

Episode 57DHG May 5 2025 V A Mental Health Care raises privacy alarms and COVID 19 misinformation

In Episode 57DHG 1 United States Kennedy Junior disdain for science 2 United States Horse statistics in honor of the Kentucky Derby 3 Oklahoma Lawton At This Humble Used Car Lot Tariffs Are Beginning to Sting 4 Nebraska Why the Warren Buffett Departure Matters 5 Trump Says He Will Put 100% Tariff on Movies Made Outside U S 6 Will not You Be My Neighbor? No Thanks Elon Musk Residents of an upscale enclave outside Austin Texas learned the hard way what it is like when a multibillionaire moves into the mansion next door Some of them have started a ruckus over it 7 California Los Angeles Is This the Late Night TV Last Gasp? 8 United States Republicans in Congress Use Obscure Law to Roll Back Biden Era Regulations 9 Europe Makes a Pitch to Attract Scientists Shunned by the U S 10 Spain Cable Theft in Spain Disrupts Train Travel for Thousands Officials Say 11 United States Ever Worried About Being Laid Off? Read This 12 United States V A Mental Health Care Staff Crowded into Federal Buildings Raise Patient Privacy Alarms 13 United States Explanation from 2020 of why the Myth Legend or Rumor that MAGA still circulates that COVID 19 Vaccines are harmful still lives on among certain groups [RAWSEP View](#) Folklore is one explanation for the existence of Trump MAGA and Kennedy Junior MAHA COVID 19 Misinformation or the explanation more likely could be that COVID 19 misinformation is just be your basic Trump 1 point 0 lie in 2020 and your basic Trump 2 point 0 lie in 2025 15 United States Elon Musk As Musk steps back experts say Doge cuts have harmed government services The billionaire fired thousands of workers but savings are minimal and offset by degradation of services critics say 16 Romania The Alliance for the Union of Romanians A U R of George Simion has grown from an anti vax movement into the second largest party in Romania The Romania Far right first round win of Romanian presidential election raises prospect of EU disruption Trump admirer George Simion opposes Ukraine military aid and calls for Melonisation of Europe [RAWSEP View](#) A U R growing from an anti vax party to a MAGA esque party shows the connection between Trump influence and anti science and anti vax movements 17 Bosnia arrest Explosive toys and cosmetics the story behind the DHL parcels plot Exclusive account reveals previously unreported details and insights into how the Kremlin sabotage campaign played out on the ground and the multinational effort to track down the network behind it Main Content

1 United States Kennedy Junior disdain for science [Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization](#)

Substack Letters from an American Heather Cox Richardson May 4 2025 The results of this disdain for expertise shows these days most immediately in the policies of Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services Kennedy Junior As measles continues to spread across the U S a spokesperson for Health and Human Services said Friday that Kennedy Junior will turn U S health agencies away from promoting vaccination which is 97 percent effective in preventing the disease and toward exploring new treatments for it including vitamins It is not that there has been a lack of studies Dr Michael Osterholm an epidemiologist at the University of Minnesota told Teddy Rosenbluth of the New York Times Decades of research have not discovered dramatic treatments while vaccinations have proven safe and effective at preventing the life threatening disease Rosenbluth noted that public health experts are baffled by The Kennedy Junior decision to hunt for new treatments rather than endorse shots that have decades of safety and efficacy data In 2025 the top health official in the United States a man without degrees in either medicine or public health appears to be rejecting germ theory and reshaping the U S medical

system around his own dedication to a theory that was outdated well over a century ago 2 United States Horse statistics in honor of the Kentucky Derby Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization Substack Letters from an American Heather Cox Richardson May 3 2025 A piece written several years ago on Ten Famous American Horses 7 Mister Ed was a talking palomino in a 1960s television show by the same name At a time when Westerns dominated American television Ed was the anti Western with the main human character a klutzy architect and the hero a horse that was fond of his meals and his comfortable life and spoke with the voice of Allan Rocky Lane who made dozens of B westerns But the show was a five year hit as it married the past to the future Ed offered a gentle homely wisdom that enabled him to straighten out the troubles of the humans around him The startling special effects that made it appear that the horse was talking melded modern technology with the comforting traditional community depicted in the show 10 Secretariat was an American Thoroughbred that in 1973 became the first U S Triple Crown winner in 25 years His records in the Kentucky Derby the Preakness Stakes and the Belmont Stakes still stand After Secretariat was stricken with a painful infection and euthanized in 1989 an autopsy revealed that he had an unusually big heart Sportswriter Red Smith once asked his trainer how Secretariat had run one morning Charlie Hatton replied The trees swayed

