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BYLINE: States News Service

LENGTH: 593 words

DATELINE: ALBANY, NY

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The magazine's 2015 rankings place Baruch College as first in the Northeast in value, followed by CUNY's Lehman College in third place, John Jay College of Criminal Justice in fourth and Queens College in fifth. (Rutgers University-Camden took second place.) The magazine's rankings also place two CUNY campuses in the top 40, with CUNY's Brooklyn College at 26th and City College at 27th among 402 colleges in the Northeast.

Among master's programs, the Washington Monthly's top 100 included CUNY's City College (34), Brooklyn College (55), Hunter College (64), Queens College (81) and Lehman College (99) among the 673 it considered.

According to The Washington Monthly, the 2015 rankings rate "four-year colleges in America on three measures that would make the whole system better, if only schools would compete on them." These criteria assess "their contribution to the public good in three broad categories: (1) social mobility (recruiting and graduating low-income students), (2) research (producing cutting-edge scholarship and Ph.D.s), and (3) service (encouraging students to give something back to their country)."
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These are different criteria from those the magazine used last year in a ranking that placed three CUNY campuses Brooklyn, Queens and Baruch, in that order as offering the "best bang for the buck" in the nation. The magazine summed up its 2014 survey criteria as doing "the best job of helping non-wealthy students attain marketable degrees at affordable prices."

The 2015 "Best Bang for the Buck" listings can be found here.

The rankings take into account data on student loan default rate; graduation rate; students receiving federal Pell tuition assistance grants; net price for all students, net price for students with annual family incomes under $30,000, between $30,000 and $75,000, and above $75,000; percentage of applicants admitted and test scores.
About The City University of New York:

The City University of New York is the nation's leading urban public university. Founded in New York City in 1847, the University comprises 24 institutions: 11 senior colleges, seven community colleges, the William E. Macaulay Honors College at CUNY, the CUNY Graduate School and University Center, the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, the CUNY School of Law, the CUNY School of Professional Studies and the CUNY School of Public Health. The University serves more than 274,000 degree-credit students and 218,083 adult, continuing and professional education students. College Now, the University's academic enrichment program, is offered at CUNY campuses and more than 300 high schools throughout the five boroughs of New York City. The University offers online baccalaureate degrees through the School of Professional Studies and an individualized baccalaureate through the CUNY Baccalaureate Degree. Nearly 3 million unique visitors and 10 million page views are served each month via www.cuny.edu, the University's website.
Top 25 computer science colleges, ranked by alumni earnings

BYLINE: Ann Bednarz

SECTION: NEWS

LENGTH: 759 words

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University of California, Santa Barbara, is the top computer science school in the U.S., according to a new salary-centric report from compensation specialist PayScale.

The research company ranked 187 colleges and universities with computer science programs based on the median pay of the schools' compsci alumni. By that measure, University of California, Santa Barbara, led the pack, with its graduates reporting a median mid-career salary of $147,000, PayScale said. (PayScale also ranked the highest-paying college majors.)

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* Computer science surge sparks campus building boom
* Maker spaces boost student tech innovation

Close behind UC Santa Barbara are University of California, Berkeley, which topped last year's PayScale ranking, and Columbia University.

Here's the list of PayScale's top 25 computer science colleges (which includes 27 schools due to ties) based on data from its 2015-2016 College Salary Report.

Best Schools for Computer Science Majors

1. University of California, Santa Barbara
   Early career median pay: $71,700
   Mid-career median pay: $147,000

2. University of California, Berkeley (tie)
   Early career median pay: $96,400
   Mid-career median pay: $145,000

2. Columbia University (tie)
   Early career median pay: $98,900
   Mid-career median pay: $145,000

4. University of Delaware
   Early career median pay: $66,700
   Mid-career median pay: $143,000
5. Stanford University (tie) Early career median pay: $96,200 Mid-career median pay: $137,000

5. California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (tie) Early career median pay: $74,100 Mid-career median pay: $137,000

7. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (tie) Early career median pay: $95,100 Mid-career median pay: $135,000

7. Northwestern University (tie) Early career median pay: $76,000 Mid-career median pay: $135,000

9. California State University, East Bay Early career median pay: $65,000 Mid-career median pay: $131,000

10. University of Southern California Early career median pay: $69,900 Mid-career median pay: $130,000

11. CUNY - Brooklyn College (tie) Early career median pay: $58,100 Mid-career median pay: $128,000

13. University of California, Los Angeles Early career median pay: $84,300 Mid-career median pay: $126,000

14. Worcester Polytechnic Institute (tie) Early career median pay: $76,800 Mid-career median pay: $125,000

14. Lehigh University (tie) Early career median pay: $78,100 Mid-career median pay: $125,000

14. Rutgers University, New Brunswick Campus (tie) Early career median pay: $67,000 Mid-career median pay: $125,000

14. University of California, Davis (tie) Early career median pay: $85,300 Mid-career median pay: $125,000

14. San Francisco State University (tie) Early career median pay: $64,900 Mid-career median pay: $125,000

19. California State University, Chico Early career median pay: $58,500 Mid-career median pay: $124,000

20. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (tie) Early career median pay: $77,600 Mid-career median pay: $123,000

20. University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (tie) Early career median pay: $64,700 Mid-career median pay: $123,000

22. University of California, Irvine Early career median pay: $69,000 Mid-career median pay: $122,000

23. Carnegie Mellon University (tie) Early career median pay: $89,400 Mid-career median pay: $121,000

23. University of Louisiana (UL) at Lafayette (tie) Early career median pay: $50,600 Mid-career median pay: $121,000

25. NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering (tie) Early career median pay: $75,500 Mid-career median pay: $120,000

25. University of California, San Diego (tie) Early career median pay: $78,100 Mid-career median pay: $120,000

25. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (tie) Early career median pay: $68,700 Mid-career median pay: $120,000

The data used in PayScale's College Salary Report is from the company's ongoing, online compensation survey, which collects user-provided data about jobs, compensation, employer, demographics and educational background. The sample considered for the 2015-2016 College Salary report was 1.4 million college graduates.
Not every college and university in the U.S. is included in the study. According to PayScale, there are approximately 3,163 bachelor's degree-granting schools in the U.S, and this year's College Salary Report includes 1,063 of them.

PayScale defines early-career employees as those with five years of experience or less in their career or field, and mid-career employees as those with at least 10 years of experience.

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Staten Island's top college leaders urge 30,000 degrees by 2025 (editorial)

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Three local college leaders -- James O'Keefe (left) of St. John's University, William Fritz of the College of Staten Island and Richard Guarasci of Wagner College -- say more people ought to seek higher education. (Advance photo: Claire Regan)

Staten Island Advance By Staten Island Advance
on August 26, 2015 at 12:26 PM, updated August 26, 2015 at 12:44 PM

For the three top college leaders on Staten Island to work closely together on a project is unusual. But they are doing just that on a plan called 30,000 Degrees by 2025.

The trio of educators is seeking to encourage more of our students and other local residents to pursue higher education, either on or off the Island.

Working to tell Islanders about the benefits of college are William Fritz, president of the College of Staten Island in Willowbrook; Richard Guarasci, president of Wagner College in Grymes Hill, and James O'Keefe, vice provost of St. John's University in Grymes Hill.

Give the educators credit for their ambitious plan to sway the working-class culture on Staten Island.

A substantial majority of Islanders, 71.1 percent, don't hold college degrees. In a borough of nearly half a million residents, only about 136,000 are college graduates.

