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Southern News Group

Michael Flynn says he is not ready to be sentenced, U.S. says he is ready



Inside C2

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Sunday, September 8, 2019

Tight U.S. labor market shrinks gender and race gaps to record lows

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A tight U.S. labor market and booming demand in industries with an abundance of female workers is drawing more women back into the workforce, helping to shrink the longstanding gap in the labor participation rate between men and women to the narrowest on record.

FILE PHOTO: Workers build the 2020 Ford Explorer at Ford's Chicago Assembly Plant in Chicago, Illinois, U.S. June 24, 2019. REUTERS/Kamil Krzaczynski/File Photo Other parts of a report released by the Labor Department on Friday showed that the longest economic expansion on record is leading to improvements for workers who are often left on the sidelines. Not only did the unemployment rate for African Americans drop to a record low of 5.5% in August, it narrowed to being 1.62 times the white unemployment rate, the smallest gap ever.

The share of women aged 25 to 54 who either have jobs or are looking for work rose by a full percentage point in August to 76.3%, according to the report. The gain helped to lift the overall labor participation rate to 63.2%, one of the bright spots in a monthly jobs report otherwise riddled with signs of a softening U.S. economy.

"What we're seeing is the benefits of a strong labor market," said Nick Bunker, an economist at the Indeed Hire Lab. "Workers who in the past have been shut out of the labor market, including women, workers of color and workers with disabilities have seen increasing gains."

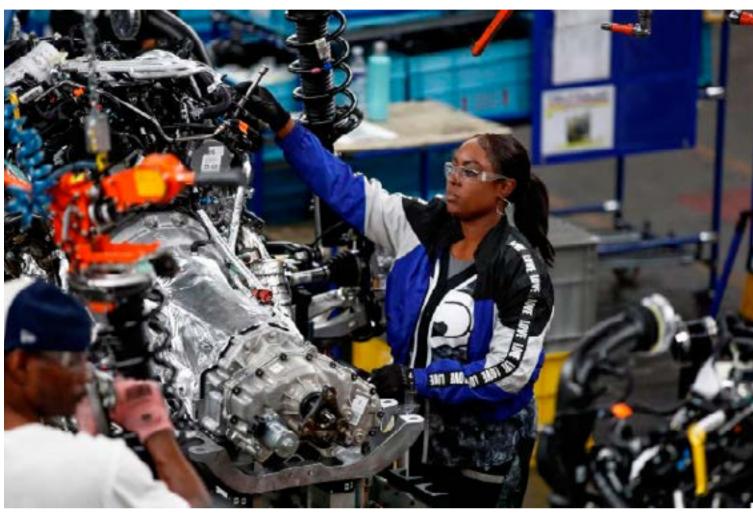
While the share of men who are working or looking for jobs is still higher at 89%, participation has been growing more strongly for women over the past several years.

Women are benefiting because they have a stronger presence in rapidly growing sectors such as health care and education, Bunker said. The education and health services sector, where women hold roughly three of every four jobs, added 32,000 jobs in August, topped only by the professional services and government sectors. However, many of those jobs are often low paying, contributing to the overall gender wage gap. The labor participation rate for men, in contrast, has stalled since the recession because men tend to work disproportionately in sectors such as manufacturing, which suffered greatly during the downturn, said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics.

The labor participation rate for men is now 12.7 percentage points higher than women, down from 13.4 percentage points a year earlier, and the lowest since 1950.

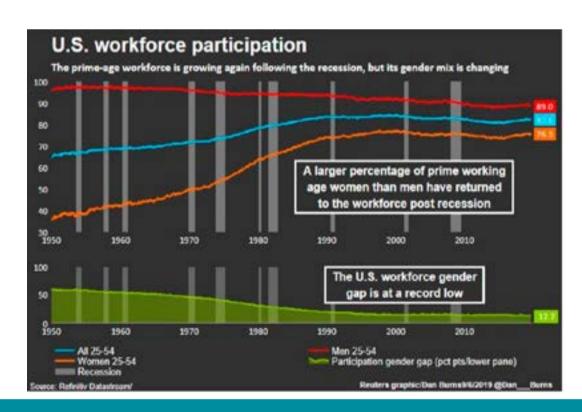
That gap could continue to shrink as women benefit from college degrees, which they are more likely to hold than men, Zandi said. The labor participation rate for women increased steadily after the 1950s as more women entered the workforce, but the trend stopped in 2000 when the labor force participation rate for women peaked at 77%. Progress stalled in the United States as some women were hindered by expensive child care and other long-standing challenges, including the gender pay gap, Zandi said.

After bottoming at 73% in 2015, the participation rate for women is rising again and finally approaching the highs seen almost two decades

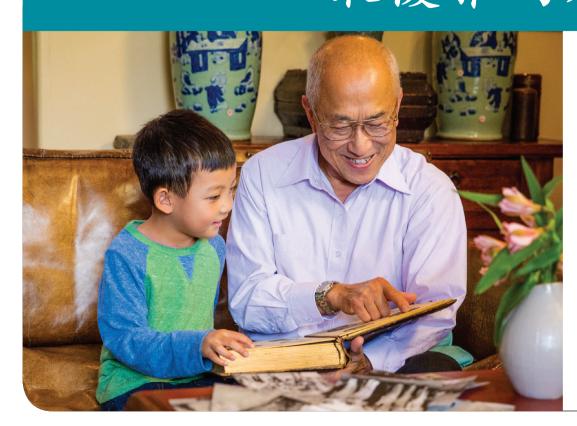


FILE PHOTO: Workers build the 2020 Ford Explorer at Ford's Chicago Assembly Plant in Chicago, Illinois, U.S. June 24, 2019. REUTERS/Kamil Krzaczynski/File Photo

"This highlights why it's so important to have a strong economy because it helps those that really have struggled for many decades," Zandi said.



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WORLD NEWS

Hope grows for deal to avoid U.S. tariffs on Mexican goods

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Hope grew on Wednesday for a deal to avoid the United States imposing tariffs on Mexican goods in return for Mexico doing more to halt illegal immigration but President Donald Trump said he was willing to go ahead with the import duties if he is not satisfied.

Trump said he thinks Mexico wants to reach an agreement to stop a new trade war - one that analysts believe might tip its economy into a recession - while a White House trade adviser and senior Republican U.S. lawmaker predicted that Washington might not introduce the proposed tariffs.

"Mexico can stop it. They have to stop it, otherwise we just won't be able to do business. It's a very simple thing. And I think they will stop it. I think they want to do something. I think they want to make a deal, and they sent their top people to try and do it," Trump said at the start of a visit to Ireland. Warren criticizes Trump's 'dart throwing' Mexico tariff decision

U.S. pushes Mexico to take more asylum seekers, tighten controls: sources

Frustrated by the lack of progress on a signature issue from his 2016 election campaign, Trump unexpectedly told Mexico last week to take a harder line on curbing illegal immigration or face 5% tariffs on all its exports to the United States starting on Monday, rising to as much as 25% later in the year. Mexican officials will seek to persuade the White House in talks hosted by U.S. Vice President Mike Pence on Wednesday that their government has done enough to stem immigration and avoid tariffs. Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said he was optimistic the talks can end in an agreement.

Trump said he would go ahead with the tariffs if Mexico does not do more to control migratio

Lopez Obrador has received an official list of U.S. products that could be subject to retaliatory tariffs if the duties threatened by Trump take effect, officials said in Mexico City.

Trump has faced resistance within his own Republican Party over the threatened tariffs, with many lawmakers concerned about the potential impact on cross-border trade and on U.S. businesses and consumers.



Trucks cross the borderline into the U.S. before border customs control at the World Trade Bridge, as seen from Laredo, Texas U.S., June 3, 2019. REUTERS/Carlos Jasso



Amanda, an asylum seeker from El Salvador, washes shoes as 16 year-old daughter Merli watches at a makeshift tent camp near the Browns-ville-Matamoros International Bridge where they wait in hopes of soon being granted entry into the U.S. in Matamoros

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SOUTHERN NEWS GROUP

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Sunday, September 8 2019



Editor's Choice



Children play as community members gather in a park to discuss gang violence in Manenberg township, Cape Town



A view of a looted supermarket after Hurricane Dorian hit the Abaco Islands in Marsh Harbour



Plastic waste pile and debris are seen up near the beach in Panama City



Riot police walk near a fire set by anti-extradition bill protesters during a protest at Prince Edward in Hong Kong



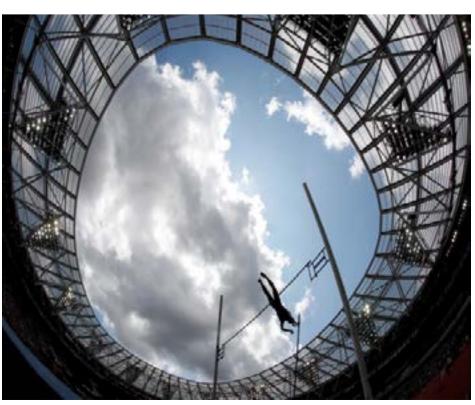
The faithful sing in the rain as Pope Francis holds Holy Mass at Zimpeto stadium in Maputo, Mozambique



Paddlers take part in the Fontanka-SUP stand up paddle boarding festival in Saint Petersburg



A hooded demonstrator waves a Puerto Rican flag during the seventh day of protest calling for the resignation of Governor Ricardo Rossello in San Juan



Athletics - Diamond League - London Anniversary Games - London Stadium, London, Britain 2019 Sweden's Michaela Meijer in action in the women's pole vault REUTERS/David Klein



COMMUNITY

The State Plans For The Next Storm

"Future-Proofing" Texas Against Natural Disaster



Photo courtesy of Texas Task Force 1.

