

WRAT QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT, 1st QUARTER, 2024

The following is the Quarterly Issues Report for WRAT-FM for the 1st quarter of 2024. The report includes a synopsis of all programs of importance that aired between 1/1/24 and 3/31/24.

WRAT has identified issues of importance to its' listenership. A list of those issues can be found following the description of each programming element it addresses.

Additionally, a list of Public Service Announcements aired on WRAT during this time period can be found at the end of this report.

PUBLIC INTEREST PROGRAMMING ON WRAT

WRAT Morning Rat Race: Daily news broadcast at 6:20am covering local events and related discussion. Airls 5 minutes per day, Monday through Friday. Periodic interviews with state and local officials to discuss topics of local interest. Additional live and pre-recorded interviews with local people of interest also air as noted.

Viewpoints: airs Sundays, 6:15-6:45AM. A weekly magazine style program that addresses a wide variety of issues of concern to our listening audience. Length: 30:00

InfoTraks: airs Sundays, 7:15-7:45am. A weekly magazine style public affairs program that addresses a variety of issues of concern to our listening audience. Length: 30:00

Program listing:

Morning Rat Race

1/17/24

Length: 9:54

Guest: Joe Leone, owner Italian Specialty Shop and Community Service Shore Award winner

Mr. Leone shared the importance of the local business community supporting local charitable efforts and encouraged other local business leaders to apply for the 2024 Shore Award for Community Service.

2/7/24

Length: 9:23

Guest: Paul Hulse, Just Believe Inc.

Interview with the creator of local homeless organization about the need for more permanent transitional housing for unhomed residents in Ocean County and what “Code Blue” services are available when winter temperatures drop.

2/23/24

Length: 7:47

Guest: Craig Coyle, Sons of Shillelagh

The Belmar/Lake Como St. Patrick’s Day parade kicks off the St. Patricks Season on the Jersey Shore on March 3, 2024

InfoTraks

1/7/24

Length: 8:44

Guest: Steve Elek, Senior Automotive Data Analyst at Consumer Reports

Mr. Elek shared results of Consumer Reports' newly-released annual car reliability survey, which found that electric vehicle owners continue to report far more problems with their vehicles than owners of conventional cars or hybrids. He said that on average, EVs from the past three model years had 79 percent more problems than cars powered by internal combustion engines. He outlined the most common problems cited by EV owners, and the potential reasons behind this trend.

Issues covered: Electric Vehicles, Consumer Matters

1/7/24

Length: 8:41

Guest: Mariah M. Kalmin, PhD, epidemiologist, Health Policy Researcher at RAND, a nonprofit research organization

Dr. Kalmin was the lead author of a Rand study that found that spending on mental health services for children and adolescents has risen by more than one-quarter since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, continuing to rise even as the use of telehealth services plateaued. She explained why telehealth care for mental health filled a critical need for pediatric patients, but added that it may not be appropriate in some cases.

Issues covered: Mental Health, Telehealth, Youth Issues

Date: 1/14/24

Length: 8:48

Guest: Annie Grace, recovering alcoholic, author of “This Naked Mind,” founder of the This Naked Mind community

Ms. Grace shared her personal experience of overcoming alcohol addiction by asking herself why she drank so much and doing research on the effects of alcohol. She explained how alcohol affects the body and the brain, and how quitting alcohol can restore the natural pleasure system. She also advised people who want to quit alcohol to be compassionate with themselves, and to treat drinking as a habit that can be changed with the right approach.

Issues covered: Alcoholism

1/14/24

Length: 8:39

Guest: Nusrat Jung, D.Sc., Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering in the Lyles School of Civil Engineering at Purdue University

Prof. Jung led a study of Americans’ typical morning grooming routines and found that several volatile chemicals are released when common hair care products are heated with flat irons or hair dryers. She said the chemicals linger in the air after use and may have dangerous effects on health. She recommends the use of a bathroom exhaust fan when using hair care products, and using the products less frequently.

Issues covered: Personal Health, Environment, Consumer Matters

1/21/24

Length: 8:54

Guest: Jared Walczak, Vice President of State Projects, Tax Foundation

More and more homeowners are struggling as property values across the nation are rising rapidly, and property taxes are following suit. Mr. Walczak said typical property valuations have risen 30% to 40% over the past three years. He explained that at least some homeowners who are already grappling with high inflation may get a brief reprieve, because property taxes typically take one to three years to catch up to home prices.

Issues covered: Property Taxes, Inflation, Home Ownership

1/21/24

Length: 8:29

Guest: Satchin Panda, PhD, Professor in the Regulatory Biology Laboratory at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies

When and what we eat for dinner makes a significant difference in how we sleep. Prof. Panda explained how to determine the optimal time to have dinner. He said the most important factor in the dinnertime calculus is melatonin, the hormone that signals it's time to sleep. He also talked about the effect that highly processed food and carbohydrates have on sleep quality.

