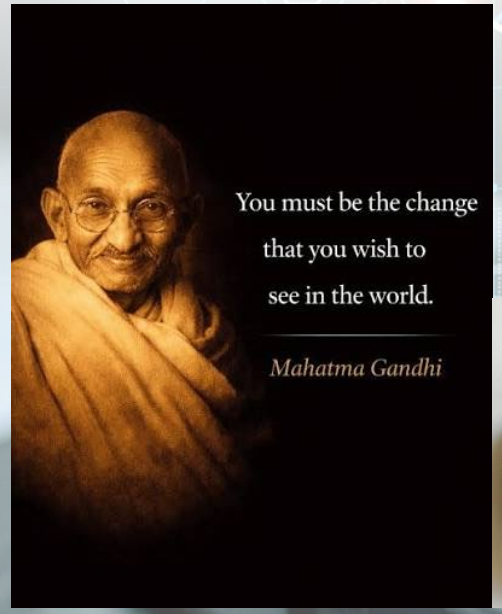




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Our Moral Compass: Guiding Us to Act with Courage to Defend Democracy and Decency

Joshua C. Rubin, JD, MBA, MPH, MPP
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Josh@JoshCRubin.com



Opening Remarks
Guardians of Truth and Integrity 2026
Friday, October 9, 2026 | Newcastle University, UK

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Guardians Conferences on Reproducibility, Validity, and Integrity

Guardians 2026 Conference

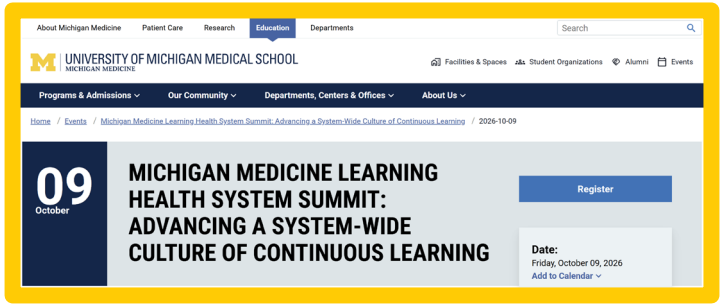
Guardians | Speakers | 2026 | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 | 2022

The BHAVI 2026 October Symposium with title *Guardians 2026 Conference* will be held as our first hybrid meeting 10:00 - 18:00 BST (British Summer Time, UTC+1) on Friday October 9 at Newcastle University in England. Guardians 2026 remains open to the public in our series of annual Guardians of Truth and Integrity Conferences. There are no registration fees charged for attendance at this symposium held this year both onsite in Newcastle for physical attendees and online via Zoom live stream for virtual attendees at us06web.zoom.us/j/87631631806. Onsite attendees are required to register, while online attendees are encouraged to register. For authors who wish to present their research, the Call for Reports provides information and links to instructions for submission of reports.

2026 Guardian

At Guardians 2026, we honor Sen. Mark Kelly as our 2026 Guardian of Truth and Integrity.

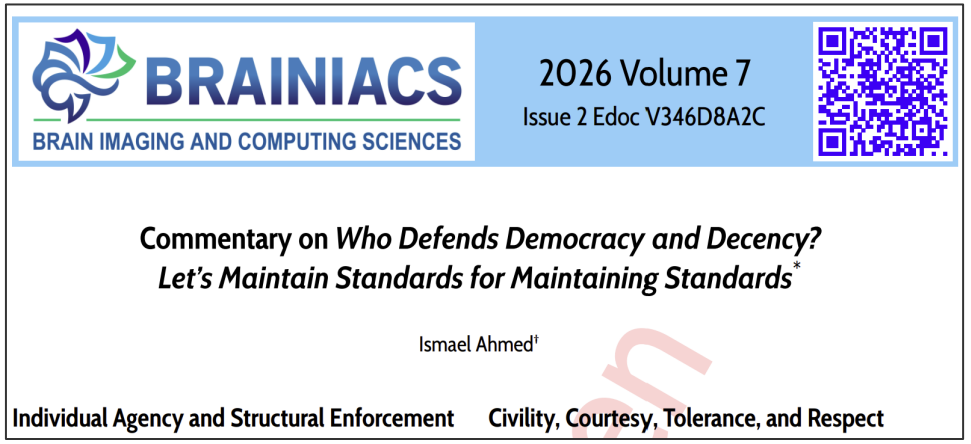
- 2026 Guardian: Mark Kelly
- 2025 Guardian: Alan Garber
- 2024 Guardian: Peter Ash
- 2023 Guardian: Anthony Fauci
- 2022 Guardian: Peter Wilmshurst



Who are the Guardians of Truth and Integrity?

BHAVI hosts an annual Guardians Conference every October 9 to answer this question. We accept nominations each year for Guardians of Truth and Integrity but do not necessarily award the honor each year. We only recognize a nominee as a Guardian of Truth and Integrity if we believe the scholar has served as a lifetime defender of truth and integrity, and has risen to the highest level of commitment to action and intervention ***speaking truth to power and money***. For scholars who wish to present their research at Guardians 2026, the Call for Reports provides information and links to instructions for submission of manuscripts.

