

HOW (AND WHY) TO SUPPORT CURRENT AFFAIRS

a leader in independent media





“This is one of the best magazines in this country. I encourage you to read it. I’m a big fan of it. I learn things I don’t know and I read their analysis and it’s very enlightening. I couldn’t believe it when I read the first issue of it, both the subjects that were being covered or being written about are being said in a very different way than what you’re used to. Not only highly readable, it’s inspiring. I will continue to be a reader and a subscriber and I bought a subscription for all my crew on my last movie. It’s a real gift to have *Current Affairs*...”

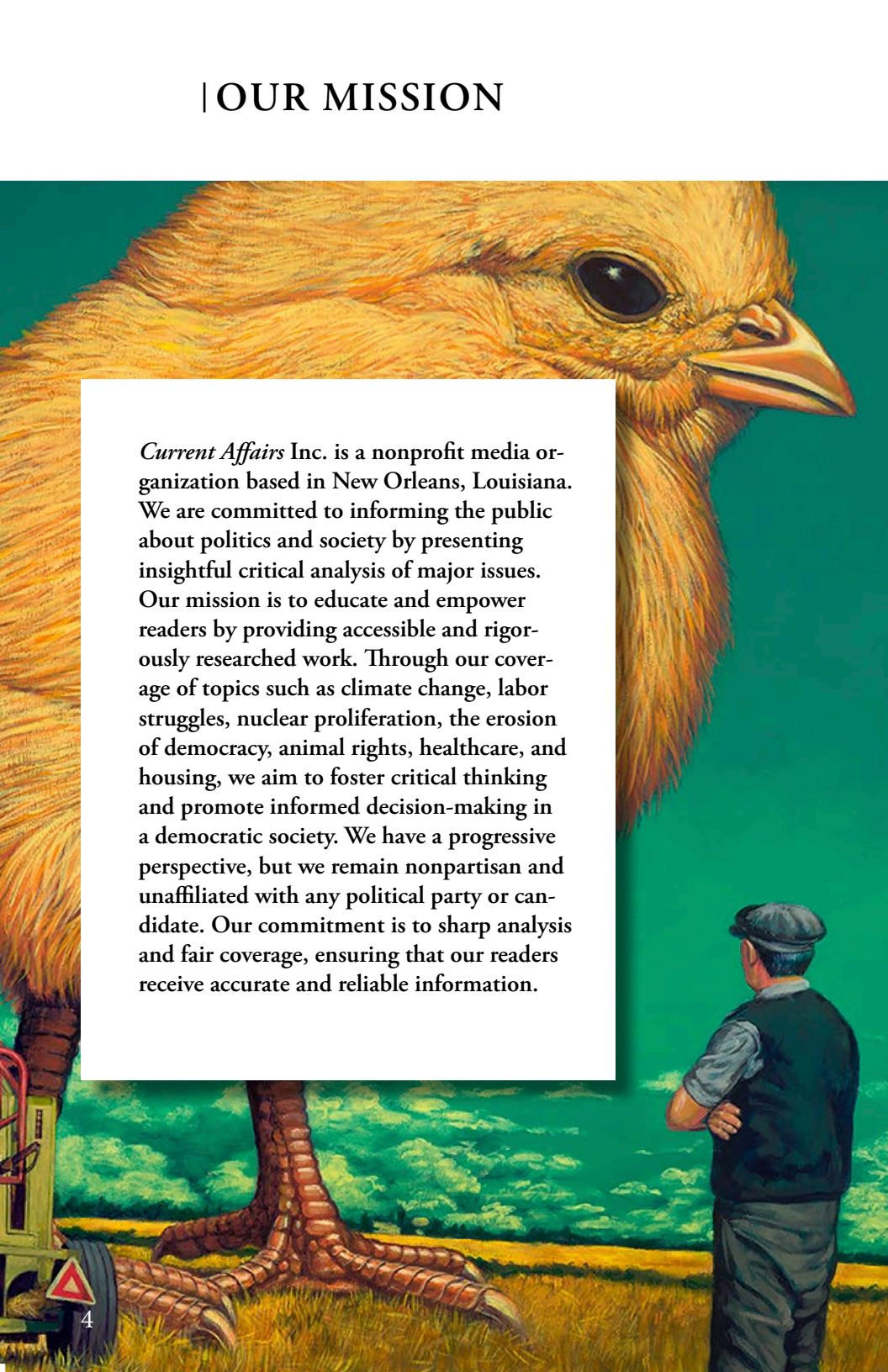
— **MICHAEL MOORE**
Academy Award winning filmmaker

