

Thursday 10/08/20

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'Came Out of Nowhere': Drone Alerts Aussie Surfer to Nearby Great White Shark - Video by [Gaby Arancibia](#)

Professional Australian surfer Matt Wilkinson recently had quite the close encounter with a great white shark while catching some waves in New South Wales (NSW), and it was all filmed by a drone that alerted the surfer to the nearby predator.

The shocking encounter unfolded on Wednesday, while Wilkinson was traversing the waters off the coast of Ballina near Sharpes Beach.

"I was ... just cruising on my own and I heard a splash and a noise and looked around and couldn't see anything," Wilkinson [recalled in a statement](#). "Then the drone came down and told me that there was a dangerous shark in the area, return to the beach."

As it turns out, the drone was [operated by Surf Life Saving NSW](#) as part of a partnership with the NSW Department of Primary Industries. In short, the drones are used to protect swimmers and alert lifeguards to any marine hazards, including sharks.

"I got to the shore feeling a bit weird, and the lifeguards showed me the footage, and I realized how close it came without knowing it was there. It looks like it's going for my leg, and it's changed its mind," Wilkinson stated.

"It's nice to know the drones go up and down the beach and can see what we can't, and it makes you feel more comfortable. It makes other people aware that there are sharks out there but usually with no intention."

Beau Monks, the drone's operator, noted that the roughly 5-foot great white shark was spotted during his seventh flight of the day and had "sort of came out of nowhere."

"It moved pretty fast," Monks said in a statement. "I was tracking it and notified the lifeguards and used the speaker on the drone to get everyone out of the water. Within 10 seconds, it was at the surfer, and five seconds later it was gone."

After the close encounter, the beach was completely evacuated and closed until the following day.

According to Surf Life Saving NSW CEO Steve Pearce, drones are the favored form of aerial surveillance for the monitoring program, especially since they're preferred by locals and "they have proven themselves to be cheaper and more effective than helicopters."

At present, the drones are used to monitor marine happenings at 34 beaches in New South Wales as part of the Aussie state's \$8 million initiative.

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Goofy Golden Retriever Goes Nuts With Kids' Toys - Video Club

For one 4-year-old golden retriever, playtime with your best pal must be enjoyed to the fullest and involve multiple zoomies.

Cellphone footage recently captured and shared online by mom Paige Christine shows her playful pup Gambit repeatedly jumping into her toddler Brayden's miniature ball pit, much to the youngster's delight.

The pair, she notes in her Facebook post, "are the best of friends."

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Photos Reportedly Show Turkish F-16 Jets Sent to Azerbaijan After Ankara Dismissed Yerevan's Claim by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

Satellite photos from over the weekend seem to prove the Armenian government's claim that Turkey has secretly sent several F-16 fighter jets to Azerbaijan amid the renewed conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Ankara previously dismissed Yerevan's claims an F-16 had shot down one of its planes as a "cheap propaganda stunt."

Photos of Azerbaijan's Ganja International Airport taken on October 3 by private satellite-imaging firm Planet Labs have revealed three aircraft believed to be Turkish in origin, two of which could only be F-16 Falcon fighter aircraft.

On September 29, two days after Azerbaijan launched a renewed offensive against the autonomous, majority-Armenian region of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is supported by Armenia, the Armenian government's official Twitter account tweeted that a Turkish F-16 flying out of Ganja air base had shot down an Armenian Su-25 ground attack aircraft. Turkey has some 245 F-16C/D models in service, bought from the United States.

Fahrettin Altun, a senior aide to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, [told Bloomberg later that day that "the Armenian claim is false"](#) and called it a "cheap propaganda stunt." The involvement of a Turkish fighter in an offensive action against Armenian forces could represent a serious provocation in the region. Although the photos show F-16s at Ganja just days after the incident, that is not proof they were involved in the Su-25 shootdown, although it is a piece of evidence in Yerevan's favor.

