

Trump Asserts
Link of Autism
To a Painkiller

No Proven Connection
to Tylenol Ingredient

By AZEEN GHORAYSHI

President Trump and top federal health officials on Monday launched a broad offensive against the mainstream understanding of autism, claiming without new evidence that acetaminophen — the active ingredient in the common pain reliever Tylenol — was a cause of the disorder.

The officials, including Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, Dr. Marty Makary, announced a federal endorsement of a B-vitamin-based drug, leucovorin, to treat autism. It has been studied in only dozens of research participants.

And they announced new research to investigate the root causes of autism, committing millions of federal dollars to study environmental factors, including a long-debunked theory that blames vaccines.

Together, the announcements marked a new step toward reframing autism as a neglected epidemic with environmental causes to which politicized researchers have long been blind. Most scientists believe that the neurological disorder results from a complex interplay of genetic and environmental factors.

The briefing at the White House featured often unsubstantiated medical advice from Mr. Trump, reminiscent of his first term, when he encouraged Americans to try unproven treatments for Covid.

The president on Monday repeatedly issued strong warnings that flew in the face of the recommendations of leading medical



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President Trump with health chief Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

groups: “Don’t take Tylenol. Don’t take it. Fight like hell not to take it.” He urged pregnant women to “tough it out” when in pain, except in rare instances, such as a dangerously high fever.

Scientists have conducted research on a potential connection between acetaminophen and autism for years, but the studies have so far yielded inconclusive results. Mainstream medical groups quickly defended acetaminophen as a safe treatment for fever in pregnant women, although not to be used long term.

Mr. Kennedy noted that autism was a “multi-factorial” disease, but then zeroed in on vaccines, which he has long argued are at least partly to blame for what he sees as an epidemic. He and Mr.

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Mahmoud Abbas, leader of the Palestinian Authority, delivered a video address on Monday ahead of the U.N. General Assembly.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Violence Defies
Simple Labels

Political Bloodshed
Takes a Murky Turn

By JIA LYNN YANG

At this point, there’s little doubt that the young man accused of shooting Charlie Kirk was angry with the right-wing activist’s political views. “I had enough of his hatred,” the 22-year-old suspect wrote in a text to his roommate, according to evidence released last week. “Some hate can’t be negotiated out.”

But was the shooter a “leftist,” as Mr. Kirk’s allies and fans have so definitively insisted? His mother told investigators that his political views had recently moved to the left.

That doesn’t mean, though, that his act can be mapped cleanly onto the familiar left-right axis of 20th-century politics. He was not registered with any party. He did not bother voting in the 2024 election. He rarely seemed to surface from the deep end of the internet, where he learned a language that included antifascist slogans divorced from coherent ideology. Politics, it seems, existed alongside video games as a source for a strange swirl of signifiers.

He etched some of these allusions into his bullet casings. In the earliest days after the shooting, as people on the left and the right tried to pin the blame on their enemies, his messages were written in a way that taunted those who would try to break the code for their own ends, political or investigative. In

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Firing of Educators Over Kirk Follows a Pattern

A Growing Clampdown
by the Political Right
on Campus Speech

By STEPHANIE SAUL

“NO CLASS TODAY,” read the email. It was the morning after the November 2024 presidential election. “Need time to mourn and process this racist, fascist country.”

The email rapidly spread on social media and would soon unravel the career of Prof. James Bowley, who had sent it to the three students enrolled in his “Abortion and Religions” class at Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss. One of them shared it on Instagram. The professor was ordered to leave campus the next day.

The episode reflected a growing clampdown on campus speech

ic freedom, said it was aware of retaliation against about 60 professors and teachers in connection with critical comments they made about Mr. Kirk or people mourning him.

Faculty First Responders, an organization that works with the association to advise educators who are the victim of doxxing and harassment campaigns, has reached out to 35 academic workers in the past week, most of them professors, whose comments

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IMPASSE ENDS ABC said Jimmy Kimmel’s show would return to the airwaves on Tuesday. PAGE B1



RENAUD PHILIPPE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Green Thumb in the Canadian Arctic

Children in Gjoa Haven, an Inuit hamlet, visited a greenhouse that grows fresh produce. Page A4.

Trump Blunts Enforcement of Fair Housing Act

By DEBRA KAMIN

In one email, a Trump appointee at the Department of Housing and Urban Development described decades of housing discrimination cases as “artificial, arbitrary and unnecessary.”

In another, a career supervisor in the department’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity objected to lawyers being reassigned to other offices; the supervisor was fired six days later

ring it to the department’s acting inspector general for investigation.

The emails are among dozens of pages of internal communications, memos and other documents reviewed by The New York Times that show efforts by the Trump administration to limit enforcement of the Fair Housing Act, the landmark civil rights law that has prohibited discrimination in housing for nearly six decades.

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Wedding Bells Are a Bit Too Loud in Denmark

By AMELIA NIERENBERG

When Karen Dulong began planning her wedding last winter, she intended to say “I do” on March 8. She wanted to honor International Women’s Day and the sixth anniversary of when she told her partner that she really liked him.

So she called the City Hall in Copenhagen, where she and her partner live, as soon as registration opened to reserve a slot. Immediately, she was disappointed.

“When I called, it was already booked,” said Ms. Dulong, 28, who owns a gallery. “How could it be booked already?”

Ms. Dulong is hardly the only bride in Denmark to find City Hall overwhelmed. In recent years, a

surging number of foreign couples have flocked to Denmark, in part because it requires fewer documents and has a more streamlined process than many other countries.

“There’s so many people from other countries coming to Denmark to get married — it’s really crazy,” said Cecilie Julbo, a Danish wedding planner, who said some of her local clients could not find a good time slot in Copenhagen.

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BUSINESS B1-7

The World’s Sneaker Maker

One U.S. industry is defying China and its unrivaled factories as it shifts more production to Vietnam. PAGE B1

U.S. Asks to Break Up Google

The Justice Department argued that the best way to fix an ad technology monopoly was to force a sale. PAGE B5

INTERNATIONAL A4-11

A Pledge to Help Argentina

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said “all options” were under consideration to help President Javier Milei, a Trump ally whose economy is in peril. PAGE A10

The Kremlin’s Curriculum Ban

Outlawing the International Baccalaureate deepens Russia’s effort to infuse education with nationalism. PAGE A9

SPORTS B8-11

Cracking Homers and Jokes

José Ramírez likes to poke, prod and needle his teammates. It keeps the Guardians ready for anything. PAGE B8



SCIENCE TIMES D1-8

A Better Grip on Transfusions

A veterinarian is trying to start a blood bank for zoos. Above, the clouded leopard River undergoing an exam. PAGE D1

Disappearing Cures

Gene therapies are sometimes created and then discarded because drug companies can’t afford the costs. PAGE D1

NATIONAL A12-20

Reframing Trump’s Policy Law

Republicans are hoping a new name, along with larger refunds for many Americans next year, can buoy an economic agenda that polls show is unpopular. PAGE A17

Deadly Smoke From Wildfires

Pollution from fires, intensified by rising temperatures, is on track to become one of America’s deadliest climate disasters, killing up to 70,000 people a year by 2050. PAGE A12

OPINION A22-23

Carlos Lozada

PAGE A22



ARTS C1-6

Getting a New Perspective

The Met Opera began its season with a fairly complex work based on a novel by Michael Chabon. Above, Andrzej Filonczyk losing his helmet. PAGE C1

