



Universities threatened with funding cuts under proposed plan to tackle antisemitism in Australia

Australian universities may lose funding if they're not judged to be doing enough to address anti-Jewish hate crimes, according to new measures proposed by the country's first antisemitism envoy. Jillian Segal was appointed to the role a year ago in response to a surge in reports of attacks against Jewish sites and property in Australia, following Israel's invasion of Gaza, and was tasked with combating antisemitism in the country.

Standing alongside Prime Minister Anthony Albanese Thursday, Segal released a report nine months in the making proposing strong measures, including the university funding threats and the screening of visa applicants for extremist views. "The plan is not about special treatment for one community; it is about restoring equal treatment," Segal said. "It's about ensuring that every Australian, regardless of their background or belief, can live, work, learn and prosper in this country."

Like in the United States, Australian campuses were once the hub of pro-Palestinian protests led by students who pitched tents demanding action to stop Israel's assault on Gaza. The campus protests dwindled after restrictions were tightened and some protesters were threatened with expulsion, a move condemned by the activists as an infringement on free speech.

Segal's report said antisemitism had become "ingrained and normalised" within academia and university courses, as well as on campuses, and recommended universities be made subject to annual report cards assessing their effectiveness in combating antisemitism. Universities Australia chief executive Luke Sheehy said the organization had been working "constructively" with the special envoy and its members would "consider the recommendations."

"Academic freedom and freedom of expression are core to the university mission, but they must be exercised with responsibility and never as a cover for hate or harassment," he said in a statement.

Surge in antisemitism

Antisemitic attacks in Australia surged 300% in the year following Israel's invasion of Gaza in October 2023. In the past week alone, the door of a synagogue was set on fire in Melbourne, forcing 20 occupants to flee by a rear exit, as nearby protesters shouting "Death to the IDF" – using the initials of the Israeli military – stormed an Israeli-owned restaurant.

A man is facing arson charges over the synagogue attack, and three people were charged Tuesday with assault, affray, riotous behavior and criminal damage over the restaurant raid. The Executive Council of Australian Jewry, which Segal once led and is the umbrella organization for hundreds of Jewish community groups, said the report's release "could not be more timely given the recent appalling events in Melbourne."

However, the Jewish Council of Australia, which opposes Israel's war in Gaza, voiced concerns about Segal's plan, saying it carried the overtones of US President Donald Trump's



attempts to use funding as a means of control over institutions. In a statement, the council criticized the plan's "emphasis on surveillance, censorship, and punitive control over the funding of cultural and educational institutions," adding that they were "measures straight out of Trump's authoritarian playbook." Max Kaiser, the group's executive officer, said: "Any response that treats antisemitism as exceptional, while ignoring Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian racism, and other forms of hate, is doomed to fail."

Education, immigration and the arts

The envoy's 20-page plan includes sweeping recommendations covering schools, immigration, media, policing and public awareness campaigns. Segal wants Holocaust and antisemitism education baked into the national curriculum "as a major case study of where unchecked antisemitism can lead," according to the report. Arts organizations could be subject to the same restrictions as universities, with threats to pull public funding if they're found to have engaged in, or facilitated, antisemitism.

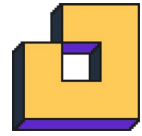
"While freedom of expression, particularly artistic expression, is vital to cultural richness and should be protected, funding provided by Australian taxpayers should not be used to promote division or spread false/ distorted narratives," the report said. Under the recommendations, tougher immigration screening would weed out people with antisemitic views, and the Migration Act would enable authorities to cancel visas for antisemitic conduct. Media would be monitored to "encourage accurate, fair and responsible reporting" and to "avoid accepting false or distorted narratives," the report added.

During Thursday's press conference, Albanese pointed to an interview on the country's national broadcaster with a protester, saying the interviewee tried to justify the Melbourne restaurant attack. "There is no justification for that whatsoever," he said. "The idea that somehow the cause of justice for Palestinians is advanced by behavior like that is not only delusional, it is destructive, and it is not consistent with how you are able to put forward your views respectfully in a democracy," he said.

Asked if the country had become less tolerant of different views and had, perhaps, lost the ability to have a debate, Albanese pointed to social media. "I think there is an impact of social media, where algorithms work to reinforce people's views," he said. "They reinforce views, and they push people towards extremes, whether it be extreme left, extreme right. Australians want a country that is in the center." His comments came as Grok, X's AI chatbot, was called out for spreading antisemitic tropes that the company said it was "actively working to remove."

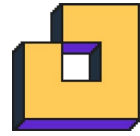
Albanese said, regarding antisemitic views, "social media has a social responsibility, and they need to be held to account." Asked whether anti-Israel protests were fueling the antisemitic attacks, the prime minister said people should be able to express their views without resorting to hate. "In Israel itself, as a democracy, there is protest against actions of the government, and in a democracy, you should be able to express your view here in Australia about events overseas," he said. "Where the line has been crossed is in blaming and identifying people because they happen to be Jewish."

Source: [Universities threatened with funding cuts under proposed plan to tackle antisemitism in Australia](#)



Fill The Words With Appropriate Meaning!

1. Antisemitism :
2. Envoy :
3. Surge :
4. Combating :
5. Screening :
6. Extremist :
7. Dwindled :
8. Expulsion :
9. Infringement :
10. Ingrained :
11. Responsibility :
12. Normalised :
13. Constructively :
14. Arson :
15. Surveillance :
16. Censorship :
17. Punitive :
18. Authoritarian ;
19. Distorted :
20. Algorithms :



New York may have America's top pizza, but LA is at its heels, Italian judges say

The best pizza in the United States comes from a wood-fired oven on New York's Lower East Side, an Italian pizza-ranking guide has announced. For the second year running, the Naples-based 50 Top Pizza judged Una Pizza Napoletana the winner in its annual assessment of American bakers.

The ranking focuses strictly on Neapolitan-style pizza — the thin, round, fastidiously prepared variety from the city that considers itself the cradle of pizza — but to aficionados, it's the only type that matters. In a one-two punch, the Big Apple also claimed the top individual pizza slice, with the honors going to L'Industrie Pizzeria, run by Massimo Laveglia and Nick Baglivo. Last year, Una Pizza Napoletana was also rated No. 1 in the whole world. The global rankings are due to be released later this year. Una Pizza Napoletana is owned by Anthony Mangieri. Born and raised in New Jersey, Mangieri opened his first pizzeria on the Jersey Shore in 1996.

Food and Wine magazine has called Mangieri "one of the country's most skilled practitioners of the Neapolitan style" of pizza, and New York magazine called him a "one-man Opus Dei" for authentic pizza. The organization behind the ranking, 50 Top Pizza, cited the rich flavor of his pizzas and the his straightforward approach to making them, with only a few dishes on offer and a single location.

Mangieri said that perfecting his technique has been his goal since he first started making pizzas at age 15. While his focus remains the same, he said the world of pizza has changed dramatically in the nearly 30 years since he established his first restaurant. "When we opened, no one was making the style of pizza that we make," he told CNN Travel. Now, he says, you can find good pizza all over the world, and American diners have come to appreciate fine Neapolitan pizza.

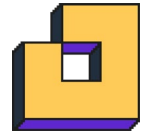
'A life's work'

He attributes his success to a strong work ethic that limits distractions. "It is not a concept restaurant — it is not one of 20 things that I'm doing," Mangieri said of the restaurant on Orchard Street in New York. "It's a life's work." Restaurants in Los Angeles and San Francisco snagged the next two spots on the list of top pizzerias in the US, which also included nine other New York pizzerias.

