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Trump: It's my decision when to reopen U.S. economy



Inside C2

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‘There is a real risk’ of new outbreak if U.S. states reopen too soon: Fauci



Dr Anthony Fauci testifies remotely to the Senate Committee for Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions hearing on the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Washington

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Leading U.S. infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci on Tuesday warned Congress that a premature lifting of lockdowns could lead to additional outbreaks of the deadly coronavirus, which has killed 80,000 Americans and brought the economy to its knees.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases speaks remotely during the Senate Committee for Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions hearing on the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Washington, U.S., May 12, 2020. Win McNamee/Pool via REUTERS

Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told a U.S. Senate panel that states should follow health experts' recommendations to wait for signs including a declining number of new infections before reopening.

President Donald Trump has been encouraging states to end a weeks-long shuttering of major components of their economies. But senators heard a sobering assessment from Fauci, when asked by Democrats about a premature opening of the economy. "There is a real risk that you will trigger an outbreak that you may not be able to control and, in fact paradoxically, will set you back, not only leading to some suffering and death that could be avoided, but could even set you back

on the road to try to get economic recovery," Fauci said.

The COVID-19 respiratory disease caused by the new coronavirus has infected more than 1.3 million Americans and killed more than 80,600.

Fauci, a member of Trump's coronavirus task force, told the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee that the nation's efforts to battle the deadly virus and the COVID-19 disease it triggers should be "focused on the proven public health practices of containment and mitigation."

Fauci, 79, testified remotely in a room lined with books as he self-quarantines after he may have come into contact with either of two members of the White House staff who were diagnosed with COVID-19. He noted that he may go to the White House if needed.

Last week, Fauci was blocked by the White House from testifying to a Democratic-controlled House of Representatives panel. The White House had said such testimony by the infectious disease expert would have been "counterproductive." "All roads back to work and back to school run through testing and that what our country has done so far on testing is impressive, but not nearly enough," Lamar Alexander, the Republican chairman of the Senate committee, said in an opening statement to Tuesday's hearing. Alexander is also self-quarantining in his home state of Tennessee for 14 days after a member of his staff tested positive.

Alexander chaired the hearing virtually.

Democrats on the health committee largely concentrated on the risks of opening the U.S. economy too soon, while Republicans downplayed that notion, saying a prolonged shutdown could have serious negative impacts on people's health and the health of the economy. Trump, who previously made the strength of the economy central to his pitch for his November re-election, has encouraged states to reopen businesses that had been deemed non-essential amid the pandemic. His administration has largely left it to states to decide whether and how to reopen. State governors are taking varying approaches, with a growing number relaxing tough restrictions enacted to slow the outbreak, even as opinion polls show most Americans are concerned about reopening too soon. Senator Patty Murray, the senior committee Democrat, criticizing aspects of the administration's response to the pandemic, said Americans "need leadership, they need a plan, they need honesty and they need it now, before we reopen." Others testifying on Tuesday included U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Robert Redfield, Assistant Secretary for Health Brett Giroir and Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Stephen Hahn. Each testified remotely. Meanwhile, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, a Democrat, told reporters that a Democratic bill to provide significant new federal aid in response to the coronavirus pandemic could be unveiled later on Tuesday, with a possible House of Representatives votes on it on Friday.

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S&P 500 edges lower on risks linked to economy reopening

(Reuters) - The S&P 500 dipped in choppy trading on Tuesday as the risks of reopening the economy too soon overshadowed hopes of a jump-start to a battered global economy, following an easing of virus-led business shut-downs.

Leading U.S. infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci warned Congress that a premature opening of the nation's economy could lead to additional outbreaks of the novel coronavirus.

Optimism about an economic recovery and massive stimulus measures have helped the benchmark index climb about 34% from the lows of a pandemic-driven selloff in March.

“There’s an assumption that the worst is behind us, (but) it feels a bit premature to be frank,” said Keith Buchanan, a portfolio manager at GLOBALT in Atlanta.

“We do see accelerating infection in some places, but how that story is written into the far is yet to be seen.”

Wall Street’s fear gauge slipped for the fourth day running, hitting a ten-week low, even as data showed U.S. consumer prices in April dropped by the most since the Great Recession.

Among the 11 major sectors, financial stocks, which generally lag when the economic outlook dims, weighed the most on the S&P 500.

Also dragging the sector lower was a 6.3% fall in BlackRock Inc, after its top shareholder PNC Financial Services Group Inc planned to sell its entire 22% stake in the world’s largest asset manager.

“The market is little bit too optimistic over what the economy is going to look like this summer,” said Steven Blitz, chief U.S. economist at TS Lombard.



FILE PHOTO: The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is seen in the financial district of lower Manhattan during the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in New York City, U.S., April 26, 2020. REUTERS/Jeenah Moon

“The stories about economy reopening has to turn into data showing that people are coming back and spending.”

At 12:52 p.m. ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 6.36 points, or 0.03%, at 24,228.35, the S&P 500 was down 3.51 points, or 0.12%, at 2,926.81. The Nasdaq Composite was up 34.92 points, or 0.38%, at 9,227.26.

Among other stocks, online food delivery company GrubHub Inc surged 34% after a

person familiar with the matter said Uber Technologies Inc was in advanced talks to buy the company in an all-stock deal. Tesla Inc rose 3.3% as President Donald Trump urged the electric carmaker be allowed to reopen its vehicle assembly plant in California.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers for a 1.22-to-1 ratio on the NYSE. Advancing issues outnumbered decliners for a 1.04-to-1 ratio on the Nasdaq.

The S&P index recorded eight new 52-week highs and two new lows, while the Nasdaq recorded 80 new highs and 18 new lows.

Stay Safe!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

More U.S. Deaths Predicted As States Open Up And Relax To Social Distancing



President Donald Trump speaks about the coronavirus during a press briefing in the Rose Garden of the White House on May 11 in Washington, D.C.

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

A key model of the coronavirus pandemic favored by the White House nearly doubled its prediction Monday for how many people will die from the virus in the U.S. by August – primarily because states are reopening too soon.

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington’s School of Medicine is now projecting 134,000 coronavirus-related fatalities, up from a previous prediction of 72,000. Factoring in the scientists’ margin of error, the new prediction ranges from 95,000 to 243,000.

Dr. Christopher Murray, the director of IMHE, told reporters on a call Monday the primary reason for the increase is many states’ “premature relaxation of social distancing.”

For the first time, Murray explained, the model is factoring in data from four different cell phone providers showing a major uptick in Americans’ going out in



Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris, chair of the Assembly Accountability & Administrative Review Committee, questions Mark Ghilarducci, director of the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, about the state’s purchase of protective equipment to battle the coronavirus, during an oversight hearing in Sacramento, Calif. on May 11.