“To Act or Not to Act…”


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BRAIN IMAGING AND COMPUTING SCIENCES

2026 Volume 7
Issue 2 Edoc V346D8A2C

Commentary on *Who Defends Democracy and Decency?*
*Let's Maintain Standards for Maintaining Standards**

Ismael Ahmed†

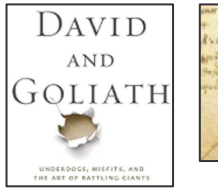
Individual Agency and Structural Enforcement Civility, Courtesy, Tolerance, and Respect

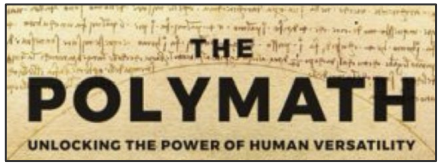







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‘Hero’ pilot, plumber and dentist among those who saved flydubai flight to Israel
Swift actions of Smit Machchhar allowed passengers and off-duty pilots to subdue attacker and land plane safely

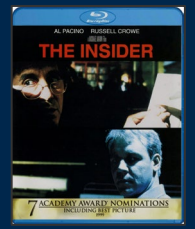




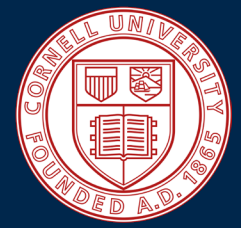









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Nardine Saad, Kayla Epstein and Nada Tawfik, North America correspondent, at Cornell University





Proceedings of the 58th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences | 2025

Combating Abuses of Power in Systems Minitrack

Melissa G. Ocepek, PhD
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
mgocepek@illinois.edu

Joshua C. Rubin, JD, MBA, MPH, MPP
University of Michigan Medical School
Learning Health Community
Josh@JoshCRubin.com

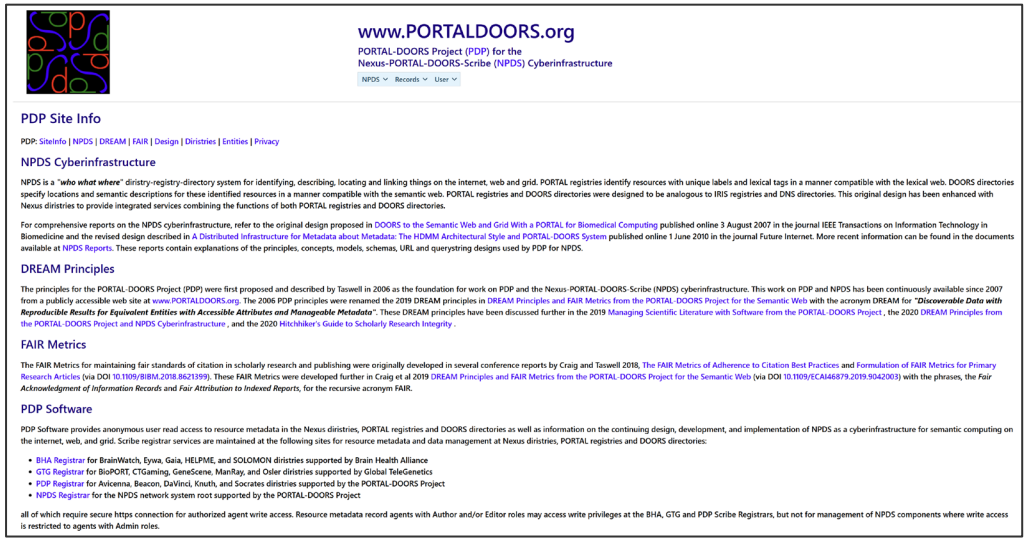
Rebecca D. Kush, PhD
Catalysis Research
Learning Health Community
rkush@catalysisresearch.com



Proceedings of the 58th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences | 2025

Unfairness by the FAIR Principles Promoters: A Case Study on Misconduct by Complaint Investigators Who Aid and Abet Plagiarists

Carl Taswell
Brain Health Alliance
ctaswell@BrainHealthAlliance.org



www.PORTALDOORS.org

PORTAL-DOORS Project (PDP) for the Nexus-PORTAL-DOORS-Scribe (NPDS) Cyberinfrastructure

NPDS | Records | User

PDP Site Info

PDP: SiteInfo | NPDS | DREAM | FAIR | Design | Diristries | Entities | Privacy

NPDS Cyberinfrastructure

NPDS is a "***who what where***" diristry-registry-directory system for identifying, describing, locating and linking things on the internet, web and grid. PORTAL registries identify resources with unique labels and lexical tags in a manner compatible with the lexical web. DOORS directories specify locations and semantic descriptions for these identified resources in a manner compatible with the semantic web. PORTAL registries and DOORS directories were designed to be analogous to IRIS registries and DNS directories. This original design has been enhanced with Nexus diristries to provide integrated services combining the functions of both PORTAL registries and DOORS directories.

For comprehensive reports on the NPDS cyberinfrastructure, refer to the original design proposed in DOORS to the Semantic Web and Grid With a PORTAL for Biomedical Computing published online 3 August 2007 in the journal IEEE Transactions on Information Technology in Biomedicine and the revised design described in A Distributed Infrastructure for Metadata about Metadata: The HDMM Architectural Style and PORTAL-DOORS System published online 1 June 2010 in the journal Future Internet. More recent information can be found in the documents available at NPDS Reports. These reports contain explanations of the principles, concepts, models, schemas, URL and querystring designs used by PDP for NPDS.

DREAM Principles

The principles for the PORTAL-DOORS Project (PDP) were first proposed and described by Taswell in 2006 as the foundation for work on PDP and the Nexus-PORTAL-DOORS-Scribe (NPDS) cyberinfrastructure. This work on PDP and NPDS has been continuously available since 2007 from a publicly accessible web site at www.PORTALDOORS.org. The 2006 PDP principles were renamed the 2019 DREAM principles in DREAM Principles and FAIR Metrics from the PORTAL-DOORS Project for the Semantic Web with the acronym DREAM for "***Discoverable Data with Reproducible Results for Equivalent Entities with Accessible Attributes and Manageable Metadata***". These DREAM principles have been discussed further in the 2019 Managing Scientific Literature with Software from the PORTAL-DOORS Project , the 2020 DREAM Principles from the PORTAL-DOORS Project and NPDS Cyberinfrastructure , and the 2020 Hitchhiker's Guide to Scholarly Research Integrity .

FAIR Metrics

The FAIR Metrics for maintaining fair standards of citation in scholarly research and publishing were originally developed in several conference reports by Craig and Taswell 2018, The FAIR Metrics of Adherence to Citation Best Practices and Formulation of FAIR Metrics for Primary Research Articles (via DOI 10.1109/BIBM.2018.8621399). These FAIR Metrics were developed further in Craig et al 2019 DREAM Principles and FAIR Metrics from the PORTAL-DOORS Project for the Semantic Web (via DOI 10.1109/ECAI46879.2019.9042003) with the phrases, the *Fair Acknowledgment of Information Records* and *Fair Attribution to Indexed Reports*, for the recursive acronym FAIR.