The Bronx is the only borough that has a lower percentage of college-educated residents.

Why do so many Islanders decide to skip college?

"The reason I hear the most often," said Mr. Fritz, "is people say, 'My father, my grandfather, my great-grandfather worked for the police or fire [department] and they rose up through the ranks without college."

He points out: "They don't realize the world has changed, and this is no longer possible."

Mr. O'Keefe, the son of a plumber and a homemaker, was the first in his family to go to college. He hopes that more young Islanders will accomplish the same thing.
"Staten Island has always been very strong in civil service and construction. Young people see their parents doing very well in those fields, and figure, 'I don't have to go to college either."

Job climate

But today's job climate increasingly favors college grads more than ever. It has done so since the economic recovery began five years ago after the Great Recession.

So reports a study by Georgetown University. The study determined that a "good job" pays at least $53,000, tends to be full-time and provides health insurance and a retirement plan.

Of the 2.9 million good jobs gained since the recession, 2.8 million have gone to college graduates.

On average in 2013, Americans with four-year degrees earned 98 percent more per hour than people without a degree, which is up from 64 percent in the 1980s.

A college graduate is estimated to make $1 million more in lifetime earnings than a non-graduate.

The pay gap between college graduates and everyone else continues to widen.

"There is a myth that you don't need a college degree to succeed in the new global economy," said Mr. Guarasci.

It's a myth the three educators are working to overcome with their initiative, which aims to hike the number of college-educated Islanders by 30,000 within 10 years.

Changing the conversation

"It's about changing the conversation from 'I don't need a baccalaureate, I can do just fine,' " said Mr. Fritz, "to 'In this day and age, obtaining one is a surefire way of moving up the ladder.'"

They believe that a better-educated work-ready community will attract new businesses to the borough.

For this reason, the Staten Island Economic Development Corp. is backing the initiative.

"If we want the high-tech jobs here, we need an educated work force here," said Mr. Fritz.

The idea is to provide a better educated workforce that would help to create more lucrative job opportunities on Staten Island so young people need not go to Manhattan or New Jersey for them.

The educators' point about building a more attractive work force and attracting high-end businesses is
absolutely correct. It would benefit all of us.

"Staten Island is the only borough where I would try this" initiative, Mr. O'Keefe said. "People work well together here. With Cesar Claro [of the SIEDC] and the borough president's office, all our ducks are lined up to make a run for this. We've got the arrow moving in the right direction."

**High school involvement**

The three local colleges have joined with the principals of four public high schools — Staten Island Tech, Port Richmond, New Dorp and McKee — to develop programs that "demystify college," as Mr. Guarasci put it.

This is an effort to offer access to college students, college programs and financial aid advisers.

"If every college would partner with schools of need and use faculty and other resources, think how much better our city, our country, would be," Mr. Guarasci said.

He stressed: "Young people succeed when someone believes in their dreams. You've got to start early to nurture a college-bound focus."

Even with all the negative things reported lately about the burden of college debt, there's no doubt that people fare better in the long run with a better education.

Finding innovative ways to help students afford a college education is a major challenge that schools must face up to in order to boost enrollments.

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Octopuses seen throwing things may be using shells as weapons

Octopuses have been recorded gathering up armfuls of debris before taking potshots at one another. Whether it's a case of "get off my turf" or merely "oops, didn't mean to hit you" is still a puzzle.

Octopuses have siphons on the side of their body. They normally expel water through these to propel themselves along. However, gloomy octopuses (Octopus tetricus) living on a bed of shells at Jervis Bay off the coast of New South Wales, Australia, seem to have co-opted this system to throw things at each other. This may be the first use of projectile weapons seen in octopuses.

"Very few animals have been reported to throw things at one another, so it would be significant if the octopuses are doing it," says Peter Godfrey-Smith, a marine biologist at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, who this month presented video evidence at the Behaviour2015 conference in Cairns, Australia.

"It gathers up a pile of stuff in its arms, and then directs the jet under the web of its arms, and throws out all the stuff under pressure," says Godfrey-Smith. He is not yet certain that the behaviour is intentional. It may just be a case of enthusiastic housekeeping showering the neighbours with debris.

"Octopuses often clean out their homes with a jet of water, pushing out sand and rubble. They also jet at intruders like pesky fishes," says Jennifer Mather at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada, who was not involved in the study.

However, other octopuses got hit by the debris more often than you would expect by chance.

If it is intentional, it may have evolved in response to unusually crowded conditions at Jervis Bay, where octopuses have also been seen to fight, bully and even box with each other (Marine and Freshwater Behaviour and Physiology, doi.org/65b). The overabundance of food and a lack of...
Rare Nautilus Spotted for First Time in 30 Years

Biologist Peter Ward returned from the South Pacific with the news

By James Urton—University of Washington News Office | August 26, 2015

In early August, biologist Peter Ward

AlloNautilus scrobiculatus off the coast of Nidoa Island in Papua New Guinea.
PHOTO CREDIT: PETER WARD
(http://www.biology.washington.edu/users/peter-d-ward) returned from the South Pacific with news that he encountered an old friend, one he hadn’t seen in over three decades. The University of Washington professor had seen what he considers one of the world’s rarest animals, a remote encounter that may become even more infrequent if illegal fishing practices continue.

The creature in question is AlloNautilus scrobiculatus, a species of nautilus that Ward and a colleague had previously discovered off of Nidoa Island in Papua New Guinea. Nautiluses (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nautilus) are small, distant cousins of squid and cuttlefish. They are an ancient lineage of animal, often christened a “living fossil” because their distinctive shells appear in the fossil record over an impressive 500 million year period. Ward says this recent sighting of AlloNautilus indicates that there is still much to learn about these creatures.

“Before this, two humans had seen AlloNautilus scrobiculatus,” said Ward, who holds appointments at the UW in both the Department of Biology and the Department of Earth and Space Sciences (https://www.ess.washington.edu/bwp/people/profile.php?name=Ward-peter). “My colleague Bruce Saunders (http://www.brynmawr.edu/geology/faculty/wsaunders/) from Bryn Mawr College found AlloNautilus first, and I saw them a few weeks later.”

Those sightings were in 1984, when Ronald Reagan was finishing his first term as president and the oldest millennials were starting preschool. Ward and Saunders collected several AlloNautilus scrobiculatus specimens for analysis and realized that their gills, jaws, shell shape and male reproductive structures differ significantly from other nautilus species.

“Some features of the nautilus — like the shell giving it the ‘living fossil’ label — may not have changed for a long time, but other parts have,” said Ward.

AlloNautilus also sports a distinctive accessory clearly visible in photographs.

“It has this thick, hairy, slimy covering on its shell,” said Ward. “When we first saw that, we were astounded.”

This slimy nautilus turned out to be even more elusive than its siblings. Aside from another brief sighting by Saunders in 1986, AlloNautilus disappeared until July 2015, when Ward returned to Papua New Guinea to survey nautilus populations. Since nautiluses are expert scavengers, Ward and his colleagues set up “bait on a stick” systems each evening — fish and chicken meat suspended on a pole between 500 and 1,300 feet below the surface — and filmed activity around the bait for 12 hours.

“We started using this approach in 2011,” said Ward. “This year, there were about 30 guys involved and each
One night's footage from a site off of Ndrova Island showed an Allonautilus approach the bait after a 31-year absence from Ward's life. It was soon joined by another nautilus, and the two fought for access to the bait until a sunfish arrived on the scene.