This rise of mobility in the last week or 10 days is likely leading to an increase in transmission, he said.

Monday’s update is the fourth since the

model debuted in late March. It’s been relied on by the White House in recent months because it presents a more optimistic forecast on health system capacity, cases and deaths than other experts have predicted.

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Nicki Raman serves Beth Derry and Scott Deckard at the Peppermint Downtown Thai restaurant on May 11 in Palm Beach, Florida.

For the first time, Murray explained, the model is factoring in data from four different cell phone providers showing a major uptick in Americans’ going out in public.

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have predicted.

Even with its latest forecast, the University of Washington model is still far more optimistic than a model developed by Johns Hopkins for CDC predicting as many as 3,000 deaths per day by June. Murray said that model, which the New York Times published Monday, is likely inaccurate.

The White House on Monday acknowledged the existence of the internal administration document but asserted that the grim modeling had not gone through interagency vetting and “is not reflective” of any projections from or analyzed by the White House coronavirus task force.



Massachusetts US Army National Guard soldiers distribute food at John Ruiz Park to people suffering from food insecurity due to the coronavirus pandemic on May 11 in Chelsea, Massachusetts.

In a statement to reporters, White House deputy press secretary Judd Deere said that the internal report obtained by The New York Times was “not a White House document” and hadn’t been presented to the coronavirus task force.

The alarming modeling comes as some states are already beginning to put parts of the White House’s phased reopening plan into motion despite concerns that the administration’s guidelines for doing so have not yet been met. It also underscores fears that moving too fast to relax strict social-distancing restrictions could fuel a dangerous second wave of infections.

The CDC document found some reason for optimism, noting that nationwide, the trajectory of new illnesses in “multiple counties, including hard hit areas in

Louisiana and in the New York City region” has continued to decrease, and that incidence rates have recently plateaued around Chicago.

Still, it found that there “remains a large number of counties whose burden [of illness] continues to grow or are in an elevated incidence plateau, including in the Great Lakes region, parts of the Southeast, Northeast, and around southern California.



A medical worker walks by a ‘Thank You’ sign outside of a special coronavirus intake area at Maimonides Medical Center on May 11 in New York.

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This rise of mobility in the last week or 10 days is likely leading to an increase in transmission, he said. (Courtesy <https://www.msn.com/>)

Editor's Choice



A visitor takes a selfie as the Shanghai Disneyland theme park reopens in Shanghai, China. REUTERS/Aly Song



Personal trainer Flo Dowler leads the residents of Napier Avenue in a workout fitness class in Fulham, West London, Britain. REUTERS/Kevin Coombs



Nurses wearing face masks take part in an event held to mark the International Nurses Day, at Wuhan Tongji Hospital in Wuhan, the Chinese city hit hardest by the coronavirus. China Daily via REUTERS



Karle Manke, 77, cuts a customer's hair at his barber shop which he opened on May 4th and has since been issued two citations, defying the coronavirus executive order of Governor Gretchen Whitmer, in Owosso, Michigan. Manke says he will keep his shop...



Palestinians run away from tear gas fired by Israeli forces during a raid after an Israeli soldier was killed by a rock, in Yabad near Jenin in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. REUTERS/Mohamad Torokman



Mortuary workers Stuart Emans and Graham Cowper move the body of a deceased person from a trolley to a coffin in the mortuary at Poppy's Funerals in Lambeth Cemetery, in London, Britain. REUTERS/Hannah McKay



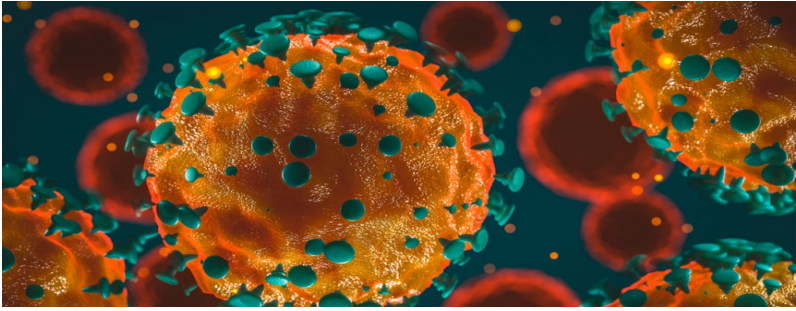
Argentine couple Constanza Coll and Juan Manuel Dordal play with their son Ulises on their sailboat in the waters of the Guanabara Bay, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. REUTERS/Ricardo Moraes



A student has her hands sanitized in the schoolyard, as schools outside the greater Montreal region begin to reopen their doors, in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec, Canada. REUTERS/Christinne Muschi

*The Efforts May Eventually Support
Scientists On Their Quest For The Cure*

Oak Ridge National Research Lab Using Supercomputing To Combat Coronavirus



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

As researchers race to identify and unleash new scientific breakthroughs to combat the COVID-19 outbreak, the Energy Department’s Summit supercomputer is playing a role in the fight. Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where Summit is housed, recently granted researchers emergency computation time to run through a database of existing drug compounds to see which combinations might prevent cell infection of COVID-19. The research is still ongoing, but with the help of Summit, scientists were already able to perform simulations that resulted in outputs that they believe will help pave the way for new, necessary experimentation to support researchers on their quest for a cure.

Jeremy Smith, Governor’s Chair at the University of Tennessee and director of the UT/ORNL Center for Molecular Biophysics, as well as experts from IBM and NVIDIA (companies that provide underlying technological components that help power Summit) recently briefed Nextgov on the work.

“Summit is the world’s most powerful supercomputer and was needed to rapidly get the simulation results we were looking for,” Smith said.

Energy in 2014 partnered with IBM, NVIDIA and Mellanox in a contract worth hundreds of millions to produce

the Summit supercomputer to enhance civilian-focused scientific research, and also the Sierra supercomputer, which was designed for nuclear



Oak Ridge National Laboratory weapons simulations and is located at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. An Oak Ridge official confirmed Wednesday that Summit had not previously been used to address public health emergencies or virus outbreaks in the past.

But following the speedy outbreak of the new coronavirus strain, Smith found a relevant study recently published by Chinese scientists and realized he and his team “could take their work further,” with Summit’s help. “That was on January 30th,” Smith said. “Nicholas Smith, the other co-author on this paper, [in which the two Smiths published their initial work] promptly fell ill with the flu, but while he was incapacitated, still managed to run jobs on Summit.”

