



# You decide



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October 23rd, 2015



## Students and discipline

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## NATIONAL

## Schools across US find alternatives to suspending students

DALLAS, Texas (AP)

The recent arrest of a 14-year-old Muslim boy whose teacher mistook his homemade clock for a possible bomb led to widespread ridicule of school officials and accusations that Islamophobia may have played a part.

It earned Ahmed Mohamed an invitation to the White House, where the Irving teen will attend an astronomy night Monday. But it also got him a three-day suspension, which he says the district insisted he serve even after it was clear it was just a clock.

Ahmed's suspension — his parents have since withdrawn him from the school — reflects the rigid disciplinary policies that many U.S. schools adopted in the 1990s. But many districts, including some of the nation's largest, have been softening their approach, foregoing automatic suspensions, expulsions and calls to the police for one-on-one counseling and less severe forms of punishment.

"When we can't tell the difference between a serious problem and a non-



Students walk down a hall at Ed White Middle School, on Friday, October 16, 2015, in San Antonio, Texas.

serious problem with a kid in school, the problem is not the kid: It is us," said Michael Gilbert, who heads the San Antonio-based National Association of Community and Restorative Justice, which advocates a focus on dialogue instead of punishments.

The school districts in New York, Los Angeles and Denver are just some of those that have moved away from discipline policies that relied heavily on suspensions. State governments have also been taking

action: This year, Connecticut limited out-of-school suspensions and expulsions for students up through the second grade, Texas decriminalized truancy and Oregon limited when suspensions and expulsions can be applied to students up through the fifth grade.

Last year, the Obama administration asked schools to abandon policies that send kids to court, issuing guidelines encouraging training school personnel in conflict

resolution.

"We're seeing a lot of change at the federal, state and local level that I think is moving us in a new direction," said Russell Skiba, director of The Equity Project at Indiana University. But, he added, "There are still a lot of schools that don't have the resources or are afraid to move to something else."

Denver Public Schools started implementing a so-called restorative discipline program in 2008. District leaders were concerned about the high number of suspensions and expulsions, which the grassroots group Padres & Jovenes Unidos pointed out were being disproportionately used to punish minority students.

One such student, Margarita Atencio, said her Denver school suspended her in seventh grade — before the new policies were fully in place — after other girls beat her up and blamed her for the incident. When she returned, she couldn't concentrate on her studies because she was afraid it would happen again. It did, and this time she was expelled, she said.

"I was just done. I thought since nobody was on my side that nobody cared about me really," said Atencio, who had to repeat the seventh grade. Now 19 and a recent high school graduate, she has volunteered as a youth leader for Padres & Jovenes Unidos for three years.

Outgoing U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan said last month that suspensions and expulsions "track too closely with race and class."

"This is not just about explicit, obvious bias. Indeed, sometimes, when a genuinely transparent moment of bias arises, the whole country stops and takes a break. A child holds a clock. And we see a bomb," he said. "But more often, it's far subtler stuff."

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## SPORTS

## Seahawks left searching for answers after another loss



Seattle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch (24) runs in for a touchdown during an NFL game on Sunday, October 18, 2015, in Seattle, Washington. **Photo by Braulio Herrera**

RENTON, Washington (AP)

**E**arl Thomas could not wait to get to his team meeting on Monday. Players had to air out what has gone wrong with the Seattle Seahawks.

"We're not being ourselves," Thomas said. "I think we're distracted in some areas. I think today is a big day for us."

All is not right with the two-time defending NFC champions. Their weeks are now being spent explaining what's gone wrong. That's the result of a 2-4 start that has featured two straight fourth-quarter collapses that simply have not happened in the past.

For a team with "Finish" as one of their mottos, the Seahawks are not living up to one of their core tenets.

And there's little time to get the problem fixed with a Thursday night game at San Francisco on the docket.

"Not finishing these last two games were really crucial. We've got to get better at the end," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said Monday. "The execution that got us in the lead and put us in position early in the game just needs to continue. We don't really need to do anything different. We need to continue the execution and not let

it fall where they take advantage of the last quarter, which has happened."