Armenia's claim is further bolstered by the fact that [several Turkish F-16s were openly sent to Ganja in August](#) for joint drills, and locals took at least one photo of three F-16s in the sky just a week before the shootdown incident.

Longstanding Turkish Support for Baku

Indeed, on October 1, Erdogan promised in his speech at the opening of the Turkish parliament's legislative session that Turkey "will continue to support our Azerbaijani brothers with all means with all our hearts in line with the principle of 'two states, one nation,'" [the state-owned Anadolu Agency reported](#).

"The principle of 'two states, one nation,' is not only a slogan or a historical resolve, but also a principle that dominates Turkey-Azerbaijan relations," Erdogan continued. By contrast, he derided Armenia as a "rogue state," claiming countries supporting the Caucasian nation would have to "answer to the common conscience." Yerevan's closest ally is Moscow.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu paid a visit to Baku earlier this week, during which he denounced pressure on Turkey to use its influence to calm the situation.

"We look at the calls coming from around the world, and it's 'immediate cease-fire.' What then? There was a cease-fire until now, but what happened?" [Cavusoglu said on Turkish television](#).

"There can be a ceasefire, but what will be the result? Can you tell Armenia to immediately withdraw from Azeri lands? Can you come up with a solution for it to withdraw? No, it's the same calls for 30 years."

Erdogan's comments strike an especially sour note, as the nationalist Young Turks movement that founded the modern Turkish state was also responsible for the genocide of nearly 1.5 million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire in the closing years of World War I. Ankara denies the killings were genocidal, but 32 nations, including the United States and Russia, recognize the mass deaths and expulsions as a genocide.

Armenia and Azerbaijan are both former republics of the Soviet Union, which was dissolved in 1991. The breakup saw Armenians and Azeris who had formerly lived in the same nation now on opposite sides of a complex web of territories in the eastern Caucasus region, but conflict actually broke out in 1988, nearly three years before the republics were separated from Moscow. A 1994 ceasefire established de facto autonomy for Nagorno-Karabakh, which sits inside Azerbaijan and shares a border with Iran.

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Pentagon Reveals Super Hornet Fighters Patrolling Middle East With Stealth-Spotting Infrared Sensors

by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

Photos recently posted by the US Navy show its F/A-18F Super Hornets deployed to the Middle East are now carrying new infrared sensor pods capable of spotting stealth aircraft.

An advanced infrared targeting pod due to be installed on a future version of the US Navy's bread-and-butter fighter aircraft has been spotted in recent photos showing the jets in action over the Middle East.

In photos dated September 30, 2020, and posted on the Pentagon's Defense Visual Information Distribution Service (DVIDS) website, an F/A-18F can be seen carrying the new infrared search and track system (IRST) pod while on patrol. The sensor is the small black button on the front of the plane's centerline external fuel tank, slung below the fuselage.

As the sensor looks for heat signatures instead of bouncing radar waves off of things, [the pod is capable of cutting through all kinds of things](#) that can foul other tracking systems, including stealth technology, which reduces the amount of radar waves an aircraft bounces back for radar to spot them with, as well as jammers, which put out excess electromagnetic interference to

drown out the enemy's radar in return. It can spot low-visibility aircraft and smaller, hard-to-spot craft such as unmanned aerial vehicles, too.

According to the photo caption, the aircraft were on "a mission in support of Operation Inherent Resolve," the Pentagon's operational name for the war against Daesh in Syria and Iraq.

[The Drive noted the pod is likely an early test version](#) of the final product, which will be part of a slew of upgrades to the Super Hornet together called Block III. The Navy accepted its first two Block III Super Hornets [for testing in June, according to USNI News](#), and the new version of the jet will probably not enter service until sometime next year. The E-18 Growler, an electronic warfare version of the F/A-18, will also get upgraded to Block III.