Issues covered: Personal Health, Nutrition

1/28/24

Length: 8:58

Guest: Vijay Boyapati, Bitcoin expert, author of “The Bullish Case for Bitcoin”

Mr. Boyapati explained the basics of what bitcoin is and why many investors have an interest in it. He explained the recent government approval that allows ordinary investors to purchase bitcoin through spot bitcoin exchange traded funds and why it will expose bitcoin to a much bigger retail audience. He also outlined the most common misconceptions about the digital currency.

Issues covered: Digital Currencies, Personal Finance

1/28/24

Length: 8:15

Guest: Laura Stack, founder of Johnny's Ambassadors, a Colorado-based organization that aims to educate teens, parents, and communities about the dangers of today's high-THC marijuana

Mrs. Stack why she founded Johnny's Ambassadors, after her 19-year-old son Johnny died by suicide after he became psychotic from using dabs, which are a potent marijuana concentrate. She explained how today's marijuana and THC products are drastically different than that of years ago. She says parents need to cast aside what they think they know about the drug and recognize that marijuana causes brain damage and mental health issues in ways that other substances do not.

Issues covered: Substance Abuse, Parenting

2/4/24

Length: 8:43

Guest: Rachel Slade, author of “Making It in America: The Almost Impossible Quest to Manufacture in the U.S.A. (And How It Got That Way)”

The US has fallen from the top spot, to now the 10th largest manufacturing economy in the world. Ms. Slade discussed how America can revive manufacturing and why is it so important. She explained why manufacturing is vital for the country’s independence, economy and innovation. She also talked about the impact of the great resignation, the resurging role of unions, and the new priority for a work-life balance among workers.

Issues covered: Manufacturing, Economy, Government

2/4/24

Length: 8:37

Guest: Gary Taubes, journalist, author of “Rethinking Diabetes: What Science Reveals About Diet, Insulin, and Successful Treatments”

Diabetes affects one out of every nine Americans. Mr. Taubes believes that treatment approaches to diabetes need to change, with renewed focus on diet—particularly, fewer carbohydrates and more fat—over a reliance on insulin. He also criticized the role of the food industry in promoting unhealthy foods and influencing diabetes research. He said that the current diabetes epidemic is driven by overeating and obesity, and that the best way to prevent and treat diabetes is to avoid the poison, not take the antidote.

Issues covered: Personal Health, Science

2/11/24

Length: 8:41

Guest: Mariel Buqué, PhD, psychologist, author of “Break the Cycle: A Guide to Healing Intergenerational Trauma”

Many Americans are living with the effects of trauma and long-term stress. Dr. Buqué discussed scientific research that suggests that if trauma is not addressed, it can be genetically passed down from generation to generation, and even be transmitted to entire communities. She said most forms of abuse typically begin in childhood. She talked about therapeutic practices that can pass down strength instead of pain, thereby breaking the cycle.

Issues covered: Mental Health, Child Abuse

2/11/24

Length: 8:35

Guest: Greg Hammer, PhD, recently retired professor at Stanford University School of Medicine, pediatric intensive care physician, pediatric anesthesiologist, author of “GAIN Without Pain”

Despite the pandemic, US life expectancy has increased slightly in the past 20 years. Dr. Hammer discussed what he terms the tripod of health: sleep, exercise and nutrition, and the latest science behind all three. He also talked about recent research into the longevity effects of intermittent fasting, dietary supplements and mindfulness and meditation.

Issues covered: Personal Health, Longevity

2/18/24

Length: 9:27

Guest: Bridget Freisthler, PhD, Professor in the College of Social Work at Ohio State University

Child abuse and neglect cases have been on the rise since the pandemic and its aftermath. Prof. Freisthler led a study of an alcohol control project in Sacramento. The program's purpose was to reduce alcohol-related problems in two neighborhoods in the city, but it discovered an unexpected byproduct: in one of the neighborhoods, total entries into foster care were reduced by nearly 12%. She discussed factors behind child abuse and why she believes additional research is needed before trying to duplicate the program elsewhere.

Issues covered: Child Abuse & Neglect , Alcohol Abuse, Foster Care

2/18/24

Length: 7:46

Guest: Megan Henly, PhD, Research Assistant Professor in the Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire

Older Americans, low-income workers, and people with disabilities are over-represented in rural parts of the US. But enrollment in federal and state programs in these regions tends to be low. Prof. Henly discussed the numerous barriers to getting information about, and enrolling in, programs like Social Security disability and retirement benefits, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Medicaid health insurance program, and what can be done to reduce the problem.

