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Deborah Bach
News and Information

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A new study looks at just who is doing that caregiving, and who they're caring for — and some of the findings are surprising.

Published online in Population and Development Review on June 16, the research is believed to be the first to break down unpaid caregiving in the United States by age and gender of caregivers and those they care for, in their own homes or elsewhere.

The study found that almost one-third of the U.S. population are informal caregivers and collectively provide about 1.2 billion hours of unpaid work weekly, the equivalent of about 30.5 million full-time care aides. But the sandwich generation comprises just 3 percent of the population, much less than researchers anticipated.

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The researchers were also surprised to find that elderly people were frequently being cared for by spouses, not their adult children. About 20 percent of caregiving time spent on people 80 years or older comes from people of the same age, they found.

"The extent to which spousal care is prevalent at old ages, 70 and 80 years old, was surprising to us," said lead author Emilio Zagheni, a UW assistant professor of sociology.

"We expected to see more caregiving by adult children of their parents."
Older men provided slightly more spousal care than women, Zagheni said, which might be explained by men dying earlier, possibly before they need much care, and women living longer but being in poor health at older ages.

And much less caregiving time was spent on elderly people compared with young children. Across the various age groups, elderly people received caregiving typically no more than 1.5 hours daily, on average, compared with six hours for young children.

The unexpectedly small number of sandwich generation caregivers, Zagheni said, could reflect the fact that while Americans are living longer, people are also having children later, so the two trends might counterbalance each other.

"That could be one reason," he said. "Or it could be that health overall is improving, so people at older ages don't need as much help."

Overall, women continue to shoulder the bulk of the caregiving burden in most situations. They provide 137 minutes of unpaid caregiving a day on average, compared with men's 110 minutes. Among the sandwich generation, the numbers increase to 181 and 157, respectively.

To develop their analyses, Zagheni and co-author Denys Dukhovnov, a research associate at CUNY Institute for Demographic Research in New York, looked at three years of data from the American Time Use Survey, which asks respondents how much time they spent the previous day on various activities.

Collected in 2011 through 2013, the data reflects responses from around 36,000 Americans. Zagheni and Dukhovnov broke down responses into five-year age groups for caregivers and recipients, then developed matrices showing who gave and received care in specific age ranges.

While other studies have focused on caregiving within the home or between specific groups, such as middle-aged parents and young children, most have not looked at caregiving by subgroups of people, or a range of caregiving scenarios both inside and outside the home — for example, babysitting a friend's children or taking a niece or nephew out on weekends.

Mean time commitment in minutes per day of caregivers and sandwich generation caregivers. *Emilio Zagheni*
The study revealed some notable patterns. Childcare occupies a sizable chunk of time for caregivers of various ages, but particularly women in their 30s, and to a lesser degree, in their late 50s and older, underscoring the importance of parenting and grandparenting. And while grandmothers spend considerable time with grandchildren from birth to age 4, grandfathers tend to steer clear of newborns and spend time with grandchildren aged 5 to 14.

Men aged 60 to 79 spend less than one-third of the time caring for children from birth to age 4 than women in the same age group do, but spend slightly more time with children age 5 to 14. While women spend only slightly more time with girls than boys, men spend three times the amount of time with boys as with girls.

The study estimates the value of unpaid care nationwide at $691 billion in 2012, roughly 4.3 percent of the country's GDP. That figure could rise to $838.8 billion by 2050, the researchers predict, but if caregiving continues at current levels, another 1.3 million more care workers could be needed.

That increased demand, Dukhovnov said, could be partially addressed through more flexible workplace policies and tax breaks or other incentives that would better allow people to provide informal caregiving and continue working.

"Right now, many people must make a choice between staying home to look after parents or children or working," he said. "If people can work more, that means they're contributing to the overall economy, and helping to pay for social supports and other care services."

The U.S., Zagheni said, is currently in a "golden age" of caregiving. Gaps between those who need care and those who are available to provide it are smaller than in the 1950s and '60s, when high birth rates put a squeeze on caregiver availability, and what we will see in coming years, when the numbers of elderly Americans are expected to increase dramatically.

"At least from a demographic perspective, there are enough people in the productive age groups to distribute the work to take care of those who need it, either children or the elderly," he said. "That's not going to last."
Cuomo announces ‘Enough is Enough’ bill to fight college campus sex assaults

BY KENNETH LOVETT / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Wednesday, June 17, 2015, 8:35 AM

ALBANY — Gov. Cuomo and legislative leaders announced agreement Tuesday on a bill designed to combat sexual assaults on New York college campuses.

The “Enough is Enough” measure would create a statewide definition of a “yes means yes” affirmative consent policy for students who engage in sexual activity.

It would also grant immunity for campus policy violations like drug and alcohol use for students who report sexual assault incidents, create a new sexual assault victims unit within the state police and require first responders to notify victims of their rights to contact outside police.

SUNY and CUNY enacted similar reforms last year and Cuomo made expanding it to New York’s private colleges a top priority.

"As the governor, and as a father, I am proud that with this legislation New York will become a national leader in the fight against sexual assault on college campuses," Cuomo said.

The Legislature is expected to pass the bill before ending this week’s scheduled end of the legislative session.
NEW NARRATIVES, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NY DONATE CAMERAS TO UNIVERSITY OF LIBERIA

Written by FPA Staff Report
Published: 17 June 2015

Monrovia - New Narratives and the City University of New York have donated four sophisticated cameras to the Department of Mass Communication at the University of Liberia. Making the donation on behalf of Professor Prue Clarke of the City University of New York’s Graduate School of Journalism, Samwar S. Fallah, Newsroom Chief of FrontPageAfrica and Project Manager for New Narratives Oil reporting project said Professor Clarke has been working in Liberia for 11 years and knows the resource challenges facing the Department of Mass Communications. She provided the equipment to help the department grow upcoming journalists.

