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Inside Track

Soros Grows Propaganda Apparatus With Radio Networks



George Soros (AP Images)

According to global news platform Semafor on April 2, Soros Fund Management, an arm of George Soros' Open Society Foundations, is looking into buying up major radio networks in dire straits, such as the publicly traded Cumulus Media. The fund has also explored acquiring Project Brazen, a podcast company; Pushkin Industries, the podcast company co-founded by Malcolm Gladwell and Jacob Weisberg; and Lemonada, known for its *Wiser Than Me* show hosted by actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus.

In 2022, the billionaire left-wing activist made an investment of an unknown sum in Crooked Media, the progressive podcast network responsible for producing the widely acclaimed *Pod Save America*, and in February he expanded his influence machine with the purchase of a controlling interest in the bankrupt company Audacy. With more than 230 local radio stations in its network, Audacy is the second-largest radio company in the United States after iHeart Media. The *New York Post* reported in February that the Soros fund also assumed \$400 million of Audacy's debt.

On April 8, as reported by the Daily Caller on April 9, Representative Nick Langworthy (R-N.Y.) requested that Federal Communications Commission Chair Jessica Rosenworcel initiate a probe into Soros' purchase of Audacy. "I believe this sale is the latest in a series of moves by a partisan, progressive billionaire to consolidate control over the media and flood hundreds of radio stations with far-left ideology and propaganda. Furthermore, I believe that what we could lose in the process is the unique lifeline that local radio brings through both local connection and diversity of thought that have been so important to Americans, particularly in recent years," Langworthy wrote.

Soros also funds Courier Newsroom, founded by Democratic strategist Tara McGowan, who visited the White House nearly 20 times from August 2022 to December 2023. Courier utilizes a nationwide network of "local news" platforms to disseminate propaganda from Democratic Party operatives. And Soros continues to purchase shares in Alphabet, which owns Google.

— *Luis Miguel*



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Scientists Test “Cloud Brightening” to Fight Global Warming



(MEDITERRANEAN/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

In early April, scientists from the University of Washington traveled to California’s Bay Area to test a geoengineering strategy intended to cool the Earth from the supposedly man-made scourge of global warming.

“Marine cloud brightening” is a controversial reflected light-modification technique that looks to increase the reflectivity of clouds and redirect some sunlight back into space as a means of cooling the planet. The university team who performed the experiment acted, as *Smithsonian* magazine put it on April 10, in a “semi-clandestine fashion” in order to avoid potential backlash from citizens who don’t like the idea of scientists attempting to reduce their sunlight.

The scientists were allowed to use a decommissioned aircraft carrier — the USS *Hornet*, which currently serves as a museum in Alameda — where they used a high-powered machine to shoot microscopic salt aerosol particles (basically salt water) into the air in an attempt to see how the airborne particles travel. In the future, the scientists hope to actually reflect the sun’s light.

This is the second time that cloud brightening has been attempted. Researchers in Australia tested the concept in 2020 to see if it could be used to stall bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef.

Climate realists have criticized the project. “I remember ... when environmentalists constantly said we shouldn’t be messing with nature,” said Dr. H. Sterling Burnett of The Heartland Institute. “Yet here we are actively intervening in nature to bring about ... cooling.”

Cooling “is known throughout history to cause more death and destruction and crop failures.... Failure [of this experiment] would be the best option here, because if they succeed, the world would become a darker place, a place where crops are less likely to grow.”

Even some climate zealots are wary of this type of geoengineering. “You could well be changing climatic patterns, not just over the sea, but over land as well,” said Greenpeace senior scientist David Santillo. “This is a scary vision of the future that we should try and avoid at all costs.”

— *James Murphy*



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Lori Lightfoot to Investigate Chicago-area Mayor



Lori Lightfoot (AP Images)

The *Chicago Sun-Times* reported on April 9 that the board of trustees of the Chicago suburban village of Dolton, Illinois, has hired former Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot to conduct an investigation of embattled Dolton Mayor Tiffany Henyard.

Henyard has been accused of misappropriation of funds, using the village police force as private security, using the village credit card to take lavish trips with hand-picked staff, nonpayment or habitually late payment to village vendors, refusing to allow the board of trustees access to the village's financial statements, and misallocating federal relief funds through the American Rescue Plan Act. There are also questions about payments to village prosecutor Michael Del Galdo of more than \$900,000 over the past two years.

While the state of Illinois and the federal government are also investigating Henyard, the board feels that appointing Lightfoot could provide a faster resolution.

Lightfoot, Chicago's mayor from 2019 to 2023, is to be paid \$400 per hour for her investigative services. After she bills \$30,000 she is required to provide the board with a summary of what she has found. The former mayor has no prosecutorial powers, but any information she turns up can be turned over to authorities.

Prior to the meeting announcing the appointment, Del Galdo sent the board a letter advising that hiring Lightfoot would "violate the Village Code as well as the Illinois Municipal Code and established case law," and that Henyard's administration would not pay any bills connected with Lightfoot's appointment. He further noted in a statement, "If the trustees' main motivation was to get media attention, the former mayor of Chicago was their perfect choice. The only surprising part of this is that Ms. Lightfoot agreed to be part of this circus."

— James Murphy

New Hate-crime Law Overwhelms Scottish Police



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(MarioGuti/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

On April 1, Scotland's "Hate Crime and Public Order" law went into effect. In the first week alone, the U.K.'s *Telegraph* reported on April 9, Scottish police fielded some 8,000 complaints. If the pace of hate-crime reporting continues, by year's end their total "would surpass the entire annual total of 416,000 crimes reported to police."

The all-encompassing law criminalizes just about every possible behavior, making it illegal to act "in a threatening or abusive manner, or communicate threatening or abusive material to another person, with either the intention to stir up hatred against a group of persons based on the group being defined by reference to one of the listed characteristics, or where it is a likely consequence that hatred will be stirred up against such a group." The list of protected characteristics includes "[being a member of] a social or cultural group; perceived religious affiliation; sexual orientation; transgender identity; and variations in sex characteristics."

The law forbids publishing "offensive material" not only "through websites, blogs, podcasts, social media etc., either directly, or by forwarding or repeating material that originates from a third party; [and] through printed media such as magazine publications or leaflets," but also by "online streaming, by email, playing a video, through public performance of a play, etc.," and "making the material available to another person in any way e.g. through the spoken word, the written word, electronic communications, etc, either directly (as the originator of the material), or by forwarding or repeating the material."

A top police union official, David Threadgold, said that the public has "'weaponized' the new law to pursue personal and political vendettas, and that messaging to the public urging them to report all possible instances of 'hate,' potentially anonymously, had backfired."

Scotland's first minister, Pakistani Muslim Humza Yousaf, was the main force behind the law. He has previously complained about anti-Muslim discrimination, and just might want to silence criticism about mass immigration to Great Britain, as well as the Islamic beachheads established in major cities such as Birmingham, England.

— *R. Cort Kirkwood*



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