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September 21, 2015

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“New York City is a global leader when it comes to reducing our environmental footprint – and we doubled down last Climate Week with our commitment to reduce emissions 80 percent by 2050. That commitment is already paying huge dividends,” said Mayor Bill de Blasio. “Solar is a vital piece of the puzzle as we move to renewables and away from fossil fuels. We’ve more than doubled solar installations in the last 20 months, and that will exponentially grow as we build a more sustainable and resilient New York.”

Overall, the City has committed to installing 100 megawatts (MW) of solar power on public buildings and spurring the installation of 250 MW on private buildings by 2025.

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Private Solar

Private solar installations in New York City have more than doubled since the end of 2013, from less than 25 MW at the end of 2013 to more than 54 MW today across more than 3,500 installations.

Private solar installations are growing enormously in all five boroughs— with 1.5 MW installed in Manhattan, nearly 10 MW in the Bronx and Brooklyn each, nearly 14 MW in Queens, and more than 19 MW on Staten Island.

This includes nearly 3,000 installations on residential properties, and over 600 installations on non-residential properties.
Separately, there is another nearly 18 MW of private solar installations scheduled to be installed.

As part of Mayor de Blasio’s One City: Built to Last, the New York Solar Smart initiative at CUNY is supporting the development of private solar installations in New York City. One City also expanded the Solarize program, which encourages group purchase of solar energy installations across communities to lower costs for small businesses and homeowners. Solarize has already begun in Brooklyn Community Board 6 (Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill, Columbia Waterfront, Gowanus, Park Slope, and Red Hook) and will soon expand to a number of other communities around the city.

The City is also funding CUNY’s NYC Solar Partnership, which develops and implements comprehensive plans for large-scale solar integration and associated economic development around the city, including increased resiliency for communities through targeted solar installations around grid independence and battery storage. Additionally, the City’s comprehensive resiliency plan includes support for distributed generation and microgrids in order to ensure more resilient power supplies.

**Public Solar**

The City is also leading by example, with more than 4.2 MW of solar now installed on public buildings, including City Hall, 16 schools, and major facilities like the Port Richmond Wastewater Treatment Plant. An additional 4 MW of solar projects are already underway on 17 other schools.

This week, New York City is releasing an RFP to solicit at least an additional 15 MW of solar on public buildings, which can be found here.

Solar is just one piece of Mayor de Blasio’s commitment to retrofit every public building with any significant energy use by 2025. The City is also working toward an even larger expansion of renewable energy use in City government, moving to power 100 percent of City government operations from renewables by identifying new generation capacity.

“Solar energy in NYC is here to stay, and will only become more important in the coming years as costs come down and panels become even more efficient,” said Nilda Mesa, Director of the Mayor’s Office of Sustainability. “This is a three-fer: increasing solar energy cuts our greenhouse gas emissions, is a growing source of jobs, and improves air quality. It’s a OneNYC hat trick, with Staten Island leading the way. With this amount of solar energy, we’ve done the equivalent of taking 38,000 cars off the road.”

“Under the leadership of Mayor de Blasio, the City continues to diversify its energy mix and promote more resilient and renewable sources,” said Daniel Zarrilll, Director of the NYC Mayor’s Office of Recovery and Resiliency. “By expanding our commitment to solar energy and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, our communities will be better prepared to withstand and emerge stronger from the impacts of climate change and other 21st century threats.”

“We have made great strides in bringing clean, renewable energy to public buildings through our solar schools partnership with the Department of Education, the New York Power Authority and
the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. We have already doubled solar installations on public buildings and the release of this large-scale solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) RFP will get us even closer to meeting our goal of installing 100MW of solar by 2025,” said Department of Citywide Administrative Services Commissioner Stacey Cumberbatch.

“Major new investments in solar energy are absolutely essential in charting a clean energy future for New York City. These investments will reduce the damaging impacts of carbon pollution from burning fossil fuel, improve local air quality and consequently improve public health for New Yorkers who struggle with asthma and other respiratory and cardiac diseases. I applaud Mayor de Blasio’s commitment to boost the use of solar in the city and urge other mayors to take similar action,” said Judith A. Enck, Regional Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

“Climate change is a global crisis, and if we are going to get serious about cutting down our carbon footprint, we need to utilize cleaner forms of renewable energy,” said Congressman Eliot Engel, senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. “Solar energy is not only clean and renewable, but can also been extremely cost effective I thank Mayor de Blasio for his commitment to the proliferation of renewables in NYC.”

“New York is leading by example and confronting the challenge of climate change head on,” said Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney. “Mayor de Blasio has set and ambitious but attainable goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050. The growth in solar energy is one way New Yorkers are achieving that goal. I applaud the Mayor for these efforts.”

Public Advocate Letitia James said, “Solar panels are an effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect our environment. I applaud the administration for its commitment to solar energy. Through initiatives such as these, we can continue to preserve our city for generations to come.”

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams said, “Solar energy is critical to a greener tomorrow for everyone in New York City, improving our environment while saving hard-earned dollars for families living paycheck to paycheck. In Brooklyn, we’re moving quickly to bring shared solar into reality, starting with our Renewable and Sustainable Energy Taskforce (ReSET) and our efforts to advance the Solarize program in Community Board 6. In order to truly transform our energy system, we need projects like this in every neighborhood. I thank Mayor de Blasio and his administration for working to bring solar energy to our City’s private and public building stock, and I look forward to their continued partnership with ReSET as we seek to boldly innovate our renewable and sustainable energy future in Brooklyn.”