Headlines The New York Times May 5 2025 Trump Tariffs and China The China Garment Factories Face a Tipping Point After New Tariffs The New York Times Trump Tariffs and China Hit by Trade War The China Garment Industry Refuses to Stop Hustling The New York Times Trump Tariffs and United States Opinion Welcome to the Sad New World of a Weak U S Dollar The New York Times Trump Tariffs and Auto Industry and the Used Car Business The Trump Tariffs Are Already Straining This Oklahoma Used Car Business The New York Times Trump Tariffs and Warren Buffett Why the Warren Buffett Departure from Berkshire Hathaway Matters The New York Times Trump Miscellaneous Actions Donald Jr and Eric Trump Pursue New Deals That Would Enrich President Trump The New York Times Trump Miscellaneous Opinion It is Not Just Trump The Presidency Has Become Too Powerful The New York Times Trump Miscellaneous Rwanda in Early Talks With U S to Take Expelled Migrants The New York Times Trump Miscellaneous The Fed Is not Likely to Cut Rates Proactively Despite Economic Concerns Here is Why The New York Times Trump Miscellaneous Trump Says He Will Put 100 Tariff on Movies Made Outside U S The New York Times Musk in Texas Elon Musk His 16 Foot Wall and the Feud With His Texas Neighbors The New York Times Musk in Texas Inside Starbase Elon The Musk New City The New York Times United States Is This the Late Night TV Last Gasp The New York Times United States and Republicans Senate and House Republicans in Congress Use Obscure Law to Roll Back Biden Era Regulations The New York Times New York and Nonprofits How New York City Routinely Fails to Pay the Nonprofits It Relies On The New York Times El Salvador Opinion The World Is Finally Seeing How Dangerous President Nayib Bukele of El Salvador Really Is The New York Times Colombia As U S Support Vanishes a Colombia Postwar Peace Teeters The New York Times Europe and Scientific and Medical Researchers from the United States As Trump Targets Researchers Europe Makes a Pitch to Attract Scientists The New York Times Spain Cable Theft in Spain Disrupts Train Travel for Thousands Officials Say The New York Times France and Crypto Crime French Police Rescue Kidnapped Father of Crypto Entrepreneur The New York Times Hungary Cardinal Erdo of Hungary Is a Favorite of Conservatives to Become Pope The New York Times Italy Survivors Urge Cardinals to Discuss Abuse Crisis in Choosing Next Pope The New York Times Mideast Oil Prices Slide Further on OPEC Plans to

Increase Supply The New York Times 3 Oklahoma Lawton At This Humble Used Car Lot Tariffs Are Beginning to Sting A used car dealer is trying to hold his car business together as President The Trump tariffs drive up costs and drive his customers deeper into crisis The man in his repair bay His inventory and sales have been dropping Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The New York Times May 4 2025 I have no idea how I am ever going to pay for this radiator she said We will give you some time Antonio said And what about my regular payments? I am behind already and now I have got nothing I know Antonio said I feel bad for you We will absorb what we can while you get back on your feet That could take a while Taylor said She looked down at his desk for a moment and wiped her eyes I might have to give the car back she said Antonio reached into a bin on his desk and found the keys to her Avenger These were the margins that determined their places in the American economy a slight price increase a brief delay another deal that neither side could afford We want to keep working with you Antonio said He walked her outside to the Avenger and handed her the keys She turned the ignition and the engine stirred to life OK he said You are good to go 4 Nebraska Why the Warren Buffett Departure Matters Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The New York Times May 5 2025 Yes he made lots of money But the closely watched investor amassed a following by being a conscience of capitalism and his exit raises questions about what is next for his company Buffett rarely relied on the legions of bankers accountants and consultants that are standard advisers to large corporations it allowed him to move with remarkable speed and decisiveness Abel will have to work hard to earn even some of that latitude and under him Berkshire is likely to operate with more guardrails But there is speculation that Buffett will remain chairman for some period which could afford Abel more freedom as he grows into the top job Eventually Howard Buffett The Buffett elder son is expected to take over as nonexecutive chairman Then there is the question of what happens to the Berkshire annual meeting itself which each year draws tens of thousands to Omaha for the chance to hear from Buffett The event has created a powerful halo effect for the company and its stock for the city too and for Berkshire owned businesses like NetJets Nebraska Furniture Mart and the jeweler Borsheim Will Buffett continue to speak at it? Will shareholders continue to make the pilgrimage if he does not? As the crowd filed out of the CHI Health Center past the booths of Berkshire owned businesses promoting their wares there was the palpable sense of an the end of an era 5 Trump Says He Will Put 100% Tariff on Movies Made Outside U S Declaring foreign film production a national security threat the president said he had asked his top trade official to start the process of imposing a tax on Hollywood Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The New York Times May 5 2025 Trump said he would impose a 100 percent tariff on movies produced outside the United States proclaiming in a social media post on Sunday that the issue posed a national security threat Trump said he had authorized Jamieson Greer the United States Trade Representative to begin the process of taxing any and all Movies coming into our Country that are produced in Foreign Lands Trump added This is a concerted effort by other Nations and therefore a National Security threat The latest economic impact report from the Motion Picture Association showed that the film industry generated a positive U S balance of trade for every major market in the world Sometimes the cost of shipping props and people overseas ends up costing studios more than they hope to save with tax credits But more often producers say the cost of working in California is prohibitive