Issues covered: Government Assistance, Disabilities, Rural Concerns, Aging

2/25/24

Length: 9:33

Guest: Jeremy Nobel, MD, MPH, founder of the nonprofit Foundation for Art & Healing, author of “Project UnLonely: Healing Our Crisis of Disconnection”

Dr. Nobel said loneliness has increased dramatically since the pandemic. He outlined the three types of loneliness. He also discussed the negative health consequences—both mental and physical—of loneliness or isolation. He said the answer to loneliness is connection through activities like creative expression and serving other people. He believes it all begins with being aware of loneliness and having the courage to address it.

Issues covered: Mental Health, Personal Health

2/25/24

Length: 7:47

Guest: Elizabeth Comen, MD, Medical Oncologist specializing in breast cancer at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Assistant Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College, author of “All in Her Head: The Truth and Lies Early Medicine Taught Us About Women's Bodies and Why It Matters Today”

Dr. Comen said centuries of medical care often dismissed women's health problems as hysteria, but the term used today is anxiety. She said 80% of autoimmune diseases are found in women but the illnesses

are often not properly diagnosed, and research in the area is woefully lacking. She also said concussions or even strangulations are often not recognized as domestic abuse by emergency room physicians. She offered three tips for women to advocate for themselves.

Issues covered: Women's Health, Domestic Abuse, Mental Health

3/3/24

Length: 8:14

Guest: James E. Rogers, PhD, Director of Food Safety Research and Testing, Acting Head of Product Safety Testing at Consumer Reports

Plasticizers--used to make plastic more flexible and more durable--are so widely used that today, they show up inside almost every American's body. Dr. Rogers talked about Consumer Reports' recent tests, which found that nearly all foods contain phthalates and bisphenols, often at very high levels. He talked about the potential health consequences, and offered steps for consumers to try to reduce their exposure.

Issues covered: Food Safety, Personal Health, Consumer Matters

3/3/24

Length: 8:54

Guest: Harvey Miller, PhD, Professor of Geography at Ohio State University

Prof. Miller led a recent study that examined the circumstances behind who is found at fault when cars hit pedestrians in an urban area. He

found that pedestrians were more likely to be blamed when they were crossing busy highways where crosswalks were few and far between. In congested downtown areas, where there were more marked intersections with pedestrian crossings, drivers were more likely to be found at fault. He believes that street and highway designs should be re-imagined, to put a greater emphasis pedestrian safety.

Issues covered: Traffic Fatalities, Government

3/10/24

Length: 7:29

Guest: Angela Fagerlin, Ph.D., Chair of Population Health Sciences at University of Utah Health, Research Scientist with the VA Salt Lake City Health System's Informatics Decision-Enhancement and Analytic Sciences (IDEAS) Center for Innovation

Dr. Fagerlin was the senior author of a study that found that 60 to 80 percent of people surveyed are not honest with their doctors about information that could be relevant to their health. She explained why people are sometimes reluctant to be truthful with their doctors, and why that can be a dangerous practice.

Issues covered: Personal Health

3/10/24

Length: 9:40

Guest: Teresa Gil, PhD, psychotherapist, author of “Women Who Were Sexually Abused As Children: Mothering, Resilience and Protecting the Next Generation”

Dr. Gil estimates that there are approximately 21 million mothers in America who experienced childhood sexual abuse. She discussed how that trauma may affect their own parenting. She talked about the value of strong mother-daughter relationships, spiritual beliefs, and therapy in coping.

Issues covered: Sexual Abuse, Parenting, Mental Health

3/17/24

Length: 8:50

Guest: David Rein, PhD, Senior Fellow at the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago

Dr. Rein led a recent study of hearing loss rates, and found that where a person lives and their occupation have a surprisingly large impact. He found that that the occupations most associated with hearing loss besides mining were in retail and restaurant settings. Rates of hearing loss are higher among men, non-Hispanic whites, and residents of rural areas, and increases significantly starting at age 35. He talked about the reasons behind the study’s findings, along with the societal stigma of wearing hearing aids.

Issues covered: Personal Health, Aging

3/17/24

Length: 8:31

Guest: Christy Faith, author of “Homeschool Rising: Shattering Myths, Finding Courage, and Opting Out of the School System”

Ms. Faith is a work-from-home mom who also homeschools her children. She discussed the rapid growth of homeschooling in the aftermath of the pandemic, and the reasons families choose to do it. She talked about the wide array of private and public resources available to homeschoolers, and the biggest challenges families face. She also addressed concerns about socialization for children who are homeschooled.

Issues covered: Education, Parenting

3/24/24

Length: 8:12

Guest: Michael Redlener, MD, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine of Mount Sinai

Dr. Redlener led a study that found that emergency medical service (EMS) systems are not consistently providing optimal care, based on new national standards of quality, for patients who call 911. He explained the significant differences in EMS care he found in comparing urban, suburban, and rural services. He explained why the unnecessary use of lights and sirens, which he found is common in rural areas, is a dangerous practice.