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| OUR MISSION



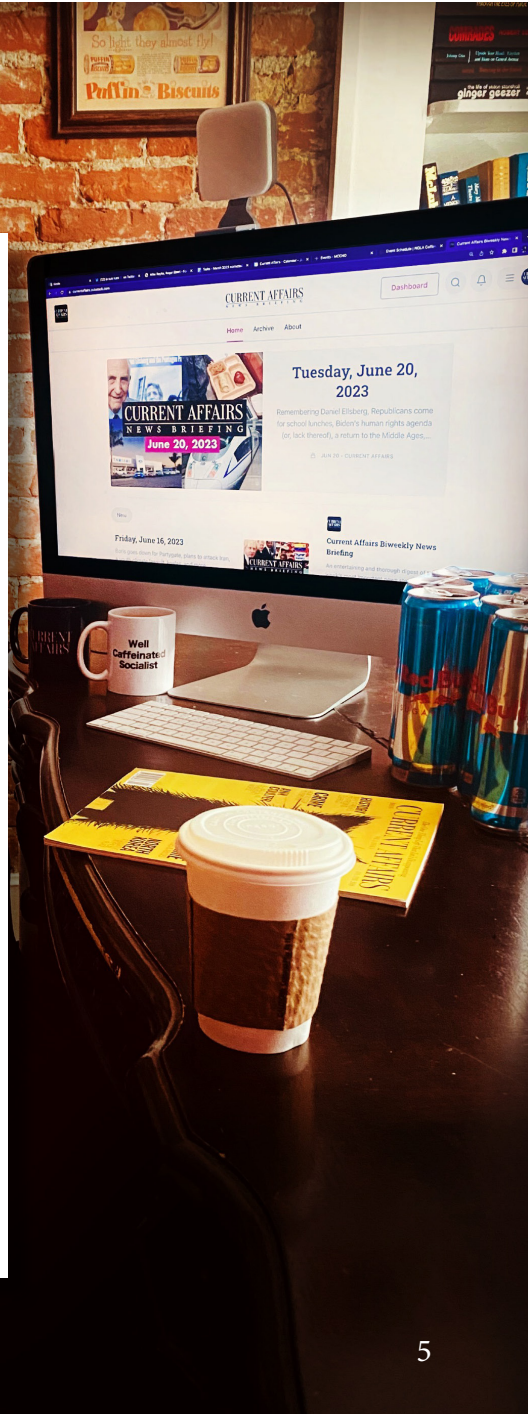
Current Affairs Inc. is a nonprofit media organization based in New Orleans, Louisiana. We are committed to informing the public about politics and society by presenting insightful critical analysis of major issues. Our mission is to educate and empower readers by providing accessible and rigorously researched work. Through our coverage of topics such as climate change, labor struggles, nuclear proliferation, the erosion of democracy, animal rights, healthcare, and housing, we aim to foster critical thinking and promote informed decision-making in a democratic society. We have a progressive perspective, but we remain nonpartisan and unaffiliated with any political party or candidate. Our commitment is to sharp analysis and fair coverage, ensuring that our readers receive accurate and reliable information.

SUPPORT ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADING PROGRESSIVE
MAGAZINES AS WE BUILD A POWERFUL INDEPENDENT
MEDIA INSTITUTION

Current Affairs is a nonprofit independent left media outlet producing incisive commentary and analysis on U.S. politics and culture. We have a print magazine, an online edition, a twice-weekly podcast, and a regular News Briefing service. We carry no advertisements and have no corporate backers. We depend entirely on reader support.

In the last 8 years, we've attracted a devoted community of subscribers and built a powerhouse independent media operation on a shoe-string budget. With your support, we can do even more.

Current Affairs Inc is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with EIN 83-1675720. Gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



| LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Current Affairs was founded in 2015 with \$16,000 funding from a Kickstarter campaign. Back then, I was a graduate student dissatisfied by the cloistered nature of the academy. I felt there was a need for a publication that was intellectually and morally serious while still being accessible, fun, and lively. *Current Affairs* was an attempt to create the publication I had always wished existed. Others must have shared that feeling, because after starting off making the magazine in my living room, we quickly took off and built a following.