Peak streaming is over fewer people are going to movie theaters and studios no longer get dollars from DVD sales Governor Gavin Newsom has pushed to more than double the available funding for the California tax incentive program Under pressure from constituents and several coalitions that formed after the recent wildfires in Los Angeles and the surrounding area California lawmakers have also put forward bills that would increase its film tax credit

6 Will not You Be My Neighbor? No Thanks Elon Musk Residents of an upscale enclave outside Austin Texas learned the hard way what it is like when a multibillionaire moves into the mansion next door Some of them have started a ruckus over it **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times May 5 2025 At first residents of the upscale cul de sac in West Lake Hills Texas did not know who had moved into the 6900 square foot six bedroom mansion next door Then construction workers arrived to erect a 16 foot chain link fence around the \$6 million property which is one of four homes on the leafy street They also installed an outward facing camera Next a fleet of cars many of them Teslas began parking on the street Three times a day a shift change signaled security personnel coming and going at the house Once the driver of a passing car shouted late at night that he was looking for a party the E house of E No one liked the commotion or the traffic or the keypad activated gate opening and closing for workers and cars at all hours So even when they learned through word of mouth that their new neighbor was Elon Musk the richest man in the world that did not stop some of them from grouching to the City of West Lake Hills about his mansion The complaints have since escalated into an uproar over city ordinances permits and exceptions known as variances so much so that the matter of The Musk house landed in a contentious Zoning and Planning Commission meeting last month The debate is headed next to a West Lake Hills City Council session scheduled for May 14 If you follow him at all in the news he is always guilty of building stuff and then asking for permission later One commissioner who was not identified in the recording said she could not believe West Lake Hills staff had recommended that the homeowner receive any exceptions I am astounded the staff is putting forth any kind of suggestions we bend based on who is asking she said The decision of the planning commission does not end the process At the upcoming West Lake Hills City Council meeting members must decide whether to stick with the recommendation of the commissioners on the Musk mansion If the City Council votes against him Musk could sue the town And if that does not work and given his track record in backing candidates there is always the next local election

7 California Los Angeles Is This the Late Night TV Last Gasp? **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times May 5 2025 The talk shows are one of the few TV genres that have not made the leap to streaming Their future may instead look a lot like a podcast studio The Netflix vice president of stand up and comedy formats said in an interview that the company had not initially been looking or aspiring to do another talk show It was more interested in being in the John Mulaney business than in talk shows generally he said adding John is so singular The first season of the show called Everybody is in LA ran for all of six episodes but was a huge critical hit Netflix went ahead and ordered 12 episodes for this year and changed the name to Everybody is Live although the show loosely follows one theme planning a funeral borrowing money and getting fired Mulaney is not following in the footsteps of Colbert or John Oliver and dedicating much of the show to the current political news cycle I was kind of like what type of show do I want to watch? Mulaney said And it is not because the ground is well covered by great people topically The performance of Everybody is Live could be a key piece of evidence

to determine whether streaming executives will keep taking a stab at the format or stop altogether. Mulaney strongly suggested that he would be interested in doing another season. It is not clear how the show is performing but critical attention has been more muted this season. The first episode appeared in the Netflix daily 10 most watched TV series in the United States but the show has not returned in the subsequent seven weeks. Netflix was not prepared however to announce anything yet about a potential third season. Every show we have ever done we want more people to watch he said. 8 United States Republicans in Congress Use Obscure Law to Roll Back Biden Era Regulations. As G O P lawmakers have largely ceded power to Trump they are also pushing the bounds of a little known statute to undo federal rules and potentially undermining the filibuster. Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization

The New York Times May 3 2025 As Trump moves unilaterally to slash the federal bureaucracy and upend longstanding policies Republicans in Congress have embarked on a spree of deregulation using an obscure law to quietly but steadily chip away at Biden era rules they say are hurting businesses and consumers. In recent weeks the G O P has pushed through a flurry of legislation to cancel regulations on matters large and small from oversight of firms that emit toxic pollutants to energy efficiency requirements for walk in freezers and water heaters. To do so they are employing a little known 1996 law the Congressional Review Act that allows lawmakers to reverse recently adopted federal regulations with a simple majority vote in both chambers. It is a strategy they used in 2017 during the Trump first term and are leaning on again as they work to find ways to steer around Democratic opposition and make the most of their governing trifecta of the House the Senate and the White House. But this time Republicans are testing the limits of the law in a way that could vastly expand its use and undermine the filibuster the Senate rule that effectively requires 60 votes to move forward with any major legislation. Because resolutions of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act need only a majority vote they are some of the only legislation that can avoid a filibuster in the Senate. This allows them to circumvent the partisan gridlock that stands in the way of most significant bills. Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon and Representative Maxine Waters of California both Democrats have proposed a bill that would make staff cut plans of a federal agency including the mass layoffs known as reductions in force undertaken by the Trump administration subject to congressional review. The measure would also require agencies to justify proposed staff cuts quantify the impact on employees and agency operations and present any alternatives the agency considered. It has no realistic chance of surviving the Republican controlled Congress and would certainly be vetoed by Trump. Mass firings are an attack on the separation of powers Merkley said in an interview. These have very big impacts on the provision of services to Americans and Congress should have a voice in that. Merkley criticized Republicans for using the review law to try to attack the E P A waivers for California arguing that such a move constituted a nuclear option aimed at carving out an entirely new set of policy matters from the Senate filibuster. If the Republicans want to expand the Congressional Review Act they should do it through legislation not through a bogus reinterpretation. Merkley said. You want to expand the scope? Propose a bill. That is what I am doing. 9

Europe Makes a Pitch to Attract Scientists Shunned by the U S. The European leaders are hoping to benefit as the Trump cuts support for research and threatens universities such as Harvard and Columbia with the freezing of federal funds. Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization. The New York Times May 5 2025 President Emmanuel Macron of France speaks at a podium beside a French flag and

an E U flag A backdrop behind him reads Choose Europe for science President Emmanuel Macron of France Over the longer term the European Commission the executive arm of the European Union plans to double grants for researchers relocating to Europe and to enshrine freedom of scientific research into a law called the European Research Area Act The first priority is to ensure that science in Europe remains open and free That is our calling card Ms von der Leyen said As threats rise across the world Europe will not compromise on its principles Europe must remain the home of free academic and scientific values The Trump attack on science and threats to universities were the main impetus for the conference which was attended by government ministers and prominent researchers from across Europe Increasingly the United States is seen as a strategic adversary with the opening of doors to American researchers and scientists viewed as an effective long term response to that challenge The Macron message to scientists particularly women he said was this If you love freedom come help us to remain free He announced that his government would dedicate \$113 million to welcoming foreign researchers promising that they would not replace European scientists Alarms in Europe began sounding when the Trump administration slashed jobs and froze science grants at leading American institutions as part of cost cutting measures European dismay increased as the U S government attacked diversity programs and attempted to dictate to universities whom they can admit and hire and which areas of study and inquiry they can pursue in the words of the president of Harvard 10 Spain Cable Theft in Spain Disrupts Train Travel for Thousands Officials Say The Spanish transport minister said a serious act of sabotage had brought some service to a halt delaying service into Monday Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The New York Times May 5 2025 A serious act of sabotage disrupted high speed rail lines in Spain the Spanish transport minister said on Sunday affecting thousands of travelers as transit operators worked to restore normal service The disruption was caused by thefts of cable parts on the line between Madrid and Seville said the transport minister The cable thefts were not the only reason for the widespread disruptions which affected more than 10000 passengers After the thefts a train also snagged dragging the overhead power line he wrote in Spanish It is the latest major disruption for Spain which is still reeling from an unexplained electricity outage last week By Monday morning Puente said in a post on X that high speed rail service had been restored to 70 percent of its normal service and that it should be back to normal by the afternoon

