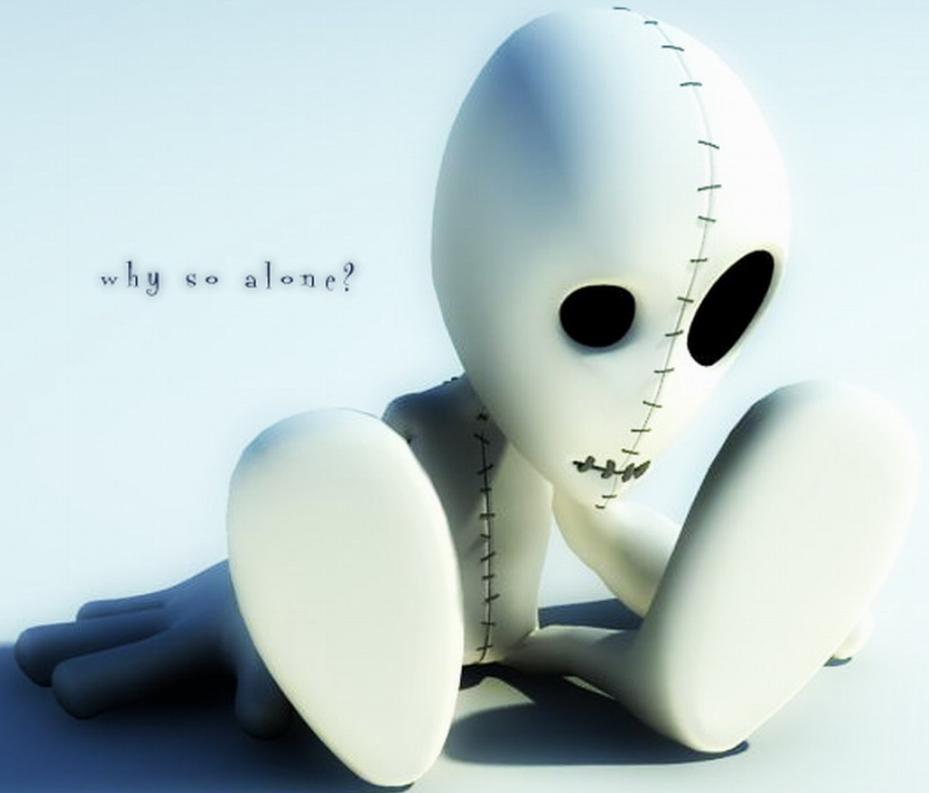


Current Events #4

why so alone?



1 is the Loneliest Number

As the Ebola scare spreads from Texas to Ohio and beyond, the number of people who have locked themselves away — some under government orders, others voluntarily — has grown well beyond those who lived with and cared for Mr. Duncan before his death on Oct. 8. The discovery last week that two nurses at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital here had caught the virus while treating Mr. Duncan extended concentric circles of fear to new sets of hospital workers and other contacts.



Officials in Texas said Thursday that nearly 100 health care workers would be asked to sign pledges not to use public transportation, go to public places or patronize shops and restaurants for 21 days, the maximum incubation period for Ebola. While not a mandate, the notices warn that violators “may be subject” to a state-ordered quarantine.