We have succeeded in a difficult time for print media, building from scratch to become one of the country's leading independent magazines. We've accomplished this because we offer something for which there is a need, and which nobody else is producing. There are widespread complaints about the media, and trust in media has collapsed. But few are focused on the question of how to build a fresh, trustworthy, entertaining new progressive alternative. The feedback from our subscribers speaks for itself. (See pp. 18-19) Many readers have told us that our work has had a profound impact on how they see the world, helping them articulate feelings they had but didn't know how to express.

Those who read or listen to *Current Affairs* are extremely impressed by the caliber of the writing and the quality of our research. With few resources, we have managed not just to produce "content" that people consume, but a magazine experience that touches people and makes them feel connected to a community of fellow curious freethinkers, and that sharply analyzes the most pressing issues of our time from an independent left perspective. We're helping cultivate a new generation of informed citizens with sharp critical thinking skills.

Yet we could do so much more. We are producing a fraction of the excellent work we could produce if we had more resources. To reach greater heights, we need help.

The misinformation crisis makes it urgent for us to reach our potential. Strong journalism is needed now more than ever. We hope that you will join us.



Nathan J. Robinson
CEO and Editor-in-Chief



THE CRISIS IN AMERICAN NEWS MEDIA

Every week there are new headlines about the disastrous state of American news media. The for-profit model is failing. The quality of information is falling as fake news proliferates, a problem that is set to get worse with the advance of A.I. technology. Worse, it's often the case that "the truth is paywalled, while lies are free," since providers of quality journalism charge for it to survive.

The consequences of this are dire. In a democracy, the success of government depends on having an informed and capable electorate that can tell truth from lies. Without media organizations ensuring the public knows what's going on, we will see an ever-greater lapse into conspiracy, paranoia, and fear.

As corporate outlets stumble, independent media organizations need to pick up the slack and do everything they can to provide sound, accessible analysis. Here at *Current Affairs*, we do our best to ensure the widest possible public access to high-quality, well-sourced information. We don't paywall our articles, because we want as many people as possible to be able to read our work. And while we're much smaller than legacy outlets, we operate a lean and effective organization that, through prudent financial management, has survived and thrived while others have closed.



| WHY CURRENT AFFAIRS?

Since our successful crowd-funding campaign in 2015, we have built a national profile and a devoted subscriber base and expanded into books, podcasts, and video. We have done all of this with a tiny staff and a limited budget, with no advertisements. Now, *Current Affairs* is looking to make the kind of investments that can grow our operation and make us competitive with major media outlets.

Our publication is unique. We are committed to quality research, sparkling prose, and attractive design. We shun superficial “clickbait” and the 24-hour news cycle in favor of deep, lively pieces of writing that engage, inform, and entertain. As a result, we have a devoted fan community, with 150,000 followers on both Facebook and Twitter, and we have subscribers in every U.S. state and in dozens of countries around the world.

Current Affairs stands out for its ability to present complex topics in clear and accessible prose. We firmly believe that education is at the heart of journalism, and

we strive to teach our readers strong critical thinking skills. Our articles provide in-depth analysis, rigorous sourcing, and incisive critical commentary to shed light on pressing issues. By soliciting contributions from activists, scholars, journalists, and experts, we offer a range of perspectives that enrich our readers’ knowledge.

Current Affairs aims to persuade, not just to preach to the choir. Our aim is to make informative political media that is readable to the general public, not just a small niche of people who already agree with us. Most Americans feel disaffected and skeptical of politics and media. Our job is to find ways to engage them, to get them to care about the issues we are passionate about ourselves. We know that political movements only succeed by finding new participants, not just activating existing sympathizers. We want to create an informed general public that cares about (and argues about, and does something about) the most vital issues of our time.

| WHAT WE OFFER

A BEAUTIFUL PRINT MAGAZINE

Our flagship offering is a remarkable alternative to mainstream newsstand magazines. Filled with gorgeous artwork, insightful essays, and sharp satire, it is equal parts *New Yorker* and *MAD Magazine*. Inspired by classic periodicals from the *Partisan Review* of the 1930s to *Spy* magazine in the 1980s, the magazine is both grounded in the past and fresh for the 21st century.

