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Prices in Canada may be higher

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New Laws Subject Faculty To Increased Surveillance

Tip Lines and Syllabus Scans at Colleges

By VIMAL PATEL

College professors once taught free from political interference, with mostly their students and colleagues privy to their lectures and book assignments. Now, they are being watched by state officials, senior administrators and students themselves.

In Oklahoma, a student disputed an instructor's grading decision, drawing the notice of a conservative campus group, Turning Point USA, that has long posted the names of professors criticized for bringing liberal politics into their classrooms. The instructor was removed.

In Texas, a student recorded a classroom lesson on gender identity that led to viral outrage and the instructor's firing. Now, Texas has set up an office to take other complaints about colleges and professors.

And several states, including Texas, Ohio and Florida, have created laws requiring professors to publicly post their course outlines in searchable databases.

The increased oversight of professors comes as conservatives expand their movement to curb what they say is a liberal tilt in university classrooms. In the last couple of years, they have found sympathetic ears in state legislatures with the power to pressure schools, and their efforts have

gained momentum as the Trump administration has made overhauling the politics and culture on campuses a focus.

But all of this, some professors and free-expression groups say, is leading to a wave of censorship and self-censorship that they argue is curbing academic freedom and learning.

"We've never seen this much surveillance," said John White, a University of North Florida education professor who was asked to remove words such as "diversity," "equity," "inclusion" and "culture" from his syllabus. He said he changed his syllabus under threat of his course being canceled.

Lawmakers, and sometimes university administrators, argue that the new scrutiny and rules make for stronger universities at a time of widespread calls for more accountability.

Peter Hans, the president of the University of North Carolina system, announced in December that all 16 of its campuses, including the flagship in Chapel Hill, will create searchable databases of syllabuses starting in the fall. In a recent opinion column, he wrote that "more transparency" was the answer to increased scrutiny of higher education.

"Getting an honest, realistic

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JAMIE KELTER DAVIS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



LANA APISUKH FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sweet Scent of Success

Penny, a 4-year-old Doberman pinscher, above with her handler, Andy Linton, took the top prize at the 150th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show at Madison Square Garden. Page D5.

U.S. Eyeing Nike Over Claims Of Bias Against White Workers

By REBECCA DAVIS O'BRIEN and KIM BHASIN

The federal agency that safeguards hiring practices said on Wednesday that it was investigating Nike, the sportswear giant, for diversity efforts that it said amounted to discrimination against white workers.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, born of the Civil Rights Act, said it was investigating "systemic allegations of D.E.I.-related intentional race discrimination" against white employees and job applicants at Nike.

It appears to be the first time that the commission has said diversity, equity and inclusion practices in workplaces can amount to discrimination against white people, and Nike is a high-profile target. The company has sponsorship partnerships with world-famous athletes including LeBron

James and Caitlin Clark. It also drew criticism from President Trump during his first term for running advertisements featuring Colin Kaepernick, the football star who knelt during the national anthem to protest racism and police brutality.

The move positions the E.E.O.C. at the vanguard of the Trump administration's broad assault on D.E.I. practices. Mr. Trump won re-election in 2024 in part by harnessing backlash to such practices, and in office he has given voice to claims of "reverse racism" against white people.

The investigation is the most significant legal action that the commission has announced under Andrea Lucas, its chair, who has made diversity, equity and inclusion

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Wonder Drug Keeps Sports In Its Clutches

By JASON STALLMAN

Twenty-five years later, James Dalton proudly recalled "that euphoric moment" when the rats were dissected and he saw their prostate glands had shrunk.

"It still gives me goose bumps," he said, pointing at his arm.

Dalton, 63, is a drug discovery scientist by trade with more than 100 patents under his name in the United States, and more than 500 internationally. This is a man who has dissected many, many rats.

But the specimens that day in early 2000 were special. Dalton, an associate professor at the University of Tennessee in Memphis at the time, was trying to develop a blockbuster medicine that would mimic the desirable effects of testosterone and anabolic steroids — including muscle growth and increased bone mass — while dialing down the unwanted ones.

His graduate assistant in the lab had stayed up all night harvesting the rats' organs. Ordinarily, they would need to be weighed to determine any change, but in this case the results were unmistakable to the naked eye: The prostates treated with the researchers' new drug had shrunk considerably, unlike those in the rats treated with testosterone. Everyone on Dalton's research team gathered to gaze triumphantly.

The potential medical uses of this new drug were profound: building muscle mass in cancer

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A Crackdown Sinks Children Into Lives of Fear

Turmoil in Minnesota Traumatizes Even the Youngest

"We just wanted to be close together," she said.

