



JOSHUA RASHAAD McFADDEN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES
A Minneapolis memorial for victims of police violence. A high school friend recalled George Floyd’s aspiration to “touch the world.”

Man of Outsize Dreams Stirred a Movement With Final Breaths

By MANNY FERNANDEZ and AUDRA D. S. BURCH
HOUSTON — It was the last day of 11th grade at Jack Yates High School in Houston, nearly three decades ago. A group of close friends, on their way home, were contemplating what senior year and beyond would bring. They were black teenagers on the precipice of manhood. What, they asked one another, did they want to do with their lives?
“George turned to me and said, ‘I want to touch the world,’” said Jonathan Veal, 45, recalling the aspiration of one of the young men

— a tall, gregarious star athlete named George Floyd whom he had met in the school cafeteria on the first day of sixth grade. To their 17-year-old minds, touching the world maybe meant the N.B.A. or the N.F.L.
“It was one of the first moments I remembered after learning what happened to him,” Mr. Veal said. “He could not have imagined that this is the tragic way people would know his name.”
The world now knows George Perry Floyd Jr. through his final harrowing moments, as he begged for air, his face wedged for nearly nine minutes between a city street and a police officer’s

Houston Residents Say Goodbye to Floyd, One of Their Own

knee.
Mr. Floyd’s gasping death, immortalized on a bystander’s cellphone video during the twilight hours of Memorial Day, has powered two weeks of sprawling protests across America against police brutality. He has been memorialized in Minneapolis, where he died; in North Carolina, where he

was born; and in Houston, where thousands stood in the unrelenting heat on Monday afternoon to file past his gold coffin and bid him farewell in the city where he spent most of his life.
Many of those who attended the public viewing said they saw Mr. Floyd as one of them: a fellow Houstonian who could have been their father, their brother or their son.
“This is something that touched really close,” said Kina Ardoin, 43, a nurse who stood in a line that stretched far from the church entrance. “This could have been anybody in my family.”
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Murky Chorus Is Amplifying China’s Tweets

This article is by Raymond Zhong, Aaron Krolik, Paul Mozur, Ronen Bergman and Edward Wong.
As the Trump administration lashes out at China over a range of grievances, Beijing’s top diplomats and representatives are using the president’s favorite online megaphone — Twitter — to slap back with a pugnaciousness that is best described as Trumpian.
Behind China’s combative new messengers, a murky hallelujah chorus of sympathetic accounts has emerged to repost them and cheer them on. Many are new to the platform. Some do little else but amplify the Beijing line.
No doubt some of these accounts are run by patriotic, tech-savvy Chinese people who get around their government’s ban on Twitter and other Western platforms. But an analysis by The New York Times found that many of the accounts behaved with a single-mindedness that could suggest a coordinated campaign of the type that nation states have carried out on Twitter in the past.
Of the roughly 4,600 accounts that reposted China’s leading envoys and state-run news outlets during a recent week, many acted suspiciously, The Times found. One in six tweeted with extremely high frequency despite having few followers, as if they were being used as loudspeakers, not as sharing platforms.
Nearly one in seven tweeted almost nothing of their own, instead filling their feeds with reposts of



CHANG W. LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES
Michelle Higgins and her friend Spencer Winson shopped for house plants in Chelsea on Monday.

Masked and Relieved, New Yorkers Reclaim City

By WINNIE HU
Michael Gilsean celebrated the first day of New York City’s reopening by treating himself to coffee and cheesecake at his neighborhood bakery in Greenwich Village.
He doesn’t even like cheesecake, but it was a chance to get back to the little things he never realized he would miss until the coronavirus took them away.
“These are markers of your life in the city,” Mr. Gilsean, a university professor, said. “It’s a sense that against all the odds — and I think it is against all of the odds — that they’re still around today.”
Further uptown, Ashok Kumar couldn’t wait to throw open the

Streets Still a Shadow of the Past in Phase 1 of a Comeback

doors to his plant and flower shop and drag out two dozen potted begonias and hydrangea onto the sidewalk for their first sunlight and fresh air in months. “It’s going to take a long time, but over the next few weeks we are going to try to catch up to where we were,” said Mr. Kumar, who lost about \$70,000 in plants that withered away while the shop, in Chelsea, was closed.
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It was a perfect day — sunny but not too hot — as glimpses of the old New York that had seemed to disappear almost overnight now beckoned tantalizingly to virus-weary residents and commuters. After months of wondering whether the city would ever return to normal, there were small but reassuring signs that it would.
Commuters headed back to the subway, wearing face masks as they gripped morning coffees, checked phones and boarded freshly scrubbed trains that smelled of cleaning solutions. Construction workers reported for work, lining up for temperatures checks so they could get back to building the city. And
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As Protesters March On, Calls to Redefine Policing

