

Sampan Analysis: What Abortion Ruling Means, What's Ahead

By Chelsea Wang

舢舨分析：墮胎裁決意味着什麼，未來走向又會是什麼

作者：Chelsea Wang



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

The U.S. Supreme Court on June 24 upheld a Mississippi law banning abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, eliminating the constitutional right to abortion. This ruling comes 49 years after *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark case that struck down a Texas law banning all abortions except those necessary to save the mother's life.

The Court had ruled in 1973 that criminal statutes that outlaw abortions at all stages of pregnancy violate the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, which prohibits states from "depriv[ing] any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law."

The justices held that the Due Process Clause protects the right to privacy, which includes the right to end a pregnancy. As a result, states were not allowed to freely regulate or prohibit abortions until the threshold of fetal viability, defined as the third trimester of pregnancy.

Two years after the *Roe* decision, a 1975 Gallup poll found that 21 percent of voters believed that abortion should be legal under all circumstances, while 22 percent believed that it should be illegal in any circumstance. 54 percent gave a more ambiguous answer: that it should be legal in some circumstances.

Although the issue has remained contentious ever since, recent polls indicate that the balance, in popular opinion, has tilted in favor of abortion rights. Posing the same question to voters in 2022, Gallup found that 35 percent believed abortion should be legal in all instances, whereas 13 percent believed it should be illegal in all instances; 50 percent, once again the largest proportion, believed that it should be legal under some circumstances.

When voters are asked specifically about *Roe*, fewer people took the middle ground. In May, 35 percent said

Continued on Page 3

美国最高法院于 6 月 24 日在 *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* 案中维持了密西西比州禁止在怀孕 15 周后堕胎的法律，取消了宪法规定的堕胎权。这项裁决是在 *Roe v. Wade* 案 49 年后作出的，这是一个里程碑式的案件，该案推翻了德克萨斯州的一项法律，该法律禁止所有堕胎行为，但为了挽救母亲生命所必需的堕胎除外。

法院在 1973 年裁定，禁止在怀孕的所有阶段进行堕胎的刑事法规违反了第十四修正案的正当程序条款，该条款禁止各州在未经正当的法律程序下“剥夺任何人的生命、自由或财产”。

法官们认为，正当程序条款保护隐私权，其中包括终止妊娠的权利。因此，在胎儿存活阈值（定义为妊娠晚期）之前，各州不得自由调节或禁止堕胎。

Roe 决定两年后，1975 年的盖洛普民意调查发现，21% 的选民认为堕胎在任何情况下都应该是合法的，而 22% 的选民则认为在任何情况下堕胎都应该是非法的。另外 54% 的回答更加模棱两可：在某些

情况下它应该是合法的。

尽管从那以后这个问题一直存在争议，但最近的民意调查表明，在大众看来，这种平衡已经倾向于支持堕胎权。盖洛普在 2022 年向选民提出了同样的问题，发现 35% 的人认为堕胎在任何情况下都应该是合法的，而 13% 的人认为在任何情况下都应该是非法的；50% 的人（再次成为最大比例）认为在某些情况下它应该是合法的。

当询问选民有关 *Roe* 的情况时，更少的人持中立状态。5 月，35% 的人表示应该推翻 *Roe*，而 58% 的

Sampan Interviews Former Government Official About Gun Violence in Haiti

By: Megan Wong

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of SAMPAN interviews with people living in countries with strict gun laws.

Recent devastating mass shootings in the United States have yet again brought the issue of gun violence to the limelight. In 2022 alone, the Gun Violence Archive has counted more than 250 mass shootings in the United States. The director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has even come out to say that gun violence

in America is a "serious public health threat."

So how do the ambiguous policies on gun control in the United States compare to a country that has strict gun laws?

With a population of about 11.68 million people, Haiti is plagued by corruption, natural disasters, years of political instability, and prominent gang violence. The resurgence of gang violence has caused major strife in Haiti

and gun violence has been exceedingly prevalent in a country that has extremely strict gun laws. Haiti also prohibits the possession of firearms publicly and in homes. Therefore, unless people have licenses or are authorized by Haiti Armed Forces, firearms are strictly prohibited.

Why is it that gun violence has become such a major issue in a country that has strict gun laws?

Continued on Page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Minority at Roxbury Film Festival
PAGE 2

The Millionaires' Tax
PAGE 4

Banning Juul E-cigarettes
PAGE 5

Ocean Vuong's Time is a Mother
PAGE 6

MBTA Ruining My Life
PAGE 8

The Fall of Roe V. Wade
PAGE 8

School Shooting
PAGE 9

Immigrant and Minority Representation at the Roxbury Film Festival

By Sonia Cavazos



Authentic and truthful minority representation in media and film is difficult to come by, but the Roxbury Film Festival has promised to do just that. The line up in this year's festival celebrates the diverse untold stories of different minorities, with films that focus on immigration and poverty.

Celebrating its 24th year in action, the Roxbury Film Festival boasts a startling line-up, the kick-off feature being Remember Me: The Mahalia Jackson Story. From influential Gospel singers during the Civil Rights Movement to films that celebrate ancestry, to those that tell the tales of the lives of immigrants, different voices are being heard. The festival began on June 23rd, its Director, Lisa Simmons excited about the progress over the years. "Every year is different, but more local filmmakers are part of the festival and there are more, and untold stories being brought forward."

With subjects like Civil Rights and immigration being topics that are still relevant today, Simmons describes the impact and intention of these films. "They [Filmmakers] are making films now not just necessarily for entertainment purposes but making them because they want to tell a story. Because they feel like it's really important that people understand a certain topic... They are using media and using film to make a difference."

And it isn't just about the films themselves. The Roxbury Film Festival looks out for the filmmakers, seeking diversity not only in color but supporting female filmmakers as well. They celebrate both emerging and established filmmakers, breaking away from the misrepresentation or lack thereof in mainstream media. "That's the beauty of the festival," Simmons continues, "We pride ourselves on being a filmmaker's festival. We celebrate the filmmakers who are celebrating these stories. It's not about being a celebrity because everyone gets equal love and support. They all have equal value in telling an unknown story about bringing a voice to the voiceless, about championing a cause, a situation. You will be impacted and moved because they are created to do just that."

Emotion. Movement. These are the words that describe these films that are meant to stir hearts and inspire action. Anike Tourse, writer and director of America's Family, also showcased

in the festival, explained the impact of film. "it's a way for people to connect with the characters emotionally. There is a profound connection that can happen with documentary as well. You're not really thinking about what your political beliefs are. You are really just relating to character and to the storytelling." Already winning the Grand Jury and Audience Awards at the Dances with Films Festival, America's Family follows the Diaz family in a time of severe struggle and separation. After two ICE officers get into the home, the mother, Marisol, played by Tourse, is arrested and detained, the son, Koke, is deported to Mexico, with little knowledge and little command over the Spanish language, and the father, Jorge, seeks refuge in a synagogue for protective sanctuary. Meanwhile, the two American born children left behind are young attorney, Emiliano, and his sister Valentina, who struggles with epilepsy. While in the states, they fight to reunite their family in different ways while the rest fight to get home.

An emotional story that exposes very real fears that immigrants face, Director Simmons comments on its importance. "I think it's great and I think it's an important story. We forget that undocumented people live in fear everyday around the world and in this country. Your life is forever changed in a moment. You know for family's like that you're constantly contributing to a society, you're paying taxes more than likely and yet you're still living in fear every day that all it takes is one shift of political action, a shift in people who are now running the country or running a particular state, of sending you back to somewhere you know nothing about because you have never been there. I think it's an important story because it raises that issue and gives that sense of urgency..."

