



A vigil for Charlie Kirk in Utah on Thursday. Across the nation, there was a feeling of wariness that the U.S. was spinning out of control.

TRUMP WEIGHING CHINA DRUG CURB

Big Pharma and Investors Disagree About Effect

By **ROB COPELAND** and **REBECCA ROBBINS**

The Trump administration has been discussing severe restrictions on medicines from China that, if enacted, could upend the American pharmaceutical industry and availability of everything from generic drugs to cutting-edge treatments.

At the heart of the possible clampdown is a drafted executive order that threatens to cut off the pipeline of Chinese-invented experimental treatments. Major pharmaceutical companies have been buying the rights to drugs created in China for cancer, obesity, heart disease and Crohn's disease.

The prospect of the order, a draft of which was obtained by The New York Times, has set off furious behind-the-scenes lobbying efforts by two diametrically opposed groups — each with billions of dollars at stake.

Prominent investors and corporate executives with close ties to the White House, including the tech billionaire Peter Thiel, the Google co-founder Sergey Brin, the Koch family and staff at the investment firm run by President Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, have argued for a decisive crackdown against what they view as an existential threat by China to U.S. biotechnology, according to four people briefed on their lobbying who asked for anonymity to discuss private conversations.

These investors have money at risk because they hold hard-to-sell investments in fledgling American companies that have been struggling to keep up with China's surging biotech sector.

On the other side are the world's largest drugmakers, including Pfizer and AstraZeneca. In the last few years, they have been on a shopping spree in China for low-priced experimental drugs, spurning smaller American biotech companies that are developing similar medicines.

Democrats and Republicans have called America's reliance on China for medicines a national security vulnerability. In 2020 and this year, Mr. Trump issued a se-

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INTERNATIONAL A4-11

Unkept U.S. Climate Promises

Pacific island nations have seen American attention come and go with geopolitical winds. Recent pullbacks prompt dismay but not surprise. PAGE A4

Trump the Bystander

If the president can't be a peacemaker on global conflicts, he adopts a shrug. News Analysis. PAGE A9

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Football's 'Middle Eight'

The last four minutes of the first half and the first four of the second can make or break a team. PAGE B6

Celebrity Chefs Fight Ban on 'Forever Chemicals'

By **HIROKO TABUCHI**

Rachael Ray. Marcus Samuelsson. David Chang.

These celebrity chefs are joining forces, but not for a new restaurant or cooking show. They are teaming up to defend the use of "forever chemicals" in pots and pans.

The chefs, all of whom sell or endorse cookware lines, are opposing a California bill that would phase out the contentious chemicals from a range of products they're used in, like nonstick cookware, food packaging and dental floss. California lawmakers could vote on the measure this week.

The synthetic chemicals accumulate in the body and have been linked to low birth weight, birth defects and developmental delays in infants as well as increased risk of some prostate, kidney and testicular cancers.

The chefs say that nonstick cookware is safe when used responsibly, and a ban would be unfortunate for people who love cooking. "The reality is that some foods are extremely difficult to



Richard Smith, a resident historian for 26 years, says Thoreau would "want me to get my own life."

On Walden Pond, Hanging Up His Frock Coat

By **ALEX VADUKUL**

CONCORD, Mass. — A bearded man in a waistcoat and tall straw hat emerged from a cabin on Walden Pond and faced a group of people wearing shorts and sunglasses. They were curious about his solitary life in the woods.

They addressed him as Henry David Thoreau, the 19th-century transcendentalist writer, but they were speaking to Richard Smith, a historian who has been Walden Pond State Reservation's resident

The Resident Thoreau Impersonator Retires

Thoreau impersonator since 1999.

"How do you get your food?" a boy asked. "Do you hunt for it and fish?"

"I have given up the eating of flesh," the man answered. "I find it disagreeable to my conscience. My bean field is about a hundred rods back."

A woman asked: "Do you feel that diet was healthy for you? Because some historians, after your death, questioned if you were malnourished."

"I feel healthier than I have ever been. Being in the woods is like a tonic."

"Do you think you'll live here forever?" someone else asked.

The man became melancholy. "No," he said. "In fact, I am leaving today. I feel I have accomplished all that I set out to do. I have dis-

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BUSINESS B1-5

Steamed Over Starbucks Plan

Heartfelt messages are part of a turnaround initiative, but baristas say they're under pressure. PAGE B1

An Unsettled Fed

The central bank is likely to lower rates at its meeting next week, but a couple of seats remain unsettled. PAGE B1

NATIONAL A12-21

Long Arm of Government

The commerce secretary has been putting the squeeze on businesses and trading partners to expand the president's role over the economy. PAGE A12

Trump Sizes Up Mamdani

The president said he was already thinking of the leverage he could use if the Democratic nominee wins. PAGE A15

TRAVEL C7-9

After the Taylor-Travis I Do's

Suggestions for a honeymoon trip fit for tabloid royalty, where price is no object. The farther away, the better. PAGE C8

ARTS C1-6

Sheeran Sees Brighter Days

The superstar singer-songwriter sat down with Popcast to discuss overcoming some personal and professional turmoil ahead of releasing his eighth studio album, "Play." PAGE C1

Lag in Los Angeles Olympics

Planning and fund-raising for the "Cultural Olympiad," the arts programming that is part of the Games in 2028, should have been well underway by now, several experts say. PAGE C1

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Ezra Klein

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THE MAGAZINE

THIS WEEKEND

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With America on Edge, Suspect in Kirk Killing Surrenders to Officials

Bipartisan Fear That a Divide Will Grow More Violent

This article is by **Shawn Hubler, Edgar Sandoval and Audra D. S. Burch.**

After Charlie Kirk, the right-wing activist, was fatally shot on Wednesday, two thoughts occurred to Edward Padron, a 67-year-old locksmith in Brownsville, Texas. One was immediate. One was slower to rise.

