the group go to Israeli schools and Palestinian clubs to preach a message of reconciliation—and are often met with hatred from both sides. At one meeting, a girl told Damelin that her son deserved to die—only to reveal that she was coping with her own grief after a relative died in the conflict. Damelin also described how she came to meet a Palestinian woman she now travels with to share their stories. Damelin had gone to speak to Palestinians and when she arrived the crowd initially was hostile “They came to shout at me,” She said. The woman “was sitting with her back to me, more or less, which is really rather rude. And I started to ask her, ‘Who have you lost?’ And she said, ‘My son.’ And I said, ‘what was his name?’ And she told me. Suddenly, I said, ‘Do you want to see a picture of David?’ and she said, ‘Ok.’ She looked and she said, ‘Haraam,’ which means what a pity. It was the first time she recognize her pain and my pain is the same pain.” The Parents Circle is “not affiliated with any political party. But we are political.” To



those who view the cycles as unbreakable—and peace as impossible—Damelin had a message: “Maybe you have the luxury of giving up, but I do not.”

Rosie Castro, Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-Texas), Dolores Huerta, and Eva Longoria

The multigenerational group of Latino powerhouses on stage embodied the topic for its panel: Latino Power on the Rise. Rosie Castro, the San Antonio political activist and mother of Rep. Castro and Julian Castro, secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Affairs exhorted the audience to take action. “Nobody’s going to change it for you,” she said. “You have to change it for yourself.” Moderator Jan Jarboe Russell, an author and writer for Texas Monthly, asked Rep. Castro whether politics was in his blood. “We resisted it for a while,” he said of his brother and himself. “We were ambivalent about it growing up. We were going to marches and campaign rallies and handing out flyers from the age three on. But we also developed a real civic conscience.” Actress Eva Longoria described how she developed a passion for reforming farmworker conditions (she’s producing two documentaries on the subject). Her inspiration was activist Dolores Huerta, who famously coined the phrase, “Yes We Can!” (Si se puede!). “Long before I was remotely famous, my friend David said ‘come to this rally, Dolores Huerta will be there,’” Longoria recalled. “When I met her, she told me ‘One day you’re going to have a voice so be sure you have something to say.’ So I started learning more and more about farmworkers. No one thinks about the human cost of getting a tomato from the field to your table.” Huerta herself told the audience that change only happens with political power. “We know the only way we can get power is to vote.” The panel heated up again around the issue of immigration reform. Huerta has supported President Obama’s decision to put off immigration reform until after the mid-term elections. “We’ve been waiting for a decade, we can wait another few months.” Rep. Castro said he was confident the president would take action after the vote, but said a long-term solution requires congressional action.

Sarah Crowe and Bishop Nathan S. Kortu

“The terrible loneliness of Ebola,” intoned moderator Tina Brown as she opened the forum’s panel on the disease. Sarah Crowe, chief of crisis communication for UNICEF in New York, said Ebola has “eroded every aspect of life in Liberia,” a country that had just begun to recover from civil war. “It has changed the way people live, the way people die and the way mothers give birth,” Crowe said. Bishop Kortu, pastor at the New Life Fellowship Church, described the challenge for communities where families have lost nearly all their members and have no professional counseling to help. The country needs ambulances, bleach, hand sanitizer, medical supplies. “What we are asking for is just basic supplies,” Kortu said. “Here, we need education so Liberians are not discriminated against.” Ebola “is the defining crisis of our time,” Crowe said. “It’s a test of our compassion and our humanity.” At the end of the panel, Thomas Eric Duncan’s fiancé, Louise Troh, spoke. He was the first to die of Ebola in the United States. Ebola “took my love away, my whole life is gone,” Troh said. It’s a whole worldwide fight.”

Dr. Jill Biden

America’s “second lady” urged the Women in the World audience to continue the fight against breast cancer. And she discussed the challenges faced by women in the military and military wives at home. **Biden** showed a brief film detailing the story of female marines working with women in Afghanistan. “Women service members love to serve their country,” she said. “But as moms, it’s hard for them to miss the milestones in their children’s lives.” **Biden** is a co-founder, with Michelle Obama, of Joining Forces, which supports returning service members with employment and other assistance. **Biden** returned repeatedly to the challenges of families at home. Military children attend six to nine schools before they graduate from high school, she said. “Think of how much we are asking of our military families.” And she asked the audience to help support them in turn. When her son Beau **Biden** was deployed to Iraq,



granddaughter Natalie's teacher, for instance, hung a photo of her father's unit in the classroom. "And every child in the room was reminded every day that her daddy was at war."

Two military spouses took the stage after **Biden**. They described the challenges of finding work and of dealing with the military bureaucracy. "Employers see that you're a military spouse and say, 'you're only going to be here two years,'" said Janet Sanchez, founder and president of Esposas Militares Hispanas. "I'm encouraged every day," said Betty Easley, Foundation Fellow at the Elizabeth Dole Foundation.

Marie Brenner with Deeyan Khan and Xael Pamos

Journalist Marie Brenner moderated a panel on "honor" killings with documentary film makers Deeyan Khan and Xael Pamos. "They could be, amazingly enough, the girl next door," Brenner said of victims of such killings. Khan discussed her Emmy award-winning film "Banaz A Love Story," about an Iraqi girl killed by her family in London because she was seeking to leave her arranged marriage to a violent man. Banaz appealed five times to the London police. "Authorities don't want to touch [such cases] because they're afraid they'll be labeled racist," Khan said. "When you're talking about honor crimes, I don't care about those sensitivities."

Pamos discussed his documentary "Price of Honor," about the murders of Amina and Sarah Said, two sisters who were allegedly killed by their Egyptian father, Yaser Said, in Irving Texas. The case has never been solved, and the father has never been found by law-enforcement. Pamos was threatened with death as he investigated the crime.

Gloria Steinem with Eva Longoria

America's seventh largest city is the site of the latest meeting of Women in the World. First up: activist Gloria Steinem with actress Eva Longoria. The two were greeted with a standing ovation from the audience in the sold-out Empire Theatre. Now 80 (and still fabulous), Steinem recalled the roots of the feminist movement. Today "it's a majority movement, but that means there is a backlash," she said. "And nowhere is it written the backlash may not win." The two talked about reproductive freedom (with a dig at recent efforts in Texas to highly regulate abortion clinics). "To say our bodies belong to ourselves is revolutionary," Steinem said. They also discussed violence against women. "I think of these crimes as supremacy crimes," Steinem said. "There's nothing to gain but the idea of supremacy."

Tim Mak is the Senior Congressional Correspondent for The Daily Beast. He covers Congress, politics and national security. He previously reported on politics and defense at Politico and the Washington Examiner.

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An unprecedented attack shook Canada on Wednesday as at least one gunman attacked parliament and the country's war memorial in the capital, Ottawa.

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A fundamentally quiet and orderly town, Ottawa was rocked by the shooting of a uniformed Canadian soldier as he stood guard over the National War Memorial, located right across the street from Parliament Hill and the prime minister's offices at Langevin Block.

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It was the second attack inside Canada this week. The shootings come just two days after a 25-year-old man described by police as a "radicalized" Muslim drove his car into two Canadian soldiers in a city outside of Montreal, killing one and seriously injuring the other. Martin Couture-Rouleau, the suspect in that incident, was arrested in July while trying to travel to Turkey. Following his rampage, Couture-Rouleau was shot and killed.

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On Wednesday morning, a man arrived by car, with a blanket concealing a rifle, and shot the soldier four times at the memorial, a witness told a Canadian news station.  
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The situation quickly escalated, with reports that Parliament itself was under attack and dozens of shots had been fired inside the legislature. Members of Parliament were caucusing in the building, and the building was promptly locked down. According to local Canadian press reports, a gunman wounded a security guard on Parliament Hill before he was shot by the sergeant-at-arms.  
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A Globe and Mail reporter posted on YouTube a harrowing video of shots fired during a police sweep of Parliament Hill.  
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Entire blocks of the city remained in lockdown Wednesday, though police would not say at an afternoon press conference whether they were looking for more gunmen—only that they want the city to remain alert.  
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Swarms of police, gunfire, panic—all foreign to a city known for its quaint, Commonwealth style, still air, and orderliness.  
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Earlier this month, the House of Commons voted to approve an anti-ISIS air combat role for Canada. One purported ISIS fighter from Canada praised Rouleau and encouraged others to follow suit with violence. Whether this incident is connected or not, it has been a week of violence never before seen in Canadian political history.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/terrorists-end-canada-s-innocence/jcr:content/body/text9"}, {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/pullquote", "quote": "It was the second attack inside Canada this week.

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Canada is no stranger to terrorism, having endured the kidnappings of government officials by radical domestic terrorists known as the Front de liberation du Quebec in 1970, during what was known as the October Crisis. Mass shootings are also not unprecedented, having happened at Ecole Polytechnique in 1989 and at Dawson College in







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There will be vigils. There will be memorials. There will be an investigation, perhaps a Royal Commission.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/terrorists-end-canada-s-innocence/jcr:content/body/text12"}, {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text", "textIsRich": "true", "text":

But for now, as prominent political writer John Ivison wrote in shock at the news Wednesday morning, there is only deep pain and wondering in the nation's capital.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/terrorists-end-canada-s-innocence/jcr:content/body/text13"}, {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text", "textIsRich": "true", "text":

"Canada," Ivison wrote, "has just lost her innocence." "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/terrorists-end-canada-s-innocence/jcr:content/body/text14"}, {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text", "textIsRich": "true", "text":

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MEXICO CITY, Mexico—Through all the battles waged in Mexico in recent years over the shipment routes and markets for narcotics, San Miguel de Allende has remained as neutral as Switzerland in the Second World War. San Miguel, a 500-year old city nestled high in the Bajío Mountains of central Mexico, seemed to be literally above the fray, and to most of the artists and expats who inhabit it the drug violence at lower altitudes is a distant affair. The prevailing wisdom has it that narcos don't shoot up the places where they invest their money.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-

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On October 1, a black Mercedes SUV with license plates from Querétaro pulled to a stop on a cobblestone street 10 blocks from San Miguel's central plaza. Two men stepped out and entered a modest seafood restaurant called Mario's Fresh Shellfish. They were the restaurant's only customers. Mario himself waited on them. There was nothing remarkable about the appearance of either man. They ordered the house specialty of scallops in lemon and chile piquín for an appetizer, plus two bowls of shrimp soup and two orders of ceviche. The older of the two men tasted the food and told Mario, "You have no idea of the customer you have just won over.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-

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Had Mario been more attuned to the affairs of local real estate or politics in San Miguel he might have recognized the younger man in the cargo pants and Indiana Jones hat. He was Germán Goyeneche, the developer of the Otomí Equestrian Club in San Miguel, and the posh Otomí residential complex beside it on the Ignacio Allende Reservoir, two miles outside of the city. He might have known that the previous mayor of San Miguel spoke at the inauguration of the development and commended Goyeneche by name as a fighter who believed in a dream and made it a reality. He might have known that the governor of the neighboring state of Querétaro (San Miguel is in the state of Guanajuato), who is a friend of the Goyeneche family, praised the men behind Otomí as the admirable type of investors who are prepared to put money in the land and generate progress.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-

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The older man at Goyeneche's table, wearing a violet plaid button-down shirt and jeans, was Hector Beltrán Leyva, alias El Elegante, the most wanted drug-trafficker in Mexico and the head of a cartel that bears his name. He was living under the alias Alonso Rivera Muñoz as a middling real estate developer and art collector in Querétaro. As he and Goyeneche sampled the tamales that Mario served them on the house, two couples entered Mario's and opted for a table against the wall. They ordered appetizers and lemonades. Nothing seemed out of the ordinary. Beltrán Leyva, a gourmand, was savoring his tamale with its filling of roasted corn. The couples sprang from their seats with handguns drawn and ordered both men to put their heads on the table. They shouted that they were with Mexican Special Forces, and just then a team of gunmen rushed into the restaurant. "I thought it was the end," one of the cooks later told a reporter.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-

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Héctor Beltrán Leyva is the last in a line of brothers who built a drug cartel into a family dynasty. He is also known as El H, but of all his nicknames El Elegante is the most salient. Héctor's older brothers Arturo and Alfredo were men with the right temperament to preside over a multinational crime syndicate. Arturo in particular built up the organization and aligned it with the Sinaloa and Juárez cartels in the early 2000s. It was Arturo who waged war on the Zetas on their home turf and Arturo who later joined forces with the Zetas to challenge the hegemony of El Chapo Guzmán. Arturo was big, brash, impulsive, and menacing. He had all the money and power to win influence in politics and law-enforcement, but he lacked the social graces. They called Héctor El Elegante because he mixed easily with the élite of Mexico: the politicians, showbiz stars, foreign diplomats, even visiting royalty. It was a role every bit as important to the Beltrán Leyva Cartel as coordinating delivery of a load of cocaine or settling a score with violence: Héctor not only bought political influence, he built relationships with the wealthy men and women from good families to help him and his brothers turn the proceeds from their drug sales into assets and investments.”,“id”:/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-

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In 1999, El Elegante threw a fashion benefit for more than 600 guests on the beach at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Acapulco. The fashion designer was Armando Mafud, the emcee was the famous model and television host Montserrat Oliver, the guests included an Italian baron, the French ambassador to Mexico, the owner of the Hyatt Regency Acapulco, the director of Fashion Week Mexico, and several telenovela actresses who were household names at the time in Mexico.”,“id”:/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-

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Much blood has passed under the bridge since then. Arturo was shot down during a Mexican Special Forces raid on his high-rise condominium in Cuernavaca the week before Christmas 2009. The year before that Alfredo had been taken alive in a police raid on a safe house in Culiacán. Héctor assumed the day-to-day responsibilities for the family business and the challenges to his authority occurred early and often from regional strongmen who broke off to form rival organizations. No city has borne a greater share of pain from the fracturing of the Beltrán Leyva Cartel than Héctor's beloved Acapulco. The glamour of the seaside resort has long since been eclipsed by spectacular violence.”,“id”:/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-

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A recent Mexican State Intelligence report claims that, after Alfredo's arrest and Arturo's death, Héctor made a conscious decision to lower the profile of the cartel and repair its hemorrhaging finances the way he knew best, by establishing ties with political and business elites and investing drug proceeds through them.”,“id”:/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-

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What distinguishes Germán Goyeneche from other men who have been accused as accomplices of the Beltrán Leyva brothers is, above all, his pedigree. Men of his social stature in Mexico do not often appear on police blotters. Previous Beltrán Leyva henchmen had nicknames like El Grande or La Barbie and were stone-faced killers. El Grande was an ex-cop accused of 43 murders, a man who recruited contract killers and supervised the unloading of tons of cocaine at a time out of jet hangars in Mexico City Airport. La Barbie videotaped himself in the act of committing atrocities and mailed the evidence to The Dallas Morning News.”,“id”:/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/body/text10”},{“resourceType”:/dailybeast2/components/text”,”textIsRich”:/true”,”text”:/

Goyeneche practices yoga and follows the Dalai Lama on Twitter. He juices with vegetables, romances on Tinder, and shops for rustic furniture built with reclaimed materials. The Mexican subsidiary of Anheuser-Busch awarded him a certificate of recognition for planting trees in San Miguel, and he the Mexican Green Party was advancing him for positions of leadership within its ranks. Goyeneche hails from what the newspapers in his native Querétaro call an “ancestral” family; his father is reputed to be a large landowner. He studied agricultural engineering at an elite private university in Mexico, speaks fluent English and passable Portuguese, and is publicly identified as the owner of three separate real estate and construction firms.”,“id”:/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/body/text11”},{“resourceType”:/dailybeast2/components/text”,”textIsRich”:/true”,”text”:/

Goyeneche’s reputation in San Miguel was that of a man-about-town who fashioned himself after Harrison Ford in the Indiana Jones films and even wore the hat. His Facebook profile has a photograph of Ford as Indiana Jones above a caption that reads, “The other me.” Given his alter ego, it may not come as a surprise that Goyeneche is into antiquities, especially of the pre-Colombian variety. The name of his equestrian club and residential land development derives from the Otomí native people of central Mexico. Indeed, the web site for Otomí Lake & Villas advertises as a selling point that the exclusive community is “nestled in an ancient pre-Hispanic ceremonial center.” The asking price for a villa ranges upwards from \$265,000.”,“id”:/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/body/text12”},{“resourceType”:/dailybeast2/components/text”,”textIsRich”:/true”,”text”:/

Indeed there is a pre-Hispanic ceremonial site located a scant 400 meters from the outer edge of the Otomí Lake & Villas property. It is known as La Cañada de la Virgen, and studies from the Mexican Institute of Archaeology conclude the natives constructed it as a lunar calendar to guide their activities of hunting and gathering. Ceramic pieces, metal fragments, seeds and human remains have been uncovered by archeologists at the site. This might go part of the way toward explaining why Goyeneche and his partners had to slog through paperwork with city hall for three years before finally gaining land use approval.”,“id”:/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/body/text13”},{“resourceType”:/dailybeast2/components/text”,”textIsRich”:/true”,”text”:/,”id”:/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/body/text14”},{“resourceType”:/dailybeast2/components/text”,”textIsRich”:/true”,”text”:/

The Mexican Justice Department has made no details public about the art collection of Héctor Beltrán Leyva. But there are likely clues to be found in Germán Goyeneche’s outspoken passion for the buying and selling of art. In May he attended the inauguration of a museum to house the works of the Ecuadorian painter Santiago Carbonell in Querétaro. Last year he purchased three paintings by the Mexican surrealist Meme Artist at the Galeria Libertad in Querétaro. One of his purchases was Music for the heart, a painting, he wrote on Facebook, “that personally has captivated me deeply.” The painting is of a human heart set inside a wind-up music box that has a metal rod poking out of the pulmonary artery.



A ballerina, nude but for a pair of striped knee socks, sits beside the heart pressing the rod to her lips as if to play it like a flute.”,”id”:/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/body/text15”}, {“resourceType”:”dailybeast2/components/text”, “textIsRich”:”true”, “text”:

There is a consistent aesthetic to the art that catches Goyeneche’s eye. He showed no interest in the abstract. He is rather drawn to figures in pain, to the primordial, and to gloom. The painters he follows on social media use figures to represent allegories. In the work of Jaroslaw Kukowski moral and social concerns are raised symbolically through deformed human and mystic figures in great pain. In the work of Erik Thor Sandberg, human nudes are contorted in a dream state, in some cases suspended in the act of self-mutilation. Animals in agony or danger are used by Martin Wittfooth, often to hint at the future of the human condition. Many of the painters who appealed the most to the alleged financial operator of El Elegante toyed with notions of the exact, taking a concept like photorealism or classical portraiture in the style of Rembrandt and veering off in the direction of the surreal or grotesque. The portraits of Christian van Minnen are composed along the lines of the old masters but their faces are macabre, distorted, mutated, hosts to prosperous and colorful parasites.”,”id”:/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/body/text16”}, {“resourceType”:”dailybeast2/components/text”, “textIsRich”:”true”, “text”:

As all this came out in recent days, Congressman Arturo Escobar of the Mexican Green Party, in distancing himself and his party from Goyeneche, claimed, “We have no way of knowing about the private lives of our activists.” There are so many mysteries. Whether it was in real estate, the stock market, fine art, or political campaigns, to Héctor Beltrán Leyva the act of investing money is what mattered most. Germán Goyeneche, on the other hand, was a man born into wealth who ingratiated himself with every corner of the high society in San Miguel de Allende. Two days before his arrest, Goyeneche appeared in a photograph wearing his Indiana Jones hat and seated in the front row of a campaign event for a Mexican congressman who is running for mayor of San Miguel. After the two were picked up, the photo was paired with Beltrán Leyva’s mugshot and splashed across the front page of more than one daily newspaper in Mexico.”,”id”:/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-

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The congressman, Ricardo Villarreal, denied that friendship is what brought him and Goyeneche together. “San Miguel is a very small place and when someone shows up to invest lots of money, everyone hears about it,” he said. “I assure you there isn’t a single local businessman who doesn’t know the name Germán Goyeneche.” Back in Querétaro, Governor José Calzada Roviroso omitted any mention of Goyeneche from his public remarks on the capture of Beltrán Leyva. Gov. Calzada made it seem as though the drug lord were captured alone.”,”id”:/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-

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Also, there are several sequences in the trailer that allude to Marvel’s pending “Civil War” film arc pitting Chris Evans’s Captain America against Robert Downey Jr.’s Iron Man, including a scene of Thor grabbing Stark by the neck and raising him up high, a battle royale between Hulk and Iron Man in his mega Hulkbuster armor, and Captain America’s broken shield. No sign of Paul Bettany’s Vision, however.\n”,“id”:/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-

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And the trailer says that the film is coming out in April 2015, instead of its planned release date of May 1, 2015. \n”,“id”:/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-

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Check out the awesome trailer here.”,“id”:/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-

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The trailer for one of the most anticipated films of 2015 has leaked online and offers an embarrassment of riches, from a glimpse at Marvel’s pending Civil War to new cast members. Watch it here. “,”description”:

The trailer for one of the most anticipated films of 2015 has leaked online and offers an embarrassment of riches, from a glimpse at Marvel’s pending Civil War to new cast members. Watch it here.

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## Powerful Voices And Inspiration At Women In The World Texas

By Alexa Garcia

[San Antonio Current](#), October 23, 2014

Author and feminist activist Gloria Steinem, left, speaks with actress Eva Longoria in the program segment, "The Face of Feminism" during the Women In The World Texas Forum, presented by Tina Brown Live Media, Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2014, at the Charline McCombs Empire Theatre in San Antonio, Texas. (Robin Jerstad/DA Media for Women in the World)

Being in the Alamo City, we know their names well: Eva Longoria. Rosie Castro. Joaquin Castro. But when they're all on stage together, alongside Dolores Huerta, who co-founded United Farm Workers with Cesar Chavez, talking about the power of the Latino voice in American politics and policymaking, it's hard not to want to jump up and go vote immediately.

The four participated in one of several panels at Tina Brown's Women in the World Texas event at the Charline McCombs Empire Theatre, which featured superstars like Dr. Jill **Biden** and Gloria Steinem as well as international and local activists, journalists, and advocates working tirelessly to uplift the voices, stories, and experiences of women around the world. Topics covered throughout the day ranged from politics to feminism to honor killings to challenges military families face to cruelty against women and girls in Africa to the Ebola crisis in Liberia.

Huerta, whose organization fought for higher wages, health care, and fair working conditions for California's agricultural farmers, said that what most people overlook about UFW's work is the group's voter registration and outreach efforts that ultimately led to the policy changes.

"A lot of the work that we did was register people to vote, we went back and got them out to vote ... they're the ones who passed the laws in California," she said. "The political work is what made the difference in California, and it can make the difference in Texas, New York, and other states."

According to Mi Familia Vota, there are more than 4.3 million Latino citizen of voting age in Texas and just under 3 million are registered, making up 23 percent of Texas' registered voters.

Rosie Castro, one of the founders of La Raza Unida political party, community activist and mother to San Antonio's Julián and Joaquin Castro, remembers life for Latinos in San Antonio as being "atrocious"



when she was young. She also remembers an 80 percent high school dropout rate among Latinos and poor infrastructure on the east, west and south sides of San Antonio. At 23, she founded La Raza Unida, the nation's first Latino political party and ran for local office.

"Something had to be done," she said. "There were a lot of young people, like there are today, that said 'enough is enough.'"

Longoria, actress, philanthropist, producer and activist who rose to national political prominence after serving as national co-chair of President Barack Obama's reelection campaign in 2012, remembers meeting Huerta for the first time more than 10 years ago. Huerta, who Longoria considers her personal hero, shared with Longoria the plight of farm workers in California at a local rally where both appeared on stage.

"She goes, 'ya know, you're an actor?'" Longoria recalled on stage. "One day you're going to have a voice, so be sure you have something to say."

Castro, Longoria, and Huerta are also participating in a Get Out the Vote rally for Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, the Democratic candidate for Texas lieutenant governor.

Along with this panel, Deeyah Khan, a filmmaker and founder of Fuuse, shared the stage with Xoel Pamos, executive producer of the documentary The Price of Honor to discuss their work documenting stories of young women killed by their families in so-called "honor" killings. Betty Easley with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation and Janet Sanchez of Esposas Militares Hispanas USA, shared their work with military wives and spouses, and Robi Damelin with Parents Circle-Families Forum told her profound story of losing her son to a Palestinian sniper.

## **Famous Females Gather In SA For Women In The World Texas Conference**

[KSAT-TV San Antonio](#), October 22, 2014

SAN ANTONIO – The Second Lady of the United States, a fashion icon, a famous feminist and well-known actress were among America's leading ladies who took center stage at the Charline McCombs Empire Theater for the Women in the World Texas event.

"Texas has built a long legacy of bold, feisty women who don't take no for an answer," said the events founder and creator, Tina Brown, an award-winning journalist and editor-in-chief of The Daily Beast.

Among the famous faces that graced the stage were political and social activist Gloria Steinem, fashion icon Diane von Furstenberg and actress Eva Longoria.

Various speakers during the forum also highlighted the achievements of women from around the world who have made a significant impact in their community despite substantial obstacles.

The Second Lady of the United States, Dr. Jill **Biden**, delivered the keynote speech. She began her address urging women to continue their efforts to raise awareness of breast cancer.

"I'm asking all of you here today to continue dedicating your time and your heart to combating this disease," said **Biden**.

She focused the majority of her speech on the sacrifices women make, especially those in the armed forces and military spouses.

"What I've learned along the way is that no matter the situation, there are exceptional individuals who step up to the challenge who go above and beyond and make an even bigger difference in their community," she said.

Included in the political heavy hitters of the event was former Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, who spoke about the impact of the female gender in politics and the importance of the female perspective.



"I brought forward some issues that men weren't against, they just hadn't thought about," said Hutchison. "I think that's a value you want, especially in your legislative bodies."

When asked about her thoughts on the gubernatorial race between Wendy Davis and Greg Abbott, Hutchison said she is glad to see a female candidate in the running, but hopes voters will base their decision on the issues most important to them, not on gender.

The event featured a panel on the growing influence of the Latina voice in America, which Rep. Joaquin Castro.

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## **Obama, Biden Press Secretaries Bet On World Series**

[USA Today](#), October 22, 2014

The World Series is generating a little contest between White House press secretaries.

Josh Earnest, spokesman for President Obama and backer of the Kansas City Royals, has a wager with Kendra Barkoff, press secretary to Vice President **Biden** and fan of the San Francisco Giants.

The stakes are smallish: The losing press secretary takes a selfie wearing the winning team's cap.

Tweets Earnest: "Hey @VP: your presssec says @SFGiants will win #WorldSeries. If so I'll wear SF cap in selfie w her. If not she wears @Royals cap. It's on!"

Earnest hails from Kansas City, Barkoff from the Bay Area.

So far, it's looking good for Barkoff and the Giants: San Francisco beat Kansas City on Tuesday night in game one of the best-four-of-seven series, on KC's home field.

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## **NEW YORK TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST OP-EDS**

### **The Fed At The Crossroads**

[New York Times](#), October 23, 2014

Barring unexpected bad economic news in the next several days, the Federal Reserve will finish its bond-buying program at the end of this month. In all, the program has pumped \$3.5 trillion into the economy since 2008, helping to revive financial markets and stabilize the economy.

Now comes the hard part.

In its effort to wean the economy off of extraordinary monetary support, the Fed's next task is to decide when to raise interest rates from their prolonged ultralow levels.

Technically, the decision is straightforward. It is appropriate to raise rates when the economy shows signs of overheating, as measured by inflation in wages and prices. Currently, there are no such signs. Wages have long stagnated, even for college-educated workers. As for prices, the Fed's preferred annual inflation measure was recently 1.5 percent, well below its 2 percent target.

Politically, however, the decision is fraught. The Fed is not supposed to be swayed by elected officials or special interests. But bond holders — a powerful political constituency that includes financial firms, investment funds and wealthy individuals — generally want the Fed to raise rates sooner rather than later, and they have ample opportunity to dominate public discourse. Their aim is to pre-emptively attack inflation, which diminishes the value of their bonds.

But it is not the Fed's job to protect investors' bond portfolios. Its job is to foster both stable inflation and full employment. With the American economy still operating below par, low interest rates would pose an inflation threat only after they had succeeded in spurring credit, strong growth and robust employment.



Since those results have not yet been achieved, there is no inflationary pressure and no reason to raise rates in the near term.

In fact, inflation has been so low for so long that the economy would not be in danger of overheating even if there were a period of inflation above the 2 percent target. That target is an average that the Fed would like to maintain over time, not a level that necessarily signals the need for a rate increase.

Similarly, wages can rise at a rate well above inflation without pushing up prices. That's because wage increases do not even begin to pose an inflation threat until they exceed the rate of inflation plus the rate of labor-productivity growth, roughly 3.5 percent currently.

Fed officials have indicated that they plan to start raising rates in mid-2015. They have stuck to that timetable, even as wage-and-price increases have failed to materialize. That policy consistency is understandable on one level: With many months to go before it has to either raise rates or admit that the economy is too weak to warrant an increase, the Fed rightly wants to project optimism.

It is crucial, however, for the Fed to keep rates low as long as inflation is in check. If rates are raised too soon, growth would be slowed before pay raises and adequate credit are restored to workers and consumers.

If that happens, the Fed effort to rescue the economy would, in the end, only further entrench inequality.

## **A Verdict On Blackwater**

[New York Times](#), October 23, 2014

It took far too long, but four former gunslingers with the Blackwater Worldwide security firm have at last been held accountable for the killing of 17 Iraqi civilians in Nisour Square in Baghdad in September 2007. It was one of the darkest episodes of America's long war.

The verdict on Wednesday brings a measure of justice for the innocent victims and their families and offers some assurance that private contractors will not be allowed to operate with impunity in war zones. What it does not do is solve the problem of an American government that is still too dependent on private firms to supplement its military forces during overseas conflicts and is still unable to manage them effectively.

The Federal District Court in Washington found one defendant, Nicholas Slatten, guilty of murder and three others — Dustin Heard, Evan Liberty and Paul Slough — guilty of manslaughter and weapons charges. The men said they were ambushed by insurgents and that the civilian deaths were the unintended results of urban warfare. The jury concluded that the killings, which occurred when the contractors fired into the crowd using machine guns and grenade launchers, were criminal. One former Blackwater colleague told the court he saw "people completely unarmed, people doing nothing wrong, get shot."

The killings inflamed tensions with Iraqis, who had good reason to doubt that anyone would be punished. The State Department, which used Blackwater to guard its diplomats, gave the contractors limited immunity at one point and there was evidence it gathered shell casings after the shooting to try to protect the firm, which has since been sold and renamed.

Seven months after the killings, the department even renewed the Blackwater contract. The case was bogged down in legal battles for years. A judge threw out the charges in 2009, but the case was reinstated on appeal.

The problem goes far beyond the four men who were convicted. Over more than a decade in Iraq and Afghanistan, and in the Balkans before that, contractors accounted for 50 percent or more of the



American military force, according to a 2013 report by the Congressional Research Service. Many played noncombat support roles (transportation, construction, intelligence-gathering), but thousands were used to protect convoys, diplomats and others. The security guards, in particular, operated with no real legal accountability and were often viewed as reckless.

As the Nisour Square incident and the abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison showed, contractors who feel they are outside of the law damage American credibility and strategic goals, cost billions of dollars in waste and fraud and create more anti-American insurgents.

Following the Blackwater debacle, there has been a sensible international response to the problem. More than 600 private security contractors have pledged to abide by a code of conduct that in theory should encourage more professional, ethical behavior.

In the meantime, the Pentagon and the State Department, under pressure from Congress, have improved their use and oversight of contractors but not nearly enough. The C.R.S. report said defense officials expect it will take at least until 2018 to put in place fully a better system of managing contractors on the battlefield. That date should certainly be moved up.

Although there had been talk of reducing reliance on private contractors, they seem likely to continue to play a central role in new American military missions. With the Blackwater verdict, the United States must fully commit itself to making sure that modern-day mercenaries are strictly managed and held accountable for their actions.

### **The Times Recommends Re-electing Eric Schneiderman And Thomas DiNapoli**

[New York Times](#), October 23, 2014

The attorney general and the comptroller of New York State are two of the most powerful officials in the state. The incumbents in those offices — Eric Schneiderman, the attorney general of New York, and Thomas DiNapoli, the state comptroller — have exercised their powers in ways that have benefited the public, and both deserve re-election.

ATTORNEY GENERAL Mr. Schneiderman has done much in his four years as attorney general to hold the banks, financial institutions and the mortgage industry accountable for reckless actions that contributed to the financial crisis. He was a national leader in securing an estimated \$60 billion in settlements designed to help homeowners caught in the 2008 meltdown.

As attorney general he has pioneered efforts to stem the prescription drug epidemic by establishing a real-time database of prescriptions to stop patients from doctor shopping. He reached an accord with virtually all gun-show operators in the state to require background checks for all sales at gun shows. He has acted against employers who cheat workers by refusing to comply with wage and overtime laws. Over all, he has used the broad authorities of his office to advance public safety and to protect consumers and the environment.

His Republican challenger, John Cahill, was an aide to Gov. George Pataki and a respected environmental conservation commissioner for the state. Mr. Cahill, however, has not presented a coherent and compelling agenda for how he would use the office and its more than 650 attorneys. He opposes the sensible gun safety package that Gov. Andrew Cuomo pushed through last year. He has not shown that he would be more effective than Mr. Schneiderman in going after abuses on Wall Street.

COMPTROLLER Mr. DiNapoli's job is to analyze and report on the state's \$140 billion budget, ferret out government fraud and oversee investments by the state's \$177 billion public pension fund, the nations' third largest. In 2007, Mr. DiNapoli replaced Alan Hevesi, the former comptroller who went to prison for participating in a pay-to-play scheme involving the state pension fund.



Partly as a result of that scandal, Mr. DiNapoli has worked hard to require more disclosure on these investments, ban interim “placement agents” or lobbyists and control investment fees. While New York still has an outdated system that makes the comptroller the sole trustee of the huge pension fund, Mr. DiNapoli has added stronger internal controls and an advisory committee of financial experts.

Robert Antonacci, Mr. DiNapoli’s Republican opponent, is comptroller of Onondaga County. He is the first statewide candidate to test a pilot program for public financing that started this year. The program provides a \$6-to-\$1 match for contributions of \$175 or less, once a candidate has raised \$200,000 in small donations. (The program only covers the comptroller race and only this year.) So far, Mr. Antonacci says he has found it hard to raise the \$200,000. Still, he says that he would not have entered the race had it not been for the possibility of receiving some public money.

Mr. DiNapoli chose not to sign up for the program, arguing that it was started too late to meet his needs for this year’s election. He should help persuade lawmakers to pass a public financing system for competitive races in all state offices.

New Yorkers would be well-served to keep Eric Schneiderman as attorney general and Thomas DiNapoli as comptroller.

## **Women’s Issues Dominate 2014 Campaigns**

By Gail Collins

[New York Times](#), October 23, 2014

Women are big this election season. No group is more courted. It’s great! The issues are important. Plus, we all enjoy the occasional pander.

Candidates are re-interpreting their old arguments in a new, woman-centric way. In Michigan, the Democratic Senate candidate defines his opponent’s opposition to Obamacare as a plan to “cut women’s access to ... mammograms.” In Kentucky, Republican Mitch McConnell has female surrogates claiming that his opponent, Alison Grimes, is trying to convince women that they “can’t graduate from college without raising your taxes.” This appears to be an oblique reference to Grimes’s call for reduced rates on student loans.

The College Republican National Committee has been investing heavily in online ads aimed at fans of the TV show “Say Yes to the Dress,” in which the dresses are named after gubernatorial candidates. If you are in, say, Florida, you’ll see a happy young woman trying on wedding gowns, twirling around and announcing that “The Rick Scott is perfect,” while her irritating mother demands that she take the Charlie Crist dress, even though it’s unflattering and costs more money. As a writer in Jezebel noted, it seems to have been made by people who felt the best way to communicate with female voters is “to explain things in terms of bridal wear.”

In Colorado, some commentators have given Democrat Mark Udall the nickname “Mark Uterus” because Udall has run so hard on women’s reproductive rights. It is definitely true that Udall has devoted a prodigious amount of ad-time to the fact that his opponent, Representative Cory Gardner, is a longtime supporter of the personhood movement, which declares all fertilized eggs are human beings. Voters find this idea so unnerving that a personhood amendment to the Constitution was soundly defeated in Mississippi. As well as Colorado, twice. Where it is on the ballot in November, yet again.

Gardner said he had changed his mind about the state constitutional amendment after it was overwhelmingly rejected in 2010 and he suddenly realized that it would have an effect on contraceptives. He is still a co-sponsor of a federal personhood bill, which he claims is merely “a statement that I support life.” Personally, I can see why Udall might feel that this matter deserves more inquiry.



To rise to the level of hard-core pandering, a candidate has to float free of issues and waft into the ether of personal feelings. Consider Michigan, where Terri Lynn Land, the Republican candidate for Senate, has been running as a person who's been victimized for being a mother.

The issue here is that Land has developed a tendency to deflect questions by mentioning that she's a parent. Local columnists have begun to make jokes about it, and there were suggestions that the mom-mentions might make a good drinking game. A spokesperson for Land's opponent, Gary Peters, said that being a mom was a good thing, but a strange point to bring up when the issue at hand was, say, ISIS.

"Well, I'm a mom, and I tell you, moms look at things from their perspective," said Land in a comment that her staff mass-mailed under the headline " 'Well, I'm a Mom,' Terri Lynn Land Fires Back." Soon, prominent female Republicans were dropping hints that Michelle Obama might want to intervene on behalf of motherhood.

What do you think? How much mom-mentioning is too much? Here in New York, we have a candidate for Congress who's running under the slogan "Doctor. Mother. Neighbor." Does that sound a little ... vague?

One thing we know: male candidates who get in trouble over issues of sexism are not allowed to get out of it by marshaling all the women in their family to pose for a campaign ad. Really, that's just one step short of dragging your wife into the press conference where you announce you're resigning due to those sexting charges.