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US Lawmakers to Introduce Legislation on Commission to Evaluate President's Mental Capacity by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Maryland Democratic congressman Jamie Raskin announced on Thursday they would be introducing legislation to establish a commission charged with evaluating the president's mental and physical capacity to hold office.

Pelosi and Raskin said they would hold a press conference on Friday announcing introduction of the Commission on Presidential Capacity to Discharge the Powers and Duties of Office Act. A press notice announcing the conference noted the commission and process are "called for in the 25th amendment to the US Constitution to enable Congress to help ensure effective and uninterrupted leadership in the highest office in the Executive Branch of government."

[The 25th amendment was ratified in 1967 in the wake](#) of the 1963 assassination of US President John F. Kennedy to establish an orderly path of succession in the event the president perishes or becomes unable to perform the duties of office, such as when suffering from an illness.

Section 4 of the amendment describes the process in which other politicians may together determine the president is unfit to perform the duties of office and go about removing them from office, which is set in motion by the "Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide."

The question of US President Donald Trump's fitness to hold office has once again come under scrutiny in the aftermath of his contraction of the COVID-19 novel coronavirus last week, [which caused him to spend several days at Walter Reed](#) National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, and to receive a slew of drugs and even supplemental oxygen for a brief period of time. Trump did not pass executive authority to Vice President Mike Pence during that time, but [the symptoms of the illness and potential side-effects](#) of the drugs he was taking caused many to question his ability to do his job.

[Earlier on Thursday, Pelosi noted that on Friday](#) "We're going to be talking about the 25th Amendment." Trump replied to the news in furious Tweet.

"Crazy Nancy is the one who should be under observation," Trump said. "They don't call her Crazy for nothing!"

Last year, former Acting FBI Director [Andrew McCabe revealed on CBS' "60 Minutes" that in May 2017](#), after Trump fired then-FBI Director James Comey, he and then-Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein [briefly explored using the 25th amendment to remove Trump from office](#). After Trump appointed Robert Mueller to head the FBI's Russiagate investigation eight days later, their concern was somewhat assuaged.

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Video: US Marine Who Posted Clip Threatening Asians Wanted by Pentagon

A US Marine who recently posted a video on social media in which he threatened to shoot Asians is now wanted by US Marine Corps leaders "so that his command can take appropriate action."

When the video was posted is unclear, but a US Army infantry noncommissioned officer shared the video on his Twitter account on Thursday, saying, "Anyone recognize this racist? It's hard to tell where he's at, and sadly no name tapes," meaning his name tag is not visible in the video. He also notes the video was originally found on Facebook.

However, several people replying to the Twitter post seemed to agree the interior of the room where it was filmed was easily recognizable as one of those at Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School in Twentynine Palms, California.

The Marine seen in the video, whose rank can be seen as Private First Class, says China will "pay for what they have done to this country and the world," referring to the COVID-19 pandemic. He further references tweets by US President Donald Trump, who he calls "the honorable Trump," that blame China for the pandemic outbreak.

"I don't give a f**k. A c***k-headed motherf**ker comes up to me when I'm in the fleet, say five-five-six b***h," he continues, referring to the 5.56-millimeter bullets fired by rifles like the M16 and M4.

Capt. Joe Butterfield, [a Marine spokesman at the Pentagon, told Military.com](#) the Corps was trying to discover the Marine's identity.

"There is no place for racism in the Marine Corps," Butterfield said. "Those who can't value the contributions of others, regardless of background, are destructive to our culture and do not represent our core values."

However, the Marine's own rhetoric mirrors that of his commander-in-chief, who calls COVID-19 "the China virus." In a Wednesday video presently pinned at the top of Trump's Twitter feed, he swears revenge on the socialist nation of 1.3 billion people where the COVID-19 pandemic began in late 2019 and early 2020.

"It wasn't your fault that this happened, it was China's fault. And China's going to pay a big price, what they've done to this country," Trump says in the video filmed in front of the White House [following his hospital discharge after contracting COVID-19](#). "China's going to pay a big price, what they've done to the world. This was China's fault. Just remember that."