Overview

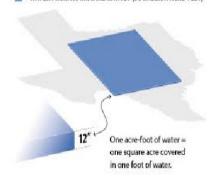
After Hurricane Harvey slammed the Texas Gulf Coast in 2017, state leaders recognized the need to improve our ability to prepare for the inevitable storms to follow.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Gov. Greg Abbott has assembled a special group, the Governor's Commission to Rebuild Texas, both to assist with recovery operations and to recommend improvements in communication, coordination and infrastructure to lessen the impact of future hurricane events.

The commission, led by Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp, issued its Eye of the Storm(PDF) report in November 2018. In evaluating ways to improve Texas' resilience to storms, the report reached into Texas history for a role model: Galveston residents' response to the 1900 hurricane that claimed thousands of lives.

More than a century later, state and local leaders are taking steps to "future-proof" Texas — to improve its ability to prepare, withstand and recover — with lessons learned from Harvey, the second-costliest hurricane in U.S. history. = WATER FROM HURRICANE HARVEY (58 MILLION ACRE-FEET)



HARVEY'S TOLL

In six days, Harvey caused historic flooding, dumping about 58 million acrefeet of water on the Texas coast. Some areas received as much as 60 inches of rain. Storm surges pushed two to 12 feet of water onshore. Wind gusts of up to

145 mph destroyed residences and businesses alike. At least 68 people died as a direct result of the hurricane, mostly by drowning, while about 35 died from indirect effects such as motor-vehicle accidents. About 42,000 people were forced into shelters.

In all, Gov. Abbott ultimately issued disaster declarations for 60 Texas counties, mostly on the coast but some located well away from the main areas of dev-

The Comptroller's office estimated that the storm's net economic impact decreased the Texas gross state product (GSP) by \$3.8 billion in the first year after landfall, although activity associated with reconstruction and recovery caused the economy to regain ground quickly, producing an expected \$800 million gain to GSP after three years.

TEXAS COUNTIES INCLUDED IN TEXAS HARVEY-RELATED DI-SASTER DECLARATIONS



Source: Office of the Governor THE NEXT STORM

In readying the state for future storms, leaders must rally support for changes whose value won't be fully realized until the next disaster. That can be tricky.

"It's a rainy-day problem," says Billy Hamilton, deputy chancellor and chief financial officer for the Texas A&M University System, who guided preparation of the commission's report. "When people are in danger of drowning, everybody understands somebody needs to do something. And then the sun comes out, and the water goes away. People clean up the worst of the muck, and they haul off the debris, and we sort of go back to our



BILLY HAMILTON Deputy Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer,

Texas A&M University System

"Texas has the best response to emergency situations in the country," he says. "It is the model. But recovery, planning, mitigation — it's never been as well organized. And it's not like we can point to some other place and say, 'Well, they're doing a lot better job.' Everybody's in the same boat. The biggest challenge this far removed from the storm is to keep people recognizing that an enormous amount still needs to be done."

Eye of the Storm explores Harvey's impact while assessing the response and prioritizing steps needed to accomplish the immense task of improving the state's long-term recovery efforts and its resilience.

The report's recommendations include: •ensuring state emergency responders are effectively organized, trained and equipped, and that local officials and emergency managers have better train-

•improving communication and coordination among state and local officials with emergency responsibilities. During Harvey, the agents forwarded local requests, comments and concerns to a response center at the Texas A&M University System, where experts worked to get answers. The exchanges were logged, allowing for analysis. The report recommends institutionalizing this arrangement



•providing more timely assistance to survivors. The report suggests using state employees from various entities to create "recovery task forces" to help in specialized areas such as financial assistance.

The commission worked with the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to compile a list of more than 4,000 potential hazard-mitigation projects in counties affected by Harvey that would cost a total of \$108 billion. The projects range from repairing public buildings at an expense of a few million dollars to an ambitious "coastal spine," a barrier to protect against storm surges on Galveston Bay and the Houston Ship Channel that could cost as much as \$11.4 billion. (Courtesy https://comptroller. texas.gov)

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Axios-NewsWhip 2020 Attention Tracker Results

Guns Surge To Top Of National Conversation

Total interactions for week ending August 4th, 2019

SUE RANK IIS WEEK		WEEKLY RANK SINCE JAN. 7	1-WEEK TOTAL	CHANGE IN RANK	
1	Guns		28.3m	7	
2	Immigration		9.8m	*:	
3	Foreign policy	And the second second second	9.3m	% :	
4	Social issues	ومعمره وريعروب	6.3m	7	
5	Economy		4.1m		
6	Trade	and the same	3.Om	×	
7	Climate change		3.Om	7	
8	Courts and electoral issues	ويمعنون يروع يستداده	2.6m	* 5	
9	Health care		2.4m	1	
10	Finance	and property and property	2.2m	× :	

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

After the two mass shootings last weekend, gun violence has displaced immigration as the most-talked about news topic on social media for the first time since May, according to data from News-Whip provided exclusively to Southern Daily via Axios.

Why it matters: The emotional intensity of gun violence makes it a topic that generates ferocious debate and calls for action on social media after a high-profile event. Yet the activism is cyclical, and the issue has yet to be a defining issue in elections.

Between the lines: Video games were the topic adjacent to the shooting that generated the most interactions (retweets, likes, comments, shares) on Facebook

and Twitter (2.08M) for stories written on the Saturday of the shootings as well as the following two days.

These pieces were largely blowback against President Trump and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy for comments that video games were to blame for the shootings.



BUSINESS

Other countries with similar or higher rates of video game playing have lower rates of shootings.

Other topics we examined that were related to the shooting included white supremacy, white nationalism, domestic terrorism, 8chan and mental illness.

The big picture: Unlike most other hot-button political topics, most of the stories that went the farthest about the weekend shootings were straightforward breaking news headlines without partisan tilt.

Accounts of heroism were the genre of non-breaking news that generated the most interactions.

2020 candidates: While many of the 2020 Democrats sought to place responsibility for the shootings on Trump, these stories largely didn't break through.

Among the 75 biggest stories about guns and shootings from last week (which included the Gilroy Garlic shooting from the previous weekend) only two of these stories were about comments from 2020 candidates:

Pete Buttigieg: America 'Under Attack From Homegrown White Nationalist Terrorists' (HuffPost, 147k interactions)



Beto O'Rourke: Trump's 'racism' leads to violence like El Paso mass shooting (CNN, 93k)

The mass shootings were the biggest story for just 5 of the candidates on the week that included the second debate. Three of those 5 came from conservative outlets.

Our 2020 attention tracker is based on data from NewsWhip exclusively provided to Axios as part of a project that will regularly update throughout the 2020 campaign.



Why this tracker matters: The data on interactions — including likes, comments and shares — highlights an important, but under-appreciated element of an election: the ability to see beyond our own social feeds and understand the broader universe playing out of how candidates and issues are moving the minds of voters.

It measures enthusiasm in a way that traditional polling does not.

The sample size taken from these social media platforms is massive.

Social media is powered by emotion-driven content, and emotional responses are likely to be aligned with a voter's true beliefs in a way that can be masked in polling.

While the volume of interactions does not gauge the sentiment of the reactions, the ability to generate reach allows a candidate to expand the universe of potential voters.

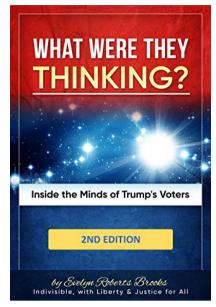
Bots also cannot be ignored, and we will point out in this space if there are documented instances of bot activity for certain candidates or issues.

Methodology: This project measures

the number of social media interactions generated on stories published about the 2020 candidates and issues.

Interactions are calculated from reactions, comments and shares on those stories on Facebook as well as the number of shares from more than 300,000 influential Twitter accounts and retweets and likes on those posts.

Tracked published stories come from a defined universe of more than 450,000 domains.



A story registers for a candidate or issue if the keyword is mentioned in the head-line, summary or URL of the story.

