

Day 8

The Guardian

The New York Times

And more



"Every morning at 11 a.m. or so, a 'window man' shows up and scares the heck out of me. (It's actually my neighbor's chimney)." ~~Because the signs were everywhere.~~

 Crystal Ro



LGBTQ People Shared Their "Baby Gay" Pictures With Us, And If These Pictures Don't Make Your Day, Nothing Will

~~Because the signs were everywhere.~~

 Matt Stopera



50 Pictures Of Things Xennials And Gen X'ers Haven't Thought About In 30 Years, But That Will Immediately Transport Them Back To Their Elementary School Days On Sight

Put on your Reebok Club Cs, pack a snack into your favorite cartoon lunchbox, and get ready for a trip back down memory lane.



Build A Cafeteria Lunch Tray And We'll Reveal Which Clique You Belong In

It turns out what they said was true. You are what you eat!

The telltale sign shape one's outlook
outrageously hilarious

Where do you stand on XX

A legion of letters

Ammu-f foddor

shiftless
scandalize

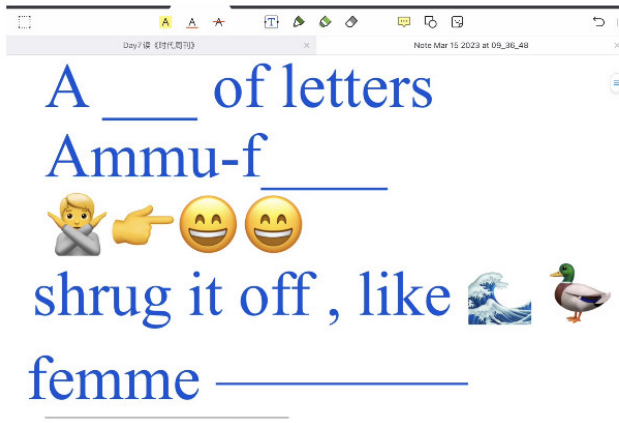
shrug it off, like

femme _____



张海露 Eric 🎺

能立刻填上这些空，看到 emoji 立刻想到那个词那个说法，说明我们这
个月又多了一些共同回忆 🦆



Details



Zoey

16:59

有印象但说不准确 需要再相遇几次



张海露 Eric 🎺

20 mins ago

@ Zoey: hh有空晚上来上课



十三月

9 mins ago

1. a legion of letters
2. fodder
3. (i couldn't ring a bell 🦆)
4. shrug it off, like water off a duck's back
5. femme fatale



eye

6 mins ago

a legion of letters/brouhaha/shrug it off, like water off a duck's back 😄



张海露 Eric 🎺

4 mins ago

@ eye: Bravo!



张海露 Eric 🎺

3 mins ago

@ 十三月: To crack No.3, you have to get into my head and stretch your imagination 🤔 🤔



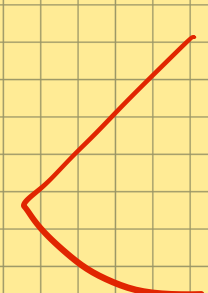
张海露 Eric 🎺

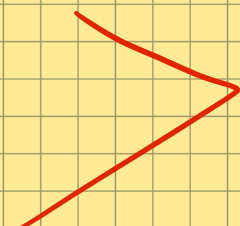
2 mins ago

@ eye: you missed No.2 though, the one hot on Ammu's heels.

Comment



Sweep  Smitten →
clean
sweep

 **eyeroll**
inducing
worthy
cringe

single  **solo**

stigma 

→ *XX* was met with

→ *XX* was behind

→ *XX* is no stranger to

(AFP/Getty Images)



Today's briefing



Playing

1 The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank is under investigation.

- **What happened?** The bank failed Friday, marking the [second-largest collapse](#) in U.S. history. It sparked [a 72-hour scramble](#) to keep the country from entering a financial meltdown.
- **The latest:** The Justice Department and the SEC [opened investigations](#) into the collapse, and shares in regional banks [rebounded yesterday](#), easing fears of a wider crisis.

2 A Russian jet struck a U.S. drone in international airspace yesterday.

- **What happened?** The [surveillance drone](#) was flying over the Black Sea. Two Russian warplanes dumped fuel on it, and one collided with the drone's propeller, [forcing it down](#), military officials said.
- **Why this matters:** There have been concerns about conflict between the two nuclear powers since Russia invaded Ukraine. An incident like this could escalate the situation.

⚙️ GPT-4 launch; and more
6 min



What grind away means? ^

: **to work or study in a steady, determined way.** She was grinding away at her studies. : to remove (a part of something) by rubbing something rough against it. He uses a special tool to grind away the stone.



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<https://www.merriam-webster.com> › dictionary › grin... ▼

Grind away Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster

9 Reaper drone over waters west of Crimea

Analysis An escalation of confrontation near war zone



switch of official ties from Taiwan to China



Cyclone Freddy

Death toll passes 200 as rescue workers warn more victims will be found

People in Malawi and Mozambique picking up the pieces after fierce storm swept through at the weekend



Donald Trump

The Queen, Diana and Oprah Winfrey 'kissed my ass' in letters, ex-president claims

Silicon Valley Bank

Inquiries launched into bank's collapse and UK arm

Coronavirus

China to reopen to foreign tourists for first time since crisis

Poland

Court convicts activist for helping woman get abortion pills

AI

OpenAI says new model GPT-4 is more creative and less likely to invent facts

Exclusive

BBC came under No 10 pressure to avoid using 'lockdown' in early pandemic, leak shows

Eva Green

Actor discussed rash excuse to avoid making film, court told

Retrieve her!