PDP Software

PDP Software provides anonymous user read access to resource metadata in the Nexus diristries, PORTAL registries and DOORS directories as well as information on the continuing design, development, and implementation of NPDS as a cyberinfrastructure for semantic computing on the internet, web, and grid. Scribe registrar services are maintained at the following sites for resource metadata and data management at Nexus diristries, PORTAL registries and DOORS directories:

- BHA Registrar for BrainWatch, Eywa, Gaia, HELPME, and SOLOMON diristries supported by Brain Health Alliance
- GTG Registrar for BioPORT, CTGaming, GeneScene, ManRay, and Osler diristries supported by Global TeleGenetics
- PDP Registrar for Avicenna, Beacon, DaVinci, Knuth, and Socrates diristries supported by the PORTAL-DOORS Project
- NPDS Registrar for the NPDS network system root supported by the PORTAL-DOORS Project

all of which require secure https connection for authorized agent write access. Resource metadata record agents with Author and/or Editor roles may access write privileges at the BHA, GTG and PDP Scribe Registrars, but not for management of NPDS components where write access is restricted to agents with Admin roles.



ChatGPT 5.2 Thinking



The catalytic mechanism, in one sentence

Rubin used HICSS as a **recurring annual flywheel**: *name the phenomenon → convene unlikely allies → build scholarly venues → publish early cases → broadcast the frame outward → intervene in real systems → return with lessons learned.*

Crusaders…





“ The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers. ”

William Shakespeare (Henry VI, Part 2)



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Supreme Court of the United States
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20543

Joshua Cory Rubin
Solo Practitioner

Joshua C. Rubin, JD, MBA, MPH, MPP
Intro, Disclosures, and Synergies







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Learning Health Systems
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Kanter Health

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Academic
Nonprofit Leader
Social Entrepreneur

Attorney
Evangelist
Advocate

“You are What You Protect!”



The New York Times Magazine Account

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By Nikole Hannah-Jones

Published Sept. 20, 2026 Updated Sept. 28, 2026

Leer en español

In Fighting for Every Black Child, Did I Betray My Own?

A decade ago, I made a decision about my daughter’s education that I hoped would challenge New York City’s separate and unequal school system. Now 16, she thinks I made the wrong choice.

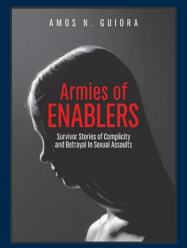
It was not the children that horrified me — kids of all incomes are rambunctious at lunchtime. It was the callous disregard of the adults. Students respond to the high or low expectations of institutions and the grown-ups who operate them, and it was clear that these children were getting the message.



Few men are willing to brave the disapproval of their fellows, the censure of their colleagues, the wrath of their society. Moral courage is a rarer commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence. Yet it is the one essential, vital quality for those who seek to change the world which yields most painfully to change.

— Robert Kennedy —

AZ QUOTES

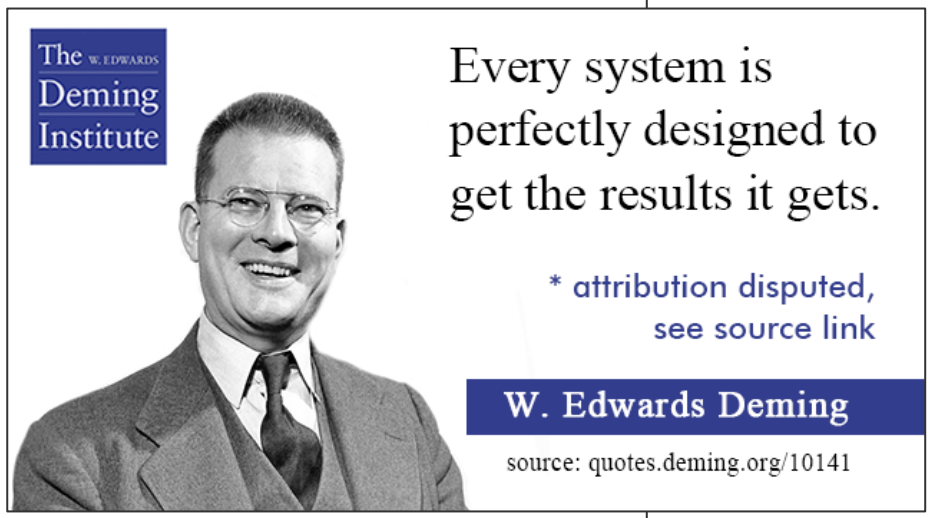


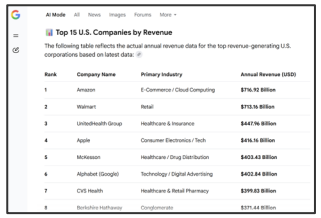


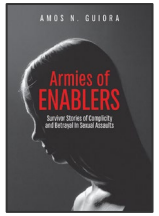












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is healthcare the largest industry in the us

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AI Overview

Healthcare is the largest industry in the United States by employment, but not by total economic output (GDP). McKnight's Senior Living +1

