

People & Places

Education

Int'l students dilemma

Harvard, MIT sue to block ICE rule

BOSTON, July 9, (AP) — Colleges and universities pushed back Wednesday against the Trump administration's decision to make international students leave the country if they plan on taking classes entirely online this fall, with Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology filing a lawsuit to try to block it, and others promising to work with students to keep them on campus.

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement notified colleges Monday that international students will be forced to leave the US or transfer to another college if their schools operate entirely online this fall. New visas will not be issued to students at those schools, and others at universities offering a mix of online and in-person classes will be barred from taking all of their classes online.

The guidance says international students won't be exempt even if an outbreak forces their schools online during the fall term.

In a statement, the US State Department said that international students are welcome in the US, but the policy "provides greater flexibility for nonimmigrant students to continue their education in the United States, while also allowing for proper social distancing on open and operating campuses across America."

The guidance was released the same day Harvard announced it would be keeping its classes online this fall. Harvard says the directive would prevent many of Harvard's 5,000 international students from remaining in the US.

Harvard President **Lawrence Bacow** said the order came without notice and that its "cruelty" was surpassed only by its "recklessness."

"It appears that it was designed purposefully to place pressure on colleges and universities to open their on-campus classrooms for in-person instruction this fall, without regard to concerns for the health and safety of students, instructors, and others," Bacow said in a statement Wednesday. "This comes at a time when the United States has been setting daily records for the number of new infections, with more than 300,000 new cases reported since July 1."

Depend

Universities across the US say the more than 1 million international students have an important place in their communities. Many schools have also come to depend on revenue from international students, who typically pay higher tuition rates.

It creates an urgent dilemma for thousands of international students who became stranded in the US last spring after the coronavirus forced their schools to move online. Those attending schools that are staying online must "depart the country or take other measures, such as transferring to a school with in-person instruction," according to the guidance.

"They may have just re-signed leases on apartments ... Our university starts in six weeks or seven weeks. They have been planning to be here, they have already spent money so it's really devastating," said University of Southern California lecturer Melanie Johnson.

The university last week reversed course on a plan to bring students to campus, saying classes will be hosted primarily or exclusively online. Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and Rutgers in New Jersey this week made similar announcements amid surging COVID-19 cases.

Johnson worries that even students who start off on campus will be prevented by travel restrictions from going home if a surge forces classes online mid-semester.

"What if a student like that, who for no fault of their own, finds themselves here without their classes and ends up in a detention center or deported?" she said.

Professors fielded messages from frantic students seeking assurances that at least some of their courses would be face-to-face.

"They are, of course, all concerned," said University of Iowa Associate Professor Jan Wessel. "I am on board with anything we can do to circumnavigate these circumstances, and I'm willing to do any in-person arrangement if it helps a student."

Suspend

But Wessel, who runs the university's cognitive neurology lab, said it was more important to take a stand against the policy "and say politics should not use our students as a poker chip in whatever they are trying to do." He said he would suspend his teaching if any of his students was forced out.

At Brown University, President Christina Paxson issued a statement supporting the Harvard and MIT lawsuit and said she was working with peers to find other ways to oppose the new policy.

The lawsuit, filed in Boston's federal court, seeks to prevent federal immigration authorities from enforcing the rule. The universities contend that the directive violates the Administrative Procedures Act because officials failed to offer a reasonable basis justifying the policy and because the public was not given notice to comment on it.

The White House's press secretary on Wednesday sidestepped a question about whether it was designed to pressure colleges to reopen their campuses, saying the policy "speaks for itself."

"You don't get a visa for taking online classes from, let's say, University of Phoenix, so why would you if you were just taking online classes generally?" Kayleigh McEnany said at a press briefing.

Paxson called the rule "nothing short of cruel" and said she would work with faculty to minimize the chance that students would have to leave the country if the Rhode Island university had to alter its plans for a blend of classes.

New York University President Andrew Hamilton also promised to work with international students to keep them in the U.S., calling the rule "needlessly rigid."

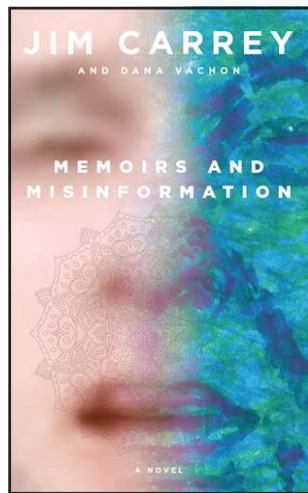
"If there were a moment for flexibility in delivering education, this would be it," he said. "Both on our own and in association with other universities, NYU will be reaching out to federal officials urging them to revoke or modify this rule."



