

Social Justice Watch 1005

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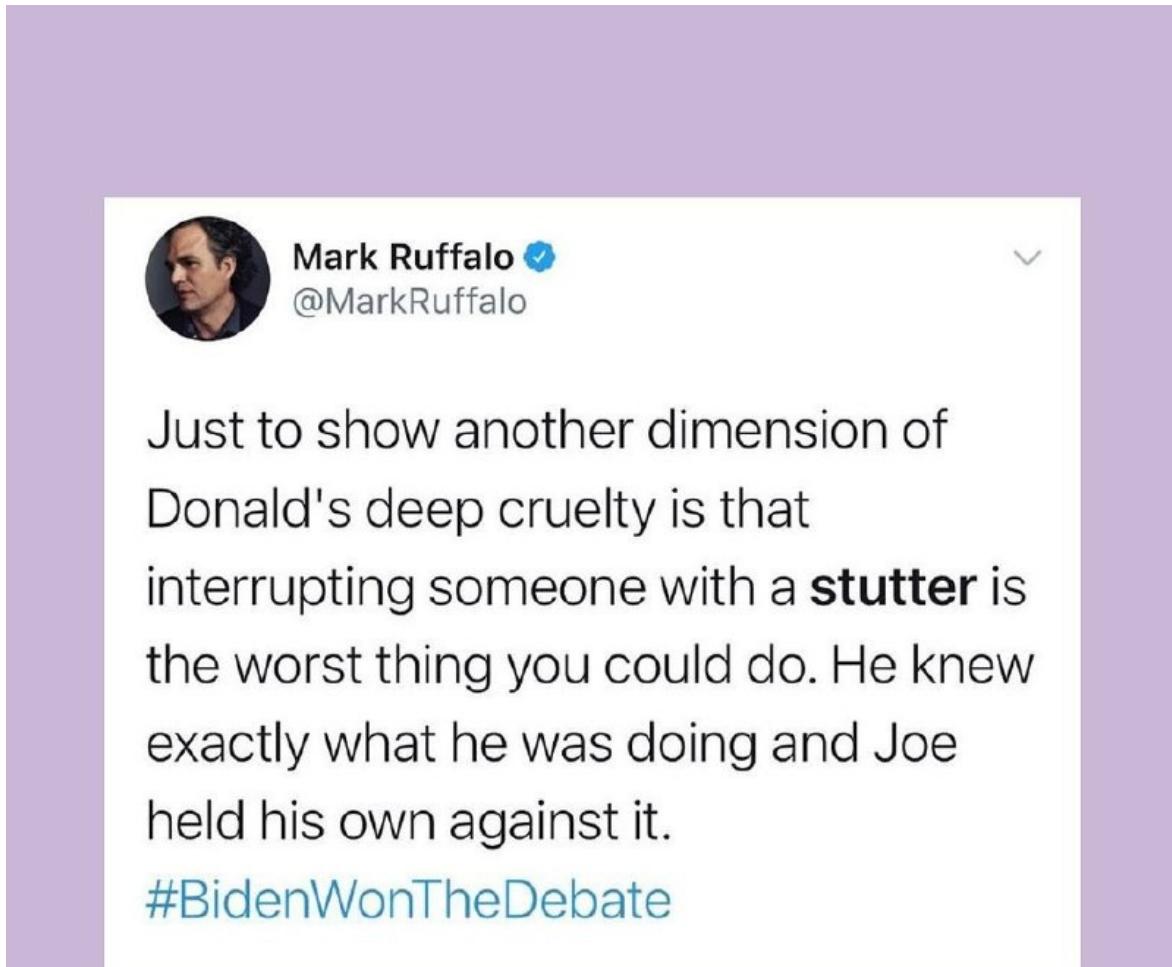
[Student was drugged, raped at University of Michigan frat party, lawsuit says](#)

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Mark Ruffalo 
@MarkRuffalo

Just to show another dimension of
Donald's deep cruelty is that
interrupting someone with a **stutter** is
the worst thing you could do. He knew
exactly what he was doing and Joe
held his own against it.

#BidenWonTheDebate

SHIT
YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT



Nathan Heller @nathanheller



Because Biden has spoken publicly about trying to manage his **stutter**, I feel comfortable noting, as another person with a **stutter**: there is no greater nightmare than this. None. If he makes it to the end of this standing, he has steel in his bones.