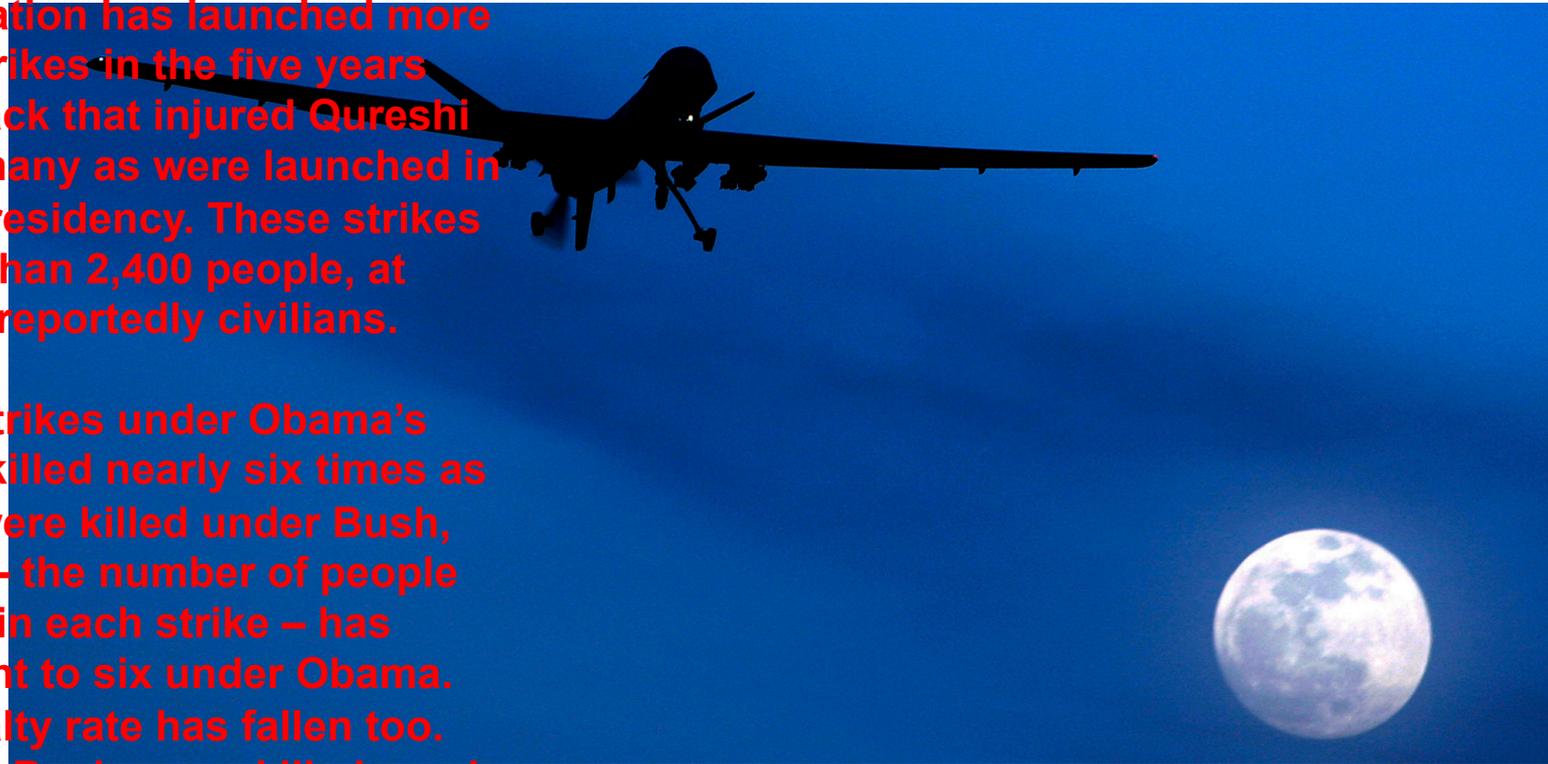
http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/19/us/life-in-quarantine-for-ebola-exposure-21-days-of-fear-and-loathing.html?_r=0

Death From Above (x2,400)

Across Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia, the Obama administration has launched more than 390 drone strikes in the five years since the first attack that injured Qureshi – eight times as many as were launched in the entire Bush presidency. These strikes have killed more than 2,400 people, at least 273 of them reportedly civilians.

Although drone strikes under Obama's presidency have killed nearly six times as many people as were killed under Bush, the casualty rate – the number of people killed on average in each strike – has dropped from eight to six under Obama. The civilian casualty rate has fallen too. Strikes during the Bush years killed nearly more than three civilians in each strike on average. This has halved under Obama (1.43 civilians per strike on average).

