

## DNA could be used to spot eight of the most common cancers

*By Solenn C. and Corentin M.*

Some scientists have found a method to identify cancers when no symptoms were visible (by blood tests of patients and by



using their own DNA characters).

Those tests were a success as 70% of eight of the most common cancers were found before the symptoms appeared (the tests have been made on about 1000 patients). By using this daily system, some patients have been totally cured.

In the future, their tests could be used in routine screening or to increase the number of patients able to receive an early treatment. The test detected errors in 16 commonly mutated genes in different types of cancers.

Patients' blood has also been tested for eight known protein biomarkers that are

seen to varying degrees depending on where a tumor is in the body.



The current test doesn't detect every cancer. However it detected many cancers that cannot usually be spotted.

The team behind the test, CancerSEEK predicted that the procedure would ultimately cost less than \$500 per patient.

Source: the Guardian

## Global Gag Rules harm women's health

*By Camille, Lucien P. and Remi.*

**About one year ago, Donald Trump reinstated the Mexico City Policy called "Global Gag Rules" and today, the impact begins to be felt.**

### What's the Global Gag Rules?

The Global Gag Rules, a typical Republican administration's idea, were implemented in 1984 for the first time in order to prohibit abortion counseling and services and all organizations that defend abortion decriminalization in foreign

countries. This way, they made NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) pledge that they will not inform and perform abortions - except in "rare" cases of rape or incest -.



### Trump's reform.

Trump prohibits allocation of U.S. funding to foreign non-governmental organizations that offer abortion services or information about legal procedures. This has a big impact and a lot of consequences on communities, in particular on the health of women in the developing world and on the most vulnerable communities, according to Amos Simpano, the director of clinical services for family and health operations in Kenya. There are, in fact, "disastrous effects" such as the closure of clinics which could offer HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment, maternal health and counseling on sexual violence ; and that encouraged the use of unsafe abortions. Yet, the USA is still the world's largest provider of medical aid abroad spending \$8.8 billion in federal funding to all global health assistance and not only for family planning as was the case before Trump's reform was implemented.

**If the policy isn't accused directly of the deaths of a number of women, there is no doubt that allocations could save some lives.**

## Apple Addiction

*By Okxana and Capucine V.*

This year, Apple may create a new smartphone which will encourage us to be more cautious, more thoughtful and to use it less. Scientists have indeed been studying how we use digital technology and warning us for a few years against its negative effects on the brain.



Addiction to digital technology is a problem that concerns us all. In fact, many companies make money thanks to the attention we pay to the adverts they publish on social networks. Some people are actually employed to keep users hooked to applications.

Many investors have asked Apple to do more about the effects of its products on children. Apple is not responsible for overconsumption but they're responsible for the well-being of their customers. Many experts believe that investors are right: Apple has a moral responsibility towards the welfare of its customers. Apple also has control over advertising companies. Each advertising name needs to appear on iPhones or iPads, which means that Apple sets the rules.

Some people have given ideas to Apple to make a less addictive phone. One of them is to give more feedback on how they use their phone. Try to imagine if once a week you receive a notification giving you a recap of the time spent on your smartphone such as "Mary, this week you spent 30 hours on social networks." Are you proud of that?"

A second suggestion was to give people more control over the notifications that they receive. Maybe Apple can require that the apps assign a level of priority of its mobile alerts according to people's profiles that could be divided into 3 categories : the heavy users, the scheduled users or light users.

There is however a danger that these alerts might become too intrusive.

In January Apple posted a declaration stating that they were worried about the effects of their products on users and their entourage. Apple rarely talk about their future products, so they refused to share their thoughts about their new projects but we hope they are working on something spectacular.

Source: *The New York Times*

## **Cheddar man: a black skin for a 10.000 year old Briton**

*By Thibaud B.*

"Cheddar man" is the name of the oldest modern Briton found in the Cheddar Gorge in Britain in 1903. This prehistoric man who was a hunter-gatherer from the Mesolithic lived 10 000 ago. He died young

(20-30yo) from a violent death and was found alone although group funerals were more customary at the time.