"Professor Prue Clarke wants me to inform you that she is aware of the challenges facing the Mass Communications Department and she has promised to look out with the City University and other sources for other assistance for you," said Fallah.

Fallah said the Professor and head of New Narratives was in Liberia for five days during the period 2 to 7 June and could not make the donation in person based on her tight schedule with the training of participants of the Thomson Reuters/New Narratives Liberia Oil reporting project which is working with a team of journalists to report on Liberia’s emerging oil sector.

Receiving the cameras, a joyful Professor Weade K. Wuruh, Vice President for Administration at the University of Liberia and head of the Department of Mass Communications said the department is grateful to Professor Clarke, the City University of New York and New Narratives for the donation.

"These cameras are expensive and given the constraints facing the University, we cannot buy them so, I am very happy for Prue, New Narratives and the City University of New York to think about us and provide these things for us," said Professor Wuruh.
Put Lawyers Where They’re Needed

By THERESA AMATO  JUNE 17, 2015

OAK PARK, Ill. — MILLIONS of Americans lack crucial legal services. Yet enormous numbers of lawyers are unemployed. Why can’t the supply of lawyers match the demand?

In Nebraska, 20 out of 93 counties have fewer than four lawyers. Eleven counties have no lawyers at all. The Montana Legal Services Association, a nonprofit group that is partly federally funded, reports having only 13 case-handling lawyers for the entire state. Throughout the country, millions of low-income people have no access to free or affordable lawyers, even for life-altering civil matters like child-custody disputes or home foreclosures, where legal representation really matters.

This “justice gap” is vast. According to the World Justice Project’s latest Rule of Law Index, which gathers primary data on people’s practical experience of the law in 102 countries, the United States ranks 65th for the accessibility and affordability of its civil justice. We’re tied with Botswana, Pakistan and Uzbekistan, not far behind Moldova and Nigeria.

In most service industries, such an epic imbalance of supply and demand would entice more entrepreneurs. But the legal profession has failed to do so.

More than two decades ago, I tried to bridge the gap in the Chicago suburbs where I grew up by starting the Citizen Advocacy Center, a nonprofit to provide civic training and free legal services for citizens seeking
local government accountability. I could begin a career in public advocacy because I graduated with low debt, thanks to a public-interest scholarship from New York University School of Law.

To help us start up, we had a crucial founding grant from the Nader family trust, renewed annually. That, together with other foundation support, excellent mentors and individual contributions, made it possible to sustain the center.

Even so, this was community lawyering on a lean budget. Our first office was below ground, with an old pink carpet. We cleaned up secondhand chairs from my high school and used my parents’ old kitchen table. My father painted, my stepdad provided accounting help and my mom answered the phones.

She also begged me to hang my diplomas on the wall. She worried that no one would believe I was a lawyer.

Nonetheless, people poured in once they learned there was a free community lawyer available, and more volunteers came. Over the years, I hired and trained other community lawyers; in turn, we mentored hundreds of law students and helped thousands of people achieve justice in everything from tax and zoning issues to First Amendment matters and government procurement.

To create the entire sector of sustainable, affordable legal service providers that the legal profession needs will take much more entrepreneurship. There’s no shortage of lawyers to bridge the justice gap. For the last four years, less than 60 percent of law-school graduates have found full-time jobs requiring a bar qualification.

The problem is twofold. First, school fees have consistently outpaced inflation over the last 30 years, and on average, 86 percent of law students graduate with six-figure debt. Without help, the drag of this debt makes it near-impossible for willing graduates to take lower-paying legal services jobs.

Second, even for those graduates who are able to serve those who lack affordable legal representation, the jobs are few and much fought-for —
despite the often less than chic locales. Recent graduates rarely have the training or resources to create jobs for themselves.

The Legal Services Corporation is the closest thing we have to a corps of lawyers for low-income litigants. Yet Congress has consistently underfunded it. For 2015, the corporation received less than $400 million — adjusted for inflation, roughly half its funding in the early ’80s. The result is that every year about two million citizens eligible for its help do not get served.

This is only part of the justice gap. There are far too few public interest advocates. We must help law students graduate without a ball and chain of debt. And we need to create jobs that let new graduates practice law either pro bono or “low bono” (cut-price) for clients who can’t afford most attorneys’ rates.

The profession remains over-focused on training lawyers to serve the needs of corporations. And the law schools have lunched off the high tuition rates enabled by this arrangement for far too long.

Law schools that trumpet their public-interest programs for recruiting should hire professors who have actually represented clients and who can train practice-ready lawyers. The schools could also offer public-interest tracks with tuition assistance or loan forgiveness, and fund these through development campaigns.

Congress should continue the program that forgives debt for those who make 10 years of repayments while working in the nonprofit or government sector. This would at least allow lawyers to take a position with lower wages without defaulting on their debts.

Bar associations, philanthropic foundations, law schools and firms could also increase funding for more low bono positions and postgraduate fellowships. There are now some fine examples of such incubator programs: the law schools of the City University of New York and Arizona State University, New York State’s Pro Bono Scholars program and the Chicago Bar Foundation’s Justice Entrepreneurs Project all provide training for students or graduates that seeks to create affordable legal services jobs.