Biden Stopping Short of Push to Defund

This article is by Jonathan Martin, Alexander Burns and Thomas Kaplan.
Former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. staked out a careful position on Monday in support of a law enforcement overhaul but not defunding police departments, rebutting a new Republican attack line as he tries to harness growing activism against systemic racism while not alienating protesters or more moderate voters.
In the face of continuing protest marches calling to “defund the police” nationwide in the aftermath of George Floyd’s killing, Mr. Biden’s campaign said in a statement that he “hears and shares the deep grief and frustration of those calling out for change” and that he “supports the urgent need for reform.” But a campaign spokesman, Andrew Bates, said flatly that Mr. Biden was opposed to cutting police funding and believed more spending was necessary to help improve law enforcement and community policing.
Mr. Biden’s effort to address the calls of protesters while supporting law enforcement comes after gruesome videos and energetic protests have quickly reshaped public opinion about racial discrimination, seemingly opening a substantial window for new policies that could bring far-reaching change to law-enforcement agencies long accused of racially discriminatory practices. But there are already signs of division between activists who are eager to dismantle police departments and congressional Democrats who favor a less drastic overhaul.

Hard Look at Money for Public Safety

This article is by Dionne Searcey, John Eligon and Farah Stockman.
MINNEAPOLIS — In an abrupt change of course, the mayor of New York vowed to cut the budget of the nation’s largest police force. In Los Angeles, the mayor called for redirecting millions of dollars from policing after protesters gathered outside his home. And in Minneapolis, City Council members pledged to dismantle their police force and completely reinvent how public safety is handled.
As tens of thousands of people have demonstrated against police violence over the past two weeks, calls have emerged in cities across the country for fundamental changes to American policing.
The pleas for change have taken a variety of forms — including measures to restrict police use of military-style equipment and efforts to require officers to face strict discipline in cases of misconduct. Parks, universities and schools have distanced themselves from local police depart-



CHANG W. LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES
The New York Police Department may lose some funding.

ments, severing contracts. In some places, the calls for change have gone still further, aiming to abolish police departments, shift police funds into social services or defund police departments partly or entirely.
“It is a critical time that we can see concrete change,” said the Rev. Al Sharpton, who last week addressed the crowd gathered for a memorial service for George Floyd, the black man who died after a white police officer pressed his knee into his neck for nearly nine minutes in Minneapolis last month. “The legislation and the policy changes will be the ones that determine the victory of this movement.”
Democrats in Congress on Monday unveiled legislation aimed at ending excessive use of force by the police and making it easier to identify, track and prosecute police misconduct. The measures were seen as the most expansive
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BAIL A judge set the amount at up to \$1.25 million for Derek Chauvin, the white police officer charged with killing George Floyd. PAGE A18

What Makes Sin City Cautious? Risk of Virus as Casinos Reopen

By JO BECKER
It was among the last of the big conferences before the coronavirus pandemic shuttered the massive casinos lining the Las Vegas Strip in March. More than 1,000 people gathered at MGM Resorts International’s Mirage Hotel & Casino for the Women of Power Summit, after organizers assured them that the risk of attending the networking event for executive women of color was “extremely low.”
That seemed a reasonable bet, given that Las Vegas had yet to record a single coronavirus case.

What no one realized was that one of the conference speakers, a New Yorker, had already contracted the virus by the time she landed at McCarran International Airport on March 6. Two days later, she was in a hospital.
Nevada’s case count now stands at more than 9,600, and as of Sunday afternoon, 438 people had died. But the case involving the Women of Power speaker is nowhere to be found in those grim totals, despite the fact that she
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Afghans once tuned in twice a day to hear the death notices, but the ritual has lost much of its sway. PAGE A11

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Officials say they are willing to let the Palestinian Authority collapse to stop Israel’s annexation plans. PAGE A10

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President Jair Bolsonaro’s government has stopped disclosing comprehensive data on cases and deaths as infection rates continue to soar. PAGE A8

Epidemiologists Are People, Too
A group of 511 infectious disease specialists told The Times when they plan to resume their daily lives. PAGE A9

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Some Democrats think this is the year the state will flip and are urging the party to invest in its races. PAGE A12

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Although economists announced that the United States entered a recession in February, investors remain optimistic about a recovery. PAGE B1

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Adam Rapoport resigned after a photo of him dressed as a derogatory Puerto Rican stereotype resurfaced. PAGE B6

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For football, coronavirus has been an off-season story. Now the league is hoping it can stay on schedule. PAGE B7



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Naeem, who burst out in 2006 as Spank Rock with “YoYoYoYoYo,” is back with a new album, “Startisha.” PAGE C1

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Books on the subject have soared up best-seller lists as protests continue across the country. PAGE C1

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Britain’s National Collection of Type Cultures, a library of human bacterial pathogens, turned 100 this year. PAGE D1

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Paul Krugman PAGE A22