We are thinking here about Representative Steve Southerland, a Florida Republican who sent out invitations to a male-only campaign event that suggested his guests "tell the misses not to wait up" because "the after dinner whiskey and cigars will be smooth & the issues to discuss are many."

Southerland is running against Democrat Gwen Graham, and doing such a swell job of it that in a year that House Republicans are expecting a big sweep, he's in trouble. Possibly more endangered than the guy in Staten Island who was indicted for perjury and tax fraud shortly after threatening to throw a TV reporter over a Capitol balcony.

When The Tampa Bay Times asked him about the male-only event, Southerland laughed and said: "I live with five women. That's all I'm saying. I live with five women. Listen: Has Gwen Graham ever been to a lingerie shower? Ask her. And how many men were there?"

Now he's up with a new ad in which he stands surrounded by his sister, mother, daughters and his wife, who announces: "Steve's heart is in the right place."

## **Yan Lianke On Writing In China**

By Yan Lianke

[New York Times](#), October 23, 2014

BEIJING — China's efforts to promote socialism in the late 1950s and early 1960s resulted in what is euphemistically known as the three years of natural disasters, during which more than 30 million people starved to death. One evening when I was a young boy, not long after the catastrophe, I followed my mother as she went to dump garbage outside the wall that surrounded our village, a poor and isolated town in central China.

Holding my hand, my mother pointed to the white clay and yellow earth of the wall, and said, "Son, you must always remember, when people are starving to death they may eat this white clay and elm tree bark, but if they try to eat that yellow earth or the bark of any other kind of tree they will die even faster."

Mother went back inside our house to cook and left behind a long shadow. I stood in front of the edible clay gazing out at the sunset, the village and the fields, and an enormous sheet of darkness gradually approached.



From that point on, I developed a keen appreciation for the somber side of our existence. I came to understand that darkness is not the mere absence of light, but rather it is life itself. Darkness is the Chinese people's fate.

Today's China is no longer the China of my childhood. It has become rich and powerful, and because it has solved the basic problem of providing 1.3 billion people with food, clothing and some spending money, it has come to resemble a bright ray of light that illuminates the East. But beneath this light lies a long shadow.

When I look at contemporary China, I see a nation that is thriving yet distorted, developing yet mutated. I see corruption, absurdity, disorder and chaos. Every day, something occurs that lies outside ordinary reason and logic. A system of morality and a respect for humanity that was developed over several millennia is unraveling.

Life is gloomy and depressing. Everyone is waiting for something dreadful to happen. This uneasy and fearful expectation has produced a collective sense of anxiety.

No one can tell us where the nation's speeding locomotive of economic development will end up. No one can tell us what price should be paid for human feelings, human nature and human dignity, now that money and power have replaced socialism and capitalism. What is the price for abandoning the ideals of democracy, freedom, law and morality?

More than a decade ago, I went several times to visit an AIDS village in my home province of Henan. The village had close to 800 residents and more than 200 were infected with H.I.V. The majority were workers between the ages of 30 and 45 who had become infected because, in the pursuit of wealth and a better life, they had gone in groups to sell their blood and became infected in the process. Death was as frequent and inevitable as the setting sun. It became so dark it seemed as though the sun had disappeared permanently.

China may boast of having several thousand years of civilization, but when an old man collapses in the street, everyone refrains from helping him out for fear of being implicated, even as the old man bleeds warm, red blood. What kind of society do we live in when a pregnant woman dies on the delivery table and all of the medical technicians flee in order to avoid responsibility, leaving behind a tiny soul uttering a feeble cry?

It is a writer's job to find life within this darkness.

I am reminded of Job, in the Old Testament, who after experiencing countless misfortunes said to his wife as she was urging him to curse God, "Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" This simple response demonstrates that Job understood that his suffering was merely God's way of testing him, and was evidence that darkness and light must exist together.

I don't pretend that I have been uniquely selected by God, as Job was, to endure suffering, but I do know that I am somehow fated to perceive darkness. From these shadows I lift my pen to write. I search for love, goodness and a perpetually beating heart.

At a symposium last week, President Xi Jinping met with a group of artists, including the Nobel Laureate Mo Yan, and talked about the value of art in China. According to the official China Youth Online, he said, "For art workers to be successful, they must breathe together with the people, share their fate and feel their feelings, rejoice at their joy, grieve at their grief, and serve the people like a willing ox."

But only the pursuit of true art, unencumbered by anyone, can help us find the delicate light, beauty, warmth and love that are hidden in the darkness.



Yan Lianke is a novelist whose most recently translated work is "Lenin's Kisses." This article was adapted from his acceptance speech for the 2014 Franz Kafka Prize. It was translated from the Chinese by Carlos Rojas.

## **The Battle For Gay Rights In Rural America**

By Silas House

[New York Times](#), October 23, 2014

BEREA, Ky. — I WAS raised amid the coal fields of eastern Kentucky, but I was always drawn to nearby Berea. The hamlet, tucked into the lush green hills on the western side of the Appalachians, has a long legacy of equality and free inquiry — among other things, it's home to Berea College, the first integrated and coeducational college in the South.

There are lots of folks like me in Berea, who came here for its professed openness and diversity. But we had a rude shock last week, when the City Council voted 5 to 3 against an ordinance to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

The vote illuminates a new reality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans. The equality divide we face is no longer between red and blue states, but between urban and rural America. Even as we celebrate victories like this month's Supreme Court order on same-sex marriage, the real front in the battle for equality remains the small towns that dot America's landscape.

Until a decade or so ago, few gay people would have considered moving to Kentucky; as recently as 1992 consensual sex between two people of the same gender was a criminal offense punishable by law. But Louisville and other cities have since attracted a sizable gay population and a new generation of leaders who are more open and progressive in their social views.

But step outside the cities and the picture changes, just as in most states. Kentucky is one of 29 states where it is perfectly legal to refuse service to anyone even perceived as being gay or transgender, and protections vary locally. Once we enter small towns we can be kicked out of restaurants, refused places to rent or fired from our jobs just because of who we are.

Kentucky's equality activists, under the banner of the Fairness Campaign, have worked hard to spread those patches of acceptance beyond the big cities; in recent years they have won local ordinances in seven jurisdictions, including the tiny town of Vicco, population 334. Yet Vicco remains the exception instead of the rule.

The measure should have easily passed in Berea. After all, the town was founded by abolitionists, it boasts ethnic diversity and a strong environmental movement, and the town of about 14,000 souls includes Union Church, which flies a rainbow flag and preaches a Christ-centered version of social justice.

Yet our group, Bereans for Fairness, had to work for three years to drum up support for the ordinance. We marched on City Hall by the hundreds, held large rallies and wrote dozens of letters to the local paper.

The opposition was mostly two large church congregations. At council meetings, they wore shirts embossed with "Vote No to Favoritism," an ironic phrase, since religious groups are specifically protected from discrimination on state law books. Sometimes the protesters held signs that read "Against Fairness." During the public hearing, anti-fairness folks uttered words like "sick" and "abomination" when the topics of transgender people and gay marriage arose.

Their disinformation campaign paid off. One council member said he voted against the ordinance because it would allow transgender people to "be one gender until there is a line at the men's restroom,



then another whenever it is convenient.” Another said she had never witnessed any kind of discrimination here.

Small American towns like Berea are not teeming with the mean, ignorant people that many urban dwellers have come to expect. Instead, these are places where, I’ve learned, the loudest and most powerful are in constant fear of change, of difference, of losing votes, while the many rural Americans with more inclusive values tend to be quieted as the perceived minority.

I am very proud of where I live, but I can’t deny the unsettling fact that fundamentalism, so often driven by economic despair and religious fervor, has helped to foster a suspicion of “the other” among many rural Americans.

Homophobia and racism are not unique to rural America; I have seen them in New York and Chicago, in sudden, violent spurts. Of course, cities also offer the opportunity to surround ourselves with like-minded people in a way that small towns do not. And intolerance pervades rural thinking in a different way, mostly brought about by constant preaching in the small white churches lining country roads, a dogma that is often welcomed into the public schools and takes up residence beneath the skin of the people. Rural homophobia can be quiet, but steady. It is a slow assault on the spirit sanctioned by states that refuse to enact legislation offering everyone equal protection.

The more the issue of gay rights makes progress nationally, the more fear is stirred up in the bellies of small towns. Too many preachers and politicians, refusing to trust their constituents or congregants to come to their own conclusions, feed on that fear, creating an endless cycle.

Unfortunately, this alarm and misunderstanding pervade even a town like Berea. It was named after a town in the Bible. Acts 17 tells us the people of Berea were more open-minded than others, always studying the Scripture to try to better understand its complexities and discovering the right path.

I believe that many people in this little town — including the three council members who proudly cast a Yes vote — are intent on following that path to justice. But for now, Berea has become representative of countless small communities that like to talk about freedom for all but are falling behind the rest of the country in ensuring it.

Silas House is the author, most recently, of the novel “Same Sun Here,” with Neela Vaswani.

## **The Ben Bradlee Who Hired Me — Finally**

By Ted Gup

[New York Times](#), October 23, 2014

I first met Ben Bradlee in the winter of 1969. I was a 19-year-old kid from Canton, Ohio, who had never taken a course in journalism, never published an article, rarely read the newspaper and had little notion of what I would do with my life. Yet somehow as a Brandeis sophomore I had made my way to be a finalist for the Washington Post internship. It must have been my essay. And there I was sitting at Ben Bradlee’s right hand in a Boston restaurant surrounded by other finalists, all of whom went to Harvard, were working on *The Crimson*, and had dazzling credentials. By the time lunch was over, I was sure I was no longer in the running. But as I got up to leave, Ben placed his hand on my arm and asked me if I had a few minutes to talk. A half-hour passed. He asked me what I thought of the Vietnam War. I remember telling him I was torn. He seemed pleased by my confusion. We talked about writing. I honestly don’t remember what else we talked about except that when we parted I knew what I wanted to do — I wanted to work for him. (Mind you, that was two years before Watergate.)

A couple of months later, I received a letter from Ben dated March 6, 1970. It began: “Dear Ted: You got nosed out in the finals of the toughest competition we have ever had... You are really a year



premature and your lack of previous experience in journalism was a tough hurdle for us to overcome. I was particularly sorry about you, because I was attracted by your love of writing, and your attitude generally. I hunch that you have a hell of a future in this business, and I hereby urge you to reapply again and again. I enjoyed my time with you enormously. Keep up your interest in this business. You will make it. Sincerely, Ben Bradlee”

That was all the encouragement I needed. Four years later my father died and I went to Ben and asked him if he had any advice for me. He first told me that I made him uncomfortable — I was wearing a three-piece suit. Take off your vest, he said in that gravelly voice. “You make me nervous.” He asked me where I might want to work. Somewhere near my family, I said. He got on the phone and called the editor of The Akron Beacon Journal and said he had someone sitting across from him who he thought might make a good reporter. And so I got my foot in the door of journalism.

For several years thereafter I would send him my better stories and he would send back comments — just a line or two of encouragement, always signed “Ben Bradlee.”

“Ted, Keep going; you’re doing fine, Best, Ben Bradlee,” read one of his notes.

On Feb. 10, 1976, he wrote “I’ll reactive your name and if this bloody strike ever ends, maybe things will change. All the best, Ben Bradlee.” (The contentious strike pitted pressmen against management and was then already in its fifth month and far from resolved.) That summer he made a call on my behalf to The Virginian-Pilot and helped me get an internship there. By now I had come to look upon him as a kind of gruff guardian angel.

Finally in the summer of 1977, between my second and third years of law school, I was given my shot at The Post as an intern — more than seven years after my initial try. I guess Ben figured anyone this relentless might make a persistent reporter. A year later I joined The Post as a staffer. I had my moments and my stories, but was never one of The Post’s true heavyweights. But Ben never stopped watching over me — or the rest of us.

I remember one afternoon I was called into his office along with another reporter and two senior editors. A Republican senator had gone to Ben’s house in the middle of the night, Ben said, alleging that the candidate Ronald Reagan had a number of gay staffers. The question was raised whether we should pursue it as a story. A senior editor weighed in, referring to “queers.” Ben interrupted him. “We do not use that term,” he scolded. In 1980 there were not so many in the newsroom who would have objected. We pursued the story, confirmed the obvious — that there were gays on the candidate’s staff (as there are doubtless on most staffs) but with Ben’s support, chose not to run it, concluding that it was a nonstory.

I also remember another senior editor disparaging a story I had worked on for months. Ben knew I was upset about the editor’s comments and even considering resigning. Ben never mentioned the editor or his comments; he just came over to me at the end of the day, put his arm around my shoulder and asked me if I needed a lift home. I (foolishly) declined, but the gesture was enough to restore my confidence that I was at the right place.

In 1980 a series I co-authored was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. I remember going into Ben’s office and giving him a copy of the rejection letter he had sent me a decade earlier with a note appended, saying thanks for giving me a shot. I think we all felt that way about Ben. It was personal. Sure, we were ambitious. Sure, we owed it to the paper and the country and all those other grand principles. But honestly, I think a lot of us felt like we owed it to Ben. His faith in us was a debt we did not take lightly.

I remember writing a story about President Jimmy Carter that a Times reporter took issue with and called Ben for comment. I was on the line as well. The reporter told Ben The Times would blow a hole through The Post’s story. Ben’s response: Sounds like a great story, can’t wait to read it. (A part of me



feels guilty even writing this for The Times — do forgive me, Ben.) I remember only too well the Janet Cooke episode in which The Post was forced to return a Pulitzer Prize after it was learned the story had been a fabrication. It anguished us all, but none more than Ben. I also remember that a series I co-authored that same year drew tremendous fire and that though The Post's defensive shield was weakened, Ben did not flinch.

I left The Post in 1987, but continued to write for it nearly every year thereafter. In 2011, I sent Ben a copy of a book I had written and wrote an inscription to him that said how much I admired him, that he had changed the course of my life, and that there was no man, save my own father, whom I respected more. A few months later I was visiting The Post and found myself alone with Ben in the elevator. He told me he had received my book and had read the inscription. "You know," he said, "After I read it, I walked around all day with my chest puffed out." You think Ben Bradlee needed Ted Gup? And yet, there it was. He knew the power of a few right words, a gesture, a smile. I remember after a story I did I felt his hand patting my back. Didn't say a word. I also remember thinking I wouldn't have traded that for any kind of raise.

I saw him only twice after that, once in 2012 on the 40th anniversary of the Watergate break-in, and once at a 2013 tribute for a departing Donald Graham. But by then, the Ben I knew — that we knew — was largely gone, a victim of dementia.

Last night, reading of his death, I called a friend from The Post and we comforted each other, and shared our memories of Ben, profane and inspired, steely-edged and sweet-centered. For us, working for Ben had been the privilege of a lifetime. I for one often imagined Ben as a kind of journalistic King Arthur and we, his Knights of the Round Table. He was not only my gruff guardian angel, but the nation's as well. He will be missed.

Ted Gup is a Boston-based journalist, professor and the author, most recently, of "A Secret Gift."

## **Retweet If You're Grieving – NYTimes.com**

[New York Times](#), October 22, 2014

"Rest in peace. That three-word phrase, expressing a sincere hope that the dead will find peace in the afterlife, is a fitting inscription for a tombstone," writes Bella Mackie for The Guardian. It is now also "a very popular hashtag on social media."

The occasion for Ms. Mackie's column is the death this week of Lynda Bellingham, a popular English actress. Fans, family members and public figures took to Twitter and other social media to express their grief and pay their respects. Many, Ms. Mackie writes, relied on the hashtag #RIPLyndaBellingham. "Often it's used on its own, without any further comment on a person's life, and is widely seen as an acceptable tribute," Ms. Mackie remarks. "The problem is that the one-size-fits-all epitaph surely does little justice to the dead."

Ms. Mackie isn't the first person to question the etiquette and meaning of mourning online. A Tumblr created in 2013 by Fast Company's Jason Feifer called Selfies at Funerals attracted heavy criticism — is everyone a narcissist? — before finding some defenders. Scott Simon, the host of NPR's Weekend Edition Saturday, tweeted his mother's last days in the hospital to his 1.3 million followers, to mixed but mostly appreciative reviews. When Robin Williams committed suicide last August, people tweeted everything from their favorite clips of the comedian to the actor's New York Times obituary.

To start with, what happens to our social media accounts when we die? Depending on the wishes of the next of kin, Facebook either deactivates the account or converts an individual's page into a memorial site. Jonathan Strickland writes for How Stuff Works that a memorialized page deletes addresses and



contact information and prevents the individual's name from appearing as a potential invitee for events. That status helps avoid some unpleasant scenarios that Stephanie Buck documents in an article for Mashable, like when friends don't know that a person has died and continue to post on someone's profile. ("Have a good time on your birthday, Cheryl. You only live once," read one such uninformed post after a woman's death from cancer.)

Some companies don't have explicit policies for how to handle a user's death, so Mr. Strickland mentions a few services that can help prepare family with instructions for what to do. These include Legacy Locker, a company that allows you to designate how you would like your digital assets handled, and even lets you compose letters to loved ones to be distributed after your death. Another service, My Wonderful Life, offers those services as well as the opportunity to design your own funeral or write your own obituary. (Gregory S. McNeal observes for *Forbes* that leaving such matters unattended to can result in a lawsuit.)

That still leaves the question of how we should actually behave when mourning online. Mr. Feifer's "Selfies at Funerals" provoked real opprobrium: The Huffington Post posted an article entitled "Funeral Selfies Are the Latest Evidence Apocalypse Can't Come Soon Enough."

But Christina Chaey at Fast Company is more even-keeled. She wonders, "should our thoughts on the dying remain a private affair?" Or "is it fair to bring others into our own, deeply personal experiences with death through very public mediums?" Katy Waldman at *Slate* asks, "Is it somehow more tasteful, even nobler, to keep grief private?"

Ms. Waldman allows that the tone of social media — true loss mixed in with memes — can feel off. "Perhaps it's the ephemerality of online mourning that trivializes it — the word limits mocking death's enormity. (Boil down your feelings about grandma into 140 characters; leave room for a clever hashtag!) Social media platforms favor a tone of snark and irony, not earnestness, which can make plaintive expressions of grief hard to parse."

Ms. Waldman is ultimately permissive of this contradiction. "Of course, this makes our online interactions pretty much the same as our offline ones: a stream of true and false statements mixed together, adding up to a social self that is sort of us and sort of not."

People who sympathize with online mourners point out that, in many cultures, grief is a public, communal process. Increasingly, Facebook and Twitter are our public square. Elijah Wolfson and Sabrina Bachai write for *Newsweek*, "since everything else happens on Facebook, why wouldn't it be the place where people go to mourn?" Mr. Wolfson and Ms. Bachai, like many others, reference Elizabeth Kübler-Ross's five stages of grief; in our modern era, the first stage, of denial and isolation, is changed, and perhaps by the existence of social media. "Maybe that's a good thing," they write.

Meghan O'Rourke, who wrote a book about mourning her mother, responded to both Scott Simon's live-tweeting at his mother's bedside and to criticism of the compulsion to respond to Robin Williams's death. Like Mr. Wolfson and Ms. Bachai, she argues that mourning on social media is a response to how detached our modern lives have become from death. "The extraordinary response to Simon's tweets," she writes for *The New Yorker*, "suggests a hunger on the part of Americans for a way to integrate death and mourning into our lives."

The medium is also, in some ways, uniquely suited to the moment. "Watching someone die brings us powerfully in touch with how brief — yet intense — each life here is. The tweets, which felt almost aphoristic (a mere hundred and forty characters each), underscored one of the strangest things about being with someone at the end of her life: the surreality of time, the way that time bends and distorts, becomes material."



That doesn't mean mourning online is without its pitfalls. Mr. Wolfson and Ms. Bachai recognize "the danger that new technologies might foster denial and make it harder to let go." And the ease of retweeting someone else's pithy remembrance shouldn't allow us to get lazy. "If the Internet allows us all to participate in collective mourning, then it should also demand that we do so more creatively," writes Ms. Mackie. But as Ms. Waldman concludes, the desire to share your feelings with your community, whether momentary or deeply felt, is essentially human: "I believe that's called grieving."

## How To Defeat Ebola

By Nicholas Kristof

[New York Times](#), October 23, 2014

An alarming new symptom of Ebola in America: It seems to make brains mushy and hearts hard.

In New Jersey, two students from Rwanda, which has had no Ebola cases and is 2,800 miles from the affected countries in West Africa, are being kept home. Navarro College in Texas rejected applicants from Nigeria, initially stating that it would not accept students from countries with Ebola cases — a bit problematic because that would mean no longer accepting Americans.

The former executive director of the South Carolina Republican Party, Todd Kincannon, suggested (perhaps satirically) one way to control the disease: All people who tested positive for the Ebola virus could be "humanely put down."

Many Republicans and some Democrats have been calling for a ban on flights from the Ebola-affected West African countries. A Reuters poll indicated that almost three-quarters of Americans favored such a ban on flights.

It's a superficially attractive idea, but also a reflection of our mixed-up notions of how to protect ourselves. The truth is that Ebola is both less serious and far more serious than we think.

It's less serious here because, in the end, the United States and other countries with advanced health systems can suppress Ebola outbreaks. Granted, the Dallas hospital bungled its response. Still, if Nigeria and Senegal can manage Ebola successfully, so can the United States. We won't have an epidemic here.

Yet Ebola is more serious because there is a significant risk that it will become endemic in West Africa and spin off to other countries in the region or to India, Bangladesh or China. Ebola in India would be a catastrophe.

Oxfam rightly warns that more resources are needed to prevent Ebola from becoming the "definitive humanitarian disaster of our generation." And if the virus lingers or spreads among poor countries, it will periodically travel to America. In a globalized world, Ebola anywhere is a threat to people everywhere.

There are also security risks. Aum Shinrikyo, a Japanese terrorist group, tried to collect Ebola samples in Congo in 1992 for bioterror weapons but failed. Today, it would be easy to collect the virus, and a few suicide operatives could deliberately contract Ebola and then travel to the United States to spread the virus. (However, if the aim is mass murder, it would be simpler and probably more effective just to set off bombs.)

In any case, the point is that global health is not just a warm and fuzzy kind of aid. It's also self-interest. It's also national security. The best way to protect ourselves is to eradicate Ebola at its source.

A flight ban would hamper that effort by making it more difficult to get health workers and supplies to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Dr. Peter Piot, who helped identify Ebola in 1976, tells me that flight bans would be counterproductive because they would "make aid really more difficult and expensive."



Likewise, Dr. Paul Farmer, founder of Partners in Health, tells me bluntly: “A ban would be worse than ineffective, and would certainly hamper the efforts of groups like ours — and worsen the epidemic.”

Even airport screenings may be a feel-good distraction. An editorial in BMJ, a medical journal, noted that Canada used questionnaires and thermal scanners to screen hundreds of thousands of people for SARS, spent \$15 million, and didn’t find a single case. The editorial suggests that airport screening “will have no meaningful effect” and that resources would be better used fighting Ebola in West Africa.

For all the fuss about our own borders, not nearly enough is being done where it counts most: in West Africa. Bravo to President Obama for pledging up to 4,000 troops to fight the disease there, but the United States and other countries must do far more — and quickly! — if Ebola is to be defeated.

The number of Ebola cases is still doubling every two to four weeks, and these countries can’t defeat the outbreak on their own. Liberia is said to have only 50 practicing doctors, according to Reuters, and there appears to be more Liberian doctors practicing in the United States than in Liberia. That brain drain means that Liberia, in effect, is providing medical foreign aid to the United States.

These are lovely countries with friendly people and some heroic health workers, but roads, electricity and other infrastructure are desperately weak. All Liberia can produce less than one-third as much electricity as the Dallas Cowboys football stadium consumes at peak times.

That’s why the American military’s help in West Africa is crucial, and why it’s a disgrace that less than half of a Sept. 16 United Nations target for Ebola response funds has been raised.

Our values and interests coincide here. So let’s calm down and get to work protecting America from Ebola by stopping this disaster at its source.

### **Azerbaijan’s Increasingly Intolerant Regime**

By Gunay Ismayilova And Samir Kazimli

[New York Times](#), October 23, 2014

BAKU, Azerbaijan — As human rights defenders, we must report that our own situation in Azerbaijan has been deteriorating fast.

Two years ago, human rights groups across Europe worried that holding the Eurovision Song Contest in our country would only prop up Azerbaijan’s increasingly intolerant regime. Now their fears have been confirmed. Just in the past year, we have seen a cascading series of arrests of human rights defenders on trumped-up charges.

So imagine our dismay on hearing about Europe’s latest approach to our country: The Council of Europe itself is holding a conference this Saturday and Sunday in Baku, on how to implement the European Convention on Human Rights. Those attending reportedly will include Judge Dean Spielmann, the president of the European Court of Human Rights, the very institution that is supposed to be the bulwark of our cause in Europe.

It would be humorous were it not so tragic.

There is only one reason for the choice of venue: It’s Azerbaijan’s turn, according to its place in the alphabet, to hold the chairmanship of the Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers. By all other measures, the decision makes no sense at all.

Many leaders of the already limited number of independent nongovernmental organizations here are now in prison, most of them on sham charges of “illegal entrepreneurship,” abuse of power, state treason and tax evasion.

Our European visitors probably won’t get to see the 58-year-old human rights defender (and founding director of the Peace and Democracy Institute in Baku) Leyla Yunus. She was arrested on July



30 on charges of treason and other counts her lawyers say are fraudulent. Or her husband, Arif Yunus, 59, who was arrested six days later. On Sept. 23, according to the lawyers, Ms. Yunus was beaten by a guard at the Kurdakhany detention center, where she is being held.

The Europeans probably won't visit Intigam Aliyev, either; he is a lawyer and human rights defender who was detained and charged on Aug. 8. There are serious concerns about the health of both Ms. Yunus and Mr. Aliyev, and indications that neither is receiving the medical attention they require.

Nor will the Europeans meet Rasul Jafarov, a young pro-democracy activist arrested on Aug. 2. He was about to kick off a "Sports for Rights" campaign protesting plans to hold the first-ever European Games in Baku in 2015, an event that has support from the international corporations BP, P&G, Tissot and others.

Journalists have also been systematically targeted. Last month, a criminal case was opened against the investigative journalist and corruption fighter Khadija Ismayilova (no relationship to the co-author of this article), after she spoke in Strasbourg, France, at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. She is now at risk of joining almost a dozen other journalists and bloggers who are already in prison.

Then there is Anar Mammadli, the recipient of the Council of Europe's Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize. Sadly, our friend, who was honored just last month for his work on monitoring elections and other democratic rights, is currently serving a five-and-a-half-year prison sentence, handed down in May.

All in all, Azerbaijan seems a particularly strange place to discuss the business of how better to implement human rights.

A string of recent European Court judgments has taken Azerbaijan to task for a long list of serious rights abuses, including police torture and brutality, detention of political opponents, imprisonment of journalists, interference in elections and refusal to register legitimate civil society groups.

Rather than uphold the principles of the European Convention on Human Rights, Azerbaijan has continued to use the law as a political club to silence critics. As in many countries whose economies run on oil revenues, Azerbaijan's corrupt ruling elite has no interest in implementing the rule of law, which would lead to its inevitable fall from power.

In our view, it is a travesty that the Council of Europe is sponsoring a conference about human rights in Azerbaijan. The event will only be used cynically by the state-controlled media to add legitimacy to the current government, which tramples the rights that the Council of Europe seeks to defend.

And still, the diplomats and European judges are planning to come.

Gunay Ismayilova works with the Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety, and Samir Kazimli with the Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center.

## **Turkey's New Kurdish Problem**

By Mustafa Akyol

[New York Times](#), October 23, 2014

Istanbul — "Nations do behave wisely once they have exhausted all other alternatives," the Israeli diplomat Abba Eban once quipped. The Turkish government finally seems to be doing so in Kobani, the northern Syrian city besieged by the Islamic State — after trying everything else. Turkey is now helping Kobani's defenders after standing, literally, on the sidelines for weeks as a battle raged just across the border.

As Kobani was encircled by Islamic State forces, despite air strikes by the United States and its allies, Turkey, a NATO ally, had tanks positioned only a few miles away. Why, many wondered, did



Turkey do nothing to help the secular Kurdish fighters defend themselves against brutal religious fanatics?

Things looked more complicated from Turkey's perspective though. Kobani's defense is spearheaded by the Democratic Union Party, or P.Y.D., a Syrian Kurdish party that shares the ideology of the Kurdistan Workers Party, or P.K.K., a group that both Turkey and the United States define as a terrorist organization. The organization's 30-year war with Turkey has claimed 40,000 lives.

Therefore, for many Turks, the battle was not between heroic Kurdish fighters and bloody terrorists; it was between two different types of terrorists. Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, made this clear when he stated repeatedly that the Islamic State is "the same" as the P.K.K. and P.Y.D.

It would be unfair to depict Turkey's stance as categorically "anti-Kurdish." After all, it is the same Turkey that recently welcomed 180,000 refugees from Kobani, most of them Kurds, in addition to the 1.5 million Syrians who have already found a safe haven in Turkey.

Turkey also helped the Iraqi Kurds by secretly giving them weapons to use against the Islamic State, as Massoud Barzani, the president of the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq, recently declared. When it came to Kobani, Turkey's problem was not that the city was dominated by Kurds, but by a specific Kurdish party affiliated with the P.K.K. — Ankara's longstanding nemesis.

Nevertheless, Mr. Erdogan should have been more amenable to helping Kobani's fighters. After all, it was under his own leadership that the Turkish government initiated a commendable "peace process" with the P.K.K. about two years ago. Since then, guns have been mostly silent and hopes have increased for a permanent resolution of Turkey's festering Kurdish problem.

But the process has been sluggish — partly due to the lack of trust on both sides. Mr. Erdogan is acting as if he wants to keep the peace process as a bargaining chip to help achieve his own political goals, such as drafting a new constitution that grants him even more power. Meanwhile, the P.K.K. has repeatedly threatened to renew its armed struggle and is employing small-scale violence, such as arson and vandalism.

Kobani could have been an opportunity to help overcome these troubles, had the government used more empathetic language and taken the key step of allowing Kurdish fighters from Iraq to pass through Turkey to come to Kobani's aid a month ago. Instead, the government's language of indifference and its policy of inaction enraged Turkey's own Kurds. Some of them organized violent protests, during which some bystanders were killed by protesters simply because they had long beards and looked like Islamists.

This wanton violence by pro-P.K.K. militants deserves condemnation. At the same time, Turkey's stance toward Syria's Kurds needs an overhaul. First, Turkey should remind itself that despite the militancy of the P.K.K., the Kurds are still the best ally for Ankara at a time when both of its southern neighbors, Syria and Iraq, are dissolving in chaos.

Second, Turkey's government should also realize that while the brutal regime of Bashar al-Assad may indeed be the core trouble in Syria, the Islamic State is not a mere "symptom" of the Assad regime; it is now a deadly disease in itself, with a growing potential to hurt and destabilize Turkey.

Mr. Erdogan and Turkey's prime minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, should also strive to preserve Turkey's own internal peace by reconciling its tense society, which is now bitterly divided along political, ethnic and sectarian lines. They can do this only by using a language of moderation and empathy, tolerating criticism and peaceful protest, and offering fair and transparent governance.



Unfortunately though, the government's response to Turkey's polarization is to flex its muscles, which is counterproductive. After the recent protests, the government proposed legal reforms that would give it sweeping powers to crack down on dissent.

If the law passes, it will be easier for the police to wiretap and search suspects, and lawyers will have limited access to the evidence against their clients. The authorities will also be able to seize money and property if they find that "crimes against the government" have been committed. Many fear that these broad definitions could be used to criminalize political opposition.

The underlying problem is that the government sees all opposition to its rule as a well-crafted conspiracy to topple it and bring back the much-demonized "old Turkey." Ironically, the main problem with that "old Turkey" was the same conspiratorial mindset, which resulted in the exact same manifestations of authoritarianism.

For a truly "new" Turkey, which will not be a part of the chaos in the Middle East but a cure to it, the government must move on with the "peace process" with the P.K.K. and fully realize its rapprochement with the Kurds. But it also needs to begin a new peace process with the opposition groups at home, which it has been demonizing as traitors and enemies within.

Mustafa Akyol is a columnist and the author of "Islam Without Extremes: A Muslim Case for Liberty."

### **Military Success Has Bred Popular Support For The Islamic State**

[Washington Post](#), October 23, 2014

WESTERN LEADERS sometimes suggest that the Islamic State is its own worst enemy, so extreme in doctrine and practice that it will galvanize opposition within the Islamic world. While that is proving true to some extent — Muslim governments, senior clerics and even other jihadist groups have joined the fight against the would-be caliphate — the sobering truth is that the Islamic State also has picked up popular support and the allegiance of other militants in countries as far away as Algeria and Pakistan.

The spread of the group's medieval doctrine and tactics, such as beheading, is a product of its military successes in Iraq and Syria and its skill at social media, which bypasses the more traditional and restricted channels of communication in Arab autocracies. The contagion shows that the reversal of the group's momentum is crucial not just to the future of Iraq and its neighbors but also to the broader battle against Islamic extremism around the world.

Predictably, groups swearing allegiance to the Islamic State have appeared first in areas where state authority has broken down. Affiliates have declared themselves in at least two Libyan cities, and an Algerian cell swore allegiance to Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi before beheading a French hostage last month. The chief spokesman for the Pakistani Taliban and five of its commanders declared allegiance last week, shifting their fealty from the somewhat more moderate Afghan Taliban leadership of Mullah Omar.

In Egypt, the Sinai-based Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis group has beheaded at least nine captives since August, according to a report in the Los Angeles Times, and a commander boasted to a Reuters reporter that the Egyptian group had online contacts with the Islamic State. Even the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group in the Philippines has attempted to trade on the Islamic State aura; it released a statement last month threatening to kill two German hostages unless Germany withdrew from the U.S.-led coalition against the extremists.

Even more disturbing are signs that the Islamic State has the sympathy of many noncombatants in the region. In the Lebanese port of Tripoli, a longtime stronghold of radical Sunni groups, murals of the group's black flags are painted on buildings in the center of the city, according to the Wall Street Journal.



In Turkey, pro-Islamic State students at Istanbul University have triggered a series of fights on campus, according to the Associated Press. In Jordan, a recent poll showed that only 62 percent of respondents considered the Islamic State terrorist, according to David Schenker of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Such popular sentiment explains why leaders such as Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan have been reluctant participants in the anti-Islamic State coalition.

The Obama administration has recognized the danger of the Islamic State's appeal and has pushed for political steps to combat it, such as public statements by clerical authorities. Ultimately, however, the group's pull will likely be governed by the maxim once formulated by Osama bin Laden: "When people see a strong horse and a weak horse, by nature, they will like the strong horse." Islamic extremism won't be defeated by military might alone. But to many in the Islamic world, the Islamic State now looks strong. The only way to reverse its influence is through its military defeat, sooner rather than later.

## **The Post's Endorsements For Montgomery County House And Senate Elections**

By Editorial Board

[Washington Post](#), October 22, 2014

MONTGOMERY AND Prince George's counties have contributed heavily to what has become one-party Democratic rule in Annapolis: Not a single Republican state delegate or senator represents either of Maryland's two biggest counties. That's not healthy for those localities or for the state. Unfortunately, it's also self-perpetuating: GOP candidates have been so marginalized that few have the money, political base and basic familiarity with state government to mount a credible campaign for office.

We make our endorsements in Maryland legislative races this year mindful of the imbalance in the State House and frustrated at the scarcity of credible Republican candidates. We do not offer endorsements in every district; rather, we've focused our attention on races where there is a choice between or among credible candidates. The names of candidates we've endorsed in Montgomery's races appear below in bold type; our picks in Prince George's will appear in the coming days.

(Identify your legislative district and current representatives by entering your address at [-mdelect.net](#). See a sample ballot in your district for the Nov. 4 elections by entering your name, date of birth and Zip code at [wapo.st/mdprimary](#) .

District 14: In the Senate race, Republican Frank Howard, a first-time candidate, has run a vigorous campaign while incumbent Democrat Karen S. Montgomery appears to be inert; her Web site has not been updated recently. Ms. Montgomery, who has served in the legislature since 2002 and was elected to the Senate in 2010, has been a marginal player in Annapolis, though she has been an advocate for seniors. Mr. Howard, a businessman, wants to repeal some of the legislature's recent tax increases but is appropriately focused on using gas tax revenues to improve roads in a district that ranges from Silver Spring along the county's eastern border.

In the House, three capable Democratic incumbents merit reelection in this district: Anne R. Kaiser, Eric G. Luedtke and Craig J. Zucker. Mr. Luedtke and Mr. Zucker are promising freshmen who haven't yet made a major mark in Annapolis. Still, they are preferable to any of the three Republicans, who are well-meaning but very lightly versed in the issues and whose experience with state and local issues is scant.

District 15: Inveterate gadfly Robin Ficker, author of numerous anti-tax ballot questions, is the Republican candidate in the Senate, while his son Flynn is running for delegate. The two Fickers, who say they have knocked on 60,000 doors in the sprawling upcounty district over the past 18 months, strike a moderate stance on taxes. They say they would not seek the repeal of existing levies but would try to



divert funds to adding road and light rail capacity in the Interstate 270 corridor. Republican Ed Edmundson, a first-time candidate for delegate, strikes similarly moderate positions.

However, they are up against formidable incumbents who deserve reelection: Brian J. Feldman, the incumbent senator, is former chair of the Montgomery House delegation. Appointed to the Senate seat in 2013, he has been a leader in advocating for Montgomery's biotechnology corridor. In the House, Kathleen M. Dumais has been a smart and effective member of the Judiciary Committee, while Aruna Miller gained a spot on the powerful Ways and Means Committee in her first term. David Fraser-Hidalgo, who was appointed to Feldman's seat, made a good start in the 2013-2014 session and is one of the legislature's few Latinos.

District 16: In this competitive race for the House of Delegates, we endorse incumbent Democrat Bill Frick and two challengers, Democrat Marc Korman and Republican Rose Li.