Issues covered: Emergency Services, Public Health

3/24/24

Length: 9:12

Guest: Chelsey Goodan, academic tutor and mentor, author of “Underestimated: The Wisdom and Power of Teenage Girls”

Teenage girls struggle with a wide variety of issues. Ms. Goodan outlined the most common things that concern teenage girls, and why they are reluctant to share them with their parents. She offered advice to parents to improve dialogue with their daughters, through listening and asking non-judgmental questions. She also talked about the value of sports in helping girls find their voices.

Issues covered: Teenager Concerns, Parenting, Mental Health

3/31/24

Length: 8:53

Guest: Charles L. Marohn Jr, land-use planner, municipal engineer, author of “Escaping the Housing Trap: The Strong Towns Response to the Housing Crisis”

Housing costs have risen dramatically in the past few years. Mr. Marohn talked about the tension between housing as a financial product versus basic shelter. He advocated for a new approach that can rapidly produce housing on a local scale in response to local needs. He said that regulations, financial incentives, and cultural expectations often undermine organic efforts of urban renewal.

Issues covered: Housing, Community Development, Government

3/31/24

Length: 8:30

Guest: Sanja Jelic, MD, critical care medicine specialist and sleep researcher at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

Obstructive sleep apnea affects about 25% of adults, and it often goes untreated. Dr. Jelic discussed the condition and the most common treatment, CPAP machines. She has led several studies that have determined that, contrary to long-held medical beliefs, the machines do not lower a patient's risk of heart disease, which is about two to three times higher than average.

Issues covered: Personal Health

VIEWPOINTS

1/7/2024

Length: 10:07

Guests: Susan Schneider, philosopher, director, Center for the Future Mind, Florida Atlantic University; Kristian Hammond, AI scientist, professor, director, Masters of Science Dept., Artificial Intelligence, Northwestern University

Synopsis: Would you consider complex, artificial intelligence systems like Open AI's, Chat GPT-4 or Google's newest release, Gemini, conscious minds? What exactly even constitutes as consciousness? We speak with two experts about this ongoing debate and what challenges lie ahead for these quickly evolving systems.

Issues Covered: Artificial Intelligence, Emotion, Engineering, Ethics, Personality, Philosophy, Psychology, Technology

1/7/24

Length: 7:27

Guests: Tim O'Brien, illustrator, artist

Synopsis: We speak with illustrator and artist Tim O'Brien who's illustrated countless magazine covers over the decades. O'Brien speaks with us about his long career, the history of illustration, its evolution and how the art form is used to convey a deeper meaning or take on a singular moment in time.

Issues covered: Art, Creative Arts, Culture, Fashion, History, Liberal Arts, Literature, Media, News, Politics

1/7/24

Length: 1:40

Synopsis: We cover what word best encapsulated 2023, according to dictionary giant Merriam Webster. Any guesses?

Issues covered: Artificial Intelligence, English Language, Language, Pop Culture, Social Media, Technology, Trends

1/7/24

Length: 2:18

Synopsis: Love a good, jumpy scare? Us too. We cover some old and new releases from acclaimed filmmaker Emerald Fennell.

Issues covered: Culture, Film

1/14/2024

Length: 7:21

Guests: Gerry Canavan, professor at Marquette University and author, Octavia E. Butler (Modern Masters of Science Fiction)

Synopsis: For decades, science fiction was a genre written almost exclusively by white males. Now, the genre is flourishing with diverse voices, thanks in part to the trailblazing writer Octavia E. Butler.

Historian Gerry Canavan discusses the obstacles Butler faced and her legacy on one of the most popular genres in American literature.

Issues covered: Culture, Diversity, Gender Equality, Gender Issues, History, Literature, Race, Science Fiction

1/14/24

Length: 10:15

Guests: Meredith May, author, *The Honey Bus: A Memoir of Loss, Courage and a Girl Saved by Bees*

Synopsis: In Meredith May's book, she examines the parallels between the inner workings of beehives and our society, and how beekeeping taught her numerous life lessons as a child. She also discusses the threat to bees with commercialized beekeeping and what we can do to protect these insects that are vital to our ecosystem.

Issues covered: Beekeeping, Biodiversity, Environment, Family Relationships, Literature, Mental Health

1/14/24

Length: 1:37

Synopsis: We cover the Oxford English dictionary's word of the year: rizz. What does it mean, and why has it become a mainstay in the Gen-Z vernacular?

Issues covered: Culture, English Language, Language, Social Media, Trends, Youth Issues

1/14/24

Length: 2:22

Synopsis: We talk about why most streaming platforms are struggling to make a profit at year's end.