"For the next two hours, the sunfish just kept whacking them with its tail," said Ward.

The team also used baited traps to capture several nautiluses, including Allonautilus, at a depth of about 600 feet. Since most nautiluses do not like the heat, the researchers brought them to the surface in chilled water to obtain small tissue, shell and mucus samples and measure the dimensions of each animal. They then transported the animals back to their capture site and released them.

Ward and his colleagues used this information to determine the age and sex of each animal, as well as the diversity of each nautilus population in the South Pacific. Through these studies, they have learned that most nautilus populations are isolated from one another because they can only inhabit a narrow range of ocean depth.

"They swim just above the bottom of wherever they are," said Ward. "Just like submarines, they have 'fail depths' where they'll die if they go too deep, and surface waters are so warm that they usually can't go up there. Water about 2,600 feet deep is going to isolate them."

These restrictions on where nautiluses can go mean that populations near one island or coral reef can differ genetically or ecologically from those at another. The findings also pose a challenge for conservationists.

"Once they're gone from an area, they're gone for good," said Ward.

Illegal fishing and "mining" operations for nautilus shells have already decimated some populations, Ward said. This unchecked practice could threaten a lineage that has been around longer than the dinosaurs were and survived the two largest mass extinctions in Earth's history. In September, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will decide whether to advocate for nautiluses to become a protected species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, or CITES (https://www.cites.org/) treaty. Such protection could curb international trade in nautilus shells, with the aim of reducing nautilus harvests across the Pacific.

"As it stands now, nautilus mining could cause nautiluses to go extinct," said Ward.

Ward hopes to see Allonautilus again, especially since he would like to study how this species, which arose relatively recently according to genetic tests, behaves differently from other nautiluses. Its rarity makes this endeavor challenging.

"It's only near this tiny island," said Ward. "This could be the rarest animal in the world. We need to know if Allonautilus is anywhere else, and we won't know until we go out there and look."

Ward's main partners in this field season included Richard Hamilton (http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/asiapacific/papuaneuguinea/explore/rick-hamilton.xml) and Manual Matawai (http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/asiapacific/papuaneuguinea/explore/stories-of-hope-for-fish-and-people.xml) from the Nature Conservancy and Greg Barord (http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/iislider_stories/2014/11/nautilus_gregbarord.html) from the City University of New York. More than 30 fisheries experts, guides and local residents in the Admiralty Islands and the Bismarck Archipelago of Papua New Guinea also provided crucial aid and support, Ward said. Their work is funded by National Geographic, the National Science Foundation's Division of Polar Programs (http://www.nsf.gov/geo/plr/about.jsp) and the Tiffany & Co. Foundation (http://www.tiffanyandcofoundation.org/).
Kupferberg Center for the Arts leads the cultural renaissance of Queens

Residents know that Queens is something special. There are so many sights and sounds to take in, whether it’s marvelling at the view of Manhattan from Long Island City; catching the Amazin’ Mets at Citi Field; or feasting on the diverse culinary delights of Jackson Heights, there’s a multitude of reasons why the borough was named the country’s No. 1 travel destination for 2015 by Lonely Planet.

Queens is home to a vibrant cultural landscape, including the award-winning entertainment complex at Kupferberg Center for the Arts.

As the borough’s largest indoor venue, many people remember KCA’s Caten Auditorium as the place they graduated from high school, but following a $13.4 million capital campaign, KCA is now leading a cultural renaissance in the borough. KCA has become the perfect venue to catch A-list stars — Jerry Seinfeld, Jason Mraz, Cesar Millan and Gladys Knight have played the Kupferberg Presents series in recent years. This season, Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys performs on Oct. 9 and Patti LaBelle on Oct. 18. (Tickets are on sale at www.kupferbergcenter.org.)

KCA is the umbrella organization of the eight arts entities on the campus of Queens College. These include the Aaron Copland School of Music, the Department of Drama, Theatre and Dance, the Department of Media Studies, Godwin-Ternbach Museum, Louis Armstrong House Museum, Queens College Art Center, Queens College Evening Readings and Kupferberg Center Performances.

Working together, though clearly maintaining artistic independence, the KCA entities present shows throughout the year that range from classical music to pop, jazz, dance, popular entertainment and family theater, school concerts and residencies, literary readings, films and visual art exhibitions, operas, musicals, plays and theatrical events — all addressing the Queens College mission of enriching the cultural environment of the region.

In addition to the star-studded events that take place at its home at Queens College, KCA prides itself on connecting the diverse communities of Queens and New York City through first-class exhibitions and performances off-campus. Close to 40 free concerts are offered in parks, libraries and schools each year under the curatorial vision of Kupferberg Presents Director Vivian Charlop. Artists range in style from world music, reggae and ska to Mexican, Irish and Arabic folk to jazz, blues and progressive rock. The flavor and vibrancy that characterize Queens today are shown in full force both at KCA's on-campus and off-site programming.

With the support of CUNY and Queens College, KCA has the ability to create wide-reaching programs that will change the shape of the Queens cultural landscape for years to come. The CUNY Dance Initiative, developed at Queens College under the leadership of KCA Executive Director Jeff Rosenstock, is a residency program designed to expand rehearsal and performance opportunities for NYC-based dance companies and choreographers by providing them with subsidized local venues for creating, rehearsing, and performing at City University of New York campuses throughout the city. This project reimagines the use of underutilized spaces for artistic residencies and also provides performance opportunities. In exchange, dancers and choreographers teach master classes and hold open rehearsals and Q & A sessions with CUNY students around the city.

This summer, KCA also presented the Louis Armstrong's Wonderful World festival in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. The festival grew out of Salchmo’s belief that "You gotta listen to all types of music." Now in its second year, Ms. Lauryn Hill, Ozomatli, Anibalas, Shannon Powell and Rebirth Brass Band headlined this free, one-day event. The close to 20,000 people who attended throughout the day from NYC’s five boroughs and as far away as Australia enjoyed main stage musical acts, as well as family activities, giveaways, and educational experiences by KCA’s community partners and sponsors. KCA recently initiated participation in the City’s Cultural After School Adventures program
as well, with three KCA arts departments now working in 10 schools.

KCA presents a mix of global art and local culture, erasing boundaries, linking communities and presenting a diverse mix of entertainment options for the multitude of cultures and interests in our vibrant borough. With so many activities to take part in, which will you see first?

— Julie Del Palacio and Ninett Silberberg
'The Open Mind' on PBS: Antithesis of today's talk-show slugfests

John Timpane, Inquirer Staff Writer
POSTED: Thursday, August 27, 2015, 3:01 AM

With a fly's memory and a fly's fidelity, television isn't much for legacies.

So it's amazing that any TV show has been around since 1956. But *The Open Mind* - turning 60 in May, ninth-longest-running show in U.S. TV history, just behind *Face the Nation* and just ahead of *NFL on CBS* - recently returned to PBS schedules in the Philadelphia area. It premieres Sept. 6 on the cable channel World, reaching more than 100 new markets.

It's a family legacy. Richard D. Heffner, Rutgers professor and public TV pioneer, began *The Open Mind* in May 1956 at the New York NBC affiliate. With the show a public-TV mainstay, he hosted most episodes until his death in 2013. Now, the man he groomed to succeed him has taken over - grandson Alexander Heffner.