To infect cells, viruses bind to what’s

called a “spike” protein and inject their genetic material into host cells. However, if particular drug compounds bind to the virus’ spike proteins, they could potentially block COVID-19 from infecting humans. The challenge is that researchers must embark on a very slow, intensive process to narrow down the range of potential variables that could work in blocking the virus, and each variable could hold millions to billions of unique pieces of data. But during a global health outbreak, speed is of the essence.



The Energy Department’s Summit supercomputer

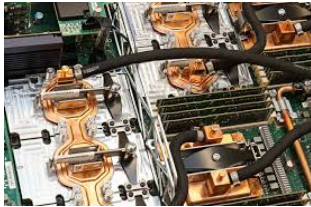
at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

“In any situation where time is a critical factor—for example, a health issue or a company trying to get a new product out to market—supercomputers can play a critical role through digital simulation. It would be prohibitively time-consuming for researchers to grow virus cultures and test them with the near infinite amount of molecular compounds that exist in the physical world,” IBM’s Vice President, Exascale Systems Dave Turek told Nextgov. “So supercomputers like Summit can speed up that process by digitally simulating the effect to narrow down the range of possibilities researchers can look into.”

To put the “world’s smartest” supercomputer’s capabilities into perspective, Turek noted that “if every person on Earth completed one calculation per second, it would take 305 days to do what Summit can do in 1 second!”

Harnessing that power, Smith and his team designed a computational model then performed simulations on—and were subsequently able to rank—a database of 8,000 existing drug compounds that “are likely to be rapidly deployable because their toxicity profiles are mostly known.” Through that research and with the super-

computer’s help, the team was then able to narrow down the compounds, which include medications and natural compounds, to a “top-ranked” subset of at least 77 that might impair the new coronavirus’ strain from infecting host cells. The team can now run more targeted experiments on those, to advance and accelerate their efforts to find new solutions to cure and control COVID-19. Without Summit’s powerful supercomputing and simulation capabilities, Smith said the work “would have been possible—but would have taken months rather than days.”



Experimentation generally follows computation, so now, Smith and

his team must collaborate with relevant experimentalists to test those top compounds on the virus to see what works and what doesn’t, and ideally from there, eventually identify a drug that can be used to fight it. He said it is an iterative process, through which the team’s calculations are refined continuously to improve the predictions about how drug compounds will interact with the virus.

“Our hope is that, by using a database of known compounds, we can greatly reduce the time it takes to make an effective drug publicly available, but there is no guarantee,” Smith said.

Summit’s massive data processing capability was made possible in part by server nodes equipped with central processing units, or CPUs, from IBM and graphics processing units, or GPUs, from NVIDIA. Paresh Kharya, NVIDIA’s director of product management for artificial intelligence and cloud computing, told Nextgov that the company’s GPUs have also been “instrumental” in helping other researchers understand the physical structure of the COVID-19 virus.

“Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin and the National Institutes of Health announced that they created the first 3D, atomic scale map of the part of the

virus that attaches to and infects human cells—known as the spike protein,” Kharya said. Smith and his team now also plan to run their computational study again with this new, “highly accurate” version of the spike protein. “The paper we submitted is a first step in a back-and-forth between experiment and computation that hopefully will find a drug to repurpose,” Smith said. “That could happen next week, next year, or never. If not, we’ll have to design a new one from scratch and that takes a long time and a lot of money because of the need for extensive safety testing.”



IBM’s Turek emphasized that a sort of all-hands-on-deck approach made possible through public-private partnerships “like the one [IBM has] with Oak Ridge, NVIDIA, and Mellanox” are paramount in paving the way for new scientific breakthrough, because they open many relevant experts up to a “wealth of new technology, perspective, insights, and ideas that we may never realize if we operated in a silo.” Smith, too, added that on top of this work shared between government and industry, “strong partnerships among the national laboratories and universities are important to the scientific infrastructure, enabling universities access to the world’s most powerful facilities and linking national laboratory experts with university researchers to help further their goals of scientific discovery.”

He noted that while there hasn’t been any discoveries from this initial research yet, the biggest impact so far is that the team has started that crucial interplay between computation and experiment.

“By the way, the calculations are still running as we speak, as we try constantly to improve the predictions,” Smith said. “We’ll keep plugging away.” (Courtesy <https://www.nextgov.com/>)



川普政府恐對中國留學生OPT開刀,律師:為了政治目的

【美南新聞記者蕭永群報導】疫情發展至今,川普政府逐漸限縮移民政策,除了目前因疫情暫停受理綠卡申請以外,還傳聞川普政府恐對持有OPT與CPT的中國留學生實施



限制。對此,休斯頓地區陳文律師認為,相關限制與規定很有可能不在不久的將來就公布,認為持有這些簽證的族群要多加留意。

陳文律師指出,目前川辦對綠卡限制法案,參照了2015年由兩位參議員提出法規的

S2394,雖然2018年該法案被眾議院推翻,此次卻趁著疫情的特殊情況,被川普政府以國家利益為前提,拿來作暫時限制綠卡法]命令。

陳文也指出,從1月中國疫情爆發以來,美國就已下令禁止中國遊客、訪問交流、等各種短期簽證申請。隨後也限制了與歐洲、加拿大、墨西哥等地的交流,等說是已經禁止了大部分的人進出美國。

然而這些命令的實施,缺乏了與經濟學家的商討,也沒有建立預測模型,來說明移民對美國防疫的影響是好是壞。事實上,不少專家也指出,限制綠卡的移民禁令,相較經濟刺激措施、就業措施、發放貸款等,對防疫與經濟影響不大,反而是「政治意義」大於防疫。

甚至,這樣的移民禁令對經濟復甦不見得對有幫助,陳文指出,實際上移民可以增加消費,也有許多移民是來美創業的,能

提供本國人就業機會。



除了綠卡禁令之外,美國國土安全部局長沃爾夫(Chad Wolf)在上周左右宣布,川普政府正在思考要重新改革留學生的OPT與CPT制度。這項提議源於佛羅裏達國會議員柯頓(Tom Cotton),柯頓提出不能讓中國留學生來美國學習專業技術,甚至調侃道只能讓留學生學「莎士比亞」,即使莎士比亞根本不是美國文學。

由此可見,此次川普政府主要目標是中國留學生,陳文律師認為,隨著大選將近,川普急於用這些措施來實施政治目的,因此關於這類簽證的改革很有可能不久後就會提出,對華人學生十分糟糕。陳文律師也提出一些學生因應的措施,如:還沒有申請者抓緊時間遞交案件、考慮轉別的身份(O1, J1, F2, H4等),而對於高學歷人才,可以考慮在就讀期間就遞交EB1A或NIW,盡快申請綠卡。