Mr. Frick is a rising star in the legislature, a budget expert who has contributed on a range of issues. Mr. Korman, a lawyer, product of Montgomery County schools and party activist who has worked on Capitol Hill, has the makings of a productive legislator, especially on issues pertaining to Metro and transportation generally. Ms. Li, with degrees from the University of Chicago and Princeton University, is an impressive fresh face, the founder and manager of a small business involved in scientific writing and conferences. Ms. Li believes Montgomery County is not getting its fair share of state funds for school construction and other purposes, and she argues that a win by a moderate Republican like herself would inspire the Democratic delegation to fight harder with its leadership on behalf of local constituents.

District 19: Democratic incumbent delegates Benjamin F. Kramer and Bonnie L. Cullison make a strong team and deserve reelection. Maricé Morales, the third Democrat on the ballot, a young attorney and former House of Delegates staffer, is the person to join them. The lone Republican running in this three-seat district is Martha Schaerr, who doesn't talk about her past work to overturn the state's marriage-equality law in 2011 and 2012. Nor does she mention her 2007 push to include in the county's sex education curriculum the erroneous information that homosexuality is a "choice."

District 20: Of the three Democrats for delegate on the ballot in this district centered on Takoma Park, we endorsed just one, Sheila E. Hixson, a veteran incumbent, in the primary. In the general election we also endorse Democrat Will Smith and Green Party candidate Dan Robinson. Mr. Smith, a bright young lawyer, has served in the Department of Homeland Security and as an officer in the Navy Reserve, in addition to his extensive involvement in county affairs. Mr. Robinson, a thoughtful, experienced former Takoma Park city councilor and local businessman, advocates greater municipal control of resources currently allocated by the county.

## **Ben Bradlee's Relentless Presumption Turned My Life Around**

By Rachel Jones

[Washington Post](#), October 22, 2014

In early December of 1982, I was a 21-year-old recent college drop-back-in student at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, trying to play catch-up after taking a few years off the college track. For an English 101 class, I had written an essay about black English arguing that, while I embraced black slang as part of my identity, it was important for black Americans to master standard English if they wanted to succeed. The class lecturer thought the essay was so good that I should try to get it published somewhere.

One possible target was Newsweek magazine, which I'd at least thumbed through regularly since childhood (and which was then owned by The Washington Post). I'd always read the "My Turn" columns,



because most had very strong, clearly articulated themes, and I liked the way the writers expressed their opinions, especially the humorous ones. I rewrote my classroom essay in a more conversational style and mailed it to Newsweek on a Friday afternoon. The following Tuesday, someone from Newsweek called and said they wanted to use my essay. A week later, I was being interviewed on radio stations across the country. Soon there were summer internship offers from the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and the Chicago Tribune. Even the dean of Yale's Business School wrote to say that he thought I had the type of mind they were looking for and that I should consider applying one day.

Then came a letter from one Benjamin Crowninshield Bradlee, who died yesterday, asking me to accept a Washington Post internship during the summer of 1983.

I don't mention these things to brag about how incredibly talented I was in my youth. Actually what I thought, reading Bradlee's letter, was, "Here he goes again," taking a chance on another unknown and potentially risky young black female employee. Just the previous year, he'd been dazzled (well, really bamboozled) by Janet Cooke, whose creative skill, embellished personal history and fraudulent storytelling ended in one of the most embarrassing chapters in the Post's distinguished history. Obviously I wasn't lying about anything, nor was I a sophisticated, ambitious operator like Cooke was. I was just a meek, introverted young woman (intimidated and anxious under the spotlight that essay had shined on me) who'd heeded her mother's advice and used her brain to try to escape poverty and early pregnancy. But the willingness of so many people to take a chance both surprised me and made me think, for the first time, that maybe I did belong in journalism.

I wound up accepting the New York Times internship in 1983 instead of going to The Post. I can remember the fear as I wrote an apology letter to Ben Bradlee, trying to explain my path and thanking him for his generous offer. He wrote back. And he said, "That's okay. We'll get you next time."

There is a magic that is potent beyond human understanding when someone in a position of power extends himself or herself on your behalf, based on nothing more than a belief in your potential.

Well, the New York Times internship was less than stellar, because interns were still considered glorified copy boys and girls. We couldn't have bylines even if they had accepted our story ideas. By the end of the summer of 1983, I was so uninspired by journalism that I parked in an upstairs bedroom at my parents' house in Cairo, Ill., and vowed not to emerge until I had produced the next Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. One day, my mother shouted up the steps that there was a phone call for me from Washington. When I answered, the voice on the other end growled, "So, you tried the New York Times. Now you need to come work for us next year."

What was this guy's DEAL??? I mean, didn't Bradlee have enough to worry about at The Post without chasing down a black female two-time college dropout who wasn't really sure she wanted to be a journalist in the first place? I had never even reapplied for the Post.

But Bradlee wanted me to come to The Post because he was a powerful, privileged white male superhero of American journalism, and he could do whatever he damn well wanted to do — including tracking me down at my home and refusing to take no for an answer. Even though I was flattered, I was also baffled by his presumption. But he didn't care what people thought about him, and he definitely wasn't going to let the New York Times beat him at anything if he could help it.

And here he was asking me to accept an internship at The Post. Again! I can't remember what I stammered in reply, but he got his way. He probably always got his way. And thank goodness.

I first entered The Post newsroom in June 1984 as a scared-out-of-my-mind intern. Sharing an elevator with Katharine Graham one morning almost gave me a stroke. When Donald Graham leaned over my desk to ask how things were going, I'm pretty sure I just stared at him like a startled calf.



Lunchtime Brown Bag sessions with Bob Woodward feel like a dream. ... I still can't believe that summer happened to me.

The intern Class of 1984 contained stellar prospects such as Pulitzer Prize winners Dana Priest and Sari Horwitz; future Hollywood hotshot Paul Attanasio, who executive-produced "House, M.D."; and future multimedia design consultant extraordinaire Ron Reason, who became one of my closest friends.

The moment I knew I would commit to journalism occurred in Ben Bradlee's office that summer. There I sat, hands folded in my lap to keep them from trembling. On a shelf above his right shoulder sat a picture of John F. Kennedy. I was in the office of a legend who had been friends with a legend, and he was advising me on my journalism career. He said I probably wouldn't be ready for a job at The Post when the internship ended, but he promised to connect me with some of his contacts at the newspaper in Fredricksburg, Va., where he thought I should work for a few years to build my skills.

There is a magic that is potent beyond human understanding when someone in a position of power extends himself or herself on your behalf, based on nothing more than a belief in your potential. It lights a fire that would take a hurricane to extinguish. I've faced a few tropical depressions through the years, mind you, but I have never stopped believing in my talent as a writer. Truthfully, it was another moment of astonishing presumption — the idea that he could direct the course of my career just because he was a master of the universe accustomed to having people take his suggestions. But he was right, and by taking the time to act as my personal career counselor, Ben Bradlee sealed my fate. I'm grateful for it every day.

News of his passing hits me hard, especially after reading about writer Rebecca Carroll, whose recent New Republic essay ("I'm a Black Journalist. I'm Quitting Because I'm Tired of Newsroom Racism") gave me some PTSD flashbacks. It reminded me why I have never been able to watch a full episode of the HBO series "The Newsroom," because it feels like I'm watching a parallel universe where people like me simply do not exist and wouldn't be welcome even if they did. But, most importantly, as far as I know, it doesn't contain a single character who is like what I remember about Benjamin Crowninshield Bradlee, whose ancestors came over on the Mayflower and who was a legend before most of the people in American newsrooms today were even born and who every now and then went out of his way to think, We have GOT to make an effort to include voices besides our own in this goddamned newspaper.

So as I spend my days in a foreign news bureau editing Voice of America scripts from young South Sudanese journalists whose first language isn't English but who risk their lives every second to report the news during their country's latest civil war, I'll remember how Ben Bradlee defined white privilege — and what a difference it made in my life. I believe that he knew what a fantastic hand life had dealt him by being born white, male, rich and charming, and that he saw the value of learning from people who weren't as privileged. And I will keep praying that one day, American newsrooms will finally reflect the world as it really is.

This piece is adapted from Rachel Jones's post on LinkedIn.

## **Raises Right Around The Corner?**

By Catherine Rampell

[Washington Post](#), October 22, 2014

Inflation-adjusted hourly earnings fell in September, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. As I mentioned in my column yesterday, though, some recent survey data suggest that both employers and consumers believe we're right on the verge of long-awaited raises. Here are the data points I was referring to.



The preliminary October data from the Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan Survey of Consumers found that 54 percent of Americans believe their household income will rise in the next year. That's the highest share since September 2008 (the month Lehman went bust). The median expected income increase reported by all households was 1.1 percent, the same as it was in September; the last time it was higher was November 2008.

The National Federation of Independent Business showed that small- and medium-size businesses are also anticipating their compensation costs to rise in the coming three months. The net share expecting compensation costs to rise (that is, the percent saying they expected worker compensation to rise minus the percent saying they expected it to fall) was 15 percent in September. The last time it was higher was October 2007.

This prediction may reflect the fact that businesses report they are having trouble finding qualified applicants for their available job openings (which should force employers to offer higher wages to the few qualified applicants out there):

Of course, survey predictions are often wrong. And there's lots of debate about the underlying causes of wage stagnation in recent years. But if businesses have already accepted that their compensation costs are going to rise soon, managers might be more amenable if and when workers start requesting raises.

## **IBM's Big Blues**

By Harold Meyerson

[Washington Post](#), October 22, 2014

Big Blue's got the blues. On Monday, IBM's stock tumbled by 7 percent after it unveiled a dismal quarterly earnings report that showed a 4 percent drop in revenue — the 10th consecutive quarter of flat or declining sales. Revealing these mournful numbers, the company also announced it would abandon a policy that set it apart from all other firms: the 2010 pledge from then-CEO Sam Palmisano to raise the earnings per share of its stock to \$20 by 2015.

No other company had so explicitly promised to raise the shareholders' return on their stock. Maximizing shareholder value has been the North Star of U.S. corporate policy for decades now, but no other firm pursued it so openly — and disastrously — as IBM.

There are two ways to increase a company's earnings per share: Either you increase the earnings, or you reduce the number of shares. Unfortunately for IBM, it had trouble keeping up with the rapid pace of change in the high-tech world. Its earnings flat-lined. To meet Palmisano's pledge, the company embarked on an orgy of buying back its stock. This had already been an unstated policy at IBM; Palmisano merely made it more explicit. Since 2000, IBM has spent a mind-boggling \$108 billion — \$12 billion of that in the first half of this year — buying back shares. It devoted another \$30 billion to paying dividends. The Financial Times calculated that from 2003 to 2013, the company devoted nearly 80 percent of its cash to rewarding shareholders through buybacks and dividends.

In 1993, IBM had 2.3 billion outstanding shares; 20 years later, it had 1.1 billion. As the Wall Street Journal's Dennis Berman has pointed out, at that pace the company would have no publicly traded shares at all by 2034.

The rise in earnings per share at IBM entranced big-time investors. No Carl Icahns barraged its managers with complaints that it wasn't returning enough to shareholders (a complaint Icahn has repeatedly lodged against Apple and other companies more successful than IBM). Palmisano's pledge, and the company's history of buying back its shares, even persuaded Warren Buffett, who had previously



shied away from investing in tech companies in a nod to the sector's penchant for creative destruction, to become IBM's biggest single shareholder. IBM's appeal, Buffett explained to CNBC, was clear: "They have this terrific reverence for the shareholder." Indeed, so great was this reverence that IBM even incurred major debt to finance its repurchases.

Over the past year, however, some analysts began arguing that increasing earnings per share by decreasing the number of shares wasn't really much of a strategy. David Stockman (once Ronald Reagan's budget director) called the company "a buyback machine on steroids." A company that once employed thousands of mathematicians and engineers to build the world's smartest machines had changed its focus from product to finance. The engineering that mattered most at IBM was financial. But placing so high a premium on rewarding shareholders ultimately proved unsustainable. On Monday, Buffett's investment lost \$1 billion as Big Blue's stock sank.

What makes IBM's decline a matter of moment to more than just company shareholders is that the course IBM elected to follow is more the norm than the exception among U.S. corporations. William Lazonick's survey of the country's largest publicly traded companies — those listed on the S&P 500 from 2003 to 2012 — found that they devoted 54 percent of their net earnings during that time to repurchasing their own stock, and another 37 percent to shareholder dividends. Before the 1980s, by contrast, U.S. corporations retained more than half their net earnings for such things as new investments. That share steadily shrank as the goal of maximizing shareholder value and pressure from predatory large investors combined to make increasing earnings per share more important than, say, research and development. (That share also steadily shrank as CEO pay became linked to rising share value.)

Not every company that has subordinated expansion and investment to shareholder payouts has suffered the fate of IBM, of course — and IBM itself remains big enough to fund more productive investments, especially since it has now abandoned Palmisano's pledge. But its tale is nonetheless emblematic of a sad national story: how a nation that once made the world's smartest machines opted instead to try to make the world's smartest deals — many of which turned out to be abysmally dumb.

Read more from Harold Meyerson's archive or follow him on Twitter.

## **George Will: Restoration Of Senate's Dignity Rides On Mitch McConnell**

By George F. Will

[Washington Post](#), October 23, 2014

Barack Obama lost Kentucky in 2012 by 23 points, yet the state remains closely divided about reelecting the man whose parliamentary skills uniquely qualify him to restrain Obama's executive overreach. So Kentucky's Senate contest is a constitutional moment that will determine whether the separation of powers will be reasserted by a Congress revitalized by restoration of the Senate's dignity.

Even counting Justice Louis Brandeis as a Kentuckian — at 18, he defected to Harvard and New England — Mitch McConnell, 72, is second only to Henry Clay as the state's most consequential public servant. McConnell's skills have been honed through five terms. He is, however — let us say the worst — not cuddly. National Review has said he has "an owlish, tight-lipped public demeanor reminiscent of George Will." Harsh. But true.

On only one significant matter — McConnell opposes increasing the minimum wage, a symbolic issue of negligible economic importance — is he at odds with a large majority of Kentuckians. Thus he surely would be leading by more than a few points if he were less austere and more telegenic.

Democrats selected McConnell's opponent, Alison Lundergan Grimes, Kentucky's 35-year-old secretary of state, largely to further their "Republicans loathe women" fable. McConnell, however, is



running even with Grimes among women, partly because of the persuasiveness of his wife, Elaine Chao, the longest-serving labor secretary since World War II (2001 to 2009).

In 1952, a Republican member of the Phoenix City Council, Barry Goldwater, defeated Senate Majority Leader Ernest McFarland. For the next 52 years, until Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) lost in 2004, no party's Senate leader was defeated. But political polarization has increased leaders' conspicuousness and vulnerabilities. McConnell, who in 2002 won with 65 percent, won in 2008 with just 53 percent.

Grimes's cringe-inducing campaign has depended on a migraine-inducing argument: She broadly disagrees with her party's leader, but it is important that she help perpetuate Harry Reid's iron-fisted shutdown of the Senate for Obama's convenience. Her campaign has raised more money than McConnell's in three consecutive quarters, but money is not magic, which would be needed to make her candidacy coherent.

Although Senate races in many states remain close — McConnell remembers Republicans losing control of the Senate in 1986 by about 25,000 votes in five states — he anticipates a Republican majority in 2015. Then, he says, "a lot of institutional repair" will begin.

Since Republicans won control of the House in 2010, the Democratic-controlled Senate's function has been obstruction. Reid has prevented bills passed by the Republican House from coming to a vote and has prevented Republicans — and Democrats, too — from proposing amendments to Senate bills that would be awkward for Democrats to oppose or for Obama to veto. Obama has cast only two vetoes, both for technical reasons on minor matters. Since July 2013, McConnell says, there have been only 22 Senate roll-call votes on amendments — and says Mark Begich (D-Alaska) has never in his six Senate years had a roll-call vote on an amendment of his.

Such paralysis of the Senate leaves Obama uninhibited in his use of executive orders and bureaucratic mission-creep to advance goals that should require legislation. In January, in the most statesmanlike Senate speech in years, McConnell explained how, under Republican leadership, the Senate would be restored as the creator of consensus:

"An executive order can't [create consensus]. The fiat of a nine-person court can't do it. A raucous and precarious partisan majority in the House can't do it. The only institution that can make stable and enduring laws is the one we have in which all 50 states are represented equally, and where every single senator has a say in the laws that we pass."

Beneath McConnell's chilly exterior burns indignation about the degradation of the institution to which he has devoted much of his life. The repair of it, in the form of robust committee and amendment processes — and an extended workweek — will benefit Democratic members, too.

Kentucky's Senate election is 2014's most important, for a reason rich in irony: Although Grimes considers McConnell the architect of gridlock, electing her to inevitably docile membership in Reid's lockstep ranks would perpetuate this. But a reelected McConnell, with a Republican majority, would, he says, emulate his model of majority leadership — the 16 years under a Democrat, Montana's Mike Mansfield. He, like McConnell, had a low emotional metabolism but a subtle sense of the Senate's singular role in the nation's constitutional equilibrium.

Read more from George F. Will's archive or follow him on Facebook.

## **The Politics Of Ebola**

By E.j. Dionne Jr.

[Washington Post](#), October 23, 2014

BOSTON



Seth Moulton, an Iraq veteran and Democratic congressional candidate on Massachusetts's North Shore, has done something with little precedent in political campaigning: He was caught underplaying his war record.

You read that right: An investigation by the Boston Globe found that, unlike politicians who go to great lengths to puff up their military backgrounds, Moulton, as the paper's Walter Robinson wrote, "chose not to publicly disclose that he was twice decorated for heroism until pressed by the Globe."

It took Robinson's reporting to discover that Moulton had won the Bronze Star and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for valor during the battles for control of Najaf and Nasiriyah.

In a telephone interview, Moulton said his reluctance reflected a "healthy disrespect" among his comrades-in-arms for boasting about citations.

"The relative few of us who really were on the front lines don't like to talk about it and don't like to brag about it," he said. "I saw a lot of heroic kids who were on the front lines . . . and didn't get the recognition they deserved."

Moulton's story is a refreshing change of pace in a midterm election campaign short on displays of either courage or reticence. Voters are unhappy with both parties and there is no driving issue, so a play-all-the-angles approach takes whatever story is dominating the news cycle and tries to turn it into a wedge.

Nowhere has this pattern been clearer than in the rise of public worries about Ebola and the effort by Republicans to turn fear into a closing argument.

It is normal for the party that doesn't control the White House to be critical of how the incumbent has handled a crisis. And President Obama himself, according to the New York Times, was frustrated with aspects of the government's handling of the episode, one reason he called on Ron Klain, the Washington veteran, to coordinate the response.

But it's something else again to stoke alarm and to set up an unrealistic policy demand as a test of "toughness." (Yes, those quotation marks are intended to convey the cynicism involved.) Thus did many Republicans call for a travel ban from the countries affected by Ebola, even though there are no direct flights from them to the United States. This raised the prospect of grounding connecting flights from European cities, and the administration argued that the ban would encourage people to lie about their travel history, making screening for the disease much harder.

Now, Republicans have quietly conceded how problematic a travel ban would be. So they are rallying to a new tough-sounding backup position, calling for a suspension of visas for travelers from the affected countries. Trying to answer symbolic politics with practical measures, the administration announced Tuesday that travelers from Ebola-zone countries would be required to enter the United States through one of five airports equipped for screening.

To examine the way all this has played out in the congressional contest between Moulton and Republican Rich Tisei is to see how last-minute campaign pressures can push even independent-minded candidates to find ways of gaining a slight edge or avoiding political damage.

Tisei is one of the few socially moderate Republicans on the ballot this fall. Openly gay, Tisei got married in the summer of 2013, and he boycotted the state Republican convention this year to protest the party's conservative platform. Yet like other Republicans, he jumped on the idea of "banning flights" from countries where the disease is raging and of "quarantining people before they come into the country."

For his part, Moulton, after initially resisting the flight ban, sought to find middle ground by declaring that, "until we can get people properly screened, we may need to shut those flights down." But in the interview, he reiterated his view that "we can't pretend that we're going to win this fight simply by shutting



ourselves off from the rest of the world.” He also endorsed Obama’s latest move on screening. And on Wednesday, Tisei’s spokesman, Charlie Szold, said his candidate did not want a flight ban to force any interruption of aid to combat the disease in the affected countries.

One would like to hope that Ebola posturing will not be decisive in either the Moulton-Tisei race or in the larger campaign. There are signs that the issue is fading as reality catches up with the pandering. In the meantime, Moulton, who knows what courage means, could usefully bring a GI’s “healthy disrespect” to the ways our country’s politics makes problem-solving harder.

### **Alison Lundergan Grimes Finally Goes Off-script**

By Dana Milbank

[Washington Post](#), October 23, 2014

Last week, the national Democratic Party left Alison Lundergan Grimes for dead.

So why does she still have a pulse?

The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee a week ago said it was stopping its TV ads for Grimes, the Kentucky secretary of state and the Democrats’ challenger to Mitch McConnell, the Senate Republican leader.

In political Washington, this was a nail in the coffin, coming after the candidate’s embarrassing and repeated refusal to say whether she voted for President Obama and the televised pronouncement of “Meet the Press” host Chuck Todd that she had “disqualified herself” — a clip McConnell’s campaign gleefully replayed in his ads.

But Grimes’s look into the abyss did her some good. In politics as in medicine, near-death experiences have a way of changing one’s outlook. When I visited Kentucky on Wednesday to see Grimes on the campaign trail, I saw a candidate who was much less cautious and scripted than the one I had been hearing and reading about. It was as if the reduced expectations had liberated her.

Grimes was venturing into Republican territory — Rand Paul country, to be specific — to speak to a gathering of Rotarians at the Bowling Green Country Club. She took some hostile questions from the crowd, and she gave as good as she got. Then she went outside and did something that, for her, is most unusual: She held a news conference.

I asked her to respond to the perception in Washington that last week’s DSCC decision had been a death knell. “It’s a lot of hyperventilating out there by the media,” she said. “This campaign is Kentucky through and through, and it’s going to be Kentuckians that carry it across the finish line.”

Another question about the national party’s move produced another swipe at Washington. “We got into this race trying to change Washington. We will change Washington,” she said, dismissing the loss of those TV dollars.

Was she surprised that the question of whether she voted for Obama became a dominant campaign issue? “I’m not going to be bullied by Mitch McConnell or Chuck Todd,” she said with a smile.

It would go too far to say that Grimes has transformed. She repeated her absurd position that she won’t reveal her presidential vote because of the “constitutional right to privacy.” And, though the Rotary Club discourages stump speeches, Grimes gave her usual anti-McConnell spiel, dressed up with requisite references to the good works of her “fellow Rotarians” and folksy things she heard from “mah momma.”

Her attacks on McConnell — “We have someone now that can’t get back here without the aid of a GPS!” she said, though he had spoken to the same group three weeks earlier — were met with complete silence, folded arms and drumming fingers. Yet Grimes went on denouncing McConnell for the better part



of 10 minutes. She mentioned both Hillary and Bill Clinton but tiptoed around President Obama and gave only passing reference to Obamacare, though it's popular in Kentucky.

This was the Grimes I had heard of, the one who, as Jason Zengerle put it in the New Republic, has been plagued by "crippling caution and debilitating message discipline" — a candidate permanently in a "defensive crouch."

But then came the questions. One man complained that she never said "one way or the other" what she thinks about anti-union right-to-work laws.

"My position on right-to-work laws is it's right to work for less," she shot back. "I have seen first-hand the value of labor, of collective bargaining, prevailing wage. I've been on the picket lines."

Yet another questioner said she had "waffled back and forth on the subject of coal." When she gave a pro-coal response that included a call to cut environmental regulations, the questioner mockingly asked whether that's just a message for coal-producing eastern Kentucky.

"It's the message I've sent all over the state. It's the message I'll send when we go to Washington!" Grimes returned.

From there, she went outside for her unscheduled news conference, saying her strong showing in this week's polls — two show her in a statistical dead heat with McConnell — means that "Kentucky won't be bought" and that "the energy and momentum is on our side."

Apparently the national party agreed. Half an hour after Grimes's feisty performance in Bowling Green, the DSCC reversed its earlier decision and said it was pouring \$650,000 back into TV ads for Grimes.

It's tempting to wonder how much better Grimes would have done in this campaign if she had shed her crippling caution earlier.

Twitter: @Milbank

Read more from Dana Milbank's archive, follow him on Twitter or subscribe to his updates on Facebook.

## **WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL STORIES**

### **Delaware Candidates Discuss Pressing Issues In Dover**

By Jonathan Starkey

[Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#), October 22, 2014

Democratic state treasurer candidate Sean Barney kept up his attacks on his Republican opponent during a Dover debate Wednesday night, saying Republican Ken Simpler's experience as an investment fund manager does not qualify him to serve as state treasurer.

"The challenge Delaware's next treasurer faces is to restore accountability and transparency to the office and to ensure that state government in a way that it uses your hard earned taxpayer dollars serves all of the people and not just the wealthy and well-connected," Barney said.

Barney said the hedge fund where Simpler worked was secretive and helped contribute to the 2008 financial collapse. Simpler largely brushed aside the attacks, saying the treasurer's office, which is tasked with helping manage a \$2 billion investment portfolio, should be led by someone with money management experience.

Sixteen statewide candidates participated in Wednesday night's debate, held at Delaware State University and hosted by the League of Women Voters of Kent County and American Association of University Women Dover branch.



Each candidate was offered a three-minute opening statement. But the forum's format offered little opportunity for substantial debate on any single topic, or between candidates in any single race.

Federal candidates for U.S. House and U.S. Senate discussed energy policy and marijuana legalization, among other topics.

U.S. Sen. Chris Coons, a Democrat seeking his first full six-year term, said he supports the legalization of medical marijuana but not its recreational use.

His congressional counterpart, U.S. Rep. John Carney said the decision is one that should be left up to the states. The Democrat said he does not support full legalization.

Poll: Have you found any compelling issues or candidates in the 2014 c...

Candidates in the race for Attorney General debated the subject as well, in addition to mandatory minimum sentences, tackling the state's recidivism rate and how best to address rehabilitation and re-entry into society amid a surging heroin crisis in Delaware.

Lt. Gov. Matt Denn said he would organize efforts to improve Delaware's substance abuse treatment programs. "I do think that the attorney general has an important role to play in terms of getting the General Assembly, and also the private sector – insurance companies [and] health care institutions – to contribute to the resources that are necessary to get our substance abuse treatment system where it ought to be," Denn said.

Catherine Damavandi, a Green Party candidate and former state prosecutor, said the fix does not lie with the state's attorney general but with the governor and his administration.

She said Denn talks about addressing these topics in the future, but he's been lieutenant governor for six years.

"I urge the governor's office to focus attention on this now," she said. "We don't have to wait for the election of the attorney general."

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## **Expenses Questioned In Audit Of Marydel Fire Company**

By Jon Offredo

[Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#), October 22, 2014

The Marydel Volunteer Fire Company could not account for more than \$30,000 in cash withdrawals in a recent one-year period, and paid thousands to a catering service owned by its chief, according to findings released by state Auditor Tom Wagner.

Wagner could not find documentation that the money paid to the chief's business was legitimate.

The audit discovered that Chief Buffy Madden, and his wife, Denise, the fire company's treasurer, circumvented internal financial controls and failed to safeguard funds, including more than \$430,000 in state taxpayer money the department received during the last fiscal year.

Marydel Volunteer Fire Company received almost \$120,000 from the state's grant-in-aid budget last year. Recipients of state money have to follow certain restrictions on spending, including requirements that no funds be used to purchase capital equipment or hire lobbyists.

Several individuals close to the fire company requested the auditor's office review the company's records.



Delaware's fire companies are all volunteer, except for Wilmington. The companies receive much of their income from fundraising efforts, state and county aid, firehouse rentals, ambulance runs and taxes on insurance premiums, among other sources.

Wagner said Denise Madden has since resigned as the fire company's treasurer.

Between June 2013 and May 2014, the Maddens' barbecue catering service, 1st Due BBQ, was paid \$13,845 in cash and fire company checks written out by Denise Madden to herself and the chief. According to the audit, \$10,000 in cash was withdrawn in December 2013 to pay the catering service for services related to the fire company's Christmas party and awards banquet. An additional \$6,579 went to the Sudlersville Meat Locker to pay for chicken breasts, bacon and seafood.

The report also identifies \$9,513.66 in fire company cash that was later withdrawn to pay for a Henny Penny pressure fryer.

Auditors also documented that the Christmas party cost just over \$25,000, and a ring ceremony cost nearly \$40,000. The company spent nearly \$28,000 on rings alone, and it is unclear whether any state money was used to purchase those rings.

Neither of the Maddens returned calls requesting comment. A call to Buffy Madden's fire company-funded cellphone described him as both the Marydel fire chief and owner of 1st Due BBQ.

The fire company emailed a statement about 10 p.m. acknowledging the need to change outdated accounting policies and have an outside accounting firm handle its funds, but defended its use of the chief's business.

"The Marydel Volunteer Fire Co Inc. intends to learn from this and to move forward in a positive direction," said the statement signed by Jason R. Mills, secretary

Late Wednesday, the fire company emailed a statement acknowledging the need to change outdated accounting policies and have an outside accounting firm handle its funds, but defended its dealings with the chief's business.

"The Marydel Volunteer Fire Co Inc. intends to learn from this and to move forward in a positive direction," said the statement signed by Jason R. Mills, secretary

Auditors were unable to determine whether the fire company properly used state money because the majority of the finances were commingled, and the heavy cash-based transactions made it "difficult to prove that someone directly pocketed money."

"The records were a mess. It's not like they didn't have good internal controls, they really didn't have any internal controls," Wagner said. "That's absolutely unacceptable."

More than \$30,000 was withdrawn from a fire company bank account between June 1, 2013, and May 31, 2014, and the company could not provide adequate supporting documents to verify how the funds were used, according to the audit. In April 2014, a fire company debit card was used 35 times to withdraw \$8,140.56.

The auditor's investigation into the fire company's finances came while lawmakers debated a package of bills that provided additional taxpayer support to assist companies in providing ambulance transport.

Many of the state's volunteer fire companies have reported surpluses, according to the most recently available documents filed with the Internal Revenue Service.

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## For Top State Teacher, Class Is A Performance

By Matthew Albright

[Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#), October 22, 2014

It's funny how many Teachers of the Year say they never even wanted to be a teacher at first.

Megan Szabo wanted to be a tap dancer. She loved the feeling of being in front of a crowd and wanted to be a performer.

But as she grew up, she began to pay closer attention to her parents, both of whom were teachers. She noticed that every day they had to stand in front of an audience of students, hook their attention and keep them interested in learning.

"Teaching is a performance in a lot of ways," Szabo said. "But you're not just entertaining. You're making a big difference in the lives of your students."

If teaching is performing, then Szabo, a seventh- and eighth-grade science teacher at Postlethwait Middle School, won Delaware's equivalent of an Oscar on Tuesday night when Gov. Jack Markell opened an envelope and named her the state's Teacher of the Year.

The win comes as no surprise to Szabo's fellow teachers – including her husband, Ago, an eighth-grade social studies teacher at Postlethwait – or principal Derek Prillaman.

"This is my second year here, and I realized immediately that I was very, very fortunate to have Ms. Szabo in my building," Prillaman said. "The relationships she develops with her students are really extraordinary."

Last SlideNext Slide

Talk with Szabo's students and you'll hear a few common threads: she's easy-going, optimistic and energetic.

"Every day is a new day in her class," said Deja Armstrong, an eighth-grader. "Sometimes you have a bad day and some teachers will hold a grudge. But she never holds a grudge. Every day she treats you like somebody she likes."

Students say Szabo smashes any notion of science classes that should be full of worksheets, memorization and lectures.

"She really does make science fun," said Tyler Sell, an eighth-grader. "Every day we do something different. We do a lot of experiments and do a lot of labs and they're a lot of fun, but you also get the sense that you're really understanding something important."

Sell said Szabo is one of the best teachers he's ever seen. That's high praise from the son of two educators, one of whom is former Teacher of the Year John Sell.

In most science classrooms, Szabo says teachers have traditionally started with lectures, worksheets or textbook assignments, then followed up with an experiment or demonstration to illustrate what students learned. She tries to flip that script in her classroom, starting with experiments that get students asking questions, then helping them find the answers.

"The way I see it, I should not be giving them the answer to any question that they should be able to find the answer to themselves," she said. "I am trying to teach them to become scientists, not just teach them science."

Last SlideNext Slide

On Wednesday, she was in and out of class dealing with some of the things that go along with being named Teacher of the Year. Instead of giving the substitute teacher a video to show or some worksheets for students to fill out, she set up an exercise where students had to work in groups to track down answers to questions about wave motion online.



All of these teaching strategies fit nicely with the Next Generation Science Standards, a national campaign to change how students learn. Put broadly, the standards seek to teach students scientific skills and critical thinking rather than simply memorizing content, trying to adjust to an age when information is instantly available online.

Delaware is currently somewhere near the start of the long slog toward changing over to “Next Gen,” which means overhauling curricula, rebuilding or throwing out science kits and other changes.

Szabo is one of the “lead teachers” on Delaware’s team that is driving the switch to the new standards.

“She has really emerged as a leader in this process,” said Tonyea Meade, science education associate at the Department of Education. “She is constantly thinking about her own teaching and about how she can improve. She’s really breaking new ground.”

For Prillaman, Szabo is the perfect mix of a charismatic teacher whose students love her and an expert who knows how to implement cutting-edge educational techniques into her lesson plans.

“Her classroom is fast-paced, very hands-on and very energetic,” he said. “If you’re going to have a classroom like hers, you need to have your students embrace it. And her students respect her so much as a person that they will follow her and pay attention.”

Now that she’s one of the state’s official voices to represent teachers, Szabo said she hopes to counter a perception she sometimes hears that teachers are set in their ways and aren’t changing with the times.

“Teaching isn’t the same as it was,” she said. “If you come into our school or most of the other schools in Delaware that I’ve been to, you will see a lot of people working very hard to prepare our students for a world that is changing right before our eyes.”

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## **For Horse Owner, First Help, Then Criminal Charges**

By James Fisher

[Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#), October 22, 2014

Monica Ogle knew her horses were hungry all winter.

Ogle had a dozen horses under her care at her Neals School Road farm near Seaford, where she operated a horse rescue on the thinnest of budgets. Livestock rescue groups take in sick or unwanted horses and try to find owners willing to adopt them. Ogle, 60, had not taken in new horses for more than a year; she had a hard time adopting any out to willing owners; and hay was scarce.

“You’d go to this hay dealer, run him out of hay, go to the next one,” spending \$200 to \$600 a month on hay, Ogle said in interviews. “Through the winter, some horses lost some weight.” She leaned on backup feed: alfalfa cubes, hay stretcher pellets. Come spring, hay was easier to get, but her older horses showed lasting effects from the lean, cold months.

So when a Delaware SPCA investigator came to probe a cruelty complaint sparked by the horses’ gaunt appearance, Ogle wasn’t all that surprised. The investigator, Brett Conley, noted in a Sept. 2 report he saw horses “extremely thin and underweight,” with one requiring “immediate nutrition.”

But how the Delaware SPCA dealt with what it found on Neals School Road has led Conley, the investigator, to leave his job under protest. And Ogle, who was initially grateful when the SPCA supplied her with grain and hay to help her rescue operation get back on its feet, feels betrayed that another



animal welfare group, First State Animal Control and SPCA, took over her case on Sept. 30 – and then pressed 11 animal cruelty charges against her, including one count of felony animal abuse.

“I just needed to get these horses something that had more fat content, and that’s what I did,” Ogle said of her actions after Conley’s Sept. 2 visit. “I was buying that feed and doing what Brett told me to do, feeding three times a day. And horses were picking up their weight.”

Conley, for his part, calls the about-face – one animal welfare group giving aid to Ogle, then another charging her with hurting animals – unjust and unfair.

“Some people deserve to be locked up, and I’ve done that,” Conley said. “But it felt really good to help someone ... She was deceived. We spent money, as the Delaware SPCA, to help her and then abandoned her.”

First State Animal Control Director Kevin Usilton, though, said the cruelty charges only came after Ogle declined additional help from his agency. He said conditions on the farm were still dire more than a month after Delaware SPCA’s first contact.

“Animals suffered, pretty horrifically in my opinion, because this rescue didn’t ask for assistance,” Usilton said Wednesday. “We rely on our veterinarians. If they see abuse and our officers see abuse, we’re going to step up.”

#### Patchwork of enforcement

The Delaware SPCA, under state code, has the power to “enforce all laws enacted for the protection of animals,” in keeping with what’s become normal in Delaware: the General Assembly sets laws governing the treatment of animals but relies on nonprofit groups, not government agencies, to enforce them. It’s the same model of governance that puts most dog control responsibilities in the hands of Kent County-based First State Animal Control and SPCA through negotiated contracts with county and city governments.

Andrea Perlak, the executive director of the Delaware SPCA, said her organization made a firm choice this year to delegate its animal cruelty responsibilities to First State Animal Control (which, until recently, operated under a different name, Kent County SPCA). The status quo had been for Delaware SPCA to handle most Sussex County and New Castle County cruelty reports – of beaten dogs, underfed livestock, or abused cats – since it has offices in Georgetown and Stanton.

That decision, Perlak said, was made with the consent of the Office of Animal Welfare, a relatively new state agency charged with overseeing a patchwork of animal-focused groups and setting standards of care.

“We didn’t have the infrastructure in place. Cruelty enforcement needed a more robust mechanism. Kent County SPCA had the infrastructure in place,” Perlak said. “We have said that First State should do all enforcement for cruelty. It’s a bit of a mission shift, but it’s supported by everyone in the community.”

The Neals School Road cruelty report, Perlak said, came in just as the two organizations were finishing details of how First State would handle all livestock cruelty cases, even when calls initially came to Delaware SPCA.

“It looked like you had some very thin horses,” Perlak said of the initial investigation. “We tried to do the right thing by buying them some hay.” But, she said, she could not comment on the case beyond that.

Records of Conley’s investigation show he advised superiors that there was enough evidence of neglect on Ogle’s part to pursue cruelty charges. “A seizure of the horses and an arrest of the homeowner and her boyfriend was warranted and justifiable,” he wrote. But the report also shows staff considered, from the start, treating the case as a chance to offer aid to Ogle’s group – “provid[ing] some financial assistance to the owners instead of prosecuting them,” the report notes.