That sense of urgency is deepened with the separation of a family. Immigrants make up a large portion of the U.S. and Tourse's description of this depicts a different type of American family, but an American family nonetheless. The Pew Research center recorded that immigrants account for 13.7% of the U.S. population today. "If you're born in Mexico but come the United States when you're a little baby and then you get deported back to Mexico and you don't have any of your paperwork, you're going to have to prove that you're a Mexican national in order to get work." Tourse comments. "If you

can't then you're going to be undocumented in two places, which makes it very difficult to work for any reasonable amount of money you could."

Immigrants have little to no rights when it comes to deportation or having a voice in the matter. Most cannot even vote to stop deportation. Tourse explained that they offer ways to their audience to change this. She encourages them to talk to representatives and senators, join movements and marches that inspire real change. Though the reason she does this through film ties back into emotion.

"People just don't make a decision to make change because it is a logical thing to do." She explains. "If it was, we would all just be these phenomenal people that did the right thing all the time. In my experience, people make change because it's an emotional experience." The festival included more on immigrants and their struggles, Hostile covering European immigration. As much as immigration is underrepresented, so are Asian immigrants and their poverty level in the United States. Misrepresentation and underrepresentation affects them as well as skewed or incomplete statistics. In reality, New York sees one in four Asians in poverty, 50 percent have limited English and, in general, 70 percent are immigrants. Boston alone sees a poverty rate of 26.6 percent. They account for one of the largest populations of immigrants aside from Hispanics and a few others. It is the hope of people like Lisa Simmons and Anike Tourse that festivals and films can not only bring representation, but spark change and action through emotional connection.

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AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING LOTTERY

1- and 2-Bedroom Apartments

Cardinal Place

10 Rebecca Ann Lane, Falmouth

Applications are now available for three affordable duplex rental homes in this new ten-unit development.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES, RENTS AND APPLICATION PROCESS

To be included in the lottery, applicants must be income-eligible and must submit a complete, signed application with all required documentation prior to the application deadline. Maximum Income includes gross annual income from all sources for all adult (18 years or older) members of the household. **Rents listed include water, sewer and trash collection fees but do not include utilities.**

Maximum Income (80% AMI)	
Household Size	Maximum Income
1	\$60,900
2	\$69,600
3	\$78,300
4	\$86,950

UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

1 Bedroom 1 Bath 780 Sq. Feet - \$1,468
2 Bedroom 2 Bath 780 Sq. Feet - \$1,746

Units are single-level duplex homes including range, refrigerator, microwave, washer-dryer hookups, granite counters, ceramic tile floors, and on-site parking
No pets. Non-smoking units.

Information Session:

July 7, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.

Lottery Drawing:

August 22, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.

Email paulastuart@charter.net
for ZOOM links



Applications available at Falmouth Town Hall and Falmouth Public Libraries (if open) and may be requested by phone or email from

Paula Stuart - 617-388-1331 paulastuart@charter.net

APPLICATION DEADLINE: August 8, 2022, at 5:00 P.M.

Developed by RLBE, LLC

Translation Assistance available at no cost upon request – Call 617-388-1331
Asistencia de traducción disponible sin costo a pedido - Llame al 617-388-1331
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Other reasonable accommodations are available upon request
Otras adaptaciones razonables están disponibles bajo petición
Outras acomodações razoáveis estão disponíveis mediante solicitação



Mayor Michelle Wu invited Bostonians last Thursday to her inaugural celebration on City Hall Plaza. Wu affirmed her campaign message that, “This is what Boston looks like,” as she gestured to the crowd. “I just want to pledge once again that the very same values and ideas and commitment to lifting up the voices in our neighborhoods continue to drive our work every day.”

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Continued from Page 1

that Roe should be overturned, and 58 percent said it should be upheld.

However, the Court is not obligated to consider popular will. By a 6-3 vote, the justices voted to overturn Roe. Justice Samuel Alito, joined by Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett, wrote the majority opinion. Justice John Roberts concurred in judgment but did not join the majority in the opinion. Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan dissent.

The majority opinion held that the Constitution does not guarantee a right to abortion because it is “not deeply rooted in the Nation’s history and tradition.” It differentiates abortion rights from similar rights by highlighting the question of “potential life,” which the precedent for Roe does not implicate. Despite the Court’s practice of deferring to precedent, the justices deemed Roe “egregiously wrong” and “on a collision course with the Constitution.” In making abortion a constitutional right, Roe “short-circuited the democratic process,” as many Americans

disagreed with the decision at the time.

On the other hand, the dissenting justices emphasized the “liberty and equality of women,” who, under Roe, were guaranteed the right to choose whether to bear a child. They also drew attention to the relationship between Roe and other rights established by similar precedent, such as the rights to use of contraceptives and to same-sex marriage. Roe balanced the state’s legitimate interest in protecting fetal life with women’s right to choose by allowing regulations of abortions after the threshold of viability. The dissent claimed that there have been no recent changes that justify overturning precedent.

Pro-choice advocates are disappointed but not surprised, as a draft of the opinion had been leaked in May. Taylor St. Germain, the communications director of Reproductive Equity Now, told the Sampan, “This was an unconscionable ruling by the Supreme Court ... the Court gave the green light to anti-abortion state legislatures across the country to strip people of their bodily autonomy.”

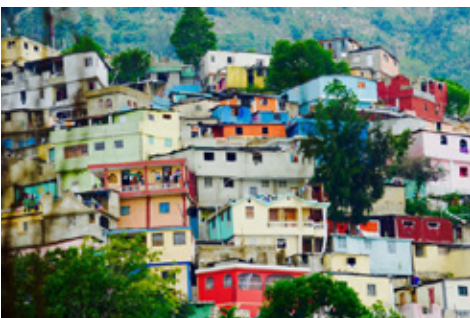
On the other hand, pro-life advocates are celebrating. Erin Hawley, senior counsel to Alliance Defending Freedom, said, “The Supreme Court has corrected a historically bad mistake in its precedent. Today’s decision is a win for life and for the Constitution. There is not, and has never been, a constitutional right to take the life of an innocent, unborn child.”

Both sides, however, acknowledge that the struggle is far from over. Pro-life groups like the National Right to Life Committee propose to prohibit the prescription and distribution of abortion pills, whereas pro-choice groups like Massachusetts Beyond Roe recommend mandating insurance coverage for abortion and comprehensive sexual health education.

St. Germain, however, contended: “This is not the end for the anti-abortion movement. They do not want to ban abortion in 26 states. They want to ban abortion in all 50 states ... We cannot let up this fight. We need everyone off the sidelines.”

Sampan Interviews Former Government Official About Gun Violence in Haiti

Continued from Page 1



Port-au-Prince, Haiti Photo courtesy of Unsplash

This past March, hundreds of Haitian migrants have fled to the Florida Keys by boat to escape “the armed terror back in Haiti driven by a federation of violent gangs that now control much of Haiti and its capital, Port-au-Prince,” according to WRLN public radio. Federation leaders of these violent gangs can be seen in videos waving military-style weapons and semi-automatic rifles. As these guns cannot be legally purchased in Haiti, how is this the case? The answer is that half a million of firearms in Haiti are illegally smuggled from the United States. Most of these illegal weapons are high power guns. As of 2020, the United Nations reported that there are about 270,000 illicit firearms in Haiti, while the National Commission for Disarmament, Dismantling, and Reintegration reported about 500,000. The number of registered firearms, reported in 2017, is only about 20,379.

