



SAMAR ABU ELOUF FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Khaled Joudeh, 9, mourned his sister last month in Deir al Balah, Gaza. Relatives said 68 of his family members were killed in a day.

## Smoldering Gaza Becomes A Graveyard for Children

### Thousands Are Killed in Bombardment as Israel Responds to Hamas Attack

By RAJA ABDULRAHIM

Barefoot and weeping, Khaled Joudeh, 9, hurried toward the dozens of bodies wrapped in white burial shrouds, blankets and rugs outside the overcrowded morgue.

"Where's my mom?" he cried next to a photographer for The New York Times. "I want to see my mom."

"Where is Khalil?" he continued, barely audible between sobs as he asked for his 12-year-old brother. A morgue worker opened a white shroud, so Khaled could kiss his brother one final time.

Then, he bid farewell to his 8-month-old sister. Another shroud was pulled back, revealing the blood-caked face of a baby, her strawberry-red hair matted down. Khaled broke into fresh sobs as he identified her to the hospital staff. Her name was Misk, Arabic for musk.

"Mama was so happy when she had you," he whispered, gently touching her forehead, tears streaming down his face onto hers.

She was the joy of his family, relatives later said — after three boys, his parents were desperate for a girl. When she was born, they said, Khaled's mother delighted in dressing Misk in frilly, colorful dresses, pinning her tiny curls in bright hair clips.

Through his tears, Khaled bid farewell to his mother, father, older brother and sister, their bodies lined up around him. Only Khaled and his younger brother, Tamer, 7, survived what relatives and local journalists said was an airstrike on Oct. 22 that toppled two build-

ings sheltering their extended family.

A total of 68 members of the Joudeh family were killed that day as they slept in their beds in Deir al Balah, in central Gaza, three of Khaled's relatives recounted in separate interviews.

Several branches and generations of the Joudehs, a Palestinian family, had been huddling together before the strike, relatives said, including some who had fled northern Gaza, as Israel had ordered residents to do. The Israeli military said it could not address questions about a strike on the family.

In the end, members of the family were buried together, side by side in a long grave, relatives said, showing footage of the burial and sharing a picture of Misk before she was killed.

Gaza, the United Nations warns, has become "a graveyard for thousands of children."

Determining the precise number of children killed in Gaza — in the midst of a fierce bombing campaign, with hospitals collapsing, children missing, bodies buried under rubble and neighborhoods in ruins — is a Sisyphean task. Health officials in Gaza say that 5,000 Palestinian children have been killed since the Israeli assault began, and possibly hundreds more. Many international officials and experts familiar with the way death tolls are compiled in the territory say the overall numbers are generally reliable.

If the figures are even close to Continued on Page 13

**HOSPITAL EXODUS** Hundreds fled Gaza's main medical center days after a raid, but there was confusion about why they left. PAGE 12

**ISRAEL'S STRATEGY** The military is gaining ground in Gaza, but it's not clear yet whether its plan to eradicate Hamas is working. PAGE 12

## Jan. 6 Defendant Pleads Case to the Son Who Turned Him In

By ELI SASLOW

The trial was over and the verdict was in, but Brian Mock, 44, kept going back through the evidence, trying to make his case to the one person whose opinion he valued most. He sat at his kitchen table in rural Wisconsin next to his son, 21-year-old A.J. Mock, and opened a video on his laptop. He leaned into the screen and traced his finger over the image of the U.S. Capitol, looked through clouds of tear gas and smoke and then pointed toward the center of a riotous crowd.

"There. That's me," he said,

pausing the video, zooming in on a man wearing a black jacket and a camouflaged hood who was shouting at a row of police officers. He pressed play and turned up the volume until the sound of chants and explosions filled the kitchen. "They stole it!" someone else yelled in the video. "We want our country back. Let's take it. Come on!"

A.J. shifted in his chair and looked down at his phone. He smoked from his vape and fiddled with a rainbow strap on his key-chain that read "Love is love."

