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Human Rights in the News

Joseph Thorpe

Submitted in Partial Completion of the
Requirements for Commonwealth Honors in English

Bridgewater State University

April 7, 2024

Dr. Kathryn Evans, Thesis Advisor

Date: May 7, 2024

Dr. Joyce Rain Anderson, Committee Member

Date: May 1, 2024

Dr. Jessica Melendy, Committee Member

Date: May 2, 2024

Artist Statement

The following project contains thirteen hard news stories that focus on human rights issues in the United States. The United Nations defines Human rights as including, but not limited to, “the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more.” Human rights, the U.N. continues, “are essential for making life worth living and are the basis for a just and fair society.”

The reasons for my focus on human rights issues are twofold. I am in favor of the inalienable rights of all human beings. Every one of us has the right to live free of subjugation by the state, to be protected from environmental and health hazards, to take part in an economy that has true possibilities for upward mobility, and to exercise our protected constitutional rights. Journalism stands on the front lines of protecting the rights of every individual. My career goal of becoming a professional journalist with the purpose and aim of highlighting issues that violate human rights is the inspiration for this honor's project. I have spent several semesters as a reporter for the Bridgewater State University student newspaper *The Comment*, and prior to my work with our BSU publication, I worked as a reporter, copyeditor, layout design manager, and general manager for the Cape Cod Community College student newspaper *The Main Sheet*. Some of the news stories in this project were published in *The Comment*.

In this spirit, I have spent a semester following current federal and state legislation such as those pertaining to child labor law repeals in several states, environmental issues like new technologies that have further exposed the harmful effects of plastics on our health and the environment. I have covered stories about government overreach like Indiana's *Eyes on Education* website that allows people to “submit and view real examples of socialist indoctrination from the classroom,” which has put educators in danger of being doxed. I have

written stories about free speech issues such as the TikTok ban, corporate greed in the form of “shrinkflation,” and student protests at Vanderbilt University about divestment from companies that help to fund the ongoing genocide in Palestine.

This project goes further than the presentation of these news stories, however. The project also concentrates on the revision process of the stories. Each story has gone through several revisions. Shown in this project are the original versions of the stories, the completed revised versions, and a detailed analysis of all revisions made to each story ranging from grammatical changes, structural reorganizations, stylistic rewrites, changes made for brevity and clarity, and adherence to the inverted pyramid style of journalistic writing that organizes information from the most critical news to the least critical information.

The process for writing the original versions of each story required an average of six to 10 hours of research online, hours spent organizing and outlining stories, and yet additional time to write each story. Often the process of researching the story would take place over several days. When working in a twenty-four-hour news cycle, information about aspects of news tends to evolve over time. Often, information widely published at the genesis of a news event becomes the history of the event which means that as the news cycle goes forward, critical information for the public, and for a full understanding of the news event is left out of the evolution of the story. Another factor in compiling the information in these news stories is the manner information is sometimes disseminated. In many cases, news media outlets are republishing stories from the Associated Press or other news outlets that conducted the original journalistic investigation. When this happens, the tendency of these media outlets is to publish the briefest version of the story which can leave out many critical elements the public would need to comprehend the entire meaning of the news event, and most importantly, how the event effects the lives of the

individual media consumer. Thus, in gathering the information included in the stories presented here, I have scoured dozens of news stories, followed ongoing developments, and sifted through them to extract the most critical and informative aspects of each story. After completing the original version of each story, I would meet with my honor's project mentor, Professor Kathy Evans, to discuss in detail the necessary revisions for each story. After completing these revisions, the final project was sent to my honor's reading committee who offered further suggestions for revision, and Professor Evans conducted a final review of the project.

The overall goal of this project is to serve as part of a larger portfolio of my journalistic work to present in search of employment opportunities. My career goal is not intended as rewarding in the sense of financial gains, my choice does not seek personal notoriety, nor do I imagine reaching the heights of the industry's publications. While all things are possible, I want to utilize my skill to be of the most use to other people. My motivation is not about reward; it is the commandment of something that exists not just in the mind, not just in my heart, but of the something between, the something one might call a soul. This soul has its own voice. It shouts to me a purpose. It general the meaning there is to make of life. The greatest sense of satisfaction I experience is when I am able to complete the task which this soul desires—to serve others.

Indiana Teacher Portal: Original Version

Teachers

On February 6, the Indiana Attorney General's Office launched a new online portal called Eyes on Education that enables the public to report what the website calls "objectionable curricular policies or programs affecting children" in Indiana K-12 classrooms, colleges, universities, and other affiliated academic entities. The website does not define what is considered "objectionable."

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita said of the website's purpose in a statement the portal allows parents to "...view real examples of socialist indoctrination from classrooms across the state."

One post alleging "evidence of racism found in curriculum" shares a screenshot of a U.S. History discussion question asking students to take a position on the statement, "[a] lack of formal education is one of the largest obstacles our nation faces today in its battle to rid our society of any form of racist behavior."

Another post shares a letter from Dr. David Clendening, superintendent of Franklin Community Schools, stating, "[i]f we do not address societal injustice in our classrooms...we will have stymied our student's full potential." This specific text from the letter is highlighted in yellow and circled in red.

Some of the materials posted contain teachers' names and the school where they work; many are several years old and posted without context.

Six teacher associations' presidents have written a letter detailing concerns over the accuracy of documents posted. "The portal violates teachers' liberties by posting their names as an intentional act of doxing (sic), which could lead to teacher safety concerns," the letter says.

"Furthermore, the Attorney General is weaponizing a government website for his personal benefit."

According to PEN America, a nonprofit that tracks the status of state legislations, the portal comes amidst an "onslaught of educational gag orders—state legislative and policy efforts to restrict teaching about topics such as race, gender, American history, and LGBTQ+ identities in educational settings."

PEN America has documented that by November of 2023, 22 state legislatures had passed 40 "gag order" laws or policies that censor topics involving race, and 17 states have passed 26 anti-diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) laws since 2021. Already, lawmakers have introduced 429 additional anti-LGBTQ+ bills in 2024 legislative sessions.

Indiana Teacher Portal: Revised Version

Indiana Launches Unregulated Portal to Monitor Teacher's Assignments

On February 6, the Indiana Attorney General's Office launched a new online portal called *Eyes on Education* that enables the public to report what the website calls "objectionable curricular policies or programs affecting children" in Indiana K-12 classrooms, colleges, universities, and other affiliated academic entities. The website does not define what is considered "objectionable."