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'Made Public Sector the Fall Guy': US Free Market Fetishism Drives Failure to Combat COVID-19

by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

At the US vice-presidential candidate debate on Wednesday, Democratic challenger Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA) failed to offer a viable alternative to the Trump administration's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. An economist told Sputnik her failure stems from a bipartisan obsession with seeking solutions to social problems in the private sector.

US Vice President Mike Pence, who heads the Trump administration's effort to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, [was tasked on Wednesday night with defending his work to Harris](#), whose ticket with Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden seeks to displace him and Trump in the election next month. However, despite potentially easy pickings for Harris, she failed to present a real alternative program for limiting the spread of infections and deaths caused by the virus. Richard Wolff, an economist and professor at New York's New School and the author of "The Sickness Is the System: When Capitalism Fails to Save Us from Pandemics or Itself," told [Radio Sputnik's By Any Means Necessary](#) on Thursday that like Trump and Pence, Biden and Harris look to the private sector to solve problems it has already proven incapable of solving.

Wolff noted the wildly huge disparity in deaths in the US from COVID-19 as compared to China. In the US, with a population of 328 million, some 210,000 people have died from the illness, but in China, which has a population of 1.3 billion, fewer than 5,000 people have perished from the disease.

"That's beyond words of failure. America is 4.5% of the population of the world ... but we have 25% of the world's COVID cases and 25% of the world's COVID deaths. We are a rich country with a well-developed medical system. This failure is so overwhelming that I can kind of understand that Kamala Harris will say - like Trump says about everything, it's the greatest and the best, so she has to say it too - but give her this, it certainly is an enormous, terrible problem." "But then you have to come up with a really adequate solution to something that is so outstanding and so terrible a problem - and she didn't," Wolff told hosts Sean Blackmon and Jacquie Luqman.

"For example: we have tens of millions of unemployed people - why didn't the government hire them and send them across this country to test everybody in the way that other countries are doing that could deal with this coronavirus? There's no excuse for that except the ideology that the private sector is the way things should be done, and therefore if the private sector isn't getting around to doing it, well then somehow it doesn't get done," Wolff said.

"Other countries don't do that. If the private sector doesn't function, the government steps in and takes care of it, because it has to get done. What happened in this country is that we've made the public sector the fall guy and made it a joke and made it an unwanted intrusion upon the private sector. But then you got to blame the private sector - which is more powerful in this country than any other on this planet. That private sector really failed us. It failed to maintain the public health. And what in the world could be a more basic obligation of any economic system

than to secure our protection from the viruses that have been a problem for human beings for tens of thousands of years?"

"This is a proof for me that the capitalist economic system that we have isn't adequate any more," Wolff told Sputnik.

"We have no reason to hold onto it. It may be profitable for the people who play the stock market, for the 1% - I get that, it's good for them. But for the mass of people, what we're seeing - in the millions that are unemployed, in the 210,000 dead people from this virus that we didn't manage the way other countries have - that's a sign of a system that's over, that's dying, that's declining and to which we should be saying a quick goodbye."

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Trump Required Walter Reed Doctors, Staff to Sign NDAs During Mysterious 2019 Visit - Report

US President Donald Trump required personnel at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center to sign nondisclosure agreements (NDAs) in 2019 before agreeing to receive treatment at the facility, four people familiar with the process recently told NBC News.

During a surprise trip to the medical center on November 16, 2019, Trump requested that both physicians and nonmedical staff, which included active-duty military service members, sign NDAs, [the sources told NBC](#). At least two doctors at the facility reportedly refused to sign the NDAs and thus were not allowed to be involved in the president's care, the sources said.

At the time of Trump's visit to Walter Reed, the White House said that the president was there for an annual physical exam.