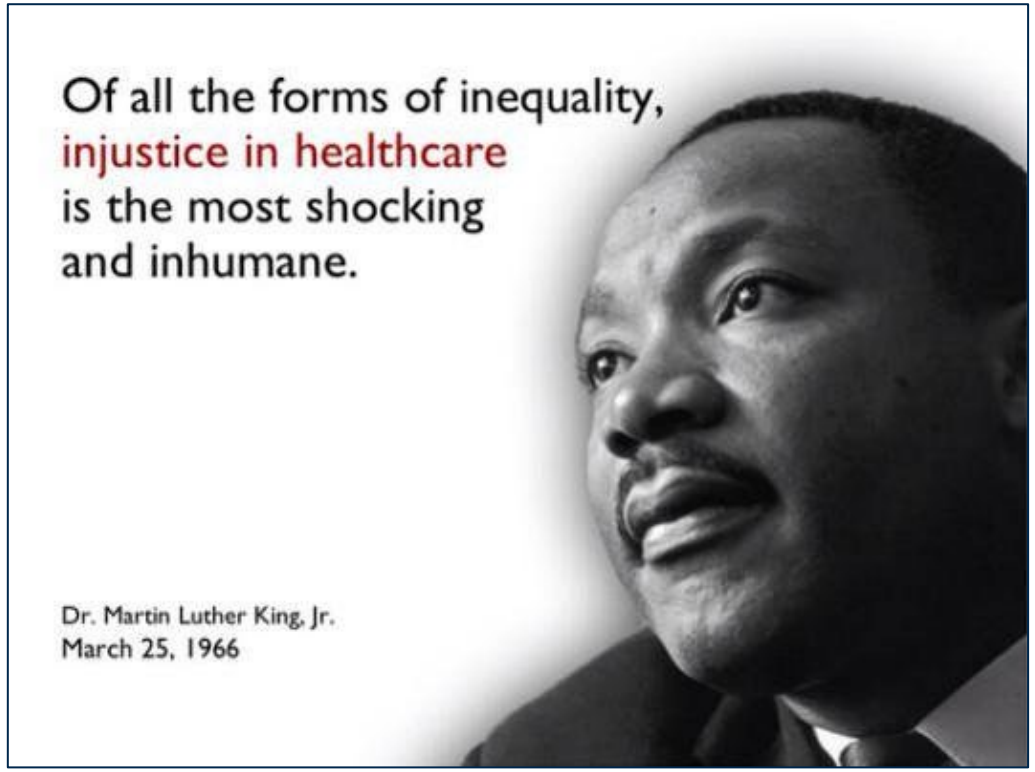
Employment vs. Economic Output

- **Largest Employer:** Healthcare has overtaken retail and manufacturing to become the single largest employment sector in America, employing over 17 million workers (roughly 11% of the U.S. workforce). It is the biggest employer in 38 states. The New York Times +4
- **Economic Output (GDP):** When measured by total financial output or contribution to Gross Domestic Product, broader sectors like **Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing** rank larger, generating trillions more in overall economic output. However, national healthcare expenditures alone account for roughly 18% of the total U.S. GDP. Visual Capitalist +2



"System problems demand system solutions."

“When a System Causes Harm But Stubbornly Refuses to Learn… Somebody Should Say Something and Do Something…”



Proceedings of the Association for Information Science and Technology

Volume 62, Issue 1
October 2025
Pages 1327-1329

Alternative Events | Full Access

A Difficult and Necessary Conversation on Abuse in Our Work

Melissa G. Ocepek, Leah T. Dudak, Dana McKay, Josh Rubin, Karen Wickett

First published: 16 October 2025 | https://doi.org/10.1002/pra2.1393 | VIEW METRICS

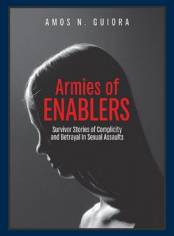
OpenURL

References Related Information

Details

- Josh Rubin will describe his experience working on systems of abuse in higher education and the opportunities and limitations he sees for developing academic work and a community around the difficult conversations that surround abuse.
- Karen Wickett will bring a sociotechnical lens to this session and present a conceptual framing to consider how abuse works in systems and in turn creates its own systems. She will encourage the audience to consider how reporting abuse is an information technology that can be assessed based on its values, limitations, and affordances.
- Finally, Melissa Ocepek will conclude this portion of the session by sharing her own experience trying to formally submit a complaint about bullying behavior she experienced as an assistant professor.





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Stop Kanter from Drilling in the Everglades

In February 2019, our Broward County Chapter began working with locally elected to stop Kanter from establishing an exploratory oil well in the Everglades, just west of the Broward County suburbs.

In February 2019, a Tallahassee appeals court reversed a decision by the state's Department of Environmental Protection Tuesday, ultimately granting Kanter Real Estate the authority to drill.

NEXUS

A new storytelling experience from

Carl Gough



From the chaos of lock-down a story emerges. Stories within stories lead from rural Wales to sub-tropical Florida, where unrelated events connect to reveal the greatest of consequences from the smallest of actions.

A story of hope in our troubled times



Carl Gough's storytelling was a workshop in itself ... as he demonstrated the teller's toolkit... modestly, movingly, taking me on a transformative journey, showing what storytelling can do for that which we love.

Linda Hansen
storyteller and writer
Aotearoa New Zealand

I recommend NEXUS to everybody. It made a big impression on me. It tells us all what we can do for the world.

Arnout Meester
Eindhoven, Netherands

Myth and true story collide, the end is the beginning & a choice will have to be made



NEXUS

Noun | nek.səs

An important connection between the parts of a system or a group of things

Carl tells the story of real individuals who made a choice to do something. And in choosing to do something, they changed the world. He does not preach or hand out sentimental cliches. He tells us the truth.

Cath Little
storyteller,singer, author
Wales, UK

CNN Politics SCOTUS Congress Facts First 2024 Elections Watch

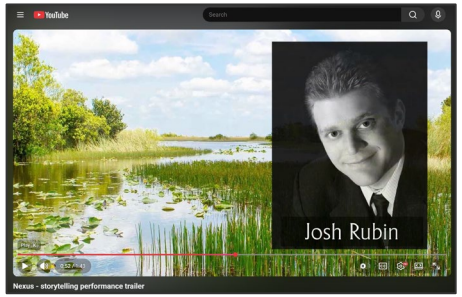
Florida to purchase 20,000 acres of Everglades wetlands to protect from oil drilling

By Veronica Stracqualursi, CNN

3 minute read · Published 10:11 AM EST, Thu January 16, 2020









The Guardian

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Environment Climate crisis Wildlife Energy Pollution Green light

US news

This article is more than 9 years old

Environmentalists warn of disaster for Everglades if oil fracking bill passes

Florida politicians are debating a proposed law that would remove right of cities and counties to ban fracking and instead give power to a single state agency

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Kanter Health

HBO ORIGINAL

It's Florida, Man.