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formal education is one of the largest obstacles our nation faces today in its battle to rid our society of any form of racist behavior."

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PEN America has documented that by November of 2023, twenty-two state legislatures had passed 40 "gag order" laws or policies that censor topics involving race, and seventeen states have passed 26 anti-diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) laws since 2021. Already, lawmakers have introduced 429 additional anti-LGBTQ+ bills in 2024 legislative sessions.

Indiana Teacher Portal: Revision Analysis

The original version of the story needed no significant overhaul. Several changes were made for grammatical errors, brevity of writing, and clarification. The title, "Teachers," has been rewritten to reflect the story's content better and to impress the story's significance to the audience. The name of the portal, which is the story's subject, was revised to be written in italics for grammatical correctness. Other grammatical revisions changed the numbers "17" and "22" to their number-to-word conversion form, and the word "history" was revised for change-of-case. Paragraph two was edited for wordiness and now appears in a succinct version in an ease-of-reading effort for the audience. Lastly, paragraph five was amended to clarify the meaning of the quotation for the edification of the audience.

TikTok Ban: Original Version

TikTok Ban

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed a bill targeting TikTok, demanding its Chinese parent company, ByteDance, to sell the app or face a ban. With President Joe Biden indicating a willingness to sign a Senate-passed version, the bill's fate in the Senate remains uncertain amidst concerns over digital privacy and free speech.

Contrary to the bill's implications, TikTok asserts robust user data protection. The company emphasizes its "Project Texas" initiative, under which all U.S. user data is transferred to servers controlled by Oracle, monitored by third-party U.S. auditors, to ensure Chinese officials cannot access Americans' personal information. This stands in stark contrast to claims of national security threats, as there's no evidence of TikTok sharing data with the Chinese government, nor interference with content on the American version of the app.

A potential ban could significantly impact businesses utilizing TikTok for e-commerce, influencers who rely on the platform for livelihood, and the broader user base, especially younger Americans. TikTok has evolved into a critical space for news dissemination, political organization, and social activism. According to the Pew Research Center, 32% of young adults in the U.S. get their news directly from the app. Restricting access to TikTok would not only disrupt these communities but also undermine the collective power to address government and social injustices.

Amidst these discussions, financial disclosures from Quiver Quantitative, a company that tracks congressional investments reveal that members of Congress voting for the bill might have conflicts of interest, owning significant stocks in TikTok's competitors. This raises questions

about the motivations behind the legislation and whether lawmakers' decisions are influenced by personal financial interests rather than public welfare.

As the bill approaches the Senate, its prospects are clouded by political dynamics and broader debates on internet freedom, privacy, and the role of government in regulating social media platforms. With the Senate's decision pending and the election looming, the future of TikTok in the U.S. hangs in balance.

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TikTok Ban: Revision Analysis

The story has a sound structure and logical flow, but it needed revisions for grammatical errors, and an alteration to a statement was needed to clarify information and legitimize a statement written without verifiable authority of fact. The grammatical changes are as follows: in paragraph one, the word "to" was struck from "demanding its Chinese parent company, ByteDance, to sell the app or face a ban" as "to" was an incorrect use of a particle of the infinitive marker "sell" which did not need to be written as an infinitive form of the verb. In paragraph two, the word "and" added to the sentence "The company emphasizes its 'Project Texas' initiative, under which all U.S. user data is transferred to servers controlled by Oracle,

and monitored by third-party U.S. auditors, to ensure Chinese officials cannot access Americans' personal information," to form the conjunction between the two statements. Lastly, in paragraph four, a comma was added to follow the word "investments" to complete the grammatical frame around the non-essential but informative information concerning the nature of the company Quiver Quantitative.

Child Labor Laws: Original Version

Child labor laws see dangerous rollbacks in Several States

On February 1, the U.S. Department of Labor asked a federal court to issue a restraining order on Tennessee based company Fayette Janitorial Service LLC while the department conducts their investigation into alleged child labor violations. The company is accused of employing 15 children as young as 13 years old in Virginia, and at least nine children in Iowa on overnight sanitation shift at a Perdue Farms plant in Accomac, Virginia, and at Seaboard Triumph Foods LLC in Sioux City. The children are said to have been cleaning dangerous equipment in a slaughterhouse on the "kill floor." One 14-year-old in Virginia is said to sustain injuries at the site.

In November 2023, the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division enhanced penalties for child labor violations. A Field Assistance Bulletin announced a change of penalties from a pre-child basis fine to a pre- violation fine \$11,000 to \$50,000 for any child labor violation that causes the death or serious injury of any employee under the age of 18, and provides that penalties can double for repeated or willful violations.

According to the Department of Labor, in 2023, 5,800 children were employed in violation of child labor laws. Child labor violations have increased nearly 60% from 2021-2022. Despite the enhanced protections Senate and Congressional Houses have become a battleground over child labor laws. According to the Economic Policy Institute, at least 30 states have introduced or passed bills that dilute child labor protections.

Since 2021, nine states have introduced legislation to increase the parameters that restrict children from employment in hazardous workplaces. In 2024, 11 states are considering new legislation and other actions to roll back child labor protections.

Death and injury are not the only concerns about child labor. In Florida, the House Representatives passed a bill in February which allows employers to have teenagers work longer hours during the school year, be required to work eight or more hours in a day and over 30 hours in a week. Work breaks for teens were reduced from every four hours to zero breaks in the workday.

Similar bills have been moving their way through state's legislature. In Minnesota and Ohio, GOP lawmakers have sought to increase work hours for teens and allow them to work in more dangerous occupations like construction. In Iowa, lawmakers have passed a bill that allows 14-year-olds to work night shifts and to work at previously prohibited jobs such as those serving alcohol.