Headlines The New York Times May 4 2025 Trump Tariffs Opinion There Is a Way Forward How to Defeat The Trump Power Grab The New York Times Trump Tariffs Opinion Democrats Have Been at War With Oil Barons for Far Too Long The New York Times Trump Tariffs Opinion These Thinkers Set the Stage for Trump the All Powerful The New York Times Trump Miscellaneous Trump Says He Wants Alcatraz Restored as a Prison The New York Times Trump Tariffs Trump Says I Do not Know When Asked About Due Process and Upholding Constitution The New York Times Trump Miscellaneous The Trump Climate Claims Fact Checking the President Who Follows Science The New York Times Trump Miscellaneous Army Plans a Big Parade That Could Fall on The Trump Birthday The New York Times Trump Miscellaneous Justice Dept Investigates Minnesota Prosecutor Office Over Race Policy The New York Times Trump Miscellaneous Laid Off This Newsletter Doubles as a Support Group The New York Times Trump and Veterans Administration The Trump V A Squeezes Mental Health Care in Crowded Offices Raising Privacy Concerns The New York Times United States and Transportation A Scenic Tour of Red Tape Tracking the Slowest High Speed Train in the Country The New York Times United States

and Medicine He Was Sure Dialysis Had Caused His Belly Pain But Why The New York Times COVID Misinformation and Kennedy Junior How to Detect the Age Old Traditions of Folklore in the COVID 19 Misinformation of Today in April 2020 Alabama This Alabama City Faces a Culture War With Its Public Library at the Center The New York Times New York When Taxpayers Fund Shows Like Blue Bloods and S N L Does It Pay Off The New York Times California Where Would Hollywood Find Its Guillotines or Pay Phones Without Them The New York Times Nebraska Warren Buffet Highlights of the life of Warren Buffett The New York Times Nebraska Warren Buffett How Warren Buffett Changed the Way Investors Thought of Investing The New York Times Australia What Effect Did Trump Have on the Australian Election The New York Times Australia and Canada A New Trend in Global Elections The Anti Trump Bump The New York Times Ukraine More American Air Defense Is on the Way to Help Ukraine The New York Times Romania Election tip to Trumpist Candidate Romanian Nationalist Wins First Round of Presidential Voting The New York Times Israel 80 Years After Dachau Concentration Camp Liberation Witnesses Remember The New York Times 11 United States Ever Worried About Being Laid Off? Read This Federal workers Google employees and newspaper editors have opened up about losing their jobs in the newsletter Laid Off Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The New York Times May 3 2025 A California man was laid off for the first time in 2001 He was laid off three more times over the course of his career he said and wrote a book about his experiences that he self published in February In addition to writing about jobs he has lost Jaffe has been reading the layoff stories of others in Laid Off a new Substack newsletter A support group like this for laid off people has always been needed he said A formerly laid off woman who is now consulting and whose Laid Off feature was published in April likes how the newsletter lets readers hear from the people she added I am tired of companies being able to direct us and lead stories As humans we have that power and I like to hear from people like Hey I walked in it was awkward Things were awkward that day This is why they told me they are doing it Because no company is ever going to say that 12 United States V A Mental Health Care Staff Crowded into Federal Buildings Raise Patient Privacy Alarms Clinicians at the Department of Veterans Affairs say the Trump return to office order is forcing many of them to work from makeshift spaces where sensitive conversations can be overheard At a V A clinic in Oakland mental health professionals are sharing call center style offices such as a mailroom where supervisors had the cubby hole mailboxes removed to install two desks Clinicians at the Department of Veterans Affairs say the Trump return to office order is forcing many of them to work from makeshift spaces where sensitive conversations can be overheard Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The New York Times May 4 2025 In a Boston V A hospital six social workers are conducting phone and telehealth visits with veterans from a single crowded room clinicians say In Kansas City providers are planning patient care while facing each other across narrow cafeteria style tables in a large open space according to staff members And in South Florida psychiatric nurses have been treating veterans with mental health conditions in a hallway near a bathroom sitting down with them in a makeshift medical bay jury rigged out of filing cabinets and a translucent screen People walking by can hear everything that is going on said a male acute care psychiatric nurse at the Miami V A hospital and director of the local chapter of the National Nurses United union referring to the patient intake setup in a V A outpatient facility in Homestead Fla outside Miami The nurses are triaging these patients asking standard questions Do you

feel like harming yourself or others? How long have you been feeling suicidal? Do you have a plan to harm yourself? It is very personal stuff People walking by can hear everything that is going on » The return to office order to a woman who is a VA worker she said left her little choice but to retire early Six weeks ago she began telling patients that she was terminating their treatment They are mostly veterans who returned from war with undiagnosed PTSD and struggle with addiction she said by her estimate a quarter of them have already made suicide attempts And it is unlikely that her position will be filled after her departure she said Termination is difficult anyway she said A psychiatrist and a patient it is an oddly intimate relationship Nearly all of them have responded with hurt and confusion Their sessions were virtual so why did it matter where she was? She reminds them of the executive order that Trump signed on January 20 phasing out remote work for federal employees one of his first official acts This was not an easy decision she said It is not the right one for my patients And it is one I am really feeling forced to make