Bacow



Stacy Keller, of Florissant, Mo., lines up her sunset photo as she takes pictures with her daughters (unseen) among the sunflowers in a field at the Columbia Bottom Conservation Area in Spanish Lake, Mo., July 7. (AP)



This book cover image released by Knopf show 'Memoirs and Misinformation,' a novel by Jim Carrey and Dana Vachon. (AP)



Heard

Smith

Variety

LONDON: **Johnny Depp** denied an allegation by ex-wife **Amber Heard** that he is a "Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde" monster who turned violent when he drank and took drugs, though he acknowledged in a London court on Wednesday that he may have done things he can't remember while he was under the influence.

Depp underwent a second day of cross-examination at the High Court by a lawyer for British tabloid *The Sun*, which is defending a libel claim after calling the Hollywood star a "wife beater." Depp is suing *The Sun's* publisher, News Group Newspapers, and its executive editor, **Dan Wootton**, over an April 2018 article that said he'd physically abused Heard.

The "Pirates of the Caribbean" star says Heard's claims that he assaulted her on multiple occasions are "totally untrue."

Depp, 57, and Heard, 34, met on the set of the 2011 comedy "The Diary" and married in Los Angeles in February 2015. Heard, a model and actress, filed for divorce the following year and obtained a restraining order against Depp on the grounds of domestic abuse. The divorce was finalized in 2017.

While neither Heard nor Depp is on trial, the case is a showdown between the former spouses, who accuse each other of being controlling, violent and deceitful during their tempestuous marriage.

The newspaper's lawyer, **Sasha Wass**, read the court an email to Depp that Heard had composed in 2013 but never sent, in which she called his behavior a "full on disco blood bath."

"I just don't know if I can do this anymore," she wrote. "It is like Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. Half of you I love madly, and the other half scares me."

"Many times you have hurt me. Physically and emotionally

People

'Memoirs and Misinformation' funny and sober

Carrey gets real with satirical 'memoir'

By Jake Coyle

When Jim Carrey and Dana Vachon handed in the book they had toiled on for eight years - a satirical "anti-memoir" about Carrey's life but with increasingly extreme flights of absurdity - to Sonny Mehta, the late Knopf publisher said he would put it out as a novel. Carrey and Vachon protested.

"But Sonny, the project was to blow up the celebrity memoir," they argued.

"Well, yes," replied Mehta. "But how then would you explain the flying saucers?"

"Memoirs and Misinformation," which was published Tuesday, is not an easy book to label. It opens with Carrey binge-watching Netflix while nursing a split from Renée Zellweger (who, here, leaves him for a bullfighter), pleading for his home security system to "Tell me I'm safe and loved".

There's much that's straight from Carrey's life, but it's an inflated version of his persona - "a hyperactive child making yuk-yuks," as the book describes him. With overtones of "Network," Carrey skewers celebrity, Hollywood, ego and himself. There's Brazilian jiu-jitsu with Nic Cage, spiritual guru gatherings with Kelsey Grammar and a Tom Cruise referenced only as "Laser Jack Lightning." Carrey, himself, is juggling movie options: a Mao Zedong film by Charlie Kaufman or "Hungry Hungry Hippos" in 3-D. Oh, and an apocalypse is approaching.

It may sound far-out, but for Carrey, truth lies in fiction. Even fiction in which Kelsey Grammar and U.F.O.s collide.

Real

"There's a lot of real feeling in this book," said Carrey in a Zoom interview from his home in Hawaii. "It may be done in an out-there way but it sure is real to me."

"Memoirs and Misinformation" is the latest reinvention of the 58-year-old star of "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective," "The Mask," "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" and "The Truman Show." After veering into painting and political cartoons, it's yet another new medium for Carrey. (Vachon wrote 2007's "Mergers & Acquisitions.") The book, Carrey says, "is dearer to me than anything I've done."

The "illusion of persona" is the chief subject of "Memoirs and Misinformation." In the last decade or more, Carrey has worked to deconstruct the best-known version of himself and make room for an emotional life that his public identity - "unflappably fun," Carrey calls it - didn't allow. He has spoken about bouts with depression and his ongoing spiritual journey. He has worked less frequently and sought satisfaction away from Hollywood.

"All personas after a while become sarcophagal. You want to claw your way out of them," says Carrey. "You're met all the time with 'Why don't you just be funny?' I go, 'Well, funny is one of the fingers on my hand.' But I'm learning to use the whole hand."