<http://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/2014/01/23/more-than-2400-dead-as-obamas-drone-campaign-marks-five-years/>



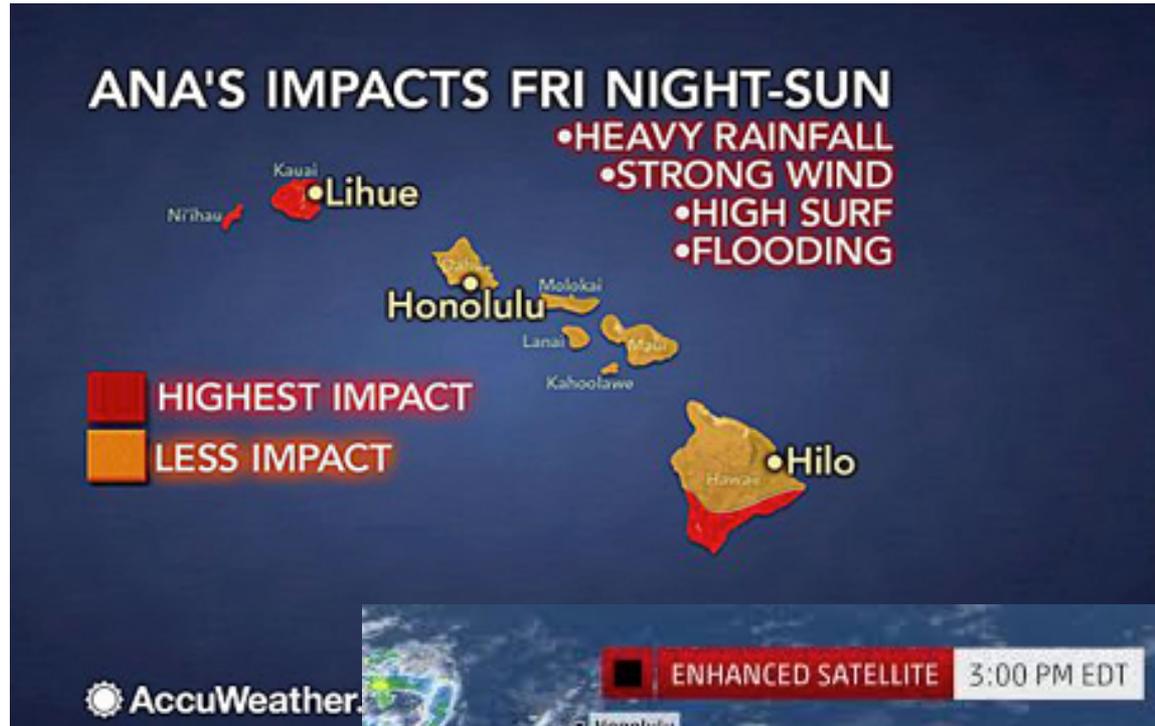
Skirting is a Verb

After menacing Hawaii for days, the closest Hurricane Ana got to Hawaii was about 70 miles southwest of the island Niihau, leaving the state soaked but largely unscathed.

The islands rode out the storm with no reports of any serious problems.

"The good news is, it looks like we've dodged a bullet," Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell said.

Hurricane Ana was downgraded to a tropical storm late Sunday afternoon as it began to pull away from the state's more populated islands.



<http://calgary.ctvnews.ca/curbing-the-caffeine-in-energy-drinks-1.1011229>

Haircut Whiplash

An Ohio girl has been pulled out of the school after being bullied for cutting off her hair to donate it to charity, her mother says.

Ten-year-old Jetta Fosburg of Dayton had long hair when she decided she would make a donation to Wigs for Kids that could be used to help young cancer patients who had lost their hair.

'I have some family members who have cancer so I thought it was the right thing to do,' she told Fox.

Chopping off 14 inches left Jetta with a short new hairstyle, but when she showed up at Pathway School of Discovery, her classmates started hurling hurtful insults at her.