陳文認為,總體來講這些可能針對移民限制措施政治意味濃,因為11月要大選,為了滿足許民口味,卻沒深思熟慮、未對美國長期利益進行思考。她指出美國社會中活躍者很多都是海外移民,尤其是科研機構中有很多華人學者等,對美國科技經濟發展有很多貢獻,盼出現明事理的政治家,否則國家發展將十分受限。

市長:新冠使休斯頓失1.07億營業稅收,財政預算編列大挑戰

【美南新聞記者蕭永群報導】休斯頓市長特納(Sylvester Turner)12日上午公佈了2021財政年度城市預算的細節,並稱這是有史以來最艱難的預算。

特納市長說,所有基金的擬議預算總計為51億美元,增加了6220萬美元,也就是1.2%。普通基金的擬議預算為25.3億美元,比2020財年的當前預算25.5億美元減少了2217萬美元,或0.9%。

新冠大流行對休斯頓市的預算中造成了1.69億美元的缺口。由於這場大流行,預計休斯頓市將損失1.07億美元的營業稅收入,這將對城市服務產生重大影響。

因此,特納列舉以下措施,用以彌補1.69億美元的預算缺口、縮小差距,該提案將包括以下內容:增加1450萬美元的新收入來源

、暫停五項1390萬美元的休城警局學員課程、減少1,370萬美元的應急費用、停職3000名市府員工10日以節省700萬美元、部門裁員以節省90萬、從資金餘額中提取9800萬美元,提取資金來源包括來自預算穩定基金的1500萬美元等各項措施。特納宣

布,如果預算獲得批准,將有3000名市府員工面臨被停職10天。這些休假將從七月開始,但對警察、消防員、或公共汙染處理工人不會有影響。市長還表示,將推遲



五個休斯敦警察學員課程。

此外,市長說這些措施也將預算穩定基金被用罄,該基金是為了在哈維颶風等緊急事件中使用。他說,隨著6月1日即將到來的颶風季節,這也為到時候的局勢造成了不穩定性。市長說:「如果要在六月,七月,八月一場風暴來襲,那這項基金的錢就沒了。」

市長坦言:「儘管面臨嚴峻的財務挑戰,但這項預算將為警察加班、消防訓練班、公園、圖書館、垃圾收集以及排水系統和街道的升級提供了資金。這是一個精簡的預算。而且對我來說,這是我上任市長以來最艱難的預算。」

新冠包圍白宮 兩美軍高層無法參加參謀聯席會議

（綜合報導）又有美國軍方高層人員因為確診或接觸了新冠確診者而無法參與在白宮舉行的參謀長聯席會議，也無法和總統川普會晤。

報導指出，國民警衛隊局長倫吉爾將軍在上星期六的冠狀病毒檢測呈陽性，不過後來再

次檢測又呈現陰性。五角大樓表示，他計劃在周一接受重新測試。

另外，海軍參謀長吉爾迪（Mike Gilday）因為和確診的家庭成員保持有接觸，儘管吉爾迪的測試結果為陰性，他仍然必須居家隔離，在家上班。

美公共退休基金Q1虧損 創新高

（綜合報導）美國追蹤年金投資報酬率的威爾希爾信託環球分析服務（Wilshire TUCS）指出，美股首季暴跌，讓美國的公共退休基金虧損幅度中間值達13.2%，較2008年第4季金融危機時還要高，是威爾希爾追蹤年金投資報酬40年來跌幅最大的一季。

儘管美股4月強勁反彈，彌補了公共退休基金的大部份虧損，但由於仍未能完全而快速地收復所有首季投資虧損的失地，這將會增加各州與地方政府在應付退休金支出上早已沉重不堪的財政負擔。

退休公務員所領取的退休金，是由政府與退休基金共同承擔，當基金的投資績效差讓所撥出的退休金縮水時，各州或地方政府就必須撥出更多經費來填補所缺金額。

緬因州公共雇員退休系統（MainePERS）執行董事馬泰森（Sandy Matheson）說，若該基金的資產價值在6月底會計年度結束時，仍未回到3月底水準的話，緬因州政府負擔的年

金額度，將從8.08億美元增加至9.27億美元。

專家認為各州與地方政府為應付相關的年金支出，勢必壓縮到學童津貼與醫療補助等社會福利，甚至可能要加稅來增加財源。

美國公共退休基金的首季成績單已經夠難看，但更慘的是這可能仍未呈現全部投資虧損的結果。因為從私募股權、不動產、基礎建設和其他私募資產等投資績效通常要1個月後才公布。

根據聯準會資料，美國整體公共退休基金必須有8.9兆美元才能應付退休金的給付，但就算沒有首季的大虧損，所持有的資產仍有4.1兆美元的資金缺口。

主要是數十年來這些基金對自己的投資績效過度樂觀、公務員投入退休基金的額度不足，和民衆愈來愈長壽等因素造成這鉅額缺口，即使美股自2009年以來走了11年的大多頭行情，也未能解決這個問題。



川普嚴防新冠 絕不讓死對頭裴洛西代總統

（綜合報導）就在美國副總統彭斯（Mike Pence）的幕僚新冠肺炎確診後，總統川普終於和副手彼此保持距離，以免眾議院議長裴洛西（Nancy Pelosi）代理總統的情節成真。

據《每日郵報》（Daily Mail）12日報導，一名政府高級官員透露，川普和彭斯諮詢白宮醫療團隊後，近期兩人正保持一定的距離。按照美國憲法規定，萬一正副總統死亡或不能視事，就要由眾議院議長代理總統。

「我們一定要很小心，瘋狂南希將是徹底的災難，」川普周二推文說，「而美國絕不能成為共產國家！」

原本川普對他和彭斯是否該保持距離，以防萬一其中一人感染新冠肺炎時，仍能保持指揮系統運作的問題聽而不聞。然而，川普在彭斯的新聞秘書米勒（Katie Miller）新冠肺炎確診後，態度有了大轉變，並立即採取行動。

川普周一召開新冠肺炎記者會時，彭斯已不在場，而以往這是很不尋常的。從上周四起，兩人就不再同框。這位白宮主人11日指出，自從米勒確診後，他和彭斯就沒見面，並說有事兩人可以電話討論，而無論公開或私下，白宮工作人員也首度全都戴起口罩。



新冠肺炎疫情助攻 Paypal發債進帳40億美元

（綜合報導）新冠肺炎防疫期間，民衆對於數位付款的需求大增，連帶使得線上付款業者PayPal業務蒸蒸日上。PayPal抓緊良機11日宣布發行公司債，順利進帳約40億美元。