"We are trying to do two things at once," the younger Heffner says by phone. "Continue this legacy of taking people and their ideas seriously, and find ways to bring this kind of dialogue to millennials."
What is "this kind of dialogue"? Not the political/cultural talk show of 2015, most often a slugfest, two opposed views - as opposed and as truculent as possible - screaming boilerplate zero-sum at each other. To quote Mitchell E. Daniels, a guest on The Open Mind, former governor of Indiana, and now president of Purdue University, "If you're under 40, all you've known are mud fights."

There's another model: civic discourse, which presents ideas for all they're worth, giving thought leaders airtime and respect, with a questioner who probes and challenges, looking for clarity and depth. The Open Mind falls into that camp.

Heffner, a sometime book reviewer for The Inquirer, spent much of his youth on The Open Mind set. "I was my grandfather's mentee through the years," he says. "I'd visit shows and watch them being recorded. He had a vision of succession. He wanted his values to be furthered at a time when the idea of the truly open mind is more critical than ever."

Elaine Heffner, Richard's widow and Alexander's grandmother, is a psychotherapist, blogger (GoodEnoughMothering.com), and executive producer of The Open Mind since it began. "It's a thrill to watch the show go forward," she says. "In so many shows today, the model is conflict, where The Open Mind is looking to explore ideas, to bring them to people for the public good."

Her mid-20s grandson has a big task: to bring all this to a younger audience. Hundreds of the world's most consequential people dealt ideas with his grandfather - the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Jonas Salk, Margaret Mead, Eli Wiesel, Thurgood Marshall, Robert Redford, and more. In those days, the audience for one-on-one discussion of public affairs was huge, reflecting nuclear anxiety, social upheaval, and uncertainty.

But this is a different world. Does the TV public-affairs talk show even have a future? Meet the Press - oldest show on U.S. TV - declined to abysmal ratings, especially with 25- to 54-year-old viewers, during the recent tenure of David Gregory. Chuck Todd came aboard in September, and the show is still fighting to hold its own. Face the Nation's numbers have lagged, too.

So why did WHYY take on Open Mind again? Why is World syndicating it?

Alexis Landis, TV programming manager at WHYY, writes by email that he was drawn to the show because of Alexander Heffner, whom he calls "engaging and working very hard to get top guests on the show.... His enthusiasm for the show and focus on making it fresh, from new graphics to better guests, was very impressive."

Ron Bachman, senior director of programming for Boston's WGBH (which distributes World), explains why he is running The Open Mind twice on Sundays, at 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. "With its young host and vigorous use of social media, The Open Mind is aimed at a younger audience that dovetails well with World's demographics. Our hope is that including it in our lineup can draw socially and politically engaged young people
Heffner has changed the theme music from the midcentury aleatoric flute of the old show and has created a Web presence, including a Facebook page and a searchable archive of almost all episodes (www.thirteen.org/openmind-archive). He works like the dickens.

"I was very impressed," Mitchell Daniels says. "I have been interviewed by a lot of people, and I don't think anyone was better prepared, had done more homework, well beyond Googleing." Heffner had pored over transcripts and videos "of events and speeches I didn't even remember I'd done. And he's also really involved with the issues. It's all the more impressive to find a younger person who's that involved."

Then there's the guest list. Though it often brought on world-famous people, The Open Mind sought true forward-thinkers regardless of celebrity status. Who would they be today? A fascinating bunch.

Of Sue Gardner, onetime director of the Wikimedia Foundation, Heffner asks an intriguing question: Why can't Facebook and Google, these supremely successful companies, be as aggressive and innovative in nonprofit directions? Do they have to be exclusively for-profit?

Of novelist Salman Rushdie, whose new novel, Two Years, Eight Months, and Twenty-Eight Nights, drops in September, Heffner asks: "What makes a theocracy obsolete?"

With William F. Pelgrin, who retired in May as president and CEO of the Center for Internet Security, Heffner discusses whether we could have a "civic index" of virtual media companies - a listing of how each one handles our privacy, security, and data.

With Maria Freire, president of the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health, he discusses how the "sharing economy," in which data is so freely accessible, affects the health-care industry.

With Alberto Ibargüen, iconoclastic CEO of the Knight Foundation, Heffner explored disruption in the media world, and asked: "What are we trying to preserve?"

And he talks to Aloe Blacc - rapper, journalist, public intellectual. Heffner asks why Blacc leads a double life as a pop star and a philanthropist. "I can basically say what I want at this point," Blacc tells Heffner, "and millions of people will hear" Nanking heroes such as Michael Jackson, Bob Marley, and Joni Mitchell, he continues: "The things that they were able to do, I'd like to be able to do: Use my voice for positive social change."

Which is how Heffner would like to use The Open Mind. "I'm looking for a chance," he says, "to revolutionize the way we conduct interviews on public policy."

Will it work? Keep an open mind.
Pre-K Teacher Summer Institute Expanded

Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña recently launched the Department of Education's Pre-K Summer Institute, that provides training for over 5,500 pre-K teachers, teacher assistants and leaders across all pre-K settings in district schools, NYC Early Education Centers and charter schools.

This is the second year of the Pre-K Summer Institute, the Chancellor explained, and for the first time this year, the program will offer dedicated training for program leaders. This year, Fariña added, programs will also offer differentiated supports and professional development that will continue throughout the year.

"The Summer is an important and meaningful step towards ensuring high quality pre-K instruction across all pre-K settings," Fariña said. "This September, for the first time, every four-year-old will have access to free, full-day, high quality pre-K."

Summing up the Summer Institute's aims, Fariña stated: "School's never out for New York City's committed teachers, and I'm happy to see so many of them here to improve their craft. We are grateful to Bank Street College of Education, CUNY and Fordham University for their partnership, and I know our teachers will take what they learn into our pre-K classrooms to better meet the needs of students and families. With improved and consistent training, we are going to see better instruction - and better results - for our four-year-olds."

Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives Richard Buery stated: "New York City's Pre-K for All is a high-quality program because our teachers are high-quality. Our children deserve the very best instruction and care, and the Department of Education's Summer Institute is creating a valuable space for pre-K teachers to grow and prepare for a successful new school year. I want to thank all of our partners in this endeavor."

Chancellor Fariña's announcement included a notification that pre-K seats are still available and families can search for pre-K programs with availability at: nyc.gov/prek or by calling 718-935-2067. Going forward, families who are still looking for the best fit for their child will receive a personal phone call from a DOE Enrollment Specialist, who will walk them through the available options in an effort to ensure that every family finds a free, full-day, high-quality pre-K program.— John Toscano
Industry stakeholders urged to ride the wave of technology or be left behind

By DOROTHY COX
The Trucker Staff

8/26/2015

DALLAS — Driverless cars and trucks are a given, predicts "futurist" Michio Kaku, a theoretical physicist.
And, he said, at first their expense, some glitches and the public's hesitation to accept them will be barriers.
But that will give way to a world in which our children and grandchildren will be unable to imagine a world without them.

Kaku uses latest scientific research to predict business and finance technology, commerce trends.

A best-selling author, professor who holds the Semel Chair at City University of New York, and recognized authority on Albert Einstein's "field theory," Kaku painted a picture Wednesday here at the Commercial Vehicle Outlook Conference of a world where everything is digitized and "all human knowledge" can be accessed with the blink of a human eye.

Soldiers can (the technology is at hand today) see through a tag on their helmets to access everything about their enemies; humans can swallow a capsule that has a tiny camera to take pictures of problem areas in their body and — back to the driverless vehicles — there will be "cat and mouse" games between hackers/criminals who use technology to hack into a car or truck to steal the cargo and humans who have to step in and lay down the law.