<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2799687/ohio-girl-bullied-school-cutting-hair-donate-charity-principal-tell-tough.html>

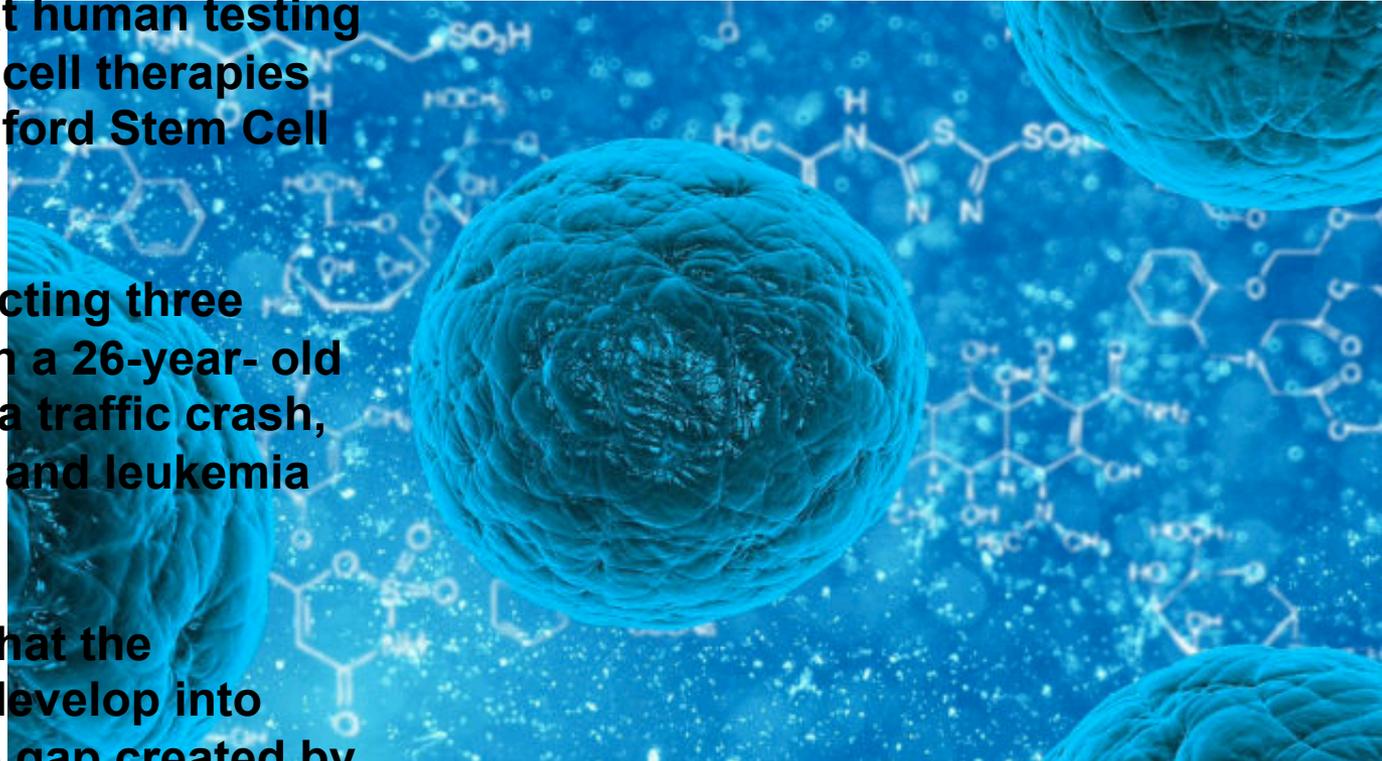
Is the Future Here?

UC San Diego Health System announced Monday that human testing of injected neural stem cell therapies are underway at its Sanford Stem Cell Clinical Center.

Researchers are conducting three different trials — one on a 26-year-old woman paralyzed after a traffic crash, and others on diabetes and leukemia patients.

The researchers hope that the transplanted cells will develop into neurons that bridge the gap created by the injury, replace severed or lost nerve connections and restore at least some motor and sensory function. According to UCSD, testing in laboratory rats with spinal cord injuries were promising.