Make no mistake: "Memoirs and Misinformation" is funny. But

it's also a sober meditation on mortality, selfhood and the drive to entertain. A conventional memoir was never an option. "At the very least they're reordered for effect," says Carrey.

"From an early age, what I've always noticed about Jim is that he can change form," says Vachon, who, after flying out to finish the book, has been stranded in Hawaii by the pandemic. "His memoir needed to be one that did that because that's his truth."

For Carrey, a cartoonishly malleable, head-to-toe comedian of absurdist abandon, the urge to perform began in his working-class upbringing outside Toronto with a mother who fought depression and prescription pills and a father he calls "a magical being."

"I watched him be animated and loving in sharing this gift that he had. I went: That's a great thing to be," says Carrey, the youngest of four. "I could make my mother feel better. A lot of comics come from moms in need. My mother was a child of alcoholics and she didn't get the love that she needed, so her kids were there to give her that love that she was missing. Especially me. I thought I could heal her. I thought I could save her life."

That desire to be bigger than yourself and to bring joy to others is something Carrey both values sincerely and considers dangerous. "If it becomes an addiction to exceptionalism," he says, "that's a bad place to be."

Reminds

The book reminds Carrey's longtime friend and "The Cable Guy" producer Judd Apatow of when he first met Carrey. He was then a successful impressionist who, "on a dime," stopped doing impressions and began improvising his entire act. Apatow recalls, "It was like he just cracked open his brain to see what was inside."

"We all start out young and ambitious and we have our dreams and we think our dreams will make us happy," says Apatow. "And I think Jim was aware very early on that that's not how it would go down."

Carrey isn't sure when he began to feel "Jim Carrey" cleaving away from himself. Fame was fun, he says, until it wasn't.

"I tripped along for a long time," Carrey says. "No one understands the value of anonymity until they lose it. You could say, 'Well, that's what you asked for.' Yes, but it's what a child asks for before they become an adult and understands what something means. I'm not saying it's a bad thing, but it's an odd thing and it keeps you in the house."

There were low points. After the apparent suicide of Carrey's former girlfriend Cathriona White, he was sued for wrongful death by White's husband and her mother. Carrey denied involvement and counter-sued. By 2018, the suits were dismissed. "Memoirs and Misinformation" features plenty of farce, but there are also scenes of Hollywood tragedy that echo some of Carrey's heart-aches.

"It really became an exercise of being able to say the things that are important to say in the most creative and abstract way possible and to deal with real painful and jarring movements in my life," says Carrey. (AP)

from the things you say and did while (messed) up," she wrote.

Depp said the email was evidence "that Ms Heard was building a dossier as 'an insurance policy for later.'" (AP)



NEW YORK: Shepard Smith,

who abruptly quit Fox News Channel last October amid the ascendancy of opinionated programming, will bring a nightly newscast to CNBC this fall.

CNBC announced Wednesday that Smith will anchor a one-hour weeknight newscast at 7 pm Eastern, the time slot he held for

many years at Fox before being shifted to the afternoon. His show is expected to start in September.

"I know I found a great home for my newscast," Smith said in a news release. He was not made available for an interview on Wednesday.

CNBC Chairman **Mark**

Oprah set to adapt 'The 1619 Project'

LOS ANGELES, July 9, (AP) — Oprah Winfrey and Lionsgate are partnering with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Nikole Hannah-Jones** to adapt the New York Times' recent project examining the legacy of slavery for film and television.

Lionsgate said Wednesday that it will work alongside "The 1619 Project" architect Hannah-Jones to develop a multi-media history of slavery and its effects in America for a worldwide audience.

Hoffman said "The News with Shepard Smith" will feature "fact-based storytelling."

"We're thrilled that Shep, who's built a career on an honest fight to find and report the facts, will continue his pursuit of the truth at CNBC," Hoffman said. "We aim to deliver a nightly program that, in some small way, looks for the signal in all the noise."

Smith never explicitly said why he walked out on Fox a few months after signing a contract extension, but left enough signals along the way. He had been at Fox since the network's inception in 1996.

His show often bluntly debunked statements made by Trump and his supporters, including opinion hosts on his own network. Shortly before leaving, he had called it repugnant when Tucker Carlson brought on an analyst specifically to refute something said on Smith's show.

"Even in our currently polarized nation, it's my hope that the facts will win the day, that the truth will always matter, that journalism and journalists will thrive," he said when signing off Fox. (AP)



Trace Adkins tips his hat after performing during a memorial service for country music star Charlie Daniels, July 8, in Mount Juliet, Tenn. Daniels died July 6. (AP)