

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Advice from 1,000 strangers

A Chicago man's journey to find wisdom takes him across the country

By **Jake Sheridan**
Chicago Tribune

Stuck in a rut, Imran Nuri needed advice.

His college graduation, forced to Zoom because of COVID-19 in May 2020, had been lonely and demoralizing. He then tried to start a nonprofit, but it failed to get off the ground. He trudged forward into his budding life, but even when he found a new job, everything seemed to lack meaning.

The Chicagoan wanted counsel. So he went and found it, over and over again, from America.

In the summer of 2022, the 26-year-old drove a silver Toyota Camry across the United States to ask 1,000 strangers the same questions: What would you tell your younger self that you know now? What did you have to learn the hard way? What do you wish you knew earlier?

The questions were prompted by Nuri's fears that he might not live long enough to learn life's time-wrought lessons, he told the Tribune.

"Wouldn't it be great to know what the true purpose is — if there is a true purpose — or just gener-

ally what it takes to experience life fully," he recalled wondering.

The outcome of his 84-day, 48-state journey, a massive coffee table book filled with life advice from each stranger, alongside their black-and-white photo, was published in December. Over 1,500 copies of the book, "Advice From America," had sold as of Wednesday, many purchased by the hundreds of thousands of social media followers Nuri has amassed while sharing his findings.

But despite the subsequent

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Chicagoan Imran Nuri drove across the country asking 1,000 people for life advice, compiling what he learned and portraits of the people he met into a book. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



After weeks of testing, Yellow Line reopens



Top: A CTA Yellow Line train moves at the Howard station on Friday for the first time in seven weeks after a crash suspended service in November. **Above:** Yellow Line customer Latishia Murray, 27, who says she commutes five days a week, rides a train on the reopened line Friday. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

CTA putting temporary safety measures in place as crash probe continues

By **Sarah Freishtat** | Chicago Tribune

CTA Yellow Line trains rumbled down the tracks Friday morning and pedestrian crossing arms dinged as passengers crossed into stations and boarded rail cars along the line for the first time in seven weeks.

The familiar noise meant the reopening of the train line to Skokie after a Nov. 16 crash on the tracks, which came as a relief to riders such as Loyola University Chicago student Melissa Curth. Heading back to her apartment in the city Friday morning, she said she was happy to no longer have to rely on the free shuttle buses CTA had provided during the closure, which were hard to track and much slower than the train.

"I'm really happy that it's running

Turn to CTA, Page 2

'O-Block' gang trial nearing its end

Closing arguments begin after 2 months of witness testimony

By **Sam Charles**
Chicago Tribune

Prosecutors on Friday presented closing arguments in the racketeering case of six purported gang members charged with carrying out the brazen, broad-daylight murder of drill rapper FBG Duck in the Gold Coast in August 2020 as part of a deadly, yearslong conflict between two South Side gang factions.

"They didn't all pull the trigger, but when they learned where Carlton Weekly was that day, they all sprung into action to make sure Carlton Weekly never left Oak Street alive," Assistant U.S. Attorney Ann Marie Ursini told jurors, referring to the rapper by his real name. "They knew they had a window of opportunity to take out a high-level rival, and they acted on it so they didn't lose that window."

The closing arguments got underway Friday after about two months of trial testimony from more than 30 witnesses. Before the trial began — in the ceremonial courtroom on the 25th floor of the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse — the case was dogged by months of pretrial delays.

In the October 2021 indictment prosecutors alleged members and associates of "O-Block" traveled from the Parkway Gardens apartment complex at 64th Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive to Oak Street to find Weekly and kill him. Security video recorded at Parkway Gardens, along with scores of police surveillance cameras, allegedly shows the defendants traveling to the Gold Coast and carrying out the shooting before driving off.

The shooting came just weeks after Weekly released a song that mocked the deaths of several O-Block members.

Throughout her presentation Ursini focused on the highly personal and violent taunts lobbed between the rival sides, salvos

Turn to Trial, Page 3

Crimo asks for attorneys back

The alleged Highland Park parade shooter no longer wants to represent himself. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Riveting portrayal by lion in winter

In "Freuds Last Session" Anthony Hopkins, 86, shines in a sometimes uneven story of faith. Review, **Arts & Living**

FDA allows Fla. to import drugs from Canada

Approval granted for first time under law now 2 decades old

By **Christina Jewett**
and **Sheryl Gay Stolberg**
The New York Times

The Food and Drug Administration has allowed Florida to import millions of dollars worth of medications from Canada at far lower prices than in the United

States, overriding fierce decade-long objections from the pharmaceutical industry.

The approval, issued in a letter to Florida on Friday, is a major policy shift for the United States, and supporters hope it will be a significant step forward in the long and largely unsuccessful effort to rein in drug prices. Individuals in the United States are allowed to buy directly from Canadian pharmacies, but states have long wanted to be able to

purchase medicines in bulk for their Medicaid programs, government clinics and prisons from Canadian wholesalers.

Florida has estimated that it could save \$150 million in its first year of the program, importing drugs that treat HIV/AIDS, diabetes, hepatitis C and psychiatric conditions. Other states have applied to the FDA to set up similar programs.

But significant hurdles remain. Some drug manufacturers

have agreements with Canadian wholesalers not to export their medicines, and the Canadian government has already taken steps to block the export of prescription drugs that are in short supply.

"Canada's drug supply is too small to meet the demands of both American and Canadian consumers," Maryse Durette, a spokesperson for Health Canada, wrote

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TODAY'S WEATHER



High **34** Low **30**

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 8

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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