“Our city can and should lead the nation when it comes to sustainability, and an aggressive pursuit of public and private solar power generation is an important piece of that,” said Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer. “More renewable energy, increased energy efficiency, waste diversion and recycling, and dramatically decreased greenhouse gas emissions are all key elements if we’re to chart a more sustainable way forward.”

Staten Island Borough President James Oddo said, “The numbers show that Staten Island
homeowners are leading the way on solar installations. This is consistent with what I see on a regular basis, which is an increasing number of solar panels on many roofs. In fact, we recently used social media to verify what our eyes are seeing and to ask those Staten Islanders who have taken the solar plunge about their experiences with solar. The feedback we received was that finding the right company to work with was key since experiences varied, however, for the most part Staten Islanders were saving money and happy about it."

Assembly Member Brian Kavanagh, Chair of the bipartisan New York State Caucus of Environmental Legislators, said, "People sometimes underestimate the potential of solar as a major source of clean, reliable energy in New York City. So it’s great to see the progress the Mayor is announcing today, and even better to see big new commitments to more solar on public property and innovative programs to promote solar on private property. These initiatives are essential to cutting dangerous climate-changing pollution and providing our city with a more diverse and therefore more resilient mix of energy resources."

"As Chair of the Renewable Energy subcommittee, I look forward to exploring innovative solutions with our Mayor’s office. It’s time to become more globally conscious citizens. The future of our city depends on renewable, sustainable and clean energy. The simple solution to prevent an energy crisis is a focus on renewables which leads to needed economic benefits and opportunities," said Assembly Member Latrice Walker.

Council Member Costa Constantinides, Chair of the Council’s Environmental Protection Committee, said, "Private solar installation has more than doubled in NYC over the past two years. We are also making headway among public buildings, with solar installations at nearly 35 schools across the city. As we move closer toward our goal of reducing our carbon emissions by 80 percent by 2050, renewable energy sources such as solar power will help bring us in that direction. I commend Mayor de Blasio and Office of Sustainability Director Nilda Mesa for their leadership on cutting our city’s greenhouse gas emissions."

"Reducing the city’s carbon footprint is one of the most important challenges we have today and this benchmark shows we have made significant progress," said Council Member Donovan Richards. "I’d like to thank Mayor de Blasio for his commitment to boosting solar power citywide and look forward to finding more creative methods to conserve energy."

"As the Council’s Chair of the Committee on Housing and Buildings, I am proud that our city continues to prioritize the sustainability of our public buildings. Through this vast expansion of solar installations, it’s my hope that we drastically reduce our city’s carbon footprint and further become a global example in the fight against climate change," said Council Member Jumaane D. Williams.

"Using more new, abundant sources of energy like solar is key to securing a clean, low-carbon energy future. Mayor de Blasio’s commitment to spurring the growth of solar energy will help make the most of falling solar prices while creating jobs and helping all New Yorkers breathe cleaner, healthier air," said Rory Christian, Director of New York Clean Energy at the Environmental Defense Fund.

"This impressive growth of solar installations shows that New York City is moving in exactly the
right direction for the low-carbon world that all of us need. The City is demonstrating that solar can work on a wide variety of buildings, and can become a meaningful part of our energy supply,” said Professor Michael B. Gerrard, Director, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, Columbia Law School.

“Today we see the sun is shining brighter on Mayor de Blasio’s path to cutting New York City’s carbon footprint 80 percent by 2050. With private solar installations jumping from 25MW at the end of 2013 to more than 54 MW today, it’s clear that we can meet the challenges ahead because New Yorkers are on board with making our city a shining example of urban sustainability,” said Nancy Anderson, Executive Director or The Sallan Foundation.

“Solar energy is an important and innovative part of improving our environment. The New York City Environmental Justice Alliance thanks Mayor de Blasio and his administration for committing to make New York City greener and more sustainable by increasing and encouraging solar installations. I look forward to this administration’s continued work toward the Mayor’s vision of growing solar energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions,” said Eddie Bautista, Executive Director of NYC Environmental Justice Alliance.

pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov
Cuban Dissidents Sidelined During Pope Visit

Some members of opposition groups say government kept them from attending papal events

By JOSÉ DE CÓRDOBA
Sept. 21, 2015 5:18 p.m. ET

HAVANA—Cuba’s use of what one dissident leader calls a policy of “low-intensity” repression to keep a few political opponents from going to papal events Sunday threatens to overshadow a visit by Pope Francis intending to focus on reconciliation.

A small number of dissidents were briefly detained over the weekend when they tried to greet the pope in Havana, where he said mass and met with Cuban leaders Raul and Fidel Castro on Sunday.

Among them was Berta Soler, head of the Ladies in White dissident group, who
was twice detained over the weekend as she tried to attend papal events. Another one was Miriam Leiva, an independent Cuban journalist who was also detained twice when she tried to greet the Pope at events in Havana she had been invited to attend.

“We are very few, but why is the government so worried that they repress us so much?” said Elizardo Sánchez, the president of the Cuban Human Rights and National Reconciliation Commission, which monitors human rights violations in the country. His organization estimates that there are about 60 political prisoners in Cuba.