A SMART, LIVELY PODCAST

Twice a week, the *Current Affairs* podcast speaks with newsmakers and commentators from around the world. It's an hour of lively conversation and debate with the people you'd most love to have coffee with. Guests have included members of Congress, Pulitzer Prize winners, and best-selling authors.

|WHAT WE OFFER

CURRENT AFFAIRS NEWS BRIEFING

January 30, 2024

NEWS BRIEFING SERVICE

In 2023, we used Substack to launch our *Current Affairs* News Briefing service, a twice-weekly paid newsletter rounding up important (and often neglected) stories from across the web. Our aim is to create a rich, entertaining, and thought-provoking newsletter that won't end up in the "spam" folder.



ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

Every week, *Current Affairs* publishes fresh online news analysis and commentary, doing deep dives into the most pressing issues of our time. Our online articles pick apart bad arguments, expose corporate and government wrongdoing, and draw attention to the most urgent crises faced in our world today—and the potential solutions.

Progressives Aren't
Hurting the
Democratic Party—
In Fact, They're The
Only Thing Saving It



| WHAT WE OFFER

BOOKS

Current Affairs has published several collections of essays and works of nonfiction, including *Trump: Anatomy of a Monstrosity*. In 2023, we published *A Student's Guide to Resisting PragerU Propaganda*, an informative booklet that teaches critical thinking and analysis. We hope to continue expanding the books division in the coming years, producing volumes that are readable and entertaining while also deeply researched.

Current Affairs

@CurrentAffairsMag · 31.3K subscribers · 131 videos

Official video content from Current Affairs

CURRENT
AFFAIRS
A Magazine of Politics & Culture

Home Videos Shorts



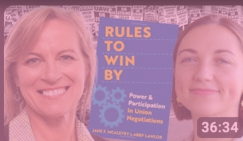
Videos

VIDEOS

Video is still a new medium for us, but we have produced a number of high-quality videos of interviews, commentary, and debates, which have collectively had millions of views across TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram. Our video content brings the same sensibility—mixing in-depth journalism and analysis with entertainment and satirical wit.



36:34



36:34



37:54



40:47

| WHAT WE CAN DO NEXT

We're proud of what *Current Affairs* has managed to accomplish in just a few short years. But we also know that *Current Affairs* has the potential to do much more, and to reach many more people. Because we have grown so far entirely through subscription revenue, we have lacked the resources to pursue growth, and our tiny staff has focused entirely on content production. We believe that with more funding, we can grow *Current Affairs* rapidly, producing better work, distributing it far more widely and becoming a leading national media outlet that makes a valuable contribution to democracy.

The work of building independent media is urgently needed. There has been endless commentary on the decline of newspaper journalism and the rise of “fake news.” Well-funded propaganda outlets like PragerU spread pernicious misinformation. A functioning democracy depends on having intelligent, informed consumers of information, and in turn these consumers depend on the availability of high-quality media committed to telling them the truth. At *Current Affairs* we make no secret of our political affiliation—we are on the left. But we are also nonpartisan and independent, believing that it is crucial for us to be critical of all those in positions of power. We want to produce work that is credible and accessible and that can be trusted in a time when many consumers of news media do not know who they can rely on to tell them the truth.

We hope you will consider supporting *Current Affairs* as we build a major independent media outlet.



| BUDGET FOR 2024

Direct cost of producing our products:	\$210,000
Overheads (salaries, office expenses, technology, etc.):	\$540,000

TOTAL BUDGET **\$750,000**

Anticipated revenue from subscriptions **\$400,000**

Minimum needed from donations, grants etc **\$350,000**

What we achieved in 2023 with donations since achieving nonprofit status:

- ✦ Moved to a new office and brought the whole team together in one location
- ✦ Hired an additional full-time editor and part-time designer
- ✦ Expanded to offer a twice-weekly news briefing

What we plan to do with donations in 2024:

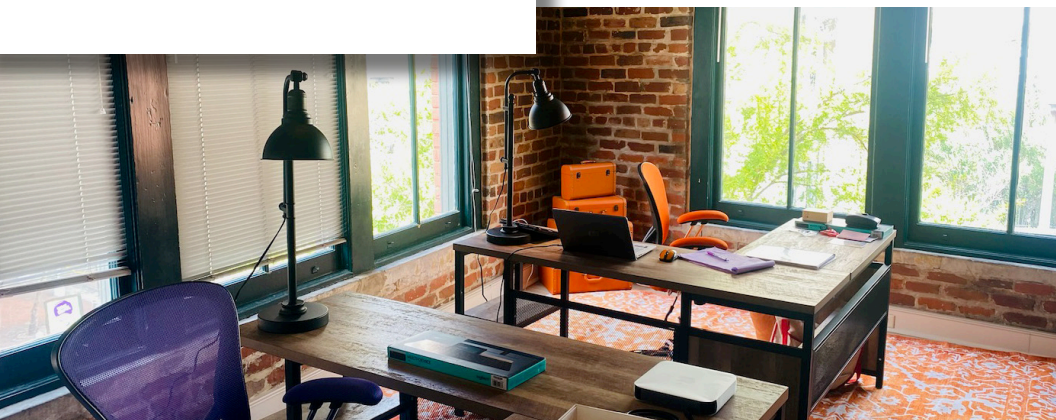
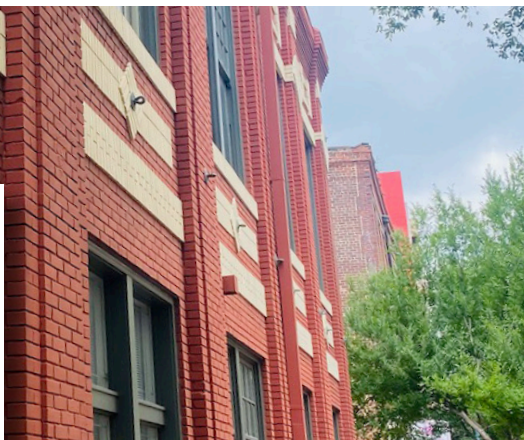
- ✦ Add two more essential team members
- ✦ Expand our free and low-cost offerings
- ✦ Expand *Current Affairs'* book publishing division
- ✦ More in-depth articles and original reporting
- ✦ Organize more events to recognize supporters and donors
- ✦ Offer more high-quality video and audio
- ✦ Create more educational programs including online classes
- ✦ Support local initiatives and events in New Orleans
- ✦ Continue to support freelance writers and artists in their work
- ✦ Transition to a more efficient database management system



BUILDING INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM

IN THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Most national news magazines are located in New York or Washington, D.C. But we're here in beautiful New Orleans, Louisiana, building a new media organization in one of America's most vibrant—and yet most neglected—cities. As we grow, we hope our nonprofit media organization can become an important local institution, offering opportunities to New Orleanians (writers, artists, designers, and researchers) who would otherwise be remote from the world of national news media.



WHAT WE NEED AND

HOW YOU CAN HELP

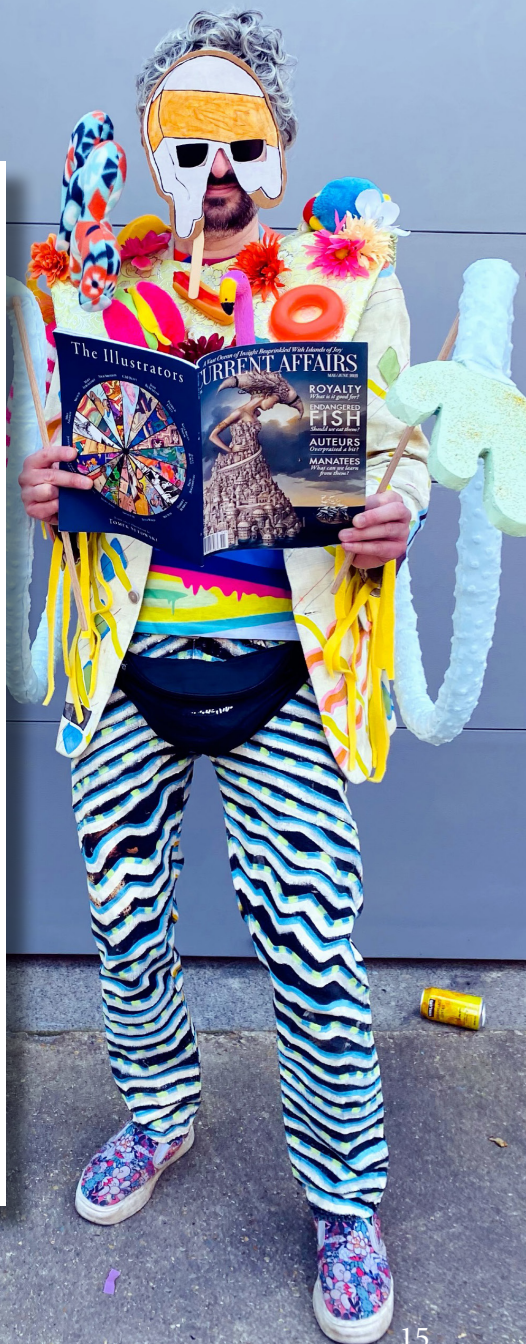
Every dollar *Current Affairs* receives is put to work. We have always operated on a tight budget, producing stellar work for a fraction of the cost that other media outlets do. But we need your help to do more of that. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to our organization to help it thrive.

