

**Issues and Programs - WHBE AM - 2024 Quarter 1**  
**\*\*\*All viewpoints run each Saturday from 7:30am - 8:00am\*\*\***

January 6 2024

Segment 1: Are Humans Building Our End? The Debate Around Artificial Intelligence & Its Conscious State

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.

Segment 2: Speaking With The Artist Behind Some Of The Most Iconic Illustrations

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.

January 13 2024

Segment 1: A Pioneer In Paving Greater Diversity In Sci-Fi

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.

Segment 2: The Secrets Learned From A Fifth-Generation Beekeeper

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.

January 20 2024

Segment 1: The Rise Of The Corporate Dispensary

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.

Segment 2: Why Are We Banning More Books Than Ever Before?

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.

January 27 2024

#### Segment 1: New Year, Same Challenges: Why The American Education System Is At A Crossroads?

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.

#### Segment 2: Why Mexico Is At A Critical Political Junction

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.

February 3 2024

#### Segment 1: Why Divorce Rates Are Climbing Right Now & What To Know If You're Ever In This Situation

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.

#### Segment 2: We All Experience Trauma: How To Best Work Through It

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.

February 10 2024

#### Segment 1: You're Not Alone: Why The Average American Can No Longer Afford The Average Home

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.

#### Segment 2: Under The Radar Pt 1: An Alternate Perspective On The Famed Space Shuttle Program

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*.

February 17 2024

Segment 1: Celebrating Black History Month: The Daredevil Stunt Pilot You've Never Heard Of  
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.

Segment 2: Under The Radar Pt 2: A Love-Hate Relationship With America's Space Shuttle  
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.

February 24 2024

#### Segment 1: School, Sports, Standardized Tests: When Is There Time To Build Life Skills?

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.

#### Segment 2: Performance Anxiety: We All Struggle With It. How Do You Rise Above?

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.

March 2 2024

Segment 1: What Lies Ahead: A Climate Calamity For Developing Countries

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.

Segment 2: The Rise Of Soul Music: Stax, Motown, & The Genre Today

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.

March 9 2024

Segment 1: Can You Juggle It All? NPR's Mary Louise Kelly Opens Up About Her Struggles  
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.

Segment 2: Fighting For Your Life In Front Of A Prison Parole Board: The Road To Rehabilitation

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.

March 16 2024

Segment 1: Why You Should Drop What You're Doing On April 8 & See This Rare Event

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.

## Segment 2: Why Does Russia Continue To Get Away With The Wide-Scale Doping Of Its Athletes?

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.

March 23 2024

## Segment 1: Expanding Into Aging: How To Overcome Our Fear Of The Unknown

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.

## Segment 2: Americans Love-Hate Relationship With This Furry Animal

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.

March 30 2024

## Segment 1: '2/3 Of Students Are Testing Below Proficiency In Reading': Why We're Failing The Next Generation

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.

## Segment 2: "Um, What?": The Hidden Purpose Behind Filler Words

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.