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Child Labor Laws: Revision Analysis

In revision, two parts of the original text were rewritten. The last sentence of paragraph two was split into two sentences for the sake of readability, and the language was revised to agree with the revised split. The original sentence from paragraph two read, "A Field Assistance Bulletin announced a change of penalties from a pre-child basis fine to a pre-violation fine \$11,000 to \$50,000 for any child labor violation that causes the death or serious injury of any employee under the age of 18, and provides that penalties can double for repeated or willful violations." The revised sentence reads, "A Field Assistance Bulletin announced a change of penalties from a per-child basis fine to a per-violation fine of \$11,000 to \$50,000 for any child labor violation that causes the death or serious injury of any employee under the age of eighteen. The announcement also provides penalties to double fines for repeated or willful violations." The first sentence in paragraph five was rewritten for brevity and readability from, "Since 2021, nine states have introduced legislation to increase the parameters that restrict children from employment in hazardous workplaces," to "Since 2021, nine states have brought legislation to increase parameters restricting children from employment in hazardous workplaces." Several grammatical errors were fixed: "pre-child" and "pre-violation" were corrected to read "per-child" and "per-violation," a hyphen was added as such to "Tennessee-based," the numbers "18" and "11" were changed to the number-to-word conversion forms, "later" became "longer" as the correct language for accuracy in the statement it is contained. In the sentence, "Despite the enhanced protections Senate and Congressional Houses have become a battleground over child labor laws," a comma was added after "protections" to separate the introductory clause from the main point of the statement, and "Senate and Congressional Houses" was altered for change-of-case to read, "...senate and congressional houses..." Lastly, the apostrophe in the sentence

"Similar bills have been moving their way through state's legislature," was removed, and the word "legislature" was corrected to the plural form to read "Similar bills have been moving their way through state legislatures."

Project 2025: Original Version

Project 2025: A Conservative Hostile Takeover

As the 2024 presidential election nears, conservatives, led by The Heritage Foundation's Project 2025, are preparing for a significant shift in governance. Should Donald Trump win the presidency, the project anticipates initiating an extensive overhaul, beginning with the replacement of key government employees identified with 'woke' ideologies and policies, and to replace them with vetted loyalists. This is a tipping point for human rights in America.

The forward from the 920 page Project 2025 plan states, "[t]he next conservative President must make the institutions of American civil society hard targets for woke culture warriors. This starts with deleting the terms sexual orientation and gender identity ("SOGI"), diversity, equity, and inclusion ("DEI"), gender, gender equality, gender equity, gender awareness, gender-sensi-tive, abortion, reproductive health, reproductive rights, and any other term used to deprive Americans of their First Amendment rights out of every federal rule, agency regulation, contract, grant, regulation, and piece of legislation that exists."

In the White House, the plan aims to institute an executive order known as Schedule F. The order would change the status of tens of thousands of federal employees to at-will. This change would enable Trump to fire without cause any federal employee within his administration that halts, disagrees, or poses a barrier to his agenda.

"We have a democracy that is at risk of suicide. Schedule F is just one more bullet in the gun," said Mary Guy, a professor of public administration at the University of Colorado Denver. Beyond the immediate targeting of federal employees, the plan includes ambitious proposals such as reforming or dissolving agencies like the Department of Education and the Department

of Homeland Security, and reallocating resources from the FBI's misinformation countermeasures.

We would also see the next Trump administration would also end the Environmental Protection Agencies programs to combat climate change. The Project 2025 report calls efforts to replace fossil fuels "environmental extremism."

"What this does is it basically undermines not only society but the economic capacity of the country at the same time as it's doing gross violence to the environment," said Andrew Rosenberg, who was a senior official at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration during the Clinton administration.

While a new Trump administration may not adopt all the Project 2025 initiatives, in his first term as president, the Heritage Foundation found that of 334 of their policy recommendations 64% were, "included in Trump's budget, implemented through regulatory guidance, or under consideration for action in accordance with The Heritage Foundation's original proposals."

According to Project 2025, these steps are essential for realigning federal agencies with their vision of governance. The project has already started the process of training and selecting candidates for crucial positions within the potential new administration and across the federal government.

Project 2025: Revised Version

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According to *the Project 2025* plan, these steps are essential for realigning federal agencies with their vision of governance. The project has already started the process of training and selecting candidates for crucial positions within the potential new administration and across the federal government.

Project 2025: Revision Analysis

In revision, language was added to clarify *that Project 2025* is a document rather than an entity, as the original version implied lacking this specificity. Likewise, all instances of the *Project 2025* title have been italicized to denote their meaning. The publication date of *Project 2025* was added for the audience's edification and to assert the document's timely nature as a current and newsworthy event.

The revised version significantly altered the story's organization, with the original paragraphs three and four becoming paragraphs two and three, respectively.

Paragraph one underwent significant filtering for brevity and clarity. Paragraph one initially read, "As the 2024 presidential election nears, conservatives, led by The Heritage Foundation's Project 2025, are preparing for a significant shift in governance. Should Donald Trump win the presidency, the project anticipates initiating an extensive overhaul, beginning with the replacement of key government employees identified with 'woke' ideologies and policies, and to replace them with vetted loyalists. This is a tipping point for human rights in America." which has been changed to read "As the 2024 presidential election nears, conservatives, led by The Heritage Foundation's *Project 2025* blueprint report, are preparing for a significant shift in governance. Should Donald Trump win the presidency, the project would initiate an extensive overhaul, replacing key government employees identified with 'woke' ideologies and policies in exchange for vetted loyalists."

Paragraph six received the same filtering treatment as paragraph one by striking the words "...would also see the..." from "We would also see the next Trump administration would also end the Environmental Protection Agencies programs..." for brevity and clarity.

Paragraphs seven and eight were revised for the organization of information and the sake of clarity.

Paragraphs seven and eight were revised for the organization of information and the sake of clarity. These paragraphs originally read as "What this does is it basically undermines not only society but the economic capacity of the country at the same time as it's doing gross violence to the environment," said Andrew Rosenberg, who was a senior official at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration during the Clinton administration.

Biden Marijuana Pardons: Original Version

Biden's Marijuana Pardons: Not All They Could Be

For people under the age of thirty, it is sometimes surprising to learn that marijuana was once a crime so serious that simple possession could lead to serious prison time.

Massachusetts decriminalized marijuana in 2008 and made legal for recreational use in 2016.

Last December, President Joe Biden announced an executive clemency whereby people charged or convicted of nonviolent marijuana charges can apply for a pardon through an online application with The Office of the Pardon Attorney. The pardons are only for eligible applicants charged on federal land or Washington, D.C.

The benefits of obtaining a pardon will remove barriers people charged with marijuana offenses face in access to housing, employment, and education.

However, a pardon does not remove these charges from someone's record.