Pope Francis, who on Tuesday celebrated mass in the eastern city of Holguín, has yet to comment on the detentions of the dissidents. So far, he has offered only veiled criticism of Cuba’s tightly controlled society, where first Fidel Castro and now his brother Raul have presided for 56 years.

The Cuban government denies holding any political prisoners, and dismisses opposition groups as “little bands” with no support among the population. But activists and international human rights activists say the government regularly harasses opponents by detaining them for short periods of time to prevent them from holding meetings or demonstrations.

“It's a policy of low-intensity harassment,” says Mr. Sánchez. “But it has a devastating impact on the dissidents and their families.”

Cuba's fragmented opposition movement hasn't been successful in building a mass following due to government repression and a “weak strategy of engaging citizens on democracy and human rights instead of bread-and-butter economic issues,” said Ted Henke, a Cuba expert at Baruch College in New York.

Yet, it seems more important for the Cuban government to continue to publicly disqualify and defame its tiny dissident movement than to risk legitimizing it by allowing its members to meet with Pope Francis or attend any of his
ecclesiastical events, Mr. Henke added.

Among the most prominent dissident groups are Ms. Soler's Ladies in White, made up of relatives and supporters of political prisoners who march every Sunday in front of a Havana Church. She said members of her group face frequent harassment from government supporters and security forces.

The pontiff has so far failed to address issues ranging from press freedom, police repression and the government's general "lack of respect" for Cuban citizens, Ms. Soler added.

Since arriving on the island Saturday, Pope Francis has made several remarks that could be interpreted as criticism of Mr. Castro's communist government, but Vatican spokesman Rev. Federico Lombardi cautioned reporters Monday to not read a political message into the pontiff's words. "Speeches always have a lot of dimensions," he told reporters.

Many dissidents, however, support the Pope's visit and were willing to give him the benefit of the doubt.

"The pope's visit hasn't finished yet," said Ms. Leiva, the independent Cuban journalist who was invited to two events with Pope Francis. "That was a generous gesture from the pope to the dissident movement," she added.
A former hedge fund manager jacked up the price of a crucial drug, and people are furious

A biotech company founded by a former hedge fund manager recently purchased the rights to a critical antiparasitic drug and jacked up the price by more than 5,000%.

Startup Turing Pharmaceuticals acquired Daraprim, a drug used to treat toxoplasmosis, in August. Toxoplasmosis is a disease caused by a common parasite that can be deadly, especially for those who are immunosuppressed.

Turing immediately increased the price of Daraprim from $13.50 per pill to $750 per pill, The New York Times reported.

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton tweeted a link to the story Monday, saying the move was "outrageous."
Hillary Clinton
@HillaryClinton

Price gouging like this in the specialty drug market is outrageous. Tomorrow I'll lay out a plan to take it on. -H
twitter.com/nytimes/status...
10:56 AM - 21 Sep 2015
1,491 1,787

In an interview Monday with Bloomberg TV's Betty Liu, the company's CEO, Martin Shkreli, defended the move, explaining that they "need to turn a profit on the drug."

Daraprim, which has been around for 62 years, has had multiple owners. Shkreli said that other companies were "giving it away almost." He added that even at $750 per tablet, it's "still underpriced relative to its peers."

It costs little to make Daraprim, but Shkreli said there are other costs such as distribution costs that have increased over the years.

He said that they plan to use the money they make from Daraprim for alternative research to make "a better version" of the drug.

In the meantime, he said if someone can't afford the drug, they will "give it away totally for free."

Shkreli, 31, previously served as CEO of publicly-traded biotech company Retrophin. Last year, the board fired him because of stock irregularities, Bloomberg reported. Retrophin recently filed a lawsuit seeking $65 million in damages, alleging that he used the company to pay off claims of investors from his hedge fund. Shkreli told Forbes the company's claims are "preposterous."

Shkreli ran now-closed MSMB Capital Management, a healthcare-focused hedge fund. He also did stints at Intrepid Capital and Jim Cramer's former firm Cramer, Berkowitz & Co., according to his LinkedIn profile. He graduated from Baruch College in 2004.

NOW WATCH: The richest billionaires under 35 and how they got their money
First all-female Honor Flight to show 72 Tri-State veterans WWII Memorial

BY: Liz Engel, WCPO Contributor

CINCINNATI – Dorothy Kist has been to Washington, D.C., before, but never quite like this.

On Tuesday, at 8 a.m. sharp, she was one of 140-plus aboard an Honor Flight bound for the capital city from the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport. As par for the course, all passengers on the flight were veterans. But, for the first time ever, all those veterans are women.

It's an historic moment for Honor Flight and Honor Flight Tri-State, a hub of the national non-profit that's worked since 2005 to transport military veterans to their respective war memorials in D.C. Flights – there's five day-long trips from CVG each year – traditionally only charter former service members age 65 and older, and no local flight has ever included more than five women vets at a time, Cheryl Popp, Honor Flight Tri-State director, said.
(VA), which reached out over the winter and assisted in the search, the dream is finally a reality.

"The VA approached us said," Popp said. "We put a package together and the VA mailed the envelopes. We invited 600 women, and we had 250 applications for 140 seats on the airplane. These women went through a lot, but they have wonderful stories."

Kist, 91, a Navy radio operator during World War II, is just one of those stories.