Our search format for candidates looks like: "Joe Biden" OR ("Biden" AND ("President" OR "2020" OR "election" OR "Democrats" OR "primary")).
For issues, we use a keyword tree for re-

See past editions of the tracker here: https://www.axios.com/2020-attention-tracker-library-3c8f61f3-a64c-4473-ac32-3ea76d525770 html

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導演徐漢強今天也先來搶先體驗 ,他一走進去就像重溫拍片時光,他 說:「有一種惡夢又回來的感覺了。 」展覽館用了許多當時拍片道具,就 連教官在現場出現都讓<u>人覺</u>得仿佛眞 的教官在現場一樣。

除此之外,這次更邀請臺北多元 藝術空間靑少年發展促進會(藝靑會)的傅星翰,爲體驗館設計「防空洞 區教官墻面」:以整面墻突顯教官威 嚴的形象,一進門就能感受到被無形 的雙眼監視,在那個年代追求自由的 過程中背負無形卻眞實的壓力;「教 室區自由之樹」:以舊書,文集,以 及戒嚴時代的報紙事件組成的自由之 樹,人們追求自由過程中堆疊起來的 希望,在無數的大小事件中希望萌芽 ,變成枝幹,果實,樹葉,象徵自由 根深蒂固並成長茁壯,但過程很長並 且辛苦,而需要相當的付出。

白電影賠錢洗 龍劭華耍狠塞女友當女·



日前才入圍金鐘獎2獎項 的演員龍劭華,在國片「江湖 無難事」裡扮演霸氣又幽默的 黑道大哥,不但過足戲廳,更 率領一幫笑將與實力派演員惡 搞電影圈

今天公佈角色版預告,再 出來,一開場便是邱澤在冷凍 的空間中顫抖的模樣,十足吸 睛,他以製片豪洨的身份來訴 說電影故事,他與導演文西 (穩死)爲了拍電影賠到「脫 褲」,不得不加入龍劭華旗下 的黑社會來還債,卻意外獲得 拍電影的機會,龍劭華便以氣 勢萬千的黑社會金主之姿出現 ,逼導演要用小女友姚以緹當 電影女主角。

預告中也可以見到黑社會 組織成員顏正國、黃尚禾、吳 震亞和鋼鐵爸,還有幫助邱澤 拍片的梁赫群及阿喜(林育品) ,再加上陳漢典,各個都是 實力派及搞笑高手,都各有特 色的亮相!最後更不忘這部電 影的中心思想「奧斯卡夢」,

接連出現讓人意外的獎項, 「最佳影騙」、「最佳倒演」 「最佳女煮腳」、「最佳鞭 劇」、再加上結尾的大爆炸, 可說是 5 一 大到最高點!

龍劭華表示最初拿到劇本 覺得這個題材台灣很少見,而 且也很難拍,「有不少大場面 ,臨演至少也是要個100多人 。」但他覺得這次 拍攝經驗很特殊,「我第一次 和導演高炳權及其他演員合作 ,拍起來很愉快,大家感情都 很好。」

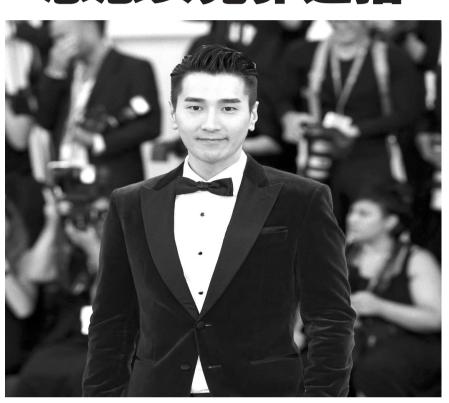
龍劭華累積演技深厚功力 ,才在剛揭曉的金鐘入圍名單中 一人獨佔男主角和男配角兩項大 獎提名,非常風光,而在「江湖 無難事」龍劭華電影中竟然負責 唯一一條的「愛情線」,和女主 角有情感交流的角色,導演高炳 權說:「角色直接就是叫龍哥, 當初我就是鎖定請龍劭華演出。 一個對龍劭華的專業精神印象深 刻,「我們第一場戲,龍哥就脫 到只剩內褲,但他配合度超高, 很直接、大方。」

雖然表面搞笑,但龍劭 華演出的黑道大哥也有老謀 深算及心狠手辣的一面,讓 龍劭華展現多面向的演技深 度,讓他特別鼓勵劇組, 「我一直鼓勵導演,『江湖 無難事』的題材非常的新,

很特別。我們可以朝金馬獎 努力,需要的話,我可以多 -點,整部作品就要拍精 緻一點。」而片中他還有一 群手下,也都是實力派演員 ,演起黑道說服力十足,包 括顏正國、黃尚禾、吳震亞 及鋼鐵爸, 眾人時而耍狠, 時而搞笑,讓電影內容更爲 豐富

此片也入選 釜山影展亞 洲之窗,導演感言:「覺得 有點豪洨,想不到這個在停 紅綠燈時想到個故事概念, 竟被拍了出來,然後還被釜 山影展認證!沒想過這支片 會跟影展們結緣,謝謝釜山 影展,謝謝一起努力的夥伴 們,謝謝家人,江湖真的無 難事。」

趙又廷初登威尼斯



第76屆威尼斯影展於8月底開 跑,鞏俐與趙又廷主演、婁燁執導 的「蘭心大劇院」入圍此影展主競 賽,兩人有望爭帝后。該片於台灣 時間昨(5日)凌晨舉辦首映,除 了主演還有同片演出的小田切讓都 走上紅毯,吸引不少鎂光燈。

趙又廷穿著酒紅絲絨西裝到場 ,在記者會上以流利英文向國際媒 體打招呼,看完首映的他表示: 「感覺非常好,跟導演以往的作品 感覺不太一樣。劇情很強、人物的 狀態掌握得非常好。攝影很美,黑 白色調讓整部片增色不少。我自己 很喜歡。俐姊完美!很有魅力。」 至於如何看待自己的表演? 趙又 廷說:「我看到了一個陌生的趙又 廷,看不出來是自己演的,我覺得 這點非常好。」

初訪威尼斯的趙又廷也成了水 都好奇寶寶,處處都是新鮮事,他 說:「威尼斯果真名不虛傳,一個 迷宫般的城市等著你去四處去探索

,特別的交通方式讓這一切顯得更 有趣。我沒來過這樣的城市,感覺 很好、很特別。」他結束威尼斯影 展行程後,6日將再飛往多倫多, 行程滿檔的他會不時透過手機裡女 兒的照片抒發思念,相當暖心

鞏俐身穿超低胸爆乳、露腿裝 牽著老公走紅毯,期間還有不少鞏 俐的外國粉絲到會場應援,更有人 手持中文小卡片入鏡,整齊地寫著 「鞏俐!!我在太陽下,等了你3 小時!」,意外成為話題。

「蘭心大劇院」以1941年日本 偷襲珍珠港前一周的上海爲故事背 景,集劇情、愛情與間諜元素於一 體。鞏俐飾演一名實爲美國間諜的 知名演員,其心中糾結複雜,相當 精彩。趙又廷則飾演邀請鞏俐回到 上海演出話劇的導演和主演,和鞏 俐之間有精彩的對手戲。整部電影 充滿強力的劇情張力,劇中劇、話 中話,全片以黑白色調播出,沒有

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Sunday, September 8, 2019

從"小寂寞"到"大時代"

當聞人悅閱寫作的時候,她便開始關注時代 的聲音——有一種發掘平靜表面下驚濤駭浪的耐 心,仔細觀察個人在時代中的情感和無奈,以及 個人與時代的關係。"我們這個時代還在進 行當中,一切還沒有定論。"而當她從歷史 的節點切入,卻發現以前所關心的事情都 可以在歷史中找到答案。 於是, 醞釀 20 年的84萬字小說《琥珀》出世,她 也跳出了"小寂寞"、"小 惆悵"的圈子,成為了一個 書寫"大時代"的人。 聞人悅閱對香港有着特殊的感情。

文、攝:嘉言

△火 起聞人悦閱,總繞不開她的名字。"聞 **言父**人"是浙江地區的複姓,"悦閱"則是 父母冀望女兒喜愛閱讀,而她也正如其名般對 閱讀由衷熱愛。"看書看得入了迷,難免技 癢,躍躍欲試,就變成了寫書的人。"寫作是 她童年時代的第一個夢想,在理想交互更替的 成長歲月中保存了下來,無論處於何種狀態, 坐下提筆便能開始寫。內地出生,紐約求學, 香港定居,她輾轉三地,對生活了十幾年的香 港也有着特別的感情: "香港是包容性的國際 化都市,我在寫《琥珀》的時候,很多的資料 調查都是在香港完成的,書中也有一些關於香 港的片段,這是很難得的。我感謝這個城市, 支持我這些年的創作,這也是一種緣分。"

