



Musk on the Campaign Trail:
Drugs and Family Drama

ERIC LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Elon Musk boarding Air Force One in March. His drug use during the campaign was far more intense than previously known.

By KIRSTEN GRIND and MEGAN TWOHEY
As Elon Musk became one of Donald J. Trump’s closest allies last year, leading raucous rallies and donating about \$275 million to help him win the presidency, he was also using drugs far more intensely than previously known, according to people familiar with his activities.
Mr. Musk’s drug consumption went well beyond occasional use. He told people he was taking so much ketamine, a powerful anesthetic, that it was affecting his bladder, a known effect of chronic use. He took Ecstasy and psychedelic mushrooms. And he traveled with a daily medication box that held about 20 pills, including ones with the

markings of the stimulant Adderall, according to a photo of the box and people who have seen it.
It is unclear whether Mr. Musk, 53, was taking drugs when he became a fixture at the White House this year and was handed the power to slash the federal bureaucracy. But he has exhibited erratic behavior, insulting cabinet members, gesturing like a Nazi and garbling his answers in a staged interview.
At the same time, Mr. Musk’s family life has grown increasingly tumultuous as he has negotiated overlapping romantic relationships and private legal battles involving his growing brood of children, accord-

ing to documents and interviews.
On Wednesday evening, Mr. Musk announced that he was ending his stint with the government, after lamenting how much time he had spent on politics instead of his businesses.
Mr. Musk and his lawyer did not respond to requests for comment last week about his drug use and personal life. He has previously said he was prescribed ketamine for
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WHAT’S NEXT Elon Musk’s long-term thoughts are fueled by a techno-futuristic philosophy. SUNDAY BUSINESS, PAGE 4

Costs for Americans Rise
Despite Claims by DOGE

Reversals of Regulations Aren’t Generating
Promised Savings, Analysis Shows

By CORAL DAVENPORT and STACY COWLEY

When the Biden administration enacted regulations last year slashing credit card late fees, government analysts calculated that the rule would save millions of customers an average of \$220 per year.
Overall, they found that the new limit would save American households about \$10 billion annually, mostly in avoided bank penalties.
But now that the Trump administration has abandoned the rule, the Department of Government Efficiency, the cost-cutting initiative spearheaded by Elon Musk, claims the opposite — that the reversal will save Americans \$9.5 billion.
DOGE promotes the purported savings on an “Agency Deregulation Leaderboard,” posted last month, where it claims that the Trump administration has saved Americans \$29.4 billion as a result of reversing regulations in health insurance, bank fees, appliance efficiency standards and other areas.
But many of those regulatory reversals will actually pile more costs on to individual Americans in the form of higher bank fees, electric and water bills, and health insurance payments, according to experts and government analyses. The New York Times examined 10 of the largest claims on the leaderboard and concluded that several did not show evidence of savings to households.
The leaderboard, for instance, claims that the Energy Department’s proposals to reverse 16 ef-

ficiency standards on appliances like dishwashers and microwaves will save Americans a combined \$4 billion. But government scientists’ own accounting says that appliance efficiency standards saved the average American household about \$576 in 2024 on water and gas bills.
“This is just taking money from households and transferring it to banks and credit card companies, and to water and power utility companies,” said Steve Cicala, co-director of the National Bureau of Economic Research’s Project on the Economic Analysis of Regulation. “It means Americans will pay the costs in higher household bills.”
A White House spokesman declined to comment on the record about DOGE’s claims of deregulatory savings, but he emailed a statement from an unnamed senior administration official, who said that they “represent cost savings for regulated parties” — in other words, banks and other corporations. That position lines up with that of the American Bankers Association, which sued to overturn the credit card rule, contending that lower penalties cut into the costs lenders incur in recouping late payments.
But that accounting ignores the costs to American households and consumers, which, by law, government agencies must also demonstrate when justifying major rule changes. Multiple experts in regu-

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More on the White House

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LEGAL FIGHT Lawyers asked a federal court to stop the president from using a wartime law to deport Venezuelans. PAGE 17

Bucolic Village
In the Shadow
Of an Evil Past

By SALLY McGRANE

BERLIN — One morning this January, Susanne Bücken, a family doctor in Berlin, woke up worried. National elections were approaching, and the far-right party Alternative for Germany (or AfD), whose leaders have spouted Nazi slogans and downplayed the Holocaust, was gaining support inside and outside Germany. Dr. Bücken sent a letter to her neighbors.
“Tomorrow is the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz,” she wrote, expressing her fear that fascism was again taking root in Germany. Over the next few weeks, about 40 neighbors got together, lighting candles in their front gardens as part of a nationwide “chain of lights” protest against hate and hanging pro-democracy signs in their windows.
“I think we have a special responsibility,” Dr. Bücken, 62, said recently over a cup of tea. “Because we live on an estate that was built by perpetrators, for perpetrators.”
Their quiet little neighborhood, Waldsiedlung (or “Forest Estate”) Krumme Lanke, is a sought-after place to live in the German capital. Named after an adjacent lake, its residents compare it to a fairy-tale village: Little peaked-roof cottages with wood shutters are built into a dense green forest crisscrossed by mossy paths. Whole swaths are carless. Children play in the gardens, while dogs run free on a sloping meadow. In the summer, a short walk in flip-flops and a