In 1944, at the age of 19, she enlisted, and just three days after her 20th birthday, she deployed to Hunter College in New York City. Since she was studying accounting, she thought she'd be relegated to a desk job, but she was among a select group of 40 in her platoon chosen to be singers; Kist said they would sing to sell war bonds on Times Square and on different radio shows as part of the effort.

Afterward, she landed the job as a radio operator. She served for about two years in all until the war ended, and she was decommissioned.

"Everybody teases me about it now, because I'll never remember how we did it, but they taught us how to make a radio out of a paper clip, a rubber band and a stone. And we did get code," Kist said. "When you look back at all the things you did, you wonder how you managed it, but we did. We had to work hard; it wasn't an easy job. But I enjoyed it."

While in D.C., the group will be making stops at the WWII Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Vietnam War Memorial, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and other sites. Kist saw many of those monuments during a previous Honor Flight Indianapolis trip. But she's most excited to see the Women in Combat Memorial at Arlington, where the veterans will make a special visit. That and the comradely.

While most of the women served during WWII, Korean War and Vietnam vets, they've been paired with guardians who are more recent service members. They range in age from 96 to 28.

"I've wanted to see the women's memorial ever since it was built," said Kist. "And I was tickled to death when they said this was all women, because you have someone to talk to, and it will be so much nicer."

"It's definitely going to be a different dynamic," Popp added. "They'll be a little more free to tell their stories."

If Tuesday's flight is a success – and Popp says there's every indication it will be – it could be replicated at other Honor Flight hubs across the country. She says there's been a lot of interest, and
"It's so great that we're doing this," Popp said. "For the women who served in World War II, for example, they weren't considered veterans until 1972. They were WACs (Women's Army Corps) and WASPS (Women Airforce Service Pilots). They took stateside jobs so the men could go overseas. They did manufacturing jobs. They built airplanes and tanks, and they packed ammunition. If they were killed in action, the family had to pay to fly the coffin back. A lot of them came back and were nurses or other professions, but they're vets to begin with. There's a lot of women in high office now that are so grateful to these earlier women – they consider them heroes for blazing the trail. There's a lot of respect there."
POCONO SUMMIT, Pa. (AP) -- Ten more people have been charged in Pennsylvania in the hazing death of a New York City fraternity pledge.

Police say fraternity members at Baruch (buh-ROOK') College physically abused Chun "Michael" Deng during a December 2013 hazing ritual in the Pocono Mountains and then tried to cover it up.

The Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department said Monday that 10 men were charged with two counts each of hindering apprehension, hazing and criminal conspiracy. Fifteen people have been charged so far.

Police say they plan to arrest 37 men in connection with Deng's death. Five of the men are expected to be charged with murder.

Police allege fraternity members blindfolded Deng, forced him to wear a heavy backpack and then repeatedly tackled him during a hazing ritual known as glass ceiling.
Education

Survey: More than 1 in 5 female undergrads at top schools suffer sexual attacks

By Nick Anderson, Susan Svirsga and Scott Clement  September 21 at 4:10 PM

More than 20 percent of female undergraduates at an array of prominent universities said this year that they were victims of sexual assault and misconduct, echoing findings elsewhere, according to one of the largest studies ever of college sexual violence.

The survey from the Association of American Universities drew responses from 150,000 students at 27 schools, including most of the Ivy League. Armed with extensive data on the scope of the problem at their own campuses, leaders of big-name universities said they are mobilizing to confront sexual assault as never before.

Yale University President Peter Salovey said he found “extremely disturbing” results indicating more than one-quarter of undergraduate women at the elite school in New Haven, Conn., were victims of sexual assault and misconduct.

“The prevalence of such behavior runs counter to our most fundamental values,” Salovey said. “It threatens individual students, our learning environment and our sense of community.” Other university leaders, speaking virtually in unison, said the results sounded an alarm that must be answered.

Researchers acknowledged the possibility of an overstated victimization rate because there was evidence that hundreds of thousands of students who ignored the electronic questionnaire were less likely to have suffered an assault.

[Read the full AAU report on sexual assault and sexual misconduct]

But the results add to growing indications that sexual assault is disturbingly commonplace on college campuses, especially among undergraduates living on their own for the first time. Although colleges already are on high alert about the problem — in part because of a White House task force formed last year to combat it — the survey findings underscore the seriousness and breadth of sexual assault’s effects and how difficult it will be to curb them.

[See data from individual schools and their responses to the results]

The AAU survey provides a wealth of insights about the prevalence of specific types of assault at a cross-section of public and private research universities. Among them was the stark finding that 11 percent of female undergraduates said they had experienced incidents of penetration or attempted penetration, half of them saying it happened by force. These incidents would fit the definition of rape or sodomy.

Rawlings III, the AAU’s president, said. “Their participation in this and other climate surveys is an important part of their efforts to combat sexual assault.”

The AAU’s findings are roughly consistent with a Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation national poll, published in June, that found that 1 in 5 young women who attended a residential college during a four-year span said they were sexually assaulted.
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Other recent studies also have found similarly high victimization rates. But some Justice Department crime data show that women in college are less likely to be victims of rape or sexual assault than those who are not students.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan told The Post last week that the number of students who experience sexual assault is “unacceptably high” and that it has been for decades. Duncan said the nation must confront the widespread prevalence of sexual assault in college.

“It is shockingly bad, but it is the truth,” Duncan said. “We can either hide from that reality or not.”

