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Why So Many Abortion Clinics Close Their Doors

Bloomberg Businessweek | Hoping to publicize her new nonprofit, last fall **Julie Burkhart** called her local NPR affiliate, KMUW in Wichita, about buying a day of sponsorship for \$480. Station manager Debra Fraser decided immediately that KMUW wouldn't allow it. "I didn't want to upset the apple cart," Fraser says.

The response wasn't new to Burkhart. In April 2013 she had reopened and renamed Women's Health Care Services, where her former employer and mentor, Dr. George Tiller, provided abortions from the 1970s until 2009, when he was shot in the head and killed while ushering at his church. Today, South Wind Women's Center offers abortion and OB-GYN services as well as transgender care such as hormone therapy. Burkhart hopes to install a birthing center. In the basement, Trust Women, the center's umbrella nonprofit, runs a **CLINICS, continued on page 2**

To Treat Diseases, We Must First Repair the Social Fabric

The New York Times | *Dr. Sandeep Jauhar is a cardiologist and the author of this article, titled "When Blood Pressure Is Political":*

I teach a medical school course on homeostasis: how organ systems work together to maintain physiological balance. For example, when blood pressure drops acutely, the heart speeds up and the kidneys retain sodium and water, propelling blood pressure back to normal. If body temperature falls, we shiver to generate heat, blood vessels constrict to conserve heat, and we warm up. Homeostasis is about preserving constancy in the face of changing conditions. As a model for explaining human physiology, it does remarkably well.

However, there are aspects of the human condition that homeostasis cannot explain. For instance, blood pressure often fluctuates minute to minute. If the body is **STRESS, continued on page 3**

Video | A Lone Man Builds a Cathedral

Justin Gallego, 90, has been building a cathedral by hand near Madrid almost entirely by himself. He has no formal construction or architecture skills, but faith has kept him going for half a century. **Watch Gallego at work.**



Melting Ice Reveals Secret U.S. Army Base in Greenland

Smithsonian | As climate change warms the Earth, melting ice is uncovering troves of cultural treasures and dangers once thought to be lost forever—from mummified bodies and ancient coins to anthrax-infected reindeer carcasses. Now, scientists have identified what might just be the most surreal thing to emerge from the ice: the remnants of a covert U.S. Army **BASE, continued on page 2**

Prisons Linked to Epidemics of HIV and Other Diseases in Study

The Baltimore Sun | The cycling of inmates in and out of prisons and jails around the world contributes significantly to the global epidemics of HIV, viral hepatitis and tuberculosis, according to new research from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Inmates typically suffer from higher rates of those diseases, which spread **HIV, continued on page 3**



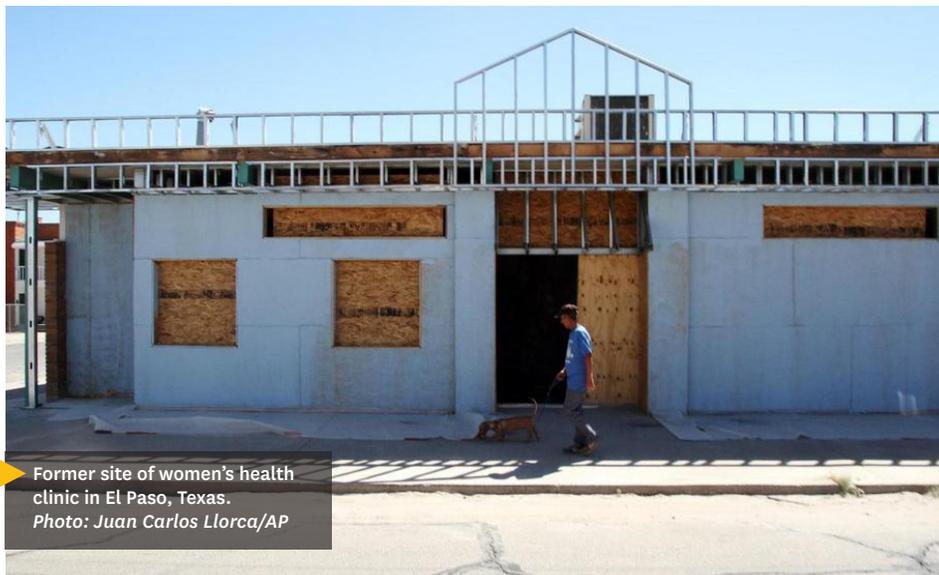
QUOTE-WORTHY



"One child dies every 90 seconds from water-borne illnesses. **It's completely insane.** Beyond just senseless death, this [robs] people of their humanity." —**Matt Damon (left), co-founder of global nonprofit water.org**

"**It's a wonderful place to meet others** of all ages from all different walks of life ... and it gives me a purpose." —**Martha Baron, 79, a member of a Washington, D.C. community garden and volunteer group for older adults**

"**In this job,** you have to believe in something, because if not you're going to lose your sanity." —**Alfredo de la Cruz, a busy paramedic in the border town of Laredo, Texas**



Former site of women's health clinic in El Paso, Texas.
Photo: Juan Carlos Llorca/AP

CLINICS, continued

political action committee, continuing the advocacy Tiller began in the 1980s.