Police speak to Rishi Sunak's family over off-lead dog

Medical research

Caffeine may reduce body fat and risk of type 2 diabetes, study suggests

Findings could lead to use of calorie-free caffeinated drinks to cut obesity and type 2 diabetes – but more research needed



📷 The researchers emphasised that while caffeine increased fat burning, it was not a treatment for obesity. Photograph: Gareth Fuller/PA

Rachel Hall

🐦 @rachela_hall

Tue 14 Mar 2023 22.30 GMT



Having high levels of caffeine in your blood may lower the amount of body fat you carry and reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes, research suggests.

The findings could lead to calorie-free caffeinated drinks being used to reduce obesity and type 2 diabetes, though further research is required, the researchers wrote in the BMJ Medicine journal.

Dr Katarina Kos, a senior lecturer in diabetes and obesity at the University of Exeter, said the research showed potential health benefits for people with high levels of caffeine their blood, but added: “It does not study or recommend drinking more coffee, which was not the purpose of this research.”

She said any caffeinated drinks containing sugar and fat would offset the positive effects.

— 英汉大词典（第2版）

vi. | vt. | n. | a. |

offset *off·set* /'ɒfset, 'ɔː-/

/,ɒf'set, ɔː-/ (offset; offset·ting)

vt.

1. 补偿;抵消

• Henry has to offset his small salary by living economically.
亨利只好用勤俭持家的办法来弥补他菲薄的薪水。

• The gains offset the losses.
得失相当。

— 英汉大词典（第2版）

cancel out

1. 抵消;相互抵消,相互抵消力量

• The two things are so opposed that they just cancel each other out.
两者如此截然相反,以致起了相互抵消的作用。

• The awful effort involved in travel canceled out the possible pleasure she'd have.

她为旅行所费的许多心力抵消了她可能得到的愉快。

• The pros and cons cancel out.
正反双方理由相当。

About 397,000 results (0.38 seconds)



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THE DUALITY OF LIFE: YIN YANG EXPLAINED | Paint Saavy

Sep 15, 2564 BE — They do not **cancel out** each other, they merely balance each other like the dual wings of a bird. Life is too ironic to understand by looking ...

Opinion Happiness indices

The biggest lie the rich ever told? That money can't buy you happiness

Arwa Mahdawi



New studies confirm that having more money can improve our wellbeing. So much for the story powerful people have always tried to push

Tue 14 Mar 2023 14.40 GMT

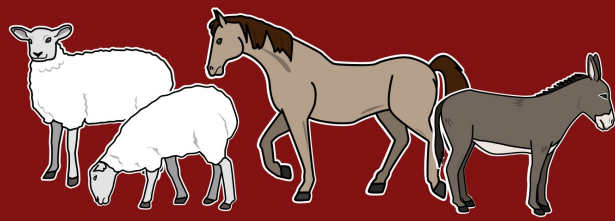


48

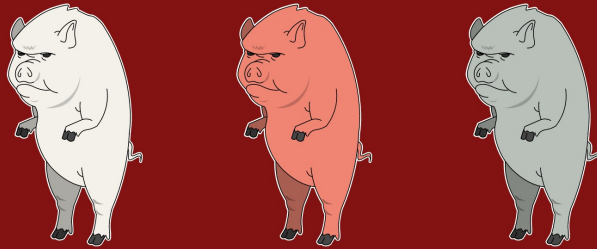


Photograph: malamus-UK/Getty

News just in: money does buy you happiness. Duh, you might say. Anyone could have told you that; it's hardly a Nobel-prize winning insight. Well, actually, it kinda is: in 2010, Daniel Kahneman, a Nobel prize-winning economist and psychologist, came out with the theory that there was a monetary "happiness plateau". Once you hit an annual household income of \$75,000 (£62,000), earning more money didn't make you any happier. In 2021, the happiness researcher Matthew Killingsworth released a dissenting study, showing that happiness increased with income and there wasn't evidence of a plateau. Now the pair have teamed up in a process known as "adversarial collaboration" and released a new study finding that they were both sort of right, but Killingsworth was more right: for most people, earning more money makes you happier.



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ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL
BUT SOME ANIMALS ARE
MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS

There is some nuance to this. If you are extremely unhappy, happiness apparently increases with household income up to \$100,000 (£82,000), then it “**abruptly**” **levels off**: there are some problems money can’t fix. For people who are in the “middle range of emotional wellbeing”, happiness increases **linearly** with income. And for very happy people, happiness accelerates above \$100,000. The study didn’t look at incomes **above \$500,000**, so we don’t have any insight into whether joyriding around space is making Jeff Bezos feel truly fulfilled. Or whether Rishi Sunak’s **newly heated swimming pool** is warming the cockles of his heart.

Anyway, no offence to these very smart researchers, but this feels like one of those studies that you can file under “pretty goddamn obvious”. You don’t need sports cars and private jets to be happy, but you do need shelter and stability - and those things cost a fortune these days. Housing affordability in the US is at **a record low** and the average American household needs to spend 42.9% of its income to afford a median-priced house, according to new data. It’s the same story in the UK: houses are at their least affordable **since 1876**. Sometimes I think about moving back to London from Philadelphia (which is still relatively affordable) and then, after five minutes on a property site, I abandon the idea **in disgust**.

