

Bob Woodward, the *Washington Post* journalist who broke the Watergate scandal, expressed being “crushed” by the layoffs of over 300 colleagues—about a third of the staff. The cuts eliminated entire departments. In 2013, Bezos had promised to provide “financial runway” for the paper to prevent it from shrinking into irrelevance or extinction. The paper suffered major subscriber losses in late 2024 after Jeff Bezos halted a planned endorsement of Kamala Harris’s presidential campaign.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Obituary: Rev. Jesse Jackson, the most influential Black figure between Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s civil rights crusades and Barack Obama’s election, died at 84. His 1984 and 1988 presidential primary campaigns redefined progressive politics. He championed a “rainbow coalition” of the poor and forgotten and inspired massive African-American voter registration. His ‘common ground’ principle shaped the Democratic Party’s enduring commitment to economic justice, equality, and multiracial progressivism.

BBC NEWS

How Ukraine is marking four years since Russia’s full invasion.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRHbhsKc6s>



SCAN ME

NEWS IN BRIEF 9

January 25th – February 28th 2026

The Watergate scandal prompted President Nixon to step down in 1974 for fear of being impeached (destitué) for trying to cover up the bugging of the Democratic presidential campaign headquarters.

crushed [krʌʃt] (Adj.): effondré, choqué

a ‘layoff [ˈleɪɔf]: un licenciement

to pro‘vide [ai]: donner

a fi‘nancial [faɪˈnænʃəl] **‘runway**: marge de manoeuvre financière

Ø i‘rrelevance: insignifiance to shrink, shrank, shrunk : rétrécir

to pre‘vent sb/ sthg from V-ING: empêcher qqn / qqch de V

to pre‘vent it from ‘shrinking into i‘rrelevance or ex‘tinction: afin d’empêcher que le quotidien ne finisse dépassé ou ne disparaisse à force de décroître.

to ‘suffer a ‘major sub‘scriber [ai] **loss** : essayer / subir une forte perte d’abonnés

to halt [ɔ: / ɔ] **a planned en‘dorsement** [ɪnˈdɔ:smənt] : interrompre un soutien programmé à...

an o‘bituary [əˈbɪtʃʊəri / əʊˈbɪtʃʊəri]: article nécrologique

Black: Uppercase **B** refers to racial, ethnic, and cultural considerations. Lowercase ‘black’ refers to the colour.

a US presi‘dential ‘primary [ai] **cam‘paign** covers the pre-election phase where candidates from each major party (Democrats and Republicans) compete to become their party’s nominee.

pro‘gressive ‘politics in the US = left-leaning political philosophy that seeks to address social, economic, and political inequalities through government intervention. Today, progressive politicians designate the left wing of the Democratic Party who consider mainstream liberals and ‘establishment’ Democrats (Démocrates traditionnels) too moderate and corporate-friendly (favorable aux entreprises).

‘voter regi‘stration: enrolling on official voter lists to vote in federal, state, and local elections. Eligibility criteria = being a US citizen at least 18 on Election Day, residing in the state and county where one registers, not being currently incarcerated for a felony, not being disqualified from voting by having been adjudicated mentally incompetent.

‘common ground [au]: socle commun / terrain d’entente

co‘mmitment to: engagement envers, attachement à...

0:02 **an anni‘versary** [æniˈvɜ:səri] = commemoration of an event. ≠ birthday (date sb was born)

0:03: **a full-scale invasion** : une invasion à grande échelle

0:12 **bowed** [baʊd] **their heads**: se sont inclinés

0:13 **lowered** [ˈləʊəd] **their flags**: ont mis les drapeaux en berne

0:41 **things looked really bleak**: les perspectives semblaient vraiment sombres

0:48 **‘interesting ‘insight into** [ˈɪntərəstɪŋ ˈɪnsaɪt]: aperçu intéressant sur

1:20 **a ‘pretty ‘sobering** [ˈsəʊbəriŋ] **day**: une journée qui fait vraiment réfléchir / qui remet bien les pieds sur terre.

If you think politics shaped these Winter Olympics, just wait until LA 2028

The Guardian.

Bryan Armen Graham

Tue 24 Feb 2026

The Milano Cortina Winter Games ended on Sunday night as the Olympics always do: in light, spectacle and speeches about unity. In Verona, the Olympic flag passed to the French Alps and the twin flames were extinguished. But unofficially, at least, a flame also flickered 6,000 miles west. If these Games felt political, just wait until Los Angeles a little more than two years from now. [...]

That tone was echoed elsewhere. While a country back home roiled over ICE's actions in Minnesota and the Trump administration's attacks on immigrants, Chloe Kim articulated something subtler still: that loving your country can include disagreeing with it. Patriotism, she suggested, is not blind allegiance but civic engagement. Established stars like Mikaela Shiffrin and Jessie Diggins repeated the same sentiment in so many words. Dissent is not disloyalty. In the American tradition, it may be a proof of concept.

Utah governor Spencer Cox – whose state will stage the 2034 Winter Games and who was in Milan as part of the host delegation – captured the tension when asked at a press conference whether Milano Cortina had become politicized. “We love our athletes, and we are grateful for them,” said Cox, who is more socially moderate than many of his Republican colleagues. “We recognize there are lots of divisions in our country, and around the world. I love that we live in a country where people get to speak their minds. It is true of athletes, governments, presidents and every individual. We care about unity.” Then came the plea: stop making athletes carry the weight of politics. “I hate the questions [the media] ask the athletes,” he said. “These are kids out there competing. I think you should be asking them about their sports. Let the politicians take care of politics.”

That's a nice thought, but the boundaries are increasingly difficult to defend when only one side respects them. Even as athletes modeled restraint and joy, Donald Trump has continued to leverage sport as an extension of the culture wars. There was his much-publicized back-and-forth with US freeskier Hunter Hess, whose rather anodyne remarks prompted an asymmetrical response. One day after the US men's hockey team's win over Canada in the gold medal game, Trump posted an AI-generated video depicting himself in a USA jersey punching a Canadian opponent before scoring a goal. Not exactly what Baron Pierre de Coubertin had in mind when he devised the modern Games.

The contrast was instructive. The athletes at the Winter Olympics competed like rivals and interacted like global neighbors. The US political class – on both sides – seems intent on collapsing that distinction at seemingly every opportunity. And the tension will only intensify over the next 29 months. Team USA left Italy with 33 medals and 12 golds, their most Winter Olympic titles ever. But the deeper takeaway was tonal rather than numerical. In Milan, athletes showed that patriotism can be generous, confident and unforced. In Los Angeles, that definition will be tested on the biggest, loudest stage sport can offer.

uno'fficially: de façon officieuse / informelle

to roil over sth = to undergo turmoil / feel outraged: être secoué/troublé par qqch

ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) : Service Fédéral de l'Immigration et des Douanes

to articulate an idea : exprimer, formuler

di'ssent is not disloyalty : désaccord / différence d'opinion ne veut pas dire déloyauté.

a proof of concept : validation du concept / démonstration de sa faisabilité

to get to speak one's mind: avoir la possibilité de/ pouvoir donner s'exprimer / donner son opinion

to model restraint : faire preuve de retenue

to leverage sport as an extension of the culture wars: instrumentaliser le sport comme prolongement des guerres culturelles / idéologiques

a much-publicized back-and-forth : un échange très médiatisé

the deeper takeaway was tonal rather than numerical: le message plus important était à trouver dans le style / la forme plus que dans le nombre.