The latest collapse came Sunday when the Seahawks led 23-14 with less than 12 minutes remaining and walked out of their home stadium baffled by a 27-23 loss to the Panthers, punctuated by a miscommunication on Greg Olsen's winning 26-yard touchdown catch with 32 seconds left. Instead of staying with Olsen, All-Pro Thomas and Richard Sherman were caught playing two different coverages after getting mixed signals. The result was Olsen running uncovered.

"Our communication now is really at a high level, and unfortunately you can make a mistake, and we did," Carroll said. "We let them down there before that all happened, and they already were in field goal range and all that. We hadn't done the right things earlier, but that was a big mistake."

The collapse against Carolina might not sting as much if the same thing hadn't happened just a week earlier and on an even grander scale. The Seahawks led Cincinnati 24-7 in the fourth quarter, only to lose 27-24 in overtime. In all four of Seattle's losses this season, the Seahawks have led in the fourth quarter.



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## FINANCIAL LITERACY

### Save money on energy this winter

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As fall gives way to winter, leaves aren't the only things that will be falling. Making sure that your house is ready for dropping temperatures can help you lower your energy bills, and create several ways to save money on costly home repairs. By taking extra measures indoors and out, you can rest easy knowing your house is ready to take on whatever winter might bring.

#### Outdoor Preparations

If you live in an area prone to snow and ice, there are several outdoor items that you may want to complete before winter. First, take a moment to examine the trees around your home, looking for any visibly dead branches or limbs that could break and land on your house or driveway. Weighed down by snow and ice, branches can easily snap, which can be both dangerous and costly. Remove the potential for peril by contacting a local landscape professional.

Roofs and gutters also require special attention. Whether you do it yourself or call in the help of a professional, inspect your roof for any weak or exposed areas. Even if you haven't had any leaks in the past, a blanket of snow can trigger disaster. Also, when the last leaves have fallen, give your gutters a thorough cleaning. After removing all the debris, rinse out



the gutters with a hose, paying close attention to the water flow, and to the downspout. To prevent the potential for flooding, be certain the spout is facing away from your home's foundation. The water should not pool there but instead should flow freely away from the structure.

#### Windows & Doors

Direct special attention to windows and doors, which are often sources for uninvited drafts -- and a space where heated air can seep out of your home. Start with your doors, looking for any cracks, splinters and holes in the framing. Small areas can easily be filled with caulk, while larger spaces are better suited to expanding foam. If there's a gap beneath a door, use a rolled-up towel for a short-term fix. Later, purchase a door sweep from a local hardware store. Check your windows for similar gaps, using regular caulk to fill small spaces and heavier "rope caulk" for larger cracks. For a significant long range energy savings, replace any

older, single-pane windows with insulated alternatives or with removable storm windows.

#### Insulation

Insulation is an excellent way to improve your home's energy efficiency. Begin your work in the attic and basement, since both spaces are culprits for heat loss. Consider purchasing an insulating blanket for your water heater. Doing so can decrease heat loss by as much as 40 percent, translating to increased energy bill savings. Electrical outlets are another area that can benefit from extra insulation. Outlets are typically not insulated and can easily allow hot air to leak out and cold air to creep in. To prevent this, purchase foam padding that can easily fit inside electrical outlets and light switch facings.



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EDUCATION

University awarded grant to expand opportunities for Hispanic students

TOPPENISH, Washington

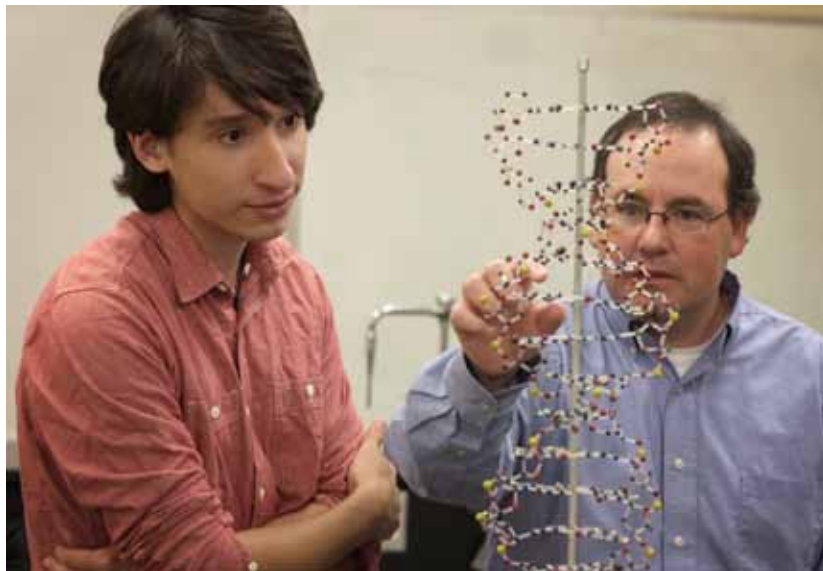
Heritage University will use a five-year, \$2.6 million Title V grant from the U.S. Department of Education to prepare more Hispanic and low-income students to enter graduate school in high-demand science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and health professions. The Title V funding will be used to create new programs and services at Heritage University in the coming years.