Overall, in 2021 there was a 62% increase in violence compared to the

previous year in Haiti. The surge in violence has caused citizens to feel unsafe in Haiti, according to UNICEF.

To dig deeper into how guns and gun violence are viewed in Haiti, we interviewed François. He is a Haitian native currently living in Boston who previously worked for his nation’s government.

In Haiti, any citizen who is 18 or older is permitted to get a gun license. However, it takes a long time to get the license. If you want to purchase a gun, you have to write a letter to the national police. Then there is this investigative period, in which background checks are done to see if the individual has a mental illness and has a clean record. They also have to see whether the gun is legal to possess. There are two different types of licenses you have to carry. One permits you to possess the gun at home and the other allows you to carry it outside. In Haiti, the gun laws are more restrictive than in the US. Haitians living in the US, usually buy the guns for the gangsters and then they send them through customs. Over there, the customs service doesn't do a good job. That's how guns get into Haiti easily — via the US.

Everyday people are being kidnapped in Haiti and the crime rate is extremely high. It has been very difficult for the population. There is a

strong anti-gang sentiment amongst everyday citizens. Because the process to obtain a gun takes so long, there is a very low rate of people with registered firearms. However, most common people in Haiti now want a gun to protect themselves from gang violence, as it has become a major issue. The current prime minister in Haiti is not very popular right now as he hasn't made a stance on guns — most politicians don't, anyways. Usually, businessmen and entrepreneurs are the ones that are targeted by gangs because they are after their money. On the other hand, for everyday common people, there really isn't a culture of guns in the house.

For me personally, my family doesn't believe in having guns in the

house and I don't either. I don't own a firearm because I feel that when people own guns, they become arrogant and they don't use their negotiating skills. There are better solutions in solving conflicts between people. I think that everyday people owning guns will not reduce gang violence. If anything, my solution to gang violence in Haiti is to reform the judicial system, as the judges are extremely corrupt, and to strengthen the police by equipping them. Everyday people in Haiti should not own guns.

This interview was edited for clarity and brevity.

Economic Development and Industrial Corporation of Boston (“EDIC”) d/b/a Boston Planning & Development Agency (“BPDA”)

INVITATION FOR BID

“Snow Plowing & Removal in the Raymond L. Flynn Marine Park (“RLFMP”)

Contact Information: Laura Melle; 617-918-6252 ; BPDARestate@boston.gov
The Economic Development and Industrial Corporation of Boston (“EDIC”) d/b/a Boston Planning & Development Agency (“BPDA”), by its Chief Procurement Officer is pleased to issue this Invitation for Bids entitled “Snow Plowing & Removal in the Raymond L. Flynn Marine Park (“RLFMP”)” (the “IFB”). The IFB is issued in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30B, as may be amended, and will include building construction and public works construction. The IFB package, including requirements, will be available to download on the BPDA Procurement Portal [free-of-charge](https://www.bostonplans.org/work-with-us/procurement) in **digital print** form to all interested respondents on **June 27, 2022 at 9:00 A.M.** at www.bostonplans.org/work-with-us/procurement. Plan holders shall open and register the information requested for the “Snow Plowing & Removal in the Raymond L. Flynn Marine Park (“RLFMP”).” and then follow the prompt to start file download under the “Work with Us” tab. If unable to access the RFP package through the BPDA Procurement Portal, contact Laura Melle via BPDARealEstate@boston.gov in order to make alternative arrangements. All responses to **this IFB must be returned no later than 12:00 noon on July 27 2022**, to: Teresa Polhemus, Clerk, Boston Planning & Development Agency, c/o Real Estate Administration, One City Hall Square, Boston MA 02210. Michelle Goldberg, Chief Procurement Officer/Director of Finance

The Millionaires' Tax: How Will It Affect the General Public?

By: Max Wei



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

The highest court in Massachusetts on June 22 cleared the millionaires' tax question. The next step will be made by the Massachusetts voters on the November ballot.

The official title for the "millionaires' tax" is the "Fair Share Amendment," which requires that for the domestic income over \$1 million per year, the taxpayers will be adding a 4% tax.

How will it help the rest of the public, in this case, the non-millionaires like us? According to the proposed amendment:

"To provide the resources for quality public education and affordable public colleges and universities,

and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges and public transportation, all revenues received in accordance with this paragraph shall be expended, subject to appropriation, only for these purposes."

In both cases, the proper investments in education and public transportation will benefit the general public in multiple dimensions. According to Raise Up Massachusetts, one of the promoters of the Fair Share Amendment, while the public colleges and students are in budget, the transportation infrastructures are lacking maintenance. Nevertheless, the racial groups are hurting more than the majority groups:

"For years, Massachusetts' communities of color have been harmed by inequitable and inadequate access to transportation and public education. Now, the pandemic has heightened these economic and racial inequities that prevent broadly shared prosperity."

Making post-secondary education more affordable will help improve the life quality among the new generation. The public transportation can create more working opportunity in Massachusetts, as well as increasing equal access to work.

How is the introduction of the 'Millionaire tax' relevant to population with limited English speaking and economically disadvantaged groups in

Massachusetts. Most non-profit agencies work with clients and students of diverse racial populations. These people will be benefiting more by the tax in a better maintained state.

At the same time, the newly introduced amendment is also facing criticisms by the public.

"Once the funding is appropriated, the Legislature is free to do whatever it wishes. This amendment allows lawmakers to play a shell game and by moving money around, the Legislature could spend the new tax revenues on whatever it wants," says Paul Diego Craney, a spokesman for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance.

After the comparison to the other states, Daniel Ryan, a tax partner at Sullivan & Worcester reflects his comments to the amendment:

"Should the amendment pass, there is no guarantee that state expenditures for education and transportation will increase. The education and transportation expenditures could remain the same, and the Legislature could use funds formerly allocated to those areas to fund entirely unrelated areas. This was the experience in California following the passage of a similar ballot initiative."

There is also criticism that the raise of the tax for the higher-income groups will result in tax avoidance and leaving, which damages the economy. Yet

the Center for State Policy Analysis at Tufts University offers a different view through their newly introduced study regarding the tax code change.

According to Tufts University's study, once the 'Millionaire tax' is passed, it would be collecting approximately 21,000 state taxpayers, which means less than 1% of all households in Massachusetts. They comprised 22% of the total taxable income in the state.

In answering the concern of tax avoidance and leaving, the study concludes: "Some high-income residents may relocate to other states, but the number of movers is likely to be small." The evidence is drawn by the other research in California and Spanish regions. The estimated number of leavings is 500 households, which equals to \$100 million in tax revenue, "Even accounting for that, it still seems like an approach that will raise substantial revenue and in a way that advocates say it will from higher earners in a progressive way," said Evan Horowitz, executive director of the Center for State Policy Analysis in Tufts University.

If you want to participate in the process of establishing this amendment, please follow the news, pay attention to the decision on the expenses of the tax, and vote to help enact legislation.

Affordable Housing Lottery One University Drive South One University Drive, Amherst, MA

Three Studios @ \$1,036, Two 1BR @ \$1,165

*Rents subject to change in 2023. Rents do not include the cost of electric heat, cooking, hot water, and electricity. Water and sewer expenses are included. There is parking on-site.