Issues covered: TV, Culture, Technology, Film

1/21/2024

Length: 8:41

Guests: Sarah Woodson, Executive Director, Founder, The Color of Cannabis; Aaron Smith, Co-Founder & CEO, The National Cannabis Industry Association

Synopsis: Cannabis has grown to become a multi-billion-dollar industry in the U.S. But how much of this revenue is going to small businesses rather than large chains controlling every part of production? We discuss the current inequities and the failure to maintain a model that helps populations who've been disproportionately affected by the war on cannabis get a seat at the table.

Issues covered: Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, Emerging Industries, Equality, Government, Incarceration, Law, Race, Small Business

1/21/24

Length: 9:23

Guests: Jonathon Friedman, director, free expression & education programs, Pen America; Tia Bess, volunteer, Moms for Liberty

Synopsis: Books have been taken off shelves since the colonial period, but, in recent years, more books than ever have been deemed unsuitable for young readers and are being removed from schools and local libraries. We cover the controversy by highlighting two differing perspectives on the debate.

Issues covered: Education, Free Expression, Gender, Government, Law, Literature, Politics, Public Policy, Race, Sexual Education

1/21/24

Length: 1:26

Synopsis: We highlight the decades-long political fight to pass state and federal legislation that officially made the third Monday of January Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Issues covered: Civil Rights, Equality, Government, History, Law, National Holidays, Politics, Race

1/21/24

Length: 2:05

Synopsis: Critics can't decide whether Steve McQueen's five-part series, "Small Axe" is a TV show or if it's a series of short films. Either way, the

release is a hit and will keep you hooked the entire way. Stream it now in full on Amazon Prime.

1/28/2024

Length: 7:26

Guests: Becky Pringle, president, National Education Association; Lori Cash, retired first grade teacher, Columbus, Ind. Synopsis: For years, the media has covered teacher burnout and how more and more teachers are resigning. Yet, despite this increased coverage, little has been done to improve pay, working conditions and autonomy on a large-scale for educators. Now, many schools across the country are reaching a breaking point and lower-than-average student scores are reflecting this systemic breakdown. We speak with two education experts about what needs to change and how listeners can get involved

Issues covered: Career, Economy, Education, Education Policy, Government Funding, Higher Education, Inflation, Labor Unions, Law, Learning, Personal Finance, Politics, Salary

1/28/24

Length: 10:03

Guests: Tamara Taraciuk Broner, director, Peter D. Bell Rule of Law Program, Inter-American Dialogue; Abraham Lowenthal, Professor Emeritus, International Relations, University Of Southern California, founder, Latin America Program, Woodrow Wilson Center

Synopsis: It's not just a heated election year for Americans. Millions of Mexicans are also gearing up for a contentious election cycle to elect their next President and Congress. We cover Mexico's ongoing struggle

to maintain a fair and equal democracy and what's at stake within the country and U.S.-Mexico relations.

Issues covered: Crime, Democracy, Foreign Policy, International Relations, Public Elections, Voting Rights

1/28/24

Length: 1:54

Issues covered: Auto Manufacturing, Climate, Engineering, Extreme Weather, Public Safety, Technology

Synopsis: Frigid temperatures across the U.S. have been wreaking havoc for millions of drivers, especially electric car owners. We cover this unfolding crisis and how auto manufacturers are responding.

1/28/24

Length: 2:15

Synopsis: We cover the new drama "The Iron Claw" featuring Jeremy Allen White, Zac Efron and other leading names.

Issues covered: Culture, Film, TV

2/4/2024

Length: 7:48

Guests: Jacqueline Newman, divorce attorney, managing partner, Berkman, Bottger, Newman & Schein

Synopsis: For many divorce attorneys, the beginning of the year is typically peak season for obtaining new clients. After the holiday season is over, struggling couples reassess their marriage in the new year and then, if they choose to move forward, start the process of divorce in

February. We speak with prominent New York City divorce attorney Jacqueline Newman about the biggest misconceptions people have when it comes to divorce and why everyone – single or married – should keep these tips in mind.

Issues covered: Communication, Government, Law, Parenting, Personal Finance, Psychology, Relationships

2/4/24

Length: 9:21

Guests: Dr. James S. Gordon, psychiatrist, clinical professor, Georgetown Medical School, author, Transformation: Discovering Wholeness and Healing After Trauma

Synopsis: Trauma comes in many shapes and forms – and nearly everyone experiences trauma at some point in their life. Viewpoints speaks with psychiatrist, Dr. James S. Gordon to better understand a person's reaction to trauma and the body's resilience in dealing with these stressful events and situations.

Issues covered: Communication, Health, Mental Health, Psychiatry, Psychology, Public Health, Self-Growth, Trauma

2/4/24

Length: 1:57

Synopsis: We cover the viral hype behind Stanley tumblers that just seems to keep growing year after year.

