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# ISPrinT

GLOBAL NEWS FOR GLOBAL VIEWS

**LA teachers on strike**

for more funding and better  
pay

**Republicans  
expand gun access**

after increased mass shootings

**WE FEED OUR STUDENTS  
RESPECT US!  
PAY US!**

**education workers united**  
SEIU LOCAL 99

**No mandatory sterilization  
for trans people**

in the Czech Republic

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AND MORE INSIDE...

# After Mass Shootings, US Republicans Expand Access to Guns

In light of the recent mass shooting at Covenant School in Nashville, many are taking a hard look at the increasing accessibility of firearms. Despite multiple school shootings in the past week in American states like Texas, Colorado, and Pennsylvania, Republicans in statehouses around the US have been pushing to expand access to guns. There have been calls and protests for more comprehensive gun control measures in the wake of multiple mass shootings.

After Nashville's recent shooting, Tennessee lawmakers have moved to make firearms even more accessible, proposing bills this year to arm more teachers and allow college students to carry weapons on campus, among other measures. The same day of the shooting, a federal judge signed off on a state settlement allowing people as young as 18 to carry a handgun without a permit.

Last year, the state of Tennessee eliminated several permit requirements and now allows most residents to carry loaded guns in public without training or background checks. Tennessee Governor Bill Lee has insisted that tighter firearm laws would never deter wrongdoers. This sentiment has been echoed in other states, such as Kentucky, Ohio, Nebraska, Texas, and Virginia, where Republicans have pushed to limit gun-free zones, remove background checks, and roll back red-flag laws that seek to remove firearms from those who are a danger to themselves or others. In 25 states, no permits are required to carry a handgun. The National Rifle Association remains a potent force on the right despite a recent drop in fundraising.

The parents of the Nashville shooter had reported that their child was under doctors' care and "should not own weapons" but had purchased seven firearms from five local gun stores and used three of them during the attack.

"We can't control what they do" Gov. Bill Lee said.

Despite calls for more comprehensive gun control measures, Republicans in statehouses around the country continue to push for expanded gun access.



Viviana Hernandez, 11, visited a makeshift memorial for the victims of the shooting at the Covenant School in Nashville on Wednesday. Credit... Desiree Rios/The New York Times

**WRITTEN BY: MARIA  
CHERKASOVA**

# New machine learning allows expansive reef detecting in the long term

A new tool called the Delta maps machine provides a new method to evaluate the types of reef that are most fit for survival. It can also help scientists understand which reefs are crucial in delivering larvae to others. According to researchers in the journal *Communications Biology*, this new method should be aimed to conserve in the long-term. This type of machine learning can help conservationists control different climate conditions in large areas of marine ecosystems throughout increased periods of time, which has not been successful before. With the new tool, scientists investigated how climate change affects biodiversity and the connections between different environments in the western Pacific Ocean's Coral Triangle, which is rich in biodiversity and is the most biologically complex marine ecosystem in the world.

Lyuba Novi and Annalisa Bracco, the developers of the method from Georgia Tech's School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, mention that the Coral Triangle has more chances for rebuilding its biodiversity than any other place on Earth due to the region's dynamic climate component. This is important, because conservationists and authorities worldwide need to recognize which ecosystems require the most protection and monitoring.