For weeks, the Minneapolis area has been a landscape of intense turmoil as federal immigration agents have faced off against furious citizens. But there is a quiet upheaval taking place behind closed doors as the city's youngest residents attempt to grasp the altering of their neighborhoods, their schools, their sense of security.

Regardless of what they might

understand about the politics embedded in their surroundings, some things are clear: The adults in their lives are weary and overwhelmed. Neighbors are scared to leave the house. Bomb threats have been called in to schools. Events have been canceled. Friends are missing from classrooms. And parents have been taken.

"I was just thinking, 'What are we going to do without him?'" Xochitl said about the day her father, Victor, did not come home. She began to insist to her aunt that she could finish her final exams and be available to help with her siblings. Within a week, a friend who is a U.S. citizen was also detained, but later released.

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ROBERT F. BUKATY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Virginia Oliver off the coast of Maine at 101 in 2021. As a general rule, her authority was not to be questioned on land or at sea.

VIRGINIA OLIVER, 1920-2026

Lobster-Snagging Folk Hero With Sailor's Heart, and Mouth

By MICHAEL S. ROSENWALD

Virginia Oliver, a feisty, salty-tongued lobster boat skipper who fished off the New England coast wearing earrings, hot-pink lipstick and an occasional scowl for more than 80 years, until she was 103, died on Jan. 21 in Rockport, Maine. She was 103.

Her death, in a hospital not far from her home in Rockland, was confirmed by her sternman, Max Oliver Jr., who was also her son.

On the frigid and crustacean-filled waters of Penobscot Bay, Mrs. Oliver was known as the Lobster Lady. She was a folk hero to Mainers — an enduring, if fading, emblem of the state's hardy,

matter-of-fact work ethic.

"She represented that no-nonsense Mainer who just got up every day and did what they had to do," Barbara A. Walsh, the author of a children's book about Mrs. Oliver, said in an interview. "It's grit and determination."

During lobster season — from June to December — Mrs. Oliver would wake up at 2:45 a.m., put on overalls and drive her four-wheel-drive pickup truck to the dock. After loading her boat, the Virginia, with bait and gas, she would head to sea before sunrise, hauling lobster pots until lunchtime.

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U.S. SCALES BACK IN MINNEAPOLIS

700 Agents Withdrawn, but 2,000 Remain

By MADELEINE NGO and MITCH SMITH

WASHINGTON — President Trump said on Wednesday that he personally ordered the withdrawal of 700 law enforcement officers involved in the federal immigration crackdown in Minnesota and that his administration could use a "softer touch."

The administration had sent thousands of federal officers and agents to Minnesota starting in December, a deployment that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials said was the agency's "largest operation to date." But the surge drew criticism because of the aggressive tactics used by immigration officers, and outrage intensified after two U.S. citizens were fatally shot in confrontations with federal authorities.

In an interview with NBC, Mr. Trump said the administration's approach would continue to be "tough" and he urged local officials to cooperate with federal immigration officers. "It didn't come from me because I just wanted to do it," he said. "We are waiting for them to release prisoners."

Earlier in the day, Tom Homan, the White House border czar, said about 2,000 officers and agents would be left in the state.

Mr. Homan said the change came after an "unprecedented number of counties" were cooperating with federal officials and allowing ICE to take custody of unauthorized immigrants before they were released from jails. But he did not specify which counties had increased their cooperation.

"This is smart law enforcement, not less law enforcement," Mr. Homan said.

As of last month, sheriffs in at least seven of Minnesota's 87 counties had signed agreements with ICE to collaborate with the

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DIVIDE Democrats and the G.O.P. have clashed during spending talks over deportations. PAGE A14

DAMAGE The Minneapolis police chief worries about the fallout of the federal crackdown. PAGE A14

INFLUENCER One man's video alleging child-care fraud in Minnesota was a sensation. PAGE A12

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California Voting Map Cleared

The Supreme Court rejected an emergency request by the state's Republican Party to block the new map. PAGE A16

Major Cuts at Washington Post

Layoffs included more than 300 journalists across the paper's local, international and sports departments. PAGE A19

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Three Dog Night's Lead Singer

Chuck Negron, who anchored genre-defining hits like "Joy to the World" and "One" by one of pop music's powerhouses in the 1970s, was 83. PAGE A21

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Gut Feelings May Lead to Glory

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Doing as the Norwegians Do

To enhance their Winter Olympic prospects, Americans consult their friends in a nation of 5.6 million. PAGE B10

Michelle Goldberg PAGE A22

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