"Anticipating a very busy 2020, the president is taking advantage of a free weekend here in Washington, DC, to begin portions of his routine annual physical exam at Walter Reed," Stephanie Grisham, the White House press secretary at the time, said in a statement, [Reuters reported in November 2019](#).

Unlike the president's 2017 and 2018 annual physicals, the facility did not receive notice in advance about the president's visit in November 2019, raising questions about its purpose. However, the sources that recently spoke to NBC are not aware whether Trump's most recent visit to the facility, following the president's positive COVID-19 test, involved staff members that had signed NDAs.

Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), anyone providing medical services in the US is prohibited by federal law from releasing the patient's health information without their consent. In light of this, it's unclear why Trump would require staff members at Walter Reed to sign NDAs.

"Any physician caring for the President is bound by patient-physician confidentiality guaranteed under HIPAA, and I'm not going to comment on internal procedures beyond that," White House Deputy Press Secretary Judd Deere said in a statement to NBC News.

Furthermore, all personnel who work in the White House Medical Unit must have a "[Yankee White](#)" security clearance. To obtain the clearance, they must be US citizens and pass extensive background checks.

There has been concern about how transparent Trump's doctors have been about his health since he contracted the novel coronavirus. Dr. Sean Conley, the president's personal physician, has repeatedly dodged questions about when Trump last tested negative for the virus, how high his temperature was and whether lung scans reveal any damage.

"We've done routine standard imaging. I'm just not at liberty to discuss," Conley told reporters Monday when asked whether the president had developed pneumonia in his lungs, NBC reported.

All written updates by Conley regarding the president's health have also included the note: "I release the following information with the permission of President Donald J. Trump."

Arthur Caplan, the director of medical ethics at the New York University Grossman School of Medicine, told NBC News that some prominent people request that their physicians sign NDAs, even though it is redundant in protecting their health information.

"Ethically and legally you can ask for an NDA, but you don't need one. Doctors can't share information with anyone except anyone caring for the patient or anyone billing the patient. And ultimately it's up to the patient whether or not the doctor can share information," Caplan explained.

"It's more redundant than unethical. The presumption is privacy first," Caplan explained, noting that doctors who violate patient confidentiality rules could face serious consequences.

Trump spent three nights at Walter Reed after the president confirmed via social media on October 2 that he had tested positive for COVID-19. He was discharged late Monday and has since returned to the Oval Office to carry out his presidential duties.

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'Catastrophic Event': Over 1,000 Birds Crash Into Philadelphia Skyscrapers in Single Day

More than 1,000 birds reportedly died or were injured after flying into skyscrapers in Philadelphia on October 2 as they migrated south ahead of the winter season.

"So many birds were falling out of the sky, we didn't know what was going on," Stephen Maciejewski, a volunteer at Audubon Pennsylvania, an organization that works to conserve and restore the habitats of wildlife, specifically birds, [recently told the Philadelphia Inquirer](#).

"It was a really catastrophic event. The last time something like this happened was in 1948," he added.

Maciejewski also told the outlet that he collected 400 birds between 5 a.m. and 8 a.m. local time on October 2.

"There were so many, I was picking up five at a time. One guy from building maintenance dumped 75 living and dead birds in front of me as if it were a collection," Maciejewski told the outlet.

"There were so many birds I ran out of supplies," Maciejewski added, explaining that he logs each bird's flight path, time and location of impact.

Maciejewski confirmed there weren't as many deaths in the five days after the shocking incident, and that he has since collected no more than 32 birds a morning.

It's believed that the birds likely struck the buildings while flying on their migratory path from places like Canada, Maine and Upstate New York to Central and South America. A big drop in the temperatures may have caused the birds to start flying in large groups, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

Many of the birds crashed into glass buildings.

Last year, the US House of Representatives introduced the [Bird-Safe Buildings Act of 2019](#), which requires every public building "of which more than 50% of the facade is substantially altered by the General Services Administration (GSA)" to ensure that "at least 90% of the exposed facade material from ground level to 40 feet shall not be composed of glass or shall be composed of glass" that meets certain "methods of modification."

