



THE VOYAGER

JUNE 2022



A NOTE FROM
THE
NEWSPAPER
STAFF

ONLY THREE WEEKS
LEFT!

AS ALWAYS THERE IS A
WIDE ARRAY OF ISSUES
IN THIS MUST READ
EDITION OF THE
VOYAGER!!

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On the front cover: An image of the Statue of Liberty taken on the photography trip to New York.

CRIME IN NEW YORK BY SIDDHI PATEL

In a country as big and diverse as the United States, each state has its own statistics showing its crime rates based on its police forces. As per recent reports, Maine is the state with the lowest crime rates in general with the total number of crimes dropping for the seventh year in a row in 2018. On the other side of the list, is the state with the highest crime rate, the District of Columbia. The violent crimes in D.C. come out to be more than twice the average rate. Particularly, as the overall crime rate goes down in D.C. the murder rate continues to rise significantly. As for New Jersey, the state is ranked fifth-lowest in the highest crime rate list since the rate keeps falling year after year.

On the East Coast, a state that continues to rise on this list and is notorious for its frequent crimes is New York. The New York City Police Department (NYPD) recorded an increase in every major crime category. There was an overall 41% increase in total major crime through the first months of 2022 compared to the same period last year. This includes a nearly 54% increase in robberies, a 56% increase in grand larceny incidents, and a 22% increase in rape reports. A large majority of these crimes are occurring in a small strip of the metropolis. An explanation for this seems to be that the violent crime problem isn't spreading much, but rather the huge increase in hate crimes and subway crimes is actually due to the increase of more people being outside. Thus, the more people together, the more crime and to be fair, it makes sense as the population has grown notably.

An example of this would be the recent subway shooting in Brooklyn. A man set off smoke grenades in a crowded subway car and then opened fire which led to at least 23 people being injured. Choosing the subway as a location to shoot relates back to the population explanation.

New York subways are known for being crowded with an insane amount of people, especially during rush hours. The shooting happened at a point when the city was still struggling to cope with a rise in shootings citywide and an increase in crime and disorder in the subway, which has now led to scaring commuters from returning to a transit system.

Always remember to stay safe!

WE DON'T TALK ABOUT THE SWISS BANKS BY PARIDHI BHARDWAJ

We all are well aware of the importance of keeping our money in the banks. Every person wants security, the best rate of interest, and numerous benefits from the banks that they put their money, and their trust in. But when it comes to privacy and security, no bank could compete with that of the Swiss. One-third of worldwide funds is estimated to be held in offshore accounts in Switzerland, which is roughly \$2.7 trillion.

Swiss banks have a reputation for their anonymity. Their secrecy goes back to the middle ages. As early as 1713, the grand council of Genova established regulations and prohibited the sharing of information. People create their accounts in Switzerland, because of its privacy, and its stable political situation. Swiss laws are pretty similar to a doctor/patient or lawyer/client confidentiality agreement. This is also acknowledged in the federal act in banks and savings banks as the banking law of 1934, which makes it a criminal offense for Swiss banks to disclose account holder information. Thus making it “a major international money laundering haven.”

Switzerland is considered the grandfather of bank secrecy, their secrecy benefits United States taxpayers as they take advantage to evade taxes in the U.S, which is a criminal offense. These acts lead to the United States government losing more than \$450 billion dollars in tax revenue. This secrecy costs a lot to the society as the wealthy get richer by putting their black money in the Swiss banks and avoiding paying taxes, thus having an account in the Swiss banks is usually linked with individuals and institutions seeking to hide assets or commit financial crimes. Henceforth in 2014, ministers from 50 countries and territories agreed to a global exchange of information about their respective taxpayers' financial information for the first time. Despite this international push, Swiss political forces have minimized and reverted much of the proposed rollbacks. Whistleblowers, despite legal protections, often face professional setbacks in Switzerland. Swiss bankers who maintain offices exclusively in Switzerland are shielded from foreign states' lawsuits, extradition requests, and criminal charges as long as they remain within the country's jurisdiction. Secrecy laws have been violated by four people since 1934, Christoph Meili (1997), Bradley Birkenfeld (2007), Rudolf Elmer (2011), and Herve Falciani (2014). All of them were served with federal arrest warrants, fines, and sustained professional setbacks in Switzerland. So, in the end, I'll leave you with a question:- Do you think that Switzerland is a neutral country because if they side with one nation, then the rich people against the country will take their money away from the Swiss banks. Thus, damaging their economy? Or does the country have relations with the underworld?

ARE WE LIVING IN THE GILDED ERA BY PARIDHI BHARDWAJ

On April 25th Elon Musk bought Twitter for \$54.20 per share or \$44 billion for total control of the company, thus, making Twitter a private company.

The Gilded Age was the period of gross materialism in U.S. history from the 1870s to 1900 that gave rise to important novels of social and political criticism. It was also marked by increased poverty, rising inequality, and growing concerns about corporate influence in politics. The Gilded Age was the best of both worlds- a time period of growth and anxiety.

We live in the 21st century, and we have already seen the advances in technology, the internet giving opportunities, and the rise of liberal democracy, capitalism, populism, socialism, authoritarianism, and nationalism.

During the Gilded Age, the most boom happened in the industries. Between 1860-1900, U.S factory output soared from \$1.9 billion to \$13 billion, an increase of approximately 600 percent. By 1900 the U.S became the most powerful industrial economy. Throughout decades the U.S economy has seen a rise in its economy thus it ranks number 1 in Nominal GDP. Both eras provided society with innovators. In the 1880s and 90s, Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, and William K. Vanderbilt to name a few, and in the 21st century, we all are aware of Elon Musk, Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, and Mark Zuckerberg.

Mark Twain dubbed this era "the Gilded Age" because like a piece of jewelry that looks gorgeous on the outside, but underneath it lies cold black iron.

So, beneath all the gold and glitter from rich lifestyles to economic booms, one could also find disturbing economic, social, and political trends. In New York City, which was the U.S. largest and wealthiest city, two-thirds of its residents lived in miserable conditions, trapped in their tiny apartments, and many scrounged in the streets. Whereas, a threat of growing wealth inequality surfaced when so few people accumulated such vast wealth in so short a time span. Industrialists like J.P Morgan and Rockefeller had stupendous fortunes. By 1890, the top 1 percent of the U.S. population owned 51 percent of all wealth. Meanwhile, the lower 44 percent of the U.S population- almost half the country- owned just 1.2 percent. Today, the gap between the wealthy and the poor has widened and thus we can say that the world is now being run by wealthy billionaires. The sad reality is, according to the World Economic Forum, the world's 2,153 billionaires have more wealth than the 4.6 billion people who make up 60 percent of the planet's population. The 22 richest men in the world have more wealth than all the women in Africa, and getting the richest one percent to pay just 0.5 percent extra tax on their wealth over the next 10 years would equal the investment needed to create 117 million jobs in sectors such as elderly and childcare, education and health. Now, because of the new trend of billionaires' race to space, and broken economies post Covid-19 which is making the wealthy and big business richer at the expense of ordinary men and women. No wonder, why people are starting to question the existence of billionaires.

ADDITIONAL PICTURES BY ANGELA DUSZKIEWICZ



A picture taken by Paridhi B. showing the Lunar Eclipse from May 15

A picture taken by Paridhi B. showing a beautiful double rainbow!