And then there’s retirement. Stressing about whether you’re going to have to survive on cat food in your old age **is generally not conducive to happiness**. In the US, most companies **don’t offer proper pensions any more**. In the mid-1980s, about half of private sector workers had a defined-benefit pension plan; in 2022 only 15% of people in the private sector had access to them. Now you’re just expected to diligently put money in the stock market and see what you’re left with when you retire. Which, judging by recent events, might be nothing.



Hitchcock我们底层见 无意冒犯
See you at the bottom, Hitchcock. No offense.

#brooklyn99



没事
No, none taken.

#brooklyn99

Don't get me started on the cost of childcare. Kids are little bundles of germmy joy, but my God are they expensive. A 2019 study found that, in many industrialised societies, there is "a decline in individuals' subjective wellbeing - either happiness or life satisfaction - once parenthood begins" - something researchers have called the "parenting happiness gap". Americans have the largest parenthood happiness gap. That's largely down to the cost of childcare and the lack of paid holiday and sick days people can take. Earn enough money, of course, and you can paper over these structural cracks with hired help.

Unless you're a yacht-dwelling billionaire with an army of nannies, none of this is really news. Most people are well aware that there's a cost of living crisis, that prices of everyday essentials are out of control and that not having to stress about how to pay bills is good for your mental health. Still, while this study's conclusions may seem obvious, I think it serves as an important corrective to a narrative that a lot of people in power have been trying to push. It's funny how a lot of obscenely rich people are fixated on trying to tell everyone else that money doesn't make you happy. See, for example, the CEO of Google recently telling all his employees that "having fun ... shouldn't always equate to money" after cutting staff benefits. It is very convenient to pretend that money isn't important when you're busy trying to hoard a lot of it yourself.

● Arwa Mahdawi is a Guardian columnist

The dream job: why it could be as elusive as your soulmate

Fewer than a third of us think we are in our dream job - and for a growing number, the idea that it even exists is fading fast



📷 Road to nowhere? ... almost half of us think our 'dream job' doesn't exist. Photograph: exdez/Getty

Tue 14 Mar 2023 14.49 GMT



302

Name: The dream job.

Age: It's been out there ever since hunter-gatherers started grunting about getting into the slash-and-burn agriculture game.

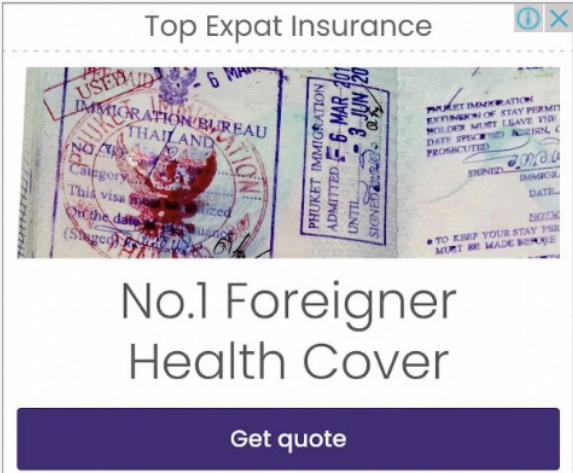
Appearance: Elusive, to say the least.

What is the dream job? That depends on your ambitions and interests, but polls show that for most workers it would include flexible hours, new challenges every day, not being stuck behind a desk, an opportunity for foreign travel and the freedom to bring your pet to work.

So ... lion tamer. Yes, although some people don't like wearing a uniform.

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What else then? Globally, the jobs **most frequently used** to complete the search term “how to be a ... ” are pilot, writer, dancer and YouTuber.

And how do you go about securing one of these optimal situations? By and large, you don't.

Why not? Because the dream job doesn't really exist.

Who says? Survey respondents. According to new research, 46% of working adults said they believe there is no such thing as their dream job.

Not even a majority then. No, but 71% admitted they're not in their dream job right now, and 54% don't believe they ever will be.

That's kind of depressing. Furthermore, 41% confessed that their ideal job was probably an unrealistic goal.

Who commissioned this thoroughly disheartening research? Accor, a French multinational hospitality company.

Hospitality? Doesn't that make it an international provider of nightmare jobs? Not necessarily. Some people enjoy working in the hospitality industry.

No they don't. Sixty per cent of those polled who worked in hospitality said they were satisfied.

Pretending to like it is part of the job. And one of the top 10 dream job requirements cited by those surveyed was “the opportunity to make people happy”. Isn't that what hospitality is all about?

No, it's about making cocktails for people who are already drunk. May I ask what it is that you do for a living?

I perform reconstructive surgery on men wishing to reverse their vasectomies. And do you find that rewarding?

Yes, it's making a *vas deferens*. I see what you've done there, unfortunately.

But my dream job is to write jokes for slightly saucy Christmas crackers. I'm afraid we don't have anything like that available at the moment.

Will you keep my CV on file? No.

Do say: "Be careful what you wish for." Unless it's another mojito - I can get that for you right away."

Don't say: "I fell asleep again! Who knew flying a plane could be so boring?"