"Any background check for a travel visa, or for a job teaching, or even to hold a government appointment or run for office, will all show that federal marijuana possession record – every time," says Chris Goldstein, regional organizer for the non-profit group NORML that has advocated for the rights of responsible marijuana users since 1970.

Recipients of a pardon will receive a certificate they must present to the authority in charge of their circumstance. Thusly, and by force, opening the authority's mind to the possibility of the recipient a criminal disposition in society.

"We demand that the president actually deschedule and decriminalize cannabis,"
Kassandra Frederique, executive director of The Drug Policy Alliance, a U.S. organization that

advocates for regulation of drugs to be grounded in evidence, health, equity, and human rights, in an interview with NPR.

President Biden has recommended the Drug Enforcement Agency reclassify marijuana as a Schedule I controlled substance. Schedule I drugs, like heroin and LSD, are considered to have a high potential for abuse and no legitimate medical use under the Controlled Substances Act of 1970. Crimes related to the possession, sale, and trafficking of these drugs can range from fines to lengthy prison sentences.

The Department of Health and Human Services and the Federal Drug Administration have told the DEA to reschedule marijuana as Schedule III, which would potentially legalize medical marijuana under federal law. 12 Senate Democrats, including Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, have also requested the DEA remove marijuana from The Controlled Substance Act altogether.

In Massachusetts, Gov. Maura Healy campaigned on the promise of pardons for people with marijuana convictions. Still, there has yet to be any substantive progress made to keep that promise.

"The plan is under development at this time," said the governor's office spokesperson, Karissa Hand.

The DEA has told congressional lawmakers they are 'now conducting their review' of marijuana's status under federal law.

Biden Marijuana Pardons: Revised Version

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The DEA has told congressional lawmakers they are 'now conducting their review' of marijuana's status under federal law.

Biden Marijuana Pardons: Revision Analysis

The lead has been reorganized and revised to prioritize the story's context. The lead originally read, "For people under the age of thirty, it is sometimes surprising to learn that marijuana was once a crime so serious that simple possession could lead to serious prison time. Massachusetts decriminalized marijuana in 2008 and made legal for recreational use in 2016," and is now "Massachusetts decriminalized marijuana in 2008 and made legal for recreational use

in 2016. For people under the age of thirty, it is sometimes surprising to learn that marijuana was once a crime so serious that simple possession could lead to serious prison time."

Paragraph two was revised for clarity to specify the parameters of the pardons by adding the word "in" before Washington D.C.

"The benefits of" was struck from the beginning of paragraph three for brevity and clarity, and "in applying" was added to the context for clarity about when and where people with federal marijuana offenses experience barriers as a result of their criminal status.

Paragraph five contained an en-dash where there should have appeared an em-dash, and paragraph six saw a sentence restructured from two sentences to one as such "Recipients of a pardon will receive a certificate they must present to the authority in charge of their circumstance—thusly, and by force..."

The attribution for the quote in paragraph seven was filtered for readability from "We demand that the president actually deschedule and decriminalize cannabis," Cassandra Frederique, executive director of The Drug Policy Alliance, a U.S. organization that advocates for regulation of drugs to be grounded in evidence, health, equity, and human rights, in an interview with NPR." to "We demand that the president actually deschedule and decriminalize cannabis," Cassandra Frederique, executive director of The Drug Policy Alliance, said in an interview with NPR."

A correction was made in paragraph eight where the story incorrectly states President Biden has "recommended the Drug Enforcement Agency reclassify marijuana as a Schedule I controlled substance." to state correctly "President Biden has recommended the Drug Enforcement Agency reclassify marijuana as from Schedule I controlled substance to a Schedule III."

The number "12" in paragraph nine was revised to its number-to-word "twelve" conversion form."

Police Use Unregulated Facial Recognition Technology: Original Version

Concerns over police departments using unproven facial recognition processes.

Recently, *WIRED* magazine acquired information that a California detective issued a request to use a DNA-generated estimation of a suspect's face for facial recognition technology that was uncovered within a collection of hacked police records released by Distributed Denial of Secrets (DDoSecrets). DDoSecrets, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization focused on publishing and archiving leaks, is dedicated to the "free transmission of data in the public interest." This incident is the first reported case of a police department attempting to use software in this combination, one that lacks merit.

In 2017, detectives from the East Bay Regional Park District Police Department sought help from Parabon NanoLabs to solve the 1990 murder of Maria Jane Weidhofer. Parabon, who specializes in DNA-to-face rendering, uses crime scene DNA to generate 3D facial predictions of a suspect, an attempt to assist in reviving cold cases. Despite concerns, the department publicly released the image in hopes of gathering leads. In 2020, the detective on the Weidhofer case requested the image be processed through facial recognition, a move criticized by privacy advocates and against Parabon's terms of use.

Parabon NanoLabs, founded in 2008, focuses on forensic genetic genealogy and DNA phenotyping. Using machine learning, Parabon claims it can predict facial features from DNA, although its methods are criticized by scientists regarding the accuracy and ethics of such predictions.

Jennifer Lynch, general counsel at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, criticized the practice of using DNA-generated faces for facial recognition. Speaking to *WIRED*, Lynch described the technique as "junk science," arguing that it poses a significant risk of

misidentifying individuals. "There's no real evidence that Parabon NanoLabs can accurately produce a face in the first place," she explained. "It's very dangerous, because it puts people at risk of being a suspect for a crime they didn't commit."

Ellen Greytak of Parabon NanoLabs detailed how their technology predicts facial features from DNA, claiming it can determine traits like hair color, eye color, and face shape based on the DNA and 3D scans of 1,000 volunteers. However, these methods have yet to undergo peer review, casting doubt on their reliability and the feasibility of accurately predicting face shape from genetic material.

The utilization of predictive technologies by law enforcement, particularly the combination of DNA-generated facial creations with facial recognition, underscores a significant gap in regulatory oversight. Currently, no federal regulations restrict the kind of images law enforcement can use with facial recognition technology. The responsibility to establish and uphold safeguards falls on the police department's judgment, highlighting a concerning lack of uniform standards in the use of these tools.

Police Use Unregulated Facial Recognition Technology: Revised Version

Tech Experts Concerned Over Police Departments Using Unregulated Facial Recognition

Technology

Recently, *WIRED* magazine acquired information from a collection of hacked police records released by Distributed Denial of Secrets (DDoSecets) that an East Bay California detective issued a request to use a DNA-generated estimation of a suspect's face for facial recognition technology.

