



DAVID GUTTENFELDER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

## The Peace That Follows Fighting

Snow blanketed a neighborhood in Irpin, Ukraine, a suburb of Kyiv, on Sunday. The city was badly damaged early in the war, when battles raged on the capital's edge.

## Cracks in Iran? Morality Police Are Said to End.

By VIVIAN YEE  
and FARNAZ FASSIHI

A senior Iranian official said this weekend that Iran had abolished the morality police, the state media reported, after months of protests set off by the death of a young woman who was detained by the force for supposedly violating the country's strict Islamic dress laws.

The morality police were "abolished by the same authorities who installed it," Attorney General Mohammad Javad Montazeri said on Saturday during a meeting at which officials were discussing the unrest, according to state media reports.

It was unclear whether the statement amounted to a final decision by the theocratic government, which has neither announced the abolition of the morality police nor denied it.

But if the force is abolished, the change will be unlikely to appease protesters who are still clashing with other security forces and have become so emboldened that some are calling for an end of the Islamic Republic.

The morality police are overseen by the Iranian police, not the attorney general, and there were suggestions that the government might be trying to play down the significance of Mr. Montazeri's remarks.

One state television channel, the Arabic-language Al Alam, said that the comments had been taken out of context, and other state channels said the government was not backing down from the mandatory hijab law.

Iran's foreign minister, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, when asked about the abolishment of the morality police at a news conference in Belgrade, Serbia, where he was on an official visit, did not deny it, but said, "In Iran, everything is moving forward well in the framework of democracy and freedom."

For his part, Mr. Montazeri also said on Saturday that the judiciary would still enforce restrictions on "social behavior." Days earlier, he said that the authorities were reviewing the law requiring women

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## Justices Face A New Clash On Gay Rights

By ADAM LIPTAK

LITTLETON, Colo. — Ten years ago, a Colorado baker named Jack Phillips turned away a gay couple who had asked him for a wedding cake, saying that a state law forbidding discrimination based on sexual orientation must yield to his faith.

The dispute, a white-hot flash point in the culture wars, made it to the Supreme Court. But Justice Anthony M. Kennedy's narrow majority opinion in 2018 did not settle the question of whether the First Amendment permits discrimination by businesses open to the public based on their owners' religious convictions.

## Walker and Warnock Lean Into the Final Stretch

### Taking to Tailgate Party and Pulpit as Runoff Winds Down

This article is by Jazmine Ulloa, Maya King and Reid J. Epstein.

ATLANTA — The closely watched rematch between Senator Raphael Warnock and Herschel Walker has reached its final hours, capping an intense and turbulent campaign that has prompted debate over issues of race, class and power in a state with a pivotal role in American politics.

On Sunday morning at the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, where Mr. Warnock is a senior pastor, he peppered his sermon with thinly veiled allusions to the election, reminding people multiple times to vote and joking

that they had a choice between two candidates whose "last name starts with W."

Mr. Walker on Sunday urged his supporters to vote, on part of what his campaign has been calling an "Evict Warnock Bus Tour." "If you don't have a friend, go make a friend and get them out to vote," he told supporters.

More than 1.8 million Georgians have already cast ballots for Tuesday's runoff, topping early vote

records in a contest that will determine whether Mr. Warnock gives Democrats a 51st vote in the Senate, an addition that would offer some procedural benefits. For Republicans, a win by Mr. Walker would reassert the state's red streak despite a blue surge two years ago.

In 2020, energized Democratic voters propelled Mr. Warnock and Jon Ossoff into the Senate, after fierce showdowns with Republican incumbents, swinging the Senate's balance of power. And for the first time in 28 years, Georgia voted for a Democrat for president.

The outcome Tuesday will also provide an early test of the impact

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Lines at some Atlanta polling sites have been so long that people have had to try again to vote.

## Twin Friends of Adams Are Dogged by Allegations and Debts

### Questionable Dealings Follow Convictions

This article is by Michael Rothfeld, William K. Rashbaum and Susan C. Beachy.

Vadim Shubaderov, a 35-year-old businessman, thought he had stumbled on the perfect opportunity when he met a charismatic pair of identical twins in Brooklyn.

The brothers, Johnny and Robert Petrosyants, were successful bar operators who rou-

tinely dropped thousands of dollars at a Russian restaurant in the Flatiron district, were driven around in a Mercedes-Benz and, most impressively, counted the new Brooklyn borough president, Eric Adams, as a good friend. When the twins invited Mr. Shubaderov to invest in a catering company in 2014, he plunked down \$350,000, virtually his entire life savings.

"They wined and dined me," said Mr. Shubaderov. "They built up an image of super successful entrepreneurs with deep political connections."

He never saw his money again.

Time and again over the past decade, the Petrosyants brothers have boasted of their friendship with Mr. Adams, New York City's mayor, while courtship partners like Mr. Shubaderov for a range of ventures. The relationship has helped them gloss over something less savory: Both pleaded guilty in 2014 to financial crimes related to insurance claims.

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### Accusations of Abuse in K-Pop

A dispute between members of Omega X and their agency adds to a list of claims about the exploitation of South Korea's young musicians.

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### Pastor Returns After Scandal

Matt Chandler of the Village Church received a standing ovation following his leave over an "inappropriate" relationship, part of a period of turmoil among evangelical churches.

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### An Ever-Evolving Project

Emma Corrin, the nonbinary star of "Lady Chatterley's Lover," has been exploring gender and the cost and responsibility of being heard.

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### The Future of Heating

The boxy heat pumps function like air conditioners. Germans hope they hold the key to fossil-free heating.

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DEFAMATION SUIT AGAINST FOX

Lachlan Murdoch is set to be deposed on Monday as the case brought by Dominion grows contentious.

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### Pioneering Comics Memoirist

Aline Kominsky-Crumb's autobiographical cartoons made an impact in underground comics. She was 74.

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### Skyrocketing Prices in Turkey

Inflation is up some 80 percent, devastating families and leaving Turkey's president politically vulnerable.

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College Football's Final Four

Georgia, Michigan, T.C.U. and Ohio State, not Alabama, were selected for the playoff semifinals.

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### In a Soccer Wilderness

The Afghan women's team is 7,000 miles from home and is not recognized by its country or by FIFA.

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### North Carolina County in Dark

About 45,000 customers were without power in Moore County after two electric substations were damaged by gunfire. The outages were called "intentional, willful and malicious."

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### An Ever-Evolving Project

Emma Corrin, the nonbinary star of "Lady Chatterley's Lover," has been exploring gender and the cost and responsibility of being heard.

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