"You ask yourself," he said, "what has quantum physics done for me? It has brought you the laser, transistor, helped construct the Internet, GPS, TV, microwaves and the space program."

He told an appreciative audience that "physicists love to make predictions," and then proceeded to make a lot them. However, some technologies mentioned are already in use and/or in the designing stages, he said.

Getting back to driverless trucks, drivers will still be needed, he said, but they will be used for keeping inventory of cargo, interacting with customers, loading and unloading and other tasks only a human can do well. Software, he said, is making inroads by leaps and bounds in medicine, business, the way we buy products, and yes, transportation.

He spoke of "digital capitalism," a reality already with the advent of Internet shopping but will become even more advanced with consumers being able to digitally order a custom product and have it made and shipped in record time.

In short, biotechnology, artificial intelligence and an overall digitized world will revolutionize the world as we know it.

He predicted that 50 years from now the word, "computer" will be outmoded and so will the words "traffic jam" because vehicles will be connected to one another and have sensors that communicate with the infrastructure.

Have an accident on the highway? No problem, digitally access a "robo lawyer" on your virtual "wallpaper" who can converse with you. Were you hurt? Dispatch a "robo doctor" and so on. Human organs will be "regrown," he predicted, and will give way to "human body shops" with spare parts.

This digitalization of everything is here and any business (or industry) that doesn't embrace it and get on board now will be left behind by the competition, according to Kaku.

"Embrace the wave, anticipate the wave [of the future]," he said, and get ahead of the competition. Go against the wave and you will "wipe out." Ride it, and assure future success.
Joseph Traub, Who Helped Bring Computer Science to Universities, Dies at 83

By STEVE LOHR  AUG. 26, 2015

Joseph F. Traub, who founded the computer science department at Columbia University and who helped develop algorithms used in scientific computing in physics and mathematics as well as on Wall Street, died on Monday in Santa Fe, N.M. He was 83.

The cause could not be immediately determined, his wife, Pamela McCorduck, said.

Professor Traub took a detour from physics and became immersed in computing in the 1950s, well before there was a discipline known as computer science.

As an educator, he was a skillful advocate, both for more resources and more respectability for the young field at a time when the people grappling with the big machines in computer centers were regarded in much of academia as glorified mechanics.

He became the dean of the computer science department at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh in 1971 and had built the faculty to 50 people from a handful by 1979, when he left for Columbia, where he had been recruited to become the founding dean of the new computer science department.

At Columbia, Professor Traub recalled in an interview in 2001, his challenge was to “convince one of the great arts and sciences universities in the United States that computer science was really central.”
Not long after he arrived, he delivered a university lecture, "What Will Be the Intellectual Impact of Computers?" His prescient answer, in essence, was that the impact would be broad, deep and in ways that had not yet been imagined.

"Joe Traub was one of the first to recognize the potential of computer science education at universities," said H.T. Kung, a professor at Harvard and a former student of Professor Traub.

Professor Traub encouraged his peers to address the social and economic implications of their work. He was the founding chairman of the Computer Science and Telecommunications Board of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, the nation's leading advisory group on science and technology, and he served two terms as the head of the board, from 1986 to 1992 and again from 2005 to 2009.

Joseph Frederick Traub was born on June 24, 1932, in Karlsruhe, Germany, the only child of Leo Traub and the former Mimi Nussbaum. Leo Traub was a banker in Karlsruhe, but after the Nazis seized the bank in 1938, the family fled and arrived in New York in 1939. Joseph attended the Bronx High School of Science and earned an undergraduate degree in math and physics from City College of New York.

He enrolled at Columbia in 1954, intending to become a theoretical physicist. But a friend urged him to visit a building with a computer on 116th Street, near the Columbia campus, then the home of the IBM Watson Labs.

"I got hooked on computing," Professor Traub recalled in an interview in 2011 for the Computer History Museum. "I left physics, but I didn't enroll in a department, because there were no departments of computer science, and I wanted to study computing."

But Columbia did have a "committee on applied mathematics," with faculty members from several departments. The committee allowed Professor Traub to do his Ph.D. thesis on computing calculations in quantum mechanics, which allowed him to run programs for hours on an IBM 650 computer. "I discovered that I loved programming," he recalled. "That was the beginning."

Professor Traub's first marriage, to Susanne Traub, ended in divorce. In addition
to Ms. McCorduck, he is survived by two daughters from his first marriage, Claudia Renee Traub and Hillary Ann Spector, and four grandchildren.

In the early days of computing, the machines were hulking but their capabilities — processing, storage and memory — were minuscule compared with today's computers, so designing software algorithms to do the most work with the least use of computing power was crucial. Programmers always tried to do that, but there was no theory of optimal algorithms.

Professor Traub focused on that challenge — first at Bell Laboratories, which he joined in 1959, and later, starting in 1970, in academia. This study of the minimal resources required to solve computational problems was called "computational complexity." And Professor Traub added the insight that the optimal algorithm design depended on the information it was working on, which became known as "information-based complexity."

He also helped develop software tools used to value financial derivatives.

Over the years he worked with a number of collaborators, most notably Henryk Wozniakowski, a professor at Columbia and the University of Warsaw.

Prabhakar Raghavan, a computer scientist at Google, called Professor Traub "a hard-core theorist," but one with insights that apply to areas attracting huge investment today by technology companies, including cloud computing and machine learning, a branch of artificial intelligence.

In recent years, Professor Traub had been doing research to apply similar principles to a new terrain of complexity, quantum computers. In theory, quantum computers would be unconstrained by the on-off switches, the 1's and 0's, of digital computing.

Professor Traub pursued the quantum research despite long odds of seeing it to completion.

"I've always admired him for tackling such a hard research area," said Jeannette M. Wing, a computer scientist in Microsoft's research laboratory, "especially knowing that he would be unlikely to see a practical quantum computer in his lifetime."
CUNY schools top list of 'Best Bang for the Buck' colleges in northeast

BY BEN CHAPMAN / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Wednesday, August 26, 2015, 10:00 PM

The magazine's rankings rate Baruch College in Manhattan as first in the Northeast in value.
Four out of the top five "Best Bang for the Buck" four-year schools in the Northeast are City University of New York colleges, according to rankings by Washington Monthly magazine, Gov. Cuomo announced Wednesday.

The magazine's rankings rate Baruch College in Manhattan as first in the Northeast in value, followed by Lehman College in the Bronx in third place, with John Jay College of Criminal Justice in fourth and Queens College in fifth.

The rankings use price, student loan default rates and graduation rates to measure the value colleges offer to students whose families earn less than $75,000 a year.
Borough president honors Brooklyn seniors

The borough president's office hosted a special lunch for some of Brooklyn's senior citizens at Kingsborough Community College in Manhattan Beach Wednesday. (8/26/15)

BROOKLYN - The borough president's office hosted a special lunch for some of Brooklyn's senior citizens at Kingsborough Community College in Manhattan Beach Wednesday.

The event, called "Seniors by the Sea," was meant to honor the hundreds of thousands of seniors living in the borough on fixed incomes, despite the ever-increasing cost of living.

As the borough's demographics change, the seniors were honored for staying in place. Brooklyn's population is expected to grow to 410,000 by 2030, according to city officials. That represents a 45 percent increase since 2000.

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Borough President Eric Adams called for upgrades to buildings that aren't "senior friendly" and the construction of communities where seniors can "age in place."