是傳奇也是好看的故事

2018年歲末,聞人悦閱交出84萬字的大河 小説《琥珀》,以諜報為題材,以1920年代為 開端,從蒙疆到歐陸,自上海到紐約,從二戰 到國共內戰,自美蘇冷戰到商場雲湧,交織出 歷經百年的磅礴巨構。"《琥珀》是我自己對 寫作生涯的一個交代,對個人來說,書寫已經 是一種必須,文字記錄是一種責任。就像在自 序中提到的,有文字陪伴,歷史才不孤單。 《琥珀》的架構比較宏大,在時間上跨越了-個多世紀,空間的詮釋是用一種全球視野的角 度,把中國放在世界中來寫。"

《琥珀》在進入寫作狀態之前,產生於她 大學時代的偶然經歷。"我當時在紐約唸書, 那是個充滿傳奇的地方。有一次,我在大都會 博物館參觀,那一天風很大,天氣陰沉沉的, 有小販在叫賣: '琥珀要不要?'於是, '琥 珀'這個意象就跳出來了。我想寫一個在紐約 的中國人的傳奇故事,那時就有了莫小嫻這個 名字,也構想了一群在她身邊可以延續傳奇的 年輕人。"當時她就已經開始醞釀這個故事, 它既要是一個傳奇,也要是一個好看的故事。

隨着人慢慢成長,她看了很多史料,走訪 了不同地方,拓闊視野,同時建立了自己的世 界觀,梳理究竟發生過什麼事之後,想到可以 用二戰消失的琥珀屋來作為引子。這個故事終 於在真實歷史中找到了切入點,逐漸豐滿,最 終水到渠成。這個過程, 醞釀了20年, 而這 種完整,離不開她廣泛的閱讀,包括港大圖書 館,以及美國史丹佛大學胡佛研究所東亞圖書 館,都是《琥珀》的資料來源。

如橋樑般存在的角色

嫻) 在紐約過世,杜琥珀作為杜家唯一的孫 年輕的一代,其實對新生代要多包容才會有希 女,繼承了杜老太的龐大商業帝國和複雜人 望。"她説。

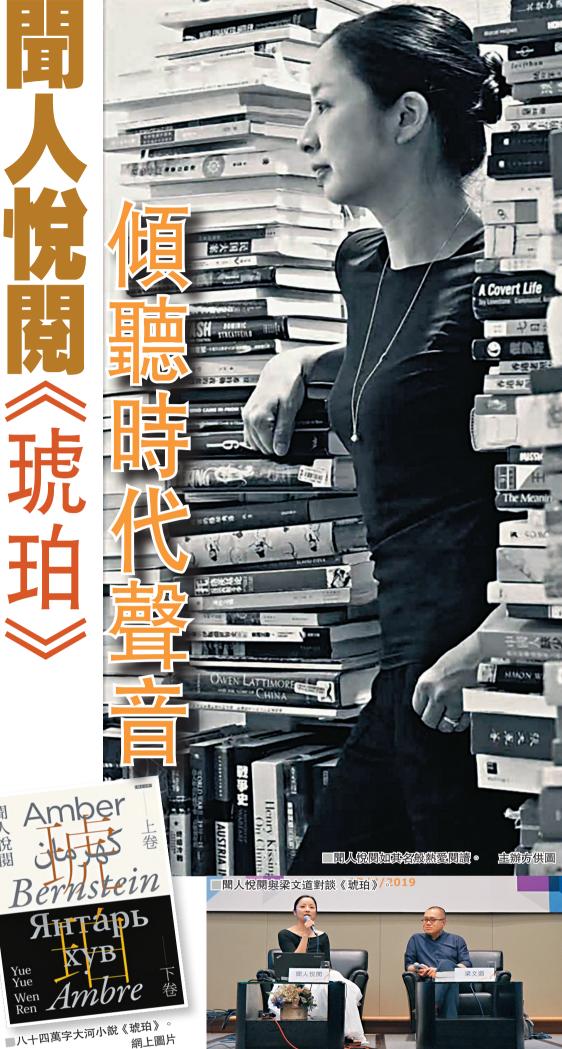
脈,而流傳在杜家的那個關於琥珀屋的離奇傳 説,令塵封往事慢慢浮出水面……在聞人悦閱看 來,《琥珀》中的莫小嫻是橋樑般的人物,雖然 是虛構的,但絕對有機會在歷史中真實地存在 過。莫小嫻像武俠書中的少女,具有極佳的天 賦,每個遇到的人都有"武林秘籍"想要傳授給 她,只是這"秘籍"是知識和思想,或許要比武 功有趣得多。同樣,大家也將心中朦朧的希望灌 輸到她身上,如同種下一顆種子,期待未來成長 為參天大樹。"莫小嫻後來達成這樣的成就,也 與少年時期的經歷密不可分。她的人生有着合理 性,不會像玄幻故事,經歷了這麼多的歷史事 件,莫小嫻都沒有死,這也反映出了我們每個人 心中都有着美好的願望——當看到時代往崩壞的 方向走時,總希望有這樣一個橋樑般的人物出 現,來解決問題。"

但她也同時提到,在寫作中,角色並不是 一成不變的。這些角色,在寫的時候是屬於她 的,但寫完之後她就不再擁有,而是將其交給 了讀者。"當故事寫完,角色還在活下去。我 進入故事很深,寫得很興奮,故事中的角色彷 彿身邊的朋友。每個人都在不斷往前走,當明 白了這個過程,心會變得平靜下來。自己可以 選擇,將人生過成什麼樣子。"她認真地說。

小與大的互相影響

聞人悦閱是紐約 Cooper Union 大學電機 工程學士,紐約大學商學院金融碩士。她曾獲 聯合文學小説新人獎中篇首獎,出版有小説集 《太平盛世》、《黄小艾》、《掘金紀》、 《小寂寞》;童話《小中尉》、《小仙》;散 文集《紐約本色》、《小惆悵》。長篇小説 《掘金紀》獲選《亞洲週刊》年度全球十大華 文小説。她過往的許多作品中都有一個"小" 字,"小"並不代表格局小,而是有種敝帚自 珍的意味, "用'小'這個詞也許是自謙,舉 重若輕而已。"

但《琥珀》卻是書寫大時代的故事,她其 實之前的書寫也一直在關注時代的聲音,大多 與自己的時代比較接近,這種關心的結果只有 -種可能,就是把眼光放得更遠,看到更早的 時代,從而會發現一切都是有聯繫的,而且歷 史也在一種不斷的重複當中。"小與大,是一 種遠近的區別,而不分主次,它們是互相影響 的。離你我比較近的時代, 近在眼前, 可以近 到看清生活起居的細節,所以顯得小;看更早 的歷史,因為已經有了一個全知的角度,所以 顯得宏大。個人是被小和大同時影響着的。時 《琥珀》 開端講述杜老太杜亓 (即莫小 代無論大小,還是要向前走,《琥珀》也寫了



到成為被"音樂之神"眷顧的"中國新 觀眾對古典音樂的欣賞水平很高。"他 十大男高音",郝幸娃的音樂之路從不 説。 是坦途。他二十年如一日堅持技巧訓練 磨礪"人聲樂器",不忘初心堅持歌劇 這門"正功",在挑戰新角色的過程中 有所感悟, "我們首先傳遞的是情感和

人性,其次才是聲音和技術。" 郝幸娃日前受香港歌劇院藝術總監 莫華倫邀請,在香港大會堂音樂廳演出 歌劇《丑角》,這也是他首次在港演 出。"我去年曾來港為一項國際性音樂 比賽做頒獎嘉賓,我喜歡香港,這裡的 生活節奏快且品質高。香港作為國際化

期待挑戰新角色

意大利現實主義歌劇《丑角》通常與 《鄉村騎士》共同演出,《丑角》是根據 一宗十九世紀末意大利發生的謀殺案改編 而成。主角卡尼奧為戲班班主,妻子妮達 背着丈夫與年輕的西爾維奧偷情。生怕東 窗事發, 妮達欲與西爾維奧斷交。同時戲 班小丑東尼奧亦傾慕妮達並向她表白,可 惜遭拒絕。東尼奧一心報復妮達,便轉向 卡尼奧告發妮達偷情之事。怒火中燒的卡

不忘初心再挑戰

下手刃妻子。郝幸娃首次出演卡尼奧一 苦,飛去歐美演出時甚至來不及倒時差 角,強烈的戲劇衝突要求男高音的聲音富 便要投入排練, "每日都要練習兩個小 有張力,甚或在台上歇斯底里,這對作為 時的基本功,學譜子的時間另計,要遵 演新角色,無論是演戲還是和樂都需要時 體……"生活少了些樂趣,憑藉一腔熱 間去慢慢磨合,他已提前十幾日到港排 愛來支撐,因為"歌劇是對年輕演員最 練,全力以赴投入演出。

身為中央電視台評選出的"中國新 十大男高音",他曾多次參加中央電視 劇,放鬆歌劇的演出對我們是不利的。 台《民歌中國》、《天天把歌唱》、 《四季音樂會》、《合唱春晚》、《新 功,這個行業就廢掉了。" 民歌演唱會》等節目。同樣,作為"中 國文聯"的志願者,他也會去到全國各

"抒情男高音"的他具有一定的挑戰。出 守嚴苛的生活作息,要戒口,要鍛煉身 好的鍛煉","雖然男高音也上音樂 會、上電視,但我們的'正功'是歌 若是年輕演員只上綜藝節目而不練基本

> 文:香港文匯報記者 張岳悅 圖片由受訪者提供





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Southern News Group

Michael Flynn says he is not ready to be sentenced, U.S. says he is ready



Inside C2

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Sunday, September 8, 2019

Tight U.S. labor market shrinks gender and race gaps to record lows

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A tight U.S. labor market and booming demand in industries with an abundance of female workers is drawing more women back into the workforce, helping to shrink the longstanding gap in the labor participation rate between men and women to the narrowest on record.