Who Defends Democracy and Decency?
Let's Maintain Standards for Maintaining Standards

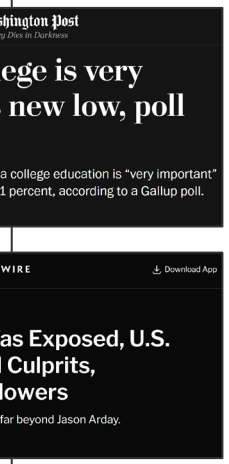
Carl Taswell

Brain Health Alliance, Ladera Ranch CA, USA

BHAVI Guardians online 9 October 2025

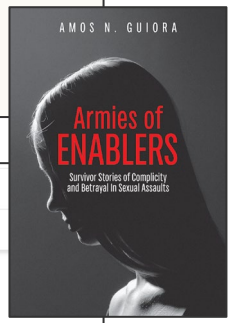
Brain Health Requires Democratic Health

- Brain health requires individual, family, and community health
- Community health requires public health and safety
- Public health and safety require social and societal health
- Social and societal health require healthy open societies
- Healthy open societies require democracy, not autocracy
- Brain health requires democratic health









BRAINIACS
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2025 Volume 6
Issue 3 Edoc J6D51R82A

Newton's Laws of Motion for Combating Abuses of Power to Ignite Transformation in Anti-Learning Systems (CAPITALS) with the Transformative Magnetism of Moral Courage*

Joshua C. Rubin†

I had often wondered whether there might be laws of nature that could describe such ecosystems in which abuses of power surreptitiously run unchecked (Ocepek et al. 2025; Rubin 2025b). I questioned whether this phenomenon had to be inevitable. Philosopher and social critic Eric Hoffer (2025) once proffered that "Every great cause begins as a movement, becomes a business, and eventually degenerates into a racket." I had been developing a complementary type of cynicism. At least at universities at the leadership level, I was keeping myself entertained (laughing, so as not to cry) by developing a hypothesis I termed the Seinfeld Rule. It was a comic fusion of what seemed like rampant hypocrisy, a lack of self-awareness, and a system of kakistocracy where to quote a movie before my time, Harper released in 1966 (Goldman and Macdonald 1966; Cavershamragu 2011; Castro 2017), "The bottom is loaded with nice people... Only cream and bastards rise." In 2022, a previous University of Michigan (UM) President was fired for violating a rule he introduced just the previous summer (Jaschik 2022; Mahani 2022). He was so wrapped up in the rule, that he announced a zero tolerance policy for violations of it, likely while he was violating it (Dodge 2022). Once I saw that pattern, I could not unsee it. So many wielding power at myriad universities were comically surreptitiously behaving in ways that were actually antithetical to what they ostensibly espoused. The sad view would be looking at such a phenomenon as being Orwellian, Kafkaesque, or Randian. But an approach that would engender laughter in the spirit of films such as *Idiocracy* (Judge and E. Cohen 2006) would be the Seinfeld Rule, finding humor in such paradoxes. It presented a much-needed distraction from the harm caused by this hypocrisy.

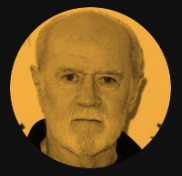
I considered closing with the late Robert F. Kennedy Sr. or Atticus Finch, Esq. of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Instead, perhaps surprisingly, I will give the penultimate word to Elle Woods, Esq., in *Legally Blonde 2*:



"If the fabric doesn't work with you, don't work with it… Don't fight the fabric. Change it."

“It’s a Big Club and You ain’t in It…”





“They’ll get it all from you sooner or later ’cause they own this fkin’ place. It’s a big club and you ain’t in it. You and I are not in the big club. By the way, it’s the same big club they use to beat you over the head with all day long when they tell you what to believe. All day long beating you over the head with their media telling you what to believe, what to think and what to buy. The table is tilted, folks. The game is rigged and nobody seems to notice. Nobody seems to care. Good, honest, hard-working people: white collar, blue collar, it doesn’t matter what color shirt you have on.”**

~ GEORGE CARLIN

azquotes.com

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if you're not at the table you're on the menu

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AI Overview

The saying “If you are not at the table, you are on the menu” means that if you do not take part in important decisions, other people will control your fate and use you for their own benefit. Medium · Ms.Shahmeer +1

Meaning of the Metaphor

- **The table:** This represents power, control, and the place where decisions happen.
- **The menu:** This represents being vulnerable, unprotected, and the subject of someone else's choice.
- **The lesson:** You must show up and speak up. If you stay away, you lose your voice and become a victim of choices made by others. Instagram +2










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2026 Volume 7
Issue 1 Edoc G3A340E1D

Scholars Should Report Documented Due Diligence of Literature Searches in Their Research Problem Domain*

Adam Craig, Joshua Rubin, Carl Taswell†

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BRAIN IMAGING AND COMPUTING SCIENCES

2025 Volume 6
Issue 3 Edoc J6D51R82A

Newton's Laws of Motion for Combating Abuses of Power to Ignite Transformation in Anti-Learning Systems (CAPITALS) with the Transformative Magnetism of Moral Courage*