13 United States Explanation from 2020 of why the Myth Legend or Rumor that MAGA still circulates that COVID 19 Vaccines are harmful still lives on among certain groups [RAWSEP View](#) Folklore is one explanation for the existence of Trump MAGA and Kennedy Junior MAHA COVID 19 Misinformation or the more likely explanation could be that COVID 19 misinformation is just be your basic Trump 1 point 0 lie in 2020 and your basic Trump 2 point 0 lie in 2025 From the article title How to Detect the Age Old Traditions of Folklore in COVID 19 Misinformation of Today in April 2020 [Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization](#) Smithsonian Magazine April 14 2020 On the morning of March 16 I received an email from a colleague that contained an urgent warning of a pending COVID 19 nationwide quarantine Insider knowledge from one of my sons suggests a nationwide two week everything closes down quarantine may be coming to be announced either tomorrow night or the night after So go to the grocery store A dad of a friend is in healthcare and met with the President As grim as much of this coronavirus folklore may be folklorists also trace the humor shared among folk groups especially in times of anxiety A folkloristic analysis of the two messages above will recognize certain patterns and conventions that mark them as folklore The attribution to a dad of a friend dad and some of my military friends who are what folklorists call FOAFs or friends of a friend Folklore always appears with some slight variation because it never comes from a single authoritative source but rather is transmitted more informally from person to person or group to group nowadays often via text messages or social media Folklorists would classify these two messages as rumors because they provide plausible unofficial information and because they emerge during a real world situation of potential danger Folklorists recognize the very real dangers of spreading misinformation but we also understand how folklore functions for members of folk groups especially when those groups feel threatened Like all examples of folklore rumors seek to inform and to build solidarity and cohesion among members of folk groups as those groups seek to maintain their identity in the modern world The difference between legends and rumors is that Rumors are shorter non story like bits of information without an established plot while legends tend to be longer with setting plot climax and denouement Legends also differ from myths which as defined by folklorists take place before the beginning of time and before the world as we know it was created Not surprisingly legends are also emerging during the current coronavirus crisis One that was shared on Publore a listserv for public folklorists is that criminal gangs are taking advantage of people trying to remain safe at home They are sending crying children to residential homes if the door opens because who can resist a crying child the gangs rush in to commit unspeakable mayhem One of our primary concerns will remain constant to

better understand how our cultural expressions be they stories customs text messages or memes may function as folklore by informing by validating and reinforcing the beliefs and conduct of a particular group by building solidarity and cohesion among members of that group and even by providing some entertainment at this vitally serious moment in world history

Headlines The Guardian May 5 2025 Trump Miscellaneous Maga media mob meet the new rightwing faces in the White House briefing room Trump administration The Guardian Trump Miscellaneous Mass resignations at labor department threaten workers in US and overseas warn staff – as more cuts loom Trump administration The Guardian Trump Miscellaneous Trump says he will reopen Alcatraz prison for the most ruthless offenders US prisons The Guardian Trump Miscellaneous The Trump movie tariffs are designed to destroy the international film industry Movies The Guardian Musk As Musk steps back experts say Doge cuts have harmed government services Elon Musk The Guardian Australia Concerns about his capability Liberal senator launches extraordinary attack on Angus Taylor amid search for new leader Liberal party The Guardian Italy Pope Francis leaves mixed legacy on role of women in Catholic church Catholicism The Guardian Romania Far right first round win of Romanian presidential election raises prospect of EU disruption Romania The Guardian Russia Explosive toys and cosmetics the story behind the DHL parcels plot Russia The Guardian

14 United States Maga media mob meet the new rightwing faces in the White House briefing room A banjo player and a Black Maga influencer among others now attend Trump press briefings **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The Guardian May 5 2025 A disgraced ultra conservative banjo player ousted from his Grammy winning band a far right conspiracy theorist with alleged ties to Russia a TikTok creator known as Maga Malfoy for his resemblance to the Harry Potter character and an extremist social media influencer once banned from Twitter for posting a video depicting abuse of a child These are just some of the new media personalities courted by the White House to take part in a series of alternative briefings championed by Trump press secretary Karoline Leavitt An extraordinary gallery of Trump promoting characters has paraded through the West Wing in recent days answering the Leavitt call for independent journalists and influencers to attend her press gatherings Some of their fawning softball or otherwise baffling questions have provoked derision and concern while the topics predictably have covered a wide range of propaganda conspiracy and other extremist talking points Here are some of the highlights 1 Winston Marshall Since quitting Mumford & Sons the double Grammy winning folk rock band he co founded four years ago following his controversial endorsement of a book of a conservative journalist Guitarist and banjoist Marshall has found his place in the rightwing ecosystem The 37 year old British son of GB News co owner and hedge fund tycoon Sir Paul Marshall now hosts his own podcast The Winston Marshall Show in which he discusses politics with like minded guests for his 14000 subscribers 2 Tim Pool The host of several conservative podcasts was linked last year to a US content creation company the justice department said was paid almost \$10million by Russian state media operatives to publish videos promoting the interests and agenda of Moscow 3 Link Lauren Bleached blond and with a striking resemblance to the Harry Potter character Draco Malfoy Lauren is a previously unknown musician and content creator who served as a social media adviser to Robert F Kennedy Jr during the failed presidential campaign last year of the new health secretary His recent wild claims include informing his 875000 TikTok followers that the Biden administration was responsible for countless