Conley's records, which he provided to The News Journal, say Perlak told shelter manager Bonnie Madonna that Delaware SPCA would take the aid route in Ogle's case. On Sept. 5, the records show, Conley and Lisa Boyce – a horse farm owner who has helped the SPCA with equine rescues in the past – returned to Neals School Road and delivered \$400 in grain. They also paid for delivery of \$400 in hay, which amounted to 80 bales.

"I issued Monica a correction order and advised her to use the grain and hay for the rehabilitation of the neglect rescue horses," Conley wrote in his log.

Ogle says she did that and more, attending a seminar on equine nutrition that the Delaware SPCA advised her to take. She saw her thinnest, oldest horses – one was 37, and two others were 27 – gaining weight after Conley's intervention, she said.

A second delivery of hay and grain "would have been helpful, but I wasn't going to ask for it. I was getting it and buying it," Ogle said. "I did want help in trying to place some horses [with new owners]. Some were rideable; that's what I did with the younger ones. I have adopted a mess of horses."

#### Change of plans

On Oct. 15, though, Ogle said she was surprised by the arrival of four First State animal-control officers on her farm, two weeks after First State took over her case. "They came on this property with horse trailers, state troopers and a search warrant. I mean, they bombarded me," Ogle said.

Usilton confirmed in an interview that First State Animal Control recently started to handle cruelty complaints once addressed by Delaware SPCA. First State officers on the Sept. 30 visit, he said, documented four horses that were seriously emaciated and two others deemed very thin on a commonly-used scale of horse health.

"The officers noticed right away animals in dire need of groceries, and there were groceries sitting in the barn unused," Usilton said. They told Ogle to have a vet examine the horses within a week and urged her to feed them more.

By Oct. 15, Usilton said, Ogle had taken some required steps to avoid cruelty charges, including having a vet see the horses and having their hooves trimmed, but not all. First State's vets took the view that "there's no way this person can sustain 11 horses in this condition," he said.

"The stalls were 4 feet high in some cases with feces, and the horses were locked in there," Usilton said. "These animals were suffering, and we needed to halt their suffering immediately." All 11 horses were removed from the property, he said, and two have since been euthanized. [Conley, the investigator who saw the horses in early September, disagreed with the evaluation that some of the horses were so far gone that euthanasia was called for. "Neither appeared to be in grave danger or [near] death when I was there," he said.]

Ogle was charged with one count of felony animal abuse and 10 counts of misdemeanor abuse. The charges and the euthanasia were both shocking, she said, and not at all what she expected after getting the Delaware SPCA's help at first. "I wanted to be the one with Doby" – the oldest of the horses, and one of the two put down – "when he left," she said.

Tim Willard, the attorney defending Ogle against the cruelty charges, said he thought she was "unfairly treated" by First State. "What strikes me as somewhat odd in this case is she was working with authorities to get the diets back in order," Willard said. "The charges seemed to come out of the blue."

Conley, a former New Castle County police officer, said he also felt betrayed by the Delaware SPCA's shift in mission away from cruelty enforcement. After the case was transferred, he said, he was asked by superiors to sign a confidentiality agreement. When he refused – "it was censorship," he said –



he expected to be drummed out of his job in a constructive discharge. He resigned in early October. Perlak declined to discuss Conley's employment history.

"There are good people at the SPCA," Conley said. But under Perlak's oversight, he contended, "it is not about cruelty. It is not about animals." The First State searches on Ogle's farm, he asserted, were "a publicity stunt to get donations and show off."

Perlak said the change of roles for both agencies will lead to better service for complainants who report cruelty and will let Delaware SPCA focus more resources on its role as a shelter and rescue organization.

"It was in no-man's land. We said we were doing it, but we weren't, really," Perlak said. "It's a positive step for the people of Delaware... It's the best thing for the animals. A lot of people criticize First State, but they have a really tightly run organization."

Both Perlak and Usilton said the statewide cost of addressing cruelty complaints is about \$600,000. With the change in duties, Perlak said, the Office of Animal Welfare will likely devote all of a \$100,000 grant for cruelty investigations to First State.

Usilton acknowledged that Ogle's different treatment by the two agencies could be "confusing." But he said the evidence First State gathered in its probe of her farm, including the professional opinions of veterinarians, fully justified filing charges.

"Why we stepped up and did this was based on the testimony and evidence gathering that we did when we were on the property," Usilton said. "It had nothing to do with PR."

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## **FedEx Distribution Center Ready To Open**

By Maureen Milford

[Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#), October 22, 2014

In what real estate experts are calling a model of fast-track development, work is finishing up on a new \$15 million distribution center for FedEx near New Castle just 18 months after plans were submitted to New Castle County.

"I've never seen this level of cooperation," said Bill Ganc, owner of Ganc Commercial Realty in Brandywine Hundred. "This was a complex situation here and everybody – the state, the county – came up with solutions."

The 186,000-square-foot building off Lambsons Lane is expected to open in November as a FedEx Ground distribution center and could eventually employ more than 100 people. The new facility will replace an existing station nearby on Dock View Drive, according to David Westrick, spokesman for FedEx Ground. Existing employees will move from the Dock View station in early November. Westrick did not say how many are currently employed. FedEx is expected to add to the workforce as demand increases, Westrick said.

The center is part of FedEx's expansion of its nationwide network designed to boost daily package capacity and enhance speed and service, Westrick said.

"Since 2005, the company has opened 11 new hubs featuring advanced material-handling systems and expanded or relocated more than 500 local facilities," Westrick said. "The network enhancements have resulted in accelerating ground service delivery by one day or more in more than two-thirds of the United States. With these changes, FedEx Ground is faster to more overall locations, including more residential locations."



The distribution center will serve as far north as North Wilmington, south to Townsend, east to New Castle and west to Perryville, Maryland, Westrick said.

The New Castle-area project was developed by Westmoreland Company Inc. of Huntsville, Alabama, a privately held real estate development company that has done work for FedEx, according to Bruce Puffer, a senior project manager with Westmoreland.

Puffer described the project as “a fast turnaround.”

Alan Levin, director of the Delaware Economic Development Office, said his office assisted FedEx in its dealings with state and New Castle County agencies. No DEDO money was involved with the FedEx project, according to Karen Smith, strategic communications director with DEDO.

“This project creates good jobs and economic activity in an area that can desperately use it,” Levin said.

Westmoreland, as Westco New Castle II LLC and Westco New Castle III LLC, bought the 72.65-acre site from Q.D. Saienni LLC for \$8.99 million, according to New Castle County property records. Ganc said Quentin Saienni was the owner of the property that had been owned by Material Transit and used as a borrow pit, where material is dug out for fill in another location.

The site was chosen because of its access to major highways, proximity to customers’ distribution centers and a strong environment for recruiting employees, Westrick said.

The distribution center occupies just 20 acres because “the vast majority of the land is wetlands,” Puffer said. The development includes the building, parking for tractor-trailers and parking for employees. Westco will own the building and lease it to FedEx Ground, Puffer said.

Puffer described it as a medium-sized project for FedEx.

The distribution center has a dock with 45 doors where tractor-trailers load and unload packages. Inside there is room for as many as 80 delivery vans, Puffer said. The packages go directly from the tractor-trailers to the delivery van by conveyor building – and vice versa when the vans return with packages to be shipped.

Roughly 6,000 square feet in the building is office space for the managers.

“FedEx gives us prototypical plans and specifications from which we design the building to meet the requirements of the local jurisdiction,” Puffer said.

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## **Delaware Subdivision Plantings Win Blue Ribbon**

[Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#), October 22, 2014

A Delaware man won a blue ribbon from the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society’s gardening and greening contest.

David Resende of Heritage Hills in Pike Creek won the ribbon, the top prize in his category of Public Spaces for the plantings he maintains at the entrance to the subdivision. He was featured in Moira Sheridan’s Sept. 11 column. His garden was one of 350 in nine categories visited by judges.

A lifelong neighborhood resident, Resende began a beautification project there in 2010 after becoming involved with the Heritage Grendon Civic Association. He started with his own money and labor, turning the plain Grendon Drive entrance into a colorful gateway.

Residents liked it so much, they began stopping while he was working and giving him \$10 or \$20 to help foot the bill. Now the neighborhood has a flower fund that covers the cost of plantings at the entrances at Grendon Drive, Heritage Farms and Grendon Farms. He also has help from teens and kids in the neighborhood.



## **WILMINGTON JOURNAL NEWS EDITORIALS**

### **Congratulate Delaware's Teacher Of The Year**

[Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#), October 22, 2014

What parent wouldn't want Megan Szabo as their child's classroom teacher in 2014 America? Based on the press release alone from the Department of Education, Szabo's selection Tuesday evening as the 2015 Teacher of the Year was a sure shot.

Here's how the Caesar Rodney School District science teacher describes the classroom environment at Postlethwait Middle School:

"My students may not remember every itty bitty detail about what they learned in seventh- and eighth-grade science, but they leave my class as confident learners who are able to make observations, see connections, solve problems and think scientifically. ... For me, teaching them how to be a scientist is just as important as teaching them science.

"They are having scientific conversations with each other and asking each other analytical questions, but most importantly I have witnessed them using the science ideas they learn in class to think critically and solve real world problems."

Undoubtedly, this classroom success is linked to Szabo's personal philosophy about the elements of a successful teaching environment: "Kids will not learn from teachers they do not like in classrooms they do not want to go to."

It's being verified by improved student test scores, engaging lesson plans, creating an appetite for investigation, and a willingness to take on rather than shrink from the challenge of more rigorous academic inquiry. Szabo reminds herself of this as she designs lessons.

The result is a lot of hands-on activities, such as creating models and carrying out investigations. Often, she encourages student groups to design their own lab investigation rather than just following along a predetermined procedure.

In effect, Szabo unleashes her students to explore, which is always a good jumping-off point for higher learning.

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### **Oyster Farming Industry Would Harm Inland Bays**

By Steve Callanen

[Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#), October 22, 2014

The 200 irate citizens who gathered at the Millville Fire House on Oct. 6 to voice their extreme displeasure with the state's unknown plans for establishing a large commercial oyster farming industry in Beach Cove and Little Assawoman Bay might be interested to learn the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Fish and Wildlife Division's mission statement is to "conserve and manage the fish and wildlife resources of the state, to provide safe and enjoyable fishing, hunting, and boating opportunities to the citizens of Delaware and its visitors."

The proposed oyster farm industries in Beach Cove and Little Assawoman Bay are not consistent with these objectives.

A Center for the Inland Bays website identifies the Shellfish Aquaculture Tiger Team was aware of socio-economic issue constraints affecting Inland Bays shellfish aquaculture, including "conflicting use



with other Bay stakeholders, recreational and commercial fisheries, recreational watercraft, waterfront views, NIMBY – not in my backyard, and machinery noise.”

The weight assigned to these constraint factors in Tiger Team evaluations is not mentioned. It is not known if sail boating, kayaking, windsurfing, waterskiing and paddle boarding interests were considered or if the negative impacts on the successful business interests of Coastal Kayak were considered.

It is difficult to believe the claim that, “The ‘Education and Outreach Sub-committee’ identified and reached out to additional stakeholder groups locally and statewide who had an economic or environmental interest in the initiative ... and that, the team met monthly to study every aspect of the plan; to identify conflicts, and consider the needs and concerns of those who live on and use the Bays.”

How can this be claimed when the Tiger Team failed to contact the vast majority of residents who live on the shores of Beach Cove and Little Assawoman Bay and who daily use these waters for recreational purposes?

This local outreach failure is especially hard to fathom in light of the claim the Tiger Team was supported by work of the CIB, which reportedly “held meetings to inform and hear concerns expressed by constituent groups, ... held a working breakfast for federal, state and county decision makers on the goals and work of the Team,” and educated “thousands of individuals” on aquaculture through presentations and materials developed with input from the team.

How difficult would it have been to obtain contact information for each of the communities surrounding Beach Cove and Little Assawoman Bay and solicit feedback from them?

The CIB has identified the Tiger Team as: E. J. Chalabala (Chair), Roy Miller, Bart Wilson, Chris Bason and Sally Boswell of the CIB; Nick Couch, Jeff Tinsman, Rick Cole and John Clark of DNREC Fish and Wildlife; Mike Bott and Debbie Rouse of DNREC Watershed Stewardship; Scott Figurski of DNREC Wetland and Subaqueous Lands; Mark Davis of the Department of Agriculture; John Ewart and Ed Lewandowski of the University of Delaware Sea Grant; Julie Wheatley of Sussex County Economic Development; Bill Baker representing Recreational Interests; Bob Dorman and Steve Friend representing Commercial Clamming Interests; Rob Robinson and Josh Thompson representing Shellfish Aquaculture Interests; and Steve Copp representing the Shellfish Advisory Council.

It is significant and dismaying that of the 22 persons on this Tiger Team, only one represented recreational interests.

Although highly optimistic claims have been made that proposed shellfish aquaculture will eventually generate millions of dollars in revenue, only “estimates” of the economic and environmental benefits of aquaculture apparently have been made. It appears that no thorough legitimate cost benefit analysis has been conducted.

Not addressed is the appropriateness of converting otherwise freely used public lands into restricted areas for the benefit of private (for profit) use – even by out-of-state commercial entities. The proposed oyster farms will constitute a detriment to the public’s right to freely use Bay waters. Moreover, in addition to the area restrictions, the proposed oyster farms will result in both the visual degradation of an otherwise scenic area and the introduction of compromises to public safety.

Irrespective of whatever amount of benefit is derived from oyster filtering action in the highly tidally flushed Inland Bays, it is disturbing the Delaware legislature voted unanimously to establish an unsightly disruptive commercial oyster farming industry in the picturesque Inland Bays.

One would have hoped that, although oyster farming does not meet the legal definition of “heavy industry,” the legislature would have been guided by the fundamental purpose of the Coastal Zone Act, which expresses the state’s desire to “protect the natural environment of its bay and coastal areas and



safeguard their use primarily for recreation and tourism.” The CZA acknowledges that, “While it is the declared public policy of the State to encourage the introduction of new industry into Delaware, the protection of the environment, natural beauty and recreation potential of the State is also of great concern.”

Steve Callanen of Ocean View, a Sierra Club member since 1998, is a mechanical engineer, retired from the U.S. Naval Surface Warfare Center.

Read or Share this story: <http://delonline.us/1wkVuvvm>

## **Voter Eligibility Isn't Based On Gender, Age**

[Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#), October 22, 2014

Here's a bit of savvy advice from some Fox News commentators for young women in this country. Thinking about voting in the mid-term elections?

Don't even bother. You're too young. Not intellectually developed enough. There are others pursuits to take on – like trolling Tinder or Match.com.

Kimberly Guilfoyle explained young women should excuse themselves because they don't share the same “life experience” as older women, reports the Huffington Post. “They're [young women] like healthy and hot and running around without a care in the world.”

Yes, this shot was delivered from within the ranks of the female gender. Guilfoyle was tag-teaming male co-host Greg Gutfeld's observation that “with age comes wisdom” and the “older you get, the more conservative you get.”

Then Guilfoyle let loose this beauty: “It's the same reason why young women on juries are not a good idea. They don't get it!”

But do you know who gets it? Americans who have not lost their respect for this nation's Constitution and the rights it confers regardless of where your body falls on some TMZ channel Richter scale of sexual attraction.

Whether you are a Republican, Democrat, Green Party member or Independent, it's your duty to vote if you meet the citizenship and age requirements. This obligation is enshrined in the Constitution, as a protection of your right to participate in a democracy designed to show no preference based gender or if you are some “hot momma.”

That's one of the coolest honors of being an American citizen.

Editorial correction: Tuesday's editorial incorrectly stated that Newark High School students “actively” prevented police officers from breaking up multiple fights in the school hallways Monday morning. Police confirmed it was the size of the crowd of more than 100 students, not their behavior, that prevented them from getting to students engaged in the brawls.

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# VICE PRESIDENTIAL *NEWS CLIPS*

PRODUCED FOR THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

TO: THE VICE PRESIDENT AND STAFF

DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2014 -- 6:15 AM EDT

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# **BIDEN IN THE NEWS**

## **Biden In Illinois: Each Vote For Democrats Crucial**

By Kerry Lester

[Associated Press](#), October 23, 2014

VERNON HILLS, Ill. (AP) – Vice President Joe **Biden** pressed Illinois voters Wednesday to rally behind Democrats during the approaching election, calling each vote crucial to advancing the party's progress in health care, education and women's rights.

The vice president headlined a rally in suburban Vernon Hills in support of Democratic Congressman Brad Schneider, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin and Gov. Pat Quinn. Schneider is battling Republican Bob Dold to retain his 10th District seat.

**Biden's** stop is the latest evidence of the attention Illinois' close congressional races are receiving from national interests, including campaign donations and high-level visits. It follows an announcement that former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg would spend \$1.9 million on television ads supporting Dold – by far the largest outside expenditure in the race so far.

Illinois Republicans are aiming to reinforce GOP control of the U.S. House by reversing their losses from 2012 in the state's congressional races, when they were nearly swept in every competitive race. Democrats currently outnumber Republicans 12-6 in the state's House delegation.

"If we lose more ground in the House, the very progress we're making is going to come to a screeching halt," **Biden** told hundreds packed into a community center. "Even if we win (the presidency) in 2016, we're starting back at square one. A lot of people's lives depend on this election."

**Biden** plans a return trip to Illinois next week, when he will stump in Rockford for Democratic Rep. Cheri Bustos in a rematch with her 2012 Republican opponent, pizza shop owner Bobby Schilling.

Schneider, of Deerfield, is seeking a second term. He faces a rematch from Dold of Kenilworth, for the seat held for a decade by now-U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk, a Republican. Schneider won the 2012 race by slightly more than 1 percentage point, in a year when President Barack Obama topping the ticket was credited to boosted Democratic turnout.

In an off-year election, with a tight governor's race between Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn and Republican Bruce Rauner, Republicans feel they have a good shot at reclaiming Kirk's former seat.

Also competitive is the race in southern Illinois' 12th Congressional District, where Democratic first-term incumbent Bill Enyart faces 20-year Republican state lawmaker Mike Bost, and the 13th District in central Illinois, where Republican Rep. Rodney Davis faces former Madison County judge Ann Callis, a Democrat.

The Dold-Schneider race, which stretches along much of Chicago's wealthy northern suburbs, has quickly become one of the most expensive congressional contests. Records show Schneider has raked in about \$4 million this cycle, compared to Dold's \$2.9 million, with outside groups including Bloomberg's jumping in and spending millions on ads.

Both candidates have tilted toward the center and attempted to paint the other as partisan in an attempt to net moderate, independent voters who could swing the race either way. Dold supports abortion rights, as does Schneider. Both favor raising the federal minimum wage, and have made statements backing gun control – with Dold's support of what he calls "reasonable gun control restrictions" making him one of several moderate candidates on both sides of the aisle supported by Bloomberg's group.

Republicans dismissed **Biden's** visit Wednesday, saying Dold was spending his time getting to know voters in the district.



"Rather than spending his time with party bosses, Bob Dold is focused on listening to voters about the challenges they are facing and sharing his commitment to putting people ahead of politics," spokeswoman Danielle Hagen said.

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Follow Kerry Lester on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/kerrylester>

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## **Biden Tries To Give Democrats Boost In Suburbs**

By Michelle Manchir

[Chicago Tribune](#), October 23, 2014

Vice President Joe **Biden** campaigned in Lake County on Wednesday, trying to boost Democratic prospects in races for U.S. Senate, governor and Congress.

"It's not 2016, it's today," **Biden** told the cheering crowd, offering a warning about Republicans: "If they take control of the Senate, if we lose more ground in the House, the very progress we're making (is) going to come to a screeching halt."

**Biden** spoke to hundreds of supporters in hoodies and windbreakers packed on a basketball court inside a Vernon Hills community center.

The open-to-the-public event was billed as a rally for Gov. Pat Quinn, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, Rep. Brad Schneider who seeks a second term in the 10th Congressional District in a rematch against former Republican Rep. Robert Dold.

Appearing on a platform with Durbin, Schneider and Quinn's running mate, Paul Vallas, **Biden** told the crowd about his close ties with the governor.

"You know why I like Gov. Quinn so much? His mother says I'm the best-looking Irishman she knows," **Biden** joked.

Quinn did not attend the rally, however. An aide said the governor had no public schedule. The rare absence of Quinn from the public eye came the same day a federal judge granted a request by a Chicago attorney to appoint a monitor to oversee hiring at the Illinois Department of Transportation. The move dealt an ethics blow to Quinn less than two weeks before Election Day.

The vice president praised Durbin, who worked with **Biden** for years in the U.S. Senate, saying Durbin's among the senators with the most "gumption."

"He's always there. Sometimes when no one else has the courage to stand up," **Biden** said.

Durbin faces Republican state Sen. Jim Oberweis in the Nov. 4 election.

Most of **Biden**'s remarks centered around what he said are the Republican initiatives that are dwindling away at the American middle class.

"This is not your father's Republican Party," he said to the crowd, holding signs that said "fired up ready to vote!"

After arriving more than a half hour late to the event, **Biden** stayed for several minutes after his remarks, posing for photos and signing autographs.

With less than two weeks until Election Day, the vice president's visit is one in a revolving door of political celebrities visiting the state to back the candidates for governor. Former President Bill Clinton campaigned with Quinn on Tuesday, while New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie headlined a Rockford rally with GOP candidate Bruce Rauner.



First Lady Michelle Obama and former Secretary of State and possible presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton helped raise money for Quinn earlier this month.

**Biden** is scheduled to return on Monday for a Democratic rally in Rockford.

Copyright © 2014, Chicago Tribune

## Vice President Joe Biden Comes To Vernon Hills For Democratic Rally

By Rick Kambic

[Chicago Sun-Times](#), October 22, 2014

A vital need to preserve and rebuild the middle class appeared to be the message most people took away from Vice President Joe **Biden**'s Oct. 22 visit to Vernon Hills.

**Biden** headlined a rally at the Sullivan Community Center to urge independents and moderate Democrats to reelect U.S. Rep. Brad Schneider, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and Illinois Governor Pat Quinn.

He told the hundreds of people gathered at the event that his single biggest mission in office is to restore the middle class, and that Schneider, Durbin and Quinn could help in that goal.

More on **Biden**'s speech: Vice President denounces 'cockamamie' Republican values

"A top-down priority is not sustainable and will ultimately hurt even the Republicans who are pushing this," **Biden** said. "This is not your father's Republican Party. They say the same things, but they don't value the same thing in actions."

Being middle class means owning your own house, not worrying about replacing the tires on your cars and being able to see your kids before going to bed, **Biden** said. Keeping healthcare and college education affordable to everyone were also key points in his speech.

"The message about the middle class was very well spoken by both Vice President **Biden** and Congressman Schneider," said Sheila Olsen of Grayslake. "I consider myself fortunate that I haven't suffered through what some of my friends have. They are just what Mr. **Biden** said — they went to work, they worked hard, they did what they were told, and yet they were hurt by decisions made far above their heads. They did nothing wrong."

Olsen said she believes that Schneider's opponent, Bob Dold, originally campaigned against raising the minimum wage, then flipped his stance while at certain events.

"It's disingenuous," Olsen said. "He just wants the vote. He voted 28 times to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and then later said he was trying to revise and fix it. He won't help us."

Matt Brackett of Glenview also agreed with **Biden**'s analyses of the middle class.

"I think **Biden**'s description of the middle class was spot on," Brackett said. "It's a major issue, and he's right, America has promise if we're not standing in our own way."

Brackett said he attended the event to support Schneider, but is also curious about Quinn because he and his wife are living off a teacher's pension that could be altered by pending reform bills.

"We worked hard our whole life and fulfilled our end of the bargain," Brackett said.

Jerry Vigue of Libertyville said he agreed with **Biden**'s statements that the disparity between the country's "top 1 percent" and the rest of the population had grown wider than ever.

"He made a great point about the income inequality," said Vigue. "It's infuriating to see some of these millionaires continue to make bigger and bigger profits, without investing in or rewarding the people who got them there."

But the rally wasn't completely full of the already-converted.



A crew of students from Stevenson High School attended the event as an activity for their politics club. George Vasilyev, a senior from Vernon Hills, said his family is pretty conservative and supported President George W. Bush, but that he's open to learning about both sides.

Will Lucas, a junior at Vernon Hills High School, was another story. Lucas said he was permitted to enter the building and later decided to put a quarter-inch "Bob Dold" pin on his shirt. Lucas said he didn't say a word to anyone, and was randomly approached by staff member and asked to leave.

"I spent all of yesterday reaching out to my teachers telling them I'd be taking off school to immerse myself in politics, and now I won't be able to," Lucas said, admitting that he's also recently volunteered with Dold's campaign. "I came here on my own, they didn't send me. I'm 16 years old; it's not very often the vice president of the United States comes to your hometown. Of course I'd want to see him."

Representatives from Schneider's campaign could not confirm or deny that Lucas' story.

But Lucas wasn't alone when he left the Sullivan Center just as the guest speakers first started. Eric Hjerpe of Vernon Hills lives behind the community center and decided to stand on the sidewalk holding a Dold sign.

Hjerpe said his retirement healthcare company is raising their rates by 40 percent and he might have to sign up for healthcare under the Affordable Care Act until he qualifies for Medicare in 2017.

"I wrote to Schneider two times in recent months and he never got back to me," Hjerpe said. "I was worried about losing my regular doctor under Obamacare. His literature says I won't, but my research says I will."

About a week ago, Hjerpe said he got an email from Durbin about his healthcare options.

"I didn't reach out to Durbin," Hjerpe said. "Who else is Schneider giving my letters to? And why can't he call his constituents and answer questions about something he voted for?"

Throughout the speeches and pre-rally socializing, snipers from the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System, a consortium of police departments, were watching from undisclosed locations, while Secret Service agents with dogs searched cars and bags.

The Secret Service inspected the Sullivan Center for four days leading up to the rally. No security incidents occurred, though one woman did faint from the heat in the gymnasium.

## **Hundreds Fill Vernon Hills Gym To See Vice President Joe Biden**

By Russell Lissau

[Chicago Daily Herald](#), October 22, 2014

Vernon Hills resident T.J. Marciniak was so excited to see Vice President Joe **Biden** speak Wednesday in his hometown, he got to the Sullivan Community Center more than three hours before the doors opened to ensure a good spot in the audience.

"It's not something that happens every day," said Marciniak, who was joined by his brother and a friend. "We wanted to be up front and center."

An estimated 750 people packed the Sullivan Center's gym Wednesday afternoon for **Biden's** appearance, part of a rally for three Democrats on the Nov. 4 ballot: U.S. Rep. Brad Schneider, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin and Paul Vallas, who's running for lieutenant governor as Gov. Pat Quinn's mate.

It was the vice president's first visit to Lake County since taking office.

Round Lake resident Sara Madlock Coleman was one of the first people outside the Sullivan Center on Wednesday, too.

She was accompanied by her mother, Cynthia Madlock, and her 11-year-old daughter, Cyndi.



"I wanted to show her how the system works," she said of Cyndi, a sixth grader at Big Hollow Middle School. "I wanted her to have an idea of the issues going on."

Libertyville residents Greg and Karen Drecolli also attended the rally.

"You don't very often get to see the vice president of the United States," Greg Drecolli said.

It's not the couple's first brush with Washington elite. Decades ago, they were in New York City and saw then-President Richard Nixon's motorcade drive by.

"I was never a fan, but it was still a thrill to see a president," Drecolli said.

The Secret Service and suburban police departments provided security at the event, limiting traffic on Aspen Drive and checking vehicles and people for potential threats.

Crews from the local Countryside Fire Protection District were on hand for any emergencies.

When a woman near the stage became ill during **Biden's** remarks, they quickly took her outside for a health evaluation.

"It's very exciting and truly an honor for us to serve and protect the vice president," Chief Jeff Steingart said.

The Vernon Hills venue was chosen to highlight Schneider's campaign. It's in the 10th Congressional District, where Schneider – a freshman lawmaker from Deerfield – is running a tight re-election race against Republican challenger Robert Dold of Kenilworth.

Dold spent part of Wednesday making calls to potential voters at his headquarters in Libertyville, a campaign spokeswoman said. He also walked and talked with people in Buffalo Grove, Libertyville and Northbrook and did some interviews, the spokeswoman said.

## **Biden Denounces 'Cockamamie' Republican Values At Vernon Hills Rally**

By Steve Sadin

[Lake County \(IL\) News-Sun](#), October 22, 2014

Calling Republican values "cockamamie," Vice President Joe **Biden** laid out an agenda to restore the middle class and praised the efforts of Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Springfield) and Rep. Brad Schneider (D-Deerfield) in Vernon Hills Wednesday, Oct. 22.

**Biden** deplored the rising income inequality in the United States and blamed Republican ideas for the problem during an early voting rally that drew more than 800 people to the Sullivan Recreation Center, 635 Aspen Drive.

Criticizing Republican plans to turn Medicare into a voucher system and cut funding for education and other programs, **Biden** condemned the GOP's budget proposals.

More coverage and photos of **Biden's** visit.

"Show me your budget and I'll show you your values," he said, before going into attack mode. "These guys believe it. These guys mean what they say. As cockamamie as it sounds, they believe it."

Talking about his own vision for the country, **Biden** spoke of the need to give people the opportunity for a good education without creating so much debt they cannot enjoy a middle class lifestyle.

"Middle class means people should be able to send their children to a good high school so, if they do well, they can send them to college and not be in debt," **Biden** said. "No more than 10 percent of a person's disposable income should be used to repay college loans," he added, praising Schneider for his vote on the issue.

**Biden** also criticized the growing disparity between the compensation of the people at the top of the corporate world and those who work for them. He said it ran contrary not only to his party's values but also to the values Republicans once held.



"We used to have a basic bargain in this country," **Biden** said. "When the company you worked for did well you got to share. The Republicans believed that too."

When Ronald Reagan was president, **Biden** said the average CEO earned 45 times more than the company's average employee — but today, that same CEO makes on average 331 times more.

"Standard and Poor's warns if this continues it will hurt the economy," he added.

While the income gap has grown, **Biden** said it has also become harder for Americans to attain and remain in the middle class. Citing Standard and Poor's again, **Biden** said the increase in middle class wages over the last 20 years is just 14 cents in today's dollars.

Schneider echoed **Biden**'s concern for the middle class in his remarks before the vice president spoke. He talked about his hope not only for today's middle class but also for those who want to achieve that status in the future.

He also spoke of his commitment to improvements that health care reform has brought to the country.

"We can never go back to the day when a preexisting condition meant you would lose your health care," Schneider said.

While the crowd was waiting for **Biden**, Durbin, Schneider and Illinois lieutenant governor candidate Paul Vallas to arrive, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan stepped up to podium. She listed three things she liked most about Schneider: his commitment to the environment, his passion for women's rights and his manner as a public servant.

In particular, she recounted Schneider's appearance at an event she attended commemorating the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht.

"He didn't just get up for his five minutes like (so many) politicians," Madigan said. "He stayed for the entire event. When it was his turn, he spoke passionately."

## **Vice President Joe Biden Comes To Vernon Hills For Democratic Rally**

By Rick Kambic

[Lincolnshire \(IL\) Review](#), October 22, 2014

Speaking at a rally in Vernon Hills Wednesday, Oct. 22, Vice President Joe **Biden** told voters that "people's lives depend on this election."

**Biden** arrived around 4:00 p.m. at the Sullivan Center for the event supporting Rep. Brad Schneider, Sen. Dick Durbin and Paul Vallas, who is campaigning for lieutenant governor alongside incumbent Gov. Pat Quinn.

He told the nearly 1,000 people gathered at the event that his single biggest mission in office was to restore the middle class, and that Schneider, Durbin and Quinn could help in that goal.

More on **Biden**'s speech: Vice President denounces 'cockamamie' Republican values

Being middle class means owning your own house, not worrying about replacing the tires on your cars and being able to see your kids before bed, **Biden** said.

But most people are "not optimistic," he added.

He placed the blame squarely on the GOP.

"This is not your father's Republican Party," he said. "They say the same things, but they don't value the same thing in actions."

"They say college is important, but they take away the PELL grant," he continued. "27,000 college students could drop out if that grant is cut."

He also noted the increasing disparity in income in the United States.



"A top-down priority is not sustainable and will ultimately hurt even the Republicans who are pushing this," **Biden** said.

The Secret Service spent hours sweeping the Sullivan Center and its surroundings before the event, and no parking was allowed overnight last night.

We will update this story as we get more information. Follow @VernonHillsPPN, @Rick\_Kambic and @sadinsteve for live updates from the scene.

### **Vice President Joe Biden To Return To Illinois**

[Associated Press](#), October 23, 2014

ROCKFORD, Ill. (AP) — Vice President Joe **Biden** is planning a second trip to Illinois, this time to campaign for Gov. Pat Quinn, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin and Democratic U.S. House candidates.

Both Quinn's and U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos' campaigns say the vice president is expected to headline an early voting rally in Rockford Oct. 27.

The announcement follows **Biden's** planned visit Wednesday to the Chicago suburb of Vernon Hills to support Democratic U.S. Rep. Brad Schneider in his race against Republican Bob Dold.

Bustos is in a race with Republican Bobby Schilling in Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Quinn is in a tight re-election bid with GOP challenger Bruce Rauner (ROW'-nur) and Durbin faces Republican Jim Oberweis.

**Biden** is one of many big-name Democrats in Illinois in recent days.

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### **Vice President Joe Biden Campaigns In Illinois**

[WLS-TV Chicago](#), October 23, 2014

VERNON HILLS, Ill. (WLS) –

Vice President Joe **Biden** is in the Chicago area Wednesday night to help raise funds for and support area Democrats, including Senator Dick Durbin.

The vice president was over an hour late for an event in suburban Vernon Hills because he said he was being briefed on the Canadian shooting situation. Once he arrived, he was joined on stage by Senator Durbin, 10th District Congressman Brad Schneider, as well as Paul Vallas, Governor Pat Quinn's running mate.

The re-match race between Schneider and challenger Bob Dold has been closely watched nationwide. Millions of dollars are flowing in from outside the district and state. Schneider is hoping a campaign visit from Vice President **Biden** will help rally the Democratic troops.

Schneider reminded the audience that he won his last election against Dold by just 1 percent, and **Biden** reminded the audience what Dold stood for when he was in Congress.

"They say they care, yet they opposed when Brad supported cutting the interest rate debt owed by student debt, they opposed it," **Biden** said.

"Elections like these where every phone call, every door knocked, every single vote makes a difference," Schneider said.

Dold said there is a stark difference between his campaign. While Schneider brings insiders, Dold said he is being endorsed by 27 mayors in the 10th District.

"The Democrats have pulled up stakes in a lot of different races and tried to bring it back in here to try to buy their way out of this election and frankly we're not going to have it," Dold said. "I think what the



voters are looking for is that thoughtful, independent leadership, they're looking for people to work together to end the gridlock and solve problems, and that's exactly what I'm going to do."

**Biden** will be attending a fundraiser in Chicago Wednesday night at the home of David Axelrod. The vice president will be back in Illinois on Monday, when he will attend another campaign event in Rockford with Durbin and Quinn.

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## **Biden To Campaign Monday With Braley**

By Jennifer Jacobs

[Des Moines \(IA\) Register](#), October 23, 2014

Joe **Biden** will do a public rally with U.S. Senate candidate Bruce Braley on Monday.

Vice President Joe **Biden** will do a public rally with Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Bruce Braley in Davenport on Monday where he will "encourage all Iowans to vote early," Braley campaign aides say.

Details on the time and location of the event are forthcoming, a Braley campaign news release says.

**Biden** was last in Iowa a month ago.

On that visit, he didn't do a public campaign rally for Braley, who is struggling to overcome a fierce challenge from Republican Joni Ernst for Democrat Tom Harkin's open U.S. Senate seat.

Instead, **Biden** helped kick off a 10-state voter turnout tour for a liberal group called Nuns on the Bus.

Braley, a 56-year-old courtroom lawyer who has served in Congress since 2007, has recruited a number of high-profile Democrats to campaign for him in Iowa in the final stretch before the Nov. 4 election. First lady Michelle Obama has appeared twice. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is also reported to be on her way to Iowa.

— Jennifer Jacobs

## **Biden To Campaign For Braley Next Week In Iowa**

[WHO-TV Des Moines \(IA\)](#), October 22, 2014

DAVENPORT, Iowa — Vice President Joe **Biden** is coming back to Iowa next week.

Organizers say **Biden** will be in Davenport on Monday to campaign for U.S. Senate Candidate Bruce Braley. It's one of the several stops **Biden** is expected to make in the Midwest.

The event will be open to the public but the details are still being worked out.

The Vice President was just in Iowa last month. He went to the Statehouse in Des Moines to help a group called "Nuns on the Bus" kick off a tour.

## **Biden Will Be In Davenport Monday To 'Encourage All Iowans To Vote Early'**

By Jennifer Jacobs

[Des Moines \(IA\) Register](#), October 22, 2014

Vice President Joe **Biden** will do a public rally with Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Bruce Braley in Davenport on Monday where he will "encourage all Iowans to vote early," Braley campaign aides say.

Details on the time and location of the event are forthcoming, a Braley campaign news release says.

**Biden** was last in Iowa a month ago. On that visit, he didn't do a public campaign rally for Braley, who is struggling to overcome a fierce challenge from Republican Joni Ernst for Democrat Tom Harkin's open U.S. Senate seat. Instead, **Biden** helped kick off a 10-state voter turnout tour for a liberal group called "Nuns on the Bus."



Braley, a 56-year-old courtroom lawyer who has served in Congress since 2007, has recruited a number of high-profile Democrats to campaign for him in Iowa in the final stretch before the Nov. 4 election.

First lady Michelle Obama has appeared twice. (WHO-TV's Dave Price reported late last night that the White House transcript on Obama's event on Tuesday referred to Braley as a candidate for governor. Days earlier, the first lady called the congressman "Bruce Bailey" several times, and a month earlier, former President Bill Clinton also botched Braley's name during an Iowa trip.)

