

Public Interest File

January 1, 2016 - March 31, 2016

ARTS

Barbra Streisand: The Last Great American Show Woman

1/20/2016 1:00PM 49 minutes

One thing we can all agree on regarding [Barbra Streisand](#); she provokes strong reactions. Or, she used to. I don't think Millennials or Generation X and Y completely understand what Streisand was like when she was a central part of the American cultural conversation. In the 1960's and 70's, she was in many ways a kind of star the world had not seen before. And, as she pushed the limits of that stardom, she paid a price. Fairly or unfairly, she came to be seen by her detractors as a person especially crazed by vanity, even by the standards of show business. But, for others, she was and still is the person who refused to be marginalized and in that light, she becomes a hero.

POLITICS

The Wheelhouse: Capitol Conflicts Abound

3/23/2016 9:00AM 49 minutes

Time in the legislative session is starting to run down and the list of things to do remains long. This week on our weekly news roundtable The Wheelhouse, we're joined by Capitol reporters to catch us up on what is (and isn't) getting done. Governor Dannel Malloy is going up against labor unions and asking for concessions to help with the budget but the rank and file union members haven't authorized a renegotiation of the current contract.

ENVIRONMENT

Amid Crisis, Questions About Environmental Injustice; Zika Virus; Niagara's Plans for Bloomfield

2/1/2016 9:00AM 49 minutes

The [Michigan Civil Rights Commission announced](#) it will hold hearings to see whether discrimination played a role in the handling of Flint's water crisis. The decision came early last week, amid allegations of [environmental racism](#) against the city's largely black community. This hour -- [from Flint, Michigan to New Haven, Connecticut](#) -- we learn about the environmental justice issues affecting America's low-income communities of color. We also [consider the impact of the Zika virus](#), and hear about a [controversial water bottling facility](#) planned for the town of Bloomfield, Connecticut.

HEALTH

Do You Think Your Heart Is Healthy?

2/17/2016 1:00PM 49 minutes

[Heart disease is still the biggest killer in the United States](#), even though fewer people die from heart attack and cardiac arrest than ever before.

GOVERNMENT

The Wheelhouse: Drowning in Deficits

3/30/2016 9:00AM 49 minutes

In his February budget address, Gov. Dannel Malloy outlined the challenges facing the state government. "Connecticut state government must reset our expectations of what we can afford, how we provide services, and how we save for our priorities," said Malloy. "It won't be easy, and it often won't be politically popular." That last part is becoming increasingly evident. As lawmakers met on Tuesday to continue working on the budget deficit, hundreds of state employees rallied against layoffs and concessions. The budget woes in Hartford are trickling down to cities and towns too. This hour our weekly news roundtable The Wheelhouse discusses the budget and economy of the Land of Steady Habits.

HISTORY

The Strange Brilliance of Buckminster Fuller

3/30/2016 1:00PM 49 minutes

Richard Buckminster Fuller may not be a household name. Nevertheless, his contributions to society and to sustainable living through technology and design were both vast and transformative. By the time of his death in 1983, Fuller had patented 25 inventions, published over 30 books and had chronicled nearly his entire career through a series of papers known as the "Dymaxion Chronofile." While Fuller was undoubtedly a visionary, his visions were often too whimsical or unorthodox to be appreciated in their time. This hour, we speak with experts and admirers of the late inventor in an effort to understand the strange brilliance of R. Buckminster Fuller.

SCIENCE/TECH

Why Is So Much Publicly-Funded Research Unavailable?

3/9/2016 1:00PM 49 minutes

[Access to research subsidized by public funds is hard to get](#) unless you're a student or faculty member at a university that pays a high subscription fee to offer the privilege - even though researchers are subsidized with public funds to create the research. Medical research is just as bad. [The British Medical Journal reported in January](#) that almost seventy-five percent of clinical trials are still not published within two years of completion. Despite a legal obligation to do so, there is little enforcement or repercussions for non-compliance. Instead, valuable clinical data is wasted and studies are never published. Today, the pros and cons of open access.

EDUCATION

University Foundation's and the Public's Right to Know

3/25/2016 9:00AM 49 minutes

Universities didn't always have power-house fundraising foundations supporting them - they came into popularity in the Reagan-era economy when government drastically cut higher education funding, so more and more schools had to turn to private donors. Today, foundations - [like the one at UConn](#) - have moved to center stage in the search for higher education dollars. But, if a foundation is raising money for a public university, should it make its records open to freedom of information laws? [Some lawmakers think yes](#). This hour, we'll listen back on a panel

sponsored by the Connecticut Foundation for Open Government and WNPR -- about what information the UConn Foundation should make public. New legislation is pushing for transparency, and after years it [looks like a compromise](#) between legislators and the foundation is possible.

RACE

One Professor's Journey to the Bottom of the n-Word

3/9/2016 9:00AM 49 minutes

In his [new documentary](#), Connecticut journalism professor and newspaper columnist Frank Harris III spotlights what is unarguably one of the most controversial words in America: the n-word. It's been [news in South Windsor](#), where some parents got upset about their kids reading a book of accounts from North Carolina slaves. Parents thought the school should have warned them about the language. This hour, we take a closer look at the n-word, and learn about the its deep and complex history here in the United States.