Pizzeria Sei, the No. 2 pizzeria in the US, is run by William Joo, whom the organization deemed "very talented." And American pizza "legend" Tony Gemignani came in third with his Tony's Pizza Napoletana in San Francisco. Other cities known for their pizza also made appearances on the list, including New Haven where the restaurant Zeneli was singled out.

California fared particularly well, with honors also going to pizzerias in San Diego, San Luis Obispo and Berkeley. But the gospel of Neapolitan pizza has traveled widely, and the ranking also included restaurants in Louisville, Kentucky, and Charlotte, North Carolina.

Source: [New York may have America's top pizza, but LA is at its heels, Italian judges say](#)



Fill The Words With Appropriate Meaning!

1. Annual :
2. Assessment :
3. Strictly :
4. Neapolitan :
5. Fastidiously :
6. Cradle :
7. Include :
8. Approach :
9. Dramatically :
10. Practitioners :
11. Authentic :
12. Straightforward:
13. Perfecting :
14. Dramatically :
15. Appreciate :
16. Attributes :
17. Distractions :
18. Snagged :
19. Deemed :
20. Gospel :



These Picasso pieces are on display in a ladies' restroom inside a museum. Here's why

A museum in Australia has moved Picasso artworks to a women's restroom, skirting a discrimination complaint by a male visitor who couldn't enter an exhibit where the works were previously hung. Two paintings and a drawing by Pablo Picasso were originally featured in American artist and museum curator Kirsha Kaechele's "Ladies Lounge" installation at Tasmania's Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) – which opened in December 2020 – “to any and all ladies.”

The experiential artwork was billed by the museum as a “tremendously lavish space” where women can indulge in “decadent nibbles, fancy tipples, and other ladylike pleasures” served by a male butler while they peruse art in a green velvet-draped room. But MONA was ordered to stop refusing entry to “persons who do not identify as ladies” after the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal ruled in April that the show violated Australia's 1998 Anti-Discrimination Act.

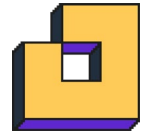
Kaechele told the tribunal that denying men entry to the mysterious room was indeed part of the art — giving them a taste of the discrimination and exclusion many women have experienced through history. The Picasso pieces are now displayed in an upgraded restroom with a fully functional toilet dubbed “Ladies Room,” located within the art venue, Kaechele said in an e-mail.

“While the Ladies Lounge undergoes a series of reforms to meet the exemptions required for reopening, I've been doing a little redecorating. I thought a few of the bathrooms in the museum could do with an update,” she added. “Some Cubism in the cubicles.” On Monday, Kaechele posted on Instagram a video and images of the relocated works in situ, and pointed out that the gendered restroom was also a first for the museum. She encouraged “all ladies” to enjoy the new exhibition.

‘Ladies Lounge’ closed

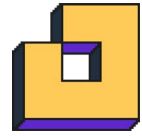
“We never had female toilets at Mona before, they were all unisex. But then the Ladies Lounge had to close thanks to a lawsuit brought on by a man. And I just didn't know what to do with all those Picassos...,” wrote Kaechele, who is also the wife of MONA's owner, David Walsh. Jason Lau, a visitor from New South Wales was barred from entering the “Ladies Lounge” exhibit on April 1 in 2023. Lau, who had paid the \$35 AUD (\$23 USD) entry fee, believed he experienced direct gender discrimination.

“He felt strongly enough about this to file a complaint with Equal Opportunities Tasmania,” read the tribunal's notes. After the judgment, Kaechele said she would challenge the court's decision in the state's Supreme Court and offered several possibilities to revive the “Ladies Lounge” concept.



Among those ideas included finding loopholes under Section 27 of the Anti-Discrimination Act which lists exceptions on when discrimination against gender would be permitted. In the meantime the lounge closed so that it wouldn't have to open to men. Kaechele later discussed potential ways to reopen "Ladies Lounge" as a church, school, toilet and more in a Q&A that was published on the museum's website.

Source: [These Picasso pieces are on display in a ladies' restroom inside a museum. Here's why](#)



Fill The Words With Appropriate Meaning!

1. Skirting :
2. Discrimination :
3. Curator :
4. Installation :
5. Experiential :
6. Lavish :
7. Decadent :
8. Peruse :
9. Tribunal :
10. Violated :
11. Exclusion :
12. Cubism :
13. Relocated :
14. Unisex :
15. Lawsuit :
16. Barred :
17. Judgment :
18. Revive :
19. Loopholes :
20. Exemptions :



Earth is spinning faster, leading timekeepers to consider an unprecedented move

Earth is spinning faster this summer, making the days marginally shorter and attracting the attention of scientists and timekeepers. July 10 was the shortest day of the year so far, lasting 1.36 milliseconds less than 24 hours, according to data from the International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service and the US Naval Observatory, compiled by timeanddate.com. More exceptionally short days are coming on July 22 and August 5, currently predicted to be 1.34 and 1.25 milliseconds shorter than 24 hours, respectively.

The length of a day is the time it takes for the planet to complete one full rotation on its axis —24 hours or 86,400 seconds on average. But in reality, each rotation is slightly irregular due to a variety of factors, such as the gravitational pull of the moon, seasonal changes in the atmosphere and the influence of Earth's liquid core. As a result, a full rotation usually takes slightly less or slightly more than 86,400 seconds — a discrepancy of just milliseconds that doesn't have any obvious effect on everyday life.

However these discrepancies can, in the long run, affect computers, satellites and telecommunications, which is why even the smallest time deviations are tracked using atomic clocks, which were introduced in 1955. Some experts believe this could lead to a scenario similar to the Y2K problem, which threatened to bring modern civilization to a halt.

Atomic clocks count the oscillations of atoms held in a vacuum chamber within the clock itself to calculate 24 hours to the utmost degree of precision. We call the resulting time UTC, or Coordinated Universal Time, which is based on around 450 atomic clocks and is the global standard for timekeeping, as well as the time to which all our phones and computers are set.

Astronomers also keep track of Earth's rotation — using satellites that check the position of the planet relative to fixed stars, for example — and can detect minute differences between the atomic clocks' time and the amount of time it actually takes Earth to complete a full rotation. Last year, on July 5, 2024, Earth experienced the shortest day ever recorded since the advent of the atomic clock 65 years ago, at 1.66 milliseconds less than 24 hours.

"We've been on a trend toward slightly faster days since 1972," said Duncan Agnew, a professor emeritus of geophysics at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and a research geophysicist at the University of California, San Diego. "But there are fluctuations. It's like watching the stock market, really. There are long-term trends, and then there are peaks and falls."

In 1972, after decades of rotating relatively slowly, Earth's spin had accumulated such a delay relative to atomic time that the International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service mandated the addition of a "leap second" to the UTC. This is similar to the leap year, which adds an extra day to February every four years to account for the discrepancy between the Gregorian calendar and the time it takes Earth to complete one orbit around the sun.



Since 1972, a total of 27 leap seconds have been added to the UTC, but the rate of addition has increasingly slowed, due to Earth speeding up; nine leap seconds were added throughout the 1970s while no new leap seconds have been added since 2016.

In 2022, the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) voted to retire the leap second by 2035, meaning we may never see another one added to the clocks. But if Earth keeps spinning faster for several more years, according to Agnew, eventually one second might need to be removed from the UTC. “There’s never been a negative leap second,” he said, “but the probability of having one between now and 2035 is about 40%.”

What is causing Earth to spin faster?