Obama opened her speech

in Iowa City Tuesday by acknowledging that she misspoke and saying she often mixes up her own daughters' names, as well. She urged Braley backers to vote early; Democrats need to bank a hefty cache of early votes to overcome the traditional GOP voter turnout advantage on Election Day.

One politician who has not come to Braley's aid is President Barack Obama. Fifty-two percent of Iowa likely voters think Obama's support does more to hurt Braley than help him, The Register/Bloomberg Politics Iowa Poll in early October found.

Forty-four percent of Iowa likely voters have a favorable view **Biden**, a potential 2016 presidential candidate, but 51 percent have a negative opinion of him, the poll found.

Aides in the Office of the Vice President said **Biden**, after the event with Braley, will then travel to Rockford, Illinois to headline a rally for three Illinois Democrats – Gov. Pat Quinn, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin and U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos.

Read or Share this story: <http://dmreg.co/1tL9bG9>

## Vice President Biden To Be In Davenport Next Week

By Ed Tibbets

[Waterloo and Cedar Falls \(IA\) Courier](#), October 23, 2014

DAVENPORT | Vice President Joe **Biden** will make a stop in Davenport on Monday to campaign for Democratic Senate hopeful Bruce Braley.

The details of the visit haven't been released yet, but **Biden** is making a swing through the Midwest next week. After the Davenport event, he will make a stop Monday in Rockford to rally support for Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-Ill.

The Davenport event will be open to the public, according to the vice president's office.

Braley, a Democratic congressman from Waterloo, is locked in a tight race for the open U.S. Senate seat in Iowa with Republican Joni Ernst, and the past few weeks have seen a flurry of visits from national political figures seeking to boost the respective campaigns.

## Vice President Biden To Promote Early Voting During Visit Quad Cities

By Shellie Nelson

[WQAD-TV Davenport \(IA\)](#), October 22, 2014

Vice President Joe **Biden** was scheduled to visit Davenport, Iowa on Monday, October 27, 2014.

The vice president was scheduled to attend a campaign event at which Iowans would be encouraged to vote early in advance of the November 4, 2014 General Election.

Early voting began in Iowa on September 25 and continued until November 3, 2014. For information about how and where you can vote early in Iowa, [click here](#).

Early voting began in Illinois on October 20 and continued until November 2, 2014. To find out how and where you can vote early in Illinois, [click here](#).

Related: Early voting already setting records in Scott and Rock Island counties



## VP Joe Biden Endorses Long Shot Democrat McClelland Over Rothfus

By Charlie Deitch

[Pittsburgh City Paper](#), October 22, 2014

The Erin McClelland campaign, which is trying to mount a challenge to incumbent tea-party Congressman Keith Rothfus, announced this afternoon an endorsement from Vice President Joe **Biden**.

“Erin McClelland will bring new leadership to Washington, work to create jobs, ensure equal pay for women, and expand access to affordable education,” a press release quotes **Biden** as saying. “The people of Pennsylvania are looking for a change from this reckless Republican Congress, and Erin McClelland will always put the middle class first.”

The endorsement probably won't help the McClelland campaign much: As I reported last week, the race doesn't appear to be close, even though the district was among the most competitive in the country in 2012.

What is interesting about the endorsement, though, is what it confirms about Obama's unpopularity in the district. “The McClelland people probably figure that **Biden** is a better surrogate for them in that district than the president is,” says Kyle Kondik, a Rust Belt native with the University of Virginia Center for Politics.

Still, with just about \$50,000 cash on hand compared with Rothfus' \$1 million, “Far more valuable than an endorsement [for McClelland] would be the [Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee] putting \$2 million into Pittsburgh television,” Kondik says.

The endorsement coincides with two new TV ads from team Rothfus, neither of which mention McClelland or the fact that he's running for re-election — another possible indicator Rothfus isn't expecting a strong challenge.

## Here's Exactly How Great Joe Biden's Amtrak Love Affair Is For The Planet

By Jamie Kilstein and Allison Kilkenny

[Salon](#), October 22, 2014

On Tuesday, Vice President Joe **Biden** gave a speech on commuter issues in which he revealed a mind-blowing but not unsurprising detail about his personal travel habits:

“Now, there are a lot of rumors about how many trips I've taken on Amtrak. It's estimated that I've made roughly over 8,000 round trips. 250 miles a day. Average 210 days a year for 36 years. And the last six years since being Vice President not nearly as much.”

The number is, frankly, absurdly high. And, from an sustainability standpoint, also admirable. **Biden** could have opted to drive, or take a commuter plane. But he didn't. He stayed true to his first love: Amtrak. So, we decided to do some nifty math to see how **Biden**'s romance with trains has benefitted the environment.

We chose to focus on his daily roundtrips as Delaware's senator, when he would have been making a daily roundtrip from Wilmington, Delaware, to Washington, D.C., everyday, 210 days a year. Using BeFrugal.com's travel calculator, we found that the same round trip by car would produce about 219 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions, while the plane trip would produce 314 pounds. The train trip, however, only produces 100 pounds of carbon dioxide (per capita), according to Carbonfund.org's calculator.

That means that over 8,000 round trips, **Biden** would have produced 2,512,000 pounds (1256 tons) by plane or 1,752,000 pounds (876 tons) by car, but his decision to devote his life and his heart to the



train means that he only produced 800,000 pounds (400 tons) of carbon dioxide as a result of his grueling daily commute.

In 2009, **Biden** spoke of a governmental push to implement a high-speed rail system across the country: "Investing in a high-speed rail system will lower our dependence on foreign oil and the bill for a tank of gas; loosen the congestion suffocating our highways and skyways; and significantly reduce the damage we do to our planet." Indeed, relying more heavily on trains would put a serious dent in reducing emissions.

In 2010, residents of the United States produced 35,200 pounds or 17.3 tons of carbon dioxide emissions per capita, with transportation taking up about 32 percent of total U.S. emissions. The U.S. Department of Transportation has written extensively on the benefits to commuter rails and increased public transportation. One info sheet on the topic reads:

"National averages demonstrate that public transportation produces significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions per passenger mile than private vehicles. Leading the way is heavy rail transit, such as subways and metros, which produce 76 percent less in greenhouse gas emissions per passenger mile than an average single-occupancy vehicle (SOV). Light rail systems produce 62 percent less and bus transit produces 33 percent less."

If one driver per household took public transportation instead for a daily commute of 10 miles each way, they would save 4,627 pounds of carbon dioxide per household per year, which amounts to an 8.1 percent reduction per household. So, we would all do well to follow Joe's example.

## **The Bidens Are Not Like Us**

By Michelle Malkin

[Chicago Tribune](#), October 22, 2014

Everything you need to know about Beltway nepotism, corporate cronyism and corruption can be found in the biography of Robert Hunter **Biden**.

Where are the Occupy Wall Street rabble-rousers and enemies of elitist privilege when you need them? Straining their neck muscles to look the other way.

The youngest son of Vice President Joe **Biden** made news last week after The Wall Street Journal revealed he had been booted from the Navy Reserve for cocaine use. His drug abuse was certainly no surprise to the Navy, which issued him a waiver for a previous drug offense before commissioning him as a public affairs officer at the age of 43. The Navy also bent over backward a second time with an age waiver so he could secure the cushy part-time job.

Papa **Biden** loves to tout his middle-class, "Average Joe" credentials. But rest assured, if his son had been "Hunter Smith" or "Hunter Jones" or "Hunter Brown," the Navy's extraordinary dispensations would be all but unattainable. Oh, and if he had been "Hunter Palin," The New York Times would be on its 50th front-page investigative report by now.

Despite the disgraceful ejection from our military, Hunter's Connecticut law license won't be subject to automatic review. Because, well, **Biden**.

**Biden's** bennies are not just one-offs. Skating by, flouting rules and extracting favors are the story of Hunter's life.

Hunter's first job, acquired after Joe **Biden** won his 1996 Senate re-election bid in Delaware, was with MBNA. That's the credit card conglomerate and top campaign finance donor that forked over nearly \$63,000 in bundled primary and general contributions from its employees to then Sen. **Biden**. As I've reported previously, Daddy **Biden** secured his custom-built, multimillion-dollar house in Delaware's



ritzest Chateau Country neighborhood with the help of a leading MBNA corporate executive. Average Joe went on to carry legislative water for MBNA in the Senate for years.

Hunter zoomed up to senior vice president by early 1998 and then scored a plum position in the Clinton administration's Commerce Department, specializing in "electronic commerce," before returning to MBNA three years later as a high-priced "consultant." While he collected those "consulting" (translation: nepotistic access-trading) fees, Hunter became a "founding partner" in the lobbying firm of Oldaker, **Biden** and Belair in 2002.

William Oldaker was Papa **Biden**'s former fundraiser, campaign treasurer and general counsel — a Beltway barnacle whose Democratic machine days dated back to Teddy Kennedy's 1980 presidential bid. Under Oldaker's tutelage, Hunter lobbied for drug companies, universities and other deep-pocketed clients to the tune of nearly \$4 million billed to the company by 2007.

Coincidentally, then-Illinois Sen. Barack Obama personally requested and secured cozy taxpayer-subsidized earmarks for several of Hunter's clients.

Hunter got himself appointed to multiple corporate board positions, including a directorship with Eudora Global. It's an investment firm founded by one Jeffrey Cooper, head of one of the biggest asbestos-litigation firms in the country. SimmonsCooper, based in Madison County, Ill., donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to **Biden** the Elder's various political campaigns over the past decade — all while the firm poured \$6.5 million into lobbying against a key tort-reform bill, which former Sen. **Biden** worked hard to defeat. Cooper also contributed to the Delaware attorney-general campaign of Hunter's older brother, Beau, and paid Beau for legal work on lucrative asbestos-litigation cases.

Hunter also was previously a top official at Paradigm Global Advisors, a hedge fund holding company founded with Vice President **Biden**'s brother, James, and marketed by convicted finance fraudster Allen Stanford. As Paradigm chairman, Hunter oversaw half a billion dollars of client money invested in hedge funds while remaining a lobbyist at Oldaker, **Biden** and Belair. Cooper chipped in \$2 million for the ill-fated venture, which went bust amid nasty fraud lawsuits.

Continually failing upward, Hunter snagged a seat on the board of directors of taxpayer-subsidized, stimulus-inflated Amtrak, where he pretended not to be a lobbyist but, rather, an "effective advocate" for the government railroad system serving the 1 percenters' D.C.-NYC corridor.

So, where does a coke-abusing influence peddler go after raking in gobs of Daddy-enabled dough and abusing the U.S. Navy's ill-considered generosity? Back to Cronyland! Hunter joined Ukrainian natural gas company Burisma Holdings — owned by a powerful Russian government sympathizer who fled to Russia in February — this spring. The hypocritical lobbyist-bashers at the White House deny he will be lobbying and deny any conflict of interest.

Meanwhile, Just Like You Joe was whipping up class envy in South Carolina last week.

"Corporate profits have soared," he railed, thanks to "these guys running hedge funds in New York," who are to blame for "income inequality."

You know, like his son and brother and their Beltway back-scratching patrons.

The Bidens: They're not like us.

Washington Post

Michelle Malkin is the author of "Culture of Corruption: Obama and his Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks and Cronies"

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## The Women In The World Texas Forum

[The Daily Beast](#), October 22, 2014

The Women in the World Texas Forum

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Robin Jerstad/DA Media for Women in the World

Tina Brown's live journalism event traveled to San Antonio to take on issues from honor killing to Ebola. Appearing live: Dr. Jill **Biden**, Gloria Steinem, Eva Longoria, Diane Von Furstenberg and many more. Read all the highlights [here](#).

View Photos From the Texas Women in the World Forum

Jehmu Greene, Ambassador Karen Hughes, Liz Chadderdon, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison

On moderator Mark McKinnon's right was a powerhouse of Texas politics—including Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison. The senator said she got into politics as a journalist, when her local party chairman invited her to run for an open seat in the Texas legislature. "I ran and won," she recounted. "It's so important that our experiences are brought to the table." Political consultant Liz Chadderdon lamented voter apathy. "When I sit out an election, that says I don't care," she said. "In two weeks, please go vote." Karen Hughes, a former advisor to President George W. Bush, said she became attracted to the political process after realizing as a journalist how much effect policy decisions have on people. "We need more women on every level of office," said Hughes. "Women are practical and women are problem solvers." More women in office could lead to political compromise, said Jehmu Greene, founding board member of Vote Run Lead. "We are about unleashing technology and each other as peers to encourage 500,000 women to run by 2016." Women must "not just run, but win," said Chadderdon. "And winning takes guts." What about Hillary Clinton, McKinnon asked the panel. "She was a very good senator," said Republican Hutchison. "I respect her very much. I think she's very solid, and she does have the experience." Clinton needs to remember that campaigns are about voters, not candidates, said Chadderdon. "I hope she has learned she needs to speak to her audience." On Barack Obama's presidency, Hughes urged compromise between the White House and the GOP. "We desperately need that."

Maile Molin

Most programs that teach English to adults have a major problem: they compete with the adult's work schedule, offer transportation difficulties or lack childcare. Maile Molin has tried to address that by bringing English-language classes to workplaces themselves as founder and director of English@Work.



After Molin described her program, Sandra Phillips, vice president and deputy general council of Toyota Motor Sales, took the stage. Molin has been chosen by Toyota as a Mother of Invention. “In recognition of the remarkable work you have accomplished, and the inspiring things you know you will do in the future,” Phillips said, “we are delighted to award you our Toyota Driving Solutions award in the amount of \$50,000.” Molin was thrilled—and the audience rose to its feet.

Sister Rosemary Nyirumbe and Florence Modo Arukude

Moderator Alyse Nelson, CEO of the Vital Voices Global partnership introduced her as “a saint who lives among us.” Sister Rosemary Nyirumbe is a nun of the Sacred Heart who rescues young girls from sexual slavery and rebel attacks in Uganda. That country has suffered 25 years of terror by Joseph Kony, leader of the Lord’s Resistance Army. Working at St. Monica’s Girls Tailoring Center, Sister Rosemary offers girls and young women and their babies refuge and skills training—including young women who have given birth to children of Kony. Today all of “these girls are living their lives in dignity, using needles and sewing machines,” said Sister Rosemary. “They are winners.” Florence Modo Arukude lives with Sister Rosemary. At four years old, she was struck with polio. During a rebel attack, she left her family after being unable to keep up. Today, she creates purses with the other women at St. Monica’s that are sold to support the mission. (<http://sewinghope.com/supporters>) Of the girls she helps, Sister Rosemary said, “the journey is not one day or two days. It is a long journey.”

Diane von Furstenberg

The iconic designer began her remarks with a remembrance of Oscar de la Renta, who died earlier in the week. “He was an extraordinary man, an American man who loved his Latin roots and his European training,” she said. “He had the best of everything.” Von Furstenberg is set to release her memoir, “The Woman I Wanted to Be.” And who was that? “I wanted to be a little bit of a man in a woman’s body.” She described the influence of her mother, a concentration camp survivor. “My mother said I was her flag of freedom, the child who never should have been born.” Moderator Alicia Menendez, an anchor on the Fusion network, asked about the influence of her children. “Do you have children?” “No,” answered Menendez. “Well hurry up! Every woman should have children.” Aging doesn’t intimidate her, von Furstenberg said. “I realized early on that the most important relationship you have is with yourself. You have to be your own best friend.” Her motto: “Fake it, make it, do it.”

Robi Damelin

“I discovered that I am not a victim,” Robi Damelin, international spokesperson for The Parents Circle told moderator Tina Brown in a discussion about Breaking the Cycle of Revenge. They discussed Israel, Palestine, and other places in the world where people can be trapped in generational cycles of violence and revenge. The Parents Circle is a group of 600 Israelis and Palestinians who have all lost an immediate family member in the ongoing conflict. Damelin’s son, David, was killed by a Palestinian sniper while serving in the Israeli army. “We believe our mission is to create a framework for a reconciliation process to be a part of any future agreement,” Damelin told the rapt audience.” Members of the group go to Israeli schools and Palestinian clubs to preach a message of reconciliation—and are often met with hatred from both sides. At one meeting, a girl told Damelin that her son deserved to die—only to reveal that she was coping with her own grief after a relative died in the conflict. Damelin also described how she came to meet a Palestinian woman she now travels with to share their stories. Damelin had gone to speak to Palestinians and when she arrived the crowd initially was hostile “They came to shout at me,” She said. The woman “was sitting with her back to me, more or less, which is really rather rude. And I started to ask her, ‘Who have you lost?’ And she said, ‘My son.’ And I said, ‘what was his name?’ And she told me. Suddenly, I said, ‘Do you want to see a picture of David?’ and she said, ‘Ok.’ She looked



and she said, 'Haraam,' which means what a pity. It was the first time she recognize her pain and my pain is the same pain." The Parents Circle is "not affiliated with any political party. But we are political." To those who view the cycles as unbreakable—and peace as impossible—Damelin had a message: "Maybe you have the luxury of giving up, but I do not."

Rosie Castro, Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-Texas), Dolores Huerta, and Eva Longoria

The multigenerational group of Latino powerhouses on stage embodied the topic for its panel: Latino Power on the Rise. Rosie Castro, the San Antonio political activist and mother of Rep. Castro and Julian Castro, secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Affairs exhorted the audience to take action. "Nobody's going to change it for you," she said. "You have to change it for yourself." Moderator Jan Jarboe Russell, an author and writer for Texas Monthly, asked Rep. Castro whether politics was in his blood. "We resisted it for a while," he said of his brother and himself. "We were ambivalent about it growing up. We were going to marches and campaign rallies and handing out flyers from the age three on. But we also developed a real civic conscience." Actress Eva Longoria described how she developed a passion for reforming farmworker conditions (she's producing two documentaries on the subject). Her inspiration was activist Dolores Huerta, who famously coined the phrase, "Yes We Can!" (Si se puede!). "Long before I was remotely famous, my friend David said 'come to this rally, Dolores Huerta will be there,'" Longoria recalled. "When I met her, she told me 'One day you're going to have a voice so be sure you have something to say.' So I started learning more and more about farmworkers. No one thinks about the human cost of getting a tomato from the field to your table." Huerta herself told the audience that change only happens with political power. "We know the only way we can get power is to vote." The panel heated up again around the issue of immigration reform. Huerta has supported President Obama's decision to put off immigration reform until after the mid-term elections. "We've been waiting for a decade, we can wait another few months." Rep. Castro said he was confident the president would take action after the vote, but said a long-term solution requires congressional action.

Sarah Crowe and Bishop Nathan S. Kortu

"The terrible loneliness of Ebola," intoned moderator Tina Brown as she opened the forum's panel on the disease. Sarah Crowe, chief of crisis communication for UNICEF in New York, said Ebola has "eroded every aspect of life in Liberia," a country that had just begun to recover from civil war. "It has changed the way people live, the way people die and the way mothers give birth," Crowe said. Bishop Kortu, pastor at the New Life Fellowship Church, described the challenge for communities where families have lost nearly all their members and have no professional counseling to help. The country needs ambulances, bleach, hand sanitizer, medical supplies. "What we are asking for is just basic supplies," Kortu said. "Here, we need education so Liberians are not discriminated against." Ebola "is the defining crisis of our time," Crowe said. "It's a test of our compassion and our humanity." At the end of the panel, Thomas Eric Duncan's fiancé, Louise Troh, spoke. He was the first to die of Ebola in the United States. Ebola "took my love away, my whole life is gone," Troh said. It's a whole worldwide fight."

Dr. Jill Biden

America's "second lady" urged the Women in the World audience to continue the fight against breast cancer. And she discussed the challenges faced by women in the military and military wives at home. **Biden** showed a brief film detailing the story of female marines working with women in Afghanistan. "Women service members love to serve their country," she said. "But as moms, it's hard for them to miss the milestones in their children's lives." **Biden** is a co-founder, with Michelle Obama, of Joining Forces, which supports returning service members with employment and other assistance. **Biden** returned repeatedly to the challenges of families at home. Military children attend six to nine schools before they



graduate from high school, she said. "Think of how much we are asking of our military families." And she asked the audience to help support them in turn. When her son Beau **Biden** was deployed to Iraq, granddaughter Natalie's teacher, for instance, hung a photo of her father's unit in the classroom. "And every child in the room was reminded every day that her daddy was at war."

Two military spouses took the stage after **Biden**. They described the challenges of finding work and of dealing with the military bureaucracy. "Employers see that you're a military spouse and say, 'you're only going to be here two years,'" said Janet Sanchez, founder and president of Esposas Militares Hispanas. "I'm encouraged every day," said Betty Easley, Foundation Fellow at the Elizabeth Dole Foundation.

Marie Brenner with Deeyan Khan and Xael Pamos

Journalist Marie Brenner moderated a panel on "honor" killings with documentary film makers Deeyan Khan and Xael Pamos. "They could be, amazingly enough, the girl next door," Brenner said of victims of such killings. Khan discussed her Emmy award-winning film "Banaz A Love Story," about an Iraqi girl killed by her family in London because she was seeking to leave her arranged marriage to a violent man. Banaz appealed five times to the London police. "Authorities don't want to touch [such cases] because they're afraid they'll be labeled racist," Khan said. "When you're talking about honor crimes, I don't care about those sensitivities."

Pamos discussed his documentary "Price of Honor," about the murders of Amina and Sarah Said, two sisters who were allegedly killed by their Egyptian father, Yaser Said, in Irving Texas. The case has never been solved, and the father has never been found by law-enforcement. Pamos was threatened with death as he investigated the crime.

Gloria Steinem with Eva Longoria

America's seventh largest city is the site of the latest meeting of Women in the World. First up: activist Gloria Steinem with actress Eva Longoria. The two were greeted with a standing ovation from the audience in the sold-out Empire Theatre. Now 80 (and still fabulous), Steinem recalled the roots of the feminist movement. Today "it's a majority movement, but that means there is a backlash," she said. "And nowhere is it written the backlash may not win." The two talked about reproductive freedom (with a dig at recent efforts in Texas to highly regulate abortion clinics). "To say our bodies belong to ourselves is revolutionary," Steinem said. They also discussed violence against women. "I think of these crimes as supremacy crimes," Steinem said. "There's nothing to gain but the idea of supremacy."

Tim Mak is the Senior Congressional Correspondent for The Daily Beast. He covers Congress, politics and national security. He previously reported on politics and defense at Politico and the Washington Examiner.

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An unprecedented attack shook Canada on Wednesday as at least one gunman attacked parliament and the country's war memorial in the capital, Ottawa.



A fundamentally quiet and orderly town, Ottawa was rocked by the shooting of a uniformed Canadian soldier as he stood guard over the National War Memorial, located right across the street from Parliament Hill and the prime minister's offices at Langevin Block.

It was the second attack inside Canada this week. The shootings come just two days after a 25-year-old man described by police as a "radicalized" Muslim drove his car into two Canadian soldiers in a city outside of Montreal, killing one and seriously injuring the other. Martin Couture-Rouleau, the suspect in that incident, was arrested in July while trying to travel to Turkey. Following his rampage, Couture-Rouleau was shot and killed.

Armed RCMP officers approach Parliament Hill following a shooting incident in Ottawa October 22, 2014.

[Chris Wattie/Reuters]



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On Wednesday morning, a man arrived by car, with a blanket concealing a rifle, and shot the soldier four times at the memorial, a witness told a Canadian news station.  
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The situation quickly escalated, with reports that Parliament itself was under attack and dozens of shots had been fired inside the legislature. Members of Parliament were caucusing in the building, and the building was promptly locked down. According to local Canadian press reports, a gunman wounded a security guard on Parliament Hill before he was shot by the sergeant-at-arms.  
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A Globe and Mail reporter posted on YouTube a harrowing video of shots fired during a police sweep of Parliament Hill.  
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Entire blocks of the city remained in lockdown Wednesday, though police would not say at an afternoon press conference whether they were looking for more gunmen—only that they want the city to remain alert.  
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Swarms of police, gunfire, panic—all foreign to a city known for its quaint, Commonwealth style, still air, and orderliness.  
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Earlier this month, the House of Commons voted to approve an anti-ISIS air combat role for Canada. One purported ISIS fighter from Canada praised Rouleau and encouraged others to follow suit with violence. Whether this incident is connected or not, it has been a week of violence never before seen in Canadian political history.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/terrorists-end-canada-s-innocence/jcr:content/body/text9"}, {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/pullquote", "quote": "It was the second attack inside Canada this week.

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Canada is no stranger to terrorism, having endured the kidnappings of government officials by radical domestic terrorists known as the Front de liberation du Quebec in 1970, during what was known as the October Crisis. Mass shootings are also not unprecedented, having happened at Ecole



Polytechnique in 1989 and at Dawson College in 2006.”,“id”:/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/terrorists-end-canada-s-innocence/jcr:content/body/text10”},{“resourceType”:/dailybeast2/components/text”,“textIsRich”:/true”,“text”:

But never before has an attack so brazenly targeted Canadian institutions in the nation’s capital.&nbsp;With at least one attack linked to Muslim extremism this week, and violence at the very symbols of Canadian democracy Wednesday, this is an unprecedented assault on my home country.

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Perhaps that’s the reason why security around Ottawa’s parliamentary precinct has been so haphazard, with at least four different and uncoordinated protective services roaming the area. In 2012, an internal Canadian government report called for the consolidation of these forces. Two years later: no dice.&nbsp;\\n”,”id”:/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/terrorists-end-canada-s-innocence/jcr:content/body/text\_1”},{“resourceType”:/dailybeast2/components/text”,“textIsRich”:/true”,“text”:

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There will be vigils. There will be memorials. There will be an investigation, perhaps a Royal Commission.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/terrorists-end-canada-s-innocence/jcr:content/body/text12", "resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text", "textIsRich": "true", "text":

But for now, as prominent political writer John Ivison wrote in shock at the news Wednesday morning, there is only deep pain and wondering in the nation's capital.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/terrorists-end-canada-s-innocence/jcr:content/body/text13", "resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text", "textIsRich": "true", "text":

"Canada," Ivison wrote, "has just lost her innocence."", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/terrorists-end-canada-s-innocence/jcr:content/body/text14", "resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text", "textIsRich": "true", "text":

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MEXICO CITY, Mexico—Through all the battles waged in Mexico in recent years over the shipment routes and markets for narcotics, San Miguel de Allende has remained as neutral as Switzerland in the Second World War. San Miguel, a 500-year old city nestled high in the Bajío Mountains of central Mexico, seemed to be literally above the fray, and to most of the artists and expats who inhabit it the drug violence at lower altitudes is a distant affair. The prevailing wisdom has it that narcos don't shoot up the places where they invest their money.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-

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On October 1, a black Mercedes SUV with license plates from Querétaro pulled to a stop on a cobblestone street 10 blocks from San Miguel's central plaza. Two men stepped out and entered a modest seafood restaurant called Mario's Fresh Shellfish. They were the restaurant's only customers. Mario himself waited on them. There was nothing remarkable about the appearance of either man. They ordered the house specialty of scallops in lemon and chile piquín for an appetizer, plus two bowls of shrimp soup and two orders of ceviche. The older of the two men tasted the food and told Mario, "You have no idea of the customer you have just won over.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-

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Had Mario been more attuned to the affairs of local real estate or politics in San Miguel he might have recognized the younger man in the cargo pants and Indiana Jones hat. He was Germán Goyeneche, the developer of the Otomí Equestrian Club in San Miguel, and the posh Otomí residential complex beside it on the Ignacio Allende Reservoir, two miles outside of the city. He might have known that the previous mayor of San Miguel spoke at the inauguration of the development and commended Goyeneche by name as a fighter who believed in a dream and made it a reality. He might have known that the governor of the neighboring state of Querétaro (San Miguel is in the state of Guanajuato), who is a friend of the Goyeneche family, praised the men behind Otomí as the admirable type of investors who are prepared to put money in the land and generate progress.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-

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The older man at Goyeneche's table, wearing a violet plaid button-down shirt and jeans, was Hector Beltrán Leyva, alias El Elegante, the most wanted drug-trafficker in Mexico and the head of a cartel that bears his name. He was living under the alias Alonso Rivera Muñoz as a middling real estate developer and art collector in Querétaro. As he and Goyeneche sampled the tamales that Mario served them on the house, two couples entered Mario's and opted for a table against the wall. They ordered appetizers and lemonades. Nothing seemed out of the ordinary. Beltrán Leyva, a gourmand, was savoring his tamale with its filling of roasted corn. The couples sprang from their seats with handguns drawn and ordered both men to put their heads on the table. They shouted that they were with Mexican Special Forces, and just then a team of gunmen rushed into the restaurant. "I thought it was the end," one of the cooks later told a reporter.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-

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Héctor Beltrán Leyva is the last in a line of brothers who built a drug cartel into a family dynasty. He is also known as El H, but of all his nicknames El Elegante is the most salient. Héctor's older brothers Arturo and Alfredo were men with the right temperament to preside over a multinational crime syndicate. Arturo in particular built up the organization and aligned it with the Sinaloa and Juarez cartels in the early 2000s. It was Arturo who waged war on the Zetas on their home turf and Arturo who later joined forces with the Zetas to challenge the hegemony of El Chapo Guzmán. Arturo was big, brash, impulsive, and menacing. He had all the money and power to win influence in politics and law-enforcement, but he lacked the social graces. They called Héctor El Elegante because he mixed easily with the élite of Mexico: the politicians, showbiz stars, foreign diplomats, even visiting royalty. It was a role every bit as important to the Beltrán Leyva Cartel as coordinating delivery of a load of cocaine or settling a score with violence: Héctor not only bought political influence, he built relationships with the wealthy men and women from good families to help him and his brothers turn the proceeds from their drug sales into assets and investments.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/body/text5"}, {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text", "textIsRich": "true", "text": "

In 1999, El Elegante threw a fashion benefit for more than 600 guests on the beach at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Acapulco. The fashion designer was Armando Mafud, the emcee was the famous model and television host Montserrat Oliver, the guests included an Italian baron, the French ambassador to Mexico, the owner of the Hyatt Regency Acapulco, the director of Fashion Week Mexico, and several telenovela actresses who were household names at the time in Mexico.

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Much blood has passed under the bridge since then. Arturo was shot down during a Mexican Special Forces raid on his high-rise condominium in Cuernavaca the week before Christmas 2009. The year before that Alfredo had been taken alive in a police raid on a safe house in Culiacán. Héctor assumed the day-to-day responsibilities for the family business and the challenges to his authority occurred early and often from regional strongmen who broke off to form rival organizations. No city has borne a greater share of pain from the fracturing of the Beltrán Leyva Cartel than Héctor's beloved Acapulco. The glamour of the seaside resort has long since been eclipsed by spectacular violence.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-

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A recent Mexican State Intelligence report claims that, after Alfredo's arrest and Arturo's death, Héctor made a conscious decision to lower the profile of the cartel and repair its hemorrhaging finances the way he knew best, by establishing ties with political and business elites and investing drug proceeds through them.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-

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What distinguishes Germán Goyeneche from other men who have been accused as accomplices of the Beltrán Leyva brothers is, above all, his pedigree. Men of his social stature in Mexico do not often appear on police blotters. Previous Beltrán Leyva henchmen had nicknames like El Grande or La Barbie and were stone-faced killers. El Grande was an ex-cop accused of 43 murders, a man who recruited contract killers and supervised the unloading of tons of cocaine at a time out of jet hangars in Mexico City Airport. La Barbie videotaped himself in the act of committing atrocities and mailed the evidence to The Dallas Morning News.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/body/text10"}, {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text", "textIsRich": "true", "text": "

Goyeneche practices yoga and follows the Dalai Lama on Twitter. He juices with vegetables, romances on Tinder, and shops for rustic furniture built with reclaimed materials. The Mexican subsidiary of Anheuser-Busch awarded him a certificate of recognition for planting trees in San Miguel, and he the Mexican Green Party was advancing him for positions of leadership within its ranks. Goyeneche hails from what the newspapers in his native Querétaro call an "ancestral" family; his father is reputed to be a large landowner. He studied agricultural engineering at an elite private university in Mexico, speaks fluent English and passable Portuguese, and is publicly identified as the owner of three separate real estate and construction firms.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-s/jcr:content/body/text11"}, {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text", "textIsRich": "true", "text": "

Goyeneche's reputation in San Miguel was that of a man-about-town who fashioned himself after Harrison Ford in the Indiana Jones films and even wore the hat. His Facebook profile has a photograph of Ford as Indiana Jones above a caption that reads, "The other me." Given his alter ego, it may not come as a surprise that Goyeneche is into antiquities, especially of the pre-Colombian variety. The name of his equestrian club and residential land development derives from the Otomí native people of central Mexico. Indeed, the web site for Otomí Lake & Villas advertises as a selling point that the exclusive community is "nestled in an ancient pre-Hispanic ceremonial center." The asking price for a villa ranges upwards from \$265,000.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-

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Indeed there is a pre-Hispanic ceremonial site located a scant 400 meters from the outer edge of the Otomí Lake & Villas property. It is known as La Cañada de la Virgen, and studies from the Mexican Institute of Archaeology conclude the natives constructed it as a lunar calendar to guide their activities of hunting and gathering. Ceramic pieces, metal fragments, seeds and human remains have been uncovered by archeologists at the site. This might go part of the way toward explaining why Goyeneche and his partners had to slog through paperwork with city hall for three years before finally gaining land use approval.", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/19/trading-dime-bags-for-salvador-dali-

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The Mexican Justice Department has made no details public about the art collection of Héctor Beltrán Leyva. But there are likely clues to be found in Germán Goyeneche's outspoken passion for the buying and selling of art. In May he attended the inauguration of a museum to house the works of the Ecuadorian painter Santiago Carbonell in Querétaro. Last year he purchased three paintings by the Mexican surrealist Meme Artist at the Galeria Libertad in Querétaro. One of his purchases was Music for







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Marlow Stern is an entertainment editor and writer for The Daily Beast and holds a masters degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. He has served in the editorial department of Blender magazine, and as an editor at Newsweek, Amplifier Magazine, and Manhattan Movie Magazine. "id": "/etc/authors/m/marlow-stern", "image": {"caption": "", "credits": [], "href": "", "id": "/etc/authors/m/marlow-stern/image", "placeholder": false, "sizes": {"w1\_h1\_large": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/etc/authors/m/marlow-

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"It's the end," utters a shell-shocked Tony Stark. "The end of the path I started us on." "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron/jcr:content/body/text0"}, {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text", "textIsRich": true, "text":

Yes, the trailer for Avengers: Age of Ultron, the superhero smorgasbord/roided-up sequel to 2012's \$1.5 billion-grossing Marvel's The Avengers, has leaked online ahead of its planned premiere during the Oct. 28 episode of ABC's Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. And boy, does it look promising. "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron/jcr:content/body/text1"}, {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text", "textIsRich": true, "text":

Set to a demonic version of Pinocchio's "I've Got No Strings," filmmaker Joss Whedon's highly anticipated star-studded blockbuster offers first glimpses at James Spader's hypnotically-voiced Ultron, a self-aware AI robot equipped with facets of Stark's personality who's hell-bent on saving the earth by ridding it of the human race; first looks at new villains Scarlet Witch (Elizabeth Olsen) and Quicksilver (Aaron Taylor-Johnson) demonstrating their powers; and a brief glimpse at mo-cap maestro Andy Serkis (in human form). "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron/jcr:content/body/text2"}, {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text", "textIsRich": true, "text":



“Ultron is the uber-villain; he is all the knowledge that is or ever was,” Spader told us at Comic-Con. “His ideas on how to solve the problems of humanity and the prism through which he sees the world is very, very dark—Biblical, in a way.” [“id”:/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron/jcr:content/body/text3](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/US/2014/10/22/avengers-age-of-ultron-s-kickass-trailer-leaks-features-iron-man-s-hulkbuster-armor-and-ultron/jcr:content/body/text3)”}, {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text", "textIsRich": "true", "text":

And the trailer says that the film is coming out in April 2015, instead of its planned release date of May 1, 2015.