suicides 4 Dominick McGee Under the pseudonym Dom Lucre election denier McGee was booted briefly from X then Twitter in 2023 for posting a video depicting child abuse but allowed back on at the insistence of X owner Elon Musk 5 Arynne Wexler Billing herself as just a crazy non lib girl in a crazy lib world Maga newcomer Wexler claims to have grown up as one of few conservatives on the outskirts of the very blue New York City 6 Rogan O Handley Better known by his alter ego DC Draino O Handley is a former entertainment attorney with a long history as a commentator on the political right He was among 15 rightwing influencers given early access in February to what the White House said was key new evidence in the case of the late pedophile Jeffrey Epstein but which many observers said fell way short of the explosive revelations they promised 15 United States Elon Musk As Musk steps back experts say Doge cuts have harmed government services The billionaire fired thousands of workers but savings are minimal and offset by degradation of services critics say Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The Guardian May 5 2025 As Elon Musk steps back from his role heading the so called department of government efficiency Doge many experts on government operations complain that Doge has done nothing to improve the quality of services the government provides to the American people Doge is not offering any solid claims that it has improved services in any way said a professor of public policy at the University of Michigan Rather it has made the quality of some government services worse Musk the richest man in the world was appointed to run the government efficiency drive by Trump in January and as a special government employee was barred from working for more than 180 days for the administration He also has his own business woes to attend to illustration of worker at desk with large crevasse behind him Mass resignations at labor department threaten workers in US and overseas warn staff as more cuts loom But on his way out of the White House Musk has boasted that Doge has achieved \$150billion in savings although many budget experts question the accuracy of that figure Musk has repeatedly made exaggerated and erroneous claims about savings which are a fraction of the Musk goal of \$1trillion in cuts The Musk claim of \$150billion in savings is a vast overestimate because it fails to include the considerable costs of the Doge moves said Stier The Stier group estimates that as a result of firings rehiring severance pay paid leave and lost productivity involving more than 100000 workers the Doge maneuvers will cost taxpayers \$135billion this fiscal year And several public policy experts said the increased wait times and hassles the public will face due to the Doge cuts should also be subtracted from the \$150billion Moynihan said Musk has precisely the wrong vision for someone tasked with making government more efficient His vision is that there is no way that government employees can produce anything of value Moynihan said So the idea of tools that makes government services better is completely alien to the Musk mindset I think he believes that nothing public employees do has any real value that they are not capable employees and therefore cutting them will do no harm Moynihan added It is a vision that does not understand what public services are why they exist and how they benefit people Moynihan faulted Musk for gutting one of the main efforts of the government to use technology to improve services and efficiency He also criticized Musk for helping kill Direct File a free and user friendly way for people to report and file their taxes The president of the AFL CIO the main US union federation said the Doge cuts will hurt workers She pointed to the sharp cuts at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health saying that that agency for instance does important research to ensure that the personal protective equipment of firefighters is safe as possible There is this notion that Doge is just cutting line items on a spreadsheet It is hurting real lives and real people A woman at the Yale

Budget Lab warned of another downside to the Doge cuts Part of what government does is mitigate risk she said Take food safety Government inspectors decrease the risk that you will get listeria or salmonella But when they reduce the number of food inspectors will you get listeria or salmonella tomorrow? No Will it probably increase the chances of people getting listeria and salmonella over the next five years? Yes