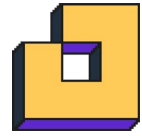
The shortest-term changes in Earth’s rotation, Agnew said, come from the moon and the tides, which make it spin slower when the satellite is over the equator and faster when it’s at higher or lower altitudes. This effect compounds with the fact that during the summer Earth naturally spins faster — the result of the atmosphere itself slowing down due to seasonal changes, such as the jet stream moving north or south; the laws of physics dictate that the overall angular momentum of Earth and its atmosphere must remain constant, so the rotation speed lost by the atmosphere is picked up by the planet itself. Similarly, for the past 50 years Earth’s liquid core has also been slowing down, with the solid Earth around it speeding up.

By looking at the combination of these effects, scientists can predict if an upcoming day could be particularly short. “These fluctuations have short-period correlations, which means that if Earth is speeding up on one day, it tends to be speeding up the next day, too,” said Judah Levine, a physicist and a fellow of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in the time and frequency division. “But that correlation disappears as you go to longer and longer intervals. And when you get to a year, the prediction becomes quite uncertain. In fact, the International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service doesn’t predict further in advance than a year.”

While one short day doesn’t make any difference, Levine said, the recent trend of shorter days is increasing the possibility of a negative leap second. “When the leap second system was defined in 1972, nobody ever really thought that the negative second would ever happen,” he noted. “It was just something that was put into the standard because you had to do it for completeness. Everybody assumed that only positive leap seconds would ever be needed, but now the shortening of the days makes (negative leap seconds) in danger of happening, so to speak.”

The prospect of a negative leap second raises concerns because there are still ongoing problems with positive leap seconds after 50 years, explained Levine. “There are still places that do it wrong or do it at the wrong time, or do it (with) the wrong number, and so on. And that’s with a positive leap second, which has been done over and over. There’s a much greater concern about the negative leap second, because it’s never been tested, never been tried.”

Because so many fundamental technologies systems rely on clocks and time to function, such as telecommunications, financial transactions, electric grids and GPS satellites just to name a few, the advent of the negative leap second is, according to Levine, somewhat akin to the Y2K problem — the moment at the turn of the last century when the world thought a kind of doomsday would ensue because computers might have been unable to negotiate the new date format, going from ‘99’ to ‘00.’



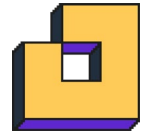
The role of melting ice

Climate change is also a contributing factor to the issue of the leap second, but in a surprising way. While global warming has had considerable negative impacts on Earth, when it comes to our timekeeping, it has served to counteract the forces that are speeding up Earth's spin. A study published last year by Agnew in the journal *Nature* details how ice melting in Antarctica and Greenland is spreading over the oceans, slowing down Earth's rotation — much like a skater spinning with their arms over their head, but spinning slower if the arms are tucked along the body.

"If that ice had not melted, if we had not had global warming, then we would already be having a leap negative leap second, or we would be very close to having it," Agnew said. Meltwater from Greenland and Antarctica ice sheets has is responsible for a third of the global sea level rise since 1993, according to NASA.

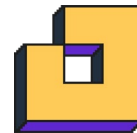
The mass shift of this melting ice is not only causing changes in Earth's rotation speed, but also in its rotation axis, according to research led by Benedikt Soja, an assistant professor at the department of civil, environmental and geomatic engineering of The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland. If warming continues, its effect might become dominant. "By the end of this century, in a pessimistic scenario (in which humans continue to emit more greenhouse gases) the effect of climate change could surpass the effect of the moon, which has been really driving Earth's rotation for the past few billions of years," Soja said.

Source: [Earth is spinning faster, leading timekeepers to consider an unprecedented move](#)



Fill The Words With Appropriate Meaning!

1. Marginally :
2. Milliseconds :
3. Irregular :
4. Discrepancy :
5. Deviations :
6. Axis :
7. Oscillations :
8. Leap :
9. Fluctuations :
10. Mandated :
11. Gregorian :
12. Momentum :
13. Correlations :
14. Prospect :
15. Akin :
16. Counteract :
17. Meltwater :
18. Geomatic :
19. Pessimistic :
20. Surpass :



Robot controlled by a king oyster mushroom blends living organisms and machines

A wheeled bot rolls across the floor. A soft-bodied robotic star bends its five legs, moving with an awkward shuffle. Powered by conventional electricity via plug or battery, these simple robotic creations would be unremarkable, but what sets these two robots apart is that they are controlled by a living entity: a king oyster mushroom. By growing the mushroom's mycelium, or rootlike threads, into the robot's hardware, a team led by Cornell University researchers has engineered two types of robots that sense and respond to the environment by harnessing electrical signals made by the fungus and its sensitivity to light.

The robots are the latest accomplishment of scientists in a field known as biohybrid robotics who seek to combine biological, living materials such as plant and animal cells or insects with synthetic components to make partly living and partly engineered entities. Biohybrid robots have yet to venture beyond the lab, but researchers hope one day robot jellyfish may explore oceans, sperm-powered bots may be able to deliver fertility treatments and cyborg cockroaches could search for survivors in the wake of an earthquake.

"Mechanisms, including computing, understanding and action as a response, are done in the biological world and in the artificial world that humans have created, and biology most of the time is better at it than our artificial systems are," said Robert Shepherd, a senior author of a study detailing the robots published August 28 in the journal *Science Robotics*.

"Biohybridization is an attempt to find components in the biological world that we can harness, understand, and control to help our artificial systems work better," added Shepherd, a professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering at Cornell University who leads the institution's Organic Robotics Lab.

Part fungus, part machine

The team began by growing king oyster mushrooms (*Pleurotus eryngii*) in the lab from a simple kit ordered online. The researchers chose this species of mushroom because it grows easily and quickly.

They cultivated the mushroom's threadlike structures or mycelium, which can form networks that, according to the study, can sense, communicate and transport nutrients — functioning a little like neurons in a brain. (Alas, it's not strictly accurate to call the creations shroom bots. The mushroom is the fruit of the fungi — the robots are powered by the rootlike mycelium.) Mycelium produces small electrical signals and can be connected to electrodes.

Andrew Adamatzky, a professor of unconventional computing at the University of the West of England in Bristol who builds fungal computers, said it isn't clear how fungi produce electrical signals. "No one knows for sure," said Adamatzky, who wasn't involved in the research but reviewed it before publication.

"Essentially, all living cells produce action-potential-like spikes, and fungi are no exception."



The study team found it challenging to engineer a system that could detect and use the small electrical signals from the mycelia to command the robot. “You have to make sure that your electrode touches in the right position because the mycelia are very thin. There is not a lot of biomass there,” said lead author Anand Mishra, a postdoctoral research associate in Cornell’s Organic Robotics Lab. “Then you culture them, and when the mycelia start growing, they wrap around the electrode.”

Mishra engineered an electrical interface that accurately reads the mycelia’s raw electrical activity, then processes and converts it into digital information that can activate the robot’s actuators or moving parts. The robots were able to walk and roll as a response to the electrical spikes generated by the mycelia, and when Mishra and his colleagues stimulated the robots with ultraviolet light, they changed their gait and trajectory, showing that they were able to respond to their environment.

“Mushrooms don’t really like light,” Shepherd said. “Based on the difference in the intensities (of the light) you can get different functions of the robot. It will move faster or move away from the light.”