SHIT
YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT



Sophia Bush @SophiaBush

One bright spot from that debate was remembering that [@JoeBiden](#) worked his entire life to overcome a **stutter**. Still does. He leads, and sets an example simply by being, for so many folks in this country. Kids and adults alike. It requires an elegant courage to do so in public ❤️

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<https://www.facebook.com/shityoushouldcareabout/posts/761474881361471>



Posted in r/prochoice by u/antilindzfam



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/globalfeministperspectives/permalink/2594301>



Elise Schmelzer

@EliseSchmelzer

...

A new program in Denver that sends a paramedic+a mental health expert to 911 calls instead of police launched amid calls for alternatives to policing. So far, the van has taken more than 350 calls without once having to call in police backup:

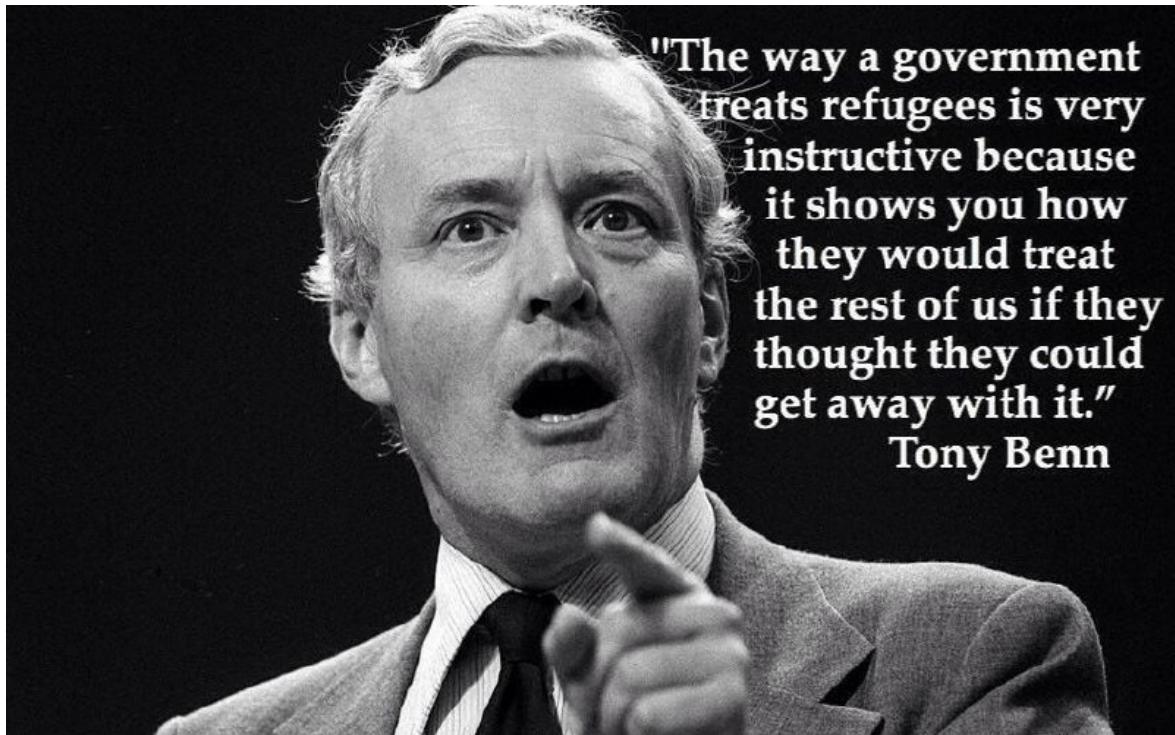


Call police for a woman who is changing clothes in an alley? A new program in Denver sends m... denverpost.com

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthwestMissouriCopBlock/posts/27573525212095>



<https://www.facebook.com/adam.stein.52/posts/3126463054110161>



"The way a government treats refugees is very instructive because it shows you how they would treat the rest of us if they thought they could get away with it."

Tony Benn

<https://www.facebook.com/LeftWingLadies/posts/1237364093313377>

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The Children in the Shadows: New York City's Homeless Students [link](#) [source](#)
Nytimes

The Children in the Shadows: New York City's Homeless Students
More than 100,000 city public school students lack permanent housing, caught
in bureaucratic limbo that often seems like a trap. This is what their lives are
like.