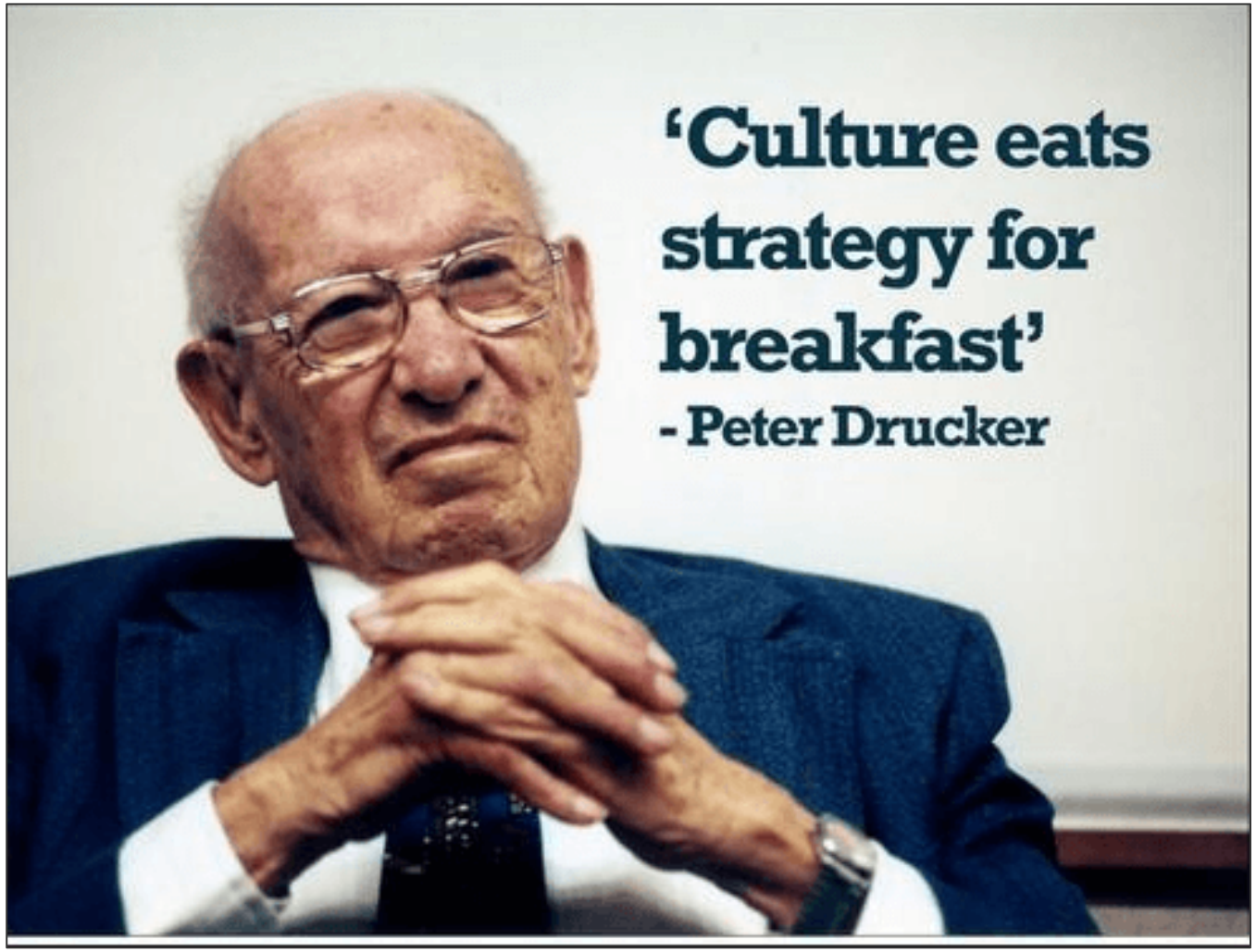
Joshua C. Rubin†

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BRAIN IMAGING AND COMPUTING SCIENCES

2024 Volume 5
Issue 2 Edoc D64D2B56D

Musical Chairs for Darvomanics: How Anti-Learning Systems Enable Systemic Abuses of Power in Academia and What We Can Do Together to Help Them Learn*

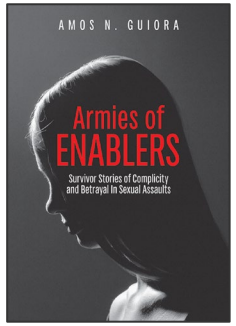
Joshua Rubin†



Delirious: Groupthink, gaslighting, and incentive structures that reward monoculture engender a system in which "See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" is covertly and subconsciously normalized (Mieder 1987).

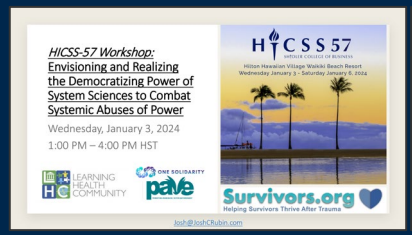
The “L” in LHSs May as Well Stand for “Listening”… Even to Inconvenient Voices!











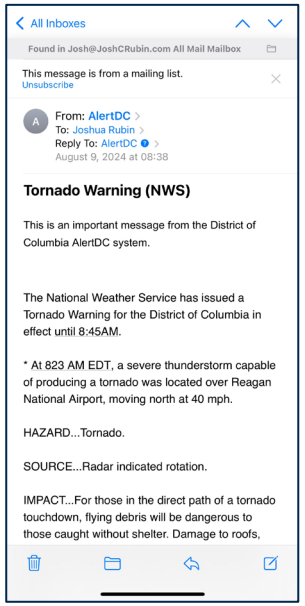


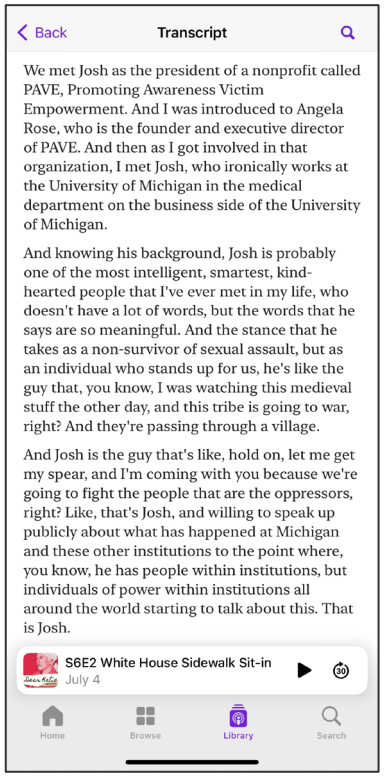
“You are what you protect!”