Prestige and professional success need not be defined by income or
office space. With help, we can do a far better job of matching legal talent with human need.


Follow The New York Times Opinion section on Facebook and Twitter, and sign up for the Opinion Today newsletter.
The Wikipedia entry for “quixoticism” runs only about 255 words. But if anyone could argue for a personal mention, it might be Michael Mandiberg.

For the past three years, he has been fully engaged in a project that might make even the most intrepid digital adventurer blush: transforming the English-language Wikipedia into an old-fashioned print reference set running to 7,600 volumes.

Mr. Mandiberg, an interdisciplinary artist who teaches at the College of Staten Island and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, describes the project as half utilitarian data visualization project, half absurdist poetic gesture.

“When I started, I wondered, ‘What if I took this new thing and made it into that old thing?’” he said in a recent interview in his sparse, white-walled studio in Downtown Brooklyn. “What would it look like?”

On Thursday, he and the rest of the world will find out, when the exhibition “From Aaaaa! To ZZZap!,” based on his larger project “Print Wikipedia,” opens at the Denny Gallery on the Lower East Side. There, Mr. Mandiberg will hit “start” and a computer program will begin uploading the 11 gigabytes of very compressed data from a Mac Mini to the print-on-demand website Lulu.com.

The upload page at Lulu.com will be projected onto one wall of the
gallery, which will remain open around the clock through the weekend and then for more regular hours until the upload finishes roughly two weeks later. For the code-literate, the technical operations will be tracked on a monitor in the gallery and online at printwikipedia.com. For the print-minded, the gallery’s other walls will be lined with wallpaper showing the spines of the first 1,980 volumes in the set, supplemented by 106 actual physical volumes, each of which runs to 700 pages.

Everyone knows that Wikipedia is huge, but it takes the physical book — still a “cognitively useful” unit of measure, Mr. Mandiberg said — to grasp just how huge. He will not, however, be printing all 7,600 volumes.

“We don’t need to see the whole thing in order to understand how big it is,” Mr. Mandiberg said. “Even if we just have one bookshelf, our human brains can finish the rest.”

Mr. Mandiberg, a seasoned Wikipedia contributor with nearly 2,000 edits to his name, first started batting around the idea for the project in 2009. In 2012, he pushed the project to the front burner, throwing himself into what he called “a series of unending nontrivial programming tasks” necessary to formatting the data behind Wikipedia — all of which is freely available online — for upload.

He approached Lulu.com last fall. “It was certainly a very interesting inquiry,” said Dan Dillon, vice president for marketing at the company, which provided technical and some financial support to the project. “It’s not every day someone comes to you and says, ‘I’d like to make a printed inventory of the largest storehouse of human knowledge in English, and would like to use your website.’ ”

There have been other efforts to measure Wikipedia in terms of the printed page. But Mr. Mandiberg seems to have taken the most concrete measure yet of its size — at least as of April 7, when he harvested the data. According to estimates provided by the Wikimedia Foundation, there have been some 7.5 million edits since.

Mr. Mandiberg’s project, like the evolving digital encyclopedia itself, is really “a gesture at knowledge,” said Katherine Maher, chief
communications officer at Wikimedia, adding, "The reality is that knowledge has transcended our ability to hold it in volumes on a bookshelf."

The installation at the Denny Gallery may be titled "From Aaaaa! to ZZZap!," but it takes a while for Mr. Mandiberg's encyclopedia — the articles are set three columns to a page, mainly using an open-source typeface called Cardo — to get to the letter A.

First comes the 91-volume table of contents listing the nearly 11.5 million articles. Then come more than 500 volumes containing entries beginning with typographical symbols and numbers, starting with "!" (the exclamation point), "!!" (notation for an excellent move in chess) and "!!!" (a dance-punk band from Sacramento whose name is usually pronounced "Chk Chk Chk").

There is also a 36-volume contributors index, listing each of the nearly 7.5 million named users who have made even a single edit since Wikipedia began in 2001 — a statistic that Mr. Mandiberg may be the first to establish.

While Wikimedia now has an analytics team, tracking the size and growth of Wikipedia "is something we've had to go back and do retroactively," Ms. Maher said. Until recently, "the focus has been on making sure the servers run."

Any volume of Mr. Mandiberg's encyclopedia can be ordered from Lulu.com for $80. Select volumes will also be on sale at the gallery for $68, including those containing the entries for resonant terms like "aesthetics," "appropriation," "entropy" and "time."

Those volumes carry especially poignant "spine poetry," as Mr. Mandiberg put it. The article on "history," for example, falls in Volume 2919, which runs from "Historicity of Jesus" to "History and use of instant run-off voting." The article for "humanism" appears in a volume titled "Hulk (Aqua Teen Hunger Force) — Humanitarianism in Africa."

These algorithmically generated word clusters "represent humanism's failing as an idea, even as Wikipedia itself is an incredible act of humanism," Mr. Mandiberg said. "It's really all these contradictions wrapped up in one."

As each volume finishes uploading, the title will be posted to Twitter at @PrintWikipedia. There will be a party when the entire upload is done,
which Mr. Mandiberg estimated will take 11 to 14 days. That moment — and the futile grand gesture it represents — will be celebrated with toasts and a projection of the confirmation page, complete with a “Buy It Now” button offering the whole set for $500,000.

While that price is real, the button is just for show. “The order is so big it breaks the shopping cart,” Mr. Mandiberg said. “But symbolically, I wanted to able to say ‘Buy It Now.’”