[telegra.ph/Anti-fascists-linked-to-zero-murders-in-the-US-in-25-years-10-01](#) |
[source](#)

Telegraph

Anti-fascists linked to zero murders in the US in 25 years
Donald Trump has made warnings about the threat of antifa and “far-left
fascism” a central part of his re-election campaign. But in reality leftwing attacks
have left far fewer people dead than violence by rightwing extremists, new
research indicates, and...

[telegra.ph/Belgian-milestone-A-first-trans-minister-and-nobody-cares-10-02](#) |
[source](#)

Telegraph

Belgian milestone: A first trans minister and nobody cares
By Katrin Hugendubel 10/1/20, 8:21 PM CET Updated 10/2/20, 3:07 PM CET

<https://electricliterature.com/7-books-in-translation-about-queer-life-in-taiwan-and-china>

Electric Literature

7 Translated Books About Queer Life in Taiwan and China - Electric Literature
K-Ming Chang recommends Chinese literature about queerness as possibility and transformation

www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-51967295

BBC News

'I thought he would tear chunks out of my skin'
A third of men carrying out rough sex acts such as biting and choking do not ask for consent, a survey finds.

<https://www.axios.com/black-lives-matter-transgender-lives-police-cc9ea9b6-f2f9-4fb3-9c52-a06148ae3279.html>

Axios

Poll: 70% of LGBTQ youth overwhelmingly distrust police
Many rallied for "Black Trans Lives Matter" in cities across the U.S. this summer.

<https://madeinchinajournal.com/2019/10/25/preventative-policing-as-community-detention-in-northwest-china/>

Made in China Journal

Preventative Policing as Community Detention in Northwest China
A preventative policing system in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region has detained as many as 1.5 million Turkic Muslims deemed 'pre-terrorists' or 'extremists'. This essay shows how a counterinsurgency mode of militarism that emerged in the United States...

The news this week that the city's Board of Elections sent defective absentee ballots to nearly 100,000 voters makes this need clear.

The board has caused problems for years, from long lines at the polls to illegal

voter purges. This week, tens of thousands of voters, mostly in Brooklyn, opened their absentee ballots to find someone else's name printed on the envelope they are meant to mail back, making the ballots unusable.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/30/opinion/new-york-ballots-early-voting.html>

NY Times

Vote in Person, New York

After the recent absentee ballot debacle, anyone who is able ought to take advantage of early in-person voting.

[telegra.ph/Ocasio-Cortez-and-Warren-Pull-Out-of-New-Yorker-Festival-10-03](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/10/03/ocasio-cortez-and-warren-pull-out-new-yorker-festival/)

Telegraph

Ocasio-Cortez and Warren Pull Out of New Yorker Festival

Senator Elizabeth Warren and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez have pulled out of next week's New Yorker Festival, the star-studded annual event held by The New Yorker magazine, in solidarity with unionized editorial staff members, who are planning...

Today @AOC and I introduced the Know Your Home Act. This legislation would allow potential renters access to information that would protect their health from predatory landlords. I always have and I always will fight for safe housing every step of the way. [source](#)

[telegra.ph/Student-was-drugged-raped-at-University-of-Michigan-frat-party-lawsuit-says-10-03](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/10/03/student-was-drugged-raped-university-michigan-frat-party-lawsuit-says-10-03/) | [source](#)

Telegraph

Student was drugged, raped at University of Michigan frat party, lawsuit says

By Steve Marowski | smarowski@mlive.com ANN ARBOR, MI — A

University of Michigan student said she was drugged and raped while attending a fraternity party in August 2019, according to a lawsuit filed in Washtenaw County Circuit Court. The suit, filed Sept....

Twitter said it would ban anyone from wishing Trump ill will. AOC and the Squad ask, "where the hell have you been when we received thousands of death threats, Twitter?"

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/10/03/politics/twitter-trump-policy-ban-the-squad-politics-trnd/index.html> | [source](#)

CNN

Twitter bans posts wishing for Trump death. The Squad wonders where that policy was for them

The four progressive Democratic congresswomen known as "The Squad" expressed surprise on Friday night when Twitter posted about its policy against wishing harm or death to someone in light of President Trump's Covid-19 diagnosis.

<https://www.washingtonblade.com/2020/10/04/gay-men-take-over-proudboys-on-twitter>

Washington Blade: Gay News, Politics, LGBT Rights

Gay men take over #ProudBoys on Twitter

A hashtag used by the far-right fascist group, Proud Boys has been hijacked by the gay men to the delight of thousands of people on social media.

