

In this Webisode **1** RFK Junior is holding back Six Hundred Million Dollars **2** Five more Common RFK Junior Fallacies **3** Washington DC **4** New York City **5** The Midwest **6** Ukraine
Main Content

1 United States Health Secretary RFK Junior is holding up Six Hundred Million Dollars appropriated by Congress for vaccines in poor countries arguing that children are receiving outdated shots with ingredients that the U S has already phased out Politico April 29 Two Thousand Twenty Six with an excerpt reported in the Med page Newsletter

2 United States Five More Common RFK Junior Fallacies Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates the 501C3 nonprofit organization Your Local Epidemiologist Newsletter April 29 Two Thousand Twenty Six Keeping up with public health developments both policy and health events is like drinking from a firehose these days 5 more logical fallacies in the era of RFK Junior Common rhetorical tricks that are used to spread false health information Last month I wrote about 5 logical fallacies that are trending right now in the world of health and there was a resounding request for round two So here you have it! But first why should you care? Learning to identify logical fallacies is a form of pre bunking There are so many false health claims on the internet and chasing them down one by one is not possible Instead if you can learn to recognize these common errors in reasoning and manipulative patterns you can be prepared to discern unreliable information when you encounter it in the wild And research has shown pre bunking works teaching people logical fallacies helps them discern what information is reliable and what is not Alright now to the fallacies **1** Anecdotal fallacy The anecdotal fallacy occurs when people use their limited personal experience to make sweeping conclusions Our personal experiences are important and they guide many of our decisions But they also often give us incomplete information because they only reflect one experience or point of view The error in reasoning occurs when a person assumes their limited experience provides complete information and is enough to make much broader conclusions Examples of this fallacy in action My child did not get vaccinated and they are fine! anecdote Vaccines are not really needed broader conclusion I stopped eating bread and felt better anecdote gluten is causing so much inflammation in the modern diet broader conclusion I started taking this new supplement and have so much energy anecdote it really works! broader conclusion **2** Appeal to emotion fallacy The appeal to emotion fallacy tries to win an argument not by providing evidence but by distracting people with strong emotionally charged language or imagery to evoke feelings such as fear anger or sadness The image below is a great example It was used to try to convince Americans that children in the US receive too many vaccines Instead of providing accurate data the image triggers an emotional reaction by using images of lots of needles which feels scary and by showing the US baby as unhappy frowning This emotionally charged imagery distracts people from the fact that the message is inaccurate US babies do not receive 72 injections and the image creates a distorted view of immunization by emphasizing fear of needles while ignoring the benefits Emotion by itself is not inherently wrong or invalid and it can be used appropriately in health messaging The error in reasoning occurs when emotion is used in place of a reasoned argument or when it is used to distract from the fact that insufficient or inaccurate evidence has been provided as was the case here **3** Appeal to authority The appeal to authority fallacy says that authority figures experts are always right But this is not always true reality does not bend to the will or whims of experts Right now I think this one is especially confusing because the scientific community says trust the experts! but then when an expert says something a bit weird they say ignore them! In science what ultimately matters is the