DDoSecrets is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization focused on publishing and archiving leaks dedicated to the "free transmission of data in the public interest." While the DDoS non-profit shares the same name as a specific malware attack executed by malicious hackers, the DDoS in question in this article is not related to, or responsible for, those attacks.

This incident reported by *WIRED*, is the first reported case of a police department attempting to use software in this combination.

In 2017, detectives from East Bay PD sought help from Parabon NanoLabs to solve the 1990 murder of Maria Jane Weidhofer. Parabon specializes in DNA-to-face rendering, uses crime scene DNA to generate 3D facial predictions of a suspect in an attempt to assist in reviving cold cases. Parabon NanoLabs, founded in 2008, focuses on forensic genetic genealogy and DNA phenotyping. Using machine learning, Parabon claims it can predict facial features from DNA, although its methods are criticized by scientists regarding the accuracy and ethics of such predictions.

Despite concerns, the department publicly released the image in hopes of gathering leads. In 2020, the detective on the Weidhofer case requested the image be processed through facial recognition, a move criticized by privacy advocates and against Parabon's terms of use. Jennifer Lynch, general counsel at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, criticized the practice of using DNA-generated faces for facial recognition. Speaking to *WIRED*, Lynch described the technique as "junk science," arguing that it poses a significant risk of misidentifying individuals. "There's no real evidence that Parabon NanoLabs can accurately produce a face in the first place," she explained. "It's very dangerous, because it puts people at risk of being a suspect for a crime they didn't commit."

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The use of predictive technologies by law enforcement, particularly the combination of DNA-generated facial creations with facial recognition, underscores a significant gap in regulatory oversight. Currently, no federal regulations restrict the kind of images law enforcement can use with facial recognition technology. The responsibility to establish and uphold safeguards falls on the police department's judgment, highlighting an absence of uniform standards in the use of these tools.

Police Use Unregulated Facial Recognition Technology: Revision Analysis

In revision, the title of the story was changed to specify who the story references as being "concerned" about the subject of the news event from, "Concerns over police departments using unproven facial recognition processes," to "Tech Experts Concerned Over Police Departments Using Unregulated Facial Recognition Technology."

A date for the DDoS discovery or release of the information cited in the story could not be found, so the publication date of the story by *WIRED* magazine was used to orient the audience as to the timeliness of the information. The language of the first paragraph was revised to conform to this change.

Paragraph one was also restructured to prioritize where *WIRED* magazine obtained its information and to order the information in symmetry, correlating to how the related details on

DDoS and the police department's use of facial recognition technology are structured.

Information about the DDoS non-profit and a point of clarification about a separate, infamous computer malware attack now compromise the content of paragraph two, with paragraph three continuing the newsworthy event about the story's main point.

The name of the police department profiled in the story was altered in its original placement and form to prioritize that information to the first paragraph and allow for ease of readability in its original place being shortened for that purpose.

The final sentence of the story was revised to present the intended meaning without bias. The sentence originally read, "The responsibility to establish and uphold safeguards falls on the police department's judgment, highlighting an absence of uniform standards in the use of these tools," and now reads, "The responsibility to establish and uphold safeguards falls on the police department's judgment, highlighting an absence of uniform standards in the use of these tools."

Vanderbilt: Original Version

Vanderbilt students arrested following protest demanding the school divest from companies supporting genocide in Gaza.

On Monday, April 5 a student protest at Vanderbilt University has led to the expulsion of three students, the suspension of one, and disciplinary probations for 22 others, according to the Vanderbilt Divest Coalition. The disciplinary action followed students' participation in a sit-in at Kirkland Hall, protesting the university's decision to cancel a referendum calling for the university to divest from companies linked to the ongoing genocide in Gaza, Palestine.

This disciplinary action comes after 4 students were arrested following the nearly 22-hour protest for pushing past a police officer to enter Kirkland Hall on March 26th.

Faculty members have criticized the administration's response as overly punitive, with 154 professors signing an open letter expressing their concern: "We call on the administration to repeal all suspensions and criminal charges against the students and immediately reinstate their access to campus housing, meal plans, healthcare, and educational activities," the letter reads. "Finally, we urge the administration to align its policies with its values regarding free speech, expression, and democratic activities, including protest."

The disciplinary measures and potential criminal charges have been described as "draconian" by Vanderbilt Law School Associate Professor Terry Maroney.

Vanderbilt student, and self-described activist and organizer Jack Petocz, one of the students expelled, has taken to social media to spread awareness about his claims he was falsely arrested, "I had zero part [in pushing past the police officer.] In order to arrest me Vanderbilt crafted an entirely inaccurate representation of a one-minute interaction I had with a chancellor staff member." Petocz claims the video shows him engaged in peaceful protest and is a separate event

from the incident involving the police officer. Petocz says the university calls his claims "semantics."

The Vanderbilt Divest Coalition reported that the students, suspended last week for their roles in the peaceful demonstration, have a 10-day appeal period.

Vanderbilt: Revised Version

Vanderbilt students arrested at protest demanding the school divest from companies supporting Israel's war with Gaza.

On Monday, April 5, a student protest at Vanderbilt University has led to the expulsion of three students, the suspension of one, and disciplinary probations for 22 others, according to the Vanderbilt Divest Coalition, an organization of student groups advocating for Palestinian liberation since 2005. The disciplinary action followed students' participation in a sit-in protesting the university's decision to cancel a petition to amend the school's constitution prohibiting investment with companies linked to the ongoing genocide in Gaza, Palestine. This disciplinary action comes after four students were arrested at the protest for allegedly pushing past a police officer to enter Kirkland Hall on March 26th.

In response, faculty members have criticized the administration's response as overly punitive, with 154 professors signing an open letter expressing their concern: "We call on the administration to repeal all suspensions and criminal charges against the students and immediately reinstate their access to campus housing, meal plans, healthcare, and educational activities," the letter reads. "Finally, we urge the administration to align its policies with its values regarding free speech, expression, and democratic activities, including protest."