Issues covered: Business, Consumer Habits, Consumerism, Influencer Marketing, Personal Finance, Social Media

2/4/24

Length: 2:31

Synopsis: We discuss what gamers can expect from the latest release of Grand Theft Auto VI that's set to drop next year.

Issues covered: Crime, Culture, Entertainment, Media, News, Social Media, Video Games, Violence

2/11/2024

Length: 7:25

Guests: Daryl Fairweather, Chief Economist, Redfin; Freddie Smith, realtor, social media producer

Synopsis: Just 15.5 percent of homes on the market last year were within budget for the average American. That's the lowest percent for housing affordability ever recorded in U.S. history, according to a new report from the real estate firm Redfin. We speak with two real estate and housing experts about the large-scale increase in housing prices and mortgage loans and if there's any relief in sight this year.

Issues covered: Affordable Housing, Economy, Housing Market, Inflation, Personal Finance

2/11/24

Length: 9:25

Guests: Matthew H. Hersch, associate professor, history of science, Harvard University, author, Dark Star: A New History of the Space Shuttle

Synopsis: The space shuttle is seen as an engineering marvel and a symbol of human innovation, ingenuity, and collaboration. However, there's a darker side to the space shuttle program that's often been excluded from the mainstream narrative. This week, we uncover this story with the help of Harvard professor Matthew H. Hersch who's the author of *Dark Star: A New History of the Space Shuttle*.

Issues covered: Aerospace Engineering, Engineering, Exploration, Government, History, Politics, Public Funding, Space, Workplace Safety

2/11/24

Length: 2:20

Synopsis: Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva wowed us all at the 2022 Winter Olympics. At just 15 years old, she jumped onto the international stage, earning first place in her Olympic routines. However, this success was embroiled by controversy after she failed a drug test weeks before the competition. She was still allowed to compete as officials investigated, but now, these achievements have been wiped from record books. We cover her disqualification & why this sentence sends a message to all countries competing in this year's Olympics.

Issues covered: Crime, Drug Use, Government, Health, International Competition, International Law, International Relations, Professional Sport, Sporting Event

2/11/24

Length: 2:29

Synopsis: There's no shortage of anger and frustration over the Oscars snub around Barbie. And while we agree, we feel like this has already been well-covered elsewhere. Instead, this week on Culture Crash we highlight some other films that we feel have not gotten the attention or the nominations they deserved.

Issues covered: Culture, Film

2/18/2024

Length: 8:46

Guests: Tanya Hart, host & producer, Hollywood Live with Tanya Hart, co-producer, Flying Free Films

Synopsis: Most Americans are well acquainted with the story of Amelia Earhart, but few have heard the name, Bessie Coleman. This fearless legend earned her pilot's license two years before Earhart became certified. This week, as we commemorate Black History Month, we cover the story of Coleman and the countless barriers she faced as an African American woman in the early 1900's set on making a name for herself in performance stunt flying.

Issues covered: African American History, Aviation, Civil Rights, Gender Equity, Women's History

2/18/24

Length: 8:34

Guests: Wayne Hale, former program manager, flight director, NASA Space Shuttle Program

Synopsis: In total, the NASA space shuttle program had 135 missions. You can't argue that the birth of this shuttle launched us into a new era

of space exploration and innovation. But – what’s not often mentioned are the controversies, setbacks, and disputes behind the scenes. Former NASA flight director and program manager Wayne Hale speaks candidly with us about the myths and facts of the NASA Space Shuttle Program.

Issues covered: Engineering, Legislation, Politics, Public Funding, Public Safety, Space Exploration

2/18/24

Length: 1:52

Synopsis: A new study published in the scientific journal, Nature Communications, has found a potential link between gel nail treatments and skin cancer. We cover the latest research and how to advocate for your health when at the nail salon.

Issues covered: Cancer, Consumer Safety, Emerging Research, Medicine, Public Health, Science

2/18/24

Length: 2:24

Synopsis: We cover the one and only pop sensation: Taylor Swift. You can love her. You can hate her. But you can’t argue that’s she this.

2/25/2024

Length: 7:38

Guests: Ana Homayoun, academic advisor, early career development expert, author, Erasing the Finish Line: The New Blueprint for Success

Synopsis: As an academic advisor, Ana Homayoun has had many conversations with students, parents, and administrators. With so much competition and so many pressures, what's always top-of-mind is grades, college admissions and how to stand out from everyone else. But what often falls by the wayside are the fundamentals of how to create a healthy and successful life. We speak with Homayoun about why so many teens (especially in the last 10 years) seem to really struggle post-high school and how parents can better prepare their kids before they hit this breaking point.