"We are only asking to be treated like any other business that provides health care," Burkhart wrote in a letter to KМУW appealing the station's rejection. She says a man in the development office told her that if the station accepted South Wind's sponsorship, it would have to accept sponsorship from anti-abortion organizations, too. "The fundraiser in me thought, What's the problem with that?" Burkhart says with a laugh. But she was taken aback, she recalls, when he asked if she thought KМУW should also take donations from the Ku Klux Klan. About that, Fraser says: "I certainly would hope that no one on my staff would say that. That doesn't represent what I said to Julie."

Burkhart and Fraser met for lunch. Fraser had previously worked at a Texas station where listeners frequently called to complain about Planned Parenthood's sponsorship. As a news organization reliant on listener support, KМУW couldn't afford to create the perception that it was "taking a stand" on abortion, Fraser says. "If I were you," she remembers telling Burkhart, "I'd be really upset about this. But I can't help you."

The stigma around abortion prevents Burkhart's nonprofit from performing many of the everyday transactions essential to businesses. She and other clinic owners have had trouble securing mortgages, medical insurance, contractors, and

someone willing to deliver Band-Aids and bottles of water. Especially in rural and conservative regions, a wide range of companies and organizations decline to work with abortion providers, either for reasons of personal conscience or because of fears that being associated with abortion will cost them business.

In recent years states have enacted hundreds of laws designed by activists to make it more difficult—and more expensive—to perform abortions. Twenty-two states require abortion clinics to follow codes comparable to those of ambulatory surgical centers; at least 11 states specify the width of clinic rooms or hallways. Many clinics struggled to stay in the black well before legislation required them to remodel their corridors.

A common allegation by anti-abortion activists is that the doctors providing such services are in it for the money. "Their focus is where the dollar is. It's not protecting women," says Melissa Conway, a spokeswoman for Texas Right to Life. "Especially within the last few years, the cost of abortion services is increasing, and so it's a very profitable business." For many anti-abortion advocates, that standalone clinics provide most abortions is proof that "abortionists" are seedy characters who aim "to garner financial gain on the backs of women," as Conway puts it.

Read the [story](#), view the Supreme Court's [ruling](#) in the Texas case, and get [information](#) on the adverse effects of unsafe abortions on women's health. ■

BASE, continued

base teeming with radioactive waste, abandoned decades ago in northwestern Greenland.

Climate change could uncover the toxic and radioactive waste left behind at Camp Century as early as 2090, reports a new study published yesterday in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*. The 115 feet of snow and ice now covering the Cold War-era base is already melting faster than it can be replaced, a prospect the military likely hadn't dreamed of at the time. The study's authors warn that the soon-to-be-uncovered waste could become a political minefield and foreshadow future international conflicts as climate change reshapes Earth.

When the ice melts, an estimated 9,200 tons of physical materials and 53,000 gallons of diesel fuel could be exposed and carried toward the ocean by meltwater. Other waste at the site includes small amounts of radioactive coolant water from Camp Century's nuclear power plant, and carcinogenic toxins used in paints and fluids called polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). PCBs are already found in high levels in the Arctic, after being released into oceans in urban waste and carried there by wind and ocean currents.