‘Exciting’ work

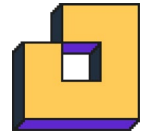
It’s exciting to see more work in biohybrid robotics that moves beyond human, animal and insect tissues, said Victoria Webster-Wood, an associate professor at Carnegie Mellon University’s Biohybrid and Organic Robotics Group in Pittsburgh. “Fungi may have advantages over other biohybrid approaches in terms of the conditions required to keep them alive,” said Webster-Wood, who wasn’t involved in the research.

“If they are more robust to environmental conditions this could make them an excellent candidate for biohybrid robots for applications in agriculture and marine monitoring or exploration.”

The study noted that fungi can be cultivated in large quantities and can thrive in many different environments. The researchers operated the rolling robot without a tether connecting it to the electrical hardware — a feat that Webster-Wood called particularly noteworthy. “Truly tetherfree biohybrid robots are a challenge in the field,” she said via email, “and seeing them achieve this with the mycelium system is quite exciting.” Biohybrid robotics in the real world

Fungi-controlled technology could have applications in agriculture, Shepherd said. “In this case we used light as the input, but in the future it will be chemical. The potential for future robots could be to sense soil chemistry in row crops and decide when to add more fertilizer, for example, perhaps mitigating downstream effects of agriculture like harmful algal blooms,” he told the Cornell Chronicle.

Fungi-controlled robots, and fungal computing more broadly, have huge potential, according to Adamatzky. He said his lab has produced more than 30 sensing and computing devices using live fungi, including growing a self-healing skin for robots that can react to light and touch. “When an adequate drivetrain (transmission system) is provided, the robot can, for example, monitor the health of ecological systems. The fungal controller would react to changes, such as air pollution, and guide the robot accordingly,” Adamatzky said via email.

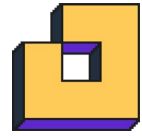


“The emergence of yet another fungal device — a robotic controller — excitingly demonstrates the remarkable potential of fungi.”

Rafael Mestre, a lecturer at the School of Electronics and Computer Science at the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom who works on the social, ethical and policy implications of emergent technologies, said that if biohybrid robots become more sophisticated and are deployed in the ocean or another ecosystem it could disrupt the habitat, challenging the traditional distinction between life and machine.

“You are putting these things into the trophic chain of an ecosystem in a place where it shouldn’t be,” said Mestre, who was not involved in the new study. “If you release in big numbers it could be disruptive. I don’t see at this moment this particular research has strong ethical concerns ... but if it continues to develop I think it’s quite crucial to consider what happens when we release this in the open.”

Source: [Robot controlled by a king oyster mushroom blends living organisms and machines](#)



Fill The Words With Appropriate Meaning!

1. Unremarkable :
2. Entity :
3. Harnessing :
4. Biohybrid :
5. Synthetic :
6. Cyborg :
7. Aerospace :
8. Cultivated :
9. Unconventional:
10. Biomass :
11. Interface :
12. Actuators :
13. Trajectory :
14. Robust :
15. Tether :
16. Mitigating :
17. Ecological :
18. Emergent :
19. Disruptive :
20. Field :



Monkeys are kidnapping babies of another species on a Panamanian island, perplexing scientists

At first, behavioral ecologist Zoë Goldsborough thought the small figure seen on the back of a capuchin monkey in her camera trap footage was just a baby capuchin. But something, she said, seemed off. A closer look gave away the figure's unexpected coloration. She quickly sent a screenshot to her research collaborators. They were perplexed. "I realized that it was really something that we hadn't seen before," Goldsborough said.

Further observation of the video and cross-checking among researchers revealed that the small figure was actually a monkey of a different species — a baby howler. "I was shocked," Goldsborough said. As Goldsborough searched through the rest of her footage, she noticed the same adult monkey — a white-faced capuchin nicknamed "Joker" for the scar on his mouth — carrying a baby howler monkey in other clips, too. Then, she noticed other male capuchins, known scientifically as *Cebus capucinus imitator*, doing the same thing. But why?

Using 15 months of camera-trap footage from their research site on Jicarón Island, a small island 55 kilometers (34 miles) off the coast of Panama and part of Coiba National Park, Goldsborough's collaborators from the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior, University of Konstanz, and Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, among others, studied the odd behavior to find an answer.

They found that, starting with Joker, four subadult and juvenile male capuchin monkeys had abducted at least 11 infant howler monkeys between January 2022 and March 2023. With no evidence of the capuchins eating, caring for or playing with the infants, the study authors suspect the kidnapping behavior is a kind of "cultural fad" — and potentially a symptom of the monkeys' unique conditions in the ecosystem of Jicarón. They reported their initial findings Monday in the journal *Current Biology*.

Still, many questions remain. And unraveling the mystery could be crucial, the researchers said. The howler population on Jicarón is an endangered subspecies of mantled howler monkeys, *Alouatta palliata coibensis*, according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, a global assessment of species' vulnerability to extinction. Additionally, howler monkey moms give birth only once every two years, on average.

Evolving hypotheses

Examining the capuchin kidnapper case "was kind of like a roller coaster where we kept having different interpretations, and then we would find something that proved that wrong," said Goldsborough, the study's lead author and a doctoral student with the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior and University of Konstanz.

Jicarón Island is uninhabited by humans. With no electricity and a rocky terrain, scientists have to haul their gear and other materials to the island with boats when the tides are right, making in-person observations of the skittish capuchin monkeys difficult. That's why they use camera traps: hidden, motion-triggered cameras that capture photos and videos of the ground-dwelling capuchins.



But there's a major limitation to their work: You don't know what you can't see, and the camera traps don't capture what's happening in the treetops, where howler monkeys live. So, the study team couldn't definitively confirm how, when, or why capuchins abducted the babies.

At first, the researchers thought it was a rare, one-time case of adoption. Monkeys have been known to "adopt" abandoned infants of the same or other species. But Joker wasn't caring for the howlers — he was just carrying them on his back, with no clear benefit to himself, until the infants eventually perished of starvation without access to breast milk.

It's an odd behavior for male primates, said Pedro Dias, a primatologist at Veracruzana University in Mexico who studies Mexico's mantled howler monkeys and was not involved in the research. In primatology, it's fairly common to find females adopting or abducting infants to then care for them as a maternal instinct, he said. But on Jicarón, the males were not providing maternal care.

When behavioral ecologist Corinna Most first read about the Jicarón monkey kidnappings, she suspected something else was going on. "They're probably eating these babies," said Most, an adjunct associate professor at Iowa State University who studies baboons, of her initial thoughts.

Abduction for predation isn't uncommon in the animal world, added Most, who was not involved with the research. But as she learned more about the team's observations, she was surprised to find that wasn't happening in this case, either. Instead, the capuchins toted around the baby howlers for days with few interactions — no play, minimal aggression and little interest. Why they would exert the energy to steal babies is largely unclear, said study coauthor Brendan Barrett, a behavioral ecologist and Goldsborough's adviser.

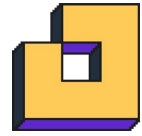
However, it's important to note that these island capuchins evolved in a different environment from their mainland relatives, explained Barrett. Capuchins are "destructive, explorative agents of chaos," he said. Even on the mainland, they rip things apart, hit wasp nests, wrestle with each other, harass other species and poke around just to see what happens.

On an island without predators, "that makes it less risky to do stupid things," Barrett said. Island capuchins can also spread out since they don't need strength in numbers for protection, allowing them to explore. With this relative safety and freedom, Jicarón's capuchin monkeys might be a bit bored, the researchers proposed.

The influence of boredom

Boredom, it turns out, could be a key driver of innovation — particularly on islands, and particularly among younger individuals of a species. This idea is the focus of Goldsborough's thesis research on Jicarón and Coiba's capuchins, the only monkey populations in these areas that have been observed using stones as tools to crack nuts. Consistent with the abductions, it's only the males who use tools on Jicarón, which remains a mystery to the researchers.

