



KENNY HOLSTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES  
President Biden said in the State of the Union address on Thursday that democracy was “under attack both at home and overseas.”

Army Blasts May Have Injured  
Brain of Mass Shooter in Maine

By DAVE PHILIPPS

A specialized laboratory examining the brain of the gunman who committed Maine’s deadliest mass shooting found profound brain damage of the kind that has been seen in veterans exposed to repeated blasts from weapons use.

The lab’s findings were included in an autopsy report that was compiled by the Maine chief medical examiner’s office and released by the gunman’s family.

The gunman, Robert Card, was a grenade instructor in the Army Reserve. In 2023, after eight years of being exposed to thousands of skull-shaking blasts on the training range, he began hearing voices and was stalked by paranoid delusions, his family said. He grew increasingly erratic and violent in the months before the October rampage in Lewiston, in which he killed 18 people and then himself.

His brain was sent to a Boston University’s C.T.E. Center, a laboratory known for its pioneering work documenting chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or C.T.E., in athletes.

According to the lab’s report, prepared on Feb. 26 and updated on Wednesday, the white matter that forms the wiring deep in the brain had “moderately severe” damage, and in some areas was missing entirely. The delicate tissue sheaths that insulate each biological circuit lay in “disorganized clumps,” and throughout Mr. Card’s brain there was scarring

Continued on Page A19

A Writer’s Posthumous Novel,  
Published Against His Wishes

By ALEXANDRA ALTER

Toward the end of his life, when his memory was in pieces, Gabriel García Márquez struggled to finish a novel about the secret sex life of a married middle-age woman. He attempted at least five versions and tinkered with the text for years, slashing sentences, scribbling in the margins, changing adjectives, dictating notes to his assistant. Eventually, he gave up, and issued a final, devastating judgment.

“He told me directly that the novel had to be destroyed,” said Gonzalo García Barcha, the author’s younger son.

When García Márquez died in 2014, multiple drafts, notes and chapter fragments of the novel were stashed away in his archives at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin. The story remained there, spread over 769 pages, largely unread and forgotten — until García Márquez’s sons decided to defy their father’s wishes.

Now, a decade after his death, his last novel, titled “Until August,” will be published this month, with a global release in nearly 30 countries. The narrative centers on a woman named Ana Magdalena Bach, who travels to a Caribbean island every August to visit her mother’s grave. On these somber pilgrimages, briefly liberated from her husband and family, she finds a new lover each time.

The novel adds an unexpected coda to the life and work of García Márquez, a literary giant and Nobel laureate.

Continued on Page A10

IN PITCH TO NATION,  
BIDEN SAYS TRUMP  
POSES DIRE THREAT

President Promotes His Agenda and Warns of Consequences if Rival Regains Power

By KATIE ROGERS

WASHINGTON — President Biden used his State of the Union address on Thursday to launch a series of fiery attacks against former President Donald Trump, a competitor whom he did not mention by name but labeled as a dire threat to American democracy and stability in the world.

In a televised speech to a joint session of Congress, Mr. Biden brought the energy his allies and aides had hoped he would display to warn of what could happen should Ukraine continue to lose ground to Russia. Invoking an overseas war at the top of his address was an unusual introduction to a speech that was in many ways a political argument for his reelection.

“Not since President Lincoln and the Civil War have freedom and democracy been under assault at home as they are today,” Mr. Biden said, raising his voice to a shout. “What makes our moment rare is the freedom of democracy, under attack both at home and overseas.”

Mr. Biden’s speech had to accomplish several goals at once, including taking credit for an economy that has outperformed expectations but whose effects many Americans say they cannot feel. He touched on a range of issues, including immigration, abortion, prescription drug costs and the war in Gaza. He also engaged in a back-and-forth with congressional Republicans, picking up a button circulated by Republicans that called for people to say the name of Laken Riley, a Georgia nursing student who was killed in February by, according to the authorities, an undocumented immigrant.

“To her parents, I say, my heart goes out to you. Having lost children myself, I understand,” he said at one point, going off script and addressing Republicans by using the phrase “an illegal” to describe the accused, which is not the term preferred by his party.

He used his time in front of one of the biggest audiences he will have before the November election to tell Americans that personal freedoms, diplomatic relationships and democratic rule in the United States are at stake if Mr. Trump is re-elected.

Mr. Biden assailed Mr. Trump for his soft treatment of President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, whose troops invaded Ukraine more than two years ago. “If anybody in this room thinks Putin will stop in Ukraine, I assure you he will not,” Mr. Biden said, warning that the

Continued on Page A18



DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES  
Members of the Supreme Court in the House chamber.

Trump’s Choice  
For Party Chief  
Pushed ’20 Lies

This article is by Alexandra Berzon, Jonathan Swan and Maggie Haberman.

After the 2020 election, one story out of North Carolina had a powerful effect on Donald J. Trump.

A proactive Republican, the story went, had worked behind the scenes to stop Democrats from stealing the election in the state and helped secure Mr. Trump’s victory there.

That Republican was Michael Whatley, the chairman of the North Carolina G.O.P. He had pushed the state party to recruit what he described as thousands of poll observers and hundreds of volunteer lawyers as part of an election-protection program. Mr. Trump called Mr. Whatley after the election, and Mr. Whatley boasted to him about that program’s success.

“That’s great,” Mr. Trump replied, as Mr. Whatley recounted the conversation in a speech to North Carolina Republicans last year. “Why the hell didn’t they do that in Arizona and Georgia?”

Mr. Whatley, who became the Republican National Committee’s general counsel last year, is now poised for a far bigger and more consequential role: Mr. Trump handpicked him to succeed Ronna McDaniel as the committee’s chair. Ms. McDaniel is expected to step aside Friday.