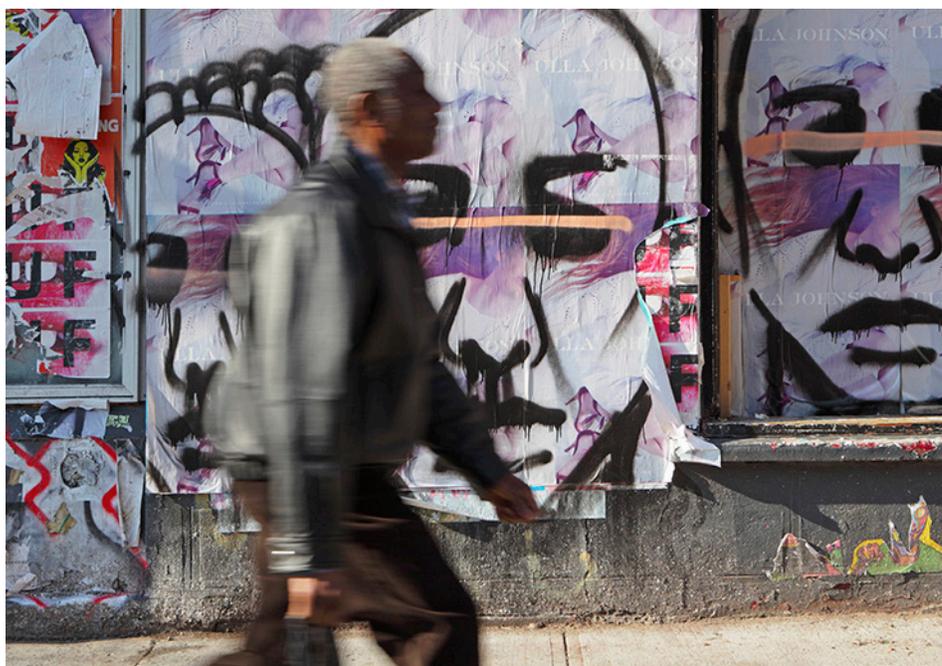
Camp Century was founded nearly 60 years ago as a model of new kind of Arctic base. Just 800 miles from the North Pole, the base was built in large trenches buried underneath ice and snow to protect the base and its personnel from temperatures that could reach -70 degrees F and wind gusts up to 125 miles per hour.

Read this [story](#), another about [anthrax](#), and learn why melting [permafrost](#) caused by increasing global warming may pose other major risks for the environment. ■



Who We Are

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Andrew Cribb / iStock

STRESS, continued

supposed to be maintaining an optimal set point, it doesn't seem to be doing a very good job. Blood pressure also increases steadily throughout childhood and adulthood. Why does the set point drift upward? To explain these things, some experts have proposed an alternative theory to homeostasis: allostasis.

Allostasis is not about preserving constancy; it is about calibrating the body's functions in response to external as well as internal conditions. The body doesn't so much defend a particular set point as allow it to fluctuate in response to changing demands, including those of one's social circumstances. Allostasis is, in that sense, a politically sophisticated theory of human physiology. Indeed, because of its sensitivity to social circumstances, allostasis is in many ways better than homeostasis for explaining modern chronic diseases.

Consider hypertension. Seventy million adults in the United States have it. For more than 90 percent of them, we don't know the cause. However, we do have some clues. Hypertension disproportionately affects blacks, especially in poor communities. This may in part be because of genetics, but it is doubtful that this is a major factor; American blacks have hypertension at

much higher rates than West Africans. Moreover, hypertension is also common in other segments of society in which poverty and social ills are rampant.

Peter Sterling, a neurobiologist and a proponent of allostasis, has written that hypertension in these communities is

Blacks in America have hypertension at much higher rates than West Africans.

a normal response to "chronic arousal" (or stress). In small preindustrial communities, he observes, people tend to know and trust one another. When this milieu is disrupted, as in migration or urbanization, there is often an increased need for vigilance. People are frequently estranged from their neighbors. Communities become diverse and more mistrustful. Physical and social isolation can result. Add in poverty, racism, fractured families and joblessness, and you get extremely stress-prone populations.

Read the rest of the **story**, and learn more about **hypertension** and **heart failure**. ■

HIV, continued

more readily in crowded correctional facilities and then get passed to others on the outside when the inmates are released, the study found.

The study, "Global burden of HIV, viral hepatitis, and tuberculosis in prisoners and detainees," was published July 17 in *The Lancet* as part of a series of studies on HIV and prisoners.

Although the study was global in its focus and did not examine individual nations, let alone cities, the findings could have important implications for Maryland, and particularly Baltimore, which has one of the highest rates of HIV infection among U.S. metro areas. Inmates from Baltimore make up more than a third of the state's prison population.

Andrea Wirtz, a co-author of the study and assistant scientist at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, said the results were important, considering the racial and economic disparities in the jail and prison population from Baltimore. "By having this disparity in imprisonment in the city, are we increasing peoples' risk of HIV and other infectious diseases?" Wirtz said. "We can say this is part of the bigger picture of the HIV epidemic."

Nearly 32,000 Marylanders were living with the disease in 2013, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Many of those reside in Baltimore—12,435 that same year, according to the Baltimore City Health Department.

In the United States, HIV is a bigger problem among people moving in and out of prison than hepatitis and tuberculosis, said Bruce L. Gilliam, an associate professor of medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Read **more** about the study's findings, learn about **HIV**, and get **information** on the disease among prison populations. ■

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