"We know that cultural innovation, in several cases, is linked to the youngest and not the oldest," Dias said.



For example, evidence of potato-washing behavior in macaques on Japan's Koshima Island was first observed in a young female nicknamed Imo. There are a few possible reasons for this, Dias explained. Adolescence is a time during which primates are independent from their mothers, when they start to forage and explore on their own. At that stage the monkeys also aren't fully integrated into their group's society yet.

Over-imitation — a tendency in human children to imitate the behavior of others even if they don't understand it — could possibly be at play as well, Most said. This over-imitation isn't found in other animals, Most emphasized, but, "I almost feel like this is what these other capuchins are doing," perhaps as a way to socially bond with Joker, she observed.

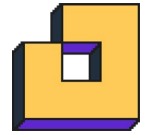
Most said she has usually thought that necessity, rather than free time, is the mother of invention in nature. But "this paper makes a good case for (the idea that) maybe sometimes animals that are really smart, like capuchins, just get bored," she noted. People and other primates famously share a certain level of intelligence defined by tool usage and other metrics, but some shared traits could be less desirable, Goldsborough said.

"One of the ways we are different from many animals is that we have many of these sort of arbitrary, nearly functionless cultural traditions that really harm other animals," she added. As a kid growing up in the northeastern United States, Barrett said he used to catch frogs and lightning bugs in mason jars while exploring the outdoors. While he never meant to hurt them, he knows those activities usually aren't pleasant for the animal.

It's possible that the capuchins' kidnapping behavior is similarly arbitrary — if not moderately entertaining for them. Barrett and Goldsborough said they hope this new behavior fades away, much like fads among humans come and go. Or perhaps the howler monkeys will catch onto what's happening and adapt their behavior to better protect their babies, Goldsborough added.

"It kind of is like a mirror that reflects upon ourselves," Barrett said, "of us seemingly doing things to other species that can harm them and seem atrocious that have no real purpose.

Source: [Monkeys are kidnapping babies of another species on a Panamanian island, perplexing scientists](#)



Fill The Words With Appropriate Meaning!

1. Ecologist :
2. Footage :
3. Coloration :
4. Perplexed :
5. Subadult :
6. Abducted :
7. Fad :
8. Subspecies :
9. Vulnerability :
10. Hypotheses :
11. Uninhabited :
12. Skittish :
13. Definitively :
14. Perished :
15. Primatologist :
16. Predation :
17. Explorative :
18. Innovation :
19. Arbitrary :
20. Atrocious :



Having trouble experiencing joy? This may be why

Dr. Judith Joseph says joy isn't just a nice-to-have — it's a part of who we are. "We are built with that DNA for joy. It's our birthright as human beings," she told me recently. Joseph is a board-certified psychiatrist and researcher who has made it her mission to study joy — and what prevents people from feeling it.

Her work, including her new book, "High Functioning: Overcome Your Hidden Depression and Reclaim Your Joy," has drawn widespread attention, in part due to her pioneering research into the condition of high-functioning depression, which is finally being taken seriously. "I wanted people to learn that, listen, depression looks different," Joseph said.

"There are some people who struggle with anhedonia, (which means) a lack of joy," Joseph told me. "They don't seem depressed (but) you don't have to have sadness to meet criteria for depression." Joseph includes herself among those individuals who have had high-functioning depression, and she noted that "many of us are pathologically productive."

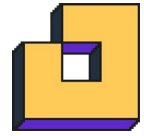
One of the biggest challenges in self-identifying high-functioning depression, she said, is that some people experience psychological barriers such as anhedonia and alexithymia, which is a difficulty in identifying and expressing emotions. Both can kill joy and are often overlooked in conversations about mental health because you can still function at work and at home, at least according to everyone else.

Joseph unlocked more joy in her life through strong connections with family and community. Her joy, she said, also comes from helping others access their own. But that took time to discover. She not only did clinical studies on high-functioning depression but she herself experienced it, even as she racked up accolades professionally.

"That was me in 2020," Joseph said. "I wore this mask. On the outside it looked like everything was great — I was running my lab, I had a small child, a perfect family, I was on TV. But I was struggling with anhedonia," or the inability to feel pleasure. So how do you combat it?

Practicing the five V's

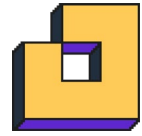
- **Validation:** Name how you feel. Acknowledge it. Accept it. "If we don't know how we feel, if we can't name it, we're confused, it's uncertain. We feel anxious, so naming how you feel and accepting it is so important," Joseph explained.
- **Venting:** Find someone you trust to express what you are going through, with a caveat. If you are not talking to a mental health professional, Joseph said to beware of "trauma dumping" on friends and family. "You want to check in. You want to ask for emotional consent and say, 'Is this a good time?'"
- **Values:** What gives you meaning and purpose in life? "Think about things that are priceless. ... I used to chase the accolades, the achievements, those are things that, you know, at the end of the day I'm not gonna talk about on my deathbed," she said.
- **Vitals:** These are the things that keep you alive and well: healthy food, consistent exercise and good sleep. They're easy to say but hard for many of us to do.



- **Vision:** This is difficult to have when you are blinded by your own discomfort. But the joy doctor recommends you plan for more joy and stop revisiting the past.

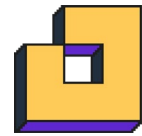
Do not try to do all of these at once or in rapid succession, Joseph warned me. “Don’t be high functioning,” she said, when it comes to this process. It’s not another problem at work. It’s your life. And remember: Happiness is external and a short-term fix like the rush you get when you buy something new or win an award. Joy is internal. “It’s harnessed within,” Joseph said. “You don’t have to teach a child joy. We are built with it.”

Source: [Having trouble experiencing joy? This may be why](#)



Fill The Words With Appropriate Meaning!

1. Birthright :
2. Psychiatrist :
3. Pioneering :
4. High-functioning :
5. Anhedonia :
6. Criteria :
7. Pathologically :
8. Psychological :
9. Alexithymia :
10. Overlooked :
11. Accolades :
12. Validation :
13. Venting :
14. Caveat :
15. Consent :
16. Priceless :
17. Vitals :
18. Revisiting :
19. Succession :
20. Harnessed :



Orange juice importer sues Trump, says Brazil tariffs will mean higher prices for consumers

President Donald Trump's tariffs on Brazil could push up the cost of orange juice at major American supermarkets like Aldi, Walmart and Wegmans by as much as 25%, according to one US-based orange juice importer. Johanna Foods, a US-based importer and seller of orange juice, has sued the Trump administration, alleging that the threatened 50% tariffs on goods imported into the United States from Brazil would cause a nearly \$70 million hit to its business and result in steeply higher prices for consumers.

New Jersey-based Johanna Foods on Friday filed a complaint in the Court of International Trade in New York, claiming that President Donald Trump's July 9 letter to Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva announcing the tariff wasn't a formal executive order, nor did it invoke any legal basis for which the tariff could be imposed.

Classifying itself as a "cornerstone of the national orange juice supply chain," Johanna Foods said in the complaint that it and its Spokane, Washington-based subsidiary Johanna Beverage Company supply nearly 75% of private label not-from-concentrate orange juice customers in the United States.

