

People & Places

Obits

Actor dies in accident

Leading US scholar Sherwin dies at 84

NEW YORK, Oct. 10, (AP) — **Martin J. Sherwin**, a leading scholar of atomic weapons who in "A World Destroyed" challenged support for the US bombing of Japan and spent more than two decades researching the pioneering physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer for the Pulitzer Prize-winning "American Prometheus," has died.

Sherwin died Wednesday at his home in Washington, D.C., according to his friend Andrew Hartman, a professor of history at Illinois State University. He was 84 and had been battling lung cancer. Kai Bird, a close friend and the co-author of "American Prometheus," called him "probably the preeminent historian of the nuclear age."



Sherwin

"When we started working on 'American Prometheus' he told me he had lots of research, but a few gaps," Bird told The Associated Press on Saturday. "When I began going through all the materials I couldn't find any gaps."

Sherwin was a New York City native whose interest in nuclear research dated back to his undergraduate years at Dartmouth College, when he spent a summer working at a uranium mine out West. Sherwin's ties to the arms race between the US and the Soviet Union became frighteningly personal during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. He was a junior officer in the Navy and was told of plans to evacuate from their base in San Diego to a remote location in Baja California, Mexico.

"The rationale was to disperse military aircraft beyond the reach of Soviet missiles," he wrote in "Gambling With Armageddon: Nuclear Roulette from Hiroshima to the Cuban Missile Crisis," which came out last year. "Some junior officers — all of us bachelors — joked that the beaches of Baja 'would be a delightful place to die.'"

Invaluable

He was best known for "American Prometheus," published in 2005 and winner of the Pulitzer for biography. The book was widely praised as a comprehensive and invaluable study of the so-called "father of the atomic bomb" who later had his telephones tapped and his security clearance revoked during the McCarthy era of the 1950s as he advocated nuclear containment and opposed the development of the hydrogen bomb.

Sherwin began working on the book in the late 1970s with an hours-long horseback ride to the mountainside ranch in New Mexico where Oppenheimer once lived. He continued over the next two decades as he accumulated tens of thousands of pages of research, from FBI files to private correspondence to interviews with those who knew Oppenheimer. Bird, whom he had befriended in the 1990s and eventually brought in to help, joked that Sherwin had come down with "biographer's disease," the inability to know when it was time to stop researching and begin writing.

Pulitzer judges cited Sherwin and Bird for their "rich evocation of America at midcentury" and called "American Prometheus" a "new and compelling portrait of a brilliant, ambitious, complex and flawed man profoundly connected to its major events — the Depression, World War II and the Cold War."

Sherwin was also a popular teacher and lecturer who taught at Princeton University, George Mason University and, for much of his career, Tufts University, where he founded the Nuclear Age History Center. At Princeton, he was an advisor to the author-journalist Eric Schlosser and mentored Katrina vanden Heuvel, now editorial director and publisher of the liberal weekly The Nation, for which Sherwin was a contributor.

Sherwin's first book, "A World Destroyed: Hiroshima and Its Legacies," came out in 1975 and was a Pulitzer finalist. The New York Times praised the book for its unprecedented scholarship on such questions as whether the US needed nuclear weapons to defeat Japan in World War II (Sherwin contended President Truman's decision to bomb Hiroshima and Nagasaki was based more on intimidating the Russians) and why the US chose not to share its nuclear development with the Soviet Union when they were World War II allies.

In the mid-1990s, Sherwin was among the advisers for a planned Smithsonian exhibit about the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Japan that was canceled after veterans organizations and dozens of members of Congress objected to what they considered an anti-US bias. Instead, the Smithsonian only displayed the Enola Gay, the plane from which the US dropped a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima.

"In the United States, the collective memory of World War II sees the war as 'our finest hour,'" he wrote in a 2003 edition of "A World Destroyed."

"America without that image is unimaginable to most members of the generation that fought the war and to those in subsequent generations who have defined their view of the world and their political lives as a reflections of this image."

According to Kai Bird, he and Sherwin had been working on a proposal for a new book even though he was badly weakened by his cancer treatment. Sherwin wanted to tell the extraordinary but true story of a crew of B-29 bombers who were captured off the coast of Japan at the end of World War II and saved from execution by an English-speaking Japanese commander who brought them to Hiroshima so they could see for themselves the devastation from the recently dropped atom bomb.