He met with seniors at the event to discuss how the city may stay a senior-friendly place in the future.
Queens’ fall art scene goes deep

by Cristina Schreil, Associate Editor | Posted: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 10:30 am

As temperatures get ready to drop, compelling many indoors, several Queens art exhibitions this season seem to turn inward, too.

Many galleries are readying exhibits opening this fall, and several showcase a diverse variety of artistic viewpoints, an unsurprising occurrence in the World’s Borough.

Amid the many different voices spotlighted, it seems that deeper themes probing identity, human culture and human perceptions of reality are shared goals, with common invitations to prompt viewers to think critically about their environments and humans’ places within them.

One exhibit, at Flushing Town Hall, presents that theme of identity head-on. The space’s visual arts members annual show, “Who Am I? What Do You See?,” is intended to communicate to viewers something about the piece’s creator. There are photographs, painted portraits, still-life pieces and more by 35 artists, with 33 of them Queens-based, from neighborhoods such as Jamaica Estates, Hollis and Elmhurst. That may allow Queens residents to get to know their neighbors in a deeper way.

“Lost in Thought” by Doris Frankel is one example of using the human form to invite contemplation.

The exhibit is on display at 137-35 Northern Blvd. until Sept. 13. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays, from noon to 5 p.m. The suggested donation is $5. For details, visit flushingtownhall.org or call (718) 463-7700.

Heading east, at Dorsky Gallery Curatorial Programs in Long Island City, more voices will abound starting Sept. 20.

The gallery, known for uniting works from multiple artists to illuminate certain philosophies or struggles, features 11 artists.

“Uncanny/Figure,” curated by Lilly Wei, focuses on — you guessed it — figure representation in sculpture, painting and video. The driving idea behind it is that amid developments in the...
contemporary art world, the long-vaunted focus on figures has waned. But these artists tackle the subject in a way that directly relinks identity to the body.

“One reason for the renewed interest in figuration might be that in an age of the increasingly virtual, it reaffirms the importance of our bodies, reminding us that we are more than incorporeal mind,” Wei wrote.

Some particularly intriguing pieces include “Mouse,” a haunting and detailed sculpture by Rona Pondick. Pondick grafted a life cast of her body parts, composed of matte stainless steel, onto stainless steel bodies of schematized animals. And, artist Elizabeth King’s hybrid of self-portrait and puppet, which looks eerily like a robot summoned to life, is explored in a video installation called “What Happened,” also by Richard Kizu-Blair. In melding the real and artificial, King births a new take on identity.

The exhibit will be on display, at 11-03 45 Ave., until Dec. 13 and is free to view. For more details, call (718) 937-6317 or visit dorsky.org.

Also a vast look at humanity — but with a focus on materials — an exhibit opening on Oct. 7 at The Noguchi Museum called “Museum of Stones” will present around 50 pieces by 30 artists. The collection, on view until Jan. 10, observes how various groups have harnessed the sturdy materials. It “explores the variety of ways in which artists from the 1970s onward have explored the integral place of rock and stone in human culture,” according to curators.

Also notable is that this will be the first time that contemporary artists will be featured alongside Noguchi’s original installations.

The museum is located at 9-01 33 Road and open Wednesday through Sunday. Admission is $10 to $5. For details, call (718) 204-7088 or visit noguchi.org.

Southeast of Noguchi, at SculptureCenter on Purves Street in Long Island City, there will be two concurrent exhibits running from Sept. 20 to Jan. 4. One of them, “Gabriel Sierra: Numbers in a Room,” will rework SculptureCenter’s galleries to link architecture and design to the exhibit’s objects. One aspect, which also seems to bring in the viewer through an invitation to contemplate the environment, is that there is a mirroring in the work.

“...The various structures comprising an exhibition in an institution create a mirroring effect, where each thing recalls another thing,” a press release for the exhibit reads.

Sierra, a Colombian artist, presents an interesting challenge for viewers, seeming to invite visitors to dismantle how humans approach gallery spaces and also, the world.

The other exhibit, “Anthea Hamilton: Lichen! Libido! Chastity!,” will be an avant-garde investigation of cultural appropriation and pop culture, looking at design, music and fashion in sculptures and videos. Identity and its societal contexts also seem to be key ideas.
“Verging on the absurd, the works articulate perverse fantasies, intimately binding the body to products and things,” curators wrote.

SculptureCenter, located at 44-19 Purves St., is open Thursday through Monday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For details, call (718) 361-1750 or visit sculpture-center.org.

In contrast to exhibits exploring many different voices at once, an upcoming exhibit at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum at Queens College in Kew Gardens Hills spotlights watercolors and prints from one artist: Gertrud Parker.

Parker has created for over 40 years and Godwin-Ternbach curated a fascinating range of color, form and emotional tones. Critics have found “insightful explorations of the darker themes of human existence” in her works.

The exhibition will be on display at 405 Klapper Hall, at 65-30 Kissena Blvd., from Sept. 8 to 27. For details, call (718) 997-4747 or visit gtmuseum.org.
Can Sanders' civil rights experience at U. of C. translate on campaign trail?

By Jasper Craven
Chicago Tribune

AUGUST 26, 2015, 9:18 PM

When Bernie Sanders attended the University of Chicago in the early 1960s, the campus was a bastion of political progressivism — one that nurtured the socialist positions the U.S. senator and presidential candidate now trumpets.

"The U. of C. had a reputation of radicalism during the 1950s. During the Red Scare, a number of U. of C. faculty members were accused of being communists," said Ray Gadke, a U. of C. librarian. "That was the generation before Bernie was here, but there was still that reputation of being a red school — a radical school — when he was here."

While some of Sanders' earliest political activism focused on civil rights issues plaguing black communities, he has stumbled during his presidential campaign when explaining his positions on the civil rights issues of the present. For some activists, Sanders' past organizing is not sufficient evidence that the Vermont senator best represents issues important in black communities.

Sanders transferred to the U. of C. after a year at Brooklyn College and became involved in the school's chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality. He graduated in 1964 with a degree in political science and considerable experience in waging grass-roots campaigns.

As president of CORE, he spearheaded sit-ins, pickets and protests related to racial inequality, the most visible of which was two weeks of sit-ins at the office of university President George Beadle over segregationist policies at university-owned apartments in Hyde Park.

"We feel it is an intolerable situation when Negro and white students of the University cannot live together in university owned apartments," Sanders told the student newspaper, The Maroon, in January 1962.

Former classmates said Sanders was committed to holding the university responsible for its promise to examine racial issues.

"Of the people at these meetings, he was particularly interested in policy questions, like what should the government do about civil rights or nuclear weapons," said Michael Parker, who participated in some activism with Sanders. "He was talking about solutions, as opposed to just problems."

Sanders helped set up a system for filing complaints concerning discrimination in university housing. And after the administration backpedaled on promises to hold discussions on policy changes, Sanders set up tables in Mandel Hall where students could submit ideas on how the university could become more inclusive, according to Maroon accounts.

"Bernie was clearly a leader," said Mike Edelstein, who served on CORE's executive committee when Sanders was involved. "He was taken seriously. You couldn't take him for anything else because, like now, his humor is
not his foremost trait."

Considered a long shot for the presidency by political analysts, the self-described Democratic socialist initially focused his campaign on economic inequality.

But a series of cases involving authorities and African-Americans, including the fatal shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., and the death of Naperville resident Sandra Bland in a Texas jail after a controversial traffic stop, has put the spotlight on racial issues.

Sanders and other Democratic presidential candidates have been criticized by civil rights advocates, including leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement, who say the candidates have not adequately addressed these issues. In response, Sanders has pointed to his background in the civil rights movement in college, including his participation in the 1963 civil rights march on Washington.