Brazil is the largest producer of orange juice in the world, accounting for 75% of global exports, and supplies more than half of the OJ consumed in America, according to the US Department of Agriculture. Johanna Foods supplies retailers such as Aldi, Walmart, Sam's Club, Wegmans, Safeway and Albertsons, according to the complaint. Johanna Foods also sells its branded orange juice, Tree Ripe, to stores mostly in the Northeast. But the entirety of that orange juice come from Brazil, the company said.

Johanna Foods estimated that a 50% tariff on Brazilian goods including OJ would cause the company's annual costs to surge by an additional \$68 million, an amount that "exceeds any single year of profits in the 30-year history" of the business, the company claimed. Importers initially pay all duties and tariffs and then pass those on "dollar for dollar" to the company, Johanna Foods noted in the complaint.

Such a cost spike would pose an "immediate and unmanageable financial burden" that would force Johanna Foods to raise prices on its customers that would in turn cause a 20% to 25% price hike for consumers, the company estimated. The added costs also could imperil the company's 685-person workforce in New Jersey and Washington, the company alleged. The company noted that the tariffs threaten to cause a "significant, and perhaps prohibitive" price increase for a breakfast staple.

"The not-from-concentrate orange juice ingredients imported from Brazil are not reasonably available from any supplier in the United States in sufficient quantity or quality to meet [Johanna Foods'] production needs," according to the complaint. "Presently, oranges grown in Florida are used primarily for producing orange juice concentrate due to poor quality of the product, with very little of the crop dedicated to [not-from-concentrate orange juice]."



Plus, the Florida citrus market has been negatively impacted in recent decades by crop disease, hurricanes and urban development. Florida's orange crop in 2025 could be the lowest in 95 years, according to the USDA's most recent Fruit and Tree Nuts Outlook, published in March. Florida's not alone in its crop woes. Extreme heat and a historic drought in Brazil have hampered output, causing prices to climb steeply in recent years. The average price of a 12-ounce can of frozen orange juice concentrate hit a record high of \$4.49 in June, up 55% from 2022, Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows.

Tariff power in question

Johanna Foods is the latest small business to sue the administration over its tariffs. In late-May, the US trade court ruled in favor of the businesses, finding Trump exceeded his presidential authority to impose the country-wide tariffs. However, a federal appeals court allowed those tariffs to take effect while they're under further review in court.

The company asked the court to declare that the Brazil tariff is unconstitutional, in that it's not allowed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, and to prevent the administration from enforcing the broader countrywide tariffs announced on April 2. The Trump administration has not officially formalized a 50% tariff on Brazil nor provided a mechanism for how it would be levied.

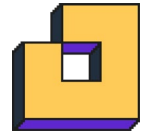
"The administration is legally and fairly using tariff powers that have been granted to the executive branch by the Constitution and Congress to level the playing field for American workers and safeguard our national security," White House spokesman Kush Desai said in a statement emailed to CNN.

The letter to Brazil tied the massive, proposed tariff to Trump's discontent with the ongoing criminal trial against the country's former president, Jair Bolsonaro, a right-wing ally of Trump's who was charged with plotting a coup d'état to remain in power.

It wasn't the first time Trump used the threat of tariffs to try to influence other countries' domestic policy decisions. He threatened Colombia with higher tariffs if the country didn't accept deportees from the US (Colombia ultimately accepted the deportees and avoided those tariffs.) Trump also imposed tariffs on goods from Mexico, Canada and China over claims that they enabled fentanyl trade and facilitated illegal migration to the United States.

Still, Trump's letter to Brazil included a stipulation similar to those made to other heads of state: That there would be "no tariff" if the country or its companies decided to manufacture in the United States. However, unlike the more than 20 other countries that received tariff threats that same week, the United States ran a \$6.8 billion trade surplus with Brazil last year.

Source: [Orange juice importer sues Trump, says Brazil tariffs will mean higher prices for consumers](#)



Fill The Words With Appropriate Meaning!

1. Importer :
2. Alleging :
3. Invoke ;
4. Subsidiary :
5. Entirety :
6. Unmanageable :
7. Imperil :
8. Prohibitive :
9. Concentrate :
10. Hampered :
11. Appeals :
12. Unconstitutional:
13. Formalized :
14. Levied :
15. Safeguard :
16. Discontent :
17. Deportees :
18. Stipulation :
19. Steeply :
20. Deportee :



'Quiet relationships,' 'soft launches' and the rest of Gen Z's new love language

When someone scrolls through Val's Instagram page, they can see a recent camping trip she took with friends, a batch of homemade chicken nuggets and a few of her favorite memes. But what they can't see: Val, 22, got engaged nine months ago to her boyfriend of two years. She never made a post about the proposal — and she doesn't plan to.

"We are happy and content as we are, living our lives together privately ... no outsiders peering in through the windows, so to speak," said Val, who lives with her fiancé in San Marcos, Texas, and asked CNN not to use her last name for privacy reasons. Val is one of a growing number of young adults from Generation Z, the cohort from age 28 down to teenagers, who are opting for "quiet relationships," in which their love lives — the good and the bad — remain offline and out of view from a larger audience of friends and family.

It's a new turn back to the old way of doing things: date nights without selfies, small weddings without public photo galleries and conflict without a procession of passive-aggressive posts. On platforms such as TikTok, creators declaring this preference for "quiet" or "private" relationships rake in thousands of views, and on Pinterest, searches for "city hall elopement" surged over 190% from 2023 to 2024.

If your prefrontal cortex developed before the iPhone came along, you may be rolling your eyes. But for a generation raised on social media, rejecting the pressure to post is a novel development — and one that experts say could redefine the future of intimacy.

How social media killed romance

Gen Z's turn toward privacy partly stems from a growing discomfort with how social media shapes — and distorts — romantic relationships, said Rae Weiss, a Gen Z dating coach studying for her master's degree in psychology at Columbia University in New York City. A couple that appears to be #relationshipgoals may flaunt their luxury vacations together, picture-perfect date nights, matching outfits and grand romantic gestures. But Gen Z has been online long enough to know it's all just a carefully curated ruse.

"It's no longer a secret that on social media, you're only posting the best moments of your life, the best angles, the best pictures, the filters," Weiss said. "Young people are becoming more aware that it can create some level of dissonance and insecurity when your relationship doesn't look like that all the time."

Indeed, there are messy, complicated and outright mundane moments to every relationship — but those aren't algorithmically climbing the ranks (unless the tea is piping hot, of course). This can lead some to equate the value of their relationships with how "Instagrammable" they are, Weiss said.

Frequently broadcasting your relationship on social media has even been linked to lower levels of overall satisfaction and an anxious attachment style between partners, according to a 2023 study. Embracing private relationships, then, is partly Gen Z's way of



rejecting the suffocating pressures of perfection and returning to the value of real-life displays of affection.

“There’s less incentive to ‘keep up’ with others’ posts,” said Dr. Pamela Rutledge, director of the Media Psychology Research Center and professor emerita of media psychology at Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, California. “This can protect against relationship envy or distorted expectations, comparing the relationship to others’ public presentations.” While Val said she has certainly felt the pressure to show off her love life in the past, she ultimately thinks a digital shrine to her fiancé would feel too false.

“It feels like I’m trying to prove something, to prove that we love each other, when the proof is all around us: our cats, our home and life that we’ve built together,” Val said. “He doesn’t need to see me posting about him to know that I love him.”

What others don’t see, they can’t ruin

Jason, 21, who has been seeing his current girlfriend for nearly a year but isn’t posting any photos of the two of them together, admits the main reason he’s not oversharing is to avoid putting his relationship through the same scrutiny his friends apply to other couples. “I don’t like the thought of being perceived and talked about,” said Jason, a student at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver who asked CNN to only use his first name for privacy reasons. “I’ve even stopped talking to a lot of my friends about (relationships) because I found that they’ll start to see your partner differently.”

