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# The New York Times



Jan Worrell got ElliQ, an A.I. robot, from a regional nonprofit as part of a pilot program. It took Jan some time to warm to ElliQ.

## She’s 85, and Her Roommate Is a Robot

By ELI SASLOW

OCEAN PARK, Wash. — The firefighters had come a few years earlier to help carry her husband out of the house, and now they were back with what they hoped might become her new companion. Jan Worrell, 85, lived alone near the end of the Long Beach Peninsula, on the last road before the rugged Washington coast disappeared into the Pacific. Many of her neighbors were part-time residents, and ever since her husband died, she sometimes went several days without seeing another person or leaving the house.

### In Remote Home, Turning to an A.I. Buddy ‘With Soul’

She sat in a recliner, looking out toward the ocean in the spring of 2023 as the firefighters opened a box and started to assemble a machine in her living room. It reminded her of a small reading lamp, perched on a stand alongside a tablet and a built-in camera. Jan turned back to the window and watched the distant lights of crab boats as they vanished into the fog. She’d been star-

ing at the same view for 20 years, and she’d told her doctor that one of her last goals in life was to never live anywhere else. “This is ElliQ,” one of the firefighters said, after he plugged the new device into the wall. “I think you’re going to love her.” “It,” Jan said. “Not her. This thing is a robot, right?” She looked at the machine, which sat on a coffee table within reach of her recliner. A regional nonprofit was providing it to her free, covering the annual subscription cost of about \$700 as part of a pilot program for a few dozen seniors. The small robot twisted in her direction, lit up and studied her for a

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## Protesters Say ICE Menaced Them at Home

Stories of Intimidation Detailed by A.C.L.U.

By JONAH E. BROMWICH

On a subzero Tuesday last month, Daniel Woo, a 29-year-old sound designer incensed by the Trump administration’s immigration surge in Minnesota, drove to a St. Paul supermarket parking lot to monitor federal agents gathered there. A gray SUV turned out of the lot. Mr. Woo checked in with his fellow monitors, a network of civilians tracking agents’ movements and alerting potential targets. The group confirmed the vehicle had been associated with Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. Mr. Woo followed as it traveled through the city. The SUV reached a freeway and headed west, and Mr. Woo became suspicious. He felt he knew where it was going. And sure enough, the SUV soon reached his neighborhood in Plymouth, Minn., about 40 minutes from where it had started, and pulled up in front of his house. “They just came over to intimidate me,” Mr. Woo said in an interview last week. “To say, ‘We know where you live.’” His was not an isolated experience. Among nearly 100 sworn statements filed in federal court on Friday are more than a dozen accounts like Mr. Woo’s, in which federal agents deployed to Minnesota singled out protesters, finding the addresses of their homes and showing up there. It is not entirely clear how the agents determined the monitors’ home addresses; some assumed the agents had used their vehicles’ license plates. But whatever the case, the sworn statements describe a remarkable projection of

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## NAVALNY KILLED WITH FROG TOXIN, OFFICIALS REPORT

### 2024 DEATH IN PRISON

#### A Joint Statement From Europe Challenges Russia’s Account

By LYNSEY CHUTEL and ANTON TROIANOVSKI

LONDON — Aleksei A. Navalny was most likely poisoned by a toxin found in a South American frog, five European countries said on Saturday, making the most concrete Western accusation yet that Russia’s leading opposition figure was murdered by his government in an Arctic prison two years ago. Samples taken from Mr. Navalny’s body showed the presence of a toxic substance, epibatidine, according to a statement released by the foreign ministries of Britain, France, Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands. “Epibatidine is a toxin found in poison dart frogs in South America. It is not found naturally in Russia,” the statement read. “Only the Russian government had the means, motive and opportunity to deploy this lethal toxin against Alexei Navalny during his imprisonment in Russia,” it read. The finding directly challenges Russia’s official account of Mr. Navalny’s death, which was that he died of natural causes. Instead, the statement said, the presence of a foreign toxin shows that the Russian authorities most likely killed Mr. Navalny, who was the government’s most prominent political opponent when he died in a maximum-security prison in the Russian Arctic in 2024.