Avengers : Age of Ultron Trailer from MikaelDorian on  
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Lloyd Grove is editor at large for The Daily Beast. He is also a frequent contributor to New York magazine and was a contributing editor for Condé Nast Portfolio. He wrote a gossip column for the New York Daily News from 2003 to 2006. Prior to that, he wrote the Reliable Source column for The Washington Post, where he spent 23 years covering politics, the media, and other subjects.\n","id":"/etc/authors/l/lloyd-grove","image":{"caption":"","credits":[],"href":"","id":"/etc/authors/l/lloyd-grove/image","placeholder":false,"sizes":{"w1\_h1\_large":"http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/etc/authors/l/lloyd-grove/image.crop.400.400.jpg/1384795496159.cached.jpg","default":"http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/etc/authors/l/lloyd-grove/image.crop.96.96.jpg/1384795496159.cached.jpg","w1\_h1\_medium":"http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/etc/authors/l/lloyd-grove/image.crop.200.200.jpg/1384795496159.cached.jpg"},"title":"GROVE\_LLOYD"},"name":"Lloyd Grove","url":"/contributors/lloyd-grove.html","userNames":{"twitter":"TheLloydGrove"},"externalAuthor":false},"body":[{"resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/text","textIsRich":"true","text":

It looks like Dr. Nancy Snyderman, the object of near-universal criticism since she violated a self-imposed 21-day quarantine last week after returning from reporting on the Ebola epidemic in Liberia, is keeping her job as NBC News's chief medical correspondent.","id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/body/text0"},"resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/text","textIsRich":"true","text":

In a staff memo released late Wednesday, NBC News President Deborah Turness praised Snyderman—who was caught waiting in her Mercedes outside a New Jersey restaurant, where another colleague was fetching a take-out meal—and indicated Dr. Nancy will be back on the case in November.","id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/body/text1"},"resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/text","textIsRich":"true","text":

Snyderman's quarantine, which New Jersey health authorities made mandatory after her lapse, was set to end at midnight Wednesday.","id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/body/text2"},"resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/text","textIsRich":"true","text":

"While in Liberia Dr. Nancy and her team delivered first class, first-hand reporting from the front lines of this tragic and monumental story," Turness wrote in her memo. "Their subsequent departure from Monrovia, their return to the U.S. and period of quarantine has been a challenging time. We have encouraged them — and they have agreed—to take some time off with their families and friends to help restore some normalcy to their lives. We very much look forward to their return next month.""id":"/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/body/text3"},"resourceType":"dailybeast2/components/text","textIsRich":"true","text":



Snyderman's initially voluntary quarantine was widely publicized by NBC after she and members of her journalistic team had worked briefly in Liberia with a freelance cameraman who became symptomatic and was diagnosed with the often-lethal virus, and then flown to the United States for treatment." , "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/body/text4"} , {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text" , "textIsRich": "true" , "text": "

But her violation—for which she obliquely apologized—was greeted by harsh criticism by commentators and viewers alike, some of whom claimed her credibility had been severely damaged and she should no longer be permitted to report on the Ebola crisis." , "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/body/text5"} , {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text" , "textIsRich": "true" , "text": "

Among her detractors was Dr. Bob Arnot, who covered medical issues for NBC before Snyderman joined the network from ABC News. While praising her willingness to put herself in harm's way, he also accused her of "grandstanding." , "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/body/text6"} , {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/pullquote" , "quote": ""By coming back and sort of grandstanding and saying, 'Look, we are self-quarantining,' they really put a target on their back." , "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/body/pullquote" , "quoteName": "pullquote" , "quotePath": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job.html"} , {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text" , "textIsRich": "true" , "text": "

"The big problem now in journalism," Arnot told CNN's Brian Stelter on Sunday's Reliable Sources media-criticism program, "is when you become the story, and this team became the story...There are thousands of people covering it, but why did they have to become the story and, sort of posturing as they put their suits on and off and...scrubbed and whatnot out in West Africa, as if they were actually treating patients. So, by coming back and sort of grandstanding and saying, 'Look, we are self-quarantining,' they really put a target on their back." , "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/body/text7"} , {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text" , "textIsRich": "true" , "text": "

Aside from Turness, among Dr. Nancy's defenders was freelance cameraman Ashoka Mukpo, who was declared Ebola-free and sent a series of pro-Snyderman tweets as he prepared to leave the hospital in Nebraska and join his family in Rhode Island." , "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/body/text8"} , {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text" , "textIsRich": "true" , "text": "

"Special shout out to Nancy Snyderman at NBC News," Mukpo tweeted. "For the record me and her were never within 3 feet of each other once. Be nice to her plz." , "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/body/text9"} , {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text" , "textIsRich": "true" , "text": "

In an interview Wednesday with NBC News's Kate Snow—excerpts were released along with Turness's memo—Mukpo expressed gratitude for his recovery and said, "I am just so fortunate to be alive." , "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/body/text10"} , {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/text" , "textIsRich": "true" , "text": "

He added: "And every breath I take, every step I take, is just a reminder of how valuable and precious life is. And you know, how important it is to make good use of it. And, you know, I think in the future I'll be much more delicate about the risks that I take." , "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-



job/jcr:content/body/text11"}], "dek": "NBC's Dr. Nancy Snyderman caused controversy when she broke her Ebola quarantine by popping out for soup. But she'll be back on air next month.", "description": "NBC's Dr. Nancy Snyderman caused controversy when she broke her Ebola quarantine by popping out for soup. But she'll be back on air next month.", "external": false, "hideByline": false, "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job", "image": {"caption": "", "credits": ["NBC NewsWire/Getty"], "href": "", "id": "/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/image", "placeholder": false, "sizes": {"w8\_h5\_large": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/image.crop.800.500.jpg/1414023304708.cached.jpg", "w4\_h3\_medium": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/image.crop.300.225.jpg/1414023304708.cached.jpg", "w5\_h6\_large": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/square.crop.490.600.jpg/1414023304708.cached.jpg", "decorate\_stream.wide": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/image.crop.960.640.jpg/1414023304708.cached.jpg", "w3\_h2\_medium": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/image.crop.300.200.jpg/1414023304708.cached.jpg", "default": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/image.crop.410.273.jpg/1414023304708.cached.jpg", "thumbnail": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/image.crop.60.60.jpg/1414023304708.cached.jpg", "w3\_h2\_large": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/image.crop.600.400.jpg/1414023304708.cached.jpg", "w4\_h3\_large\_nocrop": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/image.img.800.jpg/1414023304708.cached.jpg", "w3\_h5\_large": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/tall.crop.360.600.jpg/1414023304708.cached.jpg", "w4\_h3\_large": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/image.crop.800.600.jpg/1414023304708.cached.jpg", "w1\_h2\_large": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/tall.crop.300.600.jpg/1414023304708.cached.jpg", "w16\_h9\_medium": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/jumbotron.crop.400.225.jpg/1414023304708.cached.jpg", "w1\_h1\_medium": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/square.crop.250.250.jpg/1414023304708.cached.jpg", "w2\_h1\_large": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/jumbotron.crop.1200.600.jpg/1414023304708.cached.jpg", "w3\_h2\_small": "http://cdn.thedailybeast.com/content/dailybeast/articles/2014/10/22/nbc-s-soup-loving-dr-nancy-keeps-her-job/jcr:content/image.crop.174.116.jpg/1414023304708.cached.jpg"}, "title": "141022-grove-nancy-tease"}, "longTitle": "NBC's Soup-Loving Dr. Nancy Keeps Her Job", "modifiedDate": 1414023299580, "publicationDate": 1414023300000, "rubric": "Doctor, Doctor", "section": {"resourceType": "dailybeast2/components/pages/wrap", "external": false, "hideByline": false



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## Powerful Voices And Inspiration At Women In The World Texas

By Alexa Garcia

[San Antonio Current](#), October 23, 2014

Author and feminist activist Gloria Steinem, left, speaks with actress Eva Longoria in the program segment, "The Face of Feminism" during the Women In The World Texas Forum, presented by Tina Brown Live Media, Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2014, at the Charline McCombs Empire Theatre in San Antonio, Texas. (Robin Jerstad/DA Media for Women in the World)

Being in the Alamo City, we know their names well: Eva Longoria. Rosie Castro. Joaquin Castro. But when they're all on stage together, alongside Dolores Huerta, who co-founded United Farm Workers with Cesar Chavez, talking about the power of the Latino voice in American politics and policymaking, it's hard not to want to jump up and go vote immediately.

The four participated in one of several panels at Tina Brown's Women in the World Texas event at the Charline McCombs Empire Theatre, which featured superstars like Dr. Jill **Biden** and Gloria Steinem as well as international and local activists, journalists, and advocates working tirelessly to uplift the voices, stories, and experiences of women around the world. Topics covered throughout the day ranged from politics to feminism to honor killings to challenges military families face to cruelty against women and girls in Africa to the Ebola crisis in Liberia.

Huerta, whose organization fought for higher wages, health care, and fair working conditions for California's agricultural farmers, said that what most people overlook about UFW's work is the group's voter registration and outreach efforts that ultimately led to the policy changes.



“A lot of the work that we did was register people to vote, we went back and got them out to vote ... they’re the ones who passed the laws in California,” she said. “The political work is what made the difference in California, and it can make the difference in Texas, New York, and other states.”

According to Mi Familia Vota, there are more than 4.3 million Latino citizen of voting age in Texas and just under 3 million are registered, making up 23 percent of Texas’ registered voters.

Rosie Castro, one of the founders of La Raza Unida political party, community activist and mother to San Antonio’s Julián and Joaquin Castro, remembers life for Latinos in San Antonio as being “atrocious” when she was young. She also remembers an 80 percent high school dropout rate among Latinos and poor infrastructure on the east, west and south sides of San Antonio. At 23, she founded La Raza Unida, the nation’s first Latino political party and ran for local office.

“Something had to be done,” she said. “There were a lot of young people, like there are today, that said ‘enough is enough.’”

Longoria, actress, philanthropist, producer and activist who rose to national political prominence after serving as national co-chair of President Barack Obama’s reelection campaign in 2012, remembers meeting Huerta for the first time more than 10 years ago. Huerta, who Longoria considers her personal hero, shared with Longoria the plight of farm workers in California at a local rally where both appeared on stage.

“She goes, ‘ya know, you’re an actor?’” Longoria recalled on stage. ““One day you’re going to have a voice, so be sure you have something to say.”

Castro, Longoria, and Huerta are also participating in a Get Out the Vote rally for Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, the Democratic candidate for Texas lieutenant governor.

Along with this panel, Deeyah Khan, a filmmaker and founder of Fuuse, shared the stage with Xoel Pamos, executive producer of the documentary The Price of Honor to discuss their work documenting stories of young women killed by their families in so-called “honor” killings. Betty Easley with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation and Janet Sanchez of Esposas Militares Hispanas USA, shared their work with military wives and spouses, and Robi Damelin with Parents Circle-Families Forum told her profound story of losing her son to a Palestinian sniper.

## **Famous Females Gather In SA For Women In The World Texas Conference**

[KSAT-TV San Antonio](#), October 22, 2014

SAN ANTONIO – The Second Lady of the United States, a fashion icon, a famous feminist and well-known actress were among America’s leading ladies who took center stage at the Charline McCombs Empire Theater for the Women in the World Texas event.

“Texas has built a long legacy of bold, feisty women who don’t take no for an answer,” said the events founder and creator, Tina Brown, an award-winning journalist and editor-in-chief of The Daily Beast.

Among the famous faces that graced the stage were political and social activist Gloria Steinem, fashion icon Diane von Furstenberg and actress Eva Longoria.

Various speakers during the forum also highlighted the achievements of women from around the world who have made a significant impact in their community despite substantial obstacles.

The Second Lady of the United States, Dr. Jill **Biden**, delivered the keynote speech. She began her address urging women to continue their efforts to raise awareness of breast cancer.

“I’m asking all of you here today to continue dedicating your time and your heart to combating this disease,” said **Biden**.



She focused the majority of her speech on the sacrifices women make, especially those in the armed forces and military spouses.

“What I’ve learned along the way is that no matter the situation, there are exceptional individuals who step up to the challenge who go above and beyond and make an even bigger difference in their community,” she said.

Included in the political heavy hitters of the event was former Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, who spoke about the impact of the female gender in politics and the importance of the female perspective.

“I brought forward some issues that men weren’t against, they just hadn’t thought about,” said Hutchison. “I think that’s a value you want, especially in your legislative bodies.”

When asked about her thoughts on the gubernatorial race between Wendy Davis and Greg Abbott, Hutchison said she is glad to see a female candidate in the running, but hopes voters will base their decision on the issues most important to them, not on gender.

The event featured a panel on the growing influence of the Latina voice in America, which Rep. Joaquin Castro.

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## **Obama, Biden Press Secretaries Bet On World Series**

[USA Today](#), October 22, 2014

The World Series is generating a little contest between White House press secretaries.

Josh Earnest, spokesman for President Obama and backer of the Kansas City Royals, has a wager with Kendra Barkoff, press secretary to Vice President **Biden** and fan of the San Francisco Giants.

The stakes are smallish: The losing press secretary takes a selfie wearing the winning team’s cap.

Tweets Earnest: “Hey @VP: your presssec says @SFGiants will win #WorldSeries. If so I’ll wear SF cap in selfie w her. If not she wears @Royals cap. It’s on!”

Earnest hails from Kansas City, Barkoff from the Bay Area.

So far, it’s looking good for Barkoff and the Giants: San Francisco beat Kansas City on Tuesday night in game one of the best-four-of-seven series, on KC’s home field.

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## **NEW YORK TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST OP-EDS**

### **The Fed At The Crossroads**

[New York Times](#), October 23, 2014

Barring unexpected bad economic news in the next several days, the Federal Reserve will finish its bond-buying program at the end of this month. In all, the program has pumped \$3.5 trillion into the economy since 2008, helping to revive financial markets and stabilize the economy.

Now comes the hard part.

In its effort to wean the economy off of extraordinary monetary support, the Fed’s next task is to decide when to raise interest rates from their prolonged ultralow levels.

Technically, the decision is straightforward. It is appropriate to raise rates when the economy shows signs of overheating, as measured by inflation in wages and prices. Currently, there are no such signs. Wages have long stagnated, even for college-educated workers. As for prices, the Fed’s preferred annual inflation measure was recently 1.5 percent, well below its 2 percent target.

Politically, however, the decision is fraught. The Fed is not supposed to be swayed by elected officials or special interests. But bond holders — a powerful political constituency that includes financial



firms, investment funds and wealthy individuals — generally want the Fed to raise rates sooner rather than later, and they have ample opportunity to dominate public discourse. Their aim is to pre-emptively attack inflation, which diminishes the value of their bonds.

But it is not the Fed's job to protect investors' bond portfolios. Its job is to foster both stable inflation and full employment. With the American economy still operating below par, low interest rates would pose an inflation threat only after they had succeeded in spurring credit, strong growth and robust employment. Since those results have not yet been achieved, there is no inflationary pressure and no reason to raise rates in the near term.

In fact, inflation has been so low for so long that the economy would not be in danger of overheating even if there were a period of inflation above the 2 percent target. That target is an average that the Fed would like to maintain over time, not a level that necessarily signals the need for a rate increase.

Similarly, wages can rise at a rate well above inflation without pushing up prices. That's because wage increases do not even begin to pose an inflation threat until they exceed the rate of inflation plus the rate of labor-productivity growth, roughly 3.5 percent currently.

Fed officials have indicated that they plan to start raising rates in mid-2015. They have stuck to that timetable, even as wage-and-price increases have failed to materialize. That policy consistency is understandable on one level: With many months to go before it has to either raise rates or admit that the economy is too weak to warrant an increase, the Fed rightly wants to project optimism.

It is crucial, however, for the Fed to keep rates low as long as inflation is in check. If rates are raised too soon, growth would be slowed before pay raises and adequate credit are restored to workers and consumers.

If that happens, the Fed effort to rescue the economy would, in the end, only further entrench inequality.

## **A Verdict On Blackwater**

[New York Times](#), October 23, 2014

It took far too long, but four former gunslingers with the Blackwater Worldwide security firm have at last been held accountable for the killing of 17 Iraqi civilians in Nisour Square in Baghdad in September 2007. It was one of the darkest episodes of America's long war.

The verdict on Wednesday brings a measure of justice for the innocent victims and their families and offers some assurance that private contractors will not be allowed to operate with impunity in war zones. What it does not do is solve the problem of an American government that is still too dependent on private firms to supplement its military forces during overseas conflicts and is still unable to manage them effectively.

The Federal District Court in Washington found one defendant, Nicholas Slatten, guilty of murder and three others — Dustin Heard, Evan Liberty and Paul Slough — guilty of manslaughter and weapons charges. The men said they were ambushed by insurgents and that the civilian deaths were the unintended results of urban warfare. The jury concluded that the killings, which occurred when the contractors fired into the crowd using machine guns and grenade launchers, were criminal. One former Blackwater colleague told the court he saw "people completely unarmed, people doing nothing wrong, get shot."

The killings inflamed tensions with Iraqis, who had good reason to doubt that anyone would be punished. The State Department, which used Blackwater to guard its diplomats, gave the contractors



limited immunity at one point and there was evidence it gathered shell casings after the shooting to try to protect the firm, which has since been sold and renamed.

Seven months after the killings, the department even renewed the Blackwater contract. The case was bogged down in legal battles for years. A judge threw out the charges in 2009, but the case was reinstated on appeal.

The problem goes far beyond the four men who were convicted. Over more than a decade in Iraq and Afghanistan, and in the Balkans before that, contractors accounted for 50 percent or more of the American military force, according to a 2013 report by the Congressional Research Service. Many played noncombat support roles (transportation, construction, intelligence-gathering), but thousands were used to protect convoys, diplomats and others. The security guards, in particular, operated with no real legal accountability and were often viewed as reckless.

As the Nisour Square incident and the abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison showed, contractors who feel they are outside of the law damage American credibility and strategic goals, cost billions of dollars in waste and fraud and create more anti-American insurgents.

Following the Blackwater debacle, there has been a sensible international response to the problem. More than 600 private security contractors have pledged to abide by a code of conduct that in theory should encourage more professional, ethical behavior.

In the meantime, the Pentagon and the State Department, under pressure from Congress, have improved their use and oversight of contractors but not nearly enough. The C.R.S. report said defense officials expect it will take at least until 2018 to put in place fully a better system of managing contractors on the battlefield. That date should certainly be moved up.

Although there had been talk of reducing reliance on private contractors, they seem likely to continue to play a central role in new American military missions. With the Blackwater verdict, the United States must fully commit itself to making sure that modern-day mercenaries are strictly managed and held accountable for their actions.

## **The Times Recommends Re-electing Eric Schneiderman And Thomas DiNapoli**

[New York Times](#), October 23, 2014

The attorney general and the comptroller of New York State are two of the most powerful officials in the state. The incumbents in those offices — Eric Schneiderman, the attorney general of New York, and Thomas DiNapoli, the state comptroller — have exercised their powers in ways that have benefited the public, and both deserve re-election.

ATTORNEY GENERAL Mr. Schneiderman has done much in his four years as attorney general to hold the banks, financial institutions and the mortgage industry accountable for reckless actions that contributed to the financial crisis. He was a national leader in securing an estimated \$60 billion in settlements designed to help homeowners caught in the 2008 meltdown.

As attorney general he has pioneered efforts to stem the prescription drug epidemic by establishing a real-time database of prescriptions to stop patients from doctor shopping. He reached an accord with virtually all gun-show operators in the state to require background checks for all sales at gun shows. He has acted against employers who cheat workers by refusing to comply with wage and overtime laws. Over all, he has used the broad authorities of his office to advance public safety and to protect consumers and the environment.

His Republican challenger, John Cahill, was an aide to Gov. George Pataki and a respected environmental conservation commissioner for the state. Mr. Cahill, however, has not presented a



coherent and compelling agenda for how he would use the office and its more than 650 attorneys. He opposes the sensible gun safety package that Gov. Andrew Cuomo pushed through last year. He has not shown that he would be more effective than Mr. Schneiderman in going after abuses on Wall Street.

COMPTROLLER Mr. DiNapoli's job is to analyze and report on the state's \$140 billion budget, ferret out government fraud and oversee investments by the state's \$177 billion public pension fund, the nation's third largest. In 2007, Mr. DiNapoli replaced Alan Hevesi, the former comptroller who went to prison for participating in a pay-to-play scheme involving the state pension fund.

Partly as a result of that scandal, Mr. DiNapoli has worked hard to require more disclosure on these investments, ban interim "placement agents" or lobbyists and control investment fees. While New York still has an outdated system that makes the comptroller the sole trustee of the huge pension fund, Mr. DiNapoli has added stronger internal controls and an advisory committee of financial experts.

Robert Antonacci, Mr. DiNapoli's Republican opponent, is comptroller of Onondaga County. He is the first statewide candidate to test a pilot program for public financing that started this year. The program provides a \$6-to-\$1 match for contributions of \$175 or less, once a candidate has raised \$200,000 in small donations. (The program only covers the comptroller race and only this year.) So far, Mr. Antonacci says he has found it hard to raise the \$200,000. Still, he says that he would not have entered the race had it not been for the possibility of receiving some public money.

Mr. DiNapoli chose not to sign up for the program, arguing that it was started too late to meet his needs for this year's election. He should help persuade lawmakers to pass a public financing system for competitive races in all state offices.

New Yorkers would be well-served to keep Eric Schneiderman as attorney general and Thomas DiNapoli as comptroller.

## **Women's Issues Dominate 2014 Campaigns**

By Gail Collins

[New York Times](#), October 23, 2014

Women are big this election season. No group is more courted. It's great! The issues are important. Plus, we all enjoy the occasional pander.

Candidates are re-interpreting their old arguments in a new, woman-centric way. In Michigan, the Democratic Senate candidate defines his opponent's opposition to Obamacare as a plan to "cut women's access to ... mammograms." In Kentucky, Republican Mitch McConnell has female surrogates claiming that his opponent, Alison Grimes, is trying to convince women that they "can't graduate from college without raising your taxes." This appears to be an oblique reference to Grimes's call for reduced rates on student loans.

The College Republican National Committee has been investing heavily in online ads aimed at fans of the TV show "Say Yes to the Dress," in which the dresses are named after gubernatorial candidates. If you are in, say, Florida, you'll see a happy young woman trying on wedding gowns, twirling around and announcing that "The Rick Scott is perfect," while her irritating mother demands that she take the Charlie Crist dress, even though it's unflattering and costs more money. As a writer in Jezebel noted, it seems to have been made by people who felt the best way to communicate with female voters is "to explain things in terms of bridal wear."

In Colorado, some commentators have given Democrat Mark Udall the nickname "Mark Uterus" because Udall has run so hard on women's reproductive rights. It is definitely true that Udall has devoted a prodigious amount of ad-time to the fact that his opponent, Representative Cory Gardner, is a longtime



supporter of the personhood movement, which declares all fertilized eggs are human beings. Voters find this idea so unnerving that a personhood amendment to the Constitution was soundly defeated in Mississippi. As well as Colorado, twice. Where it is on the ballot in November, yet again.

Gardner said he had changed his mind about the state constitutional amendment after it was overwhelmingly rejected in 2010 and he suddenly realized that it would have an effect on contraceptives. He is still a co-sponsor of a federal personhood bill, which he claims is merely “a statement that I support life.” Personally, I can see why Udall might feel that this matter deserves more inquiry.

To rise to the level of hard-core pandering, a candidate has to float free of issues and waft into the ether of personal feelings. Consider Michigan, where Terri Lynn Land, the Republican candidate for Senate, has been running as a person who’s been victimized for being a mother.

The issue here is that Land has developed a tendency to deflect questions by mentioning that she’s a parent. Local columnists have begun to make jokes about it, and there were suggestions that the mom-mentions might make a good drinking game. A spokesperson for Land’s opponent, Gary Peters, said that being a mom was a good thing, but a strange point to bring up when the issue at hand was, say, ISIS.

“Well, I’m a mom, and I tell you, moms look at things from their perspective,” said Land in a comment that her staff mass-mailed under the headline “ ‘Well, I’m a Mom,’ Terri Lynn Land Fires Back.” Soon, prominent female Republicans were dropping hints that Michelle Obama might want to intervene on behalf of motherhood.

What do you think? How much mom-mentioning is too much? Here in New York, we have a candidate for Congress who’s running under the slogan “Doctor. Mother. Neighbor.” Does that sound a little ... vague?

One thing we know: male candidates who get in trouble over issues of sexism are not allowed to get out of it by marshaling all the women in their family to pose for a campaign ad. Really, that’s just one step short of dragging your wife into the press conference where you announce you’re resigning due to those sexting charges.

We are thinking here about Representative Steve Southerland, a Florida Republican who sent out invitations to a male-only campaign event that suggested his guests “tell the misses not to wait up” because “the after dinner whiskey and cigars will be smooth & the issues to discuss are many.”

Southerland is running against Democrat Gwen Graham, and doing such a swell job of it that in a year that House Republicans are expecting a big sweep, he’s in trouble. Possibly more endangered than the guy in Staten Island who was indicted for perjury and tax fraud shortly after threatening to throw a TV reporter over a Capitol balcony.

When The Tampa Bay Times asked him about the male-only event, Southerland laughed and said: “I live with five women. That’s all I’m saying. I live with five women. Listen: Has Gwen Graham ever been to a lingerie shower? Ask her. And how many men were there?”

Now he’s up with a new ad in which he stands surrounded by his sister, mother, daughters and his wife, who announces: “Steve’s heart is in the right place.”

## **Yan Lianke On Writing In China**

By Yan Lianke

[New York Times](#), October 23, 2014

BEIJING — China’s efforts to promote socialism in the late 1950s and early 1960s resulted in what is euphemistically known as the three years of natural disasters, during which more than 30 million people starved to death. One evening when I was a young boy, not long after the catastrophe, I followed my



mother as she went to dump garbage outside the wall that surrounded our village, a poor and isolated town in central China.

Holding my hand, my mother pointed to the white clay and yellow earth of the wall, and said, "Son, you must always remember, when people are starving to death they may eat this white clay and elm tree bark, but if they try to eat that yellow earth or the bark of any other kind of tree they will die even faster."

Mother went back inside our house to cook and left behind a long shadow. I stood in front of the edible clay gazing out at the sunset, the village and the fields, and an enormous sheet of darkness gradually approached.

From that point on, I developed a keen appreciation for the somber side of our existence. I came to understand that darkness is not the mere absence of light, but rather it is life itself. Darkness is the Chinese people's fate.

Today's China is no longer the China of my childhood. It has become rich and powerful, and because it has solved the basic problem of providing 1.3 billion people with food, clothing and some spending money, it has come to resemble a bright ray of light that illuminates the East. But beneath this light lies a long shadow.

When I look at contemporary China, I see a nation that is thriving yet distorted, developing yet mutated. I see corruption, absurdity, disorder and chaos. Every day, something occurs that lies outside ordinary reason and logic. A system of morality and a respect for humanity that was developed over several millennia is unraveling.

Life is gloomy and depressing. Everyone is waiting for something dreadful to happen. This uneasy and fearful expectation has produced a collective sense of anxiety.

No one can tell us where the nation's speeding locomotive of economic development will end up. No one can tell us what price should be paid for human feelings, human nature and human dignity, now that money and power have replaced socialism and capitalism. What is the price for abandoning the ideals of democracy, freedom, law and morality?

More than a decade ago, I went several times to visit an AIDS village in my home province of Henan. The village had close to 800 residents and more than 200 were infected with H.I.V. The majority were workers between the ages of 30 and 45 who had become infected because, in the pursuit of wealth and a better life, they had gone in groups to sell their blood and became infected in the process. Death was as frequent and inevitable as the setting sun. It became so dark it seemed as though the sun had disappeared permanently.

China may boast of having several thousand years of civilization, but when an old man collapses in the street, everyone refrains from helping him out for fear of being implicated, even as the old man bleeds warm, red blood. What kind of society do we live in when a pregnant woman dies on the delivery table and all of the medical technicians flee in order to avoid responsibility, leaving behind a tiny soul uttering a feeble cry?

It is a writer's job to find life within this darkness.

I am reminded of Job, in the Old Testament, who after experiencing countless misfortunes said to his wife as she was urging him to curse God, "Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" This simple response demonstrates that Job understood that his suffering was merely God's way of testing him, and was evidence that darkness and light must exist together.

I don't pretend that I have been uniquely selected by God, as Job was, to endure suffering, but I do know that I am somehow fated to perceive darkness. From these shadows I lift my pen to write. I search for love, goodness and a perpetually beating heart.



At a symposium last week, President Xi Jinping met with a group of artists, including the Nobel Laureate Mo Yan, and talked about the value of art in China. According to the official China Youth Online, he said, “For art workers to be successful, they must breathe together with the people, share their fate and feel their feelings, rejoice at their joy, grieve at their grief, and serve the people like a willing ox.”

But only the pursuit of true art, unencumbered by anyone, can help us find the delicate light, beauty, warmth and love that are hidden in the darkness.

Yan Lianke is a novelist whose most recently translated work is “Lenin’s Kisses.” This article was adapted from his acceptance speech for the 2014 Franz Kafka Prize. It was translated from the Chinese by Carlos Rojas.

## **The Battle For Gay Rights In Rural America**

By Silas House

[New York Times](#), October 23, 2014

BEREA, Ky. — I WAS raised amid the coal fields of eastern Kentucky, but I was always drawn to nearby Berea. The hamlet, tucked into the lush green hills on the western side of the Appalachians, has a long legacy of equality and free inquiry — among other things, it’s home to Berea College, the first integrated and coeducational college in the South.

There are lots of folks like me in Berea, who came here for its professed openness and diversity. But we had a rude shock last week, when the City Council voted 5 to 3 against an ordinance to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

The vote illuminates a new reality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans. The equality divide we face is no longer between red and blue states, but between urban and rural America. Even as we celebrate victories like this month’s Supreme Court order on same-sex marriage, the real front in the battle for equality remains the small towns that dot America’s landscape.

Until a decade or so ago, few gay people would have considered moving to Kentucky; as recently as 1992 consensual sex between two people of the same gender was a criminal offense punishable by law. But Louisville and other cities have since attracted a sizable gay population and a new generation of leaders who are more open and progressive in their social views.

But step outside the cities and the picture changes, just as in most states. Kentucky is one of 29 states where it is perfectly legal to refuse service to anyone even perceived as being gay or transgender, and protections vary locally. Once we enter small towns we can be kicked out of restaurants, refused places to rent or fired from our jobs just because of who we are.

Kentucky’s equality activists, under the banner of the Fairness Campaign, have worked hard to spread those patches of acceptance beyond the big cities; in recent years they have won local ordinances in seven jurisdictions, including the tiny town of Vicco, population 334. Yet Vicco remains the exception instead of the rule.

The measure should have easily passed in Berea. After all, the town was founded by abolitionists, it boasts ethnic diversity and a strong environmental movement, and the town of about 14,000 souls includes Union Church, which flies a rainbow flag and preaches a Christ-centered version of social justice.

Yet our group, Bereans for Fairness, had to work for three years to drum up support for the ordinance. We marched on City Hall by the hundreds, held large rallies and wrote dozens of letters to the local paper.



The opposition was mostly two large church congregations. At council meetings, they wore shirts embossed with “Vote No to Favoritism,” an ironic phrase, since religious groups are specifically protected from discrimination on state law books. Sometimes the protesters held signs that read “Against Fairness.” During the public hearing, anti-fairness folks uttered words like “sick” and “abomination” when the topics of transgender people and gay marriage arose.

Their disinformation campaign paid off. One council member said he voted against the ordinance because it would allow transgender people to “be one gender until there is a line at the men’s restroom, then another whenever it is convenient.” Another said she had never witnessed any kind of discrimination here.

Small American towns like Berea are not teeming with the mean, ignorant people that many urban dwellers have come to expect. Instead, these are places where, I’ve learned, the loudest and most powerful are in constant fear of change, of difference, of losing votes, while the many rural Americans with more inclusive values tend to be quieted as the perceived minority.

I am very proud of where I live, but I can’t deny the unsettling fact that fundamentalism, so often driven by economic despair and religious fervor, has helped to foster a suspicion of “the other” among many rural Americans.

Homophobia and racism are not unique to rural America; I have seen them in New York and Chicago, in sudden, violent spurts. Of course, cities also offer the opportunity to surround ourselves with like-minded people in a way that small towns do not. And intolerance pervades rural thinking in a different way, mostly brought about by constant preaching in the small white churches lining country roads, a dogma that is often welcomed into the public schools and takes up residence beneath the skin of the people. Rural homophobia can be quiet, but steady. It is a slow assault on the spirit sanctioned by states that refuse to enact legislation offering everyone equal protection.

The more the issue of gay rights makes progress nationally, the more fear is stirred up in the bellies of small towns. Too many preachers and politicians, refusing to trust their constituents or congregants to come to their own conclusions, feed on that fear, creating an endless cycle.

Unfortunately, this alarm and misunderstanding pervade even a town like Berea. It was named after a town in the Bible. Acts 17 tells us the people of Berea were more open-minded than others, always studying the Scripture to try to better understand its complexities and discovering the right path.

I believe that many people in this little town — including the three council members who proudly cast a Yes vote — are intent on following that path to justice. But for now, Berea has become representative of countless small communities that like to talk about freedom for all but are falling behind the rest of the country in ensuring it.

Silas House is the author, most recently, of the novel “Same Sun Here,” with Neela Vaswani.

## **The Ben Bradlee Who Hired Me — Finally**

By Ted Gup

[New York Times](#), October 23, 2014

I first met Ben Bradlee in the winter of 1969. I was a 19-year-old kid from Canton, Ohio, who had never taken a course in journalism, never published an article, rarely read the newspaper and had little notion of what I would do with my life. Yet somehow as a Brandeis sophomore I had made my way to be a finalist for the Washington Post internship. It must have been my essay. And there I was sitting at Ben Bradlee’s right hand in a Boston restaurant surrounded by other finalists, all of whom went to Harvard, were working on The Crimson, and had dazzling credentials. By the time lunch was over, I was sure I



was no longer in the running. But as I got up to leave, Ben placed his hand on my arm and asked me if I had a few minutes to talk. A half-hour passed. He asked me what I thought of the Vietnam War. I remember telling him I was torn. He seemed pleased by my confusion. We talked about writing. I honestly don't remember what else we talked about except that when we parted I knew what I wanted to do — I wanted to work for him. (Mind you, that was two years before Watergate.)

A couple of months later, I received a letter from Ben dated March 6, 1970. It began: "Dear Ted: You got nosed out in the finals of the toughest competition we have ever had... You are really a year premature and your lack of previous experience in journalism was a tough hurdle for us to overcome. I was particularly sorry about you, because I was attracted by your love of writing, and your attitude generally. I hunch that you have a hell of a future in this business, and I hereby urge you to reapply again and again. I enjoyed my time with you enormously. Keep up your interest in this business. You will make it. Sincerely, Ben Bradlee"

That was all the encouragement I needed. Four years later my father died and I went to Ben and asked him if he had any advice for me. He first told me that I made him uncomfortable — I was wearing a three-piece suit. Take off your vest, he said in that gravelly voice. "You make me nervous." He asked me where I might want to work. Somewhere near my family, I said. He got on the phone and called the editor of The Akron Beacon Journal and said he had someone sitting across from him who he thought might make a good reporter. And so I got my foot in the door of journalism.

For several years thereafter I would send him my better stories and he would send back comments — just a line or two of encouragement, always signed "Ben Bradlee."

"Ted, Keep going; you're doing fine, Best, Ben Bradlee," read one of his notes.

On Feb. 10, 1976, he wrote "I'll reactive your name and if this bloody strike ever ends, maybe things will change. All the best, Ben Bradlee." (The contentious strike pitted pressmen against management and was then already in its fifth month and far from resolved.) That summer he made a call on my behalf to The Virginian-Pilot and helped me get an internship there. By now I had come to look upon him as a kind of gruff guardian angel.

Finally in the summer of 1977, between my second and third years of law school, I was given my shot at The Post as an intern — more than seven years after my initial try. I guess Ben figured anyone this relentless might make a persistent reporter. A year later I joined The Post as a staffer. I had my moments and my stories, but was never one of The Post's true heavyweights. But Ben never stopped watching over me — or the rest of us.

I remember one afternoon I was called into his office along with another reporter and two senior editors. A Republican senator had gone to Ben's house in the middle of the night, Ben said, alleging that the candidate Ronald Reagan had a number of gay staffers. The question was raised whether we should pursue it as a story. A senior editor weighed in, referring to "queers." Ben interrupted him. "We do not use that term," he scolded. In 1980 there were not so many in the newsroom who would have objected. We pursued the story, confirmed the obvious — that there were gays on the candidate's staff (as there are doubtless on most staffs) but with Ben's support, chose not to run it, concluding that it was a nonstory.

I also remember another senior editor disparaging a story I had worked on for months. Ben knew I was upset about the editor's comments and even considering resigning. Ben never mentioned the editor or his comments; he just came over to me at the end of the day, put his arm around my shoulder and asked me if I needed a lift home. I (foolishly) declined, but the gesture was enough to restore my confidence that I was at the right place.



In 1980 a series I co-authored was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. I remember going into Ben's office and giving him a copy of the rejection letter he had sent me a decade earlier with a note appended, saying thanks for giving me a shot. I think we all felt that way about Ben. It was personal. Sure, we were ambitious. Sure, we owed it to the paper and the country and all those other grand principles. But honestly, I think a lot of us felt like we owed it to Ben. His faith in us was a debt we did not take lightly.

I remember writing a story about President Jimmy Carter that a Times reporter took issue with and called Ben for comment. I was on the line as well. The reporter told Ben The Times would blow a hole through The Post's story. Ben's response: Sounds like a great story, can't wait to read it. (A part of me feels guilty even writing this for The Times — do forgive me, Ben.) I remember only too well the Janet Cooke episode in which The Post was forced to return a Pulitzer Prize after it was learned the story had been a fabrication. It anguished us all, but none more than Ben. I also remember that a series I co-authored that same year drew tremendous fire and that though The Post's defensive shield was weakened, Ben did not flinch.

I left The Post in 1987, but continued to write for it nearly every year thereafter. In 2011, I sent Ben a copy of a book I had written and wrote an inscription to him that said how much I admired him, that he had changed the course of my life, and that there was no man, save my own father, whom I respected more. A few months later I was visiting The Post and found myself alone with Ben in the elevator. He told me he had received my book and had read the inscription. "You know," he said, "After I read it, I walked around all day with my chest puffed out." You think Ben Bradlee needed Ted Gup? And yet, there it was. He knew the power of a few right words, a gesture, a smile. I remember after a story I did I felt his hand patting my back. Didn't say a word. I also remember thinking I wouldn't have traded that for any kind of raise.

I saw him only twice after that, once in 2012 on the 40th anniversary of the Watergate break-in, and once at a 2013 tribute for a departing Donald Graham. But by then, the Ben I knew — that we knew — was largely gone, a victim of dementia.

Last night, reading of his death, I called a friend from The Post and we comforted each other, and shared our memories of Ben, profane and inspired, steely-edged and sweet-centered. For us, working for Ben had been the privilege of a lifetime. I for one often imagined Ben as a kind of journalistic King Arthur and we, his Knights of the Round Table. He was not only my gruff guardian angel, but the nation's as well. He will be missed.

Ted Gup is a Boston-based journalist, professor and the author, most recently, of "A Secret Gift."

### **Retweet If You're Grieving – NYTimes.com**

[New York Times](#), October 22, 2014

"Rest in peace. That three-word phrase, expressing a sincere hope that the dead will find peace in the afterlife, is a fitting inscription for a tombstone," writes Bella Mackie for The Guardian. It is now also "a very popular hashtag on social media."

The occasion for Ms. Mackie's column is the death this week of Lynda Bellingham, a popular English actress. Fans, family members and public figures took to Twitter and other social media to express their grief and pay their respects. Many, Ms. Mackie writes, relied on the hashtag #RIPLyndaBellingham. "Often it's used on its own, without any further comment on a person's life, and is widely seen as an acceptable tribute," Ms. Mackie remarks. "The problem is that the one-size-fits-all epitaph surely does little justice to the dead."