Three decades ago, billionaire Ted Turner asked astronomer Carl Sagan if he was a socialist. [source](#)

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Anti-fascists linked to zero murders in the US in 25 years

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Donald Trump has made warnings about the threat of antifa and “far-left fascism” a central part of his re-election campaign. But in reality leftwing attacks have left far fewer people dead than violence by rightwing extremists, new research indicates, and antifa activists have not been linked to a single murder in decades.

A new database of nearly 900 politically motivated attacks and plots in the United States since 1994 includes just one attack staged by an anti-fascist that led to fatalities. In that case, the single person killed was the perpetrator.

Over the same time period, American white supremacists and other rightwing extremists have carried out attacks that left at least 329 victims dead, according to the database.

More broadly, the database lists 21 victims killed in leftwing attacks since 2010 , and 117 victims of rightwing attacks in that same period – nearly six times as much. Attacks inspired by the Islamic State and similar jihadist groups, in contrast, killed 95 people since 2010, slightly fewer than rightwing extremists, according to the data set. More than half of these victims died in a a single attack on a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, in 2016.

‘Leftwing violence has not been a major terrorism threat’

The database was assembled by researchers at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a centrist thinktank, and reviewed by the Guardian.

Its launch comes as Trump administration officials have echoed the president’s warnings of a violent “leftwing” revolution. “Groups of outside radicals and agitators are exploiting the situation to pursue their own separate, violent and extremist agenda,” the attorney general, William Barr, said amid nationwide protests following the death of George Floyd. A new justice department taskforce on violent anti-government extremists listed “antifa” as a major threat, while making no mention of white supremacy.

Defining which violent incidents constitute politically motivated acts of terrorism, and trying to sort political violence into leftwing and rightwing categories, is inherently messy and debatable work. This is particularly true in the US, where highly publicized mass shootings are common, and some have no clear political motivation at all.

Stated political motives for violent attacks often overlap with other potential factors, including life crises, anger issues, a history of violent behavior and, in some cases, serious mental health conditions.

While researchers sometimes disagree on how to categorize the ideology of specific attacks, multiple databases that track extremist violence, including data maintained by the Anti-Defamation League, and from journalists at the Center for Investigative Reporting, have found the same trend: It’s violent rightwing attacks, not “far-left” violence, that presents the greater deadly threat to Americans today.

“Leftwing violence has not been a major terrorism threat,” said Seth Jones, a counter-terrorism expert who led the creation of CSIS’s dataset. .

Categorizing ‘leftwing’ extremist attacks

Most of the deadly extremist attacks the CSIS researchers categorized as “leftwing” were killings of police officers by black men, many of them US military veterans, who described acting out of anger or retribution for police killings of black Americans.

These shooting attacks include the murder of two police officers in New York City in 2014, after Michael Brown and Eric Garner's killings; and the murders of five officers in Dallas, Texas, and three officers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 2016.

Some of the gunmen who killed police had connections to black nationalist groups, which extremism researchers at CSIS and elsewhere said they typically categorize as leftwing, largely because in the 1960s, influential black nationalist groups like the Black Panther party were anti-capitalist and considered part of the New Left.

Making that categorization is less straightforward today, some researchers acknowledge, since some prominent black nationalist organizations express homophobic, misogynistic and antisemitic views, values that set them in opposition to the current American left.

Mark Pitcavage, a senior fellow at the ADL's Center on Extremism, noted that Gavin Eugene Long, who staged an attack on police in Baton Rouge, had ties to black nationalism and was also part of an offshoot of the sovereign citizens movement, an anti-government ideology that is typically categorized as rightwing.

In several of the high-profile leftwing attacks included in the CSIS list the only fatality was the perpetrator. A mass shooting attack on a group of congressional Republicans during a baseball practice outside of Washington DC, in 2017 left the Republican congressman Steve Scalise seriously injured, and three other people shot.

The gunman, James Hodgkinson, 66, was the only one killed in the attack. Hodgkinson had deliberately targeted Republicans and had expressed disgust with Trump.

Many of the other leftwing attacks or plots in the CSIS database, including by anarchists, environmental groups and others, resulted in no deaths at all. Often, leftwing plots, particularly by animal rights activists, have targeted businesses or buildings, "and their primary weapons have been incendiaries designed to create fires or destroy infrastructure – not kill people," said Jones, the researcher who led the creation of the data set.