PayPal周一股價大跌約0.7%，每股報143.96美元，今年迄今累計上漲33%。知情人士透露，PayPal發行10億美元10年期公司債票面利率約2.3%，較美國公債高出160個基點，但這並不如該公司向美國商家收取的平台銷售佣金費率。

過去兩個月以來，美國政府實施封鎖禁足政策，希望遏制新冠疫情擴散，此舉不僅使得網路賣家生意大好，也讓PayPal等線上支付公司業務量暴增。

PayPal周一也發行3年期、5年期與30年期各10億美元的債券，票面利率分別為1.35%、1.65%與3.25%。信評機構標普全球（S&P Global）將PayPal債信評等列在投資等級BBB+。

這些募得資金將用於償還30億美元貸款，同時用於一般企業用途。標普表示，發行新債對於PayPal而言僅是「中立槓桿」（leverage neutral，形同無舉債經營），畢竟該公司受到肺炎疫情的衝擊較同業低上許多。

財務團隊PeerIQ在報告中指出，PayPal在許多方面都是新冠疫情直接受益者。該公司不僅線上支付與個人匯款交易業務量暴增，同時協助政府發放紓困金給家庭與企業。

根據《新冠病毒援助、救濟和經濟安全法》（CARES Act）規定，政府紓困金可直接存入PayPal與其行動支付平台Venmo，如此一來，民衆便不必苦苦等待支票來到。

川普政府日前推出經濟紓困方案，負責發放小型企業援助的也是PayPal。該公司執行長舒爾曼（Daniel Schulman）上周在財報會議上指出，公司已協助發放超過10億美元的紓困資金。



整天嗡嗡嗡 他家天花板竟躲10萬隻蜜蜂



（綜合報導）美國喬治亞州一名男子搬進新家後，時不時會聽到蜜蜂拍打翅膀的「嗡嗡」聲響，他知道家裡有蜂巢，不過2年後，他請專家移除蜂巢，這才驚訝發現，家中的蜂群不在少數，天花板內竟躲了10萬隻蜜蜂。

美國有線電視新聞網（CNN）報導，喬治亞州男子蒙哥馬利（George Montgomery）2018年春天買了一幢二手屋，當時他就知道新家裡住有蜜蜂，因為時不時會聽到蜜蜂拍打牆面時發出的嗡嗡聲響，當時蒙哥馬利並不以為意，因為他相信蜜蜂不會對他造成威脅。

今年2月，天氣轉熱，蒙哥馬利在庭院除草時屢屢被一大群蜜蜂干擾，他這才下定決心要移除蜂巢。

上周，除蟲公司到他家進行移除工作，透過紅外線熱成像儀，除蟲公司確定蜂巢位置就在房間天花板，打開天花板後，他們使用客製化的蜜蜂吸塵器將一隻隻蜜蜂吸進特製收集箱，一共吸滿了3箱，除蟲公司推測，蒙哥馬利家恐怕住了10萬隻蜜蜂。這個數字相當驚人，因為一般來說，一個普通的蜂群只有約1萬至8萬隻蜜蜂。

蜂群移走後，除蟲公司也摘除重達60磅（約27公斤）的蜂巢。

這10萬隻蜜蜂後來被除蟲公司的員工收養，送到他一處房產和另外100個蜂群共同生活。

十大日勉

肚量大一點，嘴巴甜一點，
行動快一點，效率高一點，
腦筋活一點，理由少一點，
做事多一點，脾氣小一點，
說話輕一點，微笑露一點。

美南新聞日報

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《清平樂》：挑戰文人劇的高難度

正午陽光制作的年度大劇《清平樂》播出以來，無論是收視率還是社會話題遠未達到《瑯琊榜》式的熱度，甚至不及去年《都挺好》的火爆程度。不少人認為，該劇在服化道等技術層面保持了正午陽光壹貫的頂級水準，但是整體上缺乏戲劇衝突，節奏緩慢，導致了觀眾的追劇「續航力」衰退。《清平樂》真的就該撲街嗎？

《清平樂》改編自小說《孤城閉》。劇作放棄原有敘述視角，改為以宋仁宗趙禎為中心，多角度折射歷史上最為文人向往的「仁宗盛治」，整部劇猶如有三面折疊的世界：正面是趙禎、晏殊、範仲淹、歐陽修、韓琦、蘇舜欽等文人組成的森嚴有度的朝堂，背面有趙禎與後宮曹皇后、張貴妃、苗昭儀、徽柔公主等交織成的複雜情感世界，中間則是由勾欄瓦肆、酒樓商鋪、書院鄉野等構成的熱鬧喧囂的社會橫截面。廟堂之高與江湖之遠，世俗市井與精神家園，被導演以工筆式細描壹勾劃出來。我以為，《清平樂》最大的亮點與創新，在於編導以現實主義手法試圖對中國傳統文化中「仁政」思想的影像復原，獨具壹格，勇氣可嘉，這樣的用心之作遠不應被埋沒。

將第壹視角放在宋仁宗身上，就顯示出編導不滿足於小說表現兒女情長的小格局，而是試圖將壹千年前的北宋國力為何如此強盛，其中有何治國理政之道娓娓道來。這種「道」實際上就是儒家文化中「民為貴，社稷次之，君為輕」的思想。如何表現這種「道」其實難度是非常大的。它不能是政論文章壹般枯燥之味，也不能局限於個別歷史細節，而是通過君臣朝堂上評判軍國大事、皇帝深入商家查看蜜餞做法、混入普通觀眾中聽議論自身的說書，乃至忍住自己口腹之欲寬厚待人、禦駕親征之前廣納批評自身的諫言等等，從這些不同維度，廓清「仁宗盛治」產生的內在肌理和文化土壤。電視劇

不再表現皇權的高高在上，而是向觀眾展現了壹種由內而外被制約的王權，強調「民為邦本」的傳統思想。這就將此劇與熱衷表現宮鬥權謀、爭寵吃醋的宮廷劇拉開距離，復原了壹千年前繁華的理想世界。