<http://calgary.ctvnews.ca/curbing-the-caffeine-in-energy-drinks-1.1011229>



More Than One Breathing Issue

Despite heavy pollution blanketing Beijing on Sunday, an international marathon went ahead, with face masks and sponges among the equipment used by competitors to battle the smog.

The 34th Beijing International Marathon began at Tiananmen Square with many of the tens of thousands of participants wearing face masks. The 26-mile course ended at the Chinese capital's Olympic Park.

An update Saturday night on the official microblog of the marathon, which is hosted by the Chinese Athletic Association and the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Sports, said "there might be slight or moderate smog." It asked competitors to pay attention to the conditions and to take measures according to their own health, and advised the elderly and people with respiratory diseases to carefully consider whether to participate.



<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2014/10/19/beijing-marathon-runners-wear-masks-to-combat-smog-from-pollution/>

Making the World...(Cough, Cough)

Washington state's major industrial sources released about 6 million more metric tons of greenhouse gases in 2013, a 30 percent jump from the previous year, according to the latest data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The state's only coal burning power plant in Centralia topped the list, emitting 7.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide and other gases blamed for global warming. Emissions from the plant spiked up about 82 percent from 2012, after experiencing a big drop the previous year.



http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2014/10/washington_power_plants_lead_i.html



Mr. Nice

Of Facebook’s 7,185 employees, Arturo Bejar may have the most difficult job.

No, he is not responsible for increasing advertising revenue or keeping the website alive 24 hours a day. Mr. Bejar has a much more inscrutable task: teaching the site’s 1.3 billion users, especially its tens of millions of teenagers, how to be nice and respectful to one another.

“The way our brains work, we have evolved to understand each other by tone of voice or seeing facial expressions, but that gets lost through the devices we use to communicate,” Mr. Bejar said

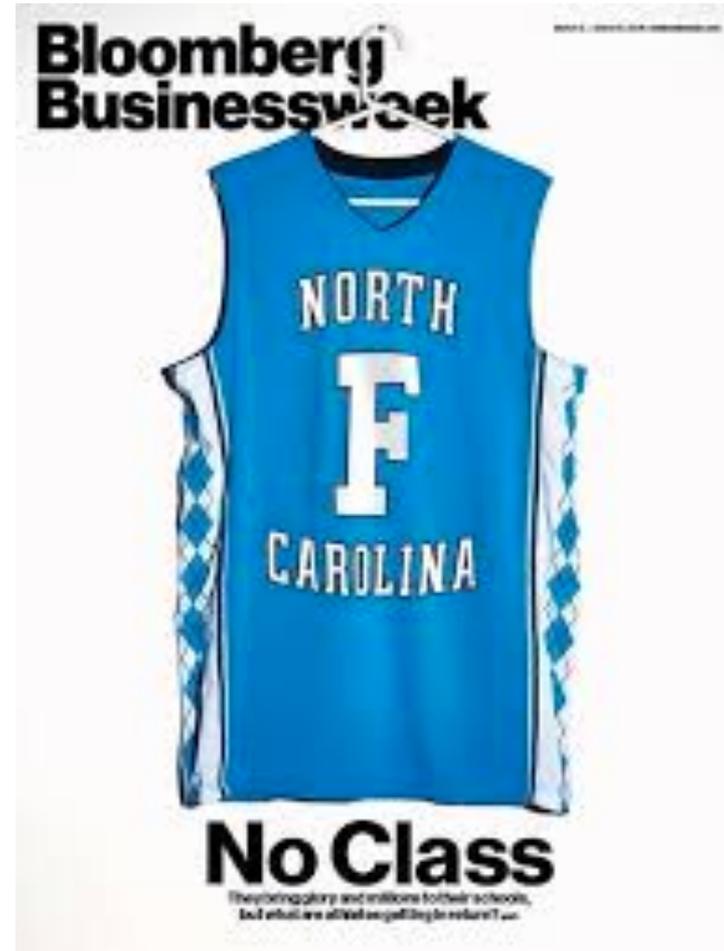
http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/23/fashion/Facebook-Arturo-Bejar-Creating-Empathy-Among-Cyberbullying.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&version=HpSum&module=second-column-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news&_r=0

Cheater McCheaterpants

A scandal involving bogus classes and inflated grades at the University of North Carolina was bigger than previously reported, encompassing about 1,500 athletes who got easy A's and B's over a span of nearly two decades, according to an investigation released Wednesday.

