

A battle over a war and its words

Definition of antisemitism at heart of dispute

By Mike Damiano and Hilary Burns
GLOBE STAFF

A poster of a kidnapped Israeli baby defaced with the words “Israel did 9/11.” A mural in Harvard Yard that claims “Zionism is racism.” Chants by student protesters to “Globalize the intifada.”

Are these verbal salvos antisemitic? Are they violations of Harvard University’s campus rules? What about calling for the genocide of Jews?

These questions are at the center of the explosive controversy at the school, which has faced months of criticism that it failed at two of its most basic duties: to protect students and to protect free speech. In recent days, the university provoked backlash, yet again, with its selection of a Harvard professor who opposes a prevailing definition of antisemitism to lead the school’s efforts to combat this brand of bigotry.

Derek Penslar, a leading scholar of Zionism, believes that the definition of antisemitism officially used by the US government, and increasingly considered in the enforcement of civil rights law, is too vague, too broad, and can be used to censor anti-Israel speech that he believes should be tolerated on college campuses.

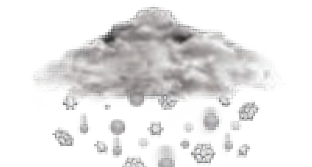
But this position puts Penslar, who is Jewish, at odds with many Jewish advocacy groups, who view the definition — which has been adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, IHRA, and dozens of Western nations — as an essential tool for tracking and combating antisemitism.

The dispute boils down to **ANTISEMITISM, Page B5**

For more than a quarter-century, HBO has set a standard of excellence for longform storytelling. Critic Matthew Gilbert offers 10 shows that rise to the very top. **SundayArts, N1.**

The Newton teachers strike could extend into the coming school week, as negotiators for the union and the School Committee failed to broker a deal. **B2.**

Maine’s Cooper Flagg has caught the attention of the basketball world. Is he the NBA’s next big thing? **Globe Magazine.**



It’s a wash

Sunday: Snow and rain. High: 36-41. Low: 31-36.

Monday: Wet snow. High: 34-39. Low: 16-21.

Sunrise: 7:02 Sunset: 4:52

Complete report, **A24.**
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VOL. 305, NO. 28
*
Suggested retail price
\$6.00



DYING ON LYNDA’S TERMS

Lynda Bluestein wasn’t allowed to die on her own terms in her own home in Connecticut, so she went to Vermont and did it her way

STORY BY KEVIN CULLEN | PHOTOS BY JESSICA RINALDI | GLOBE STAFF



On the morning of Lynda Bluestein’s death, Paul Bluestein grazed his forehead against his wife’s, telling her how much he loved her.

EDITOR’S NOTE

The Globe’s executive editor has a note on the reporter’s involvement with this story. **A12**

CONCORD, Vt. — After a trip that seemed it would never end, the red Honda CRV pulled into the gravel driveway of a modest farmhouse here in northern Vermont.

Lynda Bluestein’s husband, Paul, parked and hurried out of the driver’s seat to help his wife, grimacing in pain in the back seat, her lap covered by a gray blanket that matched the sky.

They had left their home in Connecticut 4½ hours earlier that morning, Jan. 3. Paul knew the trip would be grueling for Lynda and had driven hard and fast, glancing often in the rearview mirror at her sallow face, gauging her pain. Paul had given her a dose of morphine before leaving, and she slept much of the way. They had to pull over and stop a few times because Lynda got carsick.

A man emerged from the farmhouse and placed a seat cushion on the frozen ground for her bare, swollen feet and helped her into a wheelchair. Paul took the handles of the chair and gently rolled her toward the farmhouse, the place she had carefully selected to end her life.

LYNDA, Page A12

‘Health care is about impressions.’

DEANN CAMPBELL, AAG Consulting in Atlanta

At CVS, big ambitions meet retail reality

It aims to be a medical powerhouse while customers fret over staff, store conditions

By Thomas Lee
GLOBE STAFF

CVS Health is perhaps best known for two things. First, there are the comically long receipts that have inspired hundreds of internet memes. And then there’s the ubiquitous pres-

ence of its stores. If it seems like there’s a CVS pharmacy on every other block, that’s because the company operates 9,000 stores nationwide, including nearly 500 across Massachusetts.

But CVS has become much more than a pharmacy colossus. The compa-

ny, based in Woonsocket, R.I., has quietly built a conglomerate that deeply influences every part of health care, from insurance and drug pricing to primary care and home medical visits. CVS’s goal is no less than to consolidate the country’s notoriously fragmented health care system into a business that makes lots of money and significantly improves patients’ lives.

CVS, Page A16

Spotted online: a family’s missing art collection

They allege man hired to clear junk took dozens of their valuable paintings

By Malcolm Gay
GLOBE STAFF

NEWTON — It didn’t take long for Charlie Vogel to realize something was off about the painting he saw listed online by a small auction house in Essex.

As an art dealer who specializes in 19th-century White Mountain artists, Vogel immediately recognized Samuel Lancaster Gerry’s landscape of New Hampshire’s Franconia Notch. He’d admired the watercolor many times before at the Newton home of his longtime friends Sam and Sheila Robbins, whose vast collection is particularly strong in White Mountain landscapes.



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

Jonathan Robbins looked over some pieces belonging to his mother, collector Sheila Robbins, at her home in Newton.

Regardless of final choice, voters had one name in mind

Pro or con, Trump was a big reason why people in N.H. cast their ballots

By Jess Bidgood
GLOBE STAFF

CHESTER, N.H. — Deborah Cormier, who backed former president Donald Trump in 2016, trudged through the snow Tuesday to vote for former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley for one reason and one reason only.

“What brought me here,” the 70-year-old independent voter said, “is I don’t want another four years of Trump.”

Fifteen minutes away, in Londonderry, Jennifer Touma, 60, cast her vote for the former president she has vowed to stick with no matter what.

“I hope they don’t throw him in jail,” said Touma. “If they do, he’ll lead from in jail and I’ll follow him.”

New Hampshire’s first-in-the-nation primary kicked off a crucial phase of the presidential election, handed Trump a key early victory, and offered the nation its first glimpse of the politics of a swing state in 2024.

And, over more than 125 interviews conducted with Globe reporters fanned out across the state, the voters who cast ballots in record numbers made one thing starkly clear. Whether

VOTERS, Page A11

ART, Page A8