Black Lives Matter protesters interrupted Sanders at a Netroots Nation conference last month, demanding he speak more forcefully about institutional racism. After the confrontation, Sanders became visibly upset, saying "black lives of course matter, and I've spent 50 years of my life fighting for civil rights and for dignity. But if you don't want me to be here, that's OK."

Since then, Sanders, who has been interrupted by Black Lives Matter demonstrators at other events, took the issue head-on Aug. 10 in Los Angeles. "There is no president that will fight harder to end institutional racism," he told the crowd.

DeRay McKesson, a former teacher who is an organizer in the Black Lives Matter movement, attended his first Sanders speech a few days after the Netroots conference in July and said the candidate showed an authenticity that was appealing. But he said Sanders must reach beyond his past civil rights work to win over the African-American community.

"It was unclear to me how that past work was informing his rhetoric until people pushed him on it," McKesson said. "His language is now starting to catch up, and he is plainly talking about how black lives matter."

In the 1960s, the U. of C. campus was a place where socialists, civil rights advocates and anti-war protesters staked out ground for change. Many students traveled to Mississippi to register voters or wore armbands in protest of President John F. Kennedy's foreign policy toward Cuba. Lula Mae White, a 1963 U. of C. graduate, became a civil rights leader and was arrested for her participation in the Freedom Rides.

Multiple socialist student groups also existed at the school, and renowned political theorist Hannah Arendt spoke on campus about the conditions needed to spur revolution. In October 1962, David Stark Murray, president of the Socialist Medical Association, talked to students about the fight for socialized medicine — a Sanders platform since his first political post as mayor of Burlington, Vt., in the early 1980s.

In a 1963 letter to The Maroon, Sanders struck some notes similar to his current positions, calling on protesters to hit hard against segregationist policies in Hyde Park and blaming the university for refusing to "discuss the failings of an economic system which, despite the great wealth of the country, does not provide adequate housing for large numbers of people."

The CORE sit-ins against segregation, which garnered national attention, were tense, and some protesters were arrested, Maroon reports said. Sanders was not among those arrested during the sit-ins, according to the reports.

After weeks of sit-ins, Beadle and the university agreed to form a commission to investigate discrimination and
hold community discussions about race.

Sanders and about 40 CORE members also picketed the landlords of a U. of C.-owned building that refused housing to a black man. As picketers left the residence on East 54th Street, people yelled, "Go back to your jungles," according to an account from The Maroon. That same day, CORE also picketed the Howard Johnson's restaurant at 87th Street and Cicero Avenue after executives refused to adopt nondiscriminatory policies.

During Sanders' time at CORE, the group organized a talk on campus by Malcolm X on the subject of "integration or segregation." Sanders and other CORE members also volunteered for the re-election of Leon Despres, a 5th Ward alderman and champion of open housing policies in Chicago.

While Sanders was frequently quoted in The Maroon and often wrote letters to the editor condemning the administration, he also was a guest writer for a column called The Gadfly. In one column titled "Sex and the Single Girl—Part Two," he argued that by imposing curfews and room checks for women, the school was regulating the sex lives of students.

"It must be stated in the strongest possible terms that no group of men should be given the power to believe that they can regulate one of the most important aspects of human life," Sanders wrote.

Sanders' call for curfew reforms was not taken seriously, but the push to end segregation eventually succeeded. After more than a year of protests, The Maroon announced "UC ends housing segregation" on its July 19, 1963, front page.

While critics said Sanders at first appeared defensive or annoyed toward the Black Lives Matters protesters who shut down his speeches, he has since embraced their efforts, rolling out a racial justice platform Aug. 10 that acknowledges disproportionate violence against blacks by law enforcement and calls for reforms in police departments.

Sanders also named a black criminal justice advocate and strong supporter of the Black Lives Matter movement as his national press secretary.

Mckesson, of Black Lives Matter, who said he liked many of the points Sanders made, was not ready to endorse a candidate.

"The time of speaking in coded language is past us," Mckesson said. "People are looking for candidates to speak clearly, the issue of criminal justice is important in black communities."

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Op-Ed Why L.A.'s crime rise is no surprise

By JOE DOMANICK

AUGUST 27, 2015, 4:41 AM

After more than a decade of decline, violent crime in Los Angeles rose more than 20% during the first half of 2015, with felony assaults up 26% and robberies up 19%. Why, no one yet definitively knows. But there's plenty of speculation.

Straight off, most criminologists will tell you that crime goes up, crime goes down, and sometimes it's a trend, or just a blip, apart from anything the police are doing. Others will point out that violent crime in cities like Los Angeles may have plunged so deeply in recent years — to historic modern lows — that it simply bottomed out.

Here in Los Angeles, the rise might also be attributable in part to the Los Angeles Police Department crime stats simply being reported more honestly. An irrefutable Los Angeles Times investigation of the department's crime numbers for the first half of 2014, for example, discovered the misclassification of 1,200 violent felony assaults as misdemeanors, thus making it appear that serious violent crime was going down when in fact it went up by 14%.

There are also broader national trends that might be affecting L.A.'s crime rate. According to Ron Noble, the dean of gang interventionists at the Los Angeles Urban Peace Institute, the heroin epidemic plaguing the Northeast has finally started to hit Los Angeles.

"It's moving now from middle-class kids in the west San Fernando Valley to Chicano and African American areas such as South Los Angeles and East L.A.," says Noble. Thus we might be seeing heroin become a crime-rise factor like crack was in the 1980s, both in terms of strung-out users committing crimes to feed their addiction and gangs fighting turf wars over drug distribution rights.

But I'd like to take an educated guess on what might be the key factor causing L.A. crime to rise: Something may be happening akin to the eras of the Watts riots of 1965, the high-crime crack war years of the 1980s and early '90s, and the 1992 Los Angeles riots. And it's this: a new Gilded Age of obscene wealth, stunning, low-wage income disparity and grinding poverty have come together to make ghetto and barrio life ever more desperate. As a result, the steam is once again pressing against the engine cap, just as it did during those infamous times.

To explain more fully requires a quick look at recent L.A. history.
By the early 2000s, many of the players involved in the gangster violence of the late 1980s and '90s were out of the game: drugged-out, aged-out, locked up or dead. At the same time, the broader demographics of South L.A. were dramatically changing. As black gangs devolved in the housing projects of Watts and other nearby neighborhoods, Central American and Mexican immigrants — who, as a number of studies have pointed out, have a strong work ethic and low crime rates — moved in.

But in the 15 years since 2000, a new generation of L.A.'s ever-expanding legion of the poor has grown into their teens and early 20s — the prime crime-committing years — and come of age in the fierce, dog-eat-dog economy of the Great Recession. They have faced gasoline prices hovering around $5 a gallon, $13 movie tickets, a bag of groceries costing twice as much as six or seven years ago, and trouble finding even stagnant low-wage jobs or seats at overcrowded community colleges.

Simultaneously, housing in Los Angeles has become the most expensive in the nation, as gentrification is pushing the city's poor and miserably paid out of their neighborhoods, increasingly with no place to go. Those who remain are living in what social scientists call "severely overcrowded homes," while services for the poor dwindle. All are incubators of desperation and criminal behavior.

The most vivid example of all this are L.A.'s homeless, the number of whom, like crime, is on a steep rise — up 16% in Los Angeles County, while skid row homeless housing is all but disappearing, also due to gentrification.