"Can I get your undivided attention for a few minutes?" Brian asked. "I want you to know what

### Years Spent Trying to Repair the Fracture in Their Trust

really happened. It's important to me."

"Sorry. It's just that you showed me this one already," A.J. said. "I'm tired."

They'd spent almost three years relitigating the events of Jan. 6, 2021, trying to make sense of what that day meant for their relationship, for the country and for the future of American democ-

racy. Now another divisive presidential election involving Donald Trump was less than a year away, and they were still staring at the same screen and interpreting different realities, each of them coming away with more questions than answers. A.J. searched the video for clues as to how the single father who'd been an advocate for the homeless and supported A.J. when he came out as gay had become the man pressed against police barricades alongside Proud Boys and neo-Nazis. Brian studied his son's reactions and tried to understand how the one person he trusted most — who he had put in Continued on Page 20

## College Board Pushes Its Tests Many Will Fail

By DANA GOLDSTEIN

BOSTON — For the past two decades, the College Board has moved aggressively to expand the number of high school students taking Advanced Placement courses and tests — in part by pitching the program to low-income students and the schools that serve them.

It is a matter of equity, they argue.

"What if the best stuff in education were not just for the best to distinguish themselves — but could engage a much broader set of kids?" asked David Coleman, the College Board's chief executive, in a January podcast interview. "Why are we holding it for some?"

Left out of that narrative is one of the most sobering statistics in education: Some 60 percent of A.P. exams taken by low-income students this year scored too low for college credit — 1 or 2 out of 5 — a statistic that has not budged in 20 years.

Nevertheless, the College Board, citing its own research, says its A.P. program helps all students, regardless of scores, do better in college — a claim that has helped persuade states and local districts to help pay for the tests.

A growing body of research, however, conflicts with the College Board's claims. One expert went so far as to call the group's research briefs "junk science." And some research shows that other advanced programs may make it easier for high school stu- Continued on Page 19



TIMOTHY A. CLARY/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

### Aiming for the Moon and Mars

It wasn't a complete success, but Elon Musk's SpaceX made progress in its second launch. Page 26.

## Universities Give a Shine to Dusty Downtowns

By MICHAEL KIMMELMAN

WASHINGTON — On a conspicuous corner of Pennsylvania Avenue, in a once gaudy building that used to house the Newseum, the 10-story, \$650 million Johns

Hopkins University Bloomberg Center has just opened in Washington. I'll say straight off: It's not architecture for the ages, but it's an interesting, high-end model of an urban quad and a good example of how struggling downtowns are finding a glim-

mer of hope as satellite campuses.

In design jargon, the term is "adaptive reuse," which is the same story as turning empty office towers into apartment buildings. Graduate students from Hopkins's business school and its government and international studies programs, among others, now occupy the space where an old satellite and a news helicopter belonging to KXAS-TV in Texas used to dangle from the Newseum ceiling. David Rockwell and his Rockwell Group, the theater and hospitality specialists from New York, have con-

verted the center's atrium into a handsome, sunlit, wide-open complex of terraced classrooms and breakout spaces.

Universities like Hopkins are not the ultimate cure-all for what now ails downtowns across America, though, especially since they don't pay property taxes like for-profit companies. Downtowns are still struggling. WeWork, which presently rents more office space than any other company in the United States, filed for bankruptcy this month. Attendance at theaters, museums and many cultural attrac-

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## In About-Face, OpenAI Weighs C.E.O.'s Return

This article is by Cade Metz, Mike Isaac and Erin Griffith.

SAN FRANCISCO — Sam Altman and Greg Brockman, two top executives at OpenAI who left the company after a dramatic board meeting on Friday, are talking again with board members about returning to the artificial intelligence start-up, two people with knowledge of the matter said.

The discussions follow an outcry after Mr. Altman, 38, was ousted from his role as OpenAI's chief executive. Since then, OpenAI's investors and Mr. Altman's supporters have pressured the board members of the start-up to bring Mr. Altman back, six people with knowledge of the situation said. They spoke on the condition of anonymity because the talks are confidential.