The following new STEM programs and courses will be developed: a Pre-Engineering Associate degree program, a Bachelor of Science Biochemistry degree program, a hybrid Community Health certificate program, a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) certificate program, and three discipline-specific Bioinformatics courses (biochemistry, nursing, and computer science). The grant will also fund several innovative student support services including an online remedial course for college and career readiness.

A hybrid format combining online

learning and classroom instruction will also be used for half of the STEM courses needed to meet the university's general education requirements. Furthermore the new Title V STEM HU grant will fund summer institutes that will train faculty who teach the University 101 seminar. This course is required of all freshmen and transfer students to develop their non-cognitive skills.

These student support services that are funded by Title V STEM HU grants have been proven to help first generation and low-income students' transition from high school to university. New equip-



Heritage University student Felipe Anguiano (left), and professor Dr. Michael Parra.

ment and computer technology make up another important component for STEM upgrades at Heritage made possible by the new Title V STEM HU grant.

Heritage will purchase advanced equipment to make Nursing and STEM education more relevant, employment-driven

and applicable to real-world situations. The grant will also develop a Simulation Home for the Bachelor of Science Nursing (BSN) program. Health information technology will be incorporated into five BSN Clinical Lab courses, and Bioinformatics courses will be developed for the Computer Science, Biochemistry, and Nursing Programs.

Dr. Melvin F. Simoyi, HU assistant professor of biology, says the award puts Heritage University in a much stronger position to address the shortage of Hispanic and other minority professionals in STEM fields. "As a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI),

Heritage has the talent pool necessary to diversify the STEM student population," said Simoyi. "This grant will ensure we have the right tools to turn our students into STEM graduates, ready for STEM graduate school or careers."



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## LATIN AMERICA

## Mexican drug lord 'El Chapo' flown to Sinaloa mountains after escape

MEXICO CITY (AP)

Fugitive drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman was flown to a mountainous region of his home state of Sinaloa following his daring July 11 escape from prison through a mile-long tunnel, a federal official said Saturday.

Based on this information, the search for the world's most wanted drug boss has focused in recent weeks on a rugged area that stretches from Sinaloa into neighboring Durango state, part of Mexico's infamous Golden Triangle drug-producing region that is considered Guzman's home turf, said the official, who agreed to give details of the operation only if not quoted by name.

The official said that after Guzman's escape from the maximum-security prison where he was being held not far from Mexico City, the leader of the powerful Sinaloa Cartel was taken to the central state of Queretaro. From there, he was flown in a small plane to the Sinaloa mountains, the official said.

Several days ago, Attorney General Arely Gomez told Mexican lawmakers that authorities had captured a pilot who aided Guzman after his escape. The federal official said Saturday that it was the pilot who flew Guzman in the small plane.

Late Friday, the government said Guzman had avoided capture in an operation in the mountains of northwestern Mexico.

A statement by Mexico's Security Cabinet said officials think the legendary drug lord injured a leg and his face fleeing Mexican marines in the rugged terrain. It provided no details on when or

exactly where the operation took place, but the area of mountains of Sinaloa and Durango is in northwest Mexico.

The statement cited information-sharing with international agencies for leading authorities to the area.