CURRENTAFFAIRS.ORG/DONATE

or send a check to:

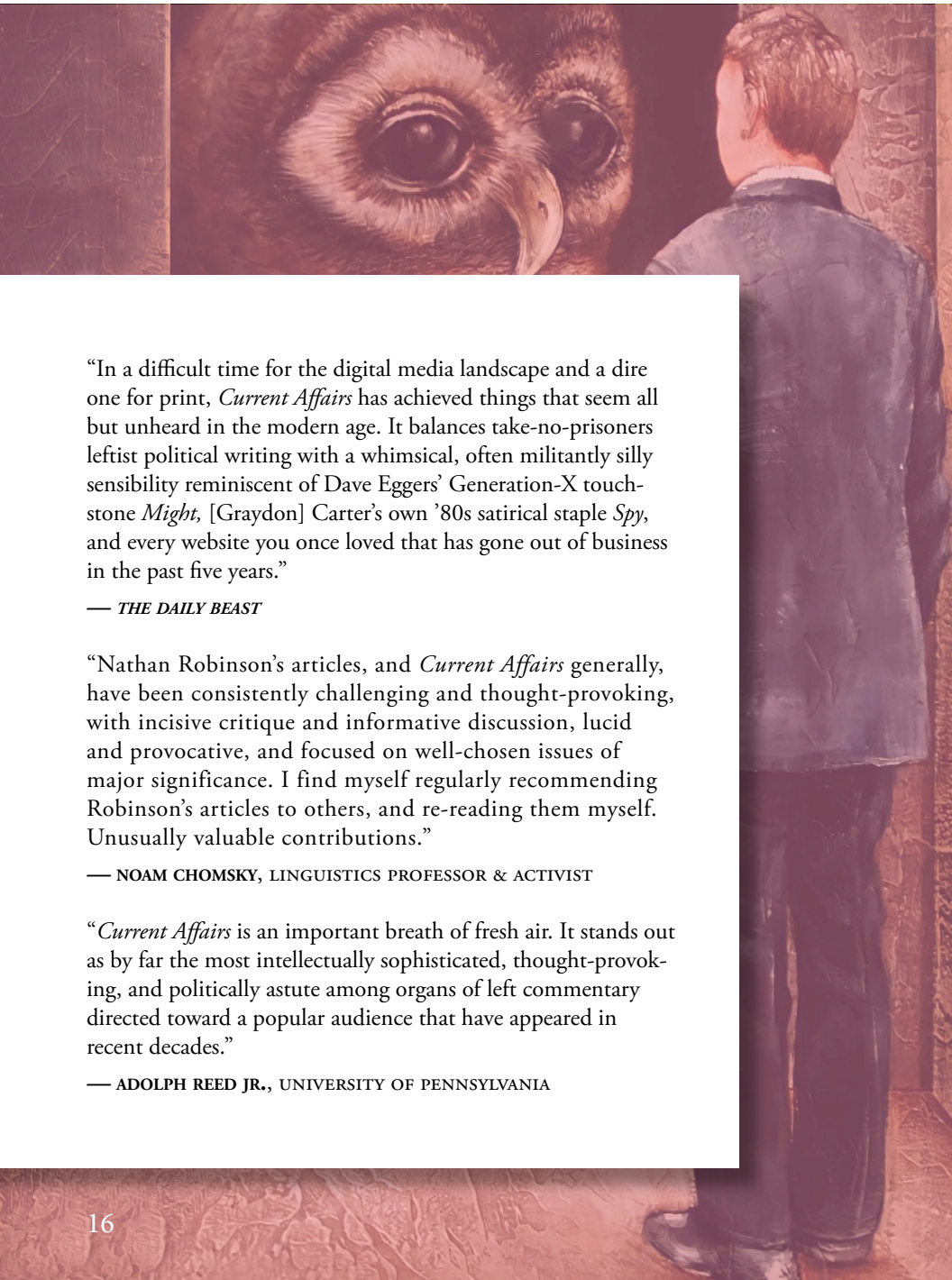
CURRENT AFFAIRS

ATTN: FUNDRAISING &
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
300 LAFAYETTE STREET #210
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130



TESTIMONIALS

FROM COMMENTATORS & THE PRESS



“In a difficult time for the digital media landscape and a dire one for print, *Current Affairs* has achieved things that seem all but unheard in the modern age. It balances take-no-prisoners leftist political writing with a whimsical, often militantly silly sensibility reminiscent of Dave Eggers’ Generation-X touchstone *Might*, [Graydon] Carter’s own ’80s satirical staple *Spy*, and every website you once loved that has gone out of business in the past five years.”

— THE DAILY BEAST

“Nathan Robinson’s articles, and *Current Affairs* generally, have been consistently challenging and thought-provoking, with incisive critique and informative discussion, lucid and provocative, and focused on well-chosen issues of major significance. I find myself regularly recommending Robinson’s articles to others, and re-reading them myself. Unusually valuable contributions.”

— NOAM CHOMSKY, LINGUISTICS PROFESSOR & ACTIVIST

“*Current Affairs* is an important breath of fresh air. It stands out as by far the most intellectually sophisticated, thought-provoking, and politically astute among organs of left commentary directed toward a popular audience that have appeared in recent decades.”

— ADOLPH REED JR., UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

TESTIMONIALS

FROM COMMENTATORS & THE PRESS

“Current Affairs is a critical island of dissent from a left perspective in a sea of conformist mediocrity. This publication is an ally to the independent thinker, and a threat to the status quo.”

— KRYSTAL BALL HOST, *BREAKING POINTS*

“Nathan J. Robinson and Current Affairs are consistently excellent, writing at a very high standard, and offering serious and compelling alternative perspectives. Very worth following and reading”