PATRICK JUNKER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

In 2011, Elmar Bassen and Caroline Frey bought a house that once belonged to a Nazi doctor in a Berlin development.

bathing suit leads to the lake.
But life here also means channeling Germany’s brutal past: The neighborhood was built in the lead-up to World War II as an “elite community” for the S.S., or Schutzstaffel — the elite guard of the Nazi Reich, whose responsibilities included carrying out the

Holocaust.
The S.S.-Kameradschaftssiedlung (or S.S. Camaraderie Estate), as it was initially known, was one of the few housing developments built by the Nazis in Berlin. During the war, the roughly 600 small apartments,
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Bring Your Library Card, and Your Passport, Too

By NORIMITSU ONISHI

STANSTEAD, Quebec — Once upon a time, a wealthy widow who was a citizen of two neighboring countries hired craftsmen to raise a stately, turreted building of gray granite and stained glass windows. Only the finest wood adorned the reading rooms in its library. Cherubs soared over the proscenium arch in its opera house.
But the widow’s most important, and perhaps unusual, request was that the building sit exactly on the nations’ common border. Inside, black tape representing the boundary ran along the hardwood floors, a symbol not of division but of the enduring friendship between the two lands.
Then one day, the leader of the country to the south threatened to annex his neighbor to the north. One of his trusted emissaries visited the building.
“Fifty-first state,” she said, stepping north over the black tape. “U.S.,” she said, stepping back.



HILARY SWIFT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The front of a library in Derby Line, Vt., whose rear is in Quebec.

President Trump’s tariffs against Canada and his threats to turn it into a U.S. state have fueled a deep crisis among Canadians, forced abruptly to rethink their relations with their neighbor, the rest of the world and even among one another. But they have also

upended small-town life across the borderland, where many Canadian and American communities had led intertwined and intimate lives.
Perhaps nowhere along the 5,525-mile stretch — still the
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Trump Voters Just Want Congress to Say ‘Yes, Sir’

By ANNIE KARNI

WASHINGTON — Congress is a coequal branch of government empowered to make laws, control government spending and declare war. But according to Trump voters, the role of the legislative branch is to rubber-stamp the president’s agenda — and they don’t appreciate Republicans who deviate from the party line.
In two recent focus groups that quizzed older Trump voters from

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across the country about their views of Congress and congressional leaders, participants consistently praised lawmakers who displayed “loyalty” to President Trump and disparaged those they viewed as failing to fall in line behind him.
They expressed as much disdain for members of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus as they did for the more moderate

senators they refer to as RINOs, or Republicans in Name Only, including Senators Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Susan Collins of Maine.
And they reserved their purest aversion for Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the solidly conservative former longtime party leader, whom they described alternately as an “obstructionist” to Mr. Trump’s agenda, a “snake in the grass” and a “bowl of Jell-O” with no
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Iran’s Uranium Enrichment
Tehran’s stockpile of near-bomb-grade fuel has surged lately, a U.N. report says, even as it negotiates a nuclear deal with a Trump envoy. PAGE 8

Poland’s Presidential Election
A runoff on Sunday pits rivals from mainstream parties. They are competing for young voters who prefer candidates on the extremes. PAGE 4

Russia Bolsters North Korea
Kim Jong-un seized on Moscow’s need for support in its war against Ukraine. His reward is an infusion of modern weapons and technologies. PAGE 6



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Maryland was the first state to reach a pledge to preserve 30 percent of its land. So now it’s aiming for 40. PAGE 13

Landmark Climate Lawsuit
A woman whose mother died in a heat event is suing fossil fuel companies over their role in global warming. PAGE 14

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A Series and Its Second Term
“Duck Dynasty: The Revival” has arrived to declare that the times have a-changed back. PAGE 7

Inspiration Is Ubiquitous
Mia Threapleton is using her role in “The Phoenician Scheme” to make her own way in Hollywood. PAGE 12

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Wrong Turn Into a Nightmare
An accidental trip over the Peace Bridge in Buffalo typically means a toll and a loss of time. But for one asylum seeker, it carried a higher cost. PAGE 1



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Hot Lips of TV’s ‘M*A*S*H’
Loretta Swit won two Emmy Awards for her portrayal of the Army major on the hit show and had a long career in theater. She was 87. PAGE 23

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Dr. Mom’s Own Research
It’s tough enough being a new parent. And if you’re looking for health advice, you’ll need to be wary of the theories you hear at the playground. PAGE 7

The Can-Do Decorator
If you can build it — homes, hotels, restaurants, stores — the interior designer Ken Fulk is eager to travel far and wide with his brand in tow. PAGE 1