這部劇還有壹個亮點——對北宋文人的生動表現。北宋自建立之初，就吸取唐朝因藩鎮割據導致覆滅的悲劇，采用重文輕武的策略，形成了「與士大夫共治」的特色政治架構。何為士？「士者，國之元氣，而天下之精神也。」加上宋仁宗的無為而治，才造就了當時文化繁榮、人才輩出的局面，才出現了劇中被稱為「全文默寫並背誦天團」的精彩群像：韓琦出場便敢於在天子面前針砭時事，入朝為官後也敢與丞相呂夷簡針鋒相對；晏殊既有忠耿諫言、力挽狂瀾、堪當國士的壹面，也有雨天撫琴吟詞雅趣的壹面；而身為清流領袖的範仲淹更是讓人印象深刻，以農夫形象出現在應天府書院前並激辯何為「禮」，充滿革新之意，在被貶後竟然能暢然入河掬水而飲，文人的豁達灑脫溢於屏外；年輕的歐陽修才華出眾眾驚不馴，卻不想因作艷詞遭遇科舉滑鐵盧，讓人忍俊不禁……第壹次有電視劇對傳統士大夫的精神世界表現得如此生動精微，順帶還普及人文知識，讓語文課本裏的名字躍然紙上，打下該劇深厚的文人底色。他們「進退皆憂」和「先憂後樂」的擔當精神與絕世風華，是聯系廟堂與民眾的橋梁，更是嚴肅壓抑的宮廷生活的壹個透氣口，壹松壹緊，亦莊亦諧，相得益彰。

文人題材影視劇向來是冷門。從唐詩到宋詞，從李白到蘇軾，絕少有影視作品敢以文人為主角。壹方面，古代文人雖多以文留名，但自身故事缺乏動作感和戲劇感，不適宜改編，國外《莎翁情史》獲得成功，也主要來自《羅密歐與朱麗葉》的戲劇架構；另壹方面，劇中艱深的古文詩詞，半文言式的臺詞對白，



確實提高了閱讀門檻，有些曲高和寡。以上二因，再加上69集的超大體量，是《清平樂》收視溫吞的重要原因。但是，壹部好劇的成功與否，絕不應該僅僅看收視率，而應看是否有經得起歲月淘洗的時代精神與人文內涵。縱觀劇史，被稱為古裝歷史劇巔峰的《大明王朝1566》當年收視率也是慘不忍睹。

當前，現實題材創作是主流，古裝劇在市場遇冷，主要與古裝劇自身價值觀陳舊、題材扎堆引起

的觀眾審美疲勞有關。古裝劇需要加快創作轉型，在技術層面整體水準提升的當下，古裝劇比拼的不再是服化道的精美程度，而是內在的創新意識與過硬品質。《清平樂》在快餐文化甚囂塵上，爽劇、甜寵劇大行其道的當下，以日常現實主義的方式全景透視北宋社會，堅持「沉浸式」表達，形成「慢」節奏，展現傳統中國精神，這種創作勇氣頗為不易，這樣的好劇也應該被鼓勵！

潘粵明不當「小鮮肉」好多年

最近播出的網劇《龍嶺迷窟》出乎意料地獲得壹致好評。除卻制作精良、演員整體在線因素，潘粵明版胡八壹更是得到網友的認可。畢竟，之前的胡八壹都是靳東、陳坤、趙又廷等又帥又紅的版本，潘粵明再次用角色加持了實力派演員的標籤。

《龍嶺迷窟》剛壹開播潘粵明就道歉了：“我看到大家說我胖了，我知道胖八壹會影響燈絲們看這部作品的代入感，向大夥兒道歉！我會在後面的工作中嚴重注意對自身飲食及身材的管控！我也非常想把壹個有意思的可看性很高的角色留在妳們的心目中！我會為此努力！”燈迷們心中的胡八壹，是痞帥痞帥的，雖說潘粵明帥不過靳東、趙又廷，但他畢竟是曾經的「小鮮肉」，瘦起來清秀的模樣尚可。顯然潘粵明早就不把自己當「小鮮肉」了，身材管理失控，變成了略微微肥胖、痞痞的胡八壹。

潘粵明胖版的胡八壹壹露麵，讓觀眾有些失望。隨著劇情的推進，觀眾對胖八壹「真香」了：不說不符合，看他演的角色，就忘記了看書時想象的胡八壹是什麼樣子，看了舒服，看了覺得他就是那個人……越來越多的好評，讓潘粵明重新以角色回歸。做到這壹點不容易，且不說「燈迷」心目中早就有了胡八壹的畫像，還有這些年很多當紅男明星都塑造過這個人物，潘粵明想突破很難。

在《白夜追兇》前，潘粵明是妥妥的「小鮮肉」，他的《京華煙雲》，他的《白蛇傳》，公子哥、白面書生，是潘粵明留在觀眾心中的標籤。那時的他，是娛樂圈炙手可熱的男明星，他的愛情，也是金童玉女的神仙眷侶，他打扮成俊秀的樣子，登上央視舞臺唱妳儂我儂，總是那個文氣、乖乖弱弱的「小鮮肉」。

在最巔峰的時刻，2009年潘粵明遭受嚴重車

禍，壹度下了病危通知。幾年後婚變，經過壹番折騰，潘粵明漸漸淡出了人們的視線，沈了底。在他憑《白夜追兇》再次翻紅前的很長壹段日子裏，潘粵明沒什麼活兒，他最露臉的通告是在《跨界歌王》舞臺上，他的第壹首歌是《快讓我在雪地上撒個野》，震撼全場，太久的沈淪，已然是壹個用紅手帕蒙著眼嘶吼的搖滾中年。細心人可以看見，那壹季《跨界歌王》，潘粵明選的都是顛覆他「小鮮肉」形象的歌，《給自己的歌》是人生的苦澀，《曾經的妳》似乎是激動地告別過往，《悟空》又有勾人攝魄的感動……

後來才知道，正是憑著這檔節目從文到武的華麗轉身，讓潘粵明走進了《白夜追兇》。年輕時太過白淨的臉，或許遮擋了壹個人內心真實的力量，當逆境中重新獲得機會時，這種力量就爆發了。

《白夜追兇》太精彩了，幾乎無人問津的潘粵明，再次成為機場走秀的爆款，走到哪裏都被圍追堵截，人們期待《白夜追兇》第二季，而這部劇只有潘粵明能夠正確將它打開，他飾演的關宏峰、關宏宇兩兄弟，不是用壹個大吼大叫、壹個沉默寡言來區別的誇張套路，而是用正常、平靜的話語，讓人感覺不是壹個人，又說不出哪裏不壹樣。潘粵明在這部劇中，演技讓人嘆服的不止這些，還有兄弟倆白天和黑夜的不同，相當於四個人物，還有拍攝時間線是混亂的，劇情和時間點的切換，難度系數相當大。

上次談到作為優質偶像的王凱時，認為他缺的是壹部爆款，而潘粵明正是用爆款撕下「小鮮肉」標籤，成為真正的實力派演員，又用三年時間，潘粵明通過《龍嶺迷窟》，再次以新的角色把實力派進行到底。這是壹個演員最令人欣喜的成長，不做「小鮮肉」好多年，潘粵明交出合格的答卷。

