

DEOMI NEWS LINKS, February 21, 2020

CULTURE

[Should your email say if you're he, she or they?](#) [Natalie Sherman, *BBC News*, 19 Feb 2020]

When Janice O'Neill, the director of talent management at property firm Cushman & Wakefield, urged staff in 2018 to "add their pronouns" to their email signatures, the responses were mixed. Some told her they felt for the first time like they belonged at the firm. Others had no idea what she was talking about.

[Gender Pronouns Can Be Tricky on Campus. Harvard Is Making Them Stick.](#) [Anemona Hartocollis, *The New York Times*, 19 Feb 2020]

Last week New York University said students would now be able to indicate their pronouns in the system that provides class rosters and seating charts to faculty members. At least 39 other schools allow students to indicate their pronouns on course rosters, according to a national clearinghouse maintained by the director of the University of Massachusetts Amherst's Stonewall Center.

DISCRIMINATION

[MIT to caption online videos after discrimination lawsuit](#) [Alanna Durkin Richer, *AP*, 18 Feb 2020]

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has agreed to provide captions for more of its publicly available online videos as part of a settlement announced Tuesday in a case that accused the school of discriminating against people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

DIVERSITY

["Black in Space" looks at final frontier of civil rights](#) [Russell Contreras, *AP*, 20 Feb 2020]

"Black in Space: Breaking the Color Barrier," scheduled to air Monday on the Smithsonian Channel, examines the race to get Black astronauts into the heavens while fighting for human rights on earth. It shows how the astronauts surmounted racial barriers and hostile commanders to get close to the stars.

[Vicenza exhibit focuses on U.S. women of color](#) [*Stars and Stripes*, 19 Feb 2020]

A photo exhibit highlighting Vicenza-assigned Americans of color will be on display this weekend in the city's old town. The exhibit, titled "Noir," will feature 26 photographs at a downtown gallery "to showcase the diversity and professionalism of African-American soldiers."

[The Affirmative Action Battle at Harvard Is Not Over](#) [Anemona Hartocollis, *The New York Times*, 18 Feb 2020]

A group that opposes affirmative action filed an appeal Tuesday of a federal ruling that Harvard had not intentionally discriminated against Asian-American applicants, ratcheting up a challenge to decades of Supreme Court decisions upholding race-conscious selection in college admissions.

[FBI Has Failed to Move the Needle on Diversity Over the Past Decade, Despite Efforts of Recent Directors](#) [Courtney Buble, *GovExec*, 14 Feb 2020]

Percentages of women and minorities have remained virtually unchanged. Although diversity has been a priority at the FBI over the past decade, the make-up of the bureau's workforce has barely changed over that time, and employees' views of the agency's support for diversity have not grown more positive.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[Marine Uses Wrestling Past to Train Martial Arts Teachers](#) [Brock Vergakis (The Virginian-Pilot), *Military.com/AP*, 19 Feb 2020]

Sgt. Melissa Paul became the first woman wrestler in the Marines and only the second in the United States military...

In the Marines, she also found she has yet another family where people look out for each other. She wants those she leads at Marine Corps Security Regiment to know she has their back and always will. She doesn't want to just make better Marines, she wants to make better people.

[A quarter of Americans admit to having an office romance—and 1 in 4 dated their boss](#) [Karen Gilchrist, *CNBC*, 13 Feb 2020]

The office romance is far from dead, even as workplace relationships come under increasing pressure in the #MeToo era.

More than a quarter (27%) of U.S. employees have had a workplace romance with a colleague, according to [report](#) released ahead of Valentine's Day by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM).

[\[See Also\]](#)

[Let's Stop Talking About "Work Spouses"](#) [OPINION] [Kim Elsesser, *Forbes*, 13 Feb 2020]

Yet another [survey](#) has been completed on the prevalence of work spouses. A work spouse is a "colleague you have a strong friendship with, who is the gender you're attracted to, and with whom you have a bond that resembles that of a married couple," according to the job search engine [Simply Hired](#). And just to be clear, a colleague that you have a strong friendship with, who is not the gender you're attracted to, is still just called a friend. In a time when we're trying to desexualize the workplace, do we really need a cutesy, romantic label for some platonic workplace friendships?

MISCELLANEOUS

[The Army's Unconventional Big-City Recruiting Strategy Is Paying Off, Officials Say](#) [Richard Sisk, *Military.com*, 20 Feb 2020]

The Army was on track to meet or exceed its recruiting goals again this year, with help from an unexpected boost of enlistments in the traditionally difficult northeast region, Army officials said Wednesday.

[Germany: Bill requires sites to report hate speech to police](#) [Frank Jordans, *AP*, 19 Feb 2020]

Sharing threats made by someone else could soon become a punishable offense in Germany, after the government approved a bill Wednesday designed to crack down on hate speech and online extremism.

[Federal Employees' Settlement Agreements Can Expire, Court Rules](#) [Eric Katz, *GovExec*, 18 Feb 2020]

A federal court ruled in a precedent-setting decision this month the settlements federal employees make with their agencies can expire, including in cases involving whistleblower retaliation.