One University Drive South is a brand-new, 45 unit rental apartment community located in Amherst on One University Drive South in Amherst. There will be 5 affordable apartments ready for occupancy starting in the Summer of 2022. All affordable apartments will be rented to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income through this application process. Apartments feature stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, mini splits, large windows and light filtering window coverings. The complex also features a state of the art central laundry room with an app to let you know when your laundry is done. One University Drive South is a completely new, thoughtfully designed apartment community created for comfortable living and providing easy access to shops and downtown Amherst. The complex is located less than a block away from the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) bus stop. The building consists of three floors and has an elevator.

MAXIMUM Household Income Limits: \$52,750 (1 person), \$60,250 (2 people)

A Public Info Session will be held on July 13, 2022 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Go to Zoom.com – Join – and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595, Passcode: 088159 or join by conference call (425) 436-6200, Code: 862627

Completed Applications and Required Income Documentation must be delivered, or postmarked, by 2 pm on August 12, 2022. Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received no later than 5 business days from the deadline.

The Lottery for eligible households will be held on August 22, 2022 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Go to Zoom.com – Join – and enter Meeting ID: 857 2736 5609, Passcode: 276410 or join by conference call (425) 436-6200, Code: 862627

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call (617) 782-6900x1 and leave a message or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494. For TTY Services dial 711. Free translation available. Traducción gratuita disponible.



SCAN HERE



Affordable Housing Lottery Radio Factory Lofts 99 Washington Street, Melrose, MA

Two Studios @ \$1,701, Ten 1BR @ \$1,895, Seven 2BR @ \$2,067

*Rents subject to change in 2023. Rents do not include the cost of utilities. One parking space is available for residents and is included in the rent.

Radio Factory Lofts is a brand-new development located at 99 Washington Street in Melrose. This community is an adaptive reuse of a notable mill building and will contain 141 apartment homes in a combination of Studio, 1BR, and 2BR layouts. There will be 19 affordable apartments within Radio Factory Lofts that will be rented to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income through this application process. The building features high ceilings, authentic mill details, and an array of amenities including an expansive fitness center, work from home spaces, as well as game, movie, conference, and podcast rooms. Outdoor amenities include a grilling/dining deck, fire pit, dog wash, and dog park. The property also features electric vehicle parking, bike sharing, bike storage, and is a fossil fuel free building. Its location is transit-friendly, situated less than 1/2 mile from the Oak Grove MBTA stop (Orange line) and under a mile from the Wyoming Hill commuter rail stop (Haverhill line). Units are expected to be ready in the Summer of 2022.

Maximum Household Income Limits:

\$78,300 (1 person), \$89,500 (2 people), \$100,700 (3 people) \$111,850 (4 people)

A Public Info Session will be held on July 18, 2022 at 6:00pm via Zoom. Go to Zoom.com – Join – and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595, Passcode: 088159 or join by conference call (425) 436-6200, Code: 862627

Completed Applications must be delivered, or postmarked, by 2 pm on August 16, 2022. Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received no later than 5 business days from the deadline.

The Lottery for eligible households will be held on August 24, 2022 at 6:00pm via Zoom. Go to Zoom.com – Join – and enter Meeting ID: 857 2736 5609, Passcode: 276410 or join by conference call (425) 436-6200, Code: 862627

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call (617) 782-6900x1 and leave a message or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494. For TTY Services dial 711. Free translation available. Traducción gratuita disponible.



SCAN HERE

Banning Juul e-cigarettes: Government Intervenes to Protect Youth

By: Monisha Yadav

"This really doesn't make sense to me," says Jenny (name changed by request), a rising senior at a Boston exam high school. "There are so many cannabis shops now all over the place. I'm too young for that, but I don't want it. I don't want pot or tobacco like my friends. Juul is convenient, affordable, and a better alternative to what my friends are doing. Why is it now being banned?"

Jenny, who asked her name to be withheld because she is under the age for vaping, says she is not an outlier when it comes to teens who vape. "I understand it's not the healthiest thing for me to do," she continued. "It just calms me down. I have a hard time concentrating and I like to vape while studying. I don't do it in front of people who don't like it." When asked why she started vaping, Jenny said that cigarettes are just too expensive. She also hates how they discolor her teeth and affect her fingers. And the smell won't come out of her hair or clothes.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) banned Juul e-cigarettes on June 22, 2022, saying that all of its products should be removed from shelves.

"Today's action is further progress on the FDA's commitment to ensuring that all e-cigarette and electronic nicotine delivery system products currently being marketed to consumers meet our public health standards," FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf said in the press release.

"The agency has dedicated significant resources to review products from the companies that account for most of the U.S. market," he added. "We recog-

nize these make up a significant part of the available products and many have played a disproportionate role in the rise in youth vaping."

How will this affect the current vapers if all Juul products are pulled from shelves? Many are asking who this ban will really benefit. The tobacco control community is split between fierce opponents and passionate advocates of the usage of electronic cigarettes with nicotine. Opponents note that vaping can become young people addicted to nicotine and may cause some of them to develop a dependence on cigarettes. They highlight evidence that suggests nicotine use among adolescents could impair their developing brains. Some people believe vaping poses significant health hazards, while others wonder if it helps people quit smoking. Meanwhile, supporters argue that vaping helps smokers stop and hold the view that it is far less harmful to users' health than smoking. They note that smoking has rapidly decreased among young people amid the rise of e-cigarettes.

Juul started selling their products in 2015, and by 2017, it had become the most popular e-cigarette brand, garnering lots of media attention and criticism. In response to the FDA's concern with their marketing toward young teenagers, they changed their marketing campaigns, removed non-tobacco and menthol flavors, and left social media. Congress also raised the legal age to purchase tobacco/vaping products to 21, which Juul supported.

And yet the FDA has ordered all Juul e-cigarette products off the mar-

ket, which is partially related to the surge in teen vaping. However, the rates of teen vaping are actually declining—down from 27.5% of high school students in 2019 to only 11.3% in 2021. In a company statement in response to the FDA's ban, it argued that the FDA issued the ban after "immense political pressure from Congress once it became politically convenient to blame [Juul] for youth vaping, even though several of its competitors now have a larger market share and much higher under-age-use rates."

Many ex-smokers are also coming forward to support Juul, saying that it helped them to quit smoking. It's been proven that e-cigarettes are more effective than traditional, FDA-approved nicotine-replacement therapies at getting smokers to quit entirely. In its 125,000-page application to the FDA, Juul reminded the agency of more than 110 studies showing the benefits of e-cigarettes over traditional nicotine consumption. Also being one of the most appealing alternatives, Juul has played a part in helping many smokers make the switch to e-cigarettes.

Many believe that banning Juul will not only do little to help nicotine addictions nationwide but also harm ex-smokers who will turn back to cigarettes.

"I switched to Juul for harm reduction," ex-smoker Kelly Maxwell said in an interview with The New York Post of saying goodbye to her beloved Natural American Spirit pack. "I have an addictive personality and I don't do well with cold turkey quitting." In fact, less than 5% of smokers who try to quit abruptly are successful. The sense

of shame that results is "literally the kiss of death for any kind of behavior change."

The company's founders themselves worked to design an e-cigarette that could replace traditional cigarettes, designed to help smokers turn away from deadly burned cigarettes. Experts agree that although they would not recommend people without an existing nicotine addiction to start vaping, Juul's products work well for smokers looking to quit, with many saying that the lower costs and high levels of nicotine helped them to make the switch from cigarettes and even to choose Juul over competing e-cigarette brands.