A version of this article appears in print on June 17, 2015, on page C1 of the New York edition with the headline: Wikipedia Moves to Bookshelves.
MORRISANIA — The Morrisania Post Office just moved one step closer to bearing the name of late former congressman Herman Badillo.

On Monday, the House of Representatives passed legislation to rename the building at 442 E. 167th St. after Badillo, the first Puerto Rican congressman and a longtime fixture of New York City political life who died late last year.

The legislation was introduced by Reps. Jose Serrano, Charles Rangel and Joseph Crowley, and now only needs to be approved in the Senate.
Badillo passed away (http://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20141204/concourse/local-pols-mourn-passing-of-former-congressman-herman-badillo) at age 85 in December due to complications from heart failure. In addition to his career in Congress, he also served as deputy mayor of New York City, chairman of CUNY’s Board of Trustees and Bronx Borough President.

"Herman Badillo was a trailblazer in every sense of the word, and many of us in Bronx politics would not be where we are today if it weren't for his leadership and support," Serrano said in a statement. "His work was instrumental in Puerto Ricans' civic participation, both at the local and national level, and helped bring attention to issues of concern to the community."

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. (http://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/people/ruben-diaz-ji) has been an enthusiastic supporter of naming the Morrisania Post Office after Badillo and was pleased Congress was working toward doing so.

"We must always keep his name on our lips, and his memory in our hearts," he said in a statement. "We must always remember, and celebrate, the work of Herman Badillo."
Alumnus creates tropical installation for Cornell Tech

By Daniel Aloisi

Artist Peter Gerakaris, BFA '03, set out to create a warm welcome for visitors to Cornell Tech’s construction celebration on Roosevelt Island with his installation, “Tropicália,” opening June 16 at Gallery RIVAA, where Cornell Tech staff have had a part-time presence since last winter.

Gerakaris played off the idea of Roosevelt Island as a kind of exotic locale, largely unknown to most New Yorkers, for the installation commissioned by Cornell Tech.

With tropical climate zones and environmental concerns in mind, he used fluorescent painting techniques and nascent printing technology to generate mixed-media murals for the 1,700-square-foot exhibition space. Based on his paintings, the large-scale, high-resolution digital prints on vinyl can be viewed through stereoscopic ChromaDepth glasses that allow 3-D color effects to appear.

In what he called an “analog to digital back to analog” process, Gerakaris “cut and pasted and remixed” the work on site starting June 8. Passersby could see Gerakaris at work on the installation, which also features a selection of paintings, works on paper, an audio installation and large-scale graphic window displays facing Main Street.

“Hopefully, this sets the aspirational tone for ongoing cultural interventions on the island,” Gerakaris said. “If my math is right, the mural imagery totals about 1,000 square feet. This is honestly the largest amount of pictorial material I’ve ever created for one site.”
For the RIVAA installation, he used a knife to "cut out certain key elements from the printed material for the baroque visual effect of segments exploding and expanding beyond the borders, like a giant wall collage."

The site-specific installation wraps around corners and extends onto the floors of the gallery, and is intended to reveal different meanings and layers on each viewing. It was curated by artist Kendal Henry, director of the Percent for Art program, which commissions public art throughout New York City. Gerakaris collaborated with composer-producer Trevor Gureckis on a soundtrack that incorporates everything from jungle sounds to percussive polyrhythms and Afrobeat music.

"The title riffs off Brazilian music," he said. "The audio is a mixture of ambient sounds from a trek in the Guatemalan jungle, collaging in musical tonalities I've collected from travels to various environments," including the Cape Verde Islands off the coast of West Africa.

Inspired by his upbringing in rural New Hampshire and extensive travels with his parents, both artists, Gerakaris' art focuses on "the intersection of culture and nature," he said. "Tropicalia" reflects this in its "botanicals filtered through a pop-media kaleidoscope."

"Before I could even walk I was holding a pencil, crawling around my father Dimitri's drafting table," he said. "And Cornell played an integral role in nurturing the idea of having a well-rounded background. What's the point of having technical chops if you don't have any meaningful ideas or substance to communicate? It was an incredible incubator for learning how to think critically on one's own."

He credited art professor Stan Taft's painting courses with his "awakenings about the physiological and psychological effects of color, and color perception on the emotional experience of art," he said. "He had us do all these incredible color studies in class with paint mixture, glazing techniques and varnishes. Color awakens something deep in the mind and soul."

Gerakaris also cited an art and politics class with Susan Buck-Morss "that actually dealt with ideas of revolutionary public art. As an undergraduate, that really prepared me for a higher level of philosophical discourse of art and aesthetics" before graduate school, he said. He earned an MFA from Hunter College in 2006 and remains connected to Cornell, leading art tours for College of Architecture, Art and Planning (AAP) alumni in the city.

Originally on a digital media track as a fine arts major, he decided to focus on painting during a semester in AAP's Cornell in Rome program.

"I had a computer meltdown," he said. "I realized, I can drop this painting and pick it up and repair it... however, I still love engaging technology whenever possible, and combining analog and digital modes. Ultimately, my process has to involve the human touch, which paradoxically nurtures what I find so magical about art: the intangible."

"Tropicalia" is on display June 16-July 31 at Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. on Roosevelt Island. A public opening reception is Saturday, June 20, from 6 to 8 p.m.
Union tells CUNY: get serious

The union is pressing the City University of New York to get serious about negotiating a new economic agreement.