At least nine university employees were fired or under disciplinary review, and the question now becomes what, if anything, the NCAA will do next. Penalties could range from fewer scholarships to vacated wins.

Most of the athletes were football players or members of the school's cherished basketball program, which won three of its five national titles during the scandal (1993, 2005, 2009).



http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/10/22/unc-academic-fraud-report_n_6029350.html?utm_hp_ref=email_share

Do Not Disrupt the Mayor's Wife

A former mayor is a "probable" suspect in the disappearance of 43 students who were kidnapped last month from Iguala, a small city in Guerrero state, Mexican authorities said.

Mexican Attorney General Jesús Murillo Karam said Wednesday his office has issued arrest warrants for former Iguala Mayor José Luis Abarca; his wife, María de los Ángeles Pineda Villa; and the city's former public safety director, Felipe Flores Velásquez. Murillo said they are considered "probable masterminds" of events that occurred in Iguala on September 26.

According to the attorney general, on that day, a group of students from a teachers college in the nearby town of Ayotzinapa were on their way to stage a protest in Iguala. When the former mayor and his wife learned the protest would disrupt an event led by the mayor's wife, they gave orders to their public safety director to send police forces to prevent the students from protesting.



<http://www.cnn.com/2014/10/23/world/americas/mexico-missing-students/index.html>

Bowling for Columbine

One of four students injured when a freshman opened fire in a Washington high school cafeteria has died, bringing the death toll to two.

Three others remain hospitalized from the Friday shooting at Marysville-Pilchuck High School.

Gia Soriano, 14, who had been in critical condition with head injuries, succumbed to her wounds, the Providence Regional Medical Center said late Sunday night.