廣東電影《空巢》在快手短視頻平臺獨家上線，這也是廣東首部與網絡平臺合作的院線電影。這部關注空巢老人生活的電影頗具現實意義與人文關懷，得到廣東省委宣傳部、深圳市委宣傳部的大力支持。片方表示，作品在今年母親節免費上線，是獻給所有母親的節日禮物。

《空巢》由82歲的著名表演藝術家祝希娟領銜主演，巧合的是，她跟片中角色壹樣定居深圳數十年。該片導演張唯的母親也八十多歲了，他和祝希娟壹樣對這個關注老年人心靈健康的故事深有感觸。在接受記者獨家專訪時，張唯表示，希望這部影片能影響更多的老年人從家裏「走出去」，也希望所有的兒女們能多關注老人的心靈需求，而不是僅僅關心他們的物質生活。

A 來自熱門小說，被騙老人的自救與救人

《空巢》講述的是壹位老教師和外來務工小夥子的故事。電影裏，祝希娟飾演的獨居老人趙壹梅大半生教書育人，她善良，充滿愛心，生活中卻孤獨而寂寞。因為保健品推銷員小雷的意外闖入，趙壹梅從剛開始的自我封閉變得開朗。後來，小雷被牽扯進壹起電信詐騙事件，趙壹梅身為受害者卻選擇了寬恕和救贖……

張唯介紹，《空巢》的故事來自著名作家薛憶鴻的同名小說，該作品曾登上百道網「2014年中國銷售百強」排行榜的首位，並在該年入選深圳讀書月「十大好書」，更被翻譯為英文和瑞典文在多國出版。「薛憶鴻是我的朋友，壹次我們聊起這個故事，

我當時便覺得應該拍成電影。」張唯說，他過去從沒有試過購買小說版權，但為了這個感動他的故事破了例。張唯從原著中截取了這一段極富戲劇衝突的故事，並加入自己的感受與創作，最終創作出了這部《空巢》電影。

B 深圳原創電影，表演藝術家祝希娟領銜

今年是深圳經濟特區建立40周年，40年來深圳不僅創造了經濟奇跡，文化建設也取得豐碩成果，培養出壹大批優秀的導演、演員和其他文藝工作者。《空巢》裏除了張唯是深圳本土導演，祝希娟也是深圳文藝名家。這位1962年憑借電影《紅色娘子軍》成為新中國第壹位百花獎最佳女演員的表演藝術家，從1983年起便定居深圳——在來深圳的時間上，與《空巢》中她扮演的趙壹梅不謀而合。張唯透露，兩人見面後聊劇本，當他用十幾分鐘說完故事梗概，祝希娟便看著她的眼睛說：“導演，這個角色我來演，因為真的很適合我。”

4月29日，國家電影局召開電影應對疫情工作視頻會議，指出要統籌好線上供給，同時加強對院線電影網絡播出和網絡電影發展的通盤規劃，積極利用互聯網推動電影發展。為響應號召，《空巢》採取線上發行方式，成為快手第壹部合作的院線電影，也是廣東省首部與網絡平臺合作的院線電影。影片將於5月10日正式在快手平臺獨家上線，觀眾只需在手機等電子設備裏下載快手app並搜索「空巢」，即可免費觀影。

C 老人多走出去，子女別總

問他們冷不冷

作為壹名獨立電影人，張唯擅長在電影中采取獨特視角，用樸素自然的紀實性手法展現社會邊緣人物的生存狀態。如電影《空巢》，其拍攝場景大部分都在壹間空落的房間內，張唯的目的便是展現物理上的獨立空間與人物多重內心世界的矛盾統壹。片中的空巢老人趙壹梅早年喪夫，性格獨立的她不願搬去北方與兒子同住，而與保健品銷售員小雷的相遇則多少填補了她內心的孤寂。張唯說：“這樣的老人我們身邊有很多，我很希望他們都能來看看這部電影，希望他們從中受到鼓勵和啟發，能多點走出去，逛街也好，交朋友也好，跳廣場舞也好，總之不要封閉自己。”而作為壹位八十多歲母親的兒子，張唯也通過影片對自己乃至所有的子女們提出了要求：“我們做兒女的要多給父母壹些陪伴，如果不在壹個城市就多打打電話。要給他們心靈上的關注，而不是總問他們冷不冷，夠不夠錢花，需要買什麼東西。要知道，老人們那種精神上的缺失感，他們自己往往是說不出來的。”

多《空巢》導演呼籲：關注老人精神上的缺失感

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「蝙蝠俠」即將再度登場 「阿福」喊 史上最黑暗

由「猩球崛起」系列導演麥特利維斯執導，羅伯派汀森主演的「蝙蝠俠」將於2021年10月上映，該片眾星雲集，找來柯林法洛演出「企鵝」、保羅迪諾演出「謎語人」、柔伊克拉維茲演出「貓女」，雖然因為疫情影響導致該片暫時停拍，不過在片中飾演管家「阿福」的演技派男星安迪瑟金斯受訪時則大讚：「這是史上最黑暗的DC電影。」

安迪瑟金斯接受「LADbible」訪問時就開宗明義表示「這會比前幾部DC電影都還要黑暗」，安迪並說出他的想法，「這有很大一部分會是阿福與布魯斯之間的情感聯繫，也是故事的核心之一，這可說是麥特所寫得非常精美的劇本」，他也強調自己的版本的阿福與先前的傑瑞米艾朗、米高肯恩比較起來很不一樣，「米高肯恩已經太棒了，他的阿福是個傳奇，我無法到達那種地步」，但是安迪仍試圖演出不同風格的阿福，也表示這會是個很不一樣的阿福。

但最近因為疫情影響，導致電影暫時停拍，安迪瑟金斯也證實此事，並說電影目前才拍了大概四分之一，等待疫情稍緩後才會再拍，「等時間合適，我們就會回到片場拍攝，這真的很讓人興奮，羅伯也是一個了不起的演員，我們又很多偉大的演員，和他們一起踏上這段旅程，感到我們正在嘗試做些不一樣的事情，真的很令人興奮」。