KC Johnson, a Brooklyn College history professor who tracks college sexual assault and due-process issues, said he is skeptical of the findings.

“If you take this data literally, it would suggest a violent crime rate at most campuses higher than in any city in the country,” he said. “Which I think is somewhat dubious.”

Johnson said he was puzzled by survey results that showed many victims of forced, non-consensual penetration didn’t consider the incident serious enough to report to authorities. “We’re talking about college students at elite institutions,” he said. “They understand what sexual assault is.”

Participants in the AAU survey included a range of public and private schools, and the share of undergraduate women who said they had been sexually assaulted during their time on campus varied: It was 19 percent at the University of Texas at Austin, 24 percent at the University of Virginia, 26 percent at Harvard University, 28 percent at Yale and 30 percent at the University of Michigan.

“These deeply disturbing survey results must spur us to an even more intent focus on the problem of sexual assault,” Harvard President Drew Gilpin Faust said in a letter to the university community. “That means not just how we talk to one another about it, not just what we say in official pronouncements, but how we actually treat one another and live our lives together.”

“One sexual assault is too many,” said University of Texas at Austin President Gregory L. Fenves. “It is essential that we foster a campus that does not tolerate sexual assaults while strongly encouraging victims to come forward and report incidents.”
North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, Southern California and Wisconsin at Madison.

The only Ivy League school that did not participate was Princeton University.

The survey, conducted by the social science firm Westat, asked about individual experiences with sexual assault as well as perceptions on campus about the issue. Nearly all students at the 27 schools were canvassed in April and May, with confidentiality guaranteed. Nineteen percent responded, a lower rate than the survey team had hoped to attain.

Among the key findings:

• Victimization rates varied widely from school to school. The share of undergraduate women who said they suffered sexual assault and misconduct ranged from 13 percent to 30 percent among the 27 schools. Overall it was 23 percent. Those at private universities were slightly more likely to be victims than those at public universities.

• Five percent of undergraduate men said they experienced sexual assault and misconduct, echoing a finding from the Post-Kaiser poll.

• Of students who said they were victims of physically forced penetration, or attempted penetration, about 25 percent said they told university authorities or law enforcement. Of those who said they were victims of physically forced sexual touching or kissing, 7 percent reported the incident. The dominant reason for why students who didn’t tell authorities: They said it wasn’t serious enough. “That will stimulate a lot of discussion,” said Bonnie Fisher, a professor at the University of Cincinnati and a Westat consultant. “As researchers don’t know a lot about this — it hasn’t been measured in the past.”

• Sixty-three percent of all students said they believe a report of sexual assault or sexual misconduct would be taken seriously by campus officials. Fifty-six percent said it was very likely or extremely likely that the safety of those reporting sexual assault and misconduct would be protected by university officials.

David Cantor, vice president of Westat, said the survey is one of the first of its kind to enable comparisons across institutions. He also said it is notable that the survey distinguishes between different types of attacks (penetration versus touching and kissing) and different situations (force versus incapacitation).

“Providing this level of detail is fairly unique among the campus climate surveys,” he said. That was done “mostly by the request of the universities, to try to differentiate between incidents clearly quite different in nature.”
Brazil's current economic crisis combined with a bad governance system is much like a Rio Carnival followed by a terrible hangover.

Brazil’s markets are in turmoil. The leftist government of President Dilma Rousseff is embroiled in a number of corruption scandals. Crime is high, with most people living behind barbed wire fences, and, according to the vocal majority of the international community, Brazil has failed to halt the Amazon’s deforestation. In order to tackle these issues, Brazil, like many other countries, is realizing that sustainability is not only about the environment but also, and just as importantly, about developing sound political, social, financial, and economic institutions.

On August 21, leading Latin American think tank and higher educational institution Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV) organized a three-day conference in Rio and Belém, the gateway to the Amazon, on sustainability challenges and opportunities. Scholars, government officials and practitioners from Brazil gathered alongside leading US universities—including Columbia University’s Earth Institute, City University of New York, and Arizona State University—came together to discuss the changes in public policy, management, financing, and higher education that need to be made to address global sustainability challenges. As most speakers noted, unless we find a way to stem the rise in global warming, there is a strong likelihood the planet will not have the resources to sustain a global population of 9 billion by 2050. This requires not only innovations that allow us to do more with less—use fewer resources, produce less waste—but just as importantly to develop governance systems rooted in the rule of law and introduce trainings and educational programs that change behaviors. As to the latter, NGOs and academic institutions like FGV are taking the lead. According to FGV’s provost Antonio Freitas his institution has introduced sustainability courses for its students—in particular those studying business, public administration and management. But is this enough for Brazil?

According to Freitas, no, it’s not enough. While traveling down the Amazon River, Freitas and his colleague Istvan Kazener discussed how “dirty money” from regional illegal drug trade is fueling corruption and crime in Brazil. As a possible remedy, Freitas proposed the government downsizing its army and expand its coast guard to properly patrol the Amazon River. "We don't have enough people to properly patrol the vast and expansive river," he said. "Drug runners from neighboring Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia are taking advantage of this.”