Asia Dow
3257.73 1.21%

Nikkei
27298.01 0.28%

Hang Seng
19671.14 2.20%

Shanghai
3270.53 0.78%

BSE Sensex
57900.19 -0.58%

Singapore
3174.23 1.42%

Kospi
2392.15 1

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Russian Jet Collides With U.S. Drone Over Black Sea

The collision forced the U.S. to bring the Reaper drone down in international waters, the Pentagon said. 864 5 min read

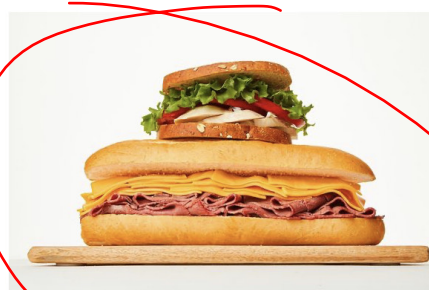
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Credit Suisse Finds Material



The American Diet Has a Sandwich Problem

Americans' favorite lunch is a "heart bomb" of salt, preservatives and sugar. Doctors say there's a way to build a healthier sandwich. 671 5 min read

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

The American Diet Has a Sandwich Problem

Americans' favorite lunch is a 'heart bomb' of salt, preservatives and sugar. But doctors say there's a way to build a healthier sandwich—here's how.

The surprise villain of U.S. diets: sandwiches.

By [Andrea Petersen](#) [Follow](#) | Photographs by F. Martin Ramin/The Wall Street Journal; Food Styling by Mieko Takahashi

March 14, 2023 at 10:00 am ET



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TEXT

675



Listen to article (2 minutes)

The humble sandwich is the **saboteur** of the American diet.

Most Americans [consume too much sodium, sugar and saturated fat](#), according to government survey data. Sandwiches—which almost half of Americans eat on any given day—are a primary culprit. Nutritionists, doctors and public-health officials are trying to nudge people to make their sandwiches healthier, believing that even simple changes can improve health.

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: a system that prevents Internet users from accessing certain Web content without a paid subscription. 5天前



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Paywall Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster

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What is an example of paywall?



How do I get rid of paywall?



How does a paywall work?



Is disabling paywall illegal?



反馈



wikipedia.org

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付费墙 (Paywall)



付费墙是一种通过购买或付费订阅来限制对内容的访问的方法。自2010年代中期，开始有报纸在其网站上实施付费墙，以此作为增加收入的一种方式，因为付费印刷读者和广告收入多年来一直在下降。在学术界，阅读研究论文通常要收费，并且要通过订阅的学术图书馆获得。其他报纸，主要如《纽约时报》，则在各种付费墙的实施和撤消之间摇摆不定。 [维基百科](#)

提供反馈

5. Press < Back, go to the Cookies section, and turn everything on.
6. Press < Back again. Go to Autoclicker and turn the first and third options on.
7. Press < Back again. Go to Dark Mode if you're not running any other dark mode extension, and turn that on.
8. Press < Back again. Go to Custom Scripts and turn the first and third options on, and in Local→Add script from URL, enter: <https://gitlab.com/magnolia1234/bypass-paywalls-clean-filters/-/raw/main/userscript/bpc.en.user.js>
9. Open Safari. Browse to <https://washingtonpost.com/> (which paywalls nearly everything, because Jeff Bezos, who owns it, desperately needs your money). In the address bar, press the jigsaw puzzle icon, and then the Hyperweb icon. Make sure that you've given it permission to access every website.

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How to (Really) Bypass Paywalls in Safari on iOS in 2023

Jan 21, 2566 BE — Then, browse to whichever article you're interested in, press the Share button, and select "Unpaywall." Method 3: If Method 2 doesn't work ...



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Bypass paywall : r/ios - Reddit

Dec 13, 2564 BE — Impossible to find a reliable iOS. Unpaywall and antipaywall don't work. A



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2021年12月13日

[Found this on ios.gadaethacks.com. It's a way of getting past a ...](#)

2021年1月25日

iOS

r/ios

[u/4rt3m0rl0v](#) · 52d

Join



How to (Really) Bypass Paywalls in Safari on iOS in 2023

PSA

Hi, All.

I'd like to summarize my findings about how to bypass paywalls in a single post. There are five methods in iOS, and two more **fallback methods** if you use a desktop browser:

1. **Method 1:** Do this: <https://www.reddit.com/r/ios/comments/10fqm9g/comment/j50zy5k/>
2. **Method 2:** Method 1 will cover almost all sites, but may give you problems on [wsj.com](#) and it won't work at all on [ft.com](#). In that case, install the Unpaywall shortcut: <https://www.icloud.com/shortcuts/71648f5ad34f4d8f972718e5f3621ffe>. Then, browse to whichever article you're interested in, press the *Share* button, and select "Unpaywall."
3. **Method 3:** If Method 2 doesn't work on a particular website, use the *Avert Paywall With Archive.is* shortcut: <https://www.icloud.com/shortcuts/81c670b532e340e38a35cc62e3e9397d>.
4. **Method 4:** If Method 3 doesn't work on a particular website, use the *10ft.io* ...

6. **Method 6 (Last Resort):** If Method 5 doesn't work, your best alternative is to use the full-blown *Bypass Paywalls Clean* extension in a Chromium web browser or Firefox, running on a Mac or PC. For Chromium browsers, use: <https://gitlab.com/magnolia1234/bypass-paywalls-chrome-clean#installation>. For Firefox, use: <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/bypass-paywalls-clean/>.
7. **Method 7 (Last Resort to the Last Resort):** Finally, if Method 6 fails in your desktop browser (which it will for the UK's most respected newspaper, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk>, and possibly a rare few other websites): Install the *Web Archives* extension (<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/web-archives/hkligngkgcpcolhcngkgccglchdafcnao>) in Chrome or Edge, navigate to the page you want to see, press the extension's icon, and select archive.is. This is the desktop version of Method 3.



