



MARK ABRAMSON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A migrant from Mexico drove a forklift at an Alo Yoga warehouse for \$18 an hour. She said her BaronHR paychecks often bounced.

How a Broken Border Keeps Our Shopping Carts Full

This article is by Steve Eder, Danielle Ivory and Marcela Valdes.

During the depths of the pandemic, sales at Alo Yoga surged as its popularity exploded on social media. Kendall Jenner appeared on Instagram wearing the brand's high-waist leggings. Alessandra Ambrosio and Jennifer Lopez were seen in Alo gear, too. In just one year, business reportedly almost doubled, surpassing \$1 billion.

Alo's sister company, Bella+Canvas, a wholesaler of basic apparel, also reached a milestone, selling directly to consumers through its website. To keep up, the two companies turned to a vast new distribution warehouse in Nevada.

Finding workers for such facilities is no small task, but corporate America often looks to a time-tested strategy: contracting with staffing agencies that temporarily employ migrants, including some who enter the country illegally

Migrants Exploited as Staffing Agencies Meet Demand

and are desperate for jobs.

This year, America's southern border was once again a flashpoint in a presidential election, with President-elect Donald J. Trump pledging to deport millions of people who he said were "poisoning the blood" of the country. Within days of his re-election, he announced his intention to appoint hard-liners on immigration.

But despite the tough talk, the broken border has been a lifeline for America's on-demand economy under both Democratic and Republican administrations, including Mr. Trump's first term, an investigation by The New York Times found. Thousands of companies have exploited its porosity by plucking workers

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A Leader's Exit Left Questions About Rankings

By STEPHANIE SAUL

Ben Sasse, the Nebraska senator, arrived in Florida in February 2023 to help cement a conservative makeover at one of the nation's top five public universities.

The University of Florida had lured the senator with an unusual \$10 million, five-year contract, possibly the most lucrative ever for a public university president. Gov. Ron DeSantis applauded the selection of a fellow Republican, calling Dr. Sasse a "deep thinker on education policy."

Then, in July, just 17 months into his contract at the Gainesville university, Dr. Sasse resigned, spurring a host of questions about what went wrong.

Dr. Sasse cited his wife's deteriorating health as the reason for his departure. But observers of the university knew there were a number of other possible factors.

The former senator had never quite won over many professors or students. After he announced his resignation, there were reports about questionable hiring practices and spending.

There were also signs that Dr. Sasse faced another problem that has haunted college leaders everywhere: the school's U.S. News & World Report rankings.

Before Dr. Sasse took over the school, the University of Florida had been proudly ranked among



BRENDAN HOFFMAN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Death in a Place of New Life

Revisiting the July day when missile debris crashed into a Kyiv, Ukraine, maternity clinic. Page 10.

Blaring Dreadful Noise Across Border, North Korea Adds Insomnia to Its Arsenal

By CHOE SANG-HUN

DANGSAN-RI, South Korea — Loud, crackly noises that sounded like an ominous, giant gong being beaten again and again washed over this village on a recent night. Some residents described hearing wolves howling, metals grinding together or ghosts screaming as if out of a horror movie. Others said

they heard the sound of incoming artillery, or even a furious monkey pounding on a broken piano.

Although they hear different sounds at different times, people in this South Korean village on the border with North Korea all call themselves victims of "noise bombing," saying they find the relentless barrage exhausting.

"It is driving us crazy," said An

Mi-hee, 37. "You can't sleep at night."

Since July, North Korea has amped up loudspeakers along its border with South Korea for 10 to 24 hours a day, broadcasting eerie noises that have aggravated South Korean villagers like no past propaganda broadcasts from the North ever did. The offensive

is one of the most bizarre — and

unbearable — consequences of deteriorating inter-Korean relations that have sunk to their lowest level in years under the North's leader, Kim Jong-un, and the South's president, Yoon Suk Yeol.

For decades, the two Koreas — which never signed a peace treaty after the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce — have swung be-

tween conciliatory tones and saber rattling. Under Mr. Kim, Pyongyang has veered toward a more hawkish stance over the past few years. It has shut off all dialogue with Seoul and Washington, doubled down on testing nuclear-capable missiles and has vowed to treat South Korea not as a partner for reunification, but as

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'No Use for Hatred'

The hamlet of My Lai is infamous for the massacre committed there by U.S. soldiers. Today, its residents are learning to move past their rage.

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SUNDAY STYLES

Going, Going, Still Going

For some, an even bigger draw than the silver, furniture and artwork at Michael Corcoran's auctions is the 96-year-old auctioneer himself.

SUNDAY BUSINESS

Making Money Talk Accessible

Vivian Tu, who bills herself as "Your Rich BFF," explains financial matters to her millennial and Gen Z followers on Instagram and TikTok.

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ARTS & LEISURE

20 Years of World of Warcraft

The online role-playing game with orcs, blood elves, night elves, dwarves and dungeons turned into a far-reaching pop culture phenomenon.

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