"We have to bring people together to make the glass friendlier to birds," Maciejewski said.

"We're contributing to the extinction of American songbirds."

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'Vicious Cycle': Amazon Rainforest May Turn Into Savannah as Cattle Ranching Drives Deforestation

David Pearson, a research professor in the School of Life Sciences at Arizona State University, and Philip Fearnside, an ecologist at the National Institute for Research in Amazonia (INPA) in Brazil, joined Radio Sputnik on Thursday to discuss the role the meat industry plays in the Amazon rainforest fires.

A recent report by the [Guardian](#), citing Brazil's space research agency INPE, revealed that fires in the country's Amazon have increased by 13% in the first nine months of the year compared to the same period a year ago.

"We have had two months with a lot of fire. It's already worse than last year," said Ane Alencar, science director for Brazil's Amazon Environmental Research Institute, also warning that the situation could worsen if the drought in the country continues.

"This year has been especially bad, and the COVID-19 has had a lot to do with it. A lot of the protection and policing has been eliminated or really diminished ... Brazil, especially, [has] been moving in and doing what we call this settler colonialism, where they are taking over areas ... especially from Indigenous people, and the more area that they clear, the drier it gets," Pearson told [Political Misfits hosts Michelle Witte and Bob Schlehuber](#).

"One big difference in the Amazon rainforest from what we're used to hearing in the US, in Canada, in Europe, is that those forests produce 60, 70, 80, sometimes 95% a year of their own rainfall. So, the more forests are cut down, the less rain you have locally. The less rainfall you have, the drier it gets ... It's a vicious cycle," he added.

The domestic and international demand for beef has prompted the cattle industry's expansion into the Amazon, with the cattle herd in the Amazon increasing by almost 200% between 1993 and 2013, a report by [Mighty Earth](#) explains. The majority of deforestation in the area is caused by cattle ranchers burning large areas of the rainforest for pasture.

"The economic pressure for cattle farming is probably one of the biggest factors that's pushing active forest destruction to create grasslands and areas where cattle can be raised," Pearson explained, calling the meat industry an "economic powerhouse that sees their way to increasing their economics by clearing out more forest."

"And of course, we are, here in the US and the rest of the world, are not innocent in this too, because our demand for beef is pushing these economics. So, how we consume, even though we never go to the rainforests, is affecting them directly," Pearson added.

According to Fearnside, many parts of the Amazon have undergone so much deforestation that the rainforests are turning into savannahs: grasslands with scattered trees.

"In those areas, you already have passed the point where just deforestation represents a tipping point," Fearnside pointed out.

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Photo: US Server Finds 'Mask' Written in Tip Line After Telling Diners to Cover Face

A Pennsylvania waiter says she was "shocked" to find a four-letter word etched on the gratuity line of a receipt after encouraging restaurant patrons to comply with the state mask mandate. Kathy Kearney, owner of John Henry's Pub of Ardmore, took to the restaurant's official Facebook page on Sunday to reveal how one of her staffers was treated after "politely" asking diners to wear a face mask until they were seated.

"Totally unacceptable!" Kearney wrote in the post, which showed "MASK" written in the line that traditionally includes a roughly 20% tip from the customer in the US.

Jamie Ledwith, the stiffed server, [expressed to WPVI](#) that she was "surprised" and "shocked" by the receipt, as there was no heated exchange that occurred in relation to the face mask enforcement.

"When they came in they walked through the bar without their mask on. So I asked them politely, 'If you're walking through the bar, or standing, just put your mask on until you're seated,'" Ledwith recounted.

Kearney told the outlet that she and the pub staff are not going to let this single act deter them from enforcing [Pennsylvania's universal face mask mandate](#), which requires face coverings for those older than 2 years old. Certain exemptions do apply, "including having a medical condition that would preclude them from having to wear a face covering," notes the state's Department of Health.