FILE PHOTO: Workers build the 2020 Ford Explorer at Ford's Chicago Assembly Plant in Chicago, Illinois, U.S. June 24, 2019. REUTERS/Kamil Krzaczynski/File Photo Other parts of a report released by the Labor Department on Friday showed that the longest economic expansion on record is leading to improvements for workers who are often left on the sidelines. Not only did the unemployment rate for African Americans drop to a record low of 5.5% in August, it narrowed to being 1.62 times the white unemployment rate, the smallest gap ever.

The share of women aged 25 to 54 who either have jobs or are looking for work rose by a full percentage point in August to 76.3%, according to the report. The gain helped to lift the overall labor participation rate to 63.2%, one of the bright spots in a monthly jobs report otherwise riddled with signs of a softening U.S. economy.

"What we're seeing is the benefits of a strong labor market," said Nick Bunker, an economist at the Indeed Hire Lab. "Workers who in the past have been shut out of the labor market, including women, workers of color and workers with disabilities have seen increasing gains."

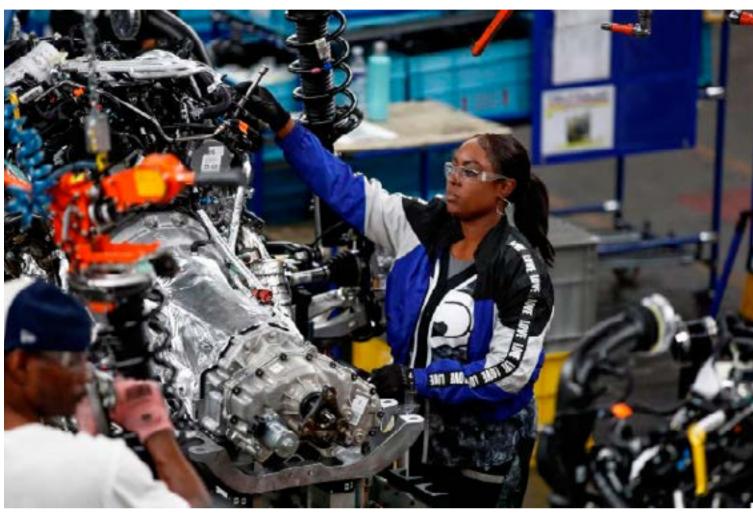
While the share of men who are working or looking for jobs is still higher at 89%, participation has been growing more strongly for women over the past several years.

Women are benefiting because they have a stronger presence in rapidly growing sectors such as health care and education, Bunker said. The education and health services sector, where women hold roughly three of every four jobs, added 32,000 jobs in August, topped only by the professional services and government sectors. However, many of those jobs are often low paying, contributing to the overall gender wage gap. The labor participation rate for men, in contrast, has stalled since the recession because men tend to work disproportionately in sectors such as manufacturing, which suffered greatly during the downturn, said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics.

The labor participation rate for men is now 12.7 percentage points higher than women, down from 13.4 percentage points a year earlier, and the lowest since 1950.

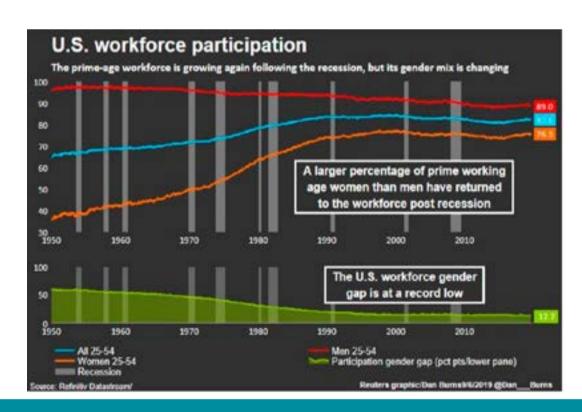
That gap could continue to shrink as women benefit from college degrees, which they are more likely to hold than men, Zandi said. The labor participation rate for women increased steadily after the 1950s as more women entered the workforce, but the trend stopped in 2000 when the labor force participation rate for women peaked at 77%. Progress stalled in the United States as some women were hindered by expensive child care and other long-standing challenges, including the gender pay gap, Zandi said.

After bottoming at 73% in 2015, the participation rate for women is rising again and finally approaching the highs seen almost two decades

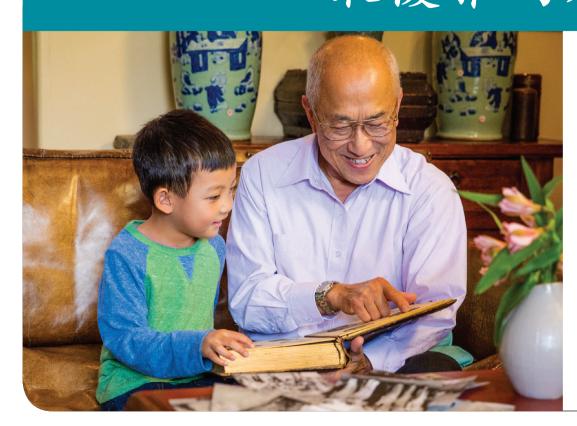


FILE PHOTO: Workers build the 2020 Ford Explorer at Ford's Chicago Assembly Plant in Chicago, Illinois, U.S. June 24, 2019. REUTERS/Kamil Krzaczynski/File Photo

"This highlights why it's so important to have a strong economy because it helps those that really have struggled for many decades," Zandi said.



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WORLD NEWS

Hope grows for deal to avoid U.S. tariffs on Mexican goods

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Hope grew on Wednesday for a deal to avoid the United States imposing tariffs on Mexican goods in return for Mexico doing more to halt illegal immigration but President Donald Trump said he was willing to go ahead with the import duties if he is not satisfied.

Trump said he thinks Mexico wants to reach an agreement to stop a new trade war - one that analysts believe might tip its economy into a recession - while a White House trade adviser and senior Republican U.S. lawmaker predicted that Washington might not introduce the proposed tariffs.

"Mexico can stop it. They have to stop it, otherwise we just won't be able to do business. It's a very simple thing. And I think they will stop it. I think they want to do something. I think they want to make a deal, and they sent their top people to try and do it," Trump said at the start of a visit to Ireland. Warren criticizes Trump's 'dart throwing' Mexico tariff decision

U.S. pushes Mexico to take more asylum seekers, tighten controls: sources

Frustrated by the lack of progress on a signature issue from his 2016 election campaign, Trump unexpectedly told Mexico last week to take a harder line on curbing illegal immigration or face 5% tariffs on all its exports to the United States starting on Monday, rising to as much as 25% later in the year. Mexican officials will seek to persuade the White House in talks hosted by U.S. Vice President Mike Pence on Wednesday that their government has done enough to stem immigration and avoid tariffs. Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said he was optimistic the talks can end in an agreement.

Trump said he would go ahead with the tariffs if Mexico does not do more to control migratio

Lopez Obrador has received an official list of U.S. products that could be subject to retaliatory tariffs if the duties threatened by Trump take effect, officials said in Mexico City.

Trump has faced resistance within his own Republican Party over the threatened tariffs, with many lawmakers concerned about the potential impact on cross-border trade and on U.S. businesses and consumers.



Trucks cross the borderline into the U.S. before border customs control at the World Trade Bridge, as seen from Laredo, Texas U.S., June 3, 2019. REUTERS/Carlos Jasso



Amanda, an asylum seeker from El Salvador, washes shoes as 16 year-old daughter Merli watches at a makeshift tent camp near the Browns-ville-Matamoros International Bridge where they wait in hopes of soon being granted entry into the U.S. in Matamoros

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Sunday, September 8 2019



Editor's Choice



Children play as community members gather in a park to discuss gang violence in Manenberg township, Cape Town



A view of a looted supermarket after Hurricane Dorian hit the Abaco Islands in Marsh Harbour



Plastic waste pile and debris are seen up near the beach in Panama City



Riot police walk near a fire set by anti-extradition bill protesters during a protest at Prince Edward in Hong Kong



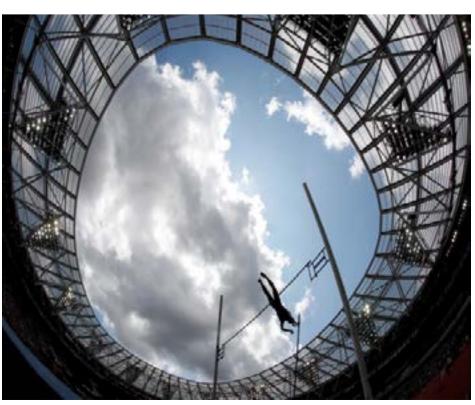
The faithful sing in the rain as Pope Francis holds Holy Mass at Zimpeto stadium in Maputo, Mozambique



Paddlers take part in the Fontanka-SUP stand up paddle boarding festival in Saint Petersburg



A hooded demonstrator waves a Puerto Rican flag during the seventh day of protest calling for the resignation of Governor Ricardo Rossello in San Juan



Athletics - Diamond League - London Anniversary Games - London Stadium, London, Britain 2019 Sweden's Michaela Meijer in action in the women's pole vault REUTERS/David Klein



COMMUNITY

The State Plans For The Next Storm

"Future-Proofing" Texas Against Natural Disaster



Photo courtesy of Texas Task Force 1.