The union and CUNY haven't met about the economic contract since late last year, and workers are struggling to get by after going more than six years without a raise.

Activists have sent CUNY Chancellor James B. Milliken more than 1,000 email messages and letters, demanding that management return to the bargaining table.

But while economic talks remain stalled, both sides have recently met to discuss working conditions contracts.

On April 20, the union's blue collar committee met with the CUNY administration, and the white collar committee met with management on May 20.

"We are keeping the pressure on the university to make an economic offer," said David Pastin, associate director of the DC 37 Research and Negotiations Dept.

But he noted that contract talks are also stalled with two other unions — the Professional Staff Congress and Teamsters Local 237 — that represent workers at CUNY.

DC 37 represents 10,000 workers at CUNY. DC 37 locals with members at CUNY include Accountants, Statisticians & Actuaries Local 1407, Electronic Data Processing Employees Local 2627, City University of New York and Educational Opportunity Centers Local 384, Custodial Supervisors Local 1397, Motor Vehicle Operators Local 993, Civil Service Technical Guild Local 372, College Assistants Local 2504 and Custodial Assistant Employees Local 1597.

"These are very difficult negotiations," Local 2627 President Robert Ajaye said. "They are more challenging than we anticipated."

In May, Chancellor Milliken responded by email to the union's email and letter-writing campaign.

"Please be assured that the University shares your commitment to successfully completing collective bargaining with its unions," he said. He took issue with the union's contention that the university isn't cash-strapped and can afford raises, thanks to a $3.4 billion health-care savings plan negotiated last year by municipal unions and the city to settle outstanding contracts.

"All CUNY employees are covered by the city health-care policy, so we believe CUNY will receive the savings that would significantly help fund the contract," Pastin said.

LEFT: Union members, students and community activists demonstrate for a new contract on March 31. RIGHT: CUNY Chancellor James B. Milliken.

"The resources and money are there," DC 37 Executive Director Henry Garrido said. "There's no justification for dragging along these negotiations."

The public university system's funding comes from the state, city and tuition. Union officials also believe that the CUNY administration is holding up a settlement by insisting that the new contract follow the pattern of the economic contract of state workers. That contract includes a two-year wage freeze and health-care givebacks.

— Gregory N. Heires
Rachel Dolezal, in Center of Storm, Is Defiant: ‘I Identify as Black’

By KIRK JOHNSON, RICHARD PÉREZ-Peña and JOHN ELIGON  JUNE 16, 2015

SPOKANE, Wash. — When she moved into her uncle’s basement in the largely white town of Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, in 2004, Rachel A. Dolezal was still blond and pale-skinned and identified herself as a white woman — one who had left a black husband and had a biracial child.

But within a few years, her already deep commitment to black causes and culture intensified. Co-workers and relatives began hearing from her or others that her background was mixed-race — and even that she had called herself black.

Many of them questioned the way she described herself, while others accepted it at face value. No one seems to have made an issue of it, but most people saw in her a force of personality that made her a strong and passionate advocate at the Human Rights Education Institute in Coeur d’Alene, where she began working soon afterward.

“It’s really impressive what she accomplished, bringing a lot of energy to these places,” her uncle, Daniel A. Dolezal, recalled in a telephone interview on Tuesday, speaking of the human rights group as well as the N.A.A.C.P. chapter in Spokane, which she later rose to lead. He recalled her journey from being a down-on-her-luck single mother who took part-time teaching jobs, tried to sell her artwork, and worked in the camera store he owns in Coeur d’Alene, in a part of the Idaho panhandle that was once the
headquarters of Aryan Nations, the white supremacist group.

So when Ms. Dolezal (pronounced DOLE-uh-zhal) went on national television on Tuesday for the first time since she became the subject of a raging debate about racial identity and fabrication, it was no surprise that while she cannot claim a hint of black ancestry, she refused to concede that she had misled anyone. “I identify as black,” she said with a smile.

She would not backpedal, and “I guarantee you she never will,” said her uncle, who took her in more than a decade ago as her marriage crumbled. “That’s part of her persona, never backing down — always forward, totally sure of herself.”

On Tuesday, Matt Lauer of NBC’s “Today” show asked her, “When did you start deceiving people?” But Ms. Dolezal, who stepped down on Monday as president of the Spokane N.A.A.C.P. chapter, pushed back.

“I do take exception to that because it’s a little more complex than me identifying as black, or answering a question of, ‘Are you black or white?’” she said. Over the course of the day, she also described herself as “transracial” and said: “Well, I definitely am not white. Nothing about being white describes who I am.”

Her story has set off a national debate about the very meaning of racial identity, with some people applauding her message and goals and others deploiring her methods and actions. It was one thing for Ms. Dolezal to identify with, appreciate and even partake in black culture, some critics said, but it was another thing for her to try to become black, going so far as to change her physical appearance.

“It taps into all of these issues around blackface and wearing blackness and that whole cultural legacy, which makes it that much more vile,” said Baz Dreisinger, an English professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York and author of the book “Near Black: White-to-Black Passing in American Culture.”

The term transracial has long been associated with adoptions of a child by a family of a different race. Angela Tucker, a black woman born in Tennessee and adopted by a white family in Bellingham, Wash., said it was
“absolutely maddening” to associate the term with Ms. Dolezal’s story.

“It means a lot to those of us who call ourselves transracial adoptees,” said Ms. Tucker, 29, a social worker who lives in Seattle. “We have grown up in a culture different than what we physically represent. We’ve had to seek out our roots. What Rachel has done is inappropriate that.”