"It has been amazing, really amazing. You know what, I also want to give people a pass. This guy was probably just having a bad day. And that's OK, we all are going to have bad days. It's been a long seven months," Kearney said of the patron who skipped out on their tip.

Local Facebook users like Mary Whalen came to the restaurant staff's defense.

"I have visited multiple times since reopening and have found the staff more than respectful and accommodating," [she commented](#) under the pub's post. "So wrong of the customer! Staff is complying with state requirements and protecting all customers and themselves."

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Photo: Hong Kong Police Locate Stolen \$645 Million Mao Zedong Scroll Sliced in Half

A stolen, 9-foot Chinese calligraphy scroll believed to have been written by former Chairman of the Communist Party of China Mao Zedong has been found sliced in half by an unsuspecting, second-hand buyer.

Hong Kong authorities announced Thursday that they had located the whereabouts of a Mao calligraphy scroll valued at around \$645 million.

“Someone thought the calligraphy was too long – 2.8 meters in length – and it was difficult to show and display it. That’s why it was cut in half,” said Tony Ho Chun Tung, senior superintendent of the Organized Crime and Triad Bureau, as [reported by the South China Morning Post \(SCMP\)](#).

Authorities have detailed that the scroll was the most expensive item stolen on September 10 in what’s being referred to as the largest-ever Hong Kong heist. Other items lifted from a collector’s residence included 10 copper coins, 24,327 stamps and six additional pieces of calligraphy said to have been written by Mao, a known calligrapher.

Nevertheless, thieves sold the scroll to an unsuspecting individual for around \$65. The 49-year-old purchaser was detained on September 22 after he learned of the burglary and decided to turn the halved scroll in to police.

The individual was later released after explaining to authorities that he suspected the scroll to be counterfeit and cut it in half for storage purposes.

Fu Chunxiao, the owner of the scroll, told the SCMP that he was distressed to learn of the damage to the work.

“It was heartbreaking to see it be torn into two pieces,” he said. “It will definitely affect its value, but the impact remains to be seen.”

“I have not made a decision as to how to deal with it,” Fu added, noting he had intended to donate the scroll prior to its theft, though he did not specify a recipient.

A Tuesday police raid on a flat in the Kowloon Peninsula area of Yau Ma Tei resulted in the arrest of one 44-year-old burglary suspect and a 47-year-old acquaintance who allegedly provided a hideout for the accused criminal.

Two copper coins stolen in the heist were also recovered from the flat.

Cops in Hong Kong are still searching for two additional burglary suspects. Authorities have communicated that they have identified the pair of alleged criminals, but have yet to expound on their appearances.

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Video: Rapper Tory Lanez Charged With Felony Assault in Megan Thee Stallion Shooting
by [Evan Craighead](#)

Canadian rapper and singer Tory Lanez is facing up to 22 years and eight months in prison for the July 12 incident in which he allegedly shot US rapper Megan Thee Stallion in both feet. "Daystar Peterson aka Tory Lanez (dob 7/27/92) was charged today in case BA490599 with one felony count each of assault with semiautomatic firearm – personal use of a firearm – and carrying a loaded, unregistered firearm in a vehicle," [read a Thursday issuance](#) from the office of Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey.

"The defendant also faces a gun allegation and that he personally inflicted great bodily injury." Though the memo does not name 24-year-old Megan Pete, popularly known as Megan Thee Stallion, it does describe the July 12 incident that has been widely reported on in the past few months.

"On July 12, the defendant and the 24-year-old victim got into an argument while riding in an SUV in the Hollywood Hills. The victim exited the vehicle and Peterson is accused of shooting several times at her feet and wounding her," read the office release.

It has been alleged that the two were in a relationship and had gotten into an argument at the home of Kylie Jenner. The dispute then spilled over into the car and eventually reached a point at which Pete decided to exit the vehicle.