Ms. Mackie isn't the first person to question the etiquette and meaning of mourning online. A Tumblr created in 2013 by Fast Company's Jason Feifer called *Selfies at Funerals* attracted heavy criticism — is everyone a narcissist? — before finding some defenders. Scott Simon, the host of NPR's *Weekend Edition Saturday*, tweeted his mother's last days in the hospital to his 1.3 million followers, to mixed but mostly appreciative reviews. When Robin Williams committed suicide last August, people tweeted everything from their favorite clips of the comedian to the actor's *New York Times* obituary.

To start with, what happens to our social media accounts when we die? Depending on the wishes of the next of kin, Facebook either deactivates the account or converts an individual's page into a memorial site. Jonathan Strickland writes for *How Stuff Works* that a memorialized page deletes addresses and contact information and prevents the individual's name from appearing as a potential invitee for events. That status helps avoid some unpleasant scenarios that Stephanie Buck documents in an article for *Mashable*, like when friends don't know that a person has died and continue to post on someone's profile. ("Have a good time on your birthday, Cheryl. You only live once," read one such uninformed post after a woman's death from cancer.)

Some companies don't have explicit policies for how to handle a user's death, so Mr. Strickland mentions a few services that can help prepare family with instructions for what to do. These include *Legacy Locker*, a company that allows you to designate how you would like your digital assets handled, and even lets you compose letters to loved ones to be distributed after your death. Another service, *My Wonderful Life*, offers those services as well as the opportunity to design your own funeral or write your own obituary. (Gregory S. McNeal observes for *Forbes* that leaving such matters unattended to can result in a lawsuit.)

That still leaves the question of how we should actually behave when mourning online. Mr. Feifer's "*Selfies at Funerals*" provoked real opprobrium: The *Huffington Post* posted an article entitled "*Funeral Selfies Are the Latest Evidence Apocalypse Can't Come Soon Enough*."

But Christina Chaey at *Fast Company* is more even-keeled. She wonders, "should our thoughts on the dying remain a private affair?" Or "is it fair to bring others into our own, deeply personal experiences with death through very public mediums?" Katy Waldman at *Slate* asks, "Is it somehow more tasteful, even nobler, to keep grief private?"

Ms. Waldman allows that the tone of social media — true loss mixed in with memes — can feel off. "Perhaps it's the ephemerality of online mourning that trivializes it — the word limits mocking death's enormity. (Boil down your feelings about grandma into 140 characters; leave room for a clever hashtag!) Social media platforms favor a tone of snark and irony, not earnestness, which can make plaintive expressions of grief hard to parse."

Ms. Waldman is ultimately permissive of this contradiction. "Of course, this makes our online interactions pretty much the same as our offline ones: a stream of true and false statements mixed together, adding up to a social self that is sort of us and sort of not."

People who sympathize with online mourners point out that, in many cultures, grief is a public, communal process. Increasingly, Facebook and Twitter are our public square. Elijah Wolfson and Sabrina Bachai write for *Newsweek*, "since everything else happens on Facebook, why wouldn't it be the place where people go to mourn?" Mr. Wolfson and Ms. Bachai, like many others, reference Elizabeth Kübler-Ross's five stages of grief; in our modern era, the first stage, of denial and isolation, is changed, and perhaps by the existence of social media. "Maybe that's a good thing," they write.

Meghan O'Rourke, who wrote a book about mourning her mother, responded to both Scott Simon's live-tweeting at his mother's bedside and to criticism of the compulsion to respond to Robin Williams's



death. Like Mr. Wolfson and Ms. Bachai, she argues that mourning on social media is a response to how detached our modern lives have become from death. “The extraordinary response to Simon’s tweets,” she writes for *The New Yorker*, “suggests a hunger on the part of Americans for a way to integrate death and mourning into our lives.”

The medium is also, in some ways, uniquely suited to the moment. “Watching someone die brings us powerfully in touch with how brief — yet intense — each life here is. The tweets, which felt almost aphoristic (a mere hundred and forty characters each), underscored one of the strangest things about being with someone at the end of her life: the surreality of time, the way that time bends and distorts, becomes material.”

That doesn’t mean mourning online is without its pitfalls. Mr. Wolfson and Ms. Bachai recognize “the danger that new technologies might foster denial and make it harder to let go.” And the ease of retweeting someone else’s pithy remembrance shouldn’t allow us to get lazy. “If the Internet allows us all to participate in collective mourning, then it should also demand that we do so more creatively,” writes Ms. Mackie. But as Ms. Waldman concludes, the desire to share your feelings with your community, whether momentary or deeply felt, is essentially human: “I believe that’s called grieving.”

## **How To Defeat Ebola**

By Nicholas Kristof

[New York Times](#), October 23, 2014

An alarming new symptom of Ebola in America: It seems to make brains mushy and hearts hard.

In New Jersey, two students from Rwanda, which has had no Ebola cases and is 2,800 miles from the affected countries in West Africa, are being kept home. Navarro College in Texas rejected applicants from Nigeria, initially stating that it would not accept students from countries with Ebola cases — a bit problematic because that would mean no longer accepting Americans.

The former executive director of the South Carolina Republican Party, Todd Kincannon, suggested (perhaps satirically) one way to control the disease: All people who tested positive for the Ebola virus could be “humanely put down.”

Many Republicans and some Democrats have been calling for a ban on flights from the Ebola-affected West African countries. A Reuters poll indicated that almost three-quarters of Americans favored such a ban on flights.

It’s a superficially attractive idea, but also a reflection of our mixed-up notions of how to protect ourselves. The truth is that Ebola is both less serious and far more serious than we think.

It’s less serious here because, in the end, the United States and other countries with advanced health systems can suppress Ebola outbreaks. Granted, the Dallas hospital bungled its response. Still, if Nigeria and Senegal can manage Ebola successfully, so can the United States. We won’t have an epidemic here.

Yet Ebola is more serious because there is a significant risk that it will become endemic in West Africa and spin off to other countries in the region or to India, Bangladesh or China. Ebola in India would be a catastrophe.

Oxfam rightly warns that more resources are needed to prevent Ebola from becoming the “definitive humanitarian disaster of our generation.” And if the virus lingers or spreads among poor countries, it will periodically travel to America. In a globalized world, Ebola anywhere is a threat to people everywhere.

There are also security risks. Aum Shinrikyo, a Japanese terrorist group, tried to collect Ebola samples in Congo in 1992 for bioterror weapons but failed. Today, it would be easy to collect the virus,



and a few suicide operatives could deliberately contract Ebola and then travel to the United States to spread the virus. (However, if the aim is mass murder, it would be simpler and probably more effective just to set off bombs.)

In any case, the point is that global health is not just a warm and fuzzy kind of aid. It's also self-interest. It's also national security. The best way to protect ourselves is to eradicate Ebola at its source.

A flight ban would hamper that effort by making it more difficult to get health workers and supplies to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Dr. Peter Piot, who helped identify Ebola in 1976, tells me that flight bans would be counterproductive because they would "make aid really more difficult and expensive."

Likewise, Dr. Paul Farmer, founder of Partners in Health, tells me bluntly: "A ban would be worse than ineffective, and would certainly hamper the efforts of groups like ours — and worsen the epidemic."

Even airport screenings may be a feel-good distraction. An editorial in BMJ, a medical journal, noted that Canada used questionnaires and thermal scanners to screen hundreds of thousands of people for SARS, spent \$15 million, and didn't find a single case. The editorial suggests that airport screening "will have no meaningful effect" and that resources would be better used fighting Ebola in West Africa.

For all the fuss about our own borders, not nearly enough is being done where it counts most: in West Africa. Bravo to President Obama for pledging up to 4,000 troops to fight the disease there, but the United States and other countries must do far more — and quickly! — if Ebola is to be defeated.

The number of Ebola cases is still doubling every two to four weeks, and these countries can't defeat the outbreak on their own. Liberia is said to have only 50 practicing doctors, according to Reuters, and there appears to be more Liberian doctors practicing in the United States than in Liberia. That brain drain means that Liberia, in effect, is providing medical foreign aid to the United States.

These are lovely countries with friendly people and some heroic health workers, but roads, electricity and other infrastructure are desperately weak. All Liberia can produce less than one-third as much electricity as the Dallas Cowboys football stadium consumes at peak times.

That's why the American military's help in West Africa is crucial, and why it's a disgrace that less than half of a Sept. 16 United Nations target for Ebola response funds has been raised.

Our values and interests coincide here. So let's calm down and get to work protecting America from Ebola by stopping this disaster at its source.

### **Azerbaijan's Increasingly Intolerant Regime**

By Gunay Ismayilova And Samir Kazimli

[New York Times](#), October 23, 2014

BAKU, Azerbaijan — As human rights defenders, we must report that our own situation in Azerbaijan has been deteriorating fast.

Two years ago, human rights groups across Europe worried that holding the Eurovision Song Contest in our country would only prop up Azerbaijan's increasingly intolerant regime. Now their fears have been confirmed. Just in the past year, we have seen a cascading series of arrests of human rights defenders on trumped-up charges.

So imagine our dismay on hearing about Europe's latest approach to our country: The Council of Europe itself is holding a conference this Saturday and Sunday in Baku, on how to implement the European Convention on Human Rights. Those attending reportedly will include Judge Dean Spielmann, the president of the European Court of Human Rights, the very institution that is supposed to be the bulwark of our cause in Europe.



It would be humorous were it not so tragic.

There is only one reason for the choice of venue: It's Azerbaijan's turn, according to its place in the alphabet, to hold the chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers. By all other measures, the decision makes no sense at all.

Many leaders of the already limited number of independent nongovernmental organizations here are now in prison, most of them on sham charges of "illegal entrepreneurship," abuse of power, state treason and tax evasion.

Our European visitors probably won't get to see the 58-year-old human rights defender (and founding director of the Peace and Democracy Institute in Baku) Leyla Yunus. She was arrested on July 30 on charges of treason and other counts her lawyers say are fraudulent. Or her husband, Arif Yunus, 59, who was arrested six days later. On Sept. 23, according to the lawyers, Ms. Yunus was beaten by a guard at the Kurdakhany detention center, where she is being held.

The Europeans probably won't visit Intigam Aliyev, either; he is a lawyer and human rights defender who was detained and charged on Aug. 8. There are serious concerns about the health of both Ms. Yunus and Mr. Aliyev, and indications that neither is receiving the medical attention they require.

Nor will the Europeans meet Rasul Jafarov, a young pro-democracy activist arrested on Aug. 2. He was about to kick off a "Sports for Rights" campaign protesting plans to hold the first-ever European Games in Baku in 2015, an event that has support from the international corporations BP, P&G, Tissot and others.

Journalists have also been systematically targeted. Last month, a criminal case was opened against the investigative journalist and corruption fighter Khadija Ismayilova (no relationship to the co-author of this article), after she spoke in Strasbourg, France, at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. She is now at risk of joining almost a dozen other journalists and bloggers who are already in prison.

Then there is Anar Mammadli, the recipient of the Council of Europe's Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize. Sadly, our friend, who was honored just last month for his work on monitoring elections and other democratic rights, is currently serving a five-and-a-half-year prison sentence, handed down in May.

All in all, Azerbaijan seems a particularly strange place to discuss the business of how better to implement human rights.

A string of recent European Court judgments has taken Azerbaijan to task for a long list of serious rights abuses, including police torture and brutality, detention of political opponents, imprisonment of journalists, interference in elections and refusal to register legitimate civil society groups.

Rather than uphold the principles of the European Convention on Human Rights, Azerbaijan has continued to use the law as a political club to silence critics. As in many countries whose economies run on oil revenues, Azerbaijan's corrupt ruling elite has no interest in implementing the rule of law, which would lead to its inevitable fall from power.

In our view, it is a travesty that the Council of Europe is sponsoring a conference about human rights in Azerbaijan. The event will only be used cynically by the state-controlled media to add legitimacy to the current government, which tramples the rights that the Council of Europe seeks to defend.

And still, the diplomats and European judges are planning to come.

Gunay Ismayilova works with the Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety, and Samir Kazimli with the Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center.



## Turkey's New Kurdish Problem

By Mustafa Akyol

[New York Times](#), October 23, 2014

Istanbul — “Nations do behave wisely once they have exhausted all other alternatives,” the Israeli diplomat Abba Eban once quipped. The Turkish government finally seems to be doing so in Kobani, the northern Syrian city besieged by the Islamic State — after trying everything else. Turkey is now helping Kobani’s defenders after standing, literally, on the sidelines for weeks as a battle raged just across the border.

As Kobani was encircled by Islamic State forces, despite air strikes by the United States and its allies, Turkey, a NATO ally, had tanks positioned only a few miles away. Why, many wondered, did Turkey do nothing to help the secular Kurdish fighters defend themselves against brutal religious fanatics?

Things looked more complicated from Turkey’s perspective though. Kobani’s defense is spearheaded by the Democratic Union Party, or P.Y.D., a Syrian Kurdish party that shares the ideology of the Kurdistan Workers Party, or P.K.K., a group that both Turkey and the United States define as a terrorist organization. The organization’s 30-year war with Turkey has claimed 40,000 lives.

Therefore, for many Turks, the battle was not between heroic Kurdish fighters and bloody terrorists; it was between two different types of terrorists. Turkey’s president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, made this clear when he stated repeatedly that the Islamic State is “the same” as the P.K.K. and P.Y.D.

It would be unfair to depict Turkey’s stance as categorically “anti-Kurdish.” After all, it is the same Turkey that recently welcomed 180,000 refugees from Kobani, most of them Kurds, in addition to the 1.5 million Syrians who have already found a safe haven in Turkey.

Turkey also helped the Iraqi Kurds by secretly giving them weapons to use against the Islamic State, as Massoud Barzani, the president of the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq, recently declared. When it came to Kobani, Turkey’s problem was not that the city was dominated by Kurds, but by a specific Kurdish party affiliated with the P.K.K. — Ankara’s longstanding nemesis.

Nevertheless, Mr. Erdogan should have been more amenable to helping Kobani’s fighters. After all, it was under his own leadership that the Turkish government initiated a commendable “peace process” with the P.K.K. about two years ago. Since then, guns have been mostly silent and hopes have increased for a permanent resolution of Turkey’s festering Kurdish problem.

But the process has been sluggish — partly due to the lack of trust on both sides. Mr. Erdogan is acting as if he wants to keep the peace process as a bargaining chip to help achieve his own political goals, such as drafting a new constitution that grants him even more power. Meanwhile, the P.K.K. has repeatedly threatened to renew its armed struggle and is employing small-scale violence, such as arson and vandalism.

Kobani could have been an opportunity to help overcome these troubles, had the government used more empathetic language and taken the key step of allowing Kurdish fighters from Iraq to pass through Turkey to come to Kobani’s aid a month ago. Instead, the government’s language of indifference and its policy of inaction enraged Turkey’s own Kurds. Some of them organized violent protests, during which some bystanders were killed by protesters simply because they had long beards and looked like Islamists.

This wanton violence by pro-P.K.K. militants deserves condemnation. At the same time, Turkey’s stance toward Syria’s Kurds needs an overhaul. First, Turkey should remind itself that despite the



militancy of the P.K.K., the Kurds are still the best ally for Ankara at a time when both of its southern neighbors, Syria and Iraq, are dissolving in chaos.

Second, Turkey's government should also realize that while the brutal regime of Bashar al-Assad may indeed be the core trouble in Syria, the Islamic State is not a mere "symptom" of the Assad regime; it is now a deadly disease in itself, with a growing potential to hurt and destabilize Turkey.

Mr. Erdogan and Turkey's prime minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, should also strive to preserve Turkey's own internal peace by reconciling its tense society, which is now bitterly divided along political, ethnic and sectarian lines. They can do this only by using a language of moderation and empathy, tolerating criticism and peaceful protest, and offering fair and transparent governance.

Unfortunately though, the government's response to Turkey's polarization is to flex its muscles, which is counterproductive. After the recent protests, the government proposed legal reforms that would give it sweeping powers to crack down on dissent.

If the law passes, it will be easier for the police to wiretap and search suspects, and lawyers will have limited access to the evidence against their clients. The authorities will also be able to seize money and property if they find that "crimes against the government" have been committed. Many fear that these broad definitions could be used to criminalize political opposition.

The underlying problem is that the government sees all opposition to its rule as a well-crafted conspiracy to topple it and bring back the much-demonized "old Turkey." Ironically, the main problem with that "old Turkey" was the same conspiratorial mindset, which resulted in the exact same manifestations of authoritarianism.

For a truly "new" Turkey, which will not be a part of the chaos in the Middle East but a cure to it, the government must move on with the "peace process" with the P.K.K. and fully realize its rapprochement with the Kurds. But it also needs to begin a new peace process with the opposition groups at home, which it has been demonizing as traitors and enemies within.

Mustafa Akyol is a columnist and the author of "Islam Without Extremes: A Muslim Case for Liberty."

## **Military Success Has Bred Popular Support For The Islamic State**

[Washington Post](#), October 23, 2014

WESTERN LEADERS sometimes suggest that the Islamic State is its own worst enemy, so extreme in doctrine and practice that it will galvanize opposition within the Islamic world. While that is proving true to some extent — Muslim governments, senior clerics and even other jihadist groups have joined the fight against the would-be caliphate — the sobering truth is that the Islamic State also has picked up popular support and the allegiance of other militants in countries as far away as Algeria and Pakistan.

The spread of the group's medieval doctrine and tactics, such as beheading, is a product of its military successes in Iraq and Syria and its skill at social media, which bypasses the more traditional and restricted channels of communication in Arab autocracies. The contagion shows that the reversal of the group's momentum is crucial not just to the future of Iraq and its neighbors but also to the broader battle against Islamic extremism around the world.

Predictably, groups swearing allegiance to the Islamic State have appeared first in areas where state authority has broken down. Affiliates have declared themselves in at least two Libyan cities, and an Algerian cell swore allegiance to Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi before beheading a French hostage last month. The chief spokesman for the Pakistani Taliban and five of its commanders declared allegiance last week, shifting their fealty from the somewhat more moderate Afghan Taliban leadership of Mullah Omar.



In Egypt, the Sinai-based Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis group has beheaded at least nine captives since August, according to a report in the Los Angeles Times, and a commander boasted to a Reuters reporter that the Egyptian group had online contacts with the Islamic State. Even the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group in the Philippines has attempted to trade on the Islamic State aura; it released a statement last month threatening to kill two German hostages unless Germany withdrew from the U.S.-led coalition against the extremists.

Even more disturbing are signs that the Islamic State has the sympathy of many noncombatants in the region. In the Lebanese port of Tripoli, a longtime stronghold of radical Sunni groups, murals of the group's black flags are painted on buildings in the center of the city, according to the Wall Street Journal. In Turkey, pro-Islamic State students at Istanbul University have triggered a series of fights on campus, according to the Associated Press. In Jordan, a recent poll showed that only 62 percent of respondents considered the Islamic State terrorist, according to David Schenker of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Such popular sentiment explains why leaders such as Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan have been reluctant participants in the anti-Islamic State coalition.

The Obama administration has recognized the danger of the Islamic State's appeal and has pushed for political steps to combat it, such as public statements by clerical authorities. Ultimately, however, the group's pull will likely be governed by the maxim once formulated by Osama bin Laden: "When people see a strong horse and a weak horse, by nature, they will like the strong horse." Islamic extremism won't be defeated by military might alone. But to many in the Islamic world, the Islamic State now looks strong. The only way to reverse its influence is through its military defeat, sooner rather than later.

## **The Post's Endorsements For Montgomery County House And Senate Elections**

By Editorial Board

[Washington Post](#), October 22, 2014

MONTGOMERY AND Prince George's counties have contributed heavily to what has become one-party Democratic rule in Annapolis: Not a single Republican state delegate or senator represents either of Maryland's two biggest counties. That's not healthy for those localities or for the state. Unfortunately, it's also self-perpetuating: GOP candidates have been so marginalized that few have the money, political base and basic familiarity with state government to mount a credible campaign for office.

We make our endorsements in Maryland legislative races this year mindful of the imbalance in the State House and frustrated at the scarcity of credible Republican candidates. We do not offer endorsements in every district; rather, we've focused our attention on races where there is a choice between or among credible candidates. The names of candidates we've endorsed in Montgomery's races appear below in bold type; our picks in Prince George's will appear in the coming days.

(Identify your legislative district and current representatives by entering your address at [-mdelect.net](#). See a sample ballot in your district for the Nov. 4 elections by entering your name, date of birth and Zip code at [wapo.st/mdprimary](#) .

District 14: In the Senate race, Republican Frank Howard, a first-time candidate, has run a vigorous campaign while incumbent Democrat Karen S. Montgomery appears to be inert; her Web site has not been updated recently. Ms. Montgomery, who has served in the legislature since 2002 and was elected to the Senate in 2010, has been a marginal player in Annapolis, though she has been an advocate for seniors. Mr. Howard, a businessman, wants to repeal some of the legislature's recent tax increases but is appropriately focused on using gas tax revenues to improve roads in a district that ranges from Silver Spring along the county's eastern border.



In the House, three capable Democratic incumbents merit reelection in this district: Anne R. Kaiser, Eric G. Luedtke and Craig J. Zucker. Mr. Luedtke and Mr. Zucker are promising freshmen who haven't yet made a major mark in Annapolis. Still, they are preferable to any of the three Republicans, who are well-meaning but very lightly versed in the issues and whose experience with state and local issues is scant.

District 15: Inveterate gadfly Robin Ficker, author of numerous anti-tax ballot questions, is the Republican candidate in the Senate, while his son Flynn is running for delegate. The two Fickers, who say they have knocked on 60,000 doors in the sprawling upcounty district over the past 18 months, strike a moderate stance on taxes. They say they would not seek the repeal of existing levies but would try to divert funds to adding road and light rail capacity in the Interstate 270 corridor. Republican Ed Edmundson, a first-time candidate for delegate, strikes similarly moderate positions.

However, they are up against formidable incumbents who deserve reelection: Brian J. Feldman, the incumbent senator, is former chair of the Montgomery House delegation. Appointed to the Senate seat in 2013, he has been a leader in advocating for Montgomery's biotechnology corridor. In the House, Kathleen M. Dumais has been a smart and effective member of the Judiciary Committee, while Aruna Miller gained a spot on the powerful Ways and Means Committee in her first term. David Fraser-Hidalgo, who was appointed to Feldman's seat, made a good start in the 2013-2014 session and is one of the legislature's few Latinos.

District 16: In this competitive race for the House of Delegates, we endorse incumbent Democrat Bill Frick and two challengers, Democrat Marc Korman and Republican Rose Li.

Mr. Frick is a rising star in the legislature, a budget expert who has contributed on a range of issues. Mr. Korman, a lawyer, product of Montgomery County schools and party activist who has worked on Capitol Hill, has the makings of a productive legislator, especially on issues pertaining to Metro and transportation generally. Ms. Li, with degrees from the University of Chicago and Princeton University, is an impressive fresh face, the founder and manager of a small business involved in scientific writing and conferences. Ms. Li believes Montgomery County is not getting its fair share of state funds for school construction and other purposes, and she argues that a win by a moderate Republican like herself would inspire the Democratic delegation to fight harder with its leadership on behalf of local constituents.

District 19: Democratic incumbent delegates Benjamin F. Kramer and Bonnie L. Cullison make a strong team and deserve reelection. Maricé Morales, the third Democrat on the ballot, a young attorney and former House of Delegates staffer, is the person to join them. The lone Republican running in this three-seat district is Martha Schaerr, who doesn't talk about her past work to overturn the state's marriage-equality law in 2011 and 2012. Nor does she mention her 2007 push to include in the county's sex education curriculum the erroneous information that homosexuality is a "choice."

District 20: Of the three Democrats for delegate on the ballot in this district centered on Takoma Park, we endorsed just one, Sheila E. Hixson, a veteran incumbent, in the primary. In the general election we also endorse Democrat Will Smith and Green Party candidate Dan Robinson. Mr. Smith, a bright young lawyer, has served in the Department of Homeland Security and as an officer in the Navy Reserve, in addition to his extensive involvement in county affairs. Mr. Robinson, a thoughtful, experienced former Takoma Park city councilor and local businessman, advocates greater municipal control of resources currently allocated by the county.



## Ben Bradlee's Relentless Presumption Turned My Life Around

By Rachel Jones

[Washington Post](#), October 22, 2014

In early December of 1982, I was a 21-year-old recent college drop-back-in student at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, trying to play catch-up after taking a few years off the college track. For an English 101 class, I had written an essay about black English arguing that, while I embraced black slang as part of my identity, it was important for black Americans to master standard English if they wanted to succeed. The class lecturer thought the essay was so good that I should try to get it published somewhere.

One possible target was Newsweek magazine, which I'd at least thumbed through regularly since childhood (and which was then owned by The Washington Post). I'd always read the "My Turn" columns, because most had very strong, clearly articulated themes, and I liked the way the writers expressed their opinions, especially the humorous ones. I rewrote my classroom essay in a more conversational style and mailed it to Newsweek on a Friday afternoon. The following Tuesday, someone from Newsweek called and said they wanted to use my essay. A week later, I was being interviewed on radio stations across the country. Soon there were summer internship offers from the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and the Chicago Tribune. Even the dean of Yale's Business School wrote to say that he thought I had the type of mind they were looking for and that I should consider applying one day.

Then came a letter from one Benjamin Crowninshield Bradlee, who died yesterday, asking me to accept a Washington Post internship during the summer of 1983.

I don't mention these things to brag about how incredibly talented I was in my youth. Actually what I thought, reading Bradlee's letter, was, "Here he goes again," taking a chance on another unknown and potentially risky young black female employee. Just the previous year, he'd been dazzled (well, really bamboozled) by Janet Cooke, whose creative skill, embellished personal history and fraudulent storytelling ended in one of the most embarrassing chapters in the Post's distinguished history. Obviously I wasn't lying about anything, nor was I a sophisticated, ambitious operator like Cooke was. I was just a meek, introverted young woman (intimidated and anxious under the spotlight that essay had shined on me) who'd heeded her mother's advice and used her brain to try to escape poverty and early pregnancy. But the willingness of so many people to take a chance both surprised me and made me think, for the first time, that maybe I did belong in journalism.

I wound up accepting the New York Times internship in 1983 instead of going to The Post. I can remember the fear as I wrote an apology letter to Ben Bradlee, trying to explain my path and thanking him for his generous offer. He wrote back. And he said, "That's okay. We'll get you next time."

There is a magic that is potent beyond human understanding when someone in a position of power extends himself or herself on your behalf, based on nothing more than a belief in your potential.

Well, the New York Times internship was less than stellar, because interns were still considered glorified copy boys and girls. We couldn't have bylines even if they had accepted our story ideas. By the end of the summer of 1983, I was so uninspired by journalism that I parked in an upstairs bedroom at my parents' house in Cairo, Ill., and vowed not to emerge until I had produced the next Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. One day, my mother shouted up the steps that there was a phone call for me from Washington. When I answered, the voice on the other end growled, "So, you tried the New York Times. Now you need to come work for us next year."



What was this guy's DEAL??? I mean, didn't Bradlee have enough to worry about at The Post without chasing down a black female two-time college dropout who wasn't really sure she wanted to be a journalist in the first place? I had never even reapplied for the Post.

But Bradlee wanted me to come to The Post because he was a powerful, privileged white male superhero of American journalism, and he could do whatever he damn well wanted to do — including tracking me down at my home and refusing to take no for an answer. Even though I was flattered, I was also baffled by his presumption. But he didn't care what people thought about him, and he definitely wasn't going to let the New York Times beat him at anything if he could help it.

And here he was asking me to accept an internship at The Post. Again! I can't remember what I stammered in reply, but he got his way. He probably always got his way. And thank goodness.

I first entered The Post newsroom in June 1984 as a scared-out-of-my-mind intern. Sharing an elevator with Katharine Graham one morning almost gave me a stroke. When Donald Graham leaned over my desk to ask how things were going, I'm pretty sure I just stared at him like a startled calf. Lunchtime Brown Bag sessions with Bob Woodward feel like a dream. ... I still can't believe that summer happened to me.

The intern Class of 1984 contained stellar prospects such as Pulitzer Prize winners Dana Priest and Sari Horwitz; future Hollywood hotshot Paul Attanasio, who executive-produced "House, M.D."; and future multimedia design consultant extraordinaire Ron Reason, who became one of my closest friends.

The moment I knew I would commit to journalism occurred in Ben Bradlee's office that summer. There I sat, hands folded in my lap to keep them from trembling. On a shelf above his right shoulder sat a picture of John F. Kennedy. I was in the office of a legend who had been friends with a legend, and he was advising me on my journalism career. He said I probably wouldn't be ready for a job at The Post when the internship ended, but he promised to connect me with some of his contacts at the newspaper in Fredricksburg, Va., where he thought I should work for a few years to build my skills.

There is a magic that is potent beyond human understanding when someone in a position of power extends himself or herself on your behalf, based on nothing more than a belief in your potential. It lights a fire that would take a hurricane to extinguish. I've faced a few tropical depressions through the years, mind you, but I have never stopped believing in my talent as a writer. Truthfully, it was another moment of astonishing presumption — the idea that he could direct the course of my career just because he was a master of the universe accustomed to having people take his suggestions. But he was right, and by taking the time to act as my personal career counselor, Ben Bradlee sealed my fate. I'm grateful for it every day.

News of his passing hits me hard, especially after reading about writer Rebecca Carroll, whose recent New Republic essay ("I'm a Black Journalist. I'm Quitting Because I'm Tired of Newsroom Racism") gave me some PTSD flashbacks. It reminded me why I have never been able to watch a full episode of the HBO series "The Newsroom," because it feels like I'm watching a parallel universe where people like me simply do not exist and wouldn't be welcome even if they did. But, most importantly, as far as I know, it doesn't contain a single character who is like what I remember about Benjamin Crowninshield Bradlee, whose ancestors came over on the Mayflower and who was a legend before most of the people in American newsrooms today were even born and who every now and then went out of his way to think, We have GOT to make an effort to include voices besides our own in this goddamned newspaper.

So as I spend my days in a foreign news bureau editing Voice of America scripts from young South Sudanese journalists whose first language isn't English but who risk their lives every second to report the



news during their country's latest civil war, I'll remember how Ben Bradlee defined white privilege — and what a difference it made in my life. I believe that he knew what a fantastic hand life had dealt him by being born white, male, rich and charming, and that he saw the value of learning from people who weren't as privileged. And I will keep praying that one day, American newsrooms will finally reflect the world as it really is.

This piece is adapted from Rachel Jones's post on LinkedIn.

## **Raises Right Around The Corner?**

By Catherine Rampell

[Washington Post](#), October 22, 2014

Inflation-adjusted hourly earnings fell in September, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. As I mentioned in my column yesterday, though, some recent survey data suggest that both employers and consumers believe we're right on the verge of long-awaited raises. Here are the data points I was referring to.

The preliminary October data from the Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan Survey of Consumers found that 54 percent of Americans believe their household income will rise in the next year. That's the highest share since September 2008 (the month Lehman went bust). The median expected income increase reported by all households was 1.1 percent, the same as it was in September; the last time it was higher was November 2008.

The National Federation of Independent Business showed that small- and medium-size businesses are also anticipating their compensation costs to rise in the coming three months. The net share expecting compensation costs to rise (that is, the percent saying they expected worker compensation to rise minus the percent saying they expected it to fall) was 15 percent in September. The last time it was higher was October 2007.

This prediction may reflect the fact that businesses report they are having trouble finding qualified applicants for their available job openings (which should force employers to offer higher wages to the few qualified applicants out there):

Of course, survey predictions are often wrong. And there's lots of debate about the underlying causes of wage stagnation in recent years. But if businesses have already accepted that their compensation costs are going to rise soon, managers might be more amenable if and when workers start requesting raises.

## **IBM's Big Blues**

By Harold Meyerson

[Washington Post](#), October 22, 2014

Big Blue's got the blues. On Monday, IBM's stock tumbled by 7 percent after it unveiled a dismal quarterly earnings report that showed a 4 percent drop in revenue — the 10th consecutive quarter of flat or declining sales. Revealing these mournful numbers, the company also announced it would abandon a policy that set it apart from all other firms: the 2010 pledge from then-CEO Sam Palmisano to raise the earnings per share of its stock to \$20 by 2015.

No other company had so explicitly promised to raise the shareholders' return on their stock. Maximizing shareholder value has been the North Star of U.S. corporate policy for decades now, but no other firm pursued it so openly — and disastrously — as IBM.

There are two ways to increase a company's earnings per share: Either you increase the earnings, or you reduce the number of shares. Unfortunately for IBM, it had trouble keeping up with the rapid pace



of change in the high-tech world. Its earnings flat-lined. To meet Palmisano's pledge, the company embarked on an orgy of buying back its stock. This had already been an unstated policy at IBM; Palmisano merely made it more explicit. Since 2000, IBM has spent a mind-boggling \$108 billion — \$12 billion of that in the first half of this year — buying back shares. It devoted another \$30 billion to paying dividends. The Financial Times calculated that from 2003 to 2013, the company devoted nearly 80 percent of its cash to rewarding shareholders through buybacks and dividends.

In 1993, IBM had 2.3 billion outstanding shares; 20 years later, it had 1.1 billion. As the Wall Street Journal's Dennis Berman has pointed out, at that pace the company would have no publicly traded shares at all by 2034.

The rise in earnings per share at IBM entranced big-time investors. No Carl Icahns barraged its managers with complaints that it wasn't returning enough to shareholders (a complaint Icahn has repeatedly lodged against Apple and other companies more successful than IBM). Palmisano's pledge, and the company's history of buying back its shares, even persuaded Warren Buffett, who had previously shied away from investing in tech companies in a nod to the sector's penchant for creative destruction, to become IBM's biggest single shareholder. IBM's appeal, Buffett explained to CNBC, was clear: "They have this terrific reverence for the shareholder." Indeed, so great was this reverence that IBM even incurred major debt to finance its repurchases.

Over the past year, however, some analysts began arguing that increasing earnings per share by decreasing the number of shares wasn't really much of a strategy. David Stockman (once Ronald Reagan's budget director) called the company "a buyback machine on steroids." A company that once employed thousands of mathematicians and engineers to build the world's smartest machines had changed its focus from product to finance. The engineering that mattered most at IBM was financial. But placing so high a premium on rewarding shareholders ultimately proved unsustainable. On Monday, Buffett's investment lost \$1 billion as Big Blue's stock sank.

What makes IBM's decline a matter of moment to more than just company shareholders is that the course IBM elected to follow is more the norm than the exception among U.S. corporations. William Lazonick's survey of the country's largest publicly traded companies — those listed on the S&P 500 from 2003 to 2012 — found that they devoted 54 percent of their net earnings during that time to repurchasing their own stock, and another 37 percent to shareholder dividends. Before the 1980s, by contrast, U.S. corporations retained more than half their net earnings for such things as new investments. That share steadily shrank as the goal of maximizing shareholder value and pressure from predatory large investors combined to make increasing earnings per share more important than, say, research and development. (That share also steadily shrank as CEO pay became linked to rising share value.)

Not every company that has subordinated expansion and investment to shareholder payouts has suffered the fate of IBM, of course — and IBM itself remains big enough to fund more productive investments, especially since it has now abandoned Palmisano's pledge. But its tale is nonetheless emblematic of a sad national story: how a nation that once made the world's smartest machines opted instead to try to make the world's smartest deals — many of which turned out to be abysmally dumb.

Read more from Harold Meyerson's archive or follow him on Twitter.



## George Will: Restoration Of Senate's Dignity Rides On Mitch McConnell

By George F. Will

[Washington Post](#), October 23, 2014

Barack Obama lost Kentucky in 2012 by 23 points, yet the state remains closely divided about reelecting the man whose parliamentary skills uniquely qualify him to restrain Obama's executive overreach. So Kentucky's Senate contest is a constitutional moment that will determine whether the separation of powers will be reasserted by a Congress revitalized by restoration of the Senate's dignity.

Even counting Justice Louis Brandeis as a Kentuckian — at 18, he defected to Harvard and New England — Mitch McConnell, 72, is second only to Henry Clay as the state's most consequential public servant. McConnell's skills have been honed through five terms. He is, however — let us say the worst — not cuddly. National Review has said he has “an owlish, tight-lipped public demeanor reminiscent of George Will.” Harsh. But true.

On only one significant matter — McConnell opposes increasing the minimum wage, a symbolic issue of negligible economic importance — is he at odds with a large majority of Kentuckians. Thus he surely would be leading by more than a few points if he were less austere and more telegenic.

Democrats selected McConnell's opponent, Alison Lundergan Grimes, Kentucky's 35-year-old secretary of state, largely to further their “Republicans loathe women” fable. McConnell, however, is running even with Grimes among women, partly because of the persuasiveness of his wife, Elaine Chao, the longest-serving labor secretary since World War II (2001 to 2009).

In 1952, a Republican member of the Phoenix City Council, Barry Goldwater, defeated Senate Majority Leader Ernest McFarland. For the next 52 years, until Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) lost in 2004, no party's Senate leader was defeated. But political polarization has increased leaders' conspicuousness and vulnerabilities. McConnell, who in 2002 won with 65 percent, won in 2008 with just 53 percent.

Grimes's cringe-inducing campaign has depended on a migraine-inducing argument: She broadly disagrees with her party's leader, but it is important that she help perpetuate Harry Reid's iron-fisted shutdown of the Senate for Obama's convenience. Her campaign has raised more money than McConnell's in three consecutive quarters, but money is not magic, which would be needed to make her candidacy coherent.

Although Senate races in many states remain close — McConnell remembers Republicans losing control of the Senate in 1986 by about 25,000 votes in five states — he anticipates a Republican majority in 2015. Then, he says, “a lot of institutional repair” will begin.

Since Republicans won control of the House in 2010, the Democratic-controlled Senate's function has been obstruction. Reid has prevented bills passed by the Republican House from coming to a vote and has prevented Republicans — and Democrats, too — from proposing amendments to Senate bills that would be awkward for Democrats to oppose or for Obama to veto. Obama has cast only two vetoes, both for technical reasons on minor matters. Since July 2013, McConnell says, there have been only 22 Senate roll-call votes on amendments — and says Mark Begich (D-Alaska) has never in his six Senate years had a roll-call vote on an amendment of his.