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Vanderbilt student, and self-described activist and organizer Jack Petocz, one of the students expelled, has taken to social media on Monday to spread awareness about his claims he was falsely arrested. In a video posted to TikTok, Petocz said: "I had zero part [in pushing past the police officer.] In order to arrest me Vanderbilt crafted an entirely inaccurate representation of a one-minute interaction I had with a chancellor staff member." Petocz claims the video shows him engaged in peaceful protest and is a separate event from the incident involving the police officer. Petocz says the university calls his claims "semantics."

The Vanderbilt Divest Coalition reported that the students, suspended last week for their roles in the protest, have a 10-day appeal period.

Vanderbilt: Revision Analysis

In revision, the title was changed to more accurately reflect the timeline of events and correct potential bias. It was changed from, "Vanderbilt students arrested following protest demanding the school divest from companies supporting genocide in Gaza," to "Vanderbilt students arrested at protest demanding the school divest from companies supporting Israel's war with Gaza."

Language was added to the first paragraph to explain the nature of the Vanderbilt Divest Coalition, and the term "referendum" was revised to represent the facts with greater clarity, now reading as such, "The disciplinary action followed students' participation in a sit-in protesting the university's decision to cancel a petition to amend the school's constitution prohibiting investment with companies linked to the ongoing genocide in Gaza, Palestine."

The second paragraph was revised for the sake of brevity. The instance of the number "4" was revised to its number-to-word conversion form "four," and the term "allegedly" was added to reflect that the nature of the charges against the students is pending and are open to dispute.

Paragraph three was revised to lead with the phrase "In response" to clarify the main point being made.

The word "Draconian" was revised for change-of-case correctness.

Paragraph five was revised to include the time and place the quote in question was made. The word "peacefully" was struck from the last paragraph to correct for bias.

Nanoplastics: Original Version

Nanoplastics and the Recycling Lie

The world's plastic problem is easy to see. Plastics like water bottles are in our sight every day. However, the world's plastic problem, and yours, is much smaller, and much, much larger.

Using new technology, a new study from researchers at Columbia University found up to 100 times more nanoplastics, which were previously undetectable, and microplastics in bottled water than previously estimated. Over 240,000 detectable plastic fragments were found in one liter of water bottles from three major companies. The names of the companies were withheld from the study. Even more concerning, researchers were only able to identify 10% of the fragments they found are plastics. Meaning there were an additional 240,000 nanoparticles in the water of unknown origin.

Microplastics, which breakdown into nanoplastics, and never biodegrade, are being found everywhere in the environment from clouds, to plankton, in the drinking water supply, and inside of people. The most common source of plastic in our lives comes as food packaging. People can be exposed to microplastics by ingestion, direct contact, and inhalation.

These plastic fragments are suspected to cause digestive, respiratory, endocrine, reproduction, and immune issues. Scientists and medical professionals are racing to find the dangers of microplastics to our health, but much is not yet known.

Plastics find their way into the environment of the plants and animals people eat because of plastic's inability to degrade or be recycled. Plastics have never been easy, or often possible, to recycle.

"The oil industry knew that recycling plastic was unlikely to be economically viable on a large scale, dating back to the 70s," said Laura Sullivan, NPR and Frontline investigative correspondent. "Through insiders we found, we found three top officials from the industry in the 90s said that getting the public to embrace recycling plastic and promoting it and selling it was a way to sell more plastic."

The California Attorney General opened an investigation into fossil fuel companies that produce plastics in April 2023. The case is still in the preliminary stages in the court system. Plastic consumption globally has quadrupled in the last 30 years, and that number is estimated to triple in the next 30 years.

Nanoplastics: Revised Version

New Study Shows Nanoplastics in Food and Water

The world's plastic problem is easy to see. Plastics like water bottles are in our sight every day. However, the world's plastic problem, and yours, is much smaller, and much, much larger.

Using new technology, a recent study published in January, from researchers at Columbia University found up to 100 times more nanoplastics, which were previously undetectable, and microplastics in bottled water than previously estimated. Over 240,000 detectable plastic fragments were found in one liter of water bottles from three major companies. The names of the companies were withheld from the study. Even more concerning, researchers were only able to identify 10% of the fragments they found are plastics. The results of the study show an additional 240,000 nanoparticles in the bottled water are of unknown origin.

Microplastics, which breakdown into nanoplastics, and never biodegrade, are being found everywhere in the environment from clouds, to plankton, in the drinking water supply, and inside of people. The most common source of plastic in our lives comes as food packaging. People can be exposed to microplastics by ingestion, direct contact, and inhalation.

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Nanoplastics: Revision Analysis

In revision, the title was changed from "Nanoplastics and the Recycling Lie" to "New Study Shows Nanoplastics in Food and Water" to correct for bias.

In paragraph two, the phrase "a new study" was revised to provide the time the Columbia study was published, which now reads, "a recent study published in January." The last sentence of the paragraph was revised to correct a sentence fragment from, "Meaning there were an additional 240,000 nanoparticles in the water of unknown origin," to "The results of the study show an additional 240,000 nanoparticles in the bottled water are of unknown origin."

The quote in paragraph six was revised for profluence. Although the quote was accurate, the literal language of the quote was awkward in its phrasing. The alteration replaced the language "we found" with an ellipsis. The alteration preserves the integrity and meaning of the original phrasing.

Greedflation and Shrinkflation: Original Version

In efforts to combat rising consumer prices and corporate greed, two articles of legislation have appeared to fight "Greedflation" and "Shrinkflation."

Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) have reintroduced groundbreaking legislation to curb greedflation price gouging by major corporations. The initiative, known as the "Price Gouging Act of 2024," seeks to impose stringent regulations on large companies exploiting market dominance who artificially inflate prices of goods. Greedflation is defined by alleged business profits by companies who took advantage of consumers by raising prices by even more than necessary to cover increases in their costs and hiding behind inflation and supply chain disruptions.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, prices for all products between 2021 and 2022 increased 6.5% on average. Food prices increased 10.4%, which reflects an 11.8% price increase for food at home and an 8.3% increase in prices for food away from home. Further, corporate profits increased 22.6% in 2021 and 9.8% in 2022, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) has introduced the Shrinkflation Prevention Act. Shrinkflation refers to a trend of large corporations reducing the size of their products to sell at the same price or increasing prices to deceive consumers.