Scientists had always assumed that the skin color of Africans having immigrated to England had changed around 45,000 B.C. They thought that they should have become white-skinned and fair-haired because of the less sunny weather to boost the production of their vitamin D.

But scientists from the National History Museum of London and the University College of London analyzed Cheddar Man's DNA and revealed he was a black-skinned, blue-eyed and curly-haired man. This would mean that the genes of British people would have different origins. The majority should come from a population of Eastern Europeans who arrived much later in the United Kingdom, with knowledge of agriculture. However it seems that the current population of England has 10% of its ancestors coming from the Cheddar man's people.



# President of US wants to abolish DACA program

*By R.S and L.B*



On January 25<sup>th</sup>, in West Virginia, President Donald Trump put pressure on the Democrats to remove the DACA program, which was created through an executive order by former President Barack Obama in 2012 and which allowed certain people who came to the U.S. illegally as minors to be protected from immediate deportation. Young immigrants concerned by this program, called Dreamers, were able to request “consideration of deferred action” for a period of two years, which was subject to renewal.

“Deferred action is a use of prosecutorial discretion to defer removal action against an individual for a certain period of time” U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services stated. “Deferred action does not provide lawful status.” Individuals were able to request DACA status if they were under the age of 31 on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2012, came to

the U.S. before 16 and lived continuously in the country since June 15<sup>th</sup> 2007. President Trump accused the Democrats of remaining passive in a speech to Republican lawmakers.

He thinks they want to see him fail and don't help him willingly. He also announces to his Republican colleagues that he will have to make compromises to reach an agreement. The president declared “ They talk a good game with DACA, but they don't produce” by speaking implicitly of the government under Obama. Trump made the decision to end the DACA program in September, on the pretext that he was acting in reaction to the former president who used too much of his authority in setting up this program that protects young immigrants. He gave a deadline to take action against this program : March 5<sup>th</sup>. President Trump then proposed a law that would house 1.8 million young immigrants in exchange for building a wall to prevent family immigration and ending a visa lottery program intended to promote diversity among immigrants admitted to the United States.

However, if Trump wants to remove the DACA law for the protection of immigrants, he needs more senators' votes to get there because most senators are divided on the issue of immigrants. For example, Senator John Thunes said that “if Senators can resolve DACA and border security, it may be the best they can hope for”. In parallel, Senator James Lankford said he was not interested in a change in DACA law and Rep. Mark Meadows, Republican of North Carolina and Conservative House Freedom Caucus, think this change will not happen and the law will be rejected.

Trump is still far from his final project of destruction of the DACA law and this will surely never happen.

# Turpin Children's Dreadful Childhood

*By L. S. and associate*

6 a.m in Perris, California, a child-like silhouette sneaks out through the window of the Turpin family's house. A few moments later, the police station receives an emergency call from a teenager, panting while striving to express the urgency of her situation.

As soon as they hung up, the cops rushed to the address she had given. In the usually calm neighborhood, the coming of many police cars left the neighbors astonished.

The house seemed peaceful but when the



policemen came in, they discovered the extent of the damage. A putrid smell was filling the inside of the house. They found thirteen children handcuffed in several rooms. The floor was scattered with human waste, which proved to the investigators that the children had been prevented from going to the toilets. One

of the children even revealed that they were allowed to shower only once a year.

The parents, David Allen Turpin and Louise Anna Turpin, started abusing their children in 2010 when they moved from Texas to California. They would prevent them from playing with toys which were however found in their original packaging in the Turpins' home. David and Louise would also beat their children often, sometimes only because they had washed their hands slightly above the wrist which meant to them that they had been "playing in the water".