The illegal drug market has created a parallel state. Most Brazilians point to the favelas, Brazil's shantytowns, where the formal state has little if any power. Furthermore, police officers and senior government officials are threatened or bribed by drug lords to look the other way—fueling a system where elected officials see their positions as a personal opportunity rather than a public responsibility.
Despite the government neglect of the Amazon region and the international community's views, Federation of Para Dr. Carlos Xavier claims that Brazilians are taking care of the Amazon. "With little if any government assistance, Brazilians are doing a good job protecting the Amazon region," Xavier said. "The international media is wrong when it says we are destroying the Amazon." According to Xavier, only 18 percent of the Amazon region has been destroyed by deforestation.

Similarly, IDEAL, co-organizer of the sustainability conference and FGV's educational partner in Belém, highlighted that 70 percent of the Amazon’s trees are still standing since the Portuguese first arrived in Brazil in 1500. Xavier pointed to Indonesia's dismal deforestation record. Unfortunately, when it comes to sustainability the "sin of equal moralizer" argument leaves no winners. According to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), an estimated 18 million acres (7.3 million hectares) of forest, which is roughly the size of the country of Panama, are lost globally each year.

The world and the citizens of Brazil may be divided over which issue is a priority—halting the deforestation of the Amazon or stamping out crime and corruption nationally. As is often the case with most sustainability challenges, however, these two issues are actually intertwined; the vast natural resource of the Amazon is used to support a parallel criminal state. Good governance can help solve both challenges. Meaning Brazil, its neighbors and international community need to launch a frontal assault on the drug cartels and put an end to the use of the Amazon River as a drug trafficking route.

The citizens and their civil society leaders, media outlets, businesses and academic institutions need to take a more active role in demanding greater transparency and accountability from their elected officials. Only bold steps by the Brazilians and the international community will ensure the livelihood of future generation in Brazil and across the globe. To do so Brazil must realize that it cannot enter the twenty-first century with industrial might in one hand and a third-world governing system in the other.
TELEVISION

What's on TV Saturday

By KATHRYN SHATTUCK  SEP. 19, 2015

7 P.M. (AMC) THE GREAT GATSBY (2013) Leonardo DiCaprio stars as the enigmatic millionaire Jay Gatsby, and Carey Mulligan portrays Daisy Buchanan, the object of his obsession, in Baz Luhrmann's stylized musical take on the F. Scott Fitzgerald novel. Tobey Maguire is Nick Carraway, the Yale graduate — and, conveniently, Daisy's cousin — renting the cottage next to Gatsby's colossal Long Island mansion. "Despite what you may have heard, it is an eminently enjoyable movie," A. O. Scott wrote in The New York Times about this film, which won Oscars for best costume and production design. Still, is the tale "a credible love story?" he asked. "Fitzgerald himself was not sure, but Mr. Luhrmann, Mr. DiCaprio and Ms. Mulligan make it an effective one."

10:30 A.M. (13) RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY Three weeks of coverage devoted to Pope Francis's visit begins as Kim Lawton explores the Roman Catholic social teachings and beliefs that influence the pope's philosophies on poverty, immigration, family and the environment.

NOON (13) THE OPEN MIND Alexander Heffner interviews Szelena Gray, a founder of Run for America and the chief operating officer of the Mayday PAC, about how millennials are reforming politics.

8 P.M. (HBO) EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS (2014) Christian Bale, Joel Edgerton, John Turturro, Aaron Paul, Sigourney Weaver and Ben Kingsley lead the
cast of Ridley Scott’s retelling of how Moses led the enslaved Israelites out of bondage in Egypt. “More than anything else, it recalls the wide-screen, Technicolor biblical pageants of the 1950s and early ’60s, bland and solemn spectacles that invited moviegoers to marvel at their favorite stars in sandals and robes,” A. O. Scott wrote in The Times. The casting has raised eyebrows, as have the actors’ “strange, geographically and historically preposterous accents,” he added. “Alas, Mr. Scott is not Mel Brooks. ‘Exodus’ is ludicrous only by accident, which isn’t much fun and is the surest sign of what we might call a New Testament sensibility at work.”

8 P.M. (TCM) THE ESSENTIALS: THE RED SHOES (1948) Robert Osborne and Sally Field explain why Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger’s take on the Hans Christian Andersen fable about a girl bewitched by her red dancing shoes — starring Moira Shearer as a famous ballerina torn between art and love — is required viewing. After going wildly over budget and fizzling at the box office in Britain, Universal Pictures paid for the 1951 release in the United States, where it played an exclusive engagement at the Bijou Theater in New York for 110 weeks. The film was then rereleased back at home, becoming one of the highest-grossing films in the history of British cinema and heralded as among the most beautiful movies ever made. “This unrestricted romance,” Bosley Crowther wrote in The Times, “is a visual and emotional comprehension of all the grace and rhythm and power of the ballet.”

9 P.M. (BBC America) DOCTOR WHO Earth’s skies are frozen by a mysterious alien force, and Clara (Jenna Coleman) seeks a little help from the Doctor (Peter Capaldi). But he’s nowhere to be found in this Season 9 premiere.

9 P.M. (CUNY) WALLANDER: THE BLACK KING When a woman is found dead, the trail leads Inspector Kurt Wallander (Krister Henriksson) to an old friend of his daughter (Johanna Sallstrom).
TELEVISION

What’s On TV Monday

By KATHRYN SHATTUCK  SEPT. 21, 2015

9 P.M. (Fox) MINORITY REPORT This new series, based on the 2002 Steven Spielberg film starring Tom Cruise, travels ahead to 2065, by which time Pre-Crime — the ability to know in advance that a crime will be committed through foreknowledge gathered by psychics — has long been abolished and a young “precog” named Dash (Stark Sands) is trying to lead a civilian life despite continuing visions of bloodshed. Meanwhile in Washington, a police detective (Meagan Good) and a mayoral candidate (Peter Van Eyck) are struggling with the return of murder.