“When a System Causes Harm But Stubbornly Refuses to Learn… Somebody Should Say Something and Do Something…”













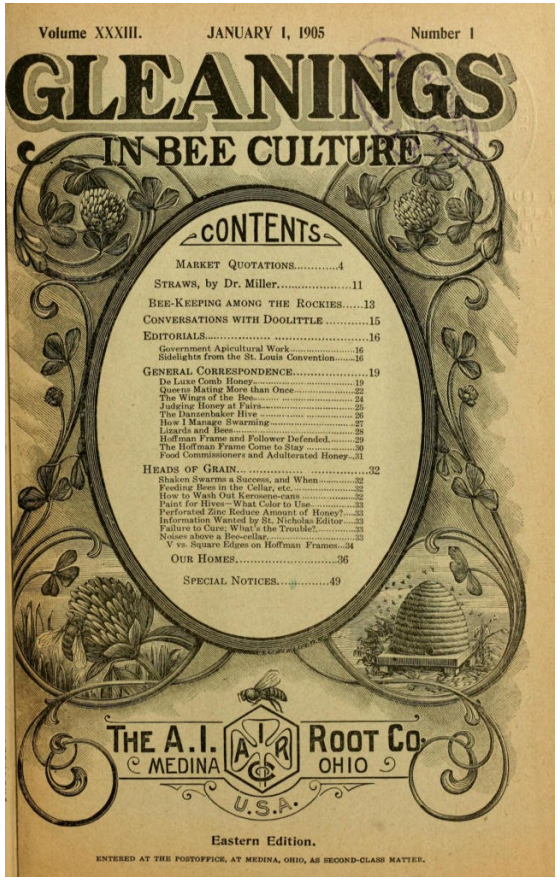








“You are what you protect!”



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GLEANINGS IN BEE CULTURE

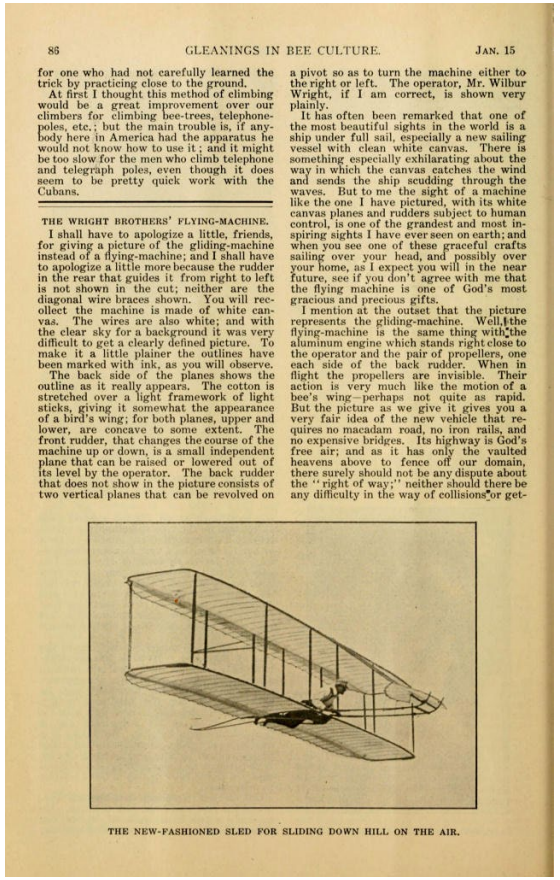
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for one who had not carefully learned the trick by practicing close to the ground.

At first I thought this method of climbing would be a great improvement over our climbers for climbing bee-trees, telephone-poles, etc.; but the main trouble is, if anybody here in America had the apparatus he would not know how to use it; and it might be too slow for the men who climb telephone and telegraph poles, even though it does seem to be pretty quick work with the Cubans.

THE WRIGHT BROTHERS' FLYING-MACHINE.

I shall have to apologize a little, friends, for giving a picture of the gliding-machine instead of a flying-machine; and I shall have to apologize a little more because the rudder in the rear that guides it from right to left is not shown in the cut; neither are the diagonal wire braces shown. You will recollect the machine is made of white canvas. The wires are also white; and with the clear sky for a background it was very difficult to get a clearly defined picture. To make it a little plainer the outlines have been marked with ink, as you will observe.

The back side of the planes shows the outline as it really appears. The cotton is stretched over a light framework of light sticks, giving it somewhat the appearance of a bird's wing; for both planes, upper and lower, are concave to some extent. The front rudder, that changes the course of the machine up or down, is a small independent plane that can be raised or lowered out of its level by the operator. The back rudder that does not show in the picture consists of two vertical planes that can be revolved on a pivot so as to turn the machine either to the right or left. The operator, Mr. Wilbur Wright, if I am correct, is shown very plainly.

It has often been remarked that one of the most beautiful sights in the world is a ship under full sail, especially a new sailing vessel with clean white canvas. There is something especially exhilarating about the way in which the canvas catches the wind and sends the ship scudding through the waves. But to me the sight of a machine like the one I have pictured, with its white canvas planes and rudders subject to human control, is one of the grandest and most inspiring sights I have ever seen on earth; and when you see one of these graceful crafts sailing over your head, and possibly over your home, as I expect you will in the near future, see if you don't agree with me that the flying machine is one of God's most gracious and precious gifts.

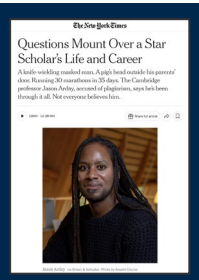
I mention at the outset that the picture represents the gliding-machine. Well, the flying-machine is the same thing with the aluminum engine which stands right close to the operator and the pair of propellers, one each side of the back rudder. When in flight the propellers are invisible. Their action is very much like the motion of a bee's wing—perhaps not quite as rapid. But the picture as we give it gives you a very fair idea of the new vehicle that requires no macadam road, no iron rails, and no expensive bridges. Its highway is God's free air; and as it has only the vaulted heavens above to fence off our domain, there surely should not be any dispute about the "right of way;" neither should there be any difficulty in the way of collisions or get-

THE NEW-FASHIONED SLED FOR SLIDING DOWN HILL ON THE AIR.