Such paralysis of the Senate leaves Obama uninhibited in his use of executive orders and bureaucratic mission-creep to advance goals that should require legislation. In January, in the most statesmanlike Senate speech in years, McConnell explained how, under Republican leadership, the Senate would be restored as the creator of consensus:

“An executive order can't [create consensus]. The fiat of a nine-person court can't do it. A raucous and precarious partisan majority in the House can't do it. The only institution that can make stable and



enduring laws is the one we have in which all 50 states are represented equally, and where every single senator has a say in the laws that we pass.”

Beneath McConnell’s chilly exterior burns indignation about the degradation of the institution to which he has devoted much of his life. The repair of it, in the form of robust committee and amendment processes — and an extended workweek — will benefit Democratic members, too.

Kentucky’s Senate election is 2014’s most important, for a reason rich in irony: Although Grimes considers McConnell the architect of gridlock, electing her to inevitably docile membership in Reid’s lockstep ranks would perpetuate this. But a reelected McConnell, with a Republican majority, would, he says, emulate his model of majority leadership — the 16 years under a Democrat, Montana’s Mike Mansfield. He, like McConnell, had a low emotional metabolism but a subtle sense of the Senate’s singular role in the nation’s constitutional equilibrium.

Read more from George F. Will’s archive or follow him on Facebook.

## **The Politics Of Ebola**

By E.j. Dionne Jr.

[Washington Post](#), October 23, 2014

BOSTON

Seth Moulton, an Iraq veteran and Democratic congressional candidate on Massachusetts’s North Shore, has done something with little precedent in political campaigning: He was caught underplaying his war record.

You read that right: An investigation by the Boston Globe found that, unlike politicians who go to great lengths to puff up their military backgrounds, Moulton, as the paper’s Walter Robinson wrote, “chose not to publicly disclose that he was twice decorated for heroism until pressed by the Globe.”

It took Robinson’s reporting to discover that Moulton had won the Bronze Star and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for valor during the battles for control of Najaf and Nasiriyah.

In a telephone interview, Moulton said his reluctance reflected a “healthy disrespect” among his comrades-in-arms for boasting about citations.

“The relative few of us who really were on the front lines don’t like to talk about it and don’t like to brag about it,” he said. “I saw a lot of heroic kids who were on the front lines . . . and didn’t get the recognition they deserved.”

Moulton’s story is a refreshing change of pace in a midterm election campaign short on displays of either courage or reticence. Voters are unhappy with both parties and there is no driving issue, so a play-all-the-angles approach takes whatever story is dominating the news cycle and tries to turn it into a wedge.

Nowhere has this pattern been clearer than in the rise of public worries about Ebola and the effort by Republicans to turn fear into a closing argument.

It is normal for the party that doesn’t control the White House to be critical of how the incumbent has handled a crisis. And President Obama himself, according to the New York Times, was frustrated with aspects of the government’s handling of the episode, one reason he called on Ron Klain, the Washington veteran, to coordinate the response.

But it’s something else again to stoke alarm and to set up an unrealistic policy demand as a test of “toughness.” (Yes, those quotation marks are intended to convey the cynicism involved.) Thus did many Republicans call for a travel ban from the countries affected by Ebola, even though there are no direct flights from them to the United States. This raised the prospect of grounding connecting flights from



European cities, and the administration argued that the ban would encourage people to lie about their travel history, making screening for the disease much harder.

Now, Republicans have quietly conceded how problematic a travel ban would be. So they are rallying to a new tough-sounding backup position, calling for a suspension of visas for travelers from the affected countries. Trying to answer symbolic politics with practical measures, the administration announced Tuesday that travelers from Ebola-zone countries would be required to enter the United States through one of five airports equipped for screening.

To examine the way all this has played out in the congressional contest between Moulton and Republican Rich Tisei is to see how last-minute campaign pressures can push even independent-minded candidates to find ways of gaining a slight edge or avoiding political damage.

Tisei is one of the few socially moderate Republicans on the ballot this fall. Openly gay, Tisei got married in the summer of 2013, and he boycotted the state Republican convention this year to protest the party's conservative platform. Yet like other Republicans, he jumped on the idea of "banning flights" from countries where the disease is raging and of "quarantining people before they come into the country."

For his part, Moulton, after initially resisting the flight ban, sought to find middle ground by declaring that, "until we can get people properly screened, we may need to shut those flights down." But in the interview, he reiterated his view that "we can't pretend that we're going to win this fight simply by shutting ourselves off from the rest of the world." He also endorsed Obama's latest move on screening. And on Wednesday, Tisei's spokesman, Charlie Szold, said his candidate did not want a flight ban to force any interruption of aid to combat the disease in the affected countries.

One would like to hope that Ebola posturing will not be decisive in either the Moulton-Tisei race or in the larger campaign. There are signs that the issue is fading as reality catches up with the pandering. In the meantime, Moulton, who knows what courage means, could usefully bring a GI's "healthy disrespect" to the ways our country's politics makes problem-solving harder.

### **Alison Lundergan Grimes Finally Goes Off-script**

By Dana Milbank

[Washington Post](#), October 23, 2014

Last week, the national Democratic Party left Alison Lundergan Grimes for dead.

So why does she still have a pulse?

The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee a week ago said it was stopping its TV ads for Grimes, the Kentucky secretary of state and the Democrats' challenger to Mitch McConnell, the Senate Republican leader.

In political Washington, this was a nail in the coffin, coming after the candidate's embarrassing and repeated refusal to say whether she voted for President Obama and the televised pronouncement of "Meet the Press" host Chuck Todd that she had "disqualified herself" — a clip McConnell's campaign gleefully replayed in his ads.

But Grimes's look into the abyss did her some good. In politics as in medicine, near-death experiences have a way of changing one's outlook. When I visited Kentucky on Wednesday to see Grimes on the campaign trail, I saw a candidate who was much less cautious and scripted than the one I had been hearing and reading about. It was as if the reduced expectations had liberated her.

Grimes was venturing into Republican territory — Rand Paul country, to be specific — to speak to a gathering of Rotarians at the Bowling Green Country Club. She took some hostile questions from the



crowd, and she gave as good as she got. Then she went outside and did something that, for her, is most unusual: She held a news conference.

I asked her to respond to the perception in Washington that last week's DSCC decision had been a death knell. "It's a lot of hyperventilating out there by the media," she said. "This campaign is Kentucky through and through, and it's going to be Kentuckians that carry it across the finish line."

Another question about the national party's move produced another swipe at Washington. "We got into this race trying to change Washington. We will change Washington," she said, dismissing the loss of those TV dollars.

Was she surprised that the question of whether she voted for Obama became a dominant campaign issue? "I'm not going to be bullied by Mitch McConnell or Chuck Todd," she said with a smile.

It would go too far to say that Grimes has transformed. She repeated her absurd position that she won't reveal her presidential vote because of the "constitutional right to privacy." And, though the Rotary Club discourages stump speeches, Grimes gave her usual anti-McConnell spiel, dressed up with requisite references to the good works of her "fellow Rotarians" and folksy things she heard from "mah momma."

Her attacks on McConnell — "We have someone now that can't get back here without the aid of a GPS!" she said, though he had spoken to the same group three weeks earlier — were met with complete silence, folded arms and drumming fingers. Yet Grimes went on denouncing McConnell for the better part of 10 minutes. She mentioned both Hillary and Bill Clinton but tiptoed around President Obama and gave only passing reference to Obamacare, though it's popular in Kentucky.

This was the Grimes I had heard of, the one who, as Jason Zengerle put it in the New Republic, has been plagued by "crippling caution and debilitating message discipline" — a candidate permanently in a "defensive crouch."

But then came the questions. One man complained that she never said "one way or the other" what she thinks about anti-union right-to-work laws.

"My position on right-to-work laws is it's right to work for less," she shot back. "I have seen first-hand the value of labor, of collective bargaining, prevailing wage. I've been on the picket lines."

Yet another questioner said she had "waffled back and forth on the subject of coal." When she gave a pro-coal response that included a call to cut environmental regulations, the questioner mockingly asked whether that's just a message for coal-producing eastern Kentucky.

"It's the message I've sent all over the state. It's the message I'll send when we go to Washington!" Grimes returned.

From there, she went outside for her unscheduled news conference, saying her strong showing in this week's polls — two show her in a statistical dead heat with McConnell — means that "Kentucky won't be bought" and that "the energy and momentum is on our side."

Apparently the national party agreed. Half an hour after Grimes's feisty performance in Bowling Green, the DSCC reversed its earlier decision and said it was pouring \$650,000 back into TV ads for Grimes.

It's tempting to wonder how much better Grimes would have done in this campaign if she had shed her crippling caution earlier.

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Read more from Dana Milbank's archive, follow him on Twitter or subscribe to his updates on Facebook.



## **WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL STORIES**

### **Delaware Candidates Discuss Pressing Issues In Dover**

By Jonathan Starkey

[Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#), October 22, 2014

Democratic state treasurer candidate Sean Barney kept up his attacks on his Republican opponent during a Dover debate Wednesday night, saying Republican Ken Simpler's experience as an investment fund manager does not qualify him to serve as state treasurer.

"The challenge Delaware's next treasurer faces is to restore accountability and transparency to the office and to ensure that state government in a way that it uses your hard earned taxpayer dollars serves all of the people and not just the wealthy and well-connected," Barney said.

Barney said the hedge fund where Simpler worked was secretive and helped contribute to the 2008 financial collapse. Simpler largely brushed aside the attacks, saying the treasurer's office, which is tasked with helping manage a \$2 billion investment portfolio, should be led by someone with money management experience.

Sixteen statewide candidates participated in Wednesday night's debate, held at Delaware State University and hosted by the League of Women Voters of Kent County and American Association of University Women Dover branch.

Each candidate was offered a three-minute opening statement. But the forum's format offered little opportunity for substantial debate on any single topic, or between candidates in any single race.

Federal candidates for U.S. House and U.S. Senate discussed energy policy and marijuana legalization, among other topics.

U.S. Sen. Chris Coons, a Democrat seeking his first full six-year term, said he supports the legalization of medical marijuana but not its recreational use.

His congressional counterpart, U.S. Rep. John Carney said the decision is one that should be left up to the states. The Democrat said he does not support full legalization.

Poll: Have you found any compelling issues or candidates in the 2014 c...

Candidates in the race for Attorney General debated the subject as well, in addition to mandatory minimum sentences, tackling the state's recidivism rate and how best to address rehabilitation and re-entry into society amid a surging heroin crisis in Delaware.

Lt. Gov. Matt Denn said he would organize efforts to improve Delaware's substance abuse treatment programs. "I do think that the attorney general has an important role to play in terms of getting the General Assembly, and also the private sector – insurance companies [and] health care institutions – to contribute to the resources that are necessary to get our substance abuse treatment system where it ought to be," Denn said.

Catherine Damavandi, a Green Party candidate and former state prosecutor, said the fix does not lie with the state's attorney general but with the governor and his administration.

She said Denn talks about addressing these topics in the future, but he's been lieutenant governor for six years.

"I urge the governor's office to focus attention on this now," she said. "We don't have to wait for the election of the attorney general."

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## Expenses Questioned In Audit Of Marydel Fire Company

By Jon Offredo

[Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#), October 22, 2014

The Marydel Volunteer Fire Company could not account for more than \$30,000 in cash withdrawals in a recent one-year period, and paid thousands to a catering service owned by its chief, according to findings released by state Auditor Tom Wagner.

Wagner could not find documentation that the money paid to the chief's business was legitimate.

The audit discovered that Chief Buffy Madden, and his wife, Denise, the fire company's treasurer, circumvented internal financial controls and failed to safeguard funds, including more than \$430,000 in state taxpayer money the department received during the last fiscal year.

Marydel Volunteer Fire Company received almost \$120,000 from the state's grant-in-aid budget last year. Recipients of state money have to follow certain restrictions on spending, including requirements that no funds be used to purchase capital equipment or hire lobbyists.

Several individuals close to the fire company requested the auditor's office review the company's records.

Delaware's fire companies are all volunteer, except for Wilmington. The companies receive much of their income from fundraising efforts, state and county aid, firehouse rentals, ambulance runs and taxes on insurance premiums, among other sources.

Wagner said Denise Madden has since resigned as the fire company's treasurer.

Between June 2013 and May 2014, the Maddens' barbecue catering service, 1st Due BBQ, was paid \$13,845 in cash and fire company checks written out by Denise Madden to herself and the chief. According to the audit, \$10,000 in cash was withdrawn in December 2013 to pay the catering service for services related to the fire company's Christmas party and awards banquet. An additional \$6,579 went to the Sudlersville Meat Locker to pay for chicken breasts, bacon and seafood.

The report also identifies \$9,513.66 in fire company cash that was later withdrawn to pay for a Henny Penny pressure fryer.

Auditors also documented that the Christmas party cost just over \$25,000, and a ring ceremony cost nearly \$40,000. The company spent nearly \$28,000 on rings alone, and it is unclear whether any state money was used to purchase those rings.

Neither of the Maddens returned calls requesting comment. A call to Buffy Madden's fire company-funded cellphone described him as both the Marydel fire chief and owner of 1st Due BBQ.

The fire company emailed a statement about 10 p.m. acknowledging the need to change outdated accounting policies and have an outside accounting firm handle its funds, but defended its use of the chief's business.

"The Marydel Volunteer Fire Co Inc. intends to learn from this and to move forward in a positive direction," said the statement signed by Jason R. Mills, secretary

Late Wednesday, the fire company emailed a statement acknowledging the need to change outdated accounting policies and have an outside accounting firm handle its funds, but defended its dealings with the chief's business.

"The Marydel Volunteer Fire Co Inc. intends to learn from this and to move forward in a positive direction," said the statement signed by Jason R. Mills, secretary



Auditors were unable to determine whether the fire company properly used state money because the majority of the finances were commingled, and the heavy cash-based transactions made it “difficult to prove that someone directly pocketed money.”

“The records were a mess. It’s not like they didn’t have good internal controls, they really didn’t have any internal controls,” Wagner said. “That’s absolutely unacceptable.”

More than \$30,000 was withdrawn from a fire company bank account between June 1, 2013, and May 31, 2014, and the company could not provide adequate supporting documents to verify how the funds were used, according to the audit. In April 2014, a fire company debit card was used 35 times to withdraw \$8,140.56.

The auditor’s investigation into the fire company’s finances came while lawmakers debated a package of bills that provided additional taxpayer support to assist companies in providing ambulance transport.

Many of the state’s volunteer fire companies have reported surpluses, according to the most recently available documents filed with the Internal Revenue Service.

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## **For Top State Teacher, Class Is A Performance**

By Matthew Albright

[Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#), October 22, 2014

It’s funny how many Teachers of the Year say they never even wanted to be a teacher at first.

Megan Szabo wanted to be a tap dancer. She loved the feeling of being in front of a crowd and wanted to be a performer.

But as she grew up, she began to pay closer attention to her parents, both of whom were teachers. She noticed that every day they had to stand in front of an audience of students, hook their attention and keep them interested in learning.

“Teaching is a performance in a lot of ways,” Szabo said. “But you’re not just entertaining. You’re making a big difference in the lives of your students.”

If teaching is performing, then Szabo, a seventh- and eighth-grade science teacher at Postlethwait Middle School, won Delaware’s equivalent of an Oscar on Tuesday night when Gov. Jack Markell opened an envelope and named her the state’s Teacher of the Year.

The win comes as no surprise to Szabo’s fellow teachers – including her husband, Ago, an eighth-grade social studies teacher at Postlethwait – or principal Derek Prillaman.

“This is my second year here, and I realized immediately that I was very, very fortunate to have Ms. Szabo in my building,” Prillaman said. “The relationships she develops with her students are really extraordinary.”

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Talk with Szabo’s students and you’ll hear a few common threads: she’s easy-going, optimistic and energetic.

“Every day is a new day in her class,” said Deja Armstrong, an eighth-grader. “Sometimes you have a bad day and some teachers will hold a grudge. But she never holds a grudge. Every day she treats you like somebody she likes.”

Students say Szabo smashes any notion of science classes that should be full of worksheets, memorization and lectures.



"She really does make science fun," said Tyler Sell, an eighth-grader. "Every day we do something different. We do a lot of experiments and do a lot of labs and they're a lot of fun, but you also get the sense that you're really understanding something important."

Sell said Szabo is one of the best teachers he's ever seen. That's high praise from the son of two educators, one of whom is former Teacher of the Year John Sell.

In most science classrooms, Szabo says teachers have traditionally started with lectures, worksheets or textbook assignments, then followed up with an experiment or demonstration to illustrate what students learned. She tries to flip that script in her classroom, starting with experiments that get students asking questions, then helping them find the answers.

"The way I see it, I should not be giving them the answer to any question that they should be able to find the answer to themselves," she said. "I am trying to teach them to become scientists, not just teach them science."

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On Wednesday, she was in and out of class dealing with some of the things that go along with being named Teacher of the Year. Instead of giving the substitute teacher a video to show or some worksheets for students to fill out, she set up an exercise where students had to work in groups to track down answers to questions about wave motion online.

All of these teaching strategies fit nicely with the Next Generation Science Standards, a national campaign to change how students learn. Put broadly, the standards seek to teach students scientific skills and critical thinking rather than simply memorizing content, trying to adjust to an age when information is instantly available online.

Delaware is currently somewhere near the start of the long slog toward changing over to "Next Gen," which means overhauling curricula, rebuilding or throwing out science kits and other changes.

Szabo is one of the "lead teachers" on Delaware's team that is driving the switch to the new standards.

"She has really emerged as a leader in this process," said Tonyea Meade, science education associate at the Department of Education. "She is constantly thinking about her own teaching and about how she can improve. She's really breaking new ground."

For Prillaman, Szabo is the perfect mix of a charismatic teacher whose students love her and an expert who knows how to implement cutting-edge educational techniques into her lesson plans.

"Her classroom is fast-paced, very hands-on and very energetic," he said. "If you're going to have a classroom like hers, you need to have your students embrace it. And her students respect her so much as a person that they will follow her and pay attention."

Now that she's one of the state's official voices to represent teachers, Szabo said she hopes to counter a perception she sometimes hears that teachers are set in their ways and aren't changing with the times.

"Teaching isn't the same as it was," she said. "If you come into our school or most of the other schools in Delaware that I've been to, you will see a lot of people working very hard to prepare our students for a world that is changing right before our eyes."

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## For Horse Owner, First Help, Then Criminal Charges

By James Fisher

[Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#), October 22, 2014

Monica Ogle knew her horses were hungry all winter.

Ogle had a dozen horses under her care at her Neals School Road farm near Seaford, where she operated a horse rescue on the thinnest of budgets. Livestock rescue groups take in sick or unwanted horses and try to find owners willing to adopt them. Ogle, 60, had not taken in new horses for more than a year; she had a hard time adopting any out to willing owners; and hay was scarce.

"You'd go to this hay dealer, run him out of hay, go to the next one," spending \$200 to \$600 a month on hay, Ogle said in interviews. "Through the winter, some horses lost some weight." She leaned on backup feed: alfalfa cubes, hay stretcher pellets. Come spring, hay was easier to get, but her older horses showed lasting effects from the lean, cold months.

So when a Delaware SPCA investigator came to probe a cruelty complaint sparked by the horses' gaunt appearance, Ogle wasn't all that surprised. The investigator, Brett Conley, noted in a Sept. 2 report he saw horses "extremely thin and underweight," with one requiring "immediate nutrition."

But how the Delaware SPCA dealt with what it found on Neals School Road has led Conley, the investigator, to leave his job under protest. And Ogle, who was initially grateful when the SPCA supplied her with grain and hay to help her rescue operation get back on its feet, feels betrayed that another animal welfare group, First State Animal Control and SPCA, took over her case on Sept. 30 – and then pressed 11 animal cruelty charges against her, including one count of felony animal abuse.

"I just needed to get these horses something that had more fat content, and that's what I did," Ogle said of her actions after Conley's Sept. 2 visit. "I was buying that feed and doing what Brett told me to do, feeding three times a day. And horses were picking up their weight."

Conley, for his part, calls the about-face – one animal welfare group giving aid to Ogle, then another charging her with hurting animals – unjust and unfair.

"Some people deserve to be locked up, and I've done that," Conley said. "But it felt really good to help someone ... She was deceived. We spent money, as the Delaware SPCA, to help her and then abandoned her."

First State Animal Control Director Kevin Usilton, though, said the cruelty charges only came after Ogle declined additional help from his agency. He said conditions on the farm were still dire more than a month after Delaware SPCA's first contact.

"Animals suffered, pretty horrifically in my opinion, because this rescue didn't ask for assistance," Usilton said Wednesday. "We rely on our veterinarians. If they see abuse and our officers see abuse, we're going to step up."

### Patchwork of enforcement

The Delaware SPCA, under state code, has the power to "enforce all laws enacted for the protection of animals," in keeping with what's become normal in Delaware: the General Assembly sets laws governing the treatment of animals but relies on nonprofit groups, not government agencies, to enforce them. It's the same model of governance that puts most dog control responsibilities in the hands of Kent County-based First State Animal Control and SPCA through negotiated contracts with county and city governments.

Andrea Perlak, the executive director of the Delaware SPCA, said her organization made a firm choice this year to delegate its animal cruelty responsibilities to First State Animal Control (which, until recently, operated under a different name, Kent County SPCA). The status quo had been for Delaware



SPCA to handle most Sussex County and New Castle County cruelty reports – of beaten dogs, underfed livestock, or abused cats – since it has offices in Georgetown and Stanton.

That decision, Perlak said, was made with the consent of the Office of Animal Welfare, a relatively new state agency charged with overseeing a patchwork of animal-focused groups and setting standards of care.

“We didn’t have the infrastructure in place. Cruelty enforcement needed a more robust mechanism. Kent County SPCA had the infrastructure in place,” Perlak said. “We have said that First State should do all enforcement for cruelty. It’s a bit of a mission shift, but it’s supported by everyone in the community.”

The Neals School Road cruelty report, Perlak said, came in just as the two organizations were finishing details of how First State would handle all livestock cruelty cases, even when calls initially came to Delaware SPCA.

“It looked like you had some very thin horses,” Perlak said of the initial investigation. “We tried to do the right thing by buying them some hay.” But, she said, she could not comment on the case beyond that.

Records of Conley’s investigation show he advised superiors that there was enough evidence of neglect on Ogle’s part to pursue cruelty charges. “A seizure of the horses and an arrest of the homeowner and her boyfriend was warranted and justifiable,” he wrote. But the report also shows staff considered, from the start, treating the case as a chance to offer aid to Ogle’s group – “provid[ing] some financial assistance to the owners instead of prosecuting them,” the report notes.

Conley’s records, which he provided to The News Journal, say Perlak told shelter manager Bonnie Madonna that Delaware SPCA would take the aid route in Ogle’s case. On Sept. 5, the records show, Conley and Lisa Boyce – a horse farm owner who has helped the SPCA with equine rescues in the past – returned to Neals School Road and delivered \$400 in grain. They also paid for delivery of \$400 in hay, which amounted to 80 bales.

“I issued Monica a correction order and advised her to use the grain and hay for the rehabilitation of the neglect rescue horses,” Conley wrote in his log.

Ogle says she did that and more, attending a seminar on equine nutrition that the Delaware SPCA advised her to take. She saw her thinnest, oldest horses – one was 37, and two others were 27 – gaining weight after Conley’s intervention, she said.

A second delivery of hay and grain “would have been helpful, but I wasn’t going to ask for it. I was getting it and buying it,” Ogle said. “I did want help in trying to place some horses [with new owners]. Some were rideable; that’s what I did with the younger ones. I have adopted a mess of horses.”

#### Change of plans

On Oct. 15, though, Ogle said she was surprised by the arrival of four First State animal-control officers on her farm, two weeks after First State took over her case. “They came on this property with horse trailers, state troopers and a search warrant. I mean, they bombarded me,” Ogle said.

Usilton confirmed in an interview that First State Animal Control recently started to handle cruelty complaints once addressed by Delaware SPCA. First State officers on the Sept. 30 visit, he said, documented four horses that were seriously emaciated and two others deemed very thin on a commonly-used scale of horse health.

“The officers noticed right away animals in dire need of groceries, and there were groceries sitting in the barn unused,” Usilton said. They told Ogle to have a vet examine the horses within a week and urged her to feed them more.



By Oct. 15, Usilton said, Ogle had taken some required steps to avoid cruelty charges, including having a vet see the horses and having their hooves trimmed, but not all. First State's vets took the view that "there's no way this person can sustain 11 horses in this condition," he said.

"The stalls were 4 feet high in some cases with feces, and the horses were locked in there," Usilton said. "These animals were suffering, and we needed to halt their suffering immediately." All 11 horses were removed from the property, he said, and two have since been euthanized. [Conley, the investigator who saw the horses in early September, disagreed with the evaluation that some of the horses were so far gone that euthanasia was called for. "Neither appeared to be in grave danger or [near] death when I was there," he said.]

Ogle was charged with one count of felony animal abuse and 10 counts of misdemeanor abuse. The charges and the euthanasia were both shocking, she said, and not at all what she expected after getting the Delaware SPCA's help at first. "I wanted to be the one with Doby" – the oldest of the horses, and one of the two put down – "when he left," she said.

Tim Willard, the attorney defending Ogle against the cruelty charges, said he thought she was "unfairly treated" by First State. "What strikes me as somewhat odd in this case is she was working with authorities to get the diets back in order," Willard said. "The charges seemed to come out of the blue."

Conley, a former New Castle County police officer, said he also felt betrayed by the Delaware SPCA's shift in mission away from cruelty enforcement. After the case was transferred, he said, he was asked by superiors to sign a confidentiality agreement. When he refused – "it was censorship," he said – he expected to be drummed out of his job in a constructive discharge. He resigned in early October. Perlak declined to discuss Conley's employment history.

"There are good people at the SPCA," Conley said. But under Perlak's oversight, he contended, "it is not about cruelty. It is not about animals." The First State searches on Ogle's farm, he asserted, were "a publicity stunt to get donations and show off."

Perlak said the change of roles for both agencies will lead to better service for complainants who report cruelty and will let Delaware SPCA focus more resources on its role as a shelter and rescue organization.

"It was in no-man's land. We said we were doing it, but we weren't, really," Perlak said. "It's a positive step for the people of Delaware... It's the best thing for the animals. A lot of people criticize First State, but they have a really tightly run organization."

Both Perlak and Usilton said the statewide cost of addressing cruelty complaints is about \$600,000. With the change in duties, Perlak said, the Office of Animal Welfare will likely devote all of a \$100,000 grant for cruelty investigations to First State.

Usilton acknowledged that Ogle's different treatment by the two agencies could be "confusing." But he said the evidence First State gathered in its probe of her farm, including the professional opinions of veterinarians, fully justified filing charges.

"Why we stepped up and did this was based on the testimony and evidence gathering that we did when we were on the property," Usilton said. "It had nothing to do with PR."

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## FedEx Distribution Center Ready To Open

By Maureen Milford

[Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#), October 22, 2014

In what real estate experts are calling a model of fast-track development, work is finishing up on a new \$15 million distribution center for FedEx near New Castle just 18 months after plans were submitted to New Castle County.

"I've never seen this level of cooperation," said Bill Ganc, owner of Ganc Commercial Realty in Brandywine Hundred. "This was a complex situation here and everybody – the state, the county – came up with solutions."

The 186,000-square-foot building off Lambsons Lane is expected to open in November as a FedEx Ground distribution center and could eventually employ more than 100 people. The new facility will replace an existing station nearby on Dock View Drive, according to David Westrick, spokesman for FedEx Ground. Existing employees will move from the Dock View station in early November. Westrick did not say how many are currently employed. FedEx is expected to add to the workforce as demand increases, Westrick said.

The center is part of FedEx's expansion of its nationwide network designed to boost daily package capacity and enhance speed and service, Westrick said.

"Since 2005, the company has opened 11 new hubs featuring advanced material-handling systems and expanded or relocated more than 500 local facilities," Westrick said. "The network enhancements have resulted in accelerating ground service delivery by one day or more in more than two-thirds of the United States. With these changes, FedEx Ground is faster to more overall locations, including more residential locations."

The distribution center will serve as far north as North Wilmington, south to Townsend, east to New Castle and west to Perryville, Maryland, Westrick said.

The New Castle-area project was developed by Westmoreland Company Inc. of Huntsville, Alabama, a privately held real estate development company that has done work for FedEx, according to Bruce Puffer, a senior project manager with Westmoreland.

Puffer described the project as "a fast turnaround."

Alan Levin, director of the Delaware Economic Development Office, said his office assisted FedEx in its dealings with state and New Castle County agencies. No DEDO money was involved with the FedEx project, according to Karen Smith, strategic communications director with DEDO.

"This project creates good jobs and economic activity in an area that can desperately use it," Levin said.

Westmoreland, as Westco New Castle II LLC and Westco New Castle III LLC, bought the 72.65-acre site from Q.D. Saienni LLC for \$8.99 million, according to New Castle County property records. Ganc said Quentin Saienni was the owner of the property that had been owned by Material Transit and used as a borrow pit, where material is dug out for fill in another location.

The site was chosen because of its access to major highways, proximity to customers' distribution centers and a strong environment for recruiting employees, Westrick said.

The distribution center occupies just 20 acres because "the vast majority of the land is wetlands," Puffer said. The development includes the building, parking for tractor-trailers and parking for employees. Westco will own the building and lease it to FedEx Ground, Puffer said.

Puffer described it as a medium-sized project for FedEx.



The distribution center has a dock with 45 doors where tractor-trailers load and unload packages. Inside there is room for as many as 80 delivery vans, Puffer said. The packages go directly from the tractor-trailers to the delivery van by conveyor building – and vice versa when the vans return with packages to be shipped.

Roughly 6,000 square feet in the building is office space for the managers.

“FedEx gives us prototypical plans and specifications from which we design the building to meet the requirements of the local jurisdiction,” Puffer said.

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## **Delaware Subdivision Plantings Win Blue Ribbon**

[Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#), October 22, 2014

A Delaware man won a blue ribbon from the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society’s gardening and greening contest.

David Resende of Heritage Hills in Pike Creek won the ribbon, the top prize in his category of Public Spaces for the plantings he maintains at the entrance to the subdivision. He was featured in Moira Sheridan’s Sept. 11 column. His garden was one of 350 in nine categories visited by judges.

A lifelong neighborhood resident, Resende began a beautification project there in 2010 after becoming involved with the Heritage Grendon Civic Association. He started with his own money and labor, turning the plain Grendon Drive entrance into a colorful gateway.

Residents liked it so much, they began stopping while he was working and giving him \$10 or \$20 to help foot the bill. Now the neighborhood has a flower fund that covers the cost of plantings at the entrances at Grendon Drive, Heritage Farms and Grendon Farms. He also has help from teens and kids in the neighborhood.

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## **WILMINGTON JOURNAL NEWS EDITORIALS**

### **Congratulate Delaware’s Teacher Of The Year**

[Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#), October 22, 2014

What parent wouldn’t want Megan Szabo as their child’s classroom teacher in 2014 America? Based on the press release alone from the Department of Education, Szabo’s selection Tuesday evening as the 2015 Teacher of the Year was a sure shot.

Here’s how the Caesar Rodney School District science teacher describes the classroom environment at Postlethwait Middle School:

“My students may not remember every itty bitty detail about what they learned in seventh- and eighth-grade science, but they leave my class as confident learners who are able to make observations, see connections, solve problems and think scientifically. ... For me, teaching them how to be a scientist is just as important as teaching them science.

“They are having scientific conversations with each other and asking each other analytical questions, but most importantly I have witnessed them using the science ideas they learn in class to think critically and solve real world problems.”

Undoubtedly, this classroom success is linked to Szabo’s personal philosophy about the elements of a successful teaching environment: “Kids will not learn from teachers they do not like in classrooms they do not want to go to.”



It's being verified by improved student test scores, engaging lesson plans, creating an appetite for investigation, and a willingness to take on rather than shrink from the challenge of more rigorous academic inquiry. Szabo reminds herself of this as she designs lessons.

The result is a lot of hands-on activities, such as creating models and carrying out investigations. Often, she encourages student groups to design their own lab investigation rather than just following along a predetermined procedure.

In effect, Szabo unleashes her students to explore, which is always a good jumping-off point for higher learning.

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## **Oyster Farming Industry Would Harm Inland Bays**

By Steve Callanen

[Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#), October 22, 2014

The 200 irate citizens who gathered at the Millville Fire House on Oct. 6 to voice their extreme displeasure with the state's unknown plans for establishing a large commercial oyster farming industry in Beach Cove and Little Assawoman Bay might be interested to learn the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Fish and Wildlife Division's mission statement is to "conserve and manage the fish and wildlife resources of the state, to provide safe and enjoyable fishing, hunting, and boating opportunities to the citizens of Delaware and its visitors."

The proposed oyster farm industries in Beach Cove and Little Assawoman Bay are not consistent with these objectives.

A Center for the Inland Bays website identifies the Shellfish Aquaculture Tiger Team was aware of socio-economic issue constraints affecting Inland Bays shellfish aquaculture, including "conflicting use with other Bay stakeholders, recreational and commercial fisheries, recreational watercraft, waterfront views, NIMBY – not in my backyard, and machinery noise."

The weight assigned to these constraint factors in Tiger Team evaluations is not mentioned. It is not known if sail boating, kayaking, windsurfing, waterskiing and paddle boarding interests were considered or if the negative impacts on the successful business interests of Coastal Kayak were considered.

It is difficult to believe the claim that, "The 'Education and Outreach Sub-committee' identified and reached out to additional stakeholder groups locally and statewide who had an economic or environmental interest in the initiative ... and that, the team met monthly to study every aspect of the plan; to identify conflicts, and consider the needs and concerns of those who live on and use the Bays."

How can this be claimed when the Tiger Team failed to contact the vast majority of residents who live on the shores of Beach Cove and Little Assawoman Bay and who daily use these waters for recreational purposes?

This local outreach failure is especially hard to fathom in light of the claim the Tiger Team was supported by work of the CIB, which reportedly "held meetings to inform and hear concerns expressed by constituent groups, ... held a working breakfast for federal, state and county decision makers on the goals and work of the Team," and educated "thousands of individuals" on aquaculture through presentations and materials developed with input from the team.

How difficult would it have been to obtain contact information for each of the communities surrounding Beach Cove and Little Assawoman Bay and solicit feedback from them?

The CIB has identified the Tiger Team as: E. J. Chalabala (Chair), Roy Miller, Bart Wilson, Chris Bason and Sally Boswell of the CIB; Nick Couch, Jeff Tinsman, Rick Cole and John Clark of DNREC Fish



and Wildlife; Mike Bott and Debbie Rouse of DNREC Watershed Stewardship; Scott Figurski of DNREC Wetland and Subaqueous Lands; Mark Davis of the Department of Agriculture; John Ewart and Ed Lewandowski of the University of Delaware Sea Grant; Julie Wheatley of Sussex County Economic Development; Bill Baker representing Recreational Interests; Bob Dorman and Steve Friend representing Commercial Clamming Interests; Rob Robinson and Josh Thompson representing Shellfish Aquaculture Interests; and Steve Copp representing the Shellfish Advisory Council.

It is significant and dismaying that of the 22 persons on this Tiger Team, only one represented recreational interests.

Although highly optimistic claims have been made that proposed shellfish aquaculture will eventually generate millions of dollars in revenue, only “estimates” of the economic and environmental benefits of aquaculture apparently have been made. It appears that no thorough legitimate cost benefit analysis has been conducted.

Not addressed is the appropriateness of converting otherwise freely used public lands into restricted areas for the benefit of private (for profit) use – even by out-of-state commercial entities. The proposed oyster farms will constitute a detriment to the public’s right to freely use Bay waters. Moreover, in addition to the area restrictions, the proposed oyster farms will result in both the visual degradation of an otherwise scenic area and the introduction of compromises to public safety.

Irrespective of whatever amount of benefit is derived from oyster filtering action in the highly tidally flushed Inland Bays, it is disturbing the Delaware legislature voted unanimously to establish an unsightly disruptive commercial oyster farming industry in the picturesque Inland Bays.

One would have hoped that, although oyster farming does not meet the legal definition of “heavy industry,” the legislature would have been guided by the fundamental purpose of the Coastal Zone Act, which expresses the state’s desire to “protect the natural environment of its bay and coastal areas and safeguard their use primarily for recreation and tourism.” The CZA acknowledges that, “While it is the declared public policy of the State to encourage the introduction of new industry into Delaware, the protection of the environment, natural beauty and recreation potential of the State is also of great concern.”

Steve Callanen of Ocean View, a Sierra Club member since 1998, is a mechanical engineer, retired from the U.S. Naval Surface Warfare Center.

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## **Voter Eligibility Isn’t Based On Gender, Age**

[Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#), October 22, 2014

Here’s a bit of savvy advice from some Fox News commentators for young women in this country. Thinking about voting in the mid-term elections?

Don’t even bother. You’re too young. Not intellectually developed enough. There are others pursuits to take on – like trolling Tinder or Match.com.

Kimberly Guilfoyle explained young women should excuse themselves because they don’t share the same “life experience” as older women, reports the Huffington Post. “They’re [young women] like healthy and hot and running around without a care in the world.”

Yes, this shot was delivered from within the ranks of the female gender. Guilfoyle was tag-teaming male co-host Greg Gutfeld’s observation that “with age comes wisdom” and the “older you get, the more conservative you get.”



Then Guilfoyle let loose this beauty: "It's the same reason why young women on juries are not a good idea. They don't get it!"

But do you know who gets it? Americans who have not lost their respect for this nation's Constitution and the rights it confers regardless of where your body falls on some TMZ channel Richter scale of sexual attraction.

Whether you are a Republican, Democrat, Green Party member or Independent, it's your duty to vote if you meet the citizenship and age requirements. This obligation is enshrined in the Constitution, as a protection of your right to participate in a democracy designed to show no preference based gender or if you are some "hot momma."

That's one of the coolest honors of being an American citizen.

Editorial correction: Tuesday's editorial incorrectly stated that Newark High School students "actively" prevented police officers from breaking up multiple fights in the school hallways Monday morning. Police confirmed it was the size of the crowd of more than 100 students, not their behavior, that prevented them from getting to students engaged in the brawls.

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