[This proposed law would help deported veterans finish the citizenship process](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 14 Feb 2020]

Last summer, Customs and Border Patrol stopped a deported Marine Corps veteran on his way to a citizenship interview from entering the U.S. at the San Ysidro, California checkpoint. Though former Sgt. Roman Sabal's story was complicated, it inspired Army veteran Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Illinois, to propose a bill Thursday that would require CBP to allow deportees to attend appointments at ports of entry, consulates or embassies without having to make their case for "advance parole," which temporarily suspends deportation proceedings or decisions while an immigrant works their way through the naturalization process.

MISCONDUCT

[Report clears past Naval War College president Jeffrey A. Harley of misconduct](#) [G. Wayne Miller, *Newport Daily News*, (Newport, R.I.), 18 Feb 2020]

The Office of Naval Inspector General has cleared former Naval War College president Rear Adm. Jeffrey A. Harley of most of the allegations of misconduct claimed to have occurred after he took command of the 136-year-old school in July 2016, The Providence Journal has learned.

[Reprint: [1](#), [2](#)]

RACISM

[Grief, anger and calls for action after shooting in Germany](#) [David McHugh and Frank Jordans, *AP*, 21 Feb 2020]

Hundreds of grieving people are flocking to Friday prayers in the mosques of the German town of Hanau, two days after a racially motivated shooting shook the country and prompted fresh calls for a crackdown on far-right extremism...

A 43-year-old German man fatally shot nine people with immigrant backgrounds in the Frankfurt suburb late Wednesday before apparently killing his 72-year-old mother and himself. Half of the victims were reported to be Turkish.

The man, identified as Tobias Rathjen, left a number of rambling texts and videos espousing racist views and claiming to have been under surveillance since birth.

[[See Also](#)]

[Racist comment stirs emotion for Black Rhode Island lawmaker](#) [AP, 20 Feb 2020]

Rep. Anastasia Williams, D-Providence, said last week on the House floor that she was called a "house slave" by a lawmaker who she respected, comparing the term to being called a distinctive racial slur.

[When Jim Crow Reign'd Amid the Rubble of Nazi Germany](#) [Alexis Clark, *The New York Times*, 19 Feb 2020]

For the 1.2 million Black men who served in a segregated army during World War II, efficiency and bravery on the battlefield didn't lead to the social changes they had hoped for. The gulf between America's ideals and its realities hit home particularly hard for one group: the thousands of Black occupation troops sent to a defeated Germany to promote democracy.

[Fashion Institute apologises for “clearly racist” show](#) [Tom Gerken, *BBC News*, 19 Feb 2020]

Models were asked to wear prosthetic ears, lips and bushy eyebrows for a collection run by fashion design students at the event in Manhattan. The accessories were criticised online after an African-American model said she would not wear the “clearly racist” items at the event on 7 February.

[Sand Creek Massacre site demands we confront racial violence](#) [AP, 19 Feb 2020]

On November 29, 1864, Col. John Chivington led around 700 U.S. volunteer soldiers to a village of nearly 500 Cheyenne and Arapaho people camped along the banks of Big Sandy Creek. The Ohio-born Chivington had earned praise two years before by helping Hispanic Union soldiers in New Mexico beat back a Confederate supply train in the Battle of Glorieta Pass during the Civil War. But on that November day, he ordered his men to attack and kill mainly women, children and elderly at the camp. The village under the care of Chiefs Black Kettle and Left Hand had believed they were under the protection of the U.S. Army and even approached the unit with white flags.

[California to apologize officially for historical mistreatment of Japanese Americans](#) [Gustavo Arellano, *Los Angeles Times*, 16 Feb 2020]

For decades, Japanese American activists have marked Feb. 19 as a day to reflect on one of the darkest chapters in this nation's history.

On that date in 1942, during World War II, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt authorized the forced removal of over 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent from their homes and businesses. On Thursday, the California Assembly will do more than just remember.

[\[Reprint\]](#)

RELIGION

[How one organization is working to correct cases of Jewish WWII soldiers mistakenly buried under Latin Cross headstones](#) [Dylan Gresik, *Military Times*, 21 Feb 2020]

More than 400,000 American service members were killed in WWII and over 11,000 of them were Jewish-Americans, according to statistics from the National WWII Museum.

Nearly half-a-million Jewish-Americans served during the war.

...[S]oldiers were periodically buried with incorrect grave markers, and the group estimates the number of wrong stones could be in the low hundreds...

“Nothing nefarious occurred. There was no evil intent to hide Jewish soldiers,” said Shalom Lamm [founder of Operation Benjamin]. “What we've seen are many, many clerical errors. This was a time of war, a difficult time.”

[Mormon-owned BYU eases rules on “homosexual behavior”](#) [Brady McCombs, *AP*, 20 Feb 2020]

Brigham Young University in Utah has revised its strict code of conduct to strip a rule that banned any behavior that reflected “homosexual feelings,” which LGBTQ students and their allies felt created an unfair double standard not imposed on heterosexual couples.