On Saturday, a mayor in the region said hundreds of people had left their homes in mountain communities in the search area in fear of the military operation. Samuel Lizarraga, mayor of the Cosala municipality, said that in the previous 10 days officials had recorded the arrival of 250 heads of households, which he estimated meant a total of 600 to 700 adults and children.

"Some told us that they had been walking up to six days from parts of the mountain zones," he said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "They came very afraid."

Oscar Loza, spokesman for the Commission for the Defense of Human Rights of Sinaloa, said his group began getting calls from the search area on Oct. 6 asking for help from people who reported Mexican troops were shooting in the area and also hindering the movement of residents.

"Saturday the 10th we were able to get to one of the communities, called El Verano, and they received us in tears.



A T-shirt of fugitive Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman covers a mannequin representing Jesus Malverde, known in Mexico as the "Saint" of drug traffickers, inside the shrine of a faith healer in Mexico City, Friday, Oct. 16, 2015.

They were very afraid," Loza said.

One resident, who would give only the name Heraclio, told AP journalists that marines had been firing weapons and exploding grenades even though they knew women and children live in the area.

"They came shooting at my brother's ranch," he complained.

Guzman previously escaped from another maximum-security prison in 2001, and evaded capture for years in the mountains of Sinaloa.


His most recent escape strained relations with Washington, which had formally requested the drug kingpin's extradition just weeks earlier.

A variety of U.S. officials, including lawmakers and law enforcement officials, had called for Guzman's transfer to the U.S. since his arrest in February 2014. Mexican officials, however, said Guzman wouldn't be sent to the U.S. until he had served time for all of his crimes in Mexico.

Guzman escaped through a sophisticated tunnel that opened in the floor of his cell's shower. A surveillance video of Guzman's cell shows him walking to the shower — where there was a blind spot in the security camera's view — crouching down and then vanishing.

Mexico has issued arrest warrants for 23 former officials, guards or police officers for allegedly participating in his escape. In addition, 10 civilians are being held under a form of house arrest.


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## POLITICS

## Bush, Clinton display the political divide over gun control



Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush, left, speaks at Furman University in Greenville, S.C., Friday, Oct. 2, 2015. South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson moderated the event.

GREENVILLE, South Carolina (AP)

Presidential hopeful Jeb Bush and other Republicans declared their opposition to stiffer gun laws in the aftermath of the Oregon college mass shooting, while Democratic candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton called for a national movement to counter the power of the National Rifle Association.

Bush said more government isn't always the answer whenever tragedy strikes — "stuff happens, there's always a crisis." President Barack Obama called him out on that remark, which Bush said was not about the Oregon shooting. "I think the American people should hear that," Obama said, and "can decide whether or not they consider that 'stuff happening.'"

Clinton told supporters at a South Florida community college that she would willingly take on the NRA in a bid to achieve "new, effective gun control measures."

"What is wrong with us," Clinton asked, "that we can't stand up to the NRA, to the gun lobby and the gun manufacturers they represent?"

Bush referred to the shooting that left 10 dead at the Oregon community college, including the gunman, while answering questions from South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson. The Republican attorney general, who hosted Bush at Furman University, first asked Bush about his stance on the Second Amendment, without reference to the school killings.

Emphasizing that he supports the Supreme Court's affirmation of bearing arms as an individual right, Bush talked about the many Floridians who have concealed-weapons permits and recalled receiving an award from the NRA.

Turning to the Oregon killings, he called them "heartbreaking" but added that "the impulse in Washington is to take people's civil rights away from us, and it won't solve the problem."

"It's very sad to see, but I resist the notion — I had this challenge as governor — we have — stuff happens, there's always a crisis, and the impulse is to do something, and it's not necessarily the right thing to do."

Asked later about his comments, he told reporters they were "not related to Oregon — just clarity here." He appeared sensitive to the possibility of his comments becoming a controversy in themselves.

For Clinton, it was an opportunity to draw a clear distinction. She called Thursday's mass murder "sickening" and said people should not be "afraid to go to college, a movie theater, Bible study."

The NRA, she said, "counts on really having an intense and dedicated group to scare politicians who say 'we will vote against you.'"

She credited her husband, former President Bill Clinton, for taking on the NRA and achieving tougher gun controls, and said, to roaring applause, "We are going to take them on again."