" ‘Minority Report,’ the TV series, appears to come from an alternative universe: one in which ‘Minority Report,’ the movie, was never made,” James Poniewozik wrote in The New York Times. “Taken on its own terms, then, ‘Minority Report’ is ... still not good,” he added. Though the future promises holographic phone calls, subway advertisements for marijuana goodies and the 75th season of “The Simpsons,” he wrote, “psychic powers make for dull detective work.” Season 2 of “Gotham,” which finds Detective Gordon (Ben McKenzie) seeking help from the Penguin after a shift in power at the Gotham City Police Department, leads in at 8. (Image: from left, Wilmer Valderrama, Li Jun Li and Ms. Good.)

7 A.M. (CUNY) ONE TO ONE The journalist Pamela Newkirk discusses her book “Spectacle: The Astonishing Life of Ota Benga,” about a 23-year-old Congolese pygmy who in 1906 was placed on exhibition with an orangutan and parrot at the Monkey House of the Bronx Zoo. In “Bob Herbert’s Op-Ed.TV,” at 9:30, the journalist Les Payne discusses the mistaken arrest of the tennis player James Blake, the presidential campaign and the Iran nuclear deal.
The benefits of collaborating with ethnic media

by Rong Xiaoqing
Published Sep. 22, 2015 9:50 am
Updated Sep. 22, 2015 9:52 am

Sitting at my breakfast table holding a copy of The New York Times, I was filled with jealousy. It was May 10, the newspaper published the first of its two-part 7,000-word investigative story about the exploitation of workers in New York's nail salons. The stories had a big impact including lawmakers tightening regulations on the industry.

But to me, the main question was why hadn't the nail salon stories we wrote had that impact. The Chinese language newspapers in New York have been writing about labor conflicts in Chinese-owned nail salons for the past decade. I personally interviewed and wrote about disgruntled nail salon workers as a junior reporter for Sing Tao Daily when I joined the newspaper in the early years of the last decade, before passing the story onto newer colleagues.

Sing Tao is based in Hong Kong-based and has eight overseas editions around the world, including the New York paper I work for. It is well known in the Chinese diaspora around the world. But it is not The New York Times. We do not have an English-language edition. And our stories don't have as that sort of impact.

And we are not alone. My friends from Korean-language newspapers in New York told me they too have been writing about the issues in the Korean-owned nail salons for a long time without triggering major waves.

That is a frustration for journalists working for ethnic media. In the 12 years I have been working for Sing Tao, I have seen so many good stories coming out of the Chinese community papers that would be compelling to a much wider audience. But most of them fail to get traction outside the Chinese community. Sometimes, when the stories badly need broader attention, I pitch them to the mainstream media myself and that can lead to much more impact.
One such story happened in 2007 when a dozen or so Chinese small business owners shared with me their nightmares after switching their electricity provider from Con Edision to an energy company based in Canada, which had been aggressively marketing to non-English speaking customers in New York.

The business owners were approached by the sales representatives and promised a long-term fixed rate that could save them $200 to $300 per month. But a few months after they signed the contract, they all saw their utility bills double or even triple because of a fluctuating fee in the English language contract which had never been translated or explained to the Chinese-speaking customers. And when the victims asked to cancel their contracts, they were told they had to pay a $10,000 cancellation fee.

I did a series of stories for Sing Tao but the company completely ignored my requests for comments. However, once I pitched the story to the New York Daily News and started to re-interview, the company immediately responded. It even formed a special task force to help frustrated customers. I did an initial story for the Daily News. And I wrote a follow-up when the first piece triggered more small business owners from various communities to come forward with similar tales. By the time the second piece was published, all the victims had been repaid the excessive charges and were allowed to cancel their contracts without extra charges.

That was a win-win-win situation for Sing Tao, the Daily News, and, most importantly, the victims. But a triumph like that doesn’t happen as often as it should. Most times, the picture is more depressing than rosy.

Ethnic media journalists don’t have big resources and usually have to write a daily quota of stories (at Sing Tao and many other Chinese language newspapers, the quota is 2,000 words per day). That doesn’t give us much time for in-depth reporting, and means many important stories get covered with short blurbs.

Meanwhile, journalists in the mainstream media work hard to produce reports from diverse communities but often lack the ability to get the full story because of language or cultural gaps. Their misunderstandings and lack of sensibilities about ethnic cultures are noticeable, from mixed last and first names of the interviewees to bias and stereotypes that can tarnish the stories.

An ideal solution is to form partnerships between ethnic media and mainstream media so the reporters can work on the same stories together and the media outlets can then jointly publish the story in different languages to reach more readers.

Such partnerships may sound difficult in an industry built on chasing exclusives and competing fiercely. But the financial decline in the print media industry has provided a need for smart collaborations. And there have been many, but it rarely happens between ethnic media and mainstream media.