According to a press release by Sen. Baldwin's office announcing the Shrinkflation Act, "For example, food products like name-brand cereals, chips, and crackers shrank the sizes of some of their products while keeping the price stable. In the case of Cocoa Puffs, General Mills reduced its "Family Size" from 19.3 ounces to 18.1 ounces of cereal while charging the same price. Frito-Lay also reduced the size of a bag of Doritos from 9.75 ounces to 9.25 ounces, while

their profits increased 9 percent from 2021 to 2022. Meanwhile, Mondelez International shrunk a family-size box of Wheat Thins from 16 ounces to 14 ounces but kept the price the same.

Both acts seek to enforce new requirements on corporations to disclose their pricing and practices.

The Shrinkflation Act would direct the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to promulgate regulations to establish shrinkflation as an unfair or deceptive act or practice, prohibiting manufacturers from engaging in shrinkflation; authorize the FTC to pursue civil actions against corporations who engage in shrinkflation; and authorize state attorneys general to bring civil actions against corporations engaging in shrinkflation.

The Price Gouging Act would require public companies to disclose pricing changes and explain the rationale for price changes in their Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filings during a period of "exceptional market shock." The bill would also target companies that have exploited the pandemic to boost profits by using unfair leverage.

"Enough is enough," stated Congresswoman Schakowsky. "Our legislation will ensure that giant corporations can no longer exploit their power to inflate prices at the expense of hardworking families. It's time to put the economic well-being of the American people first."

No revisions were found to be necessary for this story.

Aaron Bushnell: Original Version

Air Force Soldier Self-immolation in Protest of Palestinian Genocide

On Sunday, February 25, at approximately 12.58 p.m., U.S. Air Force service member Aaron Bushnell approached the gates of the Israeli embassy in Washington D.C., doused himself with liquid, and set himself on fire.

In a live video streamed on Twitch, Bushnell said, "My name is Aaron Bushnell. I'm an active-duty member of the United States Air Force. And I will no longer be complicit in genocide. I'm about to engage in an extreme act of protest but [sic] compared to what people have been experiencing in Palestine at the hands of their colonizers, it's not extreme at all. This is what our ruling class has decided will be normal."

As flames engulfed Bushnell, who was wearing his Air Force uniform, he yelled "Free Palestine" several times before he fell to the ground.

While Bushnell's body burns, two law enforcement officers approach him; one points a gun at Bushnell while the other officer attempts to put the flames out with a fire extinguisher.

As other first responders arrive, the officer trying to extinguish Bushnell yells, "I don't need guns; I need fire extinguishers."

Bushnell was transported to a local hospital in critical condition. He later succumbed to his injuries.

Hours before lighting himself on fire, Bushnell posted a Twitch link on his Facebook page with the caption: "Many of us like to ask ourselves, 'What would I do if I was alive during slavery? Or the Jim Crow South? Or apartheid? What would I do if my country was committing genocide? The answer is, you're doing it. Right now.'"

At a vigil held for Bushnell on Tuesday, former U.S. intelligence officer Josephine

Guilbeau spoke to the press, "No one believes [military officials] anymore. They sit up at the podium saying...that a genocide isn't happening as if we don't all have access to our cellphones watching it unfold every single day. Thirty thousand people have been killed and half of those are children...a genocide isn't happening? It's going to become increasingly difficult for leaders to be able to convince [people]... that what they're doing is heroic.

Bushnell is originally from San Antonio, Texas, and attended schools on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, confirms the *Cape Cod Times*. He joined the Air Force in 2020 and pursued a bachelor's degree in software engineering at Western Governors University. The Air Force's 70th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing said Bushnell was a cyber defense operations specialist. Bushnell served with the 53 1st Intelligence Support Squadron, it said.

Aaron Bushnell: Revised Version

Air Force Soldier Self-immolation in Protest of Palestinian Genocide

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Aaron Bushnell: Revision Analysis

In revision, a colon was placed before the quote in paragraph eight instead of a comma to denote that the information introduced elaborates what comes before it, rather than the quote being part of a continuous flow of speech.

In Paragraph nine, "*Cape Cod Times*" was revised to be italicized as it is the title of a large publication.

Roundup: Original Version

Several bills in the works that could prevent consumers of Roundup from seeking compensation.

On April 3, a bill passed the Iowa Senate that could prevent Iowans diagnosed from suing pesticide manufacturers like Bayer, maker of Roundup, for not warning about potential health risks, including cancer. This legislation, pushed by Bayer in several states in 2024, would protect pesticide producers from lawsuits with products bearing federally approved labels. Critics argue it prioritizes corporate interests over individuals with terminal illnesses.

Opponents of this legislation warn of the potential public health implications, noting the scientific debate over glyphosate, Roundup's active ingredient, its carcinogenic risks, and the FDA's failure to protect consumers in the past.

"I don't think that the science is caught up yet with the real effects of some of these pesticides" said Iowa senator Bill Dotzler. "The FDA doesn't necessarily have that good of a track record when it comes to it. The FDA has wrongly labeled products as safe in the past," Dotzler said in reference to DDT, a chemical used as a pesticide, that was banned in 1972 for its harmful environmental effects.

Whether or not glyphosate can be linked to cancers like non-Hodgkin's lymphoma is still being studied. While the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) deems glyphosate unlikely carcinogenic, several lawsuits have already awarded substantial damages to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma sufferers, citing Bayer's failure to warn about cancer risks. The International Agency for Research on Cancer suggests glyphosate is "probably carcinogenic to humans." The Iowa legislation could set a precedent, with Iowa becoming the first state to enact protections for pesticide manufacturers, if the Iowa House passes a version of this bill.

Missouri is considering similar legislation to prevent consumers filing lawsuits. St. Louis man and plaintiff in a lawsuit against Roundup, Leon Smith describes his experience being diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma after using Roundup. "They took some blood tests, and then, they discovered, 'Oh, this looks like cancer.' What I went through was heartbreaking...No corporation should get away with anything like that in the United States." Idaho is a third state debating a bill that could limit liability for pesticide producers. The future of labeling these products as cancer-causing remains uncertain.

The ongoing legislations cast doubt on whether products like Bayer's Roundup will ever be mandated to include warnings about their potential to cause cancer.

Roundup: Revised Version

Consumers of Roundup from seeking compensation could be blocked by new legislation.

On April 3, the Iowa Senate passed a bill that could prevent Iowans diagnosed with cancer from suing pesticide manufacturers like Bayer, maker of Roundup, for not warning about potential health risks, including cancer. This legislation, pushed by Bayer in several states in 2024, would protect pesticide producers from lawsuits with products bearing federally approved labels.