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## The Complicity That Saturates Epstein’s Files

By ROBERT DRAPER

WASHINGTON — Journalists and researchers will spend the next months ferreting through the Epstein files in search of further criminal conduct or a new conspiratorial wrinkle. But one truth has already emerged. In unsparing detail, the documents lay bare the once-furtive activities of an unaccountable elite, largely made up of rich and powerful men from business, politics, academia and show business. The pages tell a story of a heinous criminal given a free ride by the ruling class in which he dwelled, all because he had things to offer them: money, connections, sumptuous dinner parties, a private plane, a secluded island and, in some cases, sex. That story of impunity is all the more outrageous now in the midst of rising populist anger and ever-growing inequality. The Caligula-like antics of Jeffrey Epstein and friends occurred over two decades that saw the decline of America’s manufacturing sector and the subprime mortgage crisis, in which millions of Americans lost their homes. If Mr. Epstein’s goal was to build a wall of protection around his abuse by surrounding himself with the well connected, he failed in the end. But both before and after he was first prosecuted for abusing girls, his correspondence

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MIMI D’AUTREMONT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

### Reviving an Icy Rivalry

The cold allowed for a rare boat race on New Jersey’s frozen Navesink River. Metropolitan, Page 1.

## ‘Mama Drones’ Drop Bacon and Cookies to Ukraine’s Soldiers on the Front Lines

By OLEKSANDR CHUBKO and CASSANDRA VINOGRAD

PAVLOHRAD, Ukraine — The orders started coming in around 7:30 on a Thursday morning — ordinary shopping lists under extraordinary conditions. Smoked bacon. Oatmeal cookies. Mayonnaise. Mashed potatoes.

Copy that, radioed the commander. The customers were Ukrainian soldiers in frontline bunkers and trenches, requesting airdrops of provisions by drone. Ukraine has mastered such deliveries out of dire necessity, giving new meaning to drones in a war where they are synonymous with death and destruction. “We try to make it a bit nicer for them, to lift their spirits, so they don’t feel too down out there,” said a soldier with the call sign Lesyk, who packs parcels for drone drops in the eastern Dnipro region. “Even small things matter,” he added. With attack drones now dominating the battlefield, frontline movements carry exceptional risk. That has made it harder to send supplies to frontline soldiers,

a challenge that Ukraine has increasingly tried to meet with unmanned aircraft. Soldiers describe catching deliveries of water, power banks and other essentials dropped by drones under the cover of night. Much of the work is done by heavy Vampire drones, which can easily switch from killing enemy soldiers to delivering creature comforts. They can fly in harsh

weather, and the Ukrainian military says they are harder than other drones to shoot down. The Russians call the drones Baba Yaga, after the child-eating witch in Slavic folklore who hunts at night. When they are dropping treats, some Ukrainian soldiers call them “mama drones.” Cigarettes. Wet wipes. Coffee. Shawarma. Even a chocolate ha-

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<b>Love Without Limits in Brazil</b> More people in a still largely conservative and religious nation are rejecting monogamy as they seek new definitions of romance, and of family. PAGE 9	<b>Contraband or Just a Tampon?</b> Women visiting loved ones at the state’s prisons are being turned away after body scanners pick up what they say are menstrual products. PAGE 1	<b>A Whole City From Scratch</b> Investors and businesses are backing the idea of building new urban areas on vacant land without the complexities of an existing city. PAGE 5	<b>The New New York Woman</b> Rachel Scott, who last week showed her first collection for Proenza Schouler, wants to reimagine the city’s fashion and who gets to define it. PAGE 10	<b>Amelia Miller</b> PAGE 6

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