Life in the Coral Triangle. Image by Mark Kay

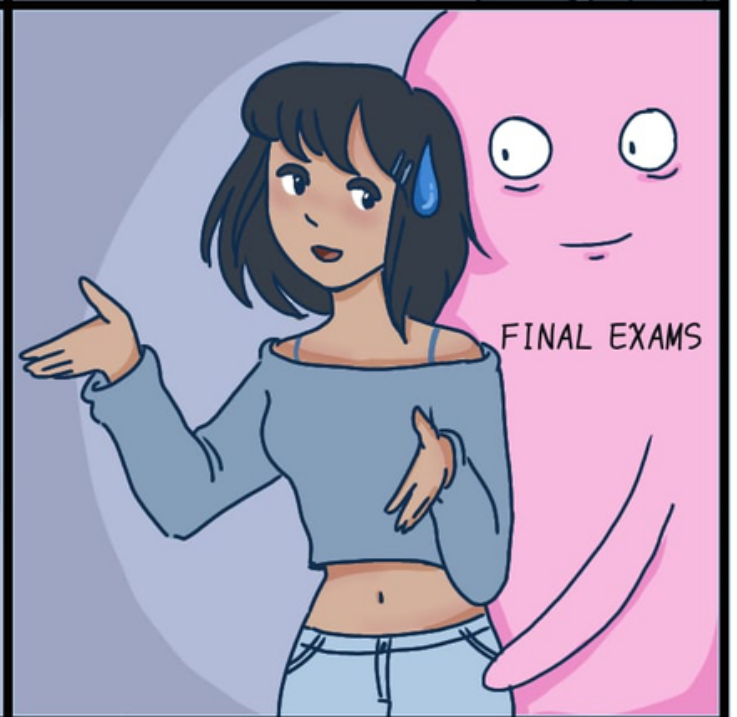
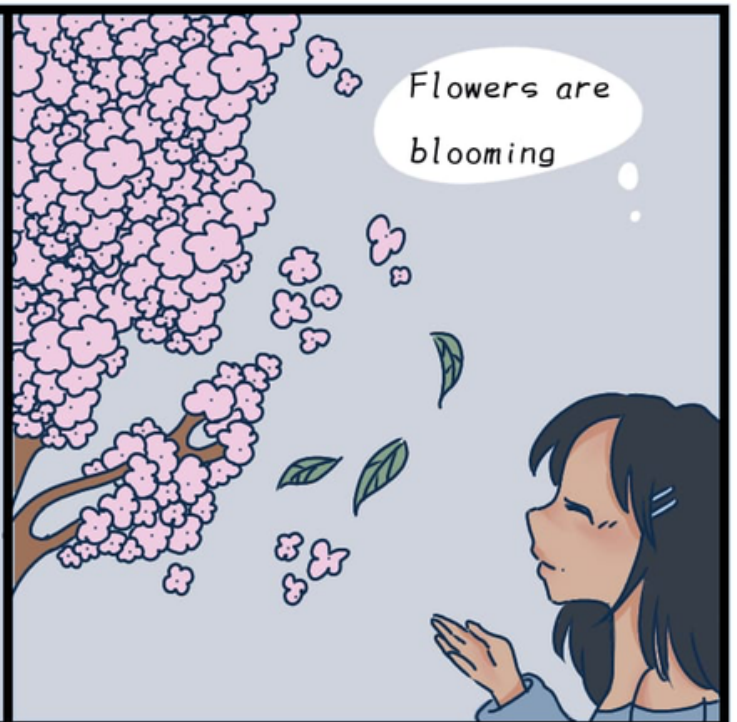


Life in the Coral Triangle. Image by Mark Kay.

Novi and Bracco plan to demonstrate their research to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and include more evidence about issues such as pollution, overfishing maps, and others in order to develop the result and a monitoring system for seasonal as well as annual time periods. "Alone may or may not be sufficient, but in conjunction with in-situ monitoring we believe will revolutionize coral monitoring," Bracco stated.

**WRITTEN BY: ARTA  
MOTIEKAITE**

# A comic by Alisa Krotov



# FUND OUR SCHOOLS

## LA School Workers go on Strike

School workers in the city of Los Angeles, California, went on a three-day strike to demand more respect, better conditions, and higher pay. Because the strike was in the US' second largest school district, hundreds of campuses had to close which resulted in the cancellation of classes for over 422,000 students.

The strike initially began with bus drivers walking a picket line outside a Los Angeles Unified School District lot. The union that represents 30,000 teacher's assistants, bus drivers, custodians, and cafeteria workers is aiming for a 30 percent increase in pay. Many of them claim they are not paid much more than minimum wage and struggle to provide for their families or even spend time with them. The years without any sort of raise was a major source of motivation for these strikes.



Thousands of Los Angeles Unified School District teachers and Service Employees International Union 99 members rally outside the LAUSD headquarters in Los Angeles Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

Alberto M. Carvalho, the district superintendent, had repeatedly discussed the consequences of the actions of the union members because of the strike and how that would have a huge negative impact on the students. He mentioned how classroom hours would be lost and harm the student's right to an education which not many of them can afford. However, the school workers still strive towards better treatment for themselves in order to be treated fairly and equally.