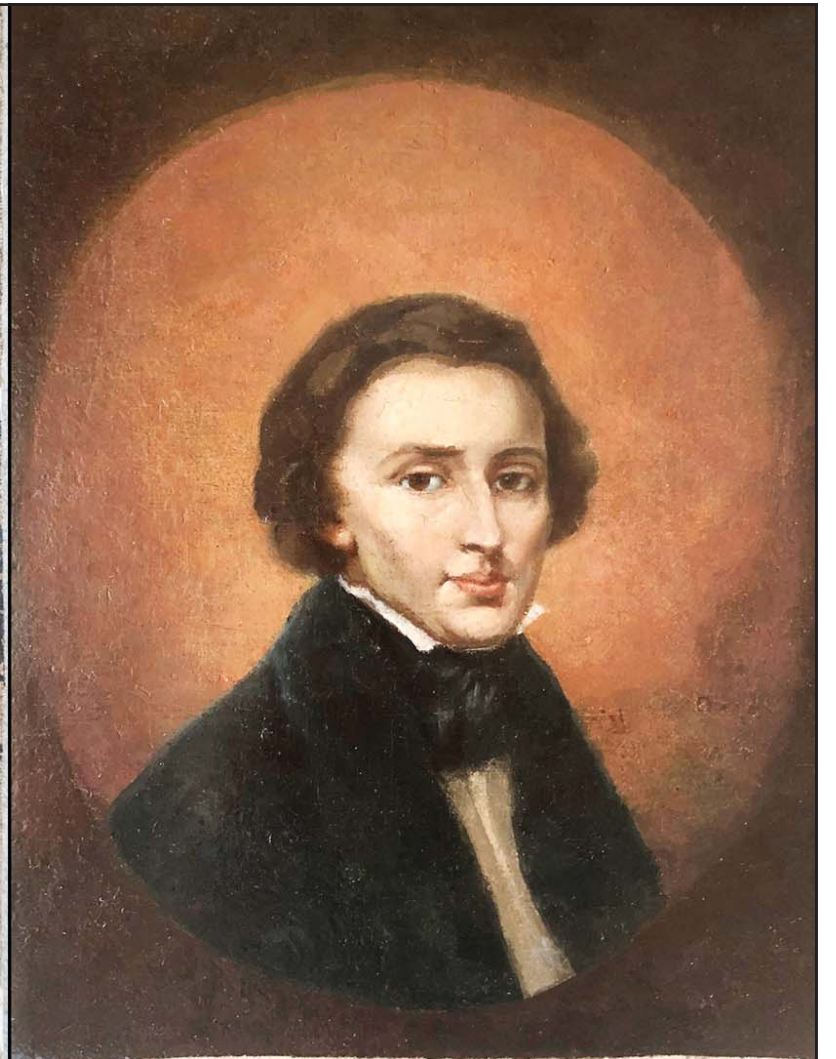
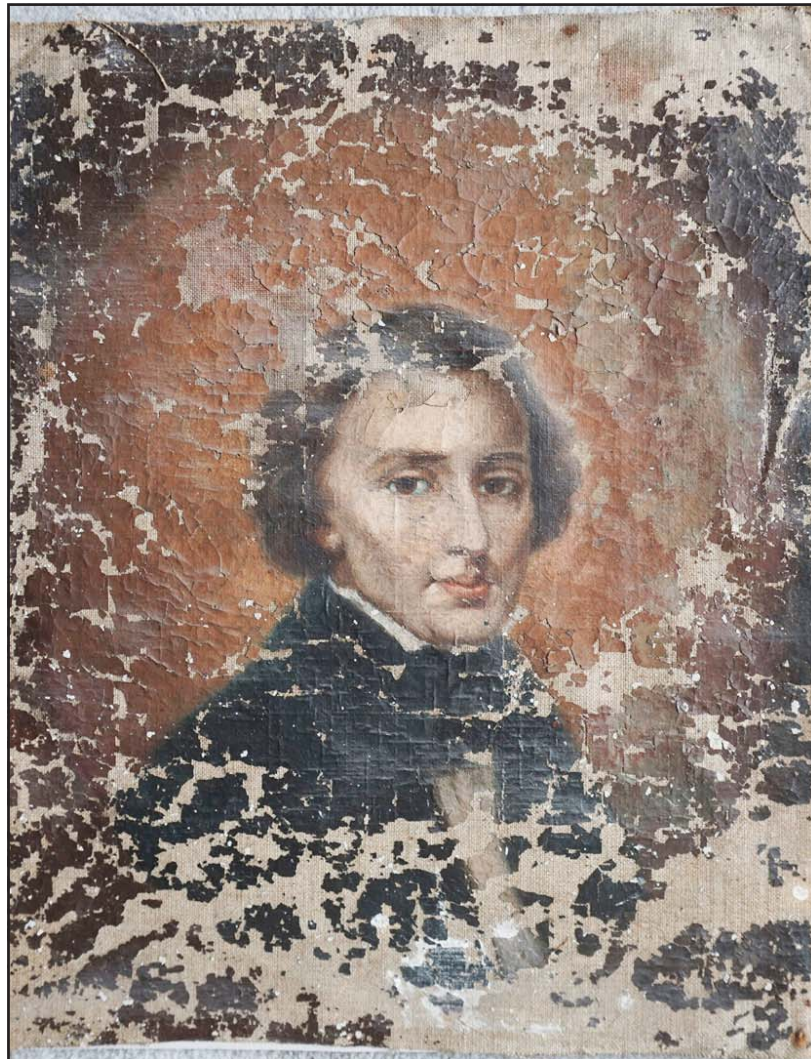
"He had been sitting on his story for a very long time, back to 1975 when he interviewed one of the B-29 crew members," Bird said. "He was really excited about this, and I'm trying to see if I can turn this into a book proposal. On the day he died he was editing that proposal. Even as his body was giving out, he was still interested and his mind was alert."