One of the reasons may lay in the nature of ethnic media. Different ways of telling stories, language barriers and the almost exclusive focus on one single ethnic community may have erected barriers to joint projects. But this has been changing as ethnic media continues to grow.
This year an outreach campaign to ethnic media has been put on the top of its agenda. Kaiser has formed a committee with representatives from New American Media, CUNY and many other organizations that work with ethnic media to discuss how to break down the silos (full disclosure: I was invited to join the committee).

“We know even people who are reading big national outlets are rooted in their local community,” said Kaiser. “We know that in order to connect with the local community, we have to connect with the people who are already there.”

Bigger media outlets may not feel the need just yet. But Kaiser is hopeful. “Bigger organizations are still in a competitive mindset. Also a lot of them feel they have already reached a big enough audience on their own.” Still, she pointed out the increased levels of collaboration in the last year between major newspapers and broadcasting outlets to make multimedia stories. “What you see is a shift even with bigger organizations ... eventually the big papers are going to realize that they will need to partner with other types of news organizations to really get the stories they need.”

This could be a question of survival for many as their traditional readership in some cases dies off. It will serve the wider public and help the media shed light on the way people are treated by authorities of all kinds.
What Jamie Dimon Gets Wrong About iPhones and Inequality

Some "luxury" items have gotten cheaper -- but basic needs like health care and education are still expensive.

Ben Walsh
Business Reporter, The Huffington Post

Posted: 09/21/2015 05:40 PM EDT | Edited: 09/21/2015 06:34 PM EDT

Jamie Dimon thinks that because people now have iPhones, inequality is a thing of the past. At an event in Detroit last week, the JP Morgan CEO said declining median incomes don’t mean people are worse off than they used to be: “If you go back 20 years ago, cars were worse, health was worse, you didn’t live as long, the air was worse. People didn’t have iPhones.”

Dismissing poverty and inequality because some poor and middle-class people own things that used to be considered luxuries is a trope detached from reality. And yet it comes up over and over.

Rush Limbaugh, along with Fox News’ Bill O’Reilly and Stuart Varney, seized on a 2011 Heritage Foundation report to argue that the true economic status of America’s poor should be upgraded with scare quotes to “poor” because some of them have refrigerators, microwaves, air conditioners, dishwashers, TVs, coffeemakers and cell phones. "The Joad family didn’t have a
TV or a microwave" seems to be the beginning and end of the argument.

What these critics never mention is that the poor suffer wildly disparate access to basic economic and human needs like housing, education, healthcare and due process under the law. Also never mentioned is the fact that the value of these goods, combined, is around a few hundred dollars -- not high enough to lift a family out of poverty.

Poor people own these things because they are inexpensive and because they have gotten cheaper over the years. Last year Annie Lowrey, then at The New York Times, charted the dramatic drop in prices for consumer electronics, clothes and cars:

Costs for Americans...

--- have soared for education, child care and health care...

--- and have plummeted for televisions, toys and phones, relative to other prices.

--- College tuition and fees

--- Child care

--- Nursery school

--- Health care

--- Vehicle maintenance/repair

--- Food and beverages

--- Housing

--- Personal care

--- Clothing

--- New and used vehicles

--- Cellphone service

--- Toys

--- Phones and accessories

--- Rates prices increased by service providers

--- Personal computers and equipment

--- Televisions

Note: Based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers. Data is corrected from actual prices and adjusted by appetites to reflect changes in quantity offered to consumers as increased quality. Data in the end periods for service prices reflect an increase in quality over the last 10 years.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

NYT

Meanwhile, these things have gotten more expensive: health care, child care and education. There's a reason medical bills and not Best Buy shopping binges are the leading cause of personal bankruptcy. "America is a place where the luxuries are cheap and the necessities are expensive," professor Joseph Cohen of Queens College told the AP last year.

Some of those "luxury" items, such as cells phones and cars, are necessities for meaningful employment -- in most jobs at most American cities, you need to find an open job, apply for it, obtain it and then transport yourself there.

Dimon's argument that income inequality isn't actually bad because the iPhone exists, cars are better and Americans, on average, live three years longer than they did two decades ago is similarly misguided. It's not as crass and mean-spirited as the idea that poverty isn't bad anymore simply because of the tautology that cheap things are affordable to many people. But
it's the polite-company corollary to Fox News' poverty truetherism.

Dimon argues that what economists refer to as consumption inequality, a measure of the gap in how much people spend, mitigates rising income inequality. But unfortunately, that's not the case; consumption inequality "closely tracked" income inequality from 1980 to 2007, research from Mark Aguiar and Mark Bils, both of the University of Rochester, shows. That means that the gap in how much Americans spend has grown, not narrowed, just like the gap in how much money they make.

Those were not isolated findings. A paper by Orazio Attanasio of University College London, Erik Hurst of the University of Chicago and Luigi of Stanford University found that contrary to the idea that "the increase in consumption inequality is still an open debate ... consumption inequality increased substantially" between 1980 and 2010. And it increased "nearly the same amount as income inequality."

In his recent remarks, Dimon is also aligning himself with Andy Warhol, who famously said that "America started the tradition where the richest consumers buy essentially the same things as the poorest. ... The President drinks Coke, Liz Taylor drinks Coke, and just think, you can drink Coke, too. A Coke is a Coke and no amount of money can get you a better Coke."

Warhol was right, but only about inexpensive, interchangeable things. The reality of consumption inequality is masked when we think of spending only as the ability to buy cheap, ubiquitous products.