Overview

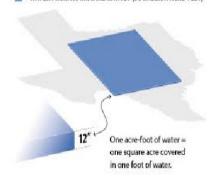
After Hurricane Harvey slammed the Texas Gulf Coast in 2017, state leaders recognized the need to improve our ability to prepare for the inevitable storms to follow.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Gov. Greg Abbott has assembled a special group, the Governor's Commission to Rebuild Texas, both to assist with recovery operations and to recommend improvements in communication, coordination and infrastructure to lessen the impact of future hurricane events.

The commission, led by Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp, issued its Eye of the Storm(PDF) report in November 2018. In evaluating ways to improve Texas' resilience to storms, the report reached into Texas history for a role model: Galveston residents' response to the 1900 hurricane that claimed thousands of lives.

More than a century later, state and local leaders are taking steps to "future-proof" Texas — to improve its ability to prepare, withstand and recover — with lessons learned from Harvey, the second-costliest hurricane in U.S. history. = WATER FROM HURRICANE HARVEY (58 MILLION ACRE-FEET)



HARVEY'S TOLL

In six days, Harvey caused historic flooding, dumping about 58 million acrefeet of water on the Texas coast. Some areas received as much as 60 inches of rain. Storm surges pushed two to 12 feet of water onshore. Wind gusts of up to

145 mph destroyed residences and businesses alike. At least 68 people died as a direct result of the hurricane, mostly by drowning, while about 35 died from indirect effects such as motor-vehicle accidents. About 42,000 people were forced into shelters.

In all, Gov. Abbott ultimately issued disaster declarations for 60 Texas counties, mostly on the coast but some located well away from the main areas of dev-

The Comptroller's office estimated that the storm's net economic impact decreased the Texas gross state product (GSP) by \$3.8 billion in the first year after landfall, although activity associated with reconstruction and recovery caused the economy to regain ground quickly, producing an expected \$800 million gain to GSP after three years.

TEXAS COUNTIES INCLUDED IN TEXAS HARVEY-RELATED DI-SASTER DECLARATIONS



Source: Office of the Governor THE NEXT STORM

In readying the state for future storms, leaders must rally support for changes whose value won't be fully realized until the next disaster. That can be tricky.

"It's a rainy-day problem," says Billy Hamilton, deputy chancellor and chief financial officer for the Texas A&M University System, who guided preparation of the commission's report. "When people are in danger of drowning, everybody understands somebody needs to do something. And then the sun comes out, and the water goes away. People clean up the worst of the muck, and they haul off the debris, and we sort of go back to our



BILLY HAMILTON Deputy Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer,

Texas A&M University System

"Texas has the best response to emergency situations in the country," he says. "It is the model. But recovery, planning, mitigation — it's never been as well organized. And it's not like we can point to some other place and say, 'Well, they're doing a lot better job.' Everybody's in the same boat. The biggest challenge this far removed from the storm is to keep people recognizing that an enormous amount still needs to be done."

Eye of the Storm explores Harvey's impact while assessing the response and prioritizing steps needed to accomplish the immense task of improving the state's long-term recovery efforts and its resilience.

The report's recommendations include: •ensuring state emergency responders are effectively organized, trained and equipped, and that local officials and emergency managers have better train-

•improving communication and coordination among state and local officials with emergency responsibilities. During Harvey, the agents forwarded local requests, comments and concerns to a response center at the Texas A&M University System, where experts worked to get answers. The exchanges were logged, allowing for analysis. The report recommends institutionalizing this arrangement



•providing more timely assistance to survivors. The report suggests using state employees from various entities to create "recovery task forces" to help in specialized areas such as financial assistance.

The commission worked with the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to compile a list of more than 4,000 potential hazard-mitigation projects in counties affected by Harvey that would cost a total of \$108 billion. The projects range from repairing public buildings at an expense of a few million dollars to an ambitious "coastal spine," a barrier to protect against storm surges on Galveston Bay and the Houston Ship Channel that could cost as much as \$11.4 billion. (Courtesy https://comptroller. texas.gov)

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Axios-NewsWhip 2020 Attention Tracker Results

Guns Surge To Top Of National Conversation

Total interactions for week ending August 4th, 2019

SUE RANK IIS WEEK		WEEKLY RANK SINCE JAN. 7	1-WEEK TOTAL	CHANGE IN RANK	
1	Guns		28.3m	7	
2	Immigration		9.8m	*:	
3	Foreign policy	And the second second second	9.3m	% :	
4	Social issues	ومعمره وريعروب	6.3m	7	
5	Economy		4.1m		
6	Trade	and the same	3.Om	×	
7	Climate change		3.Om	7	
8	Courts and electoral issues	ويمعنون يروع يستداده	2.6m	* 5	
9	Health care		2.4m	1	
10	Finance	and property and property	2.2m	× :	

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

After the two mass shootings last weekend, gun violence has displaced immigration as the most-talked about news topic on social media for the first time since May, according to data from News-Whip provided exclusively to Southern Daily via Axios.

Why it matters: The emotional intensity of gun violence makes it a topic that generates ferocious debate and calls for action on social media after a high-profile event. Yet the activism is cyclical, and the issue has yet to be a defining issue in elections.

Between the lines: Video games were the topic adjacent to the shooting that generated the most interactions (retweets, likes, comments, shares) on Facebook

and Twitter (2.08M) for stories written on the Saturday of the shootings as well as the following two days.

These pieces were largely blowback against President Trump and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy for comments that video games were to blame for the shootings.



BUSINESS

Other countries with similar or higher rates of video game playing have lower rates of shootings.

Other topics we examined that were related to the shooting included white supremacy, white nationalism, domestic terrorism, 8chan and mental illness.

The big picture: Unlike most other hot-button political topics, most of the stories that went the farthest about the weekend shootings were straightforward breaking news headlines without partisan tilt.

Accounts of heroism were the genre of non-breaking news that generated the most interactions.

2020 candidates: While many of the 2020 Democrats sought to place responsibility for the shootings on Trump, these stories largely didn't break through.

Among the 75 biggest stories about guns and shootings from last week (which included the Gilroy Garlic shooting from the previous weekend) only two of these stories were about comments from 2020 candidates:

Pete Buttigieg: America 'Under Attack From Homegrown White Nationalist Terrorists' (HuffPost, 147k interactions)



Beto O'Rourke: Trump's 'racism' leads to violence like El Paso mass shooting (CNN, 93k)

The mass shootings were the biggest story for just 5 of the candidates on the week that included the second debate. Three of those 5 came from conservative outlets.

Our 2020 attention tracker is based on data from NewsWhip exclusively provided to Axios as part of a project that will regularly update throughout the 2020 campaign.



Why this tracker matters: The data on interactions — including likes, comments and shares — highlights an important, but under-appreciated element of an election: the ability to see beyond our own social feeds and understand the broader universe playing out of how candidates and issues are moving the minds of voters.

It measures enthusiasm in a way that traditional polling does not.

The sample size taken from these social media platforms is massive.

Social media is powered by emotion-driven content, and emotional responses are likely to be aligned with a voter's true beliefs in a way that can be masked in polling.

While the volume of interactions does not gauge the sentiment of the reactions, the ability to generate reach allows a candidate to expand the universe of potential voters.

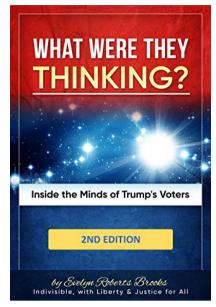
Bots also cannot be ignored, and we will point out in this space if there are documented instances of bot activity for certain candidates or issues.

Methodology: This project measures

the number of social media interactions generated on stories published about the 2020 candidates and issues.

Interactions are calculated from reactions, comments and shares on those stories on Facebook as well as the number of shares from more than 300,000 influential Twitter accounts and retweets and likes on those posts.

Tracked published stories come from a defined universe of more than 450,000 domains.



A story registers for a candidate or issue if the keyword is mentioned in the head-line, summary or URL of the story.