quality of the data and analysis not who is making the claim Experts are often more reliable because they are trained to evaluate evidence which is why it usually makes sense to trust them But their credentials alone are not proof people with MDs and PhDs have to provide data to back up what they are saying The error in reasoning comes from assuming that the title or credentials alone of a person are enough to say they are correct without requiring they provide additional evidence to support their argument Examples of this fallacy in action Doctor Malone is the inventor of mRNA vaccines he knows what he is talking about! I have seen five doctors online recommend this supplement it must work A Harvard study showed Tylenol during pregnancy is linked to autism it must be true! The appeal to authority fallacy in action 4 The Moving the goal posts fallacy occurs when someone refuses to accept valid evidence supporting an argument and instead changes their demands This tactic makes it so an argument is never settled because the demands are constantly changing One of the most famous examples of this fallacy is the rumor around vaccines and autism Back in the Nineteen Nineties the original argument was the MMR vaccine may be linked to autism This was studied extensively and no link was found But instead of saying oh that is great! the goalposts changed and the rumor lived on next it was alleged it was actually thimerosal a vaccine ingredient that was causing autism When studies found no link between thimerosal and autism the demands shifted again This has happened over and over again for the last three decades turning what was once a valid hypothesis into an unfalsifiable rumor that is designed to never die When moving the goal posts is used no amount of data is ever deemed enough See this video on YouTube Instagram or Facebook 5 The straw man fallacy occurs when someone misrepresents an argument to make it easier to attack Instead of engaging with what was actually said they oversimplify or exaggerate it making it sound more extreme or simplistic than it really is This fake version the strawman is easier to knock down creating the illusion of winning the argument But in reality the original point was never addressed Examples of this fallacy in action You said vaccines are safe but clearly they have side effects! Real claim Safe means the benefits of vaccines outweigh the risks and serious side effects are very rare Straw man version Safe means no risks of any side effects whatsoever Doctors just want you to take a pill for everything Real claim Chronic health conditions are complex and sometimes diet and exercise alone are the best approach while other times medications may be needed Straw man version Doctors just want to push pills for conditions that are really caused by poor diet and lack of exercise Communication tips for talking about fallacies Pre bunking by teaching these logical fallacies can be an effective strategy for helping people recognize unreliable health information Here are a few communication tips to keep in mind when sharing these with your communities The goal is not to make people feel stupid EVERYONE uses and falls for these fallacies from time to time and they are not a sign of lack of intelligence The goal is to empower people to identify and resist manipulation tactics not to make them feel stupid In general shame based messaging does not work and it will not work here Do not just name the fallacy explain the reasoning error Naming the fallacy alone likely will not help the goal is to help people understand for themselves why the reasoning does not hold up so they can be equipped to identify the flaw in the future Provide real world examples when possible Hypothetical examples can be useful but real world examples help people see and understand these manipulation tactics in the wild setting them up to identify them in the future

3 United States Washington DC Fake Assassination Attempt Theories Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates the 501C3 nonprofit organization The Ballroom Truthers Have a Theory The Atlantic April 29 Two Thousand Twenty Six The fake assassination attempt conspiracy keeps growing The conspiracy theorists also latched on to a video pulled from Fox News's live broadcast, in which the reporter Aishah Hasnie, calling from inside

the Hilton hotel that hosted the event, told the anchor that she had been speaking with the husband of Caroline Leavitt right before the shooting started. You need to be very safe, she said he had told her. And he was very serious when he said that to me and he kind of looked around the room and he said there are some. Then the call dropped. Hasnie clarified in a post on X that cell service had been spotty in the ballroom but her explanation delivered at One Thirty AM in the morning was not as widely viewed as posts suggesting that Fox had cut her feed before she could reveal what her source had gone on to say. There are some people in here who are going to fake an attempt on the life of the president but with live ammunition? Within hours of the gunfire at the White House Dinner for Correspondents on Saturday night and initial erroneous reports that the shooter had been killed the usual swirl of misinformation and rumor was swirling in a particular direction. The event was staged, people said. More than Three Hundred Thousand Posts containing the word staged were shared on X before midday on Sunday. Some of those were probably saying that actually the event was not staged but still. People with substantial social media followings including some celebrities were raising questions. They drew attention to a clip of White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt from just before the dinner laughing as she previewed the speech of her boss. There will be some shots fired tonight in the room. Others in the style of pop music stan or follower accounts grabbed photos of President Trump and other members of the administration taken just before the shooting in which one might find evidence of knowing smirks or other telling body language. Some of these posts were viewed millions of times.