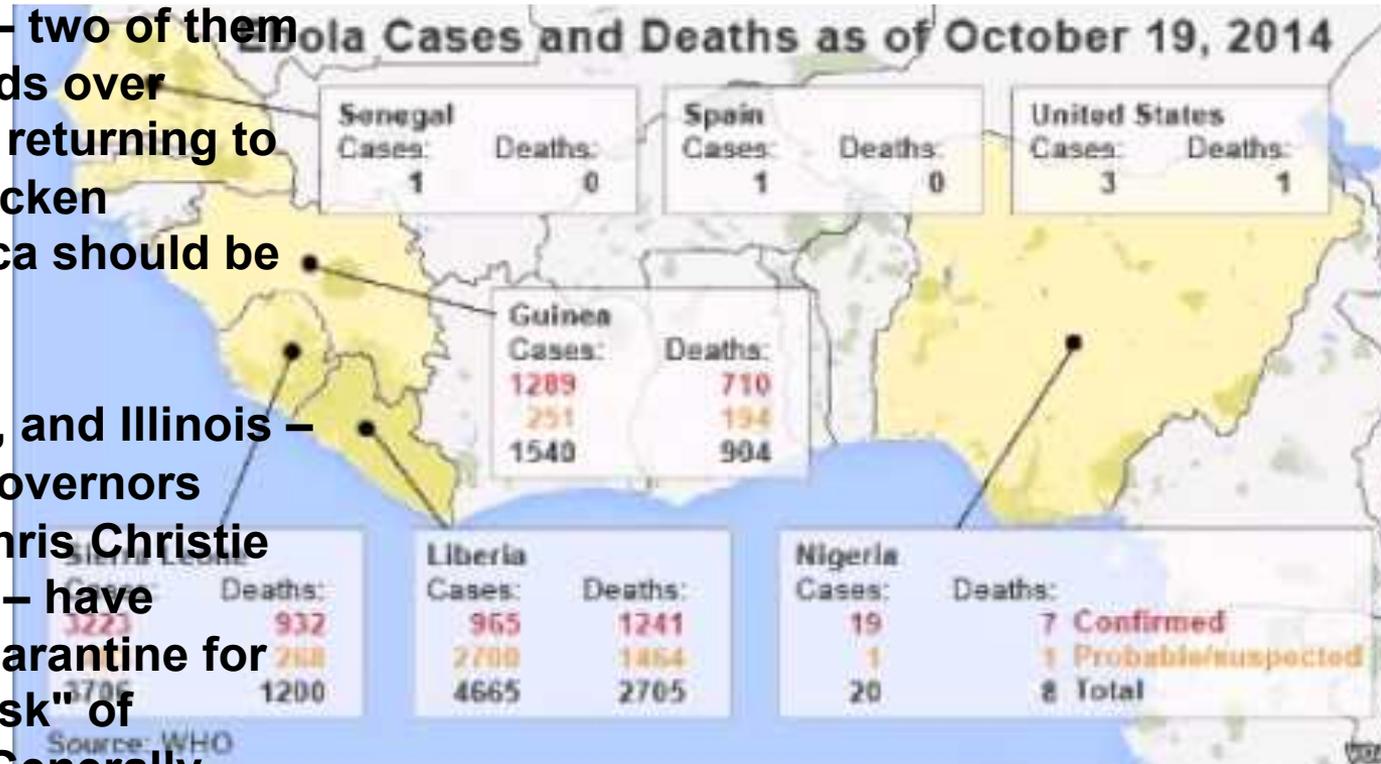


http://www.cnn.com/2014/10/27/us/washington-school-shooting/index.html?hpt=hp_c2

To Be or Not to Be [Quarantined]

The Obama administration and three prominent governors – two of them Democrats – are at odds over whether or not people returning to the US from Ebola-stricken countries in West Africa should be quarantined.

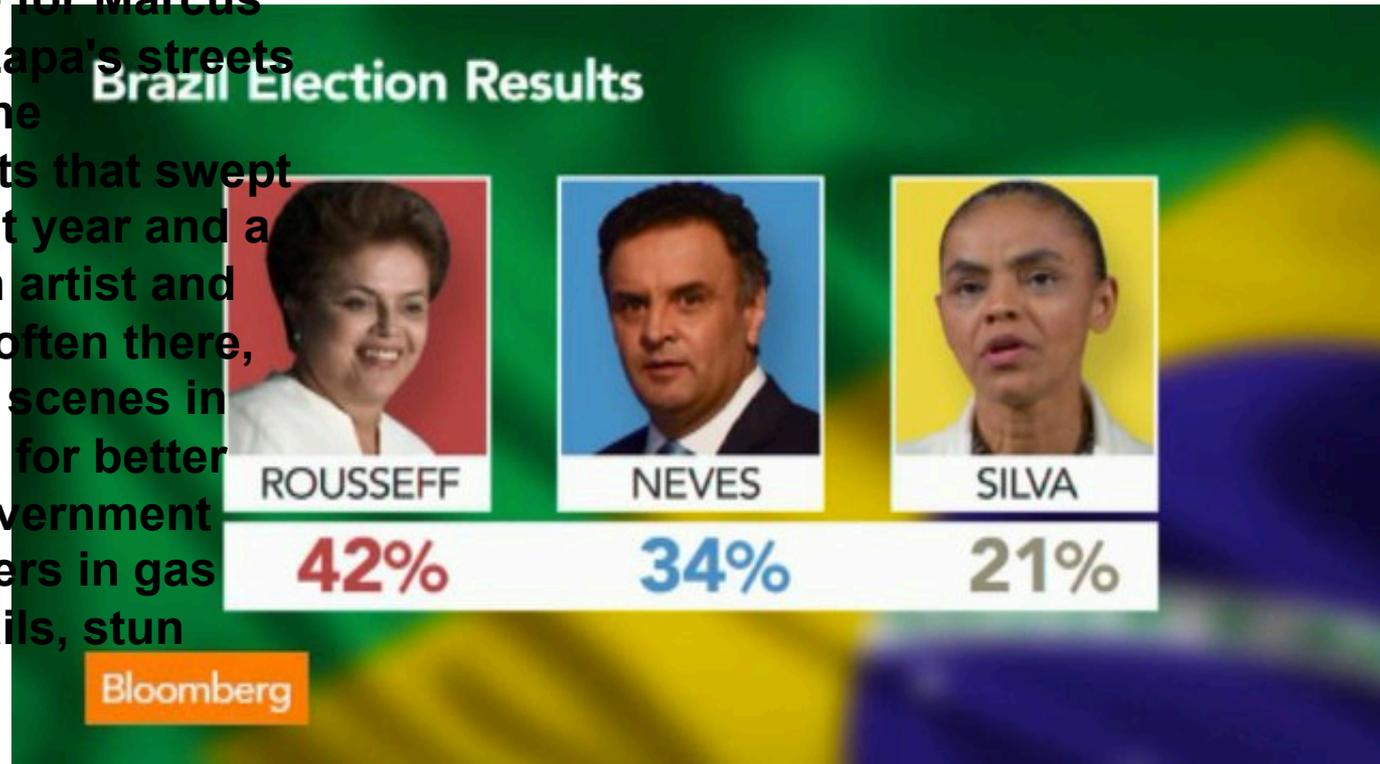
New York, New Jersey, and Illinois – led, respectively, by Governors Andrew Cuomo (D), Chris Christie (R), and Pat Quinn (D) – have ordered mandatory quarantine for those deemed "high risk" of carrying the disease. Generally speaking, that means health care workers or anybody else who has had direct contact with an Ebola patient in Sierra Leone, Guinea, or Liberia.