Some people who have known Ms. Dolezal only as a black woman said they felt hurt and misled.

“The issue for me has been the deception, the lie, portraying herself as someone she isn’t,” said Dorothy Webster, a longtime member of the Spokane N.A.A.C.P. and former deputy manager for the city of Spokane. “I cannot rationalize it.”

**Clashing Versions of Past**

Although her advocacy work has admirers, serious questions have been raised about Ms. Dolezal’s credibility — and not just about her race. Her public statements about her family and upbringing have been challenged by relatives, including her parents, creating the odd spectacle of dueling interviews, with her making claims on one network, and them denying them on another. Over the years she has reported numerous complaints with the police of racially motivated harassment and intimidation, though the police have said that none have so far proved credible enough for charges to be brought.

She is estranged from her parents, Ruthanne and Lawrence Dolezal, and in Spokane, she has represented a friend, an older African-American man, as her father. When Rachel Dolezal was a teenager, her parents adopted four black children, one of whom now lives with Ms. Dolezal and her son, whom she had with her former husband, Kevin D. Moore, who is black.

She is also estranged from her biological brother, Joshua, who is facing charges in Colorado that when he was 19 years old, he sexually molested one of his adopted brothers, who was 6 or 7 at the time, in their parents’ home, which was then in Clear Creek County, Colo. Ruthanne Dolezal told People magazine that the molestation charges are not true and were initiated by
An Unorthodox Path

Ms. Dolezal’s path to this curious point has been unorthodox, beginning with her childhood in a remote corner of northwestern Montana, in and around the little town of Troy. Earlier this year, she told a news organization at Eastern Washington University, where she taught, that she had been born in a tepee, that her mother and stepfather had beaten her and her siblings, that “they would punish us by skin complexion,” and that they lived for a time in South Africa.

Family members say none of this is true. All agree that she has no stepfather, that this was one of several attempts she has made to deny the existence of her real father, Lawrence. Her parents moved to South Africa after Rachel was grown and out of the house.

As for the abuse allegations, “that’s just false,” her father said in an interview on Friday. “That’s the most hurtful.”

There was a tepee, her uncle, Daniel said, but that was years before Rachel was born, in the early 1970s, when her parents were first married. “Larry and Ruthanne were kind of the quintessential Jesus people, hippies, back to nature, and they set up a tepee and lived in it for a year,” Daniel Dolezal said. “Drove my parents crazy, but nobody was born in the tepee.”

Ms. Dolezal said Tuesday on “Today” that at age 5, “I was drawing self-portraits with the brown crayon instead of the peach crayon, and the black curly hair, you know.” Her parents, appearing later on Fox News, denied that.

Daniel Dolezal said Tuesday that her recollection of her 5-year-old self did not ring true. “She probably wouldn’t have known any black people” then, he said. (Efforts to reach Rachel Dolezal, Ruthanne and Lawrence Dolezal, and Joshua Dolezal on Tuesday were not successful.)

There is no hint of childhood racial tension in a memoir that her brother Joshua, an English professor at Central College in Iowa, wrote. The book, "Down From the Mountaintop: From Belief to Belonging," describes a childhood blending religious fervor with a frontier lifestyle.
"My father reads from the book of Jeremiah," he wrote. "The cover of his Bible is made of tanned elk hide that my mother sewed into the binding after cutting away the commercial hardback."

Rachel was home-schooled for at least part of the time she was in high school, her uncle said. And when she was between the ages of 15 and 17, her parents adopted four black infants.

"She immediately was drawn to them," her father said. "Ever since then she's had a tremendous affinity with African-Americans."

Ms. Dolezal said Tuesday that at the time, she thought of herself as white, but that began to change with the arrival of her new siblings, as she wondered, "Who is going to be the link for the kids in coming to the family?"

She learned of John M. Perkins, a Mississippi minister who preached racial reconciliation and social justice and, along with his son, Spencer, built what he called "intentional Christian communities," including one called Antioch, in Jackson, Miss. Based largely on that connection, she chose to attend Belhaven College, a small Christian school in Jackson, and frequently visited Antioch, a home with about 25 other people near the Belhaven campus.

**Black in a 'White Body'**

"She adopted us as surrogate parents, and we adopted her as surrogate daughter," said Ronald Potter, a brother-in-law of Spencer Perkins, who lived at Antioch and taught religion at Belhaven. Mr. Potter said, "We got very close with her."

He described Ms. Dolezal as someone who was "extremely" socially conscious, much more so than the other students seemed to be. The first time he met her, he said, she reminded him of "a black girl in a white body," like "hearing a black song by a white artist."

But she was "snow white, white-white, lily white," he said. "I had no idea that years later, she would match the body with the soul."

Ms. Dolezal graduated from Belhaven in 2000 and that year married Mr. Moore. They moved to Washington, D.C., where she enrolled as a graduate student in art at Howard University, a historically black school. In
2002, she received a master’s degree in fine art, and days later, she gave birth to her son.

At Howard, as at Belhaven, her art focused on the black experience and racial reconciliation, but there was still no question about her own identity; in college and in graduate school, she was known as white.

In fact, Ms. Dolezal sued Howard, claiming that it had discriminated against her, in part for being white. She said she was denied financial help because the university’s attitude was, “You probably have white relatives that can afford to help you with your tuition,” she said on “Today.” Howard declined to comment on the case.

She and her husband, a physical therapist, moved to the tiny town of Bonners Ferry in far northern Idaho, not far from her parents. But in 2004, her uncle said, she left her husband, and moved in with him in Coeur d’Alene, living for several months in the basement.