4 New York City. Miranda Priestly Hangs Up Her Own Coat Now. New York City interpreted by Hollywood. The Devil Wears Prada 2 finds the magazine industry in a much less glamorous place. Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates the 501C3 nonprofit organization. The Atlantic. April 29 Two Thousand Twenty Six. The Devil Wears Prada took place amid the glorious roar of capitalism. The hit Two Thousand Six comedy took place in a world where magazines were still triumphant with Runway a fictional Vogue esque publication the film was centered on sitting firmly atop the heap. The only concern was whether Andy Sachs a plucky aspiring journalist played by Anne Hathaway could survive working as the assistant to the imperious editor in chief of Runway named Miranda Priestly played by Meryl Streep without totally losing her sense of self. In The Devil Wears Prada 2 at first the story is a bit of a retread. Twenty years later Runway still exists and Miranda still rules it with a relatively iron fist. But the budgets of the magazine are no longer limitless. The September issue is not quite as thick with glossy ads. Dreaded words such as content and traffic are bandied about during meetings that used to be focused on which passed appetizers would be served at an upcoming gala. Stanley Tucci returns as the right hand man of Miranda Nigel Kipling. So too does Emily Blunt. She plays the former rival of and colleague of Andy named Emily Charlton. What is emphasized here are lots of spiky friendships and mild work drama and very little romantic turmoil.

5 United States. The Midwest. The Lost Idealism of Heartland Rock. The genre of Bob Seger and John Mellencamp reached across the ideological spectrum in a way that seems unimaginable today. Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates the 501C3 nonprofit organization. The Atlantic. April 28 Two Thousand Twenty Six. What was heartland rock? In the Nineteen Eighties the phrase denoted an array of artists and tendencies while also conjuring something atmospheric. Everything about the sound was big. the guitars. the drums. the voices. the choruses tailor made to be shouted along to at a stadium or at a wedding or in your car nowadays probably to the embarrassment of your kids or maybe grandkids. The bigness is in the soaring refrain of the Tom Petty Nineteen Eighty Nine classic Free Falling. Heartland rock had a big heart too. It was concerned with the lives of everyday people building worlds so vivid that

listeners effortlessly recognized themselves in them The dominant mood was obsessive nostalgia A remarkable amount of the music consists of grown men singing about teenagers Tugging on the heartstrings can be a cheap trick in the hands of the wrong songwriter but the best songs of the genre are redeemed by a fastidious eye and a poetic ear In the Bruce Springsteen Born to Run lovers like fast cars are sprung from cages on Highway 9

United Kingdom Men Accused in Fires Targeting Starmer Received Orders in Russian Prosecutors Say Two buildings and a car linked to Prime Minister Keir Starmer of Britain were set afire in May Two Thousand Twenty Five The men on trial for it were recruited through a Russian-language Telegram account a jury was told

6A Ukraine How to Help Ukraine in the Ukraine Daily Newsletter Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates the 501C3 nonprofit organization Kiev Independent 29 April Two Thousand Twenty Six How to help Ukraine Behind Blue Eyes and helping children affected by war access creative outlets We launched the How to help Ukraine newsletter for our members last year because we heard from you that there is interest in getting more involved in helping Ukraine In the tenth edition of How to Help Ukraine we are proud to share with you the work of Behind Blue Eyes a project dedicated to giving children from front line and liberated areas creative outlets from film photography to sound recording so they can both discover their talents and have a chance to speak about their experiences during the war of aggression by Russia Behind Blue Eyes is currently raising money for expeditions to front line areas this summer and fall One seven day trip to the south or east of Ukraine costs between Eight Thousand to Eighteen Thousand Dollars depending on the exact location the focus of the expedition and the number of participants This figure includes the transportation accommodation and meals for a team of eight to nine people as well as all the necessary creative materials for about One Hundred children to participate in some way including disposable film cameras printed materials gifts for the children and photo and video production During each expedition Behind Blue Eyes makes sure that the children have everything they need to immerse themselves in the creative process trying out different creative mediums and formats For context one disposable film camera is about Twenty Five Dollars The idea for Behind Blue Eyes began in spring Two Thousand Twenty Two by Dima Zubkov and Artem Skorokhodko while the two were delivering humanitarian aid to Lukashivka a village in Chernihiv Oblast that was occupied for about a month at the very beginning of the Russian full scale invasion In conversations with the locals one of the things that stood out the most to Dima and Artem was how the children continued to view the world with sincerity and a faith in the future despite the horrors of living through occupation Along with delivering humanitarian aid Dima and Artem also brought the children disposable film cameras letting them photograph whatever they wanted to remember without any supervision or intervention Pictured here are three of the photos taken by children during this period Dima and Artem shared the photos on social media starting a small community that supported the children which then grew into a mission to provide creative outlets to children from front line and liberated areas The goal is to let the children discover and develop their artistic talents and to give them an opportunity to speak about their lives experiences and dreams during the war Behind Blue Eyes currently has a team of nine people last year the founders Dima and Artem joined the Ukrainian army Since the project started in Two Thousand Twenty Two here is what it has accomplished met with over Fifteen Hundred children Six Hundred Fifty of whom got involved in an artistic project including film photography sound recording cinematography and upcycling Carried out over Thirty expeditions to front line and liberated villages giving children the materials to document their lives on film Organized three of their Blyshchyk spark in Ukrainian creativity festivals in front line villages hosting film workshops and showcasing the artwork of