4rt3m0rl0v OP • 54d

Hi, there.

I'll try.

This is what I wrote for some friends:

1. Go to the App Store. Search for "Hyperweb," and install it.
2. Go to *Settings*→*Safari*→*Extensions* and enable all six of the Hyperweb extensions.
3. Scroll down a little, and in the *ALLOW THESE EXTENSIONS* section, turn Hyperweb on.
4. Go back to the Hyperweb app, acknowledge that you've performed the required steps, and then go into Blocker. If you're not running any ad blocking software, turn all options on. Scroll down to *Local*→*Add Filterlist* from URL and enter: <https://gitlab.com/magnolia1234/bypass-paywalls-clean-filters/-/raw/main/bpc-paywall-filter.txt>
5. Press < Back, go to the *Cookies* section, and turn everything on.
6. Press < Back again. Go to *Autoclicker* and turn the first and third options on.
7. Press < Back again. Go to *Dark Mode* if you're not running any other dark mode extension, and turn that on.
8. Press < Back again. Go to *Custom Scripts* and turn the first and third options on, and in *Local*→*Add script from URL*, enter: <https://gitlab.com/magnolia1234/bypass-paywalls-clean-filters/-/raw/main/userscript/>

Add a comment

Most Americans [consume too much sodium, sugar and saturated fat](#), according to government survey data. Sandwiches—which almost half of Americans eat on any given day—are a primary culprit. Nutritionists, doctors and public-health officials are trying to nudge people to make their sandwiches healthier, believing that even simple changes can improve health.

Sandwiches are the number one source of sodium and saturated fat in [Americans' diets](#), making up about one-fifth of our daily sodium intake and 19% of our daily saturated fat calories, according to an analysis of federal survey data. Sandwiches contribute 7% of daily added sugars, the same percentage as breakfast cereals and bars.

"The standard deli sandwich with processed meat and cheese, you're literally eating a heart bomb," says Dariush Mozaffarian, a cardiologist and professor of nutrition and medicine at Tufts University.

Excess sodium increases blood pressure, which raises the risk of heart disease and stroke. People also [eat an extra nearly 100 calories](#) on the days they eat sandwiches, according to federal survey data analyzed by University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign researchers. Sandwiches are often high in calories compared with other meals.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

What strategies do you use to build a healthier sandwich? Join the conversation below.

Time-strapped Americans reach for sandwiches because they are tasty, portable, often inexpensive and ubiquitous, dominating the menus of fast-food joints, corporate cafeterias and brown-bag school lunches.

"Americans eat so much of their meals not sitting down at a table. They are eating in their cars or at their desks, so sandwiches are easy," says Erica Kenney, assistant professor of public-health nutrition at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

You don't have to stop eating sandwiches, nutritionists say. But you can make them healthier, with more-nutritious breads and fillings.

Our sandwiches weren't always this bad for us. Sandwiches have grown less healthy in the past 40 years, Dr. Mozaffarian says. Culprits include highly processed grains in bread and the low-fat push that took off in the 1980s, which nutritionists now say led to the consumption of more deli meats marketed as low-fat.

Sandwiches' size—and their **calorie content**—have ballooned, too. A typical turkey sandwich in the 1980s contained about 320 calories, according to a report from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. Twenty years later, a turkey sandwich contained about 820 calories.



Wednesday, March 15, 2023
Today's Paper

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Cooking The Athletic Wirecutter Games

Inside the Collapse of Silicon Valley Bank

While its C.E.O. extolled innovation and the future of tech, the bank paid less attention to risk management and was undercut by economic change.