A longtime conservative, Mr. Padron said he first assumed "a hate crime against a Republican" had just happened. But then he thought of other recent acts of violence across the political spectrum, from the attempts last year on the president's life to the fatal shootings in June of a Democratic lawmaker in Minnesota and her husband. It seemed to him as if some terrible disease was gripping the nation, with no cure on the horizon.

"This could happen to anybody in this country," Mr. Padron said, speaking from his home near the Mexican border. "I think that people across the board are afraid."

That anxiety echoed this week in interviews with Americans, including a group of voters that The New York Times has been following throughout the Trump presidency. No matter their beliefs, people said they were deeply unsettled after the killing of Mr. Kirk, who had built a national movement promoting right-wing politics on campuses like the one in Utah where his life ended.

Some of those interviewed had not heard of Mr. Kirk. Others felt strongly about him and his politics, for and against. But virtually all agreed that Mr. Kirk's violent death seemed to confirm a deep fear that something is seriously wrong in this nation.

It was not just the gun violence. In some sense, that has become a daily tragedy, lamentable but unsurprising. As several people pointed out, there was also a school shooting in Colorado on Wednesday.

Instead, Mr. Kirk's death at 31 symbolized for many the collapse of what they thought was a basic, common-sense, need-not-debate

Messages Inscribed on Bullet Casings Eyed for Clues

This article is by **Kellen Browning, Jack Healy and Thomas Fuller.**

OREM, Utah — A 22-year-old man troubled by Charlie Kirk's politics turned himself in to face charges in Mr. Kirk's murder, the authorities said on Friday, ending a manhunt that followed the brazen assassination before 3,000 people.

"Good morning, ladies and gentlemen — we got him," Gov. Spencer Cox, Republican of Utah, said on Friday at the beginning of a news conference to announce the arrest of the suspect, Tyler Robinson.

After shooting Mr. Kirk from a rooftop more than 150 yards away, the authorities said, Mr. Robinson managed to evade the helicopters, squad cars and foot patrols searching for him for more than 30 hours. Then, around the same time that law enforcement received a tip about him from a family friend, Mr. Robinson surrendered on Thursday night at his local sheriff's office in Washington County, Utah, a three-and-a-half-hour drive from Utah Valley University in Orem, where Mr. Kirk was killed on Wednesday.

The authorities believe that Mr. Robinson acted alone. He was being held in the Utah County Jail on suspicion of aggravated murder and other felonies, according to court records.

As they tried to discern his motive, the authorities said Mr. Robinson had left clues.

They reported on Friday that a family member said that Mr. Robinson had grown more political in recent years. According to an affidavit by an agent with the Utah Department of Public Safety, the family member noted that Mr. Robinson had recently mentioned that Mr. Kirk, a founder of the influential conservative organization Turning Point USA, would be holding an event at Utah Valley University and that Mr. Robinson and the family member had "talked about why they didn't like him and the viewpoints that he had."

Investigators said on Friday

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DOXXING Right-wing activists are urging their followers to find and expose anyone rejoicing in Charlie Kirk's assassination. PAGE A20

FINAL QUESTION A liberal TikTok star came to Utah Valley with a query on mass shootings, a grim coincidence he now agonizes over. PAGE A19

Rubio Helps Revive a Strategy In Latin America: Aggression

By **EDWARD WONG** and **MICHAEL CROWLEY**

QUITO, Ecuador — For decades across Latin America and the Caribbean, U.S. drug enforcement officials have tried to cut off narcotics trafficking by intercepting boats, trucks and even horses laden with drugs and arresting the smugglers.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said those efforts are not bold enough. He has helped steer the Trump administration toward a much more aggressive — and deadly — tactic: use military force to destroy suspected drug boats and kill the people on board, without a legal process.

"Interdiction doesn't work," Mr. Rubio said at a news conference in Mexico City last week when asked about the U.S. attack on a boat in the Caribbean. President Trump had boasted that the strike had killed at least 11 people.

Fighting War on Drugs With Military Force

"What will stop them is when you blow them up, when you get rid of them," Mr. Rubio added. "And it'll happen again. Maybe it's happening right now, I don't know, but the point is the president of the United States is going to wage war on narco-terrorist organizations."

Mr. Rubio has cast himself as a top general in that war.

No senior Trump official has spoken more forcefully about the new campaign of violence against Latin American criminal groups and their allies. And no senior aide to Mr. Trump has as long a history working on Latin America policy.

Over 14 years as a Republican senator from Florida, Mr. Rubio pressed three administrations to

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