The one deadly anti-fascist attack listed in the database occurred in July 2019,

when Willem von Spronsen, a 69-year-old white man, was shot dead by police outside an Ice detention center in Tacoma, Washington. Authorities said von Spronsen had been throwing molotov cocktails, setting flares, that he set a car on fire and that he had a rifle. Local activists told media outlets they believed he had been trying to destroy buses parked outside the facility that were used to transport people who were being deported.

Von Spronsen, who had previously been arrested at a protest outside the detention center, was involved in a contentious divorce, and both a friend and his ex-wife had described him as suicidal. In a letter he wrote to friends before his death, Von Spronsen called detention centers “concentration camps” and said he wanted to take action against evil, BuzzFeed News reported. “I am antifa,” he reportedly wrote.

No one was harmed in the attack except Von Spronsen, according to media reports.

Researchers who monitor extremist groups at the Anti-Defamation League and the Global Project Against Hate and Extremism said they, too, were not aware of a single murder linked to an American anti-fascist in the last 20 to 25 years.

Heidi Beirich, a co-founder of the Global Project Against Hate and Extremism, said some leftwing groups were known for more radical and violent tactics in the 1960s, adding: “It’s just not the case today.”

Mark Pitcavage said he knew of only one killing, 27 years ago, that might potentially be classified as connected to anti-fascist activism: the shooting of a racist skinhead, Eric Banks, by an anti-racist skinhead, John Bair, in Portland, Oregon, in 1993.

‘A false equivalence’

Given the discrepancies between the deadly toll of leftwing and rightwing violence, American law enforcement agencies have long faced criticism for failing to take the threat of white supremacist violence seriously, while at the same time overstating the risks posed by leftwing protesters. After a violent rally in California in 2016, law enforcement officers worked with neo-Nazis to build criminal cases against anti-fascist protesters, while not recommending charges against neo-Nazis for stabbing the anti-fascists.

Antifa activists have been the targets of domestic terror attacks by white supremacists, including in a terror plot early this year, in which law enforcement officials alleged that members of the neo-Nazi group the Base had planned to murder a married couple in Georgia they believed were anti-fascist organizers.

“Antifa is not going around murdering people like rightwing extremists are. It’s a false equivalence,” said Beirich.

“I’ve at times been critical of antifa for getting into fights with Nazis at rallies and that kind of violence, but I can’t think of one case in which an antifa person was accused of murder,” she added.

The new CSIS database only includes attacks through early May 2020, and does not yet list incidents connected with the massive national protests against police violence after Minneapolis police killed George Floyd, including the killings of two California law enforcement officers by a man authorities say was linked to the rightwing “boogaloo” movement.



A member of the far-right militia Boogaloo Bois in Charlotte, North Carolina, on 29 May. Photograph: Logan Cyrus/AFP/Getty Images

Today, Jones said, “the most significant domestic terrorism threat comes from white supremacists, anti-government militias and a handful of individuals associated with the ‘boogaloo’ movement that are attempting to create a civil war in the United States.”

Daily interpersonal violence and state violence pose a much greater threat to Americans than any kind of extremist terror attack. More than 100,000 people have been killed in gun homicides in the United States in the past decade, according to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. US police officers shoot nearly 1,000 Americans to death each year. Black Americans are more than twice as likely to be shot by the police as white

Americans, according to analysis by the Washington Post and the Guardian.

But the president's rhetoric about "antifa" violence has dangerous consequences, not just for anti-fascists, but for any Americans who decide to protest, some activists said.

Yvette Felarca, a California-based organizer and anti-fascist activist, said she saw Trump's claims about antifa violence, particularly during the George Floyd protests, as a message to his "hardcore" supporters that it was appropriate to attack people who came out to protest.

"It's his way of saying to his supporters: 'Yeah, go after them. Beat them or kill them to the point where they go back home and stay home afraid,'" Felarca said.

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Belgian milestone: A first trans minister and nobody cares

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By Katrin Hugendubel

10/1/20, 8:21 PM CET

Updated 10/2/20, 3:07 PM CET



Petra De Sutter, Belgium's new deputy prime minister | Philippe Buissin/European Union

Petra De Sutter, Belgium's new deputy prime minister | Philippe Buissin/European Union

Katrin Hugendubel is advocacy director at ILGA-Europe.

The appointment of Petra De Sutter as Belgium's deputy prime minister — the first out transgender minister in Europe — is a milestone.