### From my balcony

#### Are we upside down?

Dr. Lorena Barboza  
lorena.barboza@gmail.com

Sometimes we think that the world is hopeless; we hate without knowing exactly why; we keep our dreams a secret out of fear ... We do not want war but we do not stop it and we are racist even when we deny it. Some hate the right, others the left and some see themselves as nationalists, without knowing the meaning of that concept.

So much ignorance is in us, what a great lack of culture that lives in the world at large! Those that think themselves saved simply by writing and posting things on social networks...are worthy of condemnation.

Those who are shocked at the sight of a sex scene, yet do not bat an eye at the sight of death. We should also censor those who use their hypocrisy in order to lift themselves at the expense of deceiving others and themselves. The people who do not progress, and blame everyone and everything but themselves. And those who believe money buys everything and, of course, those who put in the hands of their children nothing but video games and machines where killing is the norm, rather than teaching them to play and read.

But then I think everything is not hate; we should also assess every human being who looks you in the face, who never sells their souls, who, without excuse, they make others happy...the kind, the generous, and those who know trust. Anyway, I prefer to think that all is not lost ...

Have a happy week, and God bless!

Dr. Barboza invites you to visit her blog: [hablandonosentendemos.podbeam.com](http://hablandonosentendemos.podbeam.com), and to listen to "Creciendo con CBC" every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. on "Mi Favorita" 92.5FM



►Lorena Barboza

### Dave Says

#### Put warranty money in your pocket

Dear Dave,

My husband and I have a disagreement on whether or not you would recommend buying a home warranty to cover appliance repair. I've read your books, and I think you'd say no. He thinks you believe it's a good idea. Can you settle this for us? — *Crystal*

Dear Crystal,

No, I wouldn't recommend it. I don't buy warranties of any kind, and here's why. Warranties are usually based on somewhere between 12 and 18 percent of the cost of the warranty actually going to the probability of the repair. The rest is eaten up in profit, overhead and marketing costs. In other words, for 18 percent of what you pay — give or take — you could put that money aside, and on average you could cover the repair.

I don't buy extended warranties, either. Whether you're talking about something on a home, car or other item, these are the types of things you should be able to self-insure against with your emergency fund of three to six months of expenses. Besides that, if you can't afford to fix something you bought if something goes wrong, then you couldn't afford to buy that item in the first place!

So, put the profit, overhead, marketing costs and all that in your pocket. Make that extra money you made! — *Dave*

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## Día de la Raza – A free festival of Latino cultures

TACOMA, Washington

**B**roadway Center for the Performing Arts and Puyallup School District are pleased to offer a free family festival at Puyallup's Karshner Museum & Center For Culture & Arts on Saturday, October 24 from noon to 5:00 p.m. Día de la Raza, or, Day of the People, offers a full program with free family activities celebrating the diversity of Latino cultures.

Activities and performances include a Ballet Folklorico workshop with Bailadores de Bronce, art workshops teaching the styles of amate bark-painting and papel picado cut-paper designs, a live music performance by Pachanga Alert!, a group that blends musical traditions of Cuba, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Argentina, and screenings of the PBS series, Latino Americans, in both Spanish and English.

"The event title, Día de la Raza, is inspired by an alternative name commemorating the first encounter between

the Spanish expedition led by Columbus and the First Peoples of the Americas – the symbolic start to the creation of the diverse communities and cultures of North and South America," stated Antonio Gómez, Education Manager at Broadway Center for the Performing Arts.

"We are thrilled to collaborate with Puyallup School District to present a wide array of Latino cultural expression. The Americas are full of beautiful artistic traditions, from Indigenous Huichol yarn painting from Mexico to the infectious Afro-Colombian cumbia and the Chicano murals of the Southwest."

"Día de la Raza celebrates this diversity of Latino perspectives and invites



families of all backgrounds to gather for a firsthand experience, join in a dance workshop, create art, and enjoy live music from across Latin America. This is just one example of how the Karshner Museum continues to provide vital arts

and culture experiences to the Puyallup Valley," Gómez stated.

Día de la Raza is a free community event on October 24 from noon to 5:00 p.m. at Karshner Museum & Center For Culture & Arts.



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