Fortunately for the company and for the people who rely on it, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit granted Juul's request to delay the ban. However, the fate of Juul and its products is still uncertain, and they will have to wait until a future hearing for it to be confirmed.

In the meantime, Jenny from Boston exam high school has this to say about where she's going now that Juul products will be out of reach:

"Look, I run track and I play flute and I used to smoke a pack of cigarettes a week. I did that for two years and it was doing major damage. I switched to using Juul products for the past year and at least it made me feel good. It wasn't going to be forever. I was going to leave it but I wanted to leave on my own terms. Maybe I'll try meditating or mountain hiking, but I doubt it. I'm an addict and they just took away the one option I knew would curb that addiction."

Affordable Housing Lottery

Loop 83 Methuen, MA

1BRs @ \$1,456, 2BRs @ \$1,725*, 3BRs @ \$1,971*

*Rents subject to change. Tenants will be responsible for paying their gas Heat, gas Water Heating, Electricity (cooking is electric), and water. Sewer and one parking space are included in the rent.

Loop 83 is a brand new, four story, 156-unit apartment community, and will be the newest residential apartment community in Methuen, MA. The site is conveniently located near the largest shopping center in the region, with easy access to major retailers as well as several major highways. Amenities include an outdoor pool, several courtyards, a playground, along with a large indoor amenity space with spaces to work, play games, a community kitchen and fitness center. Have a pet? Give them a bath in the community Pet Wash! 39 affordable units will be made available through this process to households earning no more than 80% of the Area Median Income. The affordable apartments will be available in a number of bedroom sizes, are located throughout the complex, and provide finishes identical to the market rate units.

MAXIMUM Household Income Limits:
\$62,600 (1 person), \$71,550 (2 people), \$80,500 (3 people)
\$89,400 (4 people), \$96,600 (5 people), \$103,750 (6 people)

Completed Applications and Required Income Documentation must be received, not postmarked, by 2 pm on August 1, 2022.

A Public Info Session will be held on June 30, 2022 via Zoom. Go to Zoom.com – Join – and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595, Passcode: 088159 or via conference call: (425) 436-6200, Access Code: 862627.

The lottery will be on August 15, 2022 via Zoom. Go to Zoom.com – Join – and enter Meeting ID: 857 2736 5609, Passcode: 276410 or via conference call: (425) 436-6200, Access Code: 862627.

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call (617) 782-6900 (x1) and leave a message or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494. For TTY Services dial 711. Free translation available. Applications may be submitted by email, fax, mail, or by dropping them at SEB Housing's office in Needham. See Application for details.



The Village at Sawmill Woods Plymouth, MA Affordable Housing Opportunity

One 3BR Duplex Home for \$325,100 w/ (\$100/month HOA fees)

This is an opportunity for the next one (1) affordable home being built at the Village at Sawmill Woods. This home will be sold at an affordable price to a household with an income at or below 80% of the area median income.

Village at Sawmill Woods is a unique residential development that will eventually consist of 200 duplex-style homes, sixty of which will be affordable. The project is situated off the desirable Shallow Pond Estates Subdivision in the Manomet Section of Plymouth MA. Located on 58.39 wooded acres of land, only approximately 30 acres will be used and the rest will remain open space. The project borders 3,000 Acres of Conservation and Town-owned property to the West and cranberry bogs to the South. The affordable home will have a full basement, and energy efficient appliances and heating system. The Village is served by Town Water and has a private state of the sewerage treatment facility. Condo Fees are \$100 per month, which includes sewer, common area landscaping, and snow removal.

The Maximum Household Asset Limit is \$75,000.

Completed Applications and Mortgage Pre-Approvals must be delivered by 2 pm on August 23, 2022.

A Public Info Session will be held on July 28, 2022 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Go to Zoom.com, Join, and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595, Passcode: 088159

The lottery will be on September 7, 2022 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Go to Zoom.com, Join, and enter Meeting ID: 857 2736 5609, Passcode: 276410

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call (617) 782-6900 (x2) and leave a message, or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494.

Free translation available. Traducción gratuita disponible. Tradução gratuita disponível.



SCAN HERE

Ocean Vuong's Time is a Mother: Death, Renewal, and Hope

By Sandy Battulga

At only 33 years old, Ocean Vuong has been making unprecedented waves in the literary world. He has received numerous accolades for his writing, a few of which include the 2017 T.S. Eliot Prize for his first poetry collection entitled *Night Sky With Exit Wounds*, a 2019 MacArthur "Genius" Grant, and the Carnegie Medal in Fiction for his debut novel *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*. *Time is a Mother* is the newest poetry collection to come from the Vietnamese-American author, and it is a profound exploration of how one renavigates life after the death of a parent. Much of Vuong's work revolves around the relationship he had with his mother, but what makes his voice in this collection ever more poignant is that it was written in the wake of his mother's death. Vuong's mother passed away from breast cancer in 2019, the same year that *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* was published. In a year that was on track to be his most successful yet, Vuong also experienced the greatest loss of his life. *Time is a Mother* is the project that he turned to in order to make sense of his new reality. In a segment filmed for PBS NewsHour, Vuong states how life after the passing of a loved one becomes "contracted into two days": "today, when they are no longer here, and yesterday, the immense, vast yesterday, when they were here."

"Amazon History of a Former Nail Salon Worker" is one of the most powerful poems of the collection in its examination of time and the inevitability of death. Over a span of five pages, it details all the Amazon purchases made on Vuong's mother's account, month by month. The purchase log begins as one would expect for a nail salon worker:

"Mar.
Advil (ibuprofen), 4 pack/Sally Hansen Pink Nail Polish, 6 pack/ Clorox Bleach, industrial size/Diane hair pins, 4 pack/Seafoam handheld mirror
"I Love New York" T-shirt, white, small."

Over time, however, the reader begins to see evidence of Vuong's mother's sickness:

"Apr.
Chemo-Glam cotton scarf, flower garden print
'Warrior Mom' Breast Cancer awareness T-shirt, pink and white."

The purchases of the last two documented months read:

"Oct.
YourStory Customized Memorial Plaque, 10 x 8 x 4 in/Winter coat, navy blue, x-small"

and

"Nov.
Wool socks, grey, 1 pair."

The information provided is simultaneously lacking in detail as well as

overwhelmingly clear in its communication of impending loss.

This kind of subtle yet powerful storytelling is exactly what Vuong excels at. His poems are best presented when coming out of his own mouth, in his own voice for this reason. In a video published by *The Wall Street Journal Magazine*, Vuong reads his poem "The Bull," which is the introduction to *Time is a Mother*. His voice is gentle and it tremors a bit, reflecting the delicate yet commanding nature of his writing. The reader is compelled to lean in close and hold their breath as they take in Vuong's words so as not to miss a single syllable. His masterful use of figurative language is enhanced by being read out loud, such as with the lines

"He stood alone in the backyard, so dark
the night purpled around him."

His literary voice is just as elegant and unique as his actual one, enveloping the reader/listener into the enchanting atmosphere that only his words are capable of creating.