She found various kinds of work, including selling her art, and teaching art, and she became involved in minority rights causes in Coeur d’Alene and nearby Spokane. Within a few years, family members said, they began to hear from others that Ms. Dolezal was identifying herself as something other than white. They said her background was European, except for a small fraction that is Native American.

In police reports around the region about complaints she made beginning in 2005, she is identified as white. By 2009, the reports call her a black woman. Former co-workers at the education institute and the N.A.A.C.P. said she told them she was partly black.

In 2008, she was hired as the education coordinator at the North Idaho Human Rights Education Institute and worked there until 2010. “Ms. Dolezal portrayed herself as African-American at that time,” the institute said in a statement on Tuesday.

“She was extremely gifted and produced very, very powerful exhibits for the institute” recalled Tony Stewart, a retired North Idaho College professor and longtime civil rights activist. He said he and others who met Dolezal in 2008 were left with the clear impression she was black.
"Yes, we did think she was a person of color," Mr. Stewart said Tuesday. 
She taught courses at North Idaho College, and later also at Eastern 
Washington University, where she worked in the Africana studies program. 
She became an adviser to black student groups. 

About five years ago, she also took guardianship of one of her adoptive 
siblings, Izaiah, who was then a teenager. "She decided that he was being 
abused, so she basically showed up and took him, and essentially said if you 
want him back, you’re going to have to sue," her uncle said. 

But questions about Ms. Dolezal, if not suspicion that she was not 
extactly everything she purported to be, were never far away either. In her 
neighborhood of mostly modest homes south of downtown, one neighbor, 
Tony Berg, a hydraulics technician who was sitting on his front step with a 
cigarette on a recent morning across the street from her house, said he saw 
Ms. Dolezal’s appearance change and at first thought someone else had 
moved in. 

"She was blond — dreadlocks down to here and white skin," Mr. Berg 
said, drawing a line across his waist. "Then a year or two later, I began 
seeing a darker-skinned woman go into the house. She had changed."

**Growing Suspicions**

And some of the questions, or doubts, about her racial identity were also 
being deliberately spread. A columnist at The Spokesman-Review in 
Spokane, Shawn Vestal, said that he and other people at the paper were 
approached by a private investigator in early June, more than a week before 
the first news reports about Ms. Dolezal’s racial identity. 

"He did have some of the evidence, or said he did, about what her 
parents would say about her identity," said Mr. Vestal, who said he had 
agreed with the investigator that his name would not be made public. 

In the "Today" interview on Tuesday and one that followed on a sister 
network, MSNBC, Ms. Dolezal, remarkably composed despite harsh 
criticism aimed at her, stuck to her insistence that racial heredity does not 
equal identity, and she would not answer questions about whether she had 
changed her self-identification to merely gain advantage. Mr. Lauer asked if
she could have been as successful an activist if she had portrayed herself as white.

"I don’t know," Ms. Dolezal said. "I guess I haven’t had the opportunity to experience that in those shoes, so I’m not sure."

Kirk Johnson reported from Spokane, Richard Pérez-Peña from New York, and John Eligon from Kansas City, Mo. Bill Morlin contributed reporting from Spokane, Jack Healy from Denver, and Jada Smith from Washington.

A version of this article appears in print on June 17, 2015, on page A1 of the New York edition with the headline: At Center of Storm, a Defiant ‘I Identify as Black’.
UTSA SA-PREP program opens with record enrollment on nine local campuses

By Kris Rodriguez
Public Affairs Specialist

(June 16, 2015) – The 37th San Antonio Prefreshman Engineering Program (SA-PREP) opens this week with more than 1,700 participants registered to attend the seven-week program June 15-July 30.

The academic levels of the program – PREP I, PREP II, PREP III and PREP IV – are presented over seven weeks through lectures, projects, seminars and hands-on activities that allow students to learn and apply advanced STEM concepts. The curriculum includes but is not limited to mathematics, problem solving, engineering, physics, technical writing, water science, nanotechnology, computer science, research and STEM career awareness. In addition to gaining a jumpstart on advanced topics in the hard sciences and mathematics, PREP students have the opportunity to earn college scholarships and high school credit.

In San Antonio, PREP I will be offered at the UTSA Main and Downtown Campuses, Northwest Vista College, St. Philip’s College-Martin Luther King campus, and Palo Alto College. PREP II will be offered at San Antonio College, St. Philip’s College-Southwest campus and Texas A&M University - San Antonio. PREP III will be offered at St. Mary’s University and PREP IV will be offered at the UTSA Main Campus.

Established in 1979 at UTSA by mathematics professor Manuel Berriozabal, SA-PREP has an impressive track record with more than 16,988 students completing at least one summer component. The program has been replicated across the state as TexPREP and across the nation as PREP-USA. Overall, PREP programs have served 58,136 students since program inception.

TexPREP locations include Arlington, Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Edinburg, Fort Worth, Harlingen, Houston, Laredo, Lubbock, McAllen and Victoria.

PREP-USA is offered at Hostos Community College in the Bronx, New York; Jersey City University in Jersey City, New Jersey; New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico; University of the Pacific in Stockton, California and Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah.

To learn more, call 210-458-2060, email contact@prep-usa.org or visit PREP.