Microsoft, which has invested \$13 billion in OpenAI, was leading the pressure campaign, one of the people said. OpenAI investors who have expressed support for Mr. Altman to be reinstated were also willing to invest if he were to start a new company, something he began discussing almost immediately after he was forced out, people with knowledge of the situation said.

There is no guarantee that Mr. Altman or Mr. Brockman will be reinstated at OpenAI, the people said. Because of OpenAI's unique structure — it is controlled by a nonprofit and its board has the power to govern the activities of the subsidiary, where its A.I. work is done — the company's investors Continued on Page 16



RAUL ARBOLEDA/AFP — GETTY IMAGES  
A hippopotamus on Pablo Escobar's former estate.

## Colombia Tries To Rein In Herd Of Overeaters

By MICHAEL LEVENSON

When the Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar was killed in 1993, most of the animals he had imported as pets — zebras, giraffes, kangaroos and rhinoceroses — died or were transferred to zoos.

But not his four hippopotamuses. They thrived. Perhaps a little too well.

Officials estimate that about 170 hippos, descended from Mr. Escobar's original herd, now roam Colombia, and the population could grow to 1,000 by 2035, posing a serious threat to the country's ecosystem.

This month, after years of debate about what to do with the voracious herbivores, Colombian officials announced a plan to sterilize some, possibly euthanize others and relocate some to sanctuaries in other countries. On Friday, one official said that four hippos — two adult females and two juvenile males — had already Continued on Page 8

### INTERNATIONAL 4-14

#### Remaking an Infamous Home

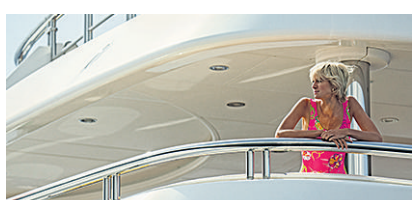
Austria is turning Hitler's birthplace into a police station. Many think it should be used to teach essential lessons about history instead. PAGE 4

#### Waiting for Asylum, in a Hotel

Experts say Britain's huge backlog of unresolved asylum cases underscores deep-rooted problems in the country's immigration system. PAGE 6

#### Europe Fortifies Kyiv's Arsenal

Germany, Norway, Britain and others are increasing weapons production to help Ukraine, but the aid may be coming too late as winter looms. PAGE 10



### ARTS & LEISURE

#### Everybody's Princess

Opening in the year Diana died, the sixth and final season of "The Crown" challenged the series's creators. PAGE 16

#### From Ohio to Broadway

In "How to Dance in Ohio," autistic actors play autistic characters who prepare for a spring formal. PAGE 4

### METROPOLITAN

#### After an Activist's Suicide

David Buckel violently ended his life in a public park in Brooklyn. People who knew him were shocked and angry. Yet they refused to give up. PAGE 1

### SUNDAY STYLES

#### A Little Less Stuffing

The impact of weight-loss drugs, like Ozempic, that have swept into the cultural conversation crashes into a holiday that's all about food. PAGE 16

### SUNDAY OPINION

#### Michelle Goldberg

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#### 9/11 Tributes at Guantánamo

Victims' relatives leave messages at a site not far from the court where men accused in the plot await trial. PAGE 15

#### Hearing From the Harris Bloc

There are voters who say they would not vote for President Biden, but could be swayed by Kamala Harris. PAGE 17

### SUNDAY BUSINESS

#### What'll Be the Next Jezebel?

Maybe Lux, "Binchtopia" or "Internet Princess." But despite the new wave of Gen-Z feminist content creators, many lament a loss of community after several longtime blogs ended. PAGE 4

#### His Friendship Has Limits

David Zaslav, the head of Warner Bros. Discovery, cultivated influential friends in the media. But the tumult at CNN shattered some of those ties. PAGE 1