Our search format for candidates looks like: "Joe Biden" OR ("Biden" AND ("President" OR "2020" OR "election" OR "Democrats" OR "primary")).
For issues, we use a keyword tree for re-

See past editions of the tracker here: https://www.axios.com/2020-attention-tracker-library-3c8f61f3-a64c-4473-ac32-3ea76d525770 html

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導演徐漢強今天也先來搶先體驗 ,他一走進去就像重溫拍片時光,他 說:「有一種惡夢又回來的感覺了。 」展覽館用了許多當時拍片道具,就 連教官在現場出現都讓<u>人覺</u>得仿佛眞 的教官在現場一樣。

除此之外,這次更邀請臺北多元 藝術空間靑少年發展促進會(藝靑會)的傅星翰,爲體驗館設計「防空洞 區教官墻面」:以整面墻突顯教官威 嚴的形象,一進門就能感受到被無形 的雙眼監視,在那個年代追求自由的 過程中背負無形卻眞實的壓力;「教 室區自由之樹」:以舊書,文集,以 及戒嚴時代的報紙事件組成的自由之 樹,人們追求自由過程中堆疊起來的 希望,在無數的大小事件中希望萌芽 ,變成枝幹,果實,樹葉,象徵自由 根深蒂固並成長茁壯,但過程很長並 且辛苦,而需要相當的付出。

白電影賠錢洗 龍劭華耍狠塞女友當女·



日前才入圍金鐘獎2獎項 的演員龍劭華,在國片「江湖 無難事」裡扮演霸氣又幽默的 黑道大哥,不但過足戲廳,更 率領一幫笑將與實力派演員惡 搞電影圈

今天公佈角色版預告,再 出來,一開場便是邱澤在冷凍 的空間中顫抖的模樣,十足吸 睛,他以製片豪洨的身份來訴 說電影故事,他與導演文西 (穩死)爲了拍電影賠到「脫 褲」,不得不加入龍劭華旗下 的黑社會來還債,卻意外獲得 拍電影的機會,龍劭華便以氣 勢萬千的黑社會金主之姿出現 ,逼導演要用小女友姚以緹當 電影女主角。

預告中也可以見到黑社會 組織成員顏正國、黃尚禾、吳 震亞和鋼鐵爸,還有幫助邱澤 拍片的梁赫群及阿喜(林育品) ,再加上陳漢典,各個都是 實力派及搞笑高手,都各有特 色的亮相!最後更不忘這部電 影的中心思想「奧斯卡夢」,

接連出現讓人意外的獎項, 「最佳影騙」、「最佳倒演」 「最佳女煮腳」、「最佳鞭 劇」、再加上結尾的大爆炸, 可說是 5 一 大到最高點!

龍劭華表示最初拿到劇本 覺得這個題材台灣很少見,而 且也很難拍,「有不少大場面 ,臨演至少也是要個100多人 。」但他覺得這次 拍攝經驗很特殊,「我第一次 和導演高炳權及其他演員合作 ,拍起來很愉快,大家感情都 很好。」

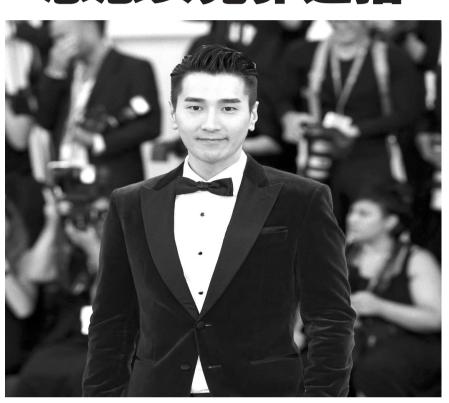
龍劭華累積演技深厚功力 ,才在剛揭曉的金鐘入圍名單中 一人獨佔男主角和男配角兩項大 獎提名,非常風光,而在「江湖 無難事」龍劭華電影中竟然負責 唯一一條的「愛情線」,和女主 角有情感交流的角色,導演高炳 權說:「角色直接就是叫龍哥, 當初我就是鎖定請龍劭華演出。 一個對龍劭華的專業精神印象深 刻,「我們第一場戲,龍哥就脫 到只剩內褲,但他配合度超高, 很直接、大方。」

雖然表面搞笑,但龍劭 華演出的黑道大哥也有老謀 深算及心狠手辣的一面,讓 龍劭華展現多面向的演技深 度,讓他特別鼓勵劇組, 「我一直鼓勵導演,『江湖 無難事』的題材非常的新,

很特別。我們可以朝金馬獎 努力,需要的話,我可以多 -點,整部作品就要拍精 緻一點。」而片中他還有一 群手下,也都是實力派演員 ,演起黑道說服力十足,包 括顏正國、黃尚禾、吳震亞 及鋼鐵爸, 眾人時而耍狠, 時而搞笑,讓電影內容更爲 豐富

此片也入選 釜山影展亞 洲之窗,導演感言:「覺得 有點豪洨,想不到這個在停 紅綠燈時想到個故事概念, 竟被拍了出來,然後還被釜 山影展認證!沒想過這支片 會跟影展們結緣,謝謝釜山 影展,謝謝一起努力的夥伴 們,謝謝家人,江湖真的無 難事。」

趙又廷初登威尼斯



第76屆威尼斯影展於8月底開 跑,鞏俐與趙又廷主演、婁燁執導 的「蘭心大劇院」入圍此影展主競 賽,兩人有望爭帝后。該片於台灣 時間昨(5日)凌晨舉辦首映,除 了主演還有同片演出的小田切讓都 走上紅毯,吸引不少鎂光燈。

趙又廷穿著酒紅絲絨西裝到場 ,在記者會上以流利英文向國際媒 體打招呼,看完首映的他表示: 「感覺非常好,跟導演以往的作品 感覺不太一樣。劇情很強、人物的 狀態掌握得非常好。攝影很美,黑 白色調讓整部片增色不少。我自己 很喜歡。俐姊完美!很有魅力。」 至於如何看待自己的表演? 趙又 廷說:「我看到了一個陌生的趙又 廷,看不出來是自己演的,我覺得 這點非常好。」

初訪威尼斯的趙又廷也成了水 都好奇寶寶,處處都是新鮮事,他 說:「威尼斯果真名不虛傳,一個 迷宫般的城市等著你去四處去探索

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,特別的交通方式讓這一切顯得更 有趣。我沒來過這樣的城市,感覺 很好、很特別。」他結束威尼斯影 展行程後,6日將再飛往多倫多, 行程滿檔的他會不時透過手機裡女 兒的照片抒發思念,相當暖心

鞏俐身穿超低胸爆乳、露腿裝 牽著老公走紅毯,期間還有不少鞏 俐的外國粉絲到會場應援,更有人 手持中文小卡片入鏡,整齊地寫著 「鞏俐!!我在太陽下,等了你3 小時!」,意外成為話題。

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Sunday, September 8, 2019

從"小寂寞"到"大時代"

當聞人悅閱寫作的時候,她便開始關注時代 的聲音——有一種發掘平靜表面下驚濤駭浪的耐 心,仔細觀察個人在時代中的情感和無奈,以及 個人與時代的關係。"我們這個時代還在進 行當中,一切還沒有定論。"而當她從歷史 的節點切入,卻發現以前所關心的事情都 可以在歷史中找到答案。 於是, 醞釀 20 年的84萬字小說《琥珀》出世,她 也跳出了"小寂寞"、"小 惆悵"的圈子,成為了一個 書寫"大時代"的人。 聞人悅閱對香港有着特殊的感情。

文、攝:嘉言

△火 起聞人悦閱,總繞不開她的名字。"聞 **言父**人"是浙江地區的複姓,"悦閱"則是 父母冀望女兒喜愛閱讀,而她也正如其名般對 閱讀由衷熱愛。"看書看得入了迷,難免技 癢,躍躍欲試,就變成了寫書的人。"寫作是 她童年時代的第一個夢想,在理想交互更替的 成長歲月中保存了下來,無論處於何種狀態, 坐下提筆便能開始寫。內地出生,紐約求學, 香港定居,她輾轉三地,對生活了十幾年的香 港也有着特別的感情: "香港是包容性的國際 化都市,我在寫《琥珀》的時候,很多的資料 調查都是在香港完成的,書中也有一些關於香 港的片段,這是很難得的。我感謝這個城市, 支持我這些年的創作,這也是一種緣分。"

是傳奇也是好看的故事

2018年歲末,聞人悦閱交出84萬字的大河 小説《琥珀》,以諜報為題材,以1920年代為 開端,從蒙疆到歐陸,自上海到紐約,從二戰 到國共內戰,自美蘇冷戰到商場雲湧,交織出 歷經百年的磅礴巨構。"《琥珀》是我自己對 寫作生涯的一個交代,對個人來說,書寫已經 是一種必須,文字記錄是一種責任。就像在自 序中提到的,有文字陪伴,歷史才不孤單。 《琥珀》的架構比較宏大,在時間上跨越了-個多世紀,空間的詮釋是用一種全球視野的角 度,把中國放在世界中來寫。"