Also:

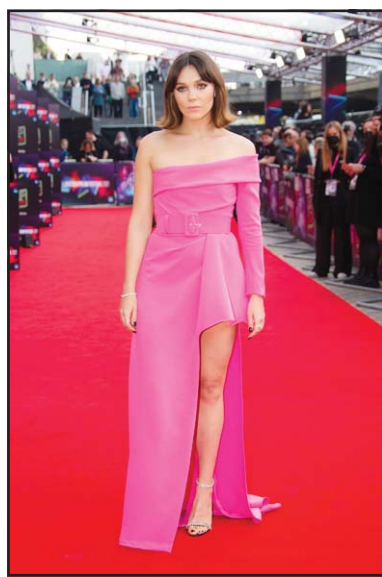
MOSCOW: Russian news reports say an actor has died in an accident during a scene change at Moscow's Bolshoi theater.

The reports cited witnesses as saying that the actor appeared to have exited the stage on the wrong side during a Saturday evening performance of **Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's** opera "Sadko" and was struck by scenery being lowered.

After the accident, the stage's curtain was lowered and the audience eventually was told the performance was canceled and their money would be refunded, the reports said.



This combination of undated photos provided by Dariusz Markowski, (left), and Jaroslaw Golebiowski, (right), show a portrait of Polish composer Frederic Chopin before and after restoration. A peeling portrait of Polish piano composer Frederic Chopin purchased at a flea market hung modestly in a private house in Poland for almost three decades before an expert dated the painting to the 19th century. (AP)



Synnove Karlsen poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Last Night in Soho' during the 2021 BFI London Film Festival in London, Saturday, Oct. 9. (AP)



Rockwell



Criss

Variety

NEW YORK: A revival of **David Mamet's** "American Buffalo" with **Laurence Fishburne**, **Sam Rockwell** and **Darren Criss** was in rehearsal when the pandemic closed Broadway theaters. Now it's planning a return back with the same starry cast.

The Neil Pepe-directed production on Friday announced its intention to return to the Circle in the Square Theatre next year. Previews begin the week of March 22, 2022 with an opening on April 14, 2022.

"American Buffalo" is a heist comedy about three small-time criminals hoping to steal a possibly valuable nickel, but it's also a no-holds-barred portrait of lowlife desperation and greed.

Fishburne has three Emmys and a Tony for "Two Trains Running." Rockwell has an Oscar for "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" and Criss just won an Emmy for his work in "American Crime Story: The Assassination of Gianni Versace."