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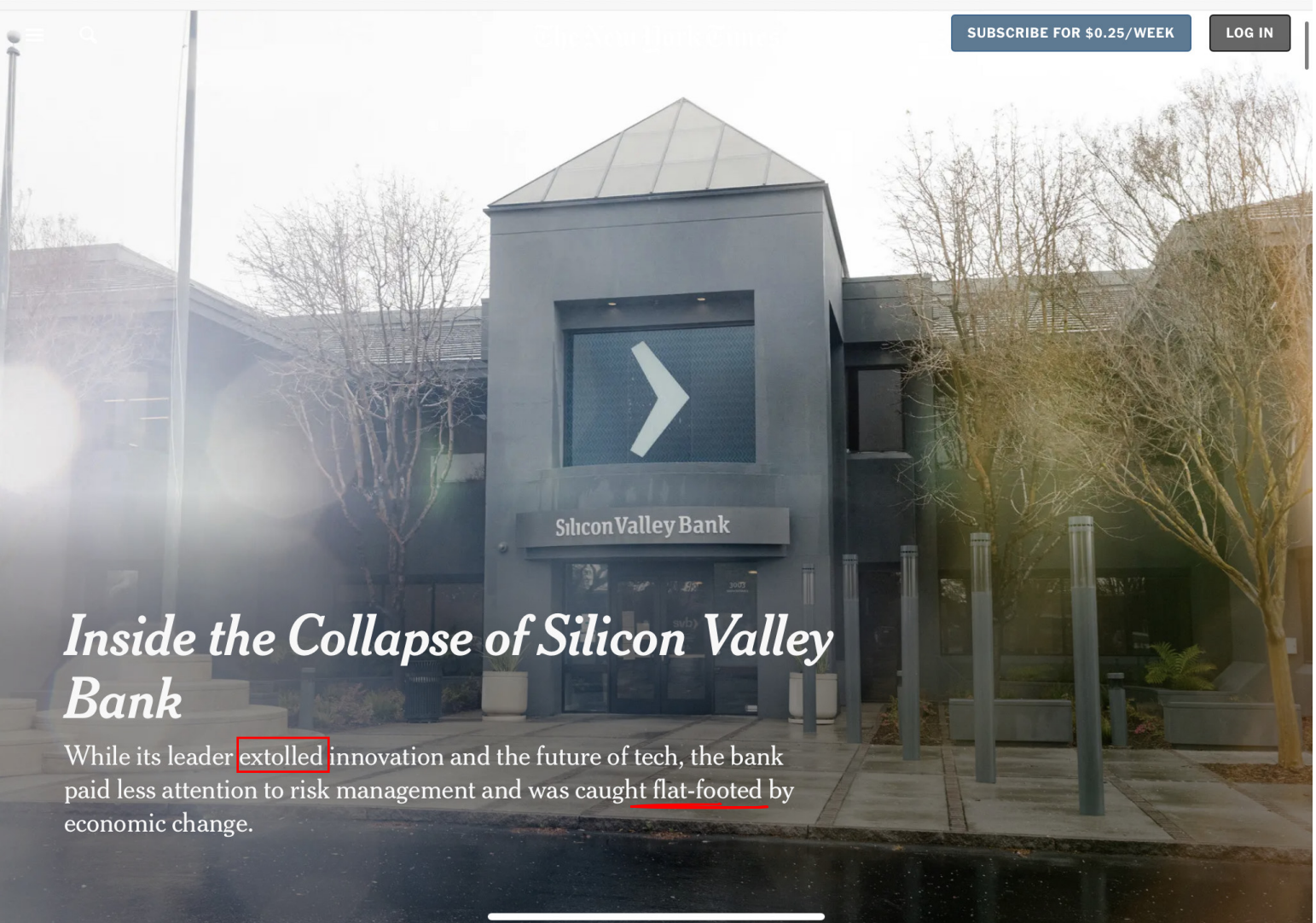
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Inside the Collapse of Silicon Valley Bank

While its leader **extolled** innovation and the future of tech, the bank paid less attention to risk management and was caught **flat-footed** by economic change.



By **Maureen Farrell**

Maureen Farrell is a finance reporter covering private equity and hedge funds. She is the author of a book on WeWork.

March 14, 2023

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Gregory Becker, ~~the chief executive of Silicon Valley Bank~~, ~~leaned~~ back in his chair at a technology conference last week in San Francisco's luxurious Palace Hotel, and delivered a bullish message.

In the confident, almost bombastic, style that was his signature, Mr. Becker told the audience of investors, Wall Street analysts and technology executives that Tuesday afternoon that the future of the tech industry was sparkling — and so was Silicon Valley Bank's place within it.

What he didn't say was that, roughly a week earlier, the rating agency Moody's had called to tell Mr. Becker that his bank's financial health was in jeopardy, and its bonds were in danger of being downgraded to junk. Realizing the bank needed to raise cash, Mr. Becker had been scrambling since then to fix things.

上周，在旧金山皇宫精选酒店举行的一次技术会议上，硅谷银行首席执行官格雷戈里·贝克尔靠在椅子上，发表了十分乐观的看法。

周二下午，贝克尔以他标志性的自信、几近浮夸的风格告诉投资者、华尔街分析师和技术企业高管，科技行业拥有闪耀的未来——硅谷银行在其中的地位也是如此。

但他没有说的是，大约一周前，评级机构穆迪打电话告诉贝克尔，他的银行的财务状况处于危险之中，其债券有被降级为垃圾级的危险。贝克尔意识到银行需要筹集现金，从那时起就一直在忙于解决问题。

那通电话促使硅谷银行内部在慌乱中紧急采取行动。就在贝克尔在会议上展示信心一天后，该银行宣布亏损18亿美元，并仓促制定了一项筹集22.5亿美元新资本的计划。这一消息令该银行的储户和投资者大为震惊，周四，其股价暴跌约60%，客户撤出了约400亿美元的资金。

到周五，硅谷银行倒闭了。

硅谷银行是一个雄心壮志和管理失误兼有的故事，其CEO过多地谈论创新和未来，以至于他和他的副手们没有足够重视管理风险和确保财务审慎的工作，这些工作十分枯燥但极其重要。当银行在瞬息万变的经济环境中措手不及，它直到最后一刻才试图扭转命运。

“这不一定是银行层面的贪婪，”摩西风险投资公司的投资者丹尼·摩西说。他因在小说和同名电影《大空头》中对2008年金融危机的预测而闻名。

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The tale of Silicon Valley Bank is one of ambition and management mistakes, of a chief executive who talked so much about innovation and the future that he and his lieutenants didn't pay enough attention to the mundane but enormously important work of managing risk and ensuring financial prudence. When the bank was caught flat-footed in a rapidly changing economic environment, it waited till the last minute to try to avert its fate.

“This isn't greed, necessarily, at the bank level,” said Danny Moses, an investor at Moses Ventures known for his role in predicting the 2008 financial crisis in the book and movie “The Big Short.”