— GLENN GREENWALD, PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR OF
NO PLACE TO HIDE

*“Current Affairs is part of a wave of print and digital independent leftist media organizations gaining steam after the [2016] election.... Inside the issues are essays and reviews that relentlessly critique popular entertainment as well as Democratic and Republican politics. No subject is safe from a scathing take-down, from the musical *Hamilton* to establishment academics and the Democrats’ politesse. Yet the *Current Affairs* tone is relentlessly sunny and energetic. Its pages are filled with satirical fake ads (think *A Prairie Home Companion*), comics, and interactive activities that might appear on the back of a highly partisan cereal box. The vibe is more cutesy *Highlights* than dour *New Left Review*... As Robinson so emphatically points out, the left is in need of some charisma—not to form its own alt-right but to present some kind of meaningful vision that might win elections...”*

— *THE RINGER*

TESTIMONIALS

FROM OUR SUBSCRIBERS



"It's so refreshing and encouraging to hear voices like yours out there helping dream a better world into existence, and then fight for that dream."

— A SUBSCRIBER IN PASADENA, CA

"I always find your podcasts to be intellectually nourishing in a way that few podcasts are ... hearing you discuss the issues of the day makes me feel more engaged and connected to them, and for that I am very grateful"

— A SUBSCRIBER IN HONG KONG

"Robinson is the only political writer I know who can make you literally jump from your seat with joy and wonder.... I don't actually agree with a lot of the stuff he says (he is quite literally a socialist), but that's not the point. He writes at a deeper level that hits at basic human truths.... Read and subscribe to *Current Affairs*. Follow Nathan J. Robinson. Do it for me."