But what is perhaps even more meaningful is that it's a milestone that went almost unremarked upon in today's headlines.

De Sutter has always been open about her trans identity and has never sought to hide that fact in her political career. Still, it was always clear that she is so much more than that identity.

As a doctor and gynecology professor, she has been a champion of women's rights, gender equality and sexual reproductive rights. In every political position she's held — whether in the Belgian senate, the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe or the European Parliament — she has been a strong advocate for LGBTQ rights.

But it's her competency in so many other areas and her impressive professional track record that, combined with her advocacy, have defined her career and earned her the respect of her peers.

That the media coverage of her nomination as deputy prime minister focused on her work rather than on her trans identity is a reflection not just of her impressive political career but also of the progressive nature of Belgian politics today. It is not hard to imagine that the headlines would have looked very different in another country — even another European country.

And yet, while the non-event of De Sutter's appointment is a good thing, it still sends a powerful positive signal to trans people across the world.

De Sutter may never have made trans rights the focus of her work, but she has never shied away from being a role model. But more importantly for trans people, the fact that she is accepted at a national level, and that she is treated fairly and respectfully in the media, is a hopeful sign at a time when trans identities are being disavowed and legislated against in a growing number of European countries.

In Romania, the Constitutional Court this week discussed legislation to delete discussions of gender and gender identity completely from any educational

curricula. Similar legislation has already been introduced in Bulgaria. Poland’s “Family Charter,” signed by President Andrzej Duda, will ban lessons on LGBTQ issues in schools. And in the U.K., rights advocates have warned that confusing new educational guidelines risk being interpreted to mean that schools should not use materials discussing gender identity and the possibility of being transgender.

Earlier this year, at the start of the coronavirus lockdowns, Hungary introduced legislation to effectively ban gender recognition, while in Russia legislative moves are underway to do the same.

As a worrying number of governments are actively trying to deny LGBTQ and trans people their place in society, it is heartening to see Belgium’s political system embracing a member of the LGBTQ community as an equal.

De Sutter did not attain her powerful position in the new Belgian government because she is a trans woman who brings expertise on specific issues related to LGBTQ rights and trans rights. She was appointed because of her competence as a politician and experienced policymaker.

That’s a validation of her identity both as a politician and as a trans woman — and it’s a rebuke to the attacks against trans identities happening in other parts of Europe.

De Sutter’s gender identity may be missing from the headlines in Belgium. But that absence is sending a powerful message.

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Ocasio-Cortez and Warren Pull Out of New Yorker Festival

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The two standard-bearers of the left said they would skip the annual event in solidarity with The New Yorker Union, which plans a digital picket line.

Senator Elizabeth Warren and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez have pulled out of next week's New Yorker Festival, the star-studded annual event held by The New Yorker magazine, in solidarity with unionized editorial staff members, who are planning a digital picket line.

Ms. Warren, the Massachusetts Democrat who made an unsuccessful bid to be her party's presidential nominee, and Ms. Ocasio-Cortez, Democrat of New York, were scheduled to appear as keynote speakers on Monday night, the first night of the annual event. The New Yorker Union had planned a one-night

picket then, starting at 8.

In a letter last Thursday to the two politicians, the union asked them to reconsider their participation in light of its labor dispute with *New Yorker* management.

“The NewsGuild and The New Yorker Union are fighting for basic dignity on the job, and we stand with them,” Ms. Warren and Ms. Ocasio-Cortez said in a joint statement to The New York Times. “We will not cross the picket line and attend the festival unless the *New Yorker* leadership agrees to the union’s demands — they should do so immediately.”

At the heart of the disagreement is a “just cause” proposal that The *New Yorker* Union wants in its contract. “Just cause” is a common provision in union contracts that gives a standard that must be met for an employer to discipline or fire employees.

Natalie Meade, a *New Yorker* editorial staffer and a unit chair of the union, said staff members felt they had no choice but to organize the Monday night picket.

“We don’t want to have to do these types of actions, but we feel like we have no voice because they are not hearing our pleas at the table,” she said.

Susan DeCarava, president of the NewsGuild of New York, which represents The *New Yorker* Union, said the planned appearances by Ms. Warren and Ms. Ocasio-Cortez seemed “deeply hypocritical,” given that the magazine champions progressive causes but has not reached an agreement with many of its workers.