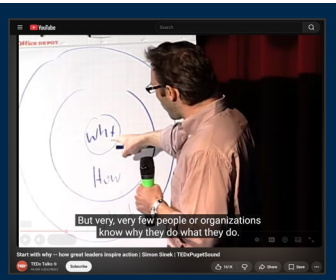
Samuel P. Langley, by Unknown, 1887, Smithsonian Archives - History Div, 10610 or MAH-10610.



The New York Times

Questions Mount Over a Star Scholar's Life and Career

A knife-wielding masked man. A pig's head outside his parents' door. Running 30 marathons in 35 days. The Cambridge professor James Ardoy, accused of plagiarism, says he's been through it all. Not everyone believes him.



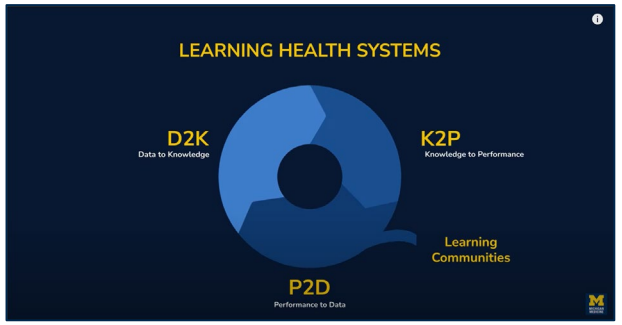


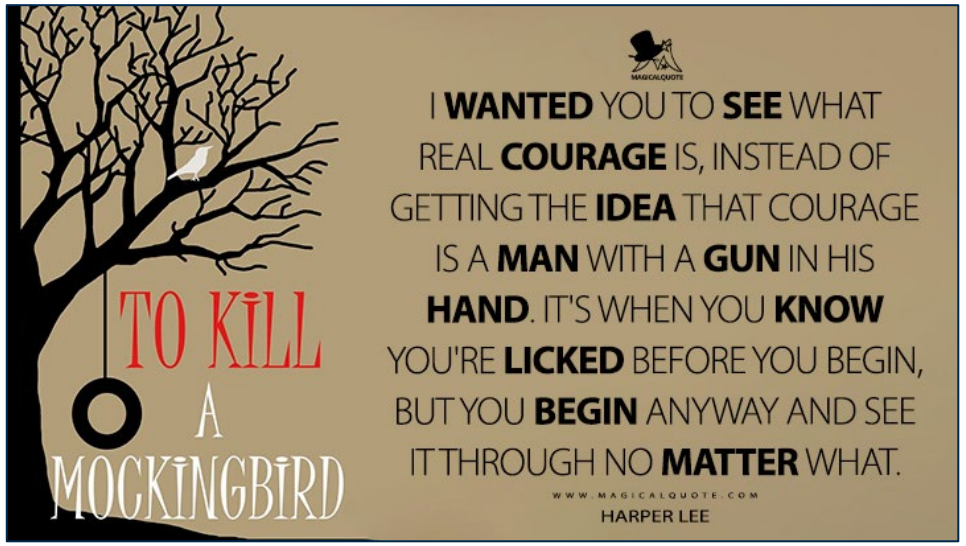
Key Takeaways…

- ~~Learning Health Systems (LHSs) are bigger than big data and more audacious than AI.~~
- ~~Sociotechnical infrastructure is foundational to LHSs; LHSs are farming projects, not construction projects.~~
- System problems demand system solutions.
- Transforming and fighting for the soul of the future ~~of health~~ together takes a village and a vision anchored in shared values.
- Systemic learning requires listening, even to inconvenient voices; indeed, if one is not at the table, they are likely on the menu.
- Culture, courage, conviction, collaboration, character and change agency are keys to disruption.
- “You are what you protect!”



Fighting for the 'soul of the future of health together'
OutsourcingPharma





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Food for Thought…

1. What is your “why”? (Why?)
2. What do you aspire to transform? (For whom?)
3. What/who do you protect?
4. What are the most likely systemic forces of resistance to change?
5. What are your “superpowers” you can harness to surmount these forces resisting change?
6. What/who are your potential allies? (How do you attract and empower them?)
7. What price are you willing to pay? (Where do you draw the line and how do you cope?)

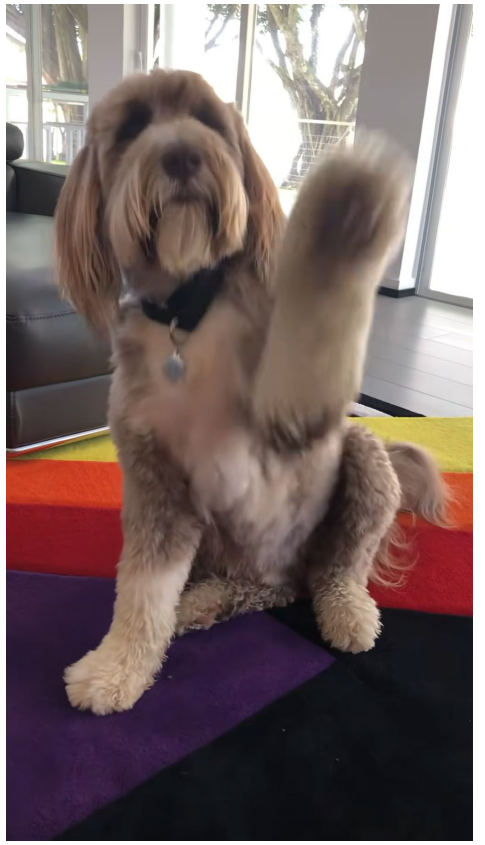
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THANK YOU!