For Jason, his reluctance to share about his love life is not so much a fear of being publicly shamed or bullied, but the imagined group chat discussions, private direct messages and Instagram investigations he may be subjected to.

Social anxiety is nothing new, but for a generation raised online, a new form of it has become endemic to our way of relating to one another, said Brooke Duffy, an associate professor of communication at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. “Imagined surveillance,” as she calls it, is the feeling that your every move is being watched and scrutinized by an ambiguous audience, and she said it’s a product of how social media has normalized voyeurism.

“To broadcast your relationship means to open it up to a public audience and have people trawl through images and dissect the communication,” Duffy said of her research. “Of course, influencers are under a high-powered microscope, but we found this was an organizing principle for how young people create content online.”

The fear is that others aren’t just looking at your relationship — they are staring at it, digging into it, and passing moral judgments on you and your partner. All of that noise, real or imagined, can cloud your own appraisal of the person you’re with, especially early on in a relationship, said 26-year-old Jillian St. Onge.

“I refrained from sharing my relationship with my followers for a while, and also from my family truthfully,” said St. Onge, who lives in New York and is now engaged to her partner. “Heartbreak is hard enough on its own, so when everybody knows everything too early, you feel like you owe others, even random people, an explanation as to what went awry. ... Being intentionally private allowed me to form opinions for myself and really focus on building a deep connection.”



The days of posting moody, vague jabs at your partner during a period of conflict are over, St. Onge said. While it can feel vindicating to rally an audience around your perspective, the move is shortsighted and often stokes more drama than it's worth, she said. But despite being highly aware of their own surveillance, members of Gen Z still manage to invent new ways of indulging the desire to share. "Soft-launching," for example, is one way someone can share the fact that they are in a relationship without giving away the identity of their partner, Duffy said.

Pinterest is flooded with soft-launch ideas: two plates on the dinner table, two silhouettes cast against a blank wall, two pairs of shoes sitting next to one another. For St. Onge, who regularly posts videos of her day-to-day life, a soft launch on her socials after about five months of dating her now-fiancé was exactly the level of privacy she needed.

Jason also makes a distinction between what goes on the "grid," where photos are permanent until deleted, and on the "story," where posts disappear within 24 hours. "A story doesn't have to have the same communicative impact as something that's on your grid," Duffy explained. "It captures a fleeting moment, and I think because of that, people are more willing to step outside the boundaries of their personal profile or brand."

'Private but not secret' — how do you tell the difference?

From an outsider's perspective, privacy and secrecy can look the same, said Lia Huynh, a licensed marriage and family therapist based in San Jose, California. "However, the motive is different," Huynh said in an email. "Privacy aims to protect, to be cautious and careful. Someone who wants privacy doesn't want the relationship to be hidden, but feels it is necessary to protect the relationship."

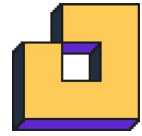
Secrecy, on the other hand, comes at the expense of the other person, and often has a more selfish motive such as feelings of shame or embarrassment, Huynh said. So how can couples tell the difference? First, Huynh recommends private partners identify their own motives. "It's important for the person who wants privacy to make sure they communicate that they are not ashamed of their partner, nor are they doing it to keep their options open," Huynh said. "Make sure you both agree on what this looks like."

Weiss said communication can be tricky when dealing with a mismatch of expectations, in which one partner values the input of their wider social circle more than the other does. It's also important to have at least one or two people outside the relationship you feel comfortable talking to when you just need to vent or if the conflict becomes too difficult to manage on your own, Weiss said.

"I always say listen to your gut. ... It comes down to identifying values. Whatever the relationship struggle you're experiencing is, ask how (you can) come up with solutions in a way that aligns with your values," Weiss said. Overall, to Rutledge, who has studied social media since its inception, the "quiet relationship" is a wholly positive turn for how young people conduct their personal lives.

"We've seen more young people opting for digital detoxes, living in the moment," Rutledge said. "It's not necessary, but it can be very revealing. Anything that encourages people to be more (intentional) with their use of social media, rather than passive, is a good sign."

Source: ['Quiet relationships,' 'soft launches' and the rest of Gen Z's new love language](#)



Fill The Words With Appropriate Meaning!

1. Cohort :
2. Procession :
3. Elopement :
4. Novel :
5. Intimacy :
6. Distorts :
7. Curated :
8. Ruse :
9. Dissonance :
10. Algorithmically:
11. Suffocating :
12. Scrutiny :
13. Endemic :
14. Surveillance :
15. Voyeurism :
16. Appraisal :
17. Vindicating :
18. Soft-launching :
19. Fleeting :
20. Mismatch :



Common roadblocks that men face in their male friendships and a road map for getting past them

The importance of female friendships is often in the spotlight. But when it comes to the ties that bind men, research has shown that less than half of men report being satisfied with their friendships. A decline in male friendships often starts around middle to late adolescence and deepens into adulthood. Kim Evensen, the Norwegian-born founder of Brothers — a nonprofit organization created to help empower men's friendships — had an epiphany about what was missing from his own friendships with other men when he was 25.

"I saw these rules that we as men often feel we have to follow," said Evensen, who is based in Oslo, the Norwegian capital. "Like 'boys don't cry,' we don't express vulnerability toward each other, we don't get too close to each other." Evensen found himself tired of the meaningless hangouts with other men he realized had dominated his friendships, such as grabbing a beer together or being a workout buddy.

"It has to be something more, because if I settled for what popular culture sets as the standard for male friendships, then I, as a man, won't have a lot of meaningful friendships," he said. Evensen turned to experts on male friendships, including Dr. Niobe Way, a researcher and a professor of applied psychology at New York University, to seek guidance on how to strengthen and understand his own bonds with his male friends — and how to help other men, too.

In 2017, he founded Brothers, turning what had started out as an Instagram account into a full-time career. Evensen has written two books on the topic of male friendships — "Brothers: Every Man Needs Strong, Authentic Friendships" and "The Real Bro Code: The Essential Guide for Dudes on How to Be a Bro" — and he's traveled to Australia, the United States, Kenya and beyond to speak about men's friendships and masculinity.

At his lectures, Evensen asks men about how they want their friendships to look and about the closest moments they've shared with their male friends. "I really want men to develop closer and deeper friendships — just saying that — I get a lot of funny reactions," he said. I talked to him about the roadblocks men face in their friendships with other men — and how to move past them. This conversation has been edited and condensed for clarity.

CNN: You say the first roadblock to deep male friendships stems from a taboo of even discussing them. How can men get past that?

Kim Evensen: You have to push through the awkwardness and acknowledge your friendships. I learned from Dr. Niobe Way that most adolescent boys express a deep affection and love for their close male friends in private interviews. But when their statements are read out loud to larger groups of teenage boys, the boys start laughing and calling it weird or girlish or gay.

Talking about your friendship with another man might mean pushing through some awkwardness. But think of it this way: If you want to get muscles, you're going to have to work out. And if you want to have good friendships, you have to work for it. Mention the elephant in



the room, say, “Hey, I really appreciate and value you, and I feel like I don’t say it enough. And I want to invest more in our friendship.” That’s a good place to start.

CNN: You talk about how society has dumbed down male friendships. How does that affect those bonds?