Connect online with UTSA on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram.
Feds bust Queens college student accused of supporting ISIS and planning New York bombing

BY LAURA BULT, JOHN MARZULLI // NEW YORK DAILY NEWS // Published: Tuesday, June 16, 2015, 5:30 PM
Updated: Wednesday, June 17, 2015, 12:29 AM

Munther Omar Saleh, 20, caught the attention of authorities when police found him lurking at the George Washington Bridge carrying a lantern.

The feds have foiled an ISIS-loving Queens man’s bid to unleash a Boston Marathon-type bombing in New York, authorities said.

Munther Omar Saleh is suspected of trying to build and detonate pressure cooker bombs, according to court papers released Tuesday.

Saleh, 20, a student at Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology in Queens, is a “fervent supporter” of the barbaric terrorist organization that has shocked the world with videotapes of prisoner executions and beheadings, the criminal complaint says. Saleh told a confidential government informant that he
was "trying to do an op" in New York, apparently referring to a terrorist attack, according to the court papers.

Saleh's disturbing tweets mocking the terrorist group Al Qaeda for being too moderate compared with ISIS caught the attention of authorities earlier this year. In March, he was spotted by cops lurking on foot on the New Jersey side of the George Washington Bridge carrying a lantern, the papers say.

He was questioned by investigators from the FBI-NYPD Joint Terrorist Task Force and disavowed ISIS, but court-ordered surveillance of his Internet searches revealed a darker side.

On May 7, "Saleh emailed himself information from the Internet regarding the construction of a pressure cooker bomb," the Brooklyn Federal Court complaint states.

That's the same type of lethal device detonated at the finish line of the 2013 Boston Marathon.

On May 10, "Saleh performed Internet searches for the terms 'watch,' 'casio,' and 'vacuum'... these searches reflect Saleh's efforts to identify and obtain components required to create an explosive device." Saleh was also surfing the Web for images of New York landmarks and tourist attractions on May 28, the complaint states.

Investigators also followed him into a "spy shop" in Queens, where he perused the equipment but did not make a purchase. He has been held without bail since Saturday, when investigators pulled over his Jeep on the Whitestone Expressway in Queens.
At Saleh's family's apartment in Flushing, a man who identified himself as the suspect's brother said his sibling "would never kill anyone."

"What kind of person is he? He's a good person. He wouldn't do anything wrong," said the man, who wouldn't give his name. "He's innocent. That's it."

A man who identified himself as Saleh's father was shocked by the allegations.

"My son can't even drive. How could he drive a car?" he said.

The complaint also refers to two unidentified co-conspirators of Saleh who were apparently taken into custody, but it is unclear if they are cooperating with the government.
Queens college student charged in Islamic State terror plot

June 16, 2015 by JOHN RILEY AND ELLEN YAN / john.riley@newsday.com, ellen.yan@newsday.com

A Queens aeronautics student has been charged in federal court in Brooklyn with conspiring to provide material support to the Islamic State terror group in a plot that included an effort to construct a bomb for detonation in the New York area, according to a complaint released Tuesday.

Munther Omar Saleh, 20, was observed twice in March behaving suspiciously at the George Washington Bridge, indicated support for the group in online postings, researched bomb-making and referred to being involved in an "op" in email correspondence, the government said. In college this year, he began studying electrical circuitry, which can be key in bomb making, federal authorities said.

When a Port Authority officer spotted Saleh on the bridge for the second time in March, it gave authorities the chance to question him and search his computer with his consent, the complaint said. His computer stored an ISIS video and other documents with the word "translation," confirming his tweets about translating ISIS propaganda into English, though he denied doing such work, the complaint said.

In May and early this month, Saleh searched online for bomb-making materials; notable New York City landmarks and tourist attractions; a map of surveillance cameras; chemical masks; weapons and remote-controlled helicopters and drones, federal officials said.

He was working with two unnamed co-conspirators, according to the complaint, and early Saturday, the three practiced "anti-surveillance" maneuvers in their Jeep Cherokee, including driving with lights off, the complaint said.

Just off the Whitestone Expressway about 4 a.m. that day, the Jeep was at a red light when Saleh and a co-conspirator ran toward the vehicle tailing them, federal officials said. The undercover driver reversed the vehicle to avoid an attack, the complaint said.

After the arrests of Saleh and one co-conspirator there, court papers said, the two told authorities they knew for days that several undercover vehicles had been following them.
Student Plotted to Detonate Bomb in New York City, Authorities Say
20-year-old man charged with conspiring to provide support to Islamic State

By REBECCA DAVIS O’BRIEN
Updated June 16, 2015 7:33 p.m. ET

NEW YORK—Authorities have arrested a student at a college in the borough of Queens who they say was planning to build a bomb and detonate it in New York on behalf of Islamic State.

Munther Omar Saleh, 20 years old, was charged with conspiring to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization, according to a criminal complaint filed by prosecutors in federal court in Brooklyn. He and an unnamed co-conspirator were arrested on Saturday, the complaint said.

It wasn’t clear whether Mr. Saleh had a lawyer.
In May, Mr. Saleh, who was taking courses on electrical circuitry at a Queens college, began researching firearms, New York City landmarks and pressure-cooker bombs online and began working with the co-conspirator on plans to build an explosive device, officials said.

Authorities said Mr. Saleh had expressed support for Islamic State on Twitter, saying he thought al Qaeda was “getting too moderate,” praising Islamic State’s “quality fighters,” and hailing the January attack on the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in Paris.

Mr. Saleh’s online activity also suggested that he translated materials disseminated by Islamic State from Arabic to English, according to the complaint.

Spokeswomen for the FBI and the U.S. attorney’s office in Brooklyn declined to comment on the case.