"American Buffalo" debuted in 1977 with **Robert Duvall**, **Kenneth McMillan** and **John Savage**. Its first revival featured **Al Pacino**, **James Hayden** and **J.J. Johnston** in 1983-84. An ill-fated 2008 revival starred **John Leguizamo** and the duo of **Haley Joel Osment** and **Cedric the Entertainer**, both making their Broadway debut. (AP)

NEW YORK: Poet, educator and activist **Sonia Sanchez** is this year's winner of the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize, a \$250,000 lifetime achievement honor previously given to **Chinua Achebe**, **Bob Dylan** and **Maya Lin** among others.

Established in 1994 through the estate of **Lillian Gish**, the silent film star and sister of fellow actor **Dorothy Gish**, the prize is awarded to "a highly accomplished artist from any discipline who has pushed the boundaries of an art form, contributed to social change, and paved the way for the next generation."

Sanchez, 87, first achieved prominence with the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and has been widely cited as an innovative poet who often draws upon street slang, a popular speaker and a pioneering teacher of Black studies. Her previous prizes include the Wallace Stevens Award and Robert Frost Medal, both given for lifetime achievement in poetry. Her collected poems came out this spring.

"What an honor it is to receive this award, most especially since we as a country are attempting to answer the most important question facing us: What does it mean to be

Art

Peeling portrait was bought at flea market

Rare Chopin portrait is from 19th century

WARSAW, Poland, Oct. 10, (AP) — A peeling portrait of Frederic Chopin purchased at a flea market in Poland hung modestly in a private house for almost three decades before an expert dated the painting to the 19th century, when the Polish piano composer lived.

Now restored and in a gilded frame, the small painting resides in a bank vault somewhere in eastern Poland while its owners negotiate their next steps, including a public exhibit.

News of the artwork's existence broke this week as Warsaw hosted the 18th Frederic Chopin Piano Competition, an international event known for launching the careers of world-class pianists. The competition runs through Oct. 23.

Nicolaus Copernicus University professor Dariusz Markowski, the art expert who examined and restored the portrait last year, says it has significant historic and emotional value, but he refrained from estimating what it might sell for.

The painting measures 29.5 centimeters by 23.3 centimeters (11.5 inches by 9 inches.) Using advanced methods, Markowski timed its creation to the mid-19th century based on the materials and pigments used, and the extent of the ageing and damage.

But it is not now possible to pinpoint the exact year of its provenance, and it will be difficult to identify who painted it because only the artist's first name, Alfred, is preserved, he said.

"It is evidently Chopin, but I cannot say whether he posed for this portrait or whether it was painted from another picture," said Markowski, principal of the Torun university's Conservation and Restoration of Modern Art Department.

"We know nothing of his history or who it was painted for," he told The Associated Press. "It was in a very bad state, and I'm really happy that artwork like this can be saved."

Chopin was born in 1810 in a manor house in Zelazowa Wola, a village near Warsaw, to a Polish mother and a French father. He left Poland at 19 to broaden his music education in Vienna and then in Paris, where he settled, composing, giving concerts and

teaching piano.

He died in Paris on Oct. 17, 1849 and is buried at the Pere Lachaise cemetery, but his heart is kept at the Holy Cross Church in Warsaw, where observances mark the anniversaries of his birth and death.

An art connoisseur spotted the portrait that Markowski calls "a real curiosity" at a flea market near Lublin in the early 1990s. Decades later, a financial situation prompted the family to seek a professional appraisal, which led them to the university expert.

A member of the family says it's "extraordinary" that the painting survived about 170 years of historic turmoil and ended up in a flea market. He says the family's recent attention to the portrait made him study Chopin's life and music.

Also:

AMSTERDAM: As COVID-19 lockdowns ease and borders reopen, there is a gathering at Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum of people from around Europe, depicted in more than 100 Renaissance portraits.

The Dutch national museum's new exhibition "Remember Me," covers the century 1470-1570 and features portraits from across the continent by masters including **Albrecht Durer**, **Hans Holbein** and **Titian** that underscore humanity's enduring desire to be remembered.

It also shows the lengths artists went to to portray people, their wealth, jobs, power and love for one another.