<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/DC-Decoder/2014/1026/Quarantine-or-not-Key-Ebola-question-pits-Obama-vs.-governors-video>

Victory = Real Fall

The bohemian neighborhood of Lapa is a familiar place for Marcus Galiña and his peers. Lapa's streets were host to many of the antigovernment protests that swept the nation over the past year and a half. And Mr. Galiña, an artist and an avid protester, was often there, witnessing the familiar scenes in demonstrations calling for better public services and government accountability: protesters in gas masks, Molotov cocktails, stun bombs, and arrests.



But just days before Brazil's presidential runoff, the battleground for antigovernment protests in Lapa is a sea of red, the color of Brazil's ruling Workers' Party.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Americas/2014/1026/Brazil-election-Why-antigovernment-protesters-are-now-voting-Rousseff-video>

Eye for an Eye?

South Korean prosecutors have sought the death penalty for the captain of a ferry that capsized in April, leaving 304 people, most of them schoolchildren, dead or missing.

Lee Joon-seok, 68, has been charged with homicide. The prosecution told the court he should be sentenced to death for failing to carry out his duty, before resting its case in a trial that has taken place amid intense public anger towards the crew.



Lee was among 15 accused of abandoning the sharply listing ferry after telling the passengers to stay put in their cabins. Four, including the captain, face homicide charges.

<http://www.reuters.com/video/2014/10/27/death-penalty-sought-for-captain-in-sout?videoid=346712053&videoChannel=117760>

Como Se Llama?

Thirteen years ago, the state of Oregon recognized the problem and required doctors and hospitals to start using professional interpreters. The Affordable Care Act also has expanded the kinds of materials that hospitals and insurers are required to translate for people who don't speak English.

But more than a decade after its state law passed, Oregon still has trouble getting all patients the medical interpretation help they need.

For example, many hospitals and doctors turned to a phone service, where they can quickly get help in several languages. But the people who work for those language services often aren't certified medical interpreters — so aren't necessarily conversant in medical terminology — and are working at a distance, which can lead to other problems.



<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2014/10/27/358055673/in-the-hospital-a-bad-translation-can-destroy-a-life>