— BEN WROBEL

"I was anxious for a long time and felt very powerless, believing my unhappiness was only my fault. Realizing I was not alone and that there were others like you, who care about people and real problems, helped me more than I can put into words. I don't feel afraid of the darkness anymore."

— A SUBSCRIBER

"I would like to thank you for writing poignant, often heartbreaking stories about the unseen, all-too-normalized abuses of vulnerable people perpetrated by the state. These writings were a large factor in my decision to apply to law school in the first place."

— A READER AND APPLICANT TO LAW SCHOOL

"Thank you for the writing. It made my own beliefs and convictions more clear to me and, if anything, its always nice when one's thoughts are expressed by someone else so confidently and lucidly. Please do keep up the good work."

— ONLINE READER IN SANTIAGO, CHILE

TESTIMONIALS

FROM OUR SUBSCRIBERS

"I'm a high school English teacher at a school for students who've dropped out of public schools, and I use your writings in class often (most recently the one on courage). Suffice to say, you've got several fans out here belonging to a notoriously hard-to-please cohort—tired 17-year-olds who'd rather be playing on their phones."

— TEACHER IN CHICAGO

"I can't really think of another piece of writing that has helped pull me out of a depressive episode, even for a little. Keep doing what you're doing, the world is a better place for it."

— A SUBSCRIBER

"I just wanted to take a moment to write to you and thank you for your contribution to left political discourse. Your work has truly been a treasure in these most unfortunate of times.... your work has been a light in the dark."

— A RECENT GRADUATE

"*Current Affairs* has played a transformative role in exposing me and drawing me to the left. Since I started reading *Current Affairs* in 2017, my understanding of the world and my vision for the future have radically changed. Love the magazine, podcast, everything!! Thank you for all that you do!"

— ELLA, AGE 18

"The world is a better place with *Current Affairs*."

— A SUBSCRIBER



| OUR TEAM



NATHAN J. ROBINSON is the editor in chief of *Current Affairs*. He has a BA and MA in Politics from Brandeis University, a JD from Yale Law School, and a PhD in Sociology and Social Policy from Harvard University. His published books include *Why You Should be a Socialist*, *Trump: Anatomy of a Monstrosity*, and *Responding to the Right: Brief Replies to 25 Conservative Arguments*. He is a former columnist for *The Guardian*, as well as having written for *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *Al Jazeera*, and *Boston Review*. He has been a guest on Democracy Now! and BBC Newsnight. His upcoming book *The Myth of American Idealism*, co-authored with Noam Chomsky, will be published by Penguin Random House in 2024.

LILY SANCHEZ is the managing editor of *Current Affairs*. She is a medical doctor by training and practiced general pediatrics for six years prior to leaving the field on sabbatical in 2019. Like many millennials, she moved leftward politically in the 2010s and also volunteered for progressive political campaigns in 2020. She is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she studied biology and writing, and is a product of public schools in San Antonio, Texas.



PASHA JOVANOVIC handles subscriber relations for *Current Affairs*. When our readers write in to help@currentaffairs.org and need assistance with a problem, Pasha is the one to answer and help them resolve it! She graduated from Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec, and has lived in New Orleans for the last ten years.

| OUR TEAM



ALEX SKOPIC is the Associate Editor of *Current Affairs* and one-half of the research and writing team for the *Current Affairs* News Briefing. He holds an MA in English Literature from the University of Reading, where he competed on the BBC's *University Challenge*. He has previously worked as a poetry critic for the *Cleveland Review of Books*, along with freelance writing for a variety of national and international publications.

STEPHEN PRAGER is the writer and researcher for the *Current Affairs* News Briefing and a regular contributor of articles and amusements for the magazine and website. He has a BA in political science from Villanova where he was one of the few left-wing columnists for the student newspaper. Stephen is currently working on a master's in journalism at Indiana University. As the founder of the news briefing, Stephen is dedicated to giving *Current Affairs* readers a fun yet thorough digest of stories that actually matter.



er



CALI TRAINA BLUME is the lead graphic designer for *Current Affairs*. She is a passionate designer and educator born and raised in the vibrant city of New Orleans. Cali has a BFA in graphic design from Loyola University New Orleans, where she also currently serves as an adjunct professor.



CURRENT AFFAIRS



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