Evensen: If men settle for popular culture’s standards of male bonding, they won’t have a lot of meaningful connections. It’s generally assumed that male friendships are supposed to be easygoing and emotionally risk-free. Low-maintenance hangouts, with little or no commitment. So how do you try to cultivate something deeper? Friendships are like relationships. They’re always about two people. A lot of guys only hang out in groups. If that’s you, try hanging out or grabbing a beer with just one of your friends.

If you always hang out in groups, you never get to really know the people around you and create a friendship just between the two of you. Point to this article, even, so you have something to discuss other than yourself. Open up yourself. If you do, your friend will see it as a sign of trust. If you are the one to start, maybe he’ll open up to you, too.

CNN: How does a narrow-minded view of masculinity affect male friendships?

Evensen: The psychiatrist and family therapist Dr. Robert Garfield wrote a book called “Breaking the Male Code: Unlocking the Power of Friendship” that really resonated with me. It’s about how a lot of men are bound by this unwritten rule that they should only express manly emotions.

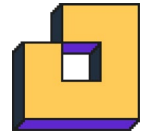
But emotional intimacy is a human trait that’s necessary to create close friendships. We have this idea that a real man should think about sex all the time and use women as a currency to prove to the boys that he’s a man — and, by all means, avoid expressing any of the so-called opposite qualities like joy, compassion, empathy, love and vulnerability. Especially not in front of other men.

Ask yourself, do you think your friend would value it if you would express empathy or compassion toward them? Some men will say, “We don’t need this, or we’re not like that. Don’t try to turn us into a woman.” But you have to try to demolish that argument. Friendships built on insecurity, where men constantly have to prove their manhood, are a breeding ground for toxic attitudes and stupid decision-making.

CNN: You say that the sexualization of love has impacted male friendships. How so?

Evensen: So many boys and men avoid closeness or affection in their friendships just to make sure nothing will be misunderstood, that they won’t be called gay. An intimate conversation, a heartfelt encouragement or a hug without a firm pat on the back might create suspicion, so you better play it safe.

The words “love” and “sex” have been used interchangeably. And without being aware of it, we have formed perceptions about love and closeness that aren’t true. It kills closeness in male friendships. I’ve asked myself why do we say things like “I love you bro, no homo.” I’ve never heard a 3-year-old boy say that to his friend, or girls say that to their girlfriends.



Maybe start a conversation with your friend about why men even say those things? You can tell your friend you want to be able to express that you love each other — or if that's too strong, say you care about each other.

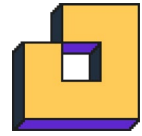
CNN: When a man gets a girlfriend or partner, you say it can become an excuse to neglect friendships with the boys. What can be done about that?

Evensen: It's so common that many of us have just accepted it as a way of life — as a legitimate way to neglect our friendships. And it kind of makes sense. After all, why prioritize a bunch of shallow hangouts when you can invest in a relationship with someone you're allowed to deeply connect with?

We need to be able to value romantic relationships without neglecting friendships and vice versa. Would you appreciate it if your friend ditched you for a girl? Probably you wouldn't, so don't do that to your friend either. Make sure your friend gets to know your girlfriend since she's going to be part of your life.

Expecting that our romantic partner should cover all our emotional and relationship needs — basically be our everything — might sound romantic in a movie. But in real life, it's pretty unhealthy.

Source: [Common roadblocks that men face in their male friendships and a road map for getting past them](#)



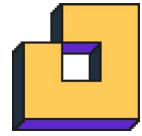
Fill The Words With Appropriate Meaning!

1. Adolescence :
2. Empower :
3. Epiphany :
4. Vulnerability :
5. Meaningless :
6. Authentic :
7. Roadblocks :
8. Condensed :
9. Taboo :
10. Awkwardness :
11. Cultivate :
12. Masculinity :
13. Resonated :
14. Intimacy :
15. Compassion :
16. Demolish :
17. Sexualization :
18. Interchangeably:
19. Neglect :
20. Prioritize :



Answer Questions Below After Reading The Texts

1. According to the plan proposed by Australia's antisemitism envoy, Jillian Segal, what consequence might universities face if they are not doing enough to combat antisemitism?
 - A. Mandatory expulsion of student protesters.
 - B. A ban on all public demonstrations on campus.
 - C. The screening of all staff for extremist views.
 - D. The loss of government funding.
 - E. A permanent closure of their arts departments.
2. The Italian pizza-ranking guide, 50 Top Pizza, named a pizzeria in New York as the best in the United States. What is the name of this pizzeria?
 - A. L'industrie Pizzeria
 - B. Tony's Pizza Napoletana
 - C. Una Pizza Napoletana
 - D. Pizzeria Sei
 - E. Zeneli
3. Why did the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) in Australia move artworks by Pablo Picasso into a women's restroom?
 - A. As a form of protest against the artist himself.
 - B. To protect the paintings from being damaged in the main gallery.
 - C. It was in response to a legal ruling that its women-only "Ladies Lounge" exhibit was discriminatory against a male visitor.
 - D. Because the museum ran out of exhibition space for its collection.
 - E. The artist Kirsha Kaechele believed restrooms were a better setting for Cubism.
4. The article about Earth's rotation explains that the planet is spinning slightly faster. What unprecedented action might timekeepers need to take if this trend continues?
 - A. Adding a positive "leap second" to the clock.
 - B. Adding an extra leap day to the calendar.
 - C. Recalibrating all atomic clocks to a new standard.
 - D. Removing a second from the clock, known as a "negative leap second".
 - E. Pausing global timekeeping for one full second.
5. In the field of biohybrid robotics, what living entity did researchers at Cornell University use to control a robot?
 - A. The cells of a jellyfish.
 - B. Cyborg cockroaches.
 - C. The mycelium (rootlike threads) of a king oyster mushroom.
 - D. Plant cells from a Venus flytrap.
 - E. The brain of a small mammal.



6. Scientists are perplexed by capuchin monkeys kidnapping the babies of another species on a Panamanian island. What do the study's authors suspect is the reason for this behavior?
 - A. The capuchins are adopting the babies to care for them.
 - B. The capuchins are hunting the babies for food.
 - C. The baby howler monkeys are a new source of play and entertainment.
 - D. It is a form of "cultural fad," potentially driven by boredom in an environment without predators.
 - E. It is an attempt to interbreed with the other monkey species.
7. In the article about experiencing joy, Dr. Judith Joseph discusses "high-functioning depression." What is the clinical term for the inability to feel pleasure or joy, which is a key symptom?
 - A. Alexithymia
 - B. Pathological productivity
 - C. Anhedonia
 - D. Validation
 - E. Epiphany
8. The US-based orange juice importer, Johanna Foods, has filed a lawsuit due to the threat of tariffs on goods from Brazil. Who is the lawsuit filed against?
 - A. The government of Brazil.
 - B. Major American supermarkets like Walmart and Aldi.
 - C. The Trump administration.
 - D. The US Department of Agriculture.
 - E. The Federal Mortgage Society.
9. According to the article on Gen Z's love language, what is the term for the trend where young people choose to keep their romantic lives offline and out of public view?
 - A. Soft launches
 - B. City hall elopement
 - C. Quiet relationships
 - D. Digital detoxes
 - E. Private but not secret
10. In the discussion about male friendships, what is identified as a key reason why many men and boys avoid showing closeness or affection in their friendships?
 - A. They are too busy with their romantic partners.
 - B. They prefer to hang out in large groups.
 - C. They believe friendships should be low-maintenance and emotionally risk-free.
 - D. They are afraid that their affection will be misunderstood or that they will be called gay.
 - E. They are not taught the importance of friendship in school.