Issues covered: Career, Child Development, Communication, Life Skills, Mental Health, Organization, Psychology, Teen Development

2/25/24

Length: 9:56

Guests: Dr. Dana Sinclair, psychologist, author, Dialed In: Do Your Best When It Matters Most

Synopsis: Before a big presentation or test or job interview, most of us struggle with different levels of anxiety, nerves, and self-doubt. Dr. Dana Sinclair has worked with Olympic athletes, A-list actors and actresses, and even surgeons on how to overcome this performance anxiety and get back in control in a matter of minutes. We speak with her to learn how everyone can utilize these same strategies in their daily lives.

Issues covered: Career, Communication, Generalized Anxiety, Mental Health, Psychology, Public Speaking, Social Anxiety, Societal Stereotypes

2/25/24

Length: 1:58

Synopsis: Have you shopped at Temu before? The Chinese-owned e-commerce company has seen a meteoric rise in sales since it entered the U.S. market in September 2022. It's known for its extremely low prices on all kinds of goods (think Amazon) but is there a deeper explanation behind these bare bone prices?

Issues covered: Advertising, Business, Consumer Goods, Consumer Safety, Marketing, Public Health

2/25/24

Length: 2:06

Synopsis: We review the upcoming release of Dune: Part Two featuring Timothee Chalamet, Zendaya, Florence Pugh and other big names.

Issues covered: Culture, Film

3/3/2024

Length: 9:24

Guests: Naveeda Khan, associate professor, chair, anthropology, Johns Hopkins University, author, In Quest of a Shared Planet: Negotiating Climate from the Global South

Synopsis: 2023 was the hottest year on record since global records began in 1850. We're also currently far from being on track to hit The Paris Climate Agreement – a landmark international treaty adopted in 2015 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit global warming to

below 2 degrees Celsius this century. We speak with anthropologist and climate policy expert Naveeda Khan about the U.N. Climate Change Conference that took place this year and how smaller, developing countries are stepping up and demanding change.

Issues covered: Climate Change, Climate Policy, Developing Economies, International Relations, Natural Resources, Politics

3/3/24

Length: 8:09

Guests: Mark Anthony Neal, James B. Duke Distinguished Professor, African American Studies, Duke University; Isaac Daniel Executive Director, Stax Music Academy

Synopsis: Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin. These are just some of the iconic soul artists that shaped the genre. We speak with two experts about the cultural relevance of soul music today and how current artists and organizations are carrying on the legacy of this music.

Issues covered: American History, Civil Rights, Culture, Diversity, Equality, History, Music, Race

3/3/24

Length: 1:30

Synopsis: We cover the unexpected death of a 7-year-old girl late last month at a beach in Fort Lauderdale. What all parents should know about this deadly phenomenon.

Issues covered: Child Safety, Emergency Response, Public Health, Public Safety

3/3/24

Length: 2:31

Synopsis: We discuss why older, nostalgic TV shows often seem to outperform newer releases.

Issues covered: Culture, History, TV

3/10/2024

Length: 8:36

Guests: Mary Louise Kelly, co-host, "All Things Considered", National Public Radio

Synopsis: NPR journalist and co-host of "All Things Considered" Mary Louise Kelly joins us to share her story of balancing motherhood with a long-spanning, demanding career in journalism. She – like many mothers – has struggled to have it all and recounts the many tradeoffs over the years.

Issues covered: Career, Media, Mental Health, Motherhood, Parenting, Psychology, Relationships

3/10/24

Length: 8:25

Guests: Ben Austen, Journalist, Author of "Correction, Parole, Prison, and the Possibility of Change"

Synopsis: Parole from prison is one of the key aspects of the criminal justice system. The program incentivizes good behavior, promotes rehabilitation and a successful reintegration into society. But as rates of parole have plummeted in recent years in the U.S., experts are raising doubts about the subjective nature of the process and if prisoners have the adequate tools and resources to get parole.

Issues covered: Civil Rights, Criminal Justice, Criminal Justice History, Culture, Law Enforcement, Mass Incarceration, Society

3/10/24

Length: 2:00

Synopsis: We cover this growing movement at the polls this year as several states hold election year primaries and caucuses.

Issues covered: Activism, Democracy, Elections, Government, Human Rights, International Policy, Politics, War

3/10/24

Length: 2:37

Synopsis: We review Season 11 of the reality TV series, "Vanderpump Rules".

Issues covered: Culture, TV

3/17/2024

Length: 9:03

Guests: David Baron, former science correspondent, NPR, author, American Eclipse: A Nation's Epic Race to Catch the Shadow of the Moon and Win the Glory of the World

Synopsis: On Monday, April 8, a total solar eclipse will hit a large diagonal stretch of the U.S. The next event of this magnitude isn't set to happen again until 2044. We speak with eclipse expert and journalist David Baron about why a total solar eclipse is a can't-miss event worth the travel and traffic.