《琥珀》在進入寫作狀態之前,產生於她 大學時代的偶然經歷。"我當時在紐約唸書, 那是個充滿傳奇的地方。有一次,我在大都會 博物館參觀,那一天風很大,天氣陰沉沉的, 有小販在叫賣: '琥珀要不要?'於是, '琥 珀'這個意象就跳出來了。我想寫一個在紐約 的中國人的傳奇故事,那時就有了莫小嫻這個 名字,也構想了一群在她身邊可以延續傳奇的 年輕人。"當時她就已經開始醞釀這個故事, 它既要是一個傳奇,也要是一個好看的故事。

隨着人慢慢成長,她看了很多史料,走訪 了不同地方,拓闊視野,同時建立了自己的世 界觀,梳理究竟發生過什麼事之後,想到可以 用二戰消失的琥珀屋來作為引子。這個故事終 於在真實歷史中找到了切入點,逐漸豐滿,最 終水到渠成。這個過程, 醞釀了20年, 而這 種完整,離不開她廣泛的閱讀,包括港大圖書 館,以及美國史丹佛大學胡佛研究所東亞圖書 館,都是《琥珀》的資料來源。

如橋樑般存在的角色

嫻) 在紐約過世,杜琥珀作為杜家唯一的孫 年輕的一代,其實對新生代要多包容才會有希 女,繼承了杜老太的龐大商業帝國和複雜人 望。"她説。

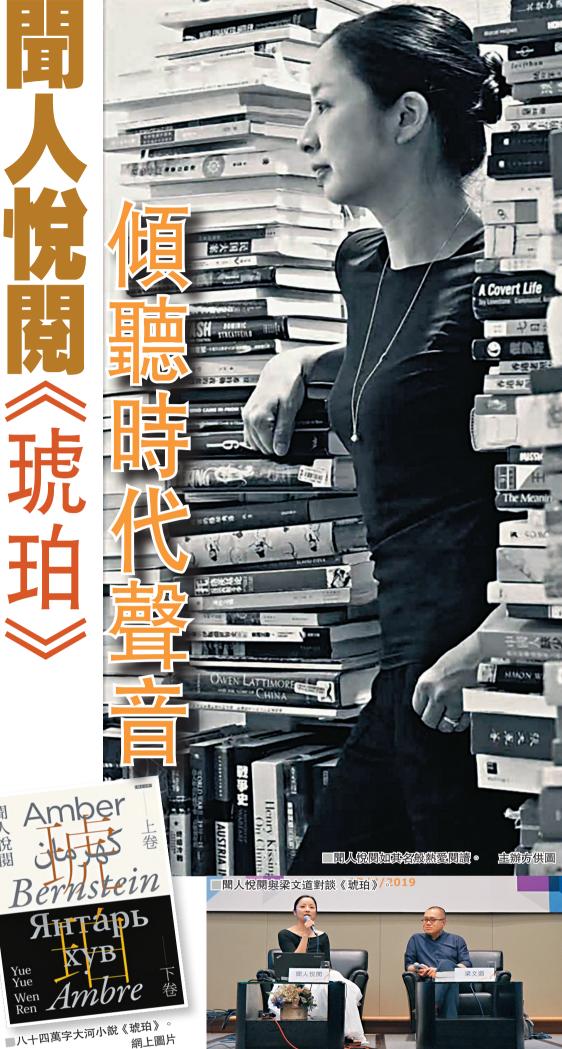
脈,而流傳在杜家的那個關於琥珀屋的離奇傳 説,令塵封往事慢慢浮出水面……在聞人悦閱看 來,《琥珀》中的莫小嫻是橋樑般的人物,雖然 是虛構的,但絕對有機會在歷史中真實地存在 過。莫小嫻像武俠書中的少女,具有極佳的天 賦,每個遇到的人都有"武林秘籍"想要傳授給 她,只是這"秘籍"是知識和思想,或許要比武 功有趣得多。同樣,大家也將心中朦朧的希望灌 輸到她身上,如同種下一顆種子,期待未來成長 為參天大樹。"莫小嫻後來達成這樣的成就,也 與少年時期的經歷密不可分。她的人生有着合理 性,不會像玄幻故事,經歷了這麼多的歷史事 件,莫小嫻都沒有死,這也反映出了我們每個人 心中都有着美好的願望——當看到時代往崩壞的 方向走時,總希望有這樣一個橋樑般的人物出 現,來解決問題。"

但她也同時提到,在寫作中,角色並不是 一成不變的。這些角色,在寫的時候是屬於她 的,但寫完之後她就不再擁有,而是將其交給 了讀者。"當故事寫完,角色還在活下去。我 進入故事很深,寫得很興奮,故事中的角色彷 彿身邊的朋友。每個人都在不斷往前走,當明 白了這個過程,心會變得平靜下來。自己可以 選擇,將人生過成什麼樣子。"她認真地說。

小與大的互相影響

聞人悦閱是紐約 Cooper Union 大學電機 工程學士,紐約大學商學院金融碩士。她曾獲 聯合文學小説新人獎中篇首獎,出版有小説集 《太平盛世》、《黄小艾》、《掘金紀》、 《小寂寞》;童話《小中尉》、《小仙》;散 文集《紐約本色》、《小惆悵》。長篇小説 《掘金紀》獲選《亞洲週刊》年度全球十大華 文小説。她過往的許多作品中都有一個"小" 字,"小"並不代表格局小,而是有種敝帚自 珍的意味, "用'小'這個詞也許是自謙,舉 重若輕而已。"

但《琥珀》卻是書寫大時代的故事,她其 實之前的書寫也一直在關注時代的聲音,大多 與自己的時代比較接近,這種關心的結果只有 -種可能,就是把眼光放得更遠,看到更早的 時代,從而會發現一切都是有聯繫的,而且歷 史也在一種不斷的重複當中。"小與大,是一 種遠近的區別,而不分主次,它們是互相影響 的。離你我比較近的時代, 近在眼前, 可以近 到看清生活起居的細節,所以顯得小;看更早 的歷史,因為已經有了一個全知的角度,所以 顯得宏大。個人是被小和大同時影響着的。時 《琥珀》 開端講述杜老太杜亓 (即莫小 代無論大小,還是要向前走,《琥珀》也寫了



到成為被"音樂之神"眷顧的"中國新 觀眾對古典音樂的欣賞水平很高。"他 十大男高音",郝幸娃的音樂之路從不 説。 是坦途。他二十年如一日堅持技巧訓練 磨礪"人聲樂器",不忘初心堅持歌劇 這門"正功",在挑戰新角色的過程中 有所感悟, "我們首先傳遞的是情感和

人性,其次才是聲音和技術。" 郝幸娃日前受香港歌劇院藝術總監 莫華倫邀請,在香港大會堂音樂廳演出 歌劇《丑角》,這也是他首次在港演 出。"我去年曾來港為一項國際性音樂 比賽做頒獎嘉賓,我喜歡香港,這裡的 生活節奏快且品質高。香港作為國際化

期待挑戰新角色

意大利現實主義歌劇《丑角》通常與 《鄉村騎士》共同演出,《丑角》是根據 一宗十九世紀末意大利發生的謀殺案改編 而成。主角卡尼奧為戲班班主,妻子妮達 背着丈夫與年輕的西爾維奧偷情。生怕東 窗事發, 妮達欲與西爾維奧斷交。同時戲 班小丑東尼奧亦傾慕妮達並向她表白,可 惜遭拒絕。東尼奧一心報復妮達,便轉向 卡尼奧告發妮達偷情之事。怒火中燒的卡

不忘初心再挑戰

下手刃妻子。郝幸娃首次出演卡尼奧一 苦,飛去歐美演出時甚至來不及倒時差 角,強烈的戲劇衝突要求男高音的聲音富 便要投入排練, "每日都要練習兩個小 有張力,甚或在台上歇斯底里,這對作為 時的基本功,學譜子的時間另計,要遵 演新角色,無論是演戲還是和樂都需要時 體……"生活少了些樂趣,憑藉一腔熱 間去慢慢磨合,他已提前十幾日到港排 愛來支撐,因為"歌劇是對年輕演員最 練,全力以赴投入演出。

身為中央電視台評選出的"中國新 十大男高音",他曾多次參加中央電視 劇,放鬆歌劇的演出對我們是不利的。 台《民歌中國》、《天天把歌唱》、 《四季音樂會》、《合唱春晚》、《新 功,這個行業就廢掉了。" 民歌演唱會》等節目。同樣,作為"中 國文聯"的志願者,他也會去到全國各

"抒情男高音"的他具有一定的挑戰。出 守嚴苛的生活作息,要戒口,要鍛煉身 好的鍛煉","雖然男高音也上音樂 會、上電視,但我們的'正功'是歌 若是年輕演員只上綜藝節目而不練基本

> 文:香港文匯報記者 張岳悅 圖片由受訪者提供





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