While the exhibition has been in the works since before the global pandemic swept the world last year, the wish to be remembered is something that felt more pressing than ever amid lockdowns, said the museum's general director **Taco Dibbitts**.

"We now felt with the corona crisis that people were so far away they couldn't come to you. You couldn't travel," Dibbitts said Tuesday. "That was always the case in the Renaissance, when it was far harder to travel and ... there was this great longing to have the person with you. I think something that we felt over the last one-and-a-half years."

human?" Sanchez said in a statement.

"I promise, as other artists do, that I will continue to write and talk about the importance of answering this question — the importance of celebrating the beauty of the world and its people." (AP)

MILWAUKEE: **Lisa Byington** is making history as the Milwaukee Bucks' new play-

by-play voice on their television broadcasts.

The Bucks announced the hiring and said Byington is the first woman to work as a full-time television play-by-play announcer for any major men's professional sports team.

Byington replaces **Jim Paschke**, who retired after 35 seasons as the team's main television play-by-play broadcaster.



Aaron Frazer performs on Day 2 of the Austin City Limits Music Festival's second weekend, Saturday, Oct. 9, in Austin, Texas. (AP)

The show offers a snapshot of European society in the Renaissance period and includes for the first time in a single exhibition the two earliest individual portraits of Black men known in Europe — a painting by **Jan Jansz Mostaert** of a man in military attire who was possibly **Christophe le More**, a personal bodyguard to Holy Roman Emperor **Charles V**, and a 1508 drawing, "Portrait of an African Man," in black chalk by **Albrecht Durer** that is on loan from **Vienna's** **Albertina** collection.

For Dibbitts, whose museum has just wrapped up a groundbreaking exhibition bringing the history of slavery in the Netherlands and its former colonies into sharp focus, the two portraits are a way of bringing Europe's Black population in the Renaissance out of obscurity.

"There was a presence in the Renaissance, so around 1500, of Africans in Europe and we felt it very important to show these two works, to also show that presence," he said. "I think that for a long time in the history of art, these works were invisible. So people just thought, well they didn't exist."

For Dibbitts and **Matthias Ubl**, the museum's curator of Early Netherlandish, Italian and German painting, one of the standout highlights of the show is the enigmatic "Portrait of a Young Girl," painted around 1470 by **Petrus Christus**. The portrait of an unknown girl is on loan from the Gemaeldegalerie in **Berlin**, the first time the painting has left the museum since 1994.

Ubl said he first became fascinated by the work when he saw it on a poster as a student in **London** around 20 years ago.

"When I first saw it, I thought, 'wow, this is just so amazing. This is one of the most beautiful portraits there is.' And now it's here and it's almost unreal," Ubl said.

Getting all the loaned portraits to Amsterdam from museums around Europe, the **United Kingdom** and **United States**, was a feat in itself at a time of travel restrictions. The show opens Oct. 1 and runs to Jan. 16.

"I understand the groundbreaking nature of this hire, and I appreciate the fact that during this process that aspect was addressed, but never made a primary focus," Byington said in a statement released by the team. "In fact, I applauded the Bucks for taking the first steps toward making hires like this more of the norm in the NBA. Because it's time."

Earlier this year, Byington became the first female play-by-play broadcaster for the NCAA men's basketball tournament. She was a men's and women's soccer play-by-play announcer for NBC Sports in the 2021 Olympics and also did play-by-play for the Women's World Cup on Fox in 2019.

The Bucks' broadcast crew also includes **Marques Johnson** and **Steve Novak** as analysts and **Zora Stephenson** as a sideline reporter. Last season, Stephenson became the first woman to work as a play-by-play announcer for the Bucks when she filled in for Paschke for one game.

Byington worked as a sideline reporter for the NCAA men's basketball tournament on CBS and Turner Sports from 2017-19. She also has been a play-by-play broadcaster on NBA and WNBA games.

She became the first female play-by-play broadcaster for a Big Ten Network college football game in 2017.

Byington has broadcast games for FOX Sports, FS1, Big Ten Network, CBS, Turner Sports, Pac-12 Network, ESPN and the SEC Network in both play-by-play and reporter roles. She played basketball and soccer while attending Northwestern University. (AP)