Vuong's mastery of subtlety also lends itself to his artful articulation of nuance in this collection. Specifically, Vuong probes at the coexistence of seemingly opposite emotions and occurrences, creating a central theme of the inescapable dualities of life. *Time is a Mother* is unquestionably a voyage through grief and loss, yet the emotions of joy and hope are threads that run equally as strongly throughout the collection. In the poem "Beautiful Short Loser," Vuong writes, "Stand back. I'm a loser on a winning streak." It's an oxymoron, for someone to be a loser on a winning streak, but this poem is compelling for that exact reason — are there really any black or white facts of life? The final lines of this poem highlight even more opposites:

"Because taking a piece of my friend away from him made him more whole.

Because where I'm from the trees look like family laughing in my head.

Because I am the last of my kind at the beginning of hope.

Because what I did with my one short beautiful life—

was lose it
on a winning streak."

Vuong dissects emotions and experiences that should be opposites, but rather than highlighting how they conflict, he highlights how they actually lie side-by-side; life and death, beginnings and endings, wins and losses. He uses language to sift through the complexities of life, providing the reader with a new vocabulary in which to reflect upon their own life, oxymorons and all.

Time is a Mother serves as physical evidence of Vuong attempting to move forward from pain rather than drown in it. In the same PBS NewsHour segment mentioned earlier, he also states how refugees and people who are raised by survivors are the ones who "keep wonder and awe closest to their chests." Even though the death of his

mother has brought him previously unimaginable grief, he makes sure to hold on to the joy he has learned from her as well. In "Not Even," (the poem that holds the line "Time is a mother," which also serves as the collection's title) Vuong accentuates the eternal connection he has with his mother, his acceptance of joy even after the death of a loved one, and the inherent duality

of life by writing:

"I caved and decided it will be joy from now on. Then everything opened. The lights blazed around me into a white weather
and I was lifted, wet and bloody, out of my mother, into the world, screaming and enough."

Affordable Housing Lottery

163 Atlantic Road
Gloucester, MA

www.sebhousing.com

\$301,400 for a 3BR townhome (condo fees are \$365/month)

The townhome is expected to be ready for purchase in the Fall of 2022.

This is a lottery for one affordable 3BR townhome at 163 Atlantic Road, a new subdivision of 11 homes located steps from the ocean and just minutes from Good Harbor Beach and downtown Gloucester. The affordably priced home contains 2,555 square feet and 5 bathrooms (3 full, 2 half). The townhome is a three-story residence which includes a deck with ocean views, a patio overlooking conservation land, an electric fireplace, and a single car attached garage. The interior features laundry hook-up, two-zone gas heating system with air conditioning, and tankless water heater. The kitchen has stainless steel appliances and designer countertops. The exterior of the home is cedar shingle with clapboard and the yard is professionally landscaped. The homeowner is responsible for taxes, insurance, and all home utilities and maintenance. A fee of \$365/month covers common area insurance, maintenance, landscaping, and snow removal.

The one (1) affordable home will be sold at an affordable price to households with incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income.

Maximum Household Income Limits:

\$78,300 (1 person), \$89,500 (2 people), \$100,700 (3 people),
\$111,850 (4 people), \$120,800 (5 people), \$129,750 (6 people)

The Maximum Household Asset Limit is \$75,000.

Completed Applications and Mortgage Pre-Approvals must be received, or postmarked, by 2:00pm on August 29, 2022. Applications and Pre-Approvals postmarked by the deadline must be received no later than 5 business days from the deadline.

A Public Info Session will be held August 1, 2022 at 6:00pm via Zoom. To join, go to Zoom.com, Join, and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595, Passcode: 088159 or join by conference call (425) 436-6200, Code: 862627

The Lottery will be held on September 12, 2022 at 6:00pm via Zoom. Go to Zoom.com, Join, and enter Meeting ID: 857 2736 5609, Passcode: 276410 or join by conference call (425) 436-6200, Code: 862627

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call (617) 782-6900 (x2) and leave a message, or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494. Free translation available. Traducción gratuita disponible



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Affordable Housing Lottery

The Sanctuary at Herring Brook

126 Chief Justice Cushing Memorial Drive, Scituate

1BRs @ \$1,968, 2BRs @ \$2,337, 3BRs @ \$2,671

Utilities are not included. Tenants will be responsible for paying their gas Heat, gas Water Heating, Electricity (cooking is electric), water and sewer.

The Sanctuary is a 60 unit luxury apartment community located within 16 acres of conservation land, at 126 Chief Justice Cushing Memorial Drive, Scituate. The Sanctuary features high-end finishes, modern conveniences, and exceptional views all within a uniquely bucolic setting. Units have 9 foot ceilings as well as enormous windows, open floor plans, kitchen islands, high end counter tops, shaker-styles cabinetry, resilient style wood flooring, glass showers, wash/dryer, stainless steel appliances, and many other refined finishes. This community also provides amenities such as a great room, an outdoor patio with gas fireplaces and grills overlooking the water, a fitness center, and much more. 15 affordable units will be made available through this process to households making up to 80% of the Area Median Income based on household size. Pets are allowed.

MAXIMUM Household Income Limits:

\$78,300 (1 person), \$89,500 (2 people), \$100,700 (3 people),
\$111,850 (4 people), \$120,800 (5 people) \$129,750 (6 people)

Completed Applications and Required Income Documentation must be received, not postmarked, by 2 pm on July 25, 2022. Applications can be mailed, faxed, scanned, or dropped off to SEB Housing. Please see the Application for further details.

A Public Info Session will be held on June 23, 2022 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Go to Zoom.com – Join – and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595, Passcode: 088159 or via conference call: (425) 436-6200, Access Code: 862627.

The Lottery will be held on August 8, 2022 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Go to Zoom.com – Join – and enter Meeting ID: 857 2736 5609, Passcode: 276410 via conference call: (425) 436-6200. Access Code: 862627

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call (617) 782-6900 (x1) and leave a message or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494. For TTY Services dial 711. Free translation available. Traducción gratuita disponible.



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UNFORGETTABLE
MOMENTS,
LAUGHTER,
DISCOVERY,
& JOY.



Kira Troilo in *The Last Five Years*;
photo by Mark S. Howard

2022/23 SEASON

FABULATION

OR, THE RE-EDUCATION OF UNDINE

by Lynn Nottage

THE PLAY THAT
GOES WRONG

by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer & Henry Shields

PRELUDES

by Dave Malloy

THE GREAT LEAP

by Lauren Yee

SISTER ACT

Music by Alan Menken, Lyrics by Glenn Slater

Book by Bill & Cheri Steinkellner with
additional material by Douglas Carter Beane

ROOTED

by Deborah Zoe Laufer

THE
LYRIC STAGE
YOUR THEATRICAL HOME

Opinion: The MBTA is Ruining My Summer, My life, Everything

By Jeffrey Millman

I can still remember the night the MBTA died. It was February of 2015, during one of the worst snowstorms Boston had seen in years. I boarded a Commuter Rail train at South Station at 6:15 PM hoping to beat the storm. I was too late. Just a few minutes after we left, the train stopped. The snow was walloping us from all directions, dropping in heaps from the sky. Then the lights went out. Sitting in the dark, trying to see anything from the window, I figured I was in for a long commute. But what could you do? Extreme weather happens. When the snow melted, everything would go back to normal.

That was the month then-GM of the MBTA Beverly Scott resigned. It was a shock for everyone. Scott had just won a vote of confidence from the MBTA board and had been working with Governor Charlie Baker on improving service during the snowstorms. Her resignation was a sign: there would be no light at the end of the train tunnel. Days after the announcement, Scott warned riders that the trains would not recover from the winter storms for at least a month. The warning was optimistic. In my mind, the MBTA, in particular the Commuter Rail, has never really recovered. It died for me that night in February, but its ghost still shuffles along the train tracks one power outage or switch problem at a time.