One of the bus drivers, Jovita Padilla, said she felt invisible in, "an industry that tends to praise teachers." Padilla continued to say, "Everybody else gets raises, what about us?"

Support for organized labor has been become increasingly common, specifically, strikes by teachers and education workers. A large number of public employees felt the need for a "drastic change".



A crowd of Los Angeles Unified School District teachers and Service Employees International Union 99 (SEIU) members gather in Grand Park in front of City Hall on Wednesday, March 15, 2023.

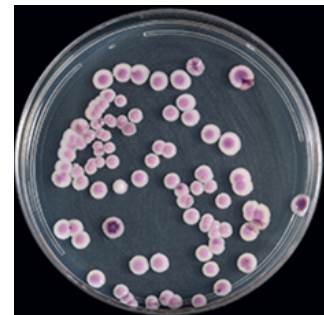
**WRITTEN BY: FATIMA  
MONAWAR**

# Candida Auris - a deadly fungus spreading at an “alarming rate”

Candida Auris is a fungus that has been rapidly spreading across the United States at an “alarming rate”, says the CDC. Although the fungus was first identified in 2009 in Japan, the cases remained rather low until recently. In 2021, the cases doubled from roughly 700 to almost 1500.

For the most part, healthy individuals aren't at high risk for being infected by C. Auris; the fungus is mainly transmitted in healthcare settings through equipment such as ventilators, catheters, or IVs. As a result, those who use such medical devices, suffer from other illnesses, or have lengthy stays at healthcare facilities can be at risk. Nonetheless, it can spread through contact with infected individuals, or contaminated surfaces and equipment.

When it comes to treatment, C. Auris is often multidrug-resistant, this means that it has the ability to resist drugs that are commonly used to treat similar fungal infections. Due to this, the mortality rate is high, around one in three patients who have contracted the infection have died.



A petri dish containing Candida Auris

Concerning symptoms, we don't yet know what they are. This is because the people who have contracted C. Auris were already suffering from other illnesses. However, many people who did contract the infection experienced fever and chills.

Since C. Auris has begun spreading at a high rate recently in the US, there isn't a lot of information we know about it thus far. This, in combination with the lack of preventative methods and the ability to easily identify the illness, may be the reason for it spreading at such a rapid rate.

Unfortunately, we will likely be seeing similar illnesses more frequently due to climate change. With rising temperatures, some disease-causing fungi are now able to spread to areas that were previously too cold for them. Other human infectious diseases like malaria and dengue fever will also spread to other regions that were also previously too cold for the insects that transmit them. Overall, climate change will be having many negative effects on us and the world around us, so it is necessary to take the extra step to slow down climate change, whether it is through taking public transport to school, saving energy at home, or even changing to more sustainable eating habits.

# End of mandatory sterilization for trans people in Czechia

On Thursday, March 30th, the Ministry of Justice along with the Government Commissioner for Human Rights, announced that people wishing to have their gender reassigned in Czechia will no longer have to undergo mandatory sterilization. In fact, this new law will allow people to officially change their gender by making a personal statement and having a medical recommendation. Therefore, they will be able to do it before undergoing gender reassignment surgery.



Participants hold a giant rainbow flag during the Prague Pride Parade where thousands marched through the city centre in support of gay rights, in Czech Republic, August 13, 2016. © 2016 Reuters

Czechia is one of the last EU countries that requires sterilization, which many have called a barbaric practice. As Šimáčková Laurenčíková stated "the European Court of Human Rights and the UN Committee on Human Rights and Torture unequivocally reject the requirement of castration for gender reassignment. The UN committee even assesses it as torture and inhumane treatment, which must stop".

**WRITTEN BY:  
GABRIELLA GUTHRIE**

# About Us

ISPrint is a student-led newsletter which brings to you the best and latest of school happenings, local news, and world events— all in bitesize reports and easy-to-read segments. With motivated student-journalists and editors from different countries, we strive to provide coverage as diverse as the team that puts it together. In doing so, we hope to promote global awareness, intercultural understanding, and engagement in the school community.

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