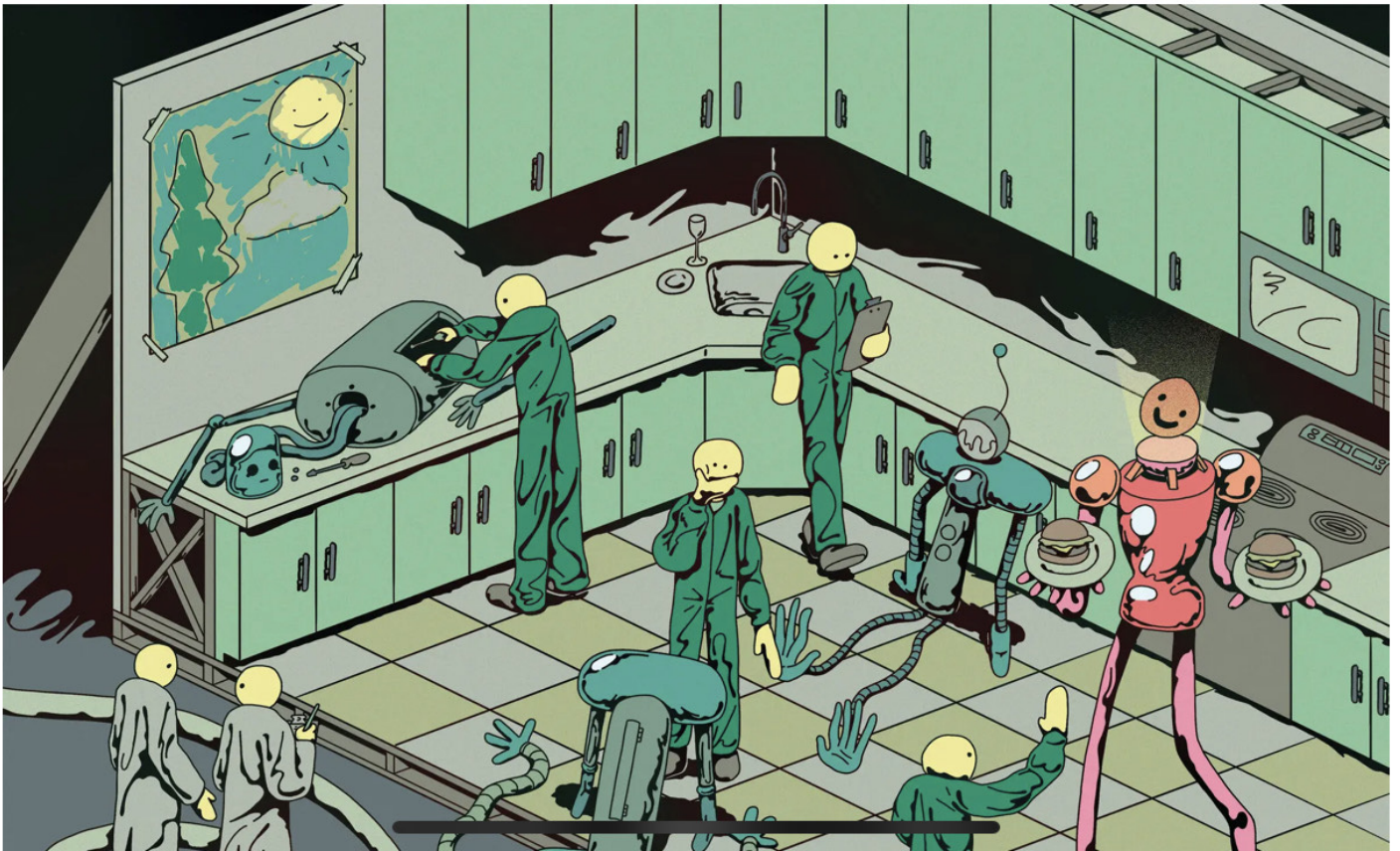
“It's just bad risk management,” Mr. Moses added. “It was complete and utter bad risk management on the part of SVB.”

How Siri, Alexa and Google Assistant Lost the A.I. Race

The virtual assistants had more than a decade to become indispensable. But they were hampered by clunky design and miscalculations, leaving room for chatbots to rise.



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On a rainy Tuesday in San Francisco, Apple executives took the stage in a crowded auditorium to unveil the [fifth-generation iPhone](#). The phone, which looked identical to the previous version, had a new feature that the audience was soon buzzing about: [Siri, a virtual assistant](#).

Scott Forstall, then Apple's head of software, pushed an iPhone button to summon Siri and prodded it with questions. At his request, Siri checked the time in Paris ("8:16 p.m.," Siri replied), defined the word "mitosis" ("Cell division in which the nucleus divides into nuclei containing the same number of chromosomes," it said) and pulled up a list of 14 highly rated Greek restaurants, five of them in Palo Alto, Calif.

"I've been in the A.I. field for a long time, and this still blows me away," Mr. Forstall said.

That was 12 years ago. Since then, people have been far from blown away by Siri and competing assistants that are powered by artificial intelligence, like Amazon's Alexa and Google Assistant. The technology has largely remained stagnant, and the talking assistants have become the butt of jokes, including in a 2018 "[Saturday Night Live](#)" sketch featuring a smart speaker for seniors.