Issues covered: Astronomy, Astrophysics, Culture, History, Literature, Science, Space, Travel

3/17/24

Length: 8:38

Guests: Travis Tygart, CEO, U.S. Anti-Doping Agency; April Henning, assistant professor, International Sports Management, Edinburgh Business School, Heriot-Watt University

Synopsis: The 2024 Paris Olympics is set to start in just four months. While Russian athletes have been barred from representing their country, they'll still be able to compete on a neutral, no-representation status. However, there are still many lingering questions about the efficacy of anti-doping tests and if the Olympics will once again be plagued by athletes who are retroactively banned.

Issues covered: Adolescent Health, Athletics, Career, Drug Abuse, Government, Health Policy, International Relations, Politics, Professional Sports, Sports, War

3/17/24

Length: 1:57

Synopsis: Close to 4,000 prisoners escaped from two of the biggest jails in Haiti after local gangs unleashed a massive jailbreak. We cover the unfolding chaos in the capital city and why the future looks uncertain for this Caribbean country.

Issues covered: Election, Government, History, Human Rights, International Policy, Politics, Violence, War

3/17/24

Length: 2:00

Synopsis: From "Interstellar" to "Solaris", we love a good sci-fi movie that transports us to a new dimension and time. We highlight some of our favorites and why the genre continues to grow.

Issues covered: Culture, Film, Science, Technology

3/24/2024

Length: 9:03

Guests: Caroline Paul, author, Tough Broad: From Boogie Boarding to Wing Walking – How Outdoor Adventure Improves Our Lives as We Age

Synopsis: Why do we fear the process of getting older so much? We speak with author Caroline Paul about gaining a new perspective on aging – one that embraces adventure, new relationships and keeps us curious and growing as we age.

Issues covered: Community, Health, Public Health, Relationships, Travel

3/24/24

Length: 8:34

Guests: Erika Howsare, author, *The Age of Deer, Trouble and Kinship with Our Wild Neighbors*

Synopsis: In the early 1900's, deer almost went extinct after they were over-hunted for their meat, hides and antlers. Today, most parts of the country have a very different problem. We speak with wildlife expert Erika Howsare about our long and tangled relationship with the white-tailed deer.

Issues covered: Biodiversity, Culture, Human Development, Pop Culture, Societal Norms, Society, Wildlife Species

3/24/24

Length: 1:47

Synopsis: If we spend effort recycling items, it's logical to assume that most of these bottles, cartons and boxes will be recycled and reused. However, for plastic, this is rarely the case. We talk about the plastic crisis and why it's important to cut down on the plastic you use in your daily life.

Issues covered: Climate Change, Consumerism, Environment, Materialism, Ocean Pollution, Pollution, Public Health

3/24/24

Length: 2:14

Synopsis: Emma Stone just added another Oscar win to her resume. We discuss her evolution as an actress and what's next for this A-list star.

Issues covered: Culture, Film

3/31/2024

Length: 8:50

Guests: Natalie Wexler, education expert, author, *The Knowledge Gap: The Hidden Cause of America's Broken Education System - And How to Fix It*

Synopsis: Millions of kids aren't meeting current reading comprehension guidelines. With so many young people falling through the cracks, what's broken within the current curriculum? What's the best way to actually teach reading? Education expert Natalie Wexler joins us to share important insights on emerging research and what parents should know.

Issues covered: Child Development, Education, Education Policy, Literacy, Parenting, Reading Comprehension

3/31/24

Length: 8:34

Guests: Valerie Fridland, sociolinguist, professor, linguistics, English Department, University of Nevada-Reno, author, *Like Literally Dude: Arguing for the Good in Bad English*

Synopsis: We've all been there. You've given a presentation or had a job interview and realized afterwards that you may have used too many words like "um", "you know" or "like". While these fillers are distracting if overused, when added in moderation, they do play a very specific purpose.

Issues covered: Culture, History, Intercommunication, Language, Linguistics, Personal Development, Public Speaking

3/31/24

Length: 1:41

Synopsis: Current exercise recommendations in the U.S. are the same for both men and women. New research published earlier this month in the “Journal of the American College of Cardiology” uncovers evidence that women may benefit much more from this type of exercise.

Issues covered: Public Health, Scientific Research, Fitness, Cardiovascular Disease, Gender, Health Policy

3/31/24

Length: 2:33

Synopsis: The Writer’s Guild of America strike halted production in Hollywood for five months last year, creating a ripple effect into this year’s film and TV lineup. Will 2024 be a bust for movie lovers?

Issues covered: Film, Culture, Labor, Workers’ Rights, Media

Public Service Announcements:

:30 Solar Eclipse Safety

:30 National Park Eclipse Watch Event

:30 Winter Elderly Scam Safety

:30 GoFundMe request Pauline Draper

:30 Just Believe Inc Fundraiser

:30 DWI Awareness Campaign

:30 Veterans Event / Oakhurst NJ