16 Romania The Alliance for the Union of Romanians AUR of George Simion has grown from an anti vax movement into the second largest party in Romania Far right first round win of Romanian presidential election raises prospect of EU disruption Trump admirer George Simion opposes Ukraine military aid and calls for a melonisation of Europe [RAWSEP View](#) A U R growing from an anti vax party to a MAGA esque party shows the connection between Trump influence and anti science and anti vax movements [Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization](#) The Guardian May 5 2025 A far right Trump admirer who opposes military aid to Ukraine has decisively won the first round of the presidential election in Romania rerun near final results show raising the prospect of another disruptive nationalist joining the club of EU leaders With 99 point 99% of votes counted on Monday George Simion 38 who sports Maga caps pushes a sovereignist socially conservative agenda and has called for the Melonisation referring to the far right prime minister of Italy scored 40 point 96% That was almost double the score of the second placed candidate Nicușor Dan the centrist mayor of Bucharest and higher than pre election polls had predicted The two will face each other in a second round runoff due on 18 May Dan squeaked into the second round with 20 point 99% less than a percentage point more than Crin Antonescu a pro European former senator backed by the ruling Social Democratic party PSD and the center right National Liberal party PNL the president of Romania has a semi executive role with considerable powers over foreign policy national security defense spending and judicial appointments They also represent the country on the international stage and can veto important EU votes A Simion victory could lead to Romania – which shares a border with Ukraine and is a member of both the EU and Nato veering away from the mainstream path and becoming another disruptive force within the EU alongside Hungary and Slovakia It would also be welcomed by conservative nationalists in Europe and beyond including senior Trump administration figures such as the US vice president JD Vance who accused Bucharest of denying democracy after the original ballot was cancelled That vote last November was won by Călin Georgescu a far right Moscow friendly independent but was annulled by the top court of Romania after declassified intelligence documents revealed an alleged Russian influence operation Georgescu who denies any wrongdoing was later placed under investigation on counts including misreporting campaign finances misuse of digital technology and promoting fascist groups In March he was barred from standing in the rerun Simion promised on Sunday to make Georgescu prime minister either through a referendum early elections or forming a new government coalition if he won Far right groups have 35 percent of parliamentary seats after elections held in December Georgescu 63 called the vote rerun a fraud orchestrated by those who have made deceit the only state policy but said he voted on Sunday to acknowledge the power of democracy the power of the vote that frightens and terrifies the system Simion denies his policies are far right but has described his party as natural allies of Trump and promised an alliance of EU countries in the spirit of Maga He has frequently criticized Russia but consistently opposed military aid to Ukraine To date Romania has donated a Patriot air defense battery to Kyiv is training Ukrainian fighter pilots and has enabled the export of 30m tons of Ukrainian grain through its Black Sea port of Constanta since the Russian invasion

17 Bosnia arrest Explosive toys and

cosmetics the story behind the DHL parcels plot Exclusive account reveals previously unreported details and insights into how the Kremlin sabotage campaign played out on the ground and the multinational effort to track down the network behind it Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The Guardian May 5 2025 On a frosty November 2024 morning a man with staggered exhausted into a small guesthouse on the outskirts of Bosanska Krupa a quaint Bosnian border town Alexander Bezrukavyy had been on the run for more than three months pursued by European security services who accused him of working for the Russian military intelligence agency the GRU Bezrukavyy 44 had set out from Croatia on foot two days earlier navigating dense Balkan forests and rugged hills to cross into Bosnia illicitly As evening arrived Bezrukavyy messaged his wife promising her that they would soon be reunited in Russia and contacted his friend to finalize his plans for getting back home using new forged papers and a flight from neighboring Serbia The arrest of Bezrukavyy was part of a Polish led operation targeting a suspected Russian backed criminal network The cell is accused of sending parcels containing camouflaged explosives on cargo planes across Europe triggering fires at three locations Polish prosecutors believe Bezrukavyy was part of a plot to send shipments with explosives to the US and Canada a brazen plan that would have marked a major escalation of a sabotage campaign that western security officials believe Moscow has unleashed over the past three years across Europe Western security officials believe the exploding parcels could have led to a plane crash and mass casualties When intelligence about the alleged plot reached Washington it caused so much alarm that top officials in the Joe Biden administration had called their Russian counterparts to demand that Vladimir Putin call it off The account began offering courier jobs paying hundreds of dollars per assignment A close associate of Bezrukavyy who supplied cars for the operation disclosed new details of the parcel shipments The packages looked very random toys from China and cosmetics Polish officials would later discover that at least one of the parcels sent by the Bezrukavyy group concealed a homemade incendiary device hidden among the toys and reportedly crafted from a cocktail of chemicals including highly reactive magnesium I am sure he did not do it for the Motherland He just wanted easy money He has been a criminal his whole life One thing is certain he added If the Russian services continue their sabotage offensive there are sure to be more arrests There will be others who will want to make some money and someone will be there to take advantage of that