The tech world is now gushing over a different kind of virtual assistant: chatbots. These A.I.-powered bots, such as [ChatGPT](#) and the new ChatGPT Plus from the San Francisco company OpenAI, can improvise answers to questions typed into a chat box with alacrity. People have used ChatGPT to handle complex tasks like coding software, drafting business proposals and writing fiction.

➤ And ChatGPT, which uses A.I. to guess what word comes next, is rapidly improving. A few months ago, it couldn't write a proper haiku; now it can do so with gusto. On Tuesday, OpenAI unveiled its [next-generation A.I. engine, GPT-4](#), which powers ChatGPT.

The excitement around chatbots illustrates how Siri, Alexa and other voice assistants — which once elicited similar enthusiasm — have squandered their lead in the A.I. race.

Over the past decade, the products hit roadblocks. Siri ran into technological hurdles, including clunky code that took weeks to update with basic features, said John Burkey, a former Apple engineer who worked on the assistant. Amazon and Google miscalculated how the voice assistants would be used, leading them to invest in areas with the technology that rarely paid off, former employees said. When those experiments failed, enthusiasm for the technology waned at the companies, they said.

Voice assistants are “dumb as a rock,” Satya Nadella, Microsoft's chief executive, said in an [interview](#) this month with The Financial Times, declaring that newer A.I. would lead the way. Microsoft has worked closely with OpenAI, investing [\\$13 billion](#) in the start-up and incorporating its technology into the Bing search engine, as well as other products.

Siri also had a cumbersome design that made it time-consuming to add new features, said Mr. Burkey, who was given the job of improving Siri in 2014. Siri's database contains a gigantic list of words, including the names of musical artists and locations like restaurants, in nearly two dozen languages.

That made it "one big snowball," he said. If someone wanted to add a word to Siri's database, he added, "it goes in one big pile."

So seemingly simple updates, like adding some new phrases to the data set, would require rebuilding the entire database, which could take up to six weeks, Mr. Burkey said. Adding more complex features like new search tools could take nearly a year. That meant there was no path for Siri to become a creative assistant like ChatGPT, he said.

Alexa and Google Assistant relied on technology similar to Siri's, but the companies struggled to generate meaningful revenue with the assistants, former managers at Amazon and Google said. (In contrast, Apple successfully used Siri to entice buyers to its iPhones.)

OpenAI releases ~~GPT-4~~, a multimodal AI that it claims is state-of-the-art

Kyle Wiggers



Robotics & AI

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OpenAI announces



OpenAI announces GPT-4 – the next generation of its AI language model

The wait is over, now the hype can begin

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1

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JON PORTER TWO HOURS AGO



The Verge

percentage and above, and a full list of exams and the system's scores can be seen [here](#).

Speculation about GPT-4 and its capabilities have been rife over the past year, with many suggesting it would be a huge leap over previous systems. However, judging from OpenAI's announcement, the improvement is more iterative, as the company previously warned.

"People are begging to be disappointed and they will be," said Altman in an interview about GPT-4 in January. "The hype is just like... We don't have an actual AGI and that's sort of what's expected of us."

The rumor mill was further energized last week after a Microsoft executive let slip that the system would launch this week in an interview with the German press. The executive also suggested the system would be multi-modal — that is, able to generate not only text but other mediums. Many AI researchers believe that multi-modal systems that integrate text, audio, and video offer the best path toward building more capable AI systems.

OpenAI originally delayed the release of its GPT models for fear they would be used for malicious purposes like generating spam and misinformation. But in late 2022, the company launched ChatGPT — a conversational chatbot based on GPT-3.5 that anyone could access. ChatGPT's launch triggered a frenzy in the tech world, with Microsoft soon following it with its own AI chatbot Bing (part of the Bing search engine) and Google scrambling to catch up.

As predicted, the wider availability of these AI language models has created problems and challenges. The education system is still adapting to the existence of software that writes respectable college essays; online sites like Stack Overflow and sci-fi magazine Clarkesworld have had to close submissions due to an influx of AI-generated content; and early uses of AI writing tools in journalism have been rocky at best. But, some experts have argued that the harmful effects have still been less than anticipated.

In its announcement of GPT-4, OpenAI stressed that the system had gone through six months of safety training, and that in internal tests, it was “82 percent less likely to respond to requests for disallowed content and 40 percent more likely to produce factual responses than GPT-3.5.”

However, that doesn't mean the system doesn't make mistakes or output harmful content. For example, Microsoft revealed that its Bing chatbot has been powered by GPT-4 all along, and many users were able to break Bing's guardrails in all sorts of creative ways, getting the bot to offer dangerous advice, threaten users, and make up information. GPT-4 also still lacks knowledge about events “that have occurred after the vast majority of its data cuts off” in September 2021



doesn't happen and we never have to use these, but we already have frameworks in place that we can modify.

You recently issued a statement about Andrea Riseborough. Do you expect similar social-media-fueled campaigns to spring up next year? 

I think social media is a space where, if used properly and used in an ethical, kind, fair way, is a great leveler. I think it can be a good thing. We just need to put some guardrails around that.

'guard rail

BrE / /

NAmE / /

noun

1. a rail placed on the edge of a path, a **cliff** or a boat to protect people and prevent them falling over the edge 护栏；扶栏
2. (NAmE) (BrE '**crash barrier**) a strong low fence or wall at the side of a road or between the two halves of a major road such as a **motorway** or **interstate** （高速公路或州际公路上的）防撞护栏，防撞墙