For the rest of that winter, weary

riders sat on aged, beaten-down trains that struggled to get from station to station. The MBTA drastically reduced schedules so that crews could work on repairs, but it wasn't enough. At one point they were forced to shut down the entire system, from buses to the T to the commuter rail – twice. Commuting into Boston required building an extra hour or two into your schedule. If you had a meeting at 9 AM, you had to leave at 6 – or earlier, if there were any trains running.

Not all of this could be blamed on the weather. It was simply a breaking point, a months-long event that exposed a decade of unaddressed problems. 40-year-old trains were operating with half-century-old engines. Damaged switches and third rails were freezing and breaking even more. The MBTA had been filling up a multibillion-dollar backlog of necessary repairs for years, but its massive amounts of debt made paying for them difficult. The government knew about all of this. A 2009 analysis of the MBTA under Governor Deval Patrick revealed a large number of safety issues with the T, but concluded that most of the repair projects didn't have the funding.

Five years after the Great Winter of 2015, the MBTA had to weather yet another storm: a global pandemic that saw ridership and employment plummet. Forced to cut and suspend services, their debt increased even more. But

now that the pandemic fades into a bad memory the MBTA is still dealing with the same problems it was a decade ago. Safety issues, damaged equipment and tracks, and ancient train cars whose insides look like German airplanes from the 70s are all part of the contemporary commuter's experience with the MBTA.

In just the last year, two Green Line trains collided with each other, leaving over 20 people hurt. An escalator at Back Bay malfunctioned and injured at least 9 people. A man was dragged to his death after his arm was caught in a door on a Red Line train. At the end of June a man was killed by a Commuter Rail train in Natick. Orange Line trains were vandalized and damaged last month, with windows and doors broken. Brand new Orange and Red Line trains had to be taken out of service after battery failures. Now service on the Green and Orange Lines is being suspended because of a "structural issue" at the Government Center garage. Things are so bad that federal authorities are demanding the MBTA make improvements and submit a report to them in August.

All the while, current GM of the MBTA Steve Poftak takes home over \$300,000 a year, and just received close to \$80,000 in bonuses. The news has angered commuters who wonder why money can't be spent on simple repairs and new trains. There are calls

for Poftak to resign, but he insists he and the MBTA can fix their problems. At this point, what do the solutions look like? What exactly does the MBTA need to do?

One urgent problem is hiring enough employees. The agency is currently understaffed, and a lack of people to operate trains or work at stations could exacerbate safety issues. Another obvious step is for the MBTA to halt or slow down expansion until it solves the safety and service problems it's faced for a decade or more. The MBTA website tells us that "the T is evolving everyday", and multiple new projects are in development. But if the trains lines we currently have can't even be trusted, why would we want new ones?

There are some other puzzling new ideas. The MBTA recently announced a pilot program of placing "urine-detection" sensors in four subway elevators in downtown Boston, and they will decide whether or not to implement it across the T by the end of the year. I could find nothing about how much this would cost, but we can imagine that the technology is not free. Keeping stations clean and sanitary is no doubt important in the age of the pandemic, but this is almost funny. Of all the problems the MBTA could choose to focus on and promote, it's urine detection. At least the elevators will smell better when we're trying to escape a derailed train.

The Fall of Roe v. Wade: AAJC & NAPAWF Convene to Discuss National Impact

By: Sandy Battulga

On June 24th, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court officially reversed Roe v. Wade, ending the constitutional right to abortion that had been upheld for nearly 50 years. In response to this decision, the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) and Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC) co-hosted a virtual briefing to discuss the details of the SCOTUS decision and how it will affect AAPI communities. The event, which this reporter attended, was moderated by Isra Pananon Weeks of NAPAWF, took place on June 29th and featured a panel of five speakers.

Weeks introduced the event by stating how the ruling is a "direct assault on communities of color, including Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders" and emphasized that the overturning of Roe v. Wade will make the path to abortion even more difficult for the AAPI population, which already struggles with obstacles such as language barriers, lack of medical insurance, and cultural stigma in relation to reproductive health.

This was followed by Niyati Shah of AAJC who contextualized the decision. Shah summarized the ruling, recounting that Justice Alito delivered the majority opinion with the support of Justices Thomas, Barrett, Kavanaugh, and Gorsuch. "Tellingly, Justice Alito [in his opinion] fails to acknowledge how the U.S. Constitution was drafted affording women no rights. He

also fails to acknowledge how women couldn't vote until the 19th amendment was ratified in 1920...It is not a coincidence that as women gained a voice and the right to vote, that abortion laws began to change," Shah said. Further, she broke down Justice Thomas' concurring opinion which argued that the Supreme Court "should reconsider" the rulings of Griswold, Lawrence, and Obergefell — past cases that respectively allowed for the right to contraception access, same-sex relationships, and same-sex marriage.

The other panelists spoke to the intersectionality of abortion rights, the importance of turning to community in this time, and next steps in getting the right to abortion back. Jeana Nam, who is a member of NAPAWF, gave an account of her personal abortion experience at 21 and emphasized the importance of fighting the stigma that surrounds abortions. "We fight stigma by sharing our abortion stories...and by being radically, unapologetically, and publicly pro-abortion," Nam said. She is also a Board Member of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Rights, and cited that most people who get abortions identify as religious and specifically Christian. According to the Guttmacher Institute, 62% of people who get abortions identify as religious.

Nadia Hussain of the advocacy group MomsRising spoke to how the overturning of Roe will affect the economic prosperity and stability of

women, citing the Reuters statistic that women who are refused abortions are almost four times as likely to be living in poverty four years later. Additionally, she highlighted how this decision will further endanger already vulnerable populations, such as her own Bangladeshi-American community and minority groups in general, citing the fact that the United States has the highest maternal mortality rate out of all other high-income nations. Black women especially are 2.5 times more likely to die during childbirth than white women.

Rep. Anna Eskamani of the Florida House of Representatives expressed what action is required to restore the right to abortion. "There is no easy fix to restoring reproductive freedom in this country," Eskamani said. "It won't be solved through executive orders, it won't even be solved through one election cycle. This is going to take all of us, coming together to break abortion stigma and share our stories, to elect the right people into office...and hold those accountable who wish to ban abortion." President Biden has alluded to taking executive action to restore Roe v. Wade, but has not made concrete plans as of yet.

Seri Lee of NAPAWF also outlined action items, emphasizing that the fight for abortion rights needs to be approached from a myriad of different angles as it is an issue interconnected with many others, such as voter rights

and LGBTQIA rights. She expressed that the most important work that the AAPI community must do in the wake of this decision, however, is to "hold open conversations with the people in our communities about abortion," especially in culturally relevant ways. Lee mentioned apps such as WeChat, WhatsApp and Facebook as platforms that need to be utilized in engaging with community members to destigmatize conversations about abortion.

The speakers from this event communicated that they are maintaining hope above all in the fight for abortion rights and that it is important to build strong communities now more than ever. "This is not the end, this is the beginning because we will get this right back...and we will win," Hussain said.

This reporter spoke with Shah who reflected that the motivation for this briefing was to "help our community members understand how such a ruling may impact them and what can be done to protect the reproductive rights and care for individuals in this country." Shah continued, "Advancing Justice – AAJC has always fought for the civil and human rights of not only Asian Americans, but all people of color who have been marginalized in our country. It was important for us to say to those on the webinar, and who will listen to it later, that they are not alone and there are organizations out there who will fight for them."