It's presumed that shots were fired and Pete had gotten back into the vehicle before a helicopter recorded widely seen footage of the incident.

Pete can be seen limping with her hands up, leaving a trail of blood from her injuries. Lacey's office detailed that, if convicted, Peterson faces a "possible maximum sentence of 22 years and eight months in state prison."

The Los Angeles Police Department, Hollywood Division, is continuing its probe into the matter.

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'People Have Bias': Disinformation-Hunting AI by Firm Close to Pentagon Part of 'Very Bad Trend'
by [Evan Craighead](#)

Web developer and technologist Chris Garaffa tells Sputnik that although machine intelligence firm Primer has experienced staff with close government ties, its recent US military contract geared toward combating disinformation provokes questions about the limits of artificial intelligence and the possible misuse of AI by US government officials.

"For all the US military's technical advantages over adversaries, it still struggles to counter disinformation. A new software tool to be developed for the US Air Force and Special Operations Command, or SOCOM, may help change that," said [a new Defense One article](#) published on October 2, just a day following the announcement of Primer's [multi-million-dollar contract](#).

Garaffa told [Radio Sputnik's Political Misfits](#) on Thursday that this deal made in an effort to combat fake news is part of a “very bad trend to make AI [determine] what is true and what is not.”

Segment begins around the 13:42 timestamp

In fact, designing AI to do “anything [other] than summarizing information that should then be reviewed by a human” is problematic, Garaffa told hosts Bob Schlehber and Michelle Witte. Garaffa highlighted that Primer is a relatively small machine intelligence company, yet it has major contracts with retail corporation Walmart, the US Air Force and In-Q-Tel, the investment arm of US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

[Amy Heineike](#) and [Sean Gourley](#), former employees of private software and services company Quid, are involved in Primer, as is [Brian Raymond](#), a former CIA officer and ex-director for Iraq for the National Security Council (NSC).

Speaking of Raymond, Garaffa stated that “this is somebody who has very, very close ties to the government and to the intelligence community, having been on the NSC.”

“I don’t trust AI to do this kind of real-world analysis, in real-time, in this state that it’s in,” they said.

Garaffa expressed they are skeptical of the Primer AI’s ability to determine, for example, whether the information in a particular social media post is “actually telling the truth.”

“That’s what the Air Force wants it for. [The service] wants it for situational awareness on the ground,” they noted, noting that this tech could later be adopted by an array of federal government agencies, such as the US Department of Homeland Security and its subagency US Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

“They could use it to [monitor protests, which they, you know, do](#),” Garaffa highlighted.

There’s also the general issue of trust and how something comes to be regarded as fact versus fiction.

“After any kind of situation, there’s a lot of misinformation that comes out, because people are trying to figure out what happened,” Garaffa noted. “Some of it is legitimately misdirecting people, but some of it is ... people reporting what they’ve seen ... and it turns out to be wrong.”

“There’s no information about how Primer addresses any of these questions, or bias that is inherent in the development of AI,” they emphasized.

“Remember, these algorithms are developed by people. People have bias. People have blind spots.”

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Pink Eyes & Houseflies - Political Cartoon

Nothing captured American’s attention more during the vice-presidential debate on Wednesday than US Vice President Mike Pence’s noticeably red eye and the massive housefly that landed on his head, as he answered questions and responded to his Democratic challenger, Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA).

In contrast to the audience-shocking chaos of the September 29 debate between US President Donald Trump and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, the faceoff between Pence and Harris remained civil overall.

However, policy issues during the debate took a backseat once again, all thanks to Pence's possible raging case of pink eye and the housefly that [landed on his head for some two minutes during the event](#).

Poor Pence's condition seemed appropriate to the current aura inside the White House, as the COVID-19 coronavirus plagues the president and many members of his staff.

Still, the phrase "to be a fly on the wall" has never seemed funnier or more appropriate.