[Christian sues U.S. Postal Service over Sunday work shifts](#) [AP, 19 Feb 2020]

Gerald Groff, who says he is an evangelical Christian, filed a lawsuit Friday against the federal agency, claiming he was let go from his position after refusing to work on Sundays for religious reasons.

[Seattle-area teachers reported fired for being gay; Catholic school says they resigned](#) [Doha Madani, NBC News, 16 Feb 2020]

A Seattle-area Catholic school's claim that two teachers resigned has been disputed by allegations that they were forced out over their same-sex relationships.

SEXISM

[American women seek more than \\$66M in damages from U.S. Soccer](#) [Ronald Blum, AP, 21 Feb 2020]

Players on the U.S. women's national team are seeking more than \$66 million in damages as part of their gender discrimination lawsuit against the U.S. Soccer Federation...

Among the documents filed were the separate collective bargaining agreements of the U.S. men's and women's teams, which had not previously been made public.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARRASSMENT

[Why a New Jersey Political Ritual Got a #MeToo Makeover](#) [Tracey Tully, *The New York Times*, 21 Feb 2020]

The state Chamber of Commerce's Walk to Washington on Thursday is one of the biggest annual networking extravaganzas in New Jersey politics. Elected officials — frequently from the governor on down — mingle with lobbyists, university presidents and business leaders while walking the aisle of a chartered Amtrak train to Washington, cocktails in hand. But this year, in the face of increased awareness of sexual harassment and claims that the two-day trip's Bacchanalian atmosphere invites drunken assaults, the event has undergone a #MeToo makeover.

[Wrestler adds to abuse allegations against university doctor](#) [Larry Lage, David Eggert, Kathleen Foody, and Mike Householder, AP, 21 Feb 2020]

An Olympic wrestler on Thursday accused a University of Michigan doctor of touching him inappropriately during medical exams at the school and said the physician's reputation for such conduct was well known among his teammates.

[The #MeToo Balancing Act in High School](#) [Andrew Reiner, *The New York Times*, 20 Feb 2020]

The #MeToo movement was a watershed moment, empowering girls and women to share their stories, and many boys and young men have told me in interviews that the greater awareness of and need to end sexual assault against females is "long overdue." But some boys and young men have also told me that they are worried about what the movement means for them. They feel their voices have been silenced in conversations around gender and they struggle to navigate damaging perceptions about masculinity, particularly in the realm of dating.

[A call to action at the VA on sexual harassment and assault](#) [OPINION] [Kate Germano, Kate McCreery Glynn, et al., *Task and Purpose*, 19 Feb 2020]

We are women veterans who have served in the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps. Our service—as aviators, ship drivers, intelligence analysts, engineers, professors, and diplomats—spans decades. We have served in times of peace and war, separated from our families and loved ones. We are proud of our accomplishments, particularly as many were earned while immersed in a military culture that often ignores and demeans women’s contributions. We are veterans.

[Ex-Offutt airman reported a sexual assault, then she was punished for underage drinking](#) [Erin Grace, *Omaha World-Herald* (Omaha, Neb.), 14 Feb 2020]

Christina Portwine reported that she was sexually assaulted. Then she was the one who got in trouble. The alleged assault happened during her first week of duty at Offutt Air Force Base. She delayed reporting the encounter initially, chalking it up to drinking and one “bad night.”

SUICIDE

[Service members urged to “speak up” about possible suicide](#) [Scott Turner, *Albuquerque Journal* (Albuquerque, N.M.), 16 Feb 2020]

The number of suicides jumped from 285 to 325 nationwide between 2017 and 2018, according to the 2019 Annual Suicide Report. That is an increase from about 22 suicides per 100,000 service members to about 25. The overall suicide rate in the U.S., which has also been steadily climbing, is 14 per 100,000. The Pentagon said the military suicide rate reflects the fact that men are four times as likely to commit suicide as women. Men make up 85% of military branches and more than 49% of the general population.

[\[Reprint\]](#)

VETERANS

[GAO: VA must improve plans for providing long-term care to aging veterans](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military Times*, 20 Feb 2020]

Veterans are increasingly relying on the Department of Veterans Affairs for long-term care as they age, and with the cost expected to double in the next 20 years, the department must be prepared, the Government Accountability Office has warned.

[There’s More Than One Right Way to Treat PTSD in Veterans](#) [OP-ED] [Kacie Kelly, *Military.com*, 18 Feb 2020]

In a Jan. 30 study published by the Journal of the American Medical Association, the authors assessed findings from many years of research on PTSD treatment outcomes. While the study rightly notes that trauma-focused therapies are good at treating PTSD, the authors made some conclusions that suggest trauma-focused therapies should not be prioritized as a first-line treatment.

[Donald Stratton, one of last three remaining survivors of USS Arizona attack, dies at 97](#) [Wyatt Olson, *Stars and Stripes*, 16 Feb 2020]

Donald Stratton, a sailor severely burned while aboard the doomed USS Arizona during the Japanese surprise attack Dec. 7, 1941, died Saturday at his home in Colorado Springs, Colo. He was 97. His passing leaves only two living survivors of the battleship, Lou Conter and Ken Potts.

[\[See Also\]](#)