Association isn't causation, but the patterns in the stats are striking. On the streets of skid row and adjacent Chinatown, violent crime has exploded by 67%, property crimes by 26%; and in the LAPD's Central Division, which polices downtown, felonious assaults have skyrocketed by 80%.

Meanwhile, in the nearby Wilshire Division, the number of homeless has been overflowing from skid row. There, violent crimes and burglaries have increased by 14% and vehicle thefts by 26%. Similarly, in the heart of Hollywood, in the areas framed by Hollywood and Vine, there's been a reported 140% increase in homelessness along with an overall violent crime rise of 14.7% in the Hollywood Division.

In short, L.A.'s crime rise seems to be part of the same-old-same-old double-downed: raw poverty and rising crime again coming together in an era of astounding, Third World-like income disparity, declining social services and desperate poverty.

We can continue to deny that undeniable truth. But the data are in, the pilot programs and studies completed. We now know definitely what needs to be done to stop the poverty and crime merry-go-round, and it's not more mass incarceration. We just aren't willing to pay the cost of
systemically, permanently fixing it.

Joe Domanick is the West Coast bureau chief of TheCrimeReport.org and associate director of the Center on Media, Crime and Justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York. His latest book is "Blue: The LAPD and the Battle to Redeem American Policing."

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Positivity: Happy Harry’s Guide to Life

By Valentin Schmid, Epoch Times | August 26, 2015 | Last Updated: August 26, 2015 8:57 pm

If only life was as easy for us as it is for Harry Edelson. He says he is always happy and always has been, whether during his poor childhood growing up in Brooklyn or during his heydays as a successful Wall Streeter.

The good news is that Harry is sharing all his secrets with the rest of us in his new book "Positivity."

"I have learned that material things do not provide happiness, but that the proper frame of mind does," he writes. That's why he was happy as he grew up in Brooklyn as the son of poor Russian immigrants, playing punchball with his friends on the street.
Harry Edelson's Positivity

Although he attributes some of his propensity to stay positive to his genes, he says he learned to control his thoughts at an early age. He also advises us to get smarter, healthier, and wealthier, but staying positive is really the core message of the book:

"Take control of your senses, determine to be happy, and develop a frame of mind that will make you
and all those around you happy. It is within your control.”

So don't complain about any kind of circumstances, but rather focus on positives and solutions to problems.

**Educate Yourself**

The other important factor in Edelson's recipe for a successful and happy life is hard work and education. "I have found the harder you work, the luckier you seem to be."

And hard work also means continuously educating yourself. A game changer in Harry's life was when he got admitted to Brooklyn Technical High School which set him off on a path to earn degrees from Brooklyn College, New York University, as well as the Cornell Graduate School of Electrical Engineering.

But Edelson says it's not enough to just learn what's on the curriculum. His essential "bag of tricks" includes speed reading, special memory techniques or mnemonics, and speed math.

**MORE:**

- **This is New York: Harry Edelson on Happiness**

"The lesson I learned was not only that I could read fast, but that my brain could be pushed to operate at a higher level." Edelson now reads about 4000 words per minute if he has to and says he never has a backlog—and that despite having to review tons of legal and financial documents for this work as a venture capitalist.

The next basic talent of the human brain Edelson thinks needs to be developed is mental speed math. "Your brain can be as fast as any computer and can certainly operate faster than pencil and paper on a calculator."

The benefit: Save the time to start up the calculator app and even do advanced calculations in your head.

The third essential is memory techniques, also called mnemonics. "Once you open your mind to learning new things you will be amazed at the expansion of your thought process."

Edelson goes into some examples of each of the above mentioned techniques and recommends some further reading. The point of all of it though is an expanded use of the brain, a higher level of competitiveness, and an increased ability for continuous learning—all important factors of being happy.

**Be Healthy and Prosperous**

Of course, being happy is hard if you are ill. So Edelson gives us a few nuggets of wisdom on how to be healthy as well. Again, he thinks the key lies within the human mind.

"Quite simply, the main reason for my good fortune is positive thinking, since I am neither an exercise addict nor a health food devotee," says Edelson, who at age 82 has never missed a day of school or work in his entire life because of illness.

He writes at length about the placebo effect or how just thinking of being cured by a drug actually cures you almost as much as the drug itself. "If you are smart, you will take advantage of the placebo effect every day of your life,” he writes but cautions that doctor's orders should be followed after double-checking the diagnosis and he does recommend a healthy diet and moderate exercise.

Edelson argues that material wealth is not critical for achieving happiness, but not being poor certainly makes it easier. So Edelson rounds up his advice by telling readers how to be disciplined with their spending, improve their education to get better jobs, and also how to invest wisely.

At the end of the day, this exercise is not in order to become rich (Edelson himself returned millions in fees he charged investors) but to create value for others—and be happy.

"Do good deeds for others because not only will it make others happy—it will also make you happier."
The PhD Project Announces 2015 Inductees Into Hall of Fame

Dr. Michael B. Clement, University of Texas at Austin; Dean Mark C. Dawkins, University of North Florida; Dr. William J. Qualls, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

08:40 ET from The PhD Project (http://www.prnewswire.com/news/the-phd-project)

MONTVALE, N.J., Aug. 27, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- The PhD Project (http://phdpproject.org/), an award-winning program to increase diversity in management, announced the 2015 inductees into its PhD Project Hall of Fame (http://www.phdpproject.org/en/our-success/alumni-resources-programs). They are: Dr. Michael B. Clement, Professor of Accounting, University of Texas at Austin; Dr. Mark C. Dawkins, Dean, University of North Florida; Dr. William J. Qualls, Professor of Marketing, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

The PhD Project established the Hall of Fame in 2011 to recognize a select few who have inspired many. These individuals have sustained an unwavering commitment to The PhD Project's mission and their positive leadership has resulted in significant encouragement and impact within The Project's network of minority business doctoral students and faculty.

"We are pleased to present the 2015 inductees to The PhD Project Hall of Fame. Since our inception, these individuals have served The Project as presenters, mentors and advisors," said Bernard J. Milano, President of The PhD Project and the KPMG Foundation, the founder and lead funder of The Project. "They have put forth great effort to create diversity in academia and ultimately, the business world."
Dr. Clement (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuARPt0Z7lo) was there at the birth of The PhD Project and attended the first ever Accounting Doctoral Student Association (DSA) conference in Montvale, NJ. He has been an advocate for The Project ever since. He was recently named the KPMG Professor, Department of Accounting at the University of Texas at Austin and he is also the director of the department's Ph.D. program. Dr. Clement received his B.B.A. from Baruch College, his M.B.A. from the University of Chicago, and his Ph.D. from Stanford University. His research explores the activities of the analysts whose earnings and stock market predictions often drive Wall Street and has been published in leading academic journals, including: the *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, the *Journal of Accounting Research*, the *Accounting Review*, the *Journal of Finance* and the *Academy of Management Journal*. Unofficially, and in his role as UT Austin's faculty liaison to the NCAA, Dr. Clement mentors many student athletes of color. He is a 2009 recipient of the Ernst & Young Inclusive Excellence Award. **Dr. Jennifer Joe**, one of his nominators for The Hall Of Fame, said, "I don't believe that it would be an exaggeration to state that were it not for Michael Clement, there might be not be a PhD Project as we know it today. Even as a student about to graduate, Michael served as a role model to many of us who were at the beginning of our doctoral careers. In his quiet self-deprecating manner he let us know that if he was able to succeed, then the rest of us could."