“We couldn’t stomach it going forward without people knowing The *New Yorker* talks the talk, but it’s having problems walking the walk,” Ms. DeCarava said in an interview.

A spokeswoman for The *New Yorker*, which has been led by the editor David Remnick since 1998, said the publication was eager to reach a fair agreement with the union.

“Like many other media outlets, The *New Yorker* strongly believes that its editorial standards should not be determined by arbitrators outside of The *New Yorker*, and we look forward to our continued discussions regarding just cause in the context of bargaining,” the spokeswoman said in a statement.

Those who had bought tickets for the virtual event with Ms. Warren and Ms. Ocasio-Cortez were notified Wednesday that they would receive refunds, the spokeswoman added.

In 2018, more than 100 New Yorker staff members — including fact checkers and copy editors, but not the magazine’s writers — announced that they were forming a union, part of a wave of organizing at media publications of all sizes. The New Yorker union was recognized by the magazine in July that year, but it has been unable to reach an agreement with management on a contract.

In an email sent to staff on Tuesday that was obtained by The Times, New Yorker leaders said the union’s action “undermines the hard work of your colleagues on the Festival.”

“We know that the staff ultimately wants to make this institution stronger, that a robust future for The New Yorker is in all of our interests,” the email from The New Yorker’s management bargaining committee said. “We ask that, whatever our differences, we take our common goals to heart as we bargain toward an agreement.”

Because of the pandemic, The New Yorker Festival is being held online for the first time in its 21-year history. It will run Monday to Oct. 11. Scheduled guests include Fiona Apple, Margaret Atwood, Dr. Anthony Fauci, Ethan Hawke, Jerry Seinfeld and Yo-Yo Ma.

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Student was drugged, raped at University of Michigan frat party, lawsuit says

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The University of Michigan's chapter of the Psi Upsilon fraternity.
MLive file photo.Martin Slagter | The Ann Arbor News

By Steve Marowski | smarowski@mlive.com

ANN ARBOR, MI — A University of Michigan student said she was drugged and raped while attending a fraternity party in August 2019, according to a lawsuit filed in Washtenaw County Circuit Court.

The suit, filed Sept. 28 on behalf of a Jane Doe, states the woman, who was 18-years-old at the time, was starting freshman orientation at UM when she and some of her friends attended a party at the Psi Upsilon fraternity.

Prior to entering the chapter building, they were not asked to provide identification or proof of age, the lawsuit states, adding that Doe became so visibly intoxicated at the party that she could not have given consent for sexual intercourse.

That orientation week was known as “Freshman F--- Week,” and Psi Upsilon

fraternity brothers would keep a “scorecard” of how many women they would have sexual intercourse with, according to the lawsuit.

One of Doe’s friends told a fraternity brother at the party that Doe “was not that kind of girl,” the suit states. But, after talking for a while, a fraternity member coaxed Doe to an upstairs room where no one else was present, and when Doe asked to leave, the man told her she could not, according to the suit.

The man gave her a cup of water, which Doe thought tasted funny, and she started to feel the effects of alcoholic drinks she had earlier in the night, according to the suit. The woman believes she was drugged, became helpless and was raped by the man, the suit states.

The assailant, who lives in California, is not being named as no criminal charges have been filed against him.

Doe has suffered “severe and permanent physical and emotional damages” as a result of the man’s negligence, gross negligence and intentional misconduct, according to the lawsuit. The suit is seeking monetary damages from both the fraternity’s local chapter and national office, as well as the fraternity member who is now a UM alumni.

The Washtenaw County Prosecutor’s Office declined to comment on the lawsuit.

Doe’s attorney, Ven Johnson, called the incident a cut-and-dry case of assault, battery and rape.

“(The defendant) knowingly coerced my client to a private room, where he had a spiked drink waiting for her and then attacked her,” said Johnson, president of Ven Johnson Law. “Intentionally taking advantage of, and raping women who are so intoxicated they are incapable of giving consent is a disgusting and reprehensible practice. These defendants must be held accountable for their despicable behavior.”

The fraternity was notified of the lawsuit Sept. 29 and the UM chapter is being cooperative in the matter, Thomas Fox, executive director of Psi Upsilon’s national office, said in a statement.

“Psi Upsilon fraternity takes all reports of risk management violations, especially those with regard to sexual assault, very seriously,” Fox said. “We are

currently investigating the incident and gathering further information as we received no notice of allegations prior to this complaint being filed.”

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