

The Delray Democrat

What We're Reading¹

Noam Chomsky, Ian Roberts and Jeffrey Watumull, [The False Promise of ChatGPT](#), *The New York Times* “The human mind is not, like ChatGPT and its ilk, a lumbering statistical engine for pattern matching, gorging on hundreds of terabytes of data and extrapolating the most likely conversational response or most probable answer to a scientific question On the contrary, the human mind is a surprisingly efficient and even elegant system that operates with small amounts of information; it seeks not to infer brute correlations among data points but to create explanations.”

Katherine J. Wu, [The Strongest Evidence Yet That an Animal Started the Pandemic](#), *The Atlantic*: A new analysis of genetic sequences collected from the [Wuhan] market shows that raccoon dogs being illegally sold at the venue could have been carrying and possibly shedding the virus at the end of 2019. It's some of the strongest support yet, experts told me, that the pandemic began when SARS-CoV-2 hopped from animals into humans, rather than in an accident among scientists experimenting with viruses.

Thomas Friedman, [American Jews, You Have to Choose Sides on Israel](#), *The New York Times*: “Because if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu succeeds with his judicial putsch to crush the independence of the country's judiciary, the subject of Israel could fracture every synagogue and Jewish communal organization in America. To put it simply: Israel is facing its biggest internal clash since its founding, and for every rabbi and every Jewish leader in America, to stay silent about this fight is to become irrelevant.”

Nelson George, [The Greats: Angela Davis](#), *The New York Times*: “Davis — who has written or edited nine books and retired from teaching at U.C. Santa Cruz in 2008 — is still very much defined by the iconography of her past. It hasn't always been easy. ‘I felt that there was no way that I, as an individual, could actually live up to the expectations incorporated in that image. There came a point when I realized I didn't have to. The image does not reflect who I am as an individual, it reflects the work of the movement.’”

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, March 2023, page 5.