「小鬼」長大恥度破表？ 麥考利克金要和 71 歲影后嘿咻！



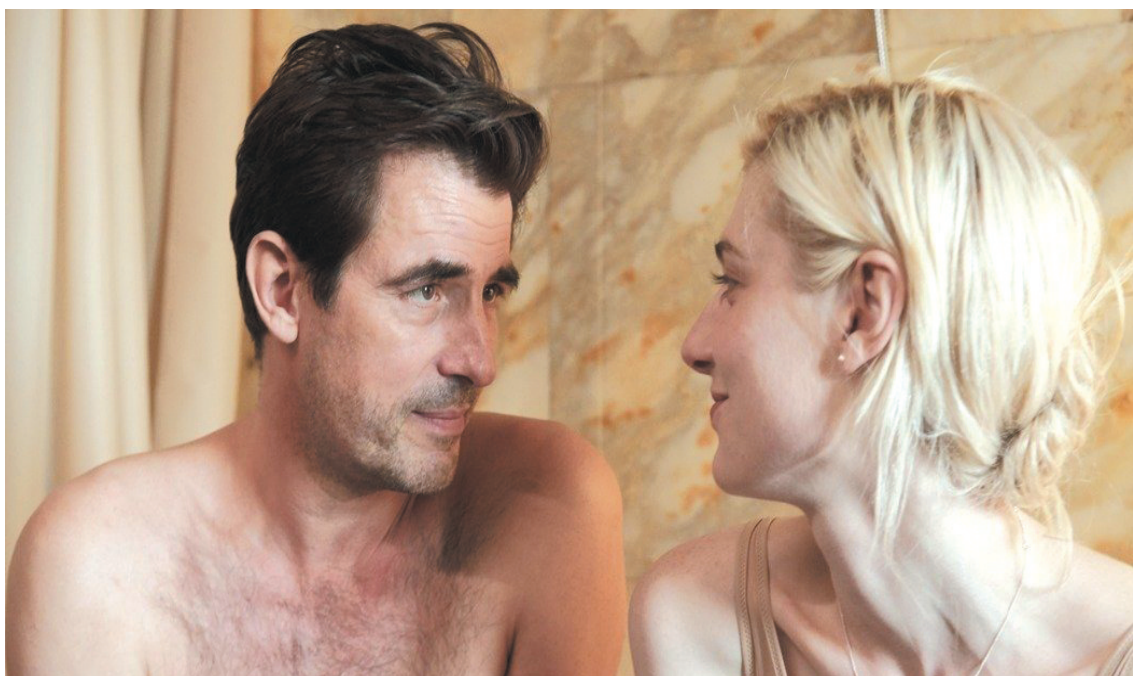
在全球無數觀眾心目中，麥考利克金永遠是「小鬼當家」裡可愛又精靈的模樣，就算他現在已經39歲，由於天生娃娃臉，一點都沒有中年大叔的感覺，彷彿始終停留在青春期。不過麥考利最新角色即將讓影迷震驚：將在「美國恐怖故事」第10季中，和71歲奧斯卡影后凱西貝茲有瘋狂煽情的性愛對手戲！

麥考利克金最紅時，因是童星界的天王，就算扮演恐怖壞小孩，也完全沒有性愛鏡頭。成年後在電視電影中，也不太常有過於激情裸露的情色演出，使得他決定大解放讓各方大為訝異，特別對手還是比他大了32歲的凱西貝茲。無巧不巧，當麥考利的「小鬼當家」全美大賣讓他大紅，

凱西也在同時期推出的「戰慄遊戲」飾演病態女書迷，勇奪奧斯卡影后。那時兩部片都看過的觀眾，一定猜不到一臉陰森的邪惡大姊，居然有朝一日能和可愛討喜的小男孩「嘿咻」，光用想像都讓人不舒服。

然而「美國恐怖故事」原創人萊恩墨菲透露，跟麥考利克金提到想請他在該劇第10季與凱西貝茲有瘋狂的性愛以及其他對手戲，麥考利想了一下回答：「聽起來好像我根本就為此角色而生。」爽快簽下演出合約，並沒有怎麼抗拒。雖然麥考利與凱西的床戲還沒拍，萊恩墨菲自己都很期待新冠肺炎疫情和緩後，可以馬上拍攝這段重頭戲。

影帝攜手美女挑戰情慾驚悚 「謊畫情人」交織慾望



即將於5月22日在台上映的情慾驚悚電影「謊畫情人」(The Burnt Orange Heresy)，由「抓狂美術館」歐洲影帝克萊斯邦 Claes Bang 攜手「紳士密令」迷人女星伊莉莎白戴比基 (Elizabeth Debicki) 共同主演，描述瀟灑迷人的藝術評論家詹姆士和美麗旅人貝倫妮絲，在義大利偶然相識、隨即陷入熱戀，但兩人的關係卻在詹姆士接下盜取名畫的委託之後逐漸失控，兩人在片中充滿激情又危險的化學作用，加上情慾解放又急轉直下的懸疑情節，令電影於威尼斯影展首映

後大獲好評，受訪時，影帝克萊斯邦也表示：「這絕對不是一般的懸疑電影，而是帶有性感元素的黑暗驚悚懸疑片，結局絕對會讓你大吃一驚。」

電影「謊畫情人」改編自義大利暢銷同名小說，並由金獅獎提名導演吉塞佩卡波通蒂 (Giuseppe Capotondi) 執導，在中文預告中，可發現除了男女主角之外，更聚集了兩位超強卡司，包括奧斯卡終身成就獎得主唐納德蘇德蘭 Donald Sutherland 及傳奇滾石樂團主唱麥克傑格 (Mick Jagger

)，兩人分別飾演神祕藝術家及充滿野心的藝術收藏家，預告中，唐納德蘇德蘭一句「大部分人都表裡不一」暗示了每個人都有自己的秘密，也讓人對四位角色的關係更感到撲朔迷離，對於這樣的情節安排，導演吉塞佩卡波通蒂說：「這是一個關於慾望與謊言交織的故事，每位主角似乎都有好幾張面具，分別在不同場合戴上，我想觀眾不到最後，絕對分不清楚到底誰在說謊，而主角為了滿足慾望而不計代價的情節絕對會讓人感到不寒而慄。」

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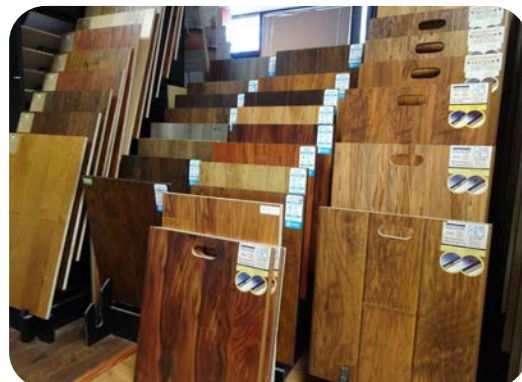
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