children Created a podcast with a reach of over Two million listeners interviewing children about their everyday experiences and their dreams The podcast is only available in Ukrainian but the YouTube channel of the project also features some videos with English subtitles like this documentary showing the behind the scenes challenges of organizing a festival for children in a front line village Behind Blue Eyes aims to start a new chapter in Two Thousand Twenty Six turning the week long expeditions into a long term educational program aimed at nurturing creativity and giving children who have experienced war a way to process their reality and build resilience You can help Behind Blue Eyes by making a donation to help fund their expeditions this summer and fall Each trip to the front line costs between Eight Thousand and Eighteen Thousand Dollars and helps the project bring creative materials to children who have experienced war so that they can express themselves through art and have space to speak about their lives during war Behind Blue Eyes works with local volunteer organizations and schools ensuring they visit villages where their presence will have the biggest impact Finally Behind Blue Eyes is also working on displaying the photography and videography of children in exhibitions abroad

6B Ukraine One story from Ukraine Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke

Emission Particulates the 501C3 nonprofit organization Kiev Independent April 29 2026

Offensive tactics of Russia on full display in fight for Sloviansk Note from the Editor In accordance with the security protocols of the Ukrainian military soldiers featured in this story are identified by first name and call sign only Donetsk Oblast The Russians have the task of starting the occupation of Sloviansk in the summer The words of Dmytro Life cell come without drama panic or mockery But on the cusp of what could be one of the most decisive summer campaigns in one of the most important sectors of the front line in the far eastern Donbas region of Ukraine the tone struck was always going to be foreboding Traipsing through the grey foggy landscape of a spring morning in the hills east of Sloviansk the Forty Four year old head of artillery reconnaissance of the Ukraine Tenth Mountain Assault Brigade does the rounds of the newly relocated artillery positions of his unit Over the past two nights the huge metal beasts of war some over half a century old had moved into these hills hunkering down in the black earth and camouflaged with nets and branches In the basements and dugouts dotted around the area Ukrainian soldiers from his unit drink coffee and rest after sleepless nights changing position under fire You always feel like something could happen here said artilleryman Semen Segal resting after a tense overnight relocation of their howitzer When we first got here it was still okay But where we were before where we left last night it was really bad We could not even go to the bathroom for an hour because a drone was just hanging there Ever since the culmination of the bloody battle of Bakhmut over three years ago the 10th Brigade has held the line here guarding the approach to the northernmost of the now famous fortress belt of Donbas cities in Ukraine named Sloviansk For a long time despite the best efforts of Russia to break through the defense of this sector was one of the most stable in Donetsk Oblast But over winter with a renewed Russian push quickly overrunning the city of Siversk Ukrainian brigades in the area have been forced to pull back Now with Russian first person view FPV drones reaching Sloviansk for the first time an intense summer campaign ahead the soldiers of the brigade are bracing themselves for what could be one of their toughest fights so far The objective of Russia here is like their aim to take Kyiv in three days in Two Thousand Twenty Two said Dmytro They set these kinds of goals for themselves and our job is to stop them from carrying it out We are doing that job