Opponents of this legislation warn of the potential public health implications, noting the scientific debate over glyphosate, Roundup's active ingredient, its carcinogenic risks, and the FDA's failure to protect consumers in the past.

"I don't think that the science is caught up yet with the real effects of some of these pesticides" said Iowa senator Bill Dotzler at a subcommittee hearing in March. "The FDA doesn't necessarily have that good of a track record when it comes to it. The FDA has wrongly

labeled products as safe in the past," Dotzler said in reference to DDT, a chemical used as a pesticide, that was banned in 1972 for its harmful environmental effects.

Whether or not glyphosate can be linked to cancers like non-Hodgkin's lymphoma is still being studied. While the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) deems glyphosate unlikely carcinogenic, several lawsuits have already awarded substantial damages to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma sufferers, citing Bayer's failure to warn about cancer risks. The International Agency for Research on Cancer suggests glyphosate is "probably carcinogenic to humans." The Iowa legislation could set a precedent, with Iowa becoming the first state to enact protections for pesticide manufacturers, if the Iowa House passes a version of this bill.

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The ongoing legislations in Iowa, Missouri, and Idaho cast doubt on whether products like Bayer's Roundup will ever be mandated by the FDA to include warnings about their potential to cause cancer.

Roundup: Revision Analysis

In revision, the title was rearranged from "Several bills in the works that could prevent consumers of Roundup from seeking compensation." to "Consumers of Roundup from seeking compensation could be blocked by new legislation." to shift the focus from the legislation to the

people affected by the legislation and emphasize the nature of the action rather than the bills themselves.

Similarly, the first sentence of paragraph one was rearranged, putting "Iowa senate" before the "bill" to indicate who was acting rather than the object of the action. The phrase "with cancer" was added to specify the party involved in the lawsuit. The last sentence of the first paragraph, "Critics argue it prioritizes corporate interests over individuals with terminal illnesses," was struck as it was redundant to the first sentence of the second paragraph, "Opponents of this legislation warn of the potential public health implications..." which is more suitable, serving as a transition and main topic of paragraph two.

An explanation of time and place was added in the quote in paragraph three for clarity and for the edification of the reader.

Paragraph five, following "Leon Smith," was separated by a comma to separate the appositive information, the name, and the explanatory information.

The last sentence of paragraph six, "The future of labeling these products as cancer-causing remains uncertain," was struck as it was redundant with the information in paragraph seven, which provided additional information compared with the struck sentence.

Additional information was added to paragraph seven to clarify the entities the content addresses. The original sentence read as, "The ongoing legislations cast doubt on whether products like Bayer's Roundup will ever be mandated to include warnings about their potential to cause cancer." and has been revised to read, "The ongoing legislations in Iowa, Missouri, and Idaho cast doubt on whether products like Bayer's Roundup will ever be mandated by the FDA to include warnings about their potential to cause cancer."

Kellogg's Boycott: Original Version

Kellogg's Boycott

While a bill that could ban the TikTok app has been passed in the House and is expected to receive a vote in the Senate, the power users of the app have for social organizing is on display with users driving a boycott of Kellogg's products.

In February, Kellogg's chair and CEO Gary Pilnick made comments on CNBC's show Squawk on the Street that has caused consumers to stop buying the company's products.

"If you think about the cost of cereal for a family versus what they might otherwise do, that's going to be much more affordable," Pilnick said to CNBC. "In fact, it's landing really well right now. Cereal for dinner is something that is probably more on trend now, and we would expect to continue as that consumer is under pressure."

While "cereal for dinner" has been a Kellogg's advertising campaign since 2022, featuring the tag line "give chicken a break", it was the let them eat cake-esq comments that outraged consumers feeling the effects of "greedflation" at the grocery store.

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, 83% of price increases consumers see in all areas of the economy are attributed to corporate profit increases. Info from Kellogg's shows cereal prices have increased 28% from the report of their latest fiscal year.

The Kellogg's boycott come amidst global demonstrations and community-led boycott initiatives of Starbucks for in response to "unfair" labor conditions and claims the coffee company supported Israel and funded its military operations amidst the war in Gaza.

Fast-food chain McDonald's has reported a negative impact on its latest quarterly earnings due to boycotts associated with the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The Kellogg's boycott is likely to hit full stride as activists call on consumers to stop buying their products from April 1st to June 30th.

Kellogg's Boycott: Revised Version

Kellogg's Boycott

A boycott of Kellogg's products is being organized by content creators on the popular TikTok app after the company's CEO comments prompt outrage.

In February, Kellogg's chair and CEO Gary Pilnick made comments on CNBC's show *Squawk on the Street* that has caused consumers to stop buying the company's products.

"If you think about the cost of cereal for a family versus what they might otherwise do, that's going to be much more affordable," Pilnick said in response to the rising share of income needed to buy groceries. "In fact, it's landing really well right now. Cereal for dinner is something that is probably more on trend now, and we would expect to continue as that consumer is under pressure."

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negative impact on its latest quarterly earnings due to boycotts associated with the Israel-Palestine conflict.

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Kellogg's Boycott: Revision Analysis

In revision, the first paragraph was revised to strike the lead concerning the TikTok controversy happening politically in favor of a lead that focuses on the story's content.

In the second paragraph, the title of the TV news program *Squawk on the Street* was italicized to denote its nature as a show title.

In paragraph three, context was added in the dialogue tag to clarify the context in which the quote was made. The original tag read as "Pilnick said to CNBC," and now reads, "Pilnick said in response to the rising share of income needed to buy groceries."

The word "attributed" in paragraph five was revised to read "due to" to more accurately represent the cause and effect relationship between increased consumer prices and corporate price increases.

Paragraph seven was struck from the story. While the paragraph's content was related to the article's subject, it strayed from the main point of this brief news story.

Paragraph eight was revised to accurately show the relevance of the content to the main point of the article by adding the technique of old-new information chaining, changing the sentence from the original, "Fast-food chain McDonald's has reported a negative impact on its latest quarterly earnings due to boycotts associated with the Israel-Palestine conflict," to "A similar effect has caused fast-food chain McDonald's reporting a negative impact on its latest quarterly earnings due to boycotts associated with the Israel-Palestine conflict."