The children were starving except for the 2-year-old baby who was normally fed and not mistreated. The siblings looked like they were all young children or teenagers even though some of them were more than eighteen years old, which is due to the fact that their growth had been slowed down by the lack of food.

Mike Hestrin, Riverside County District Attorney, who delivered the charges in front of the court appearance at a press conference, said: "What started out as neglect became severe, pervasive, prolonged child abuse."

Two dozen charges were pressed against Mr and Mrs Turpin, which could risk up to 94 years of imprisonment.



## Oil Smuggling Between China and North Korea



*By Mélissa M and Nawele A.*

Two ships, one a 11,253-ton oil tanker named the Lighthouse Winmore that was heading to Taiwan met another boat which was carrying North Korea's flag. Pictures of the boats, in an illicit high-seas exchange, were indeed taken from an American spy plane. The Lighthouse Winmore offloaded 600 tons of oil to the North Korean ship according to what an official later said. This traffic is a violation of the United Nations sanctions which made North Korea restrict its trade but which forced them to do it illegally.

Following those events, Donald Trump said on Twitter that China had been caught red-handed in this smuggling, allowing illicit deliveries to North Korea. A day later, North Korea said that they had taken away the Lighthouse Winmore ship. After China cut imports of a variety of products to North Korea, D. Trump praised the Chinese government.

## Travis Kalanick, the billionaire without any kind of respect

By Alban L.

The very controversial Co-founder of Uber, Travis Kalanick, is again in the media storm, after he left his leading position in June 2017 because of bad communication such as his bad jokes and his sneak tricks to avoid policemen.

The billionaire is for example blamed for nicknaming his company "Boob-er" to refer to its tendency to help him to attract girls, or when in 2015, it was found out that the US drivers of the company had the 'greyball' program, which is simply a device allowing to dodge policemen trying to catch drivers and deny them service in cities where Uber was not allowed to work yet.



But now Kalanick is facing legal action we learned recently that Anthony Levandowski, a former engineer of Waymo, a car firm owned by Google and the founder of Otto, a Uber company, was revealed to have stolen around 14,000 very confidential folders from Waymo about autonomous cars. Otto had been bought by Kalanick who knew about the

theft, as was revealed by some messages exchanged by the two men. Google wishes to win the trial, but it will go on for at least 2 months

We also recently learned that Softbank, a Japanese society of holding, invested \$9.3bn in the drivers' company. Softbank declared they were "very pleased" with this investment, because it would boost their company. "Uber has a very bright future under its new leadership" said Softbank director Rajeev Misra. With the legal action, the Japanese bank may however regret the investment.

## **Top secret articles revealed to the world**

### **A review of Spielberg's new movie : Pentagon Papers**

*By Jeanne A. & Nnyfa*

Pentagon Papers is the story related by the 2017 American political thriller film directed and produced by Steven Spielberg, starring Meryl Streep as Katherine Graham, the woman who was leading the Washington Post and Tom Hanks as Ben Bradlee, a journalist at the Post.

Until the Vietnam War, Americans trusted politicians. The Pentagon papers were published in The New York Times in 1971, joined by the Washington Post and they played a large role in Americans' mistrust of political authority. They showed the real involvement of the USA in the Vietnam War during the « Cold War ». The Americans thought that the US were fighting against the propagation of communism to protect the freedom of their country. But this confidence disappeared when Daniel Ellsberg disclosed top secret documents in the New York Times.

Steven Spielberg has surprisingly treated this press case as a political case though the publication of the Pentagon Papers had no influence either on the war or on the Nixon presidency. At the pinnacle of his art, the American director signs a film committed to freedom of the press but especially draws the sensitive portrait of a woman claiming her power, to whom Meryl Streep lends the full extent of her talent. With Tom Hanks, amazing as always, Meryl Streep fills Pentagon Papers with a captivating humanity. Their bold gamble is a suspense based on two key words: conscience and trust. Through the revelations of the "Washington Post", the director stages an ideal of transparency.