Mr. Trump’s selection of Mr. Whatley, whose appointment still awaits a formal vote, sums up the former president’s vision for the new R.N.C. He wants it to share his obsession with the false idea

Continued on Page A17

U.S. and Kyiv  
Feel Discontent  
Rise in Alliance

This article is by Helene Cooper, Eric Schmitt and Thomas Gibbons-Neff.

WASHINGTON — More than two years into their wartime alliance, the bond between the United States and Ukraine is showing signs of wear and tear, giving way to mutual frustration and a feeling that the relationship might be stuck in a bit of a rut.

It is the stuff that often strains relationships — finances, different priorities and complaints about not being heard.

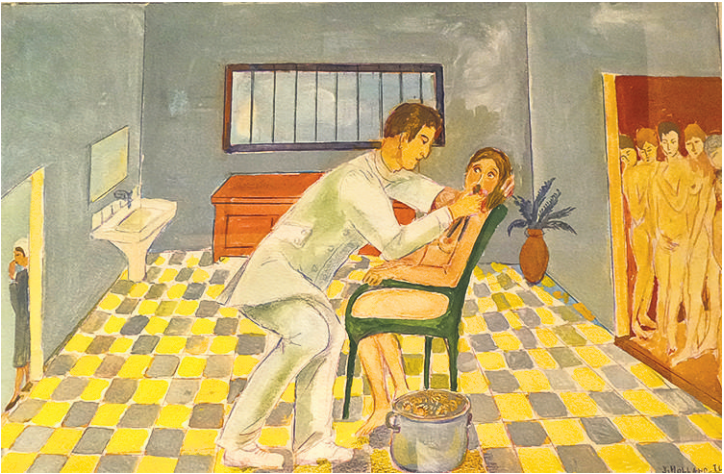
For the Pentagon, the exasperation comes down to a single, recurring issue: American military strategists, including Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III, believe that Ukraine needs to concentrate its forces on one big fight at a time. Instead, President Volodymyr Zelensky, who has vowed to drive Russia out of every inch of Ukraine, expends his forces in battles for towns that U.S. officials say lack strategic value.

The most recent example involved the battle for the eastern city of Avdiivka, which fell to Russia last month. U.S. officials say Ukraine defended Avdiivka too long and at too great a cost.

For its part, Ukraine is increasingly disheartened that American political paralysis has resulted in shortages of ammunition for troops on the front. As each day goes by without a fresh supply of

Continued on Page A6

**WEAK DEFENSES** Russian troops are making gains against rudimentary trenches. PAGE A8



JOSETTE MOLLAND, 1923-2024

Survivor Whose Raw Paintings  
Showed Horror of Nazi Camps

By ADAM NOSSITER

In the spring of 1943, Josette Molland, a 20-year-old art student, was certain of two things: that she was making a pretty good living creating designs for Lyon’s silk weavers, and that it was unbearable that Germans occupied her country.

She joined the Resistance. Fabricating false papers and transporting them for the famed Dutch-Paris underground network unburdened her of guilt. But it was dangerous.

Captured by the Gestapo less than a year later, Ms. Molland lived the hell of Nazi deportation and Nazi camps for women, at Ravensbrück and elsewhere. She tried to escape, organized a rebellion against her guards, was severely beaten and lived on insects and “what was beneath the bark of trees.” But she somehow survived and made it back to France.

“I had a happy life for the next

Continued on Page A26



VIA PRIVATE COLLECTION  
Josette Molland at 22 in the clothing she wore at a Nazi camp. Left, a camp dentist pulling gold crowns from a woman’s teeth.

INTERNATIONAL A4-12

**Female Cutting Remains High**  
Over 230 million women and girls have been mutilated, even as some countries have curbed the practice. PAGE A4

**Mass Abductions in Nigeria**  
Hundreds of people were seized, highlighting the government’s inability to control an armed insurgency. PAGE A12

OBITUARIES A23, 26

**Discovered Epstein-Barr Virus**  
Dr. Anthony Epstein, a pathologist in London, uncovered, with Yvonne Barr, the first virus capable of causing cancer in humans. He was 102. PAGE A23

BUSINESS B1-7

**Chinese Ad Spending Spree**  
Temu, Shein, and streaming and gaming apps are laying out huge sums to break into the U.S. market. PAGE B1

**Woes for Women in Hollywood**  
Efforts by the Academy to promote gender diversity in its ranks have not exactly panned out. PAGE B1



NATIONAL A14-22

**I.V.F. Halt Shook Couples**  
“Someone else’s opinion changed my future,” one woman said of an Alabama Supreme Court ruling that treats frozen embryos as children. PAGE A20

**What the ‘Rust’ Jury Heard**  
The prosecution argued that the film’s armorer brought live rounds to the set. Her lawyers pointed to the movie’s main ammunition supplier. PAGE A21

**Soldiers in the Subway**  
Commuters had mixed feelings after New York’s governor said the National Guard and state troopers would begin patrols for safety. PAGE A22

WEEKEND ARTS C1-12

**Best Bets for Oscars**  
“Oppenheimer” is a lock for best picture, Kyle Buchanan says, but the best actress race is a nail-biter. PAGE C9

**Welcome to ‘Illinoise’**  
A mysterious and deeply moving dance-musical hybrid is based on Sufjan Stevens’s 2005 concept album. PAGE C1



SPORTS B8-12

**One-Woman Attendance Boost**  
Road crowds can’t resist coming out to see Caitlin Clark, the Iowa star and N.C.A.A. scoring leader. PAGE B10

**Hints of Wembanyama**  
Khaman Maluach, a 7-2 African teen, is bound for the Olympics, then Duke, and then very likely the N.B.A. PAGE B8

OPINION A24-25

**David Brooks** PAGE A25