“It’s always at the back of my mind that someone could shoot us all up.”

By Sasha Lianski

“School is a place to learn, it isn’t a place for us to go and fear for our lives”. This was stated in an interview with Laura, a sophomore at Brookline High school. While Laura is just one person in the sea of thousands of pupils, her thoughts are on everyone’s mind.

It seems that just like in the cold war, when kids were taught to duck under their desks in case of a nuclear bomb threat, so are kids today being taught what to do in case of an active school shooter. This time, the threat is not from an outside country, it’s from one of the citizens. School shootings have been a problem in the United States for a long time. The escalation of incidents in recent years has proven more troubling than ever. Unfortunately, the people who have the power to solve this problem aren’t the ones who, in the end, have to suffer the consequences of failure to protect the schools.

One of the most recent school shootings that has left people’s lives in shambles happened in Uvalde, Texas. On May 24, 2022, an 18-year-old teenager walked into a middle school and opened fire on the kids and teachers, killing 21 people. This event created distress, panic, and fear among students all over the USA. Not only was this tragedy the second-worst school shooting of all time, but it occurred in an elementary school full of kids below the age of 10. This reporter interviewed, in mid June 2022, three teen-

agers from two Massachusetts high schools (Brookline High school and Newton North High School), to try and understand what’s on the minds of the students, how they feel about this horrendous situation, and their safety.

“It’s always at the back of my mind, that someone could open the door to the school and shoot us all up,” Laura said when asked about her general feelings about the events. Other students, like Adair, a Brookline High school sophomore, had the same feelings;

“I mean, school is supposed to be a safe place right? Everyone says it’s supposed to be...but it’s not”. An anonymous student from Newton North High School reflected, “It has become such a repetitive problem, that now when I hear about another shooting, all I can do is shake my head in disappointment. It isn’t even a surprise anymore. And with the recent Texas tragedy, now I also need to fear for the lives of my younger siblings.”

School was and still is supposed to be a place where kids go to socialize, learn, and generally feel safe. It’s supposed to be a haven, sealed off from the outside world, filled with kids the same age who make friends, and adults who are only there to educate and help them. Now this feeling is starting to drain out of all the students, and getting replaced with the fear of actual death.

One of the leading suggestions for preventing these shootings is adding security to the schools, and giving fire-

arms to teachers. However, this whole concept of making the school feel like a fortress isn’t appealing to the students. Adair added: “I think frankly, it’s a little ridiculous. You need to prevent the problem where it starts, by restricting the overall access to firearms which shoot faster than hunting rifles.”

Massachusetts holds the title of one of the safest states regarding gun laws. To acquire a weapon in Massachusetts, people from the ages of 14 to 17 can apply for an FID (firearm identification) card, which will allow them to own smaller forms of firearms. To get an FID card, the applicants need to pass a federal check, which will dive into their mental health history, fingerprint background check, and go through a firearm safety course. This process takes from thirty to forty-five days, and parental consent is required.

When asked how they felt about this, one student said that “I don’t think anyone under the age of 18 should own a weapon because there isn’t a need to. I do think, however, that a 30-45 day background check is thorough enough”. She stressed: “I don’t think children should be having guns...I don’t think that even if you are a legal adult, and even if you are 18, you should be able to get a weapon. I would still be a bit hesitant about that, because, as you know, the brain doesn’t stop developing until the age of 25. How can we trust someone under that age with a gun?”

What is the outcome in the eyes of

the students? After the horrible attack on the Texas elementary school, what does the future hold in terms of safety? In the opinion of Massachusetts high school students, it seems the situation won’t completely solve itself any time soon. Right now America is too divided to solve something as big as the gun problem. When one side proposes a major solution, the other side does its best to suppress it. The most we can do is find a middle ground and put a Band-Aid on the gaping wound, and it seems that is what’s happening right now.

The Senate recently passed the “The bipartisan gun deal”, a deal that invests more money into mental health, school safety, and general crisis intervention programs. Alongside this, the deal also brought up a lot more talk and discussion within the government regarding firearms. The students overall are very glad and relieved that some progress is being made towards their safety, and while this, unfortunately, won’t completely solve the problem, the deal gave everyone a sense of hope for the future.

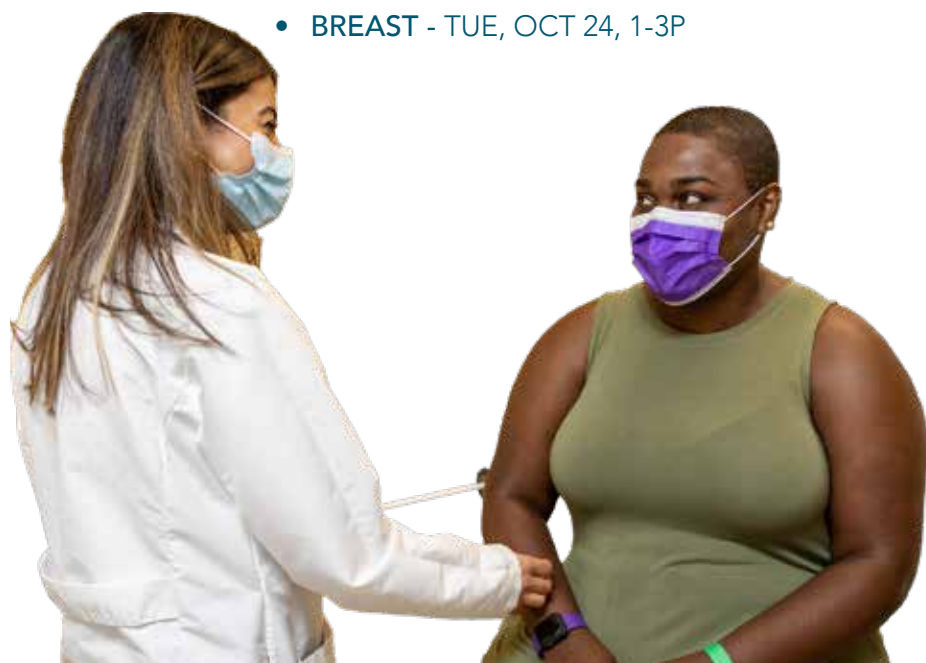
As of this writing, at a July 4th parade in Highland Park, Illinois, this country is dealing with yet another horrifying mass shooting of six people killed and dozens (including a child) hospitalized. We need to deal with this pandemic of violence.

Screening on the Green Cancer Screening Series

Boston Medical Center is unwavering in its commitment to serve the community, and wants to help you to take steps to prevent cancer — or catch it early.

JOIN US FOR A FREE CANCER SCREENING and education from BMC providers at the Moakley Green on one of the following days:

- HEAD AND NECK- TUE, JUL 19, 1-3P
- GASTROINTESTINAL - TUE, AUG 24, 1-3P
- THORACIC/LUNG - TUE, SEP 20, 1-3P
- BREAST - TUE, OCT 24, 1-3P



- This event is totally FREE, with no co-pays or out-of-pocket expenses for services, and is open to everyone.
- Light refreshments will be provided.
- Get a short physical exam to screen for cancer.
- Get information on cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.
- Meet with our experts from programs such as Nutrition, Clinical Trials, Patient Navigation, and Patient Support Services.
- Sign up for health insurance – we’ll guide you through the process!

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