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## Brexit takes more than just bluster

Susan McKay

### OPINION

**DUBLIN** This month, as Arctic winds have swept down through Britain, Brexit has led the government of Prime Minister Theresa May into a blizzard of humiliations.

It is two weeks since the Northern Irish Democratic Unionist Party, which is propping up Mrs. May's minority government, made a show of her. She was in Brussels for a working lunch, about to smile her way through the carefully choreographed announcement of a deal that guaranteed "regulatory alignment" between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

But Mrs. May was called offstage to take a call from the leader of the D.U.P., Arlene Foster, who told her that the party would not tolerate a deal that distinguished Northern Ireland from the rest of Britain.

Ms. Foster's concern was that the deal would effectively move the border to the Irish Sea, creating the illusion that Ireland was united and separate from "the mainland." That would be anathema to unionists, for whom the border

**There has been nothing clear about strategies for leaving the E.U. There may not even be any.**

that winds across the island of Ireland is the last frontier of the empire. (The D.U.P. has loved the way that Brexit, with its strutting nationalism, has brought out in the rest of Britain the Union Jacks that festoon the parts of Northern Ireland that are loyal to the queen.)

Four intense days after the D.U.P.'s intervention, the European Union and Britain reached a new deal that weakened the British Brexiters' position, strengthened that of the Irish government and had the support of the rest of the bloc. This time it spelled out that there would be "full alignment" between Britain and Ireland in relation to the rules of the single market and the customs union; and that Northern Ireland's peace deal, known as the Good Friday Agreement, would be honored.

But Brexit Secretary David Davis promptly and breezily confided on a British television show that this hard-won deal was "much more a statement of intent than it was a legally enforceable thing."

The European Union's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, shot back that there would be no final deal unless Britain respected the agreements it had made. Rubbing it in, the European

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*The New York Times publishes opinion from a wide range of perspectives in hopes of promoting constructive debate about consequential questions.*



A creek south of Manila. Dengue is a disease spread by mosquitoes that infects about 400 million people worldwide. Infection rates are high in the Philippines.

## When a vaccine causes harm

### Anger rises in Philippines after warnings on danger of Sanofi's dengue drug

BY DENISE GRADY AND KATIE THOMAS

The first promising vaccine for dengue — a disease that afflicts hundreds of millions of people around the world — is in jeopardy after the Philippines suspended it, amid widespread fears about its safety and growing public anger over its use in 830,000 schoolchildren.

The Philippines government has begun investigations into the rollout of the immunization program by the French drug maker Sanofi, which has come under fire for discounting early warnings that its vaccine could put some people at heightened risk of a severe form of the disease. The newly revealed evidence, confirmed recently by Sanofi's review, found that in rare cases, Dengvaxia can backfire: If people who never had dengue are vaccinated and later become infected, the vaccine may provoke a much more severe form of the illness.

The situation has become a public-relations debacle for the drug maker, which spent decades developing the world's first dengue vaccine, Deng-

vaxia. Politicians in the Philippines are demanding information about Sanofi's advertising campaign and their government's aggressive push, against the advice of some experts, to vaccinate a million children. The backlash has alarmed researchers who worry that Sanofi's stumble could stoke mistrust in vaccines around the globe. Sanofi's vaccine is approved in 19 countries and is the first to combat dengue, a disease spread by mosquitoes that infects about 400 million people worldwide. Dengue puts 500,000 people in the hospital each year and kills 25,000, mostly in Latin America and South Asia.

Infection rates can reach 90 percent in the Philippines, according to Sanofi.

Death rates are highest among children, and just last week a 7-year-old girl who had not been vaccinated died from dengue in the Philippines, according to news reports there.

Late last month, Sanofi said its new analysis showed that vaccination should not be recommended for people who have never had dengue, advice that was echoed last week by the World Health Organization. But that only adds to the confusion, because there is no rapid test to tell if someone has had the disease. Even though the risk from the vaccine is low, families fear it has turned their children into time bombs, in whom



Iran Lustre at home near the creek. He had dengue a few years ago and has since received the dengue vaccine. When he got sick, his parents feared he had dengue again.

the virus could set off a life-threatening illness.

Leovon Deyro, whose youngest son received his last injection of the vaccine two weeks ago, said he suspects that Sanofi conspired with corrupt Philippine officials to circumvent regula-

tions, something the company has denied. "We weren't told it was not safe," Mr. Deyro said. So far, he said, his son, who is 10, has had no worrying symptoms. But, he added, "They made my son and other students as guinea pigs."

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## In Australia, fervor over China risks going too far

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

### Legislation aims to curb Beijing's influence, but many fear a backlash

BY DAMIEN CAVE

When Craig Chung, an up-and-coming Sydney city councillor, meets with former American officials, neither the media nor his constituents seem to care.

But for events with Australia's ethnic Chinese community, he errs on the side of caution. He researches the people involved. He sidesteps certain photographs and publicly declares whom he talks to and why — all to ensure that he doesn't end up accused of associating with someone tied to the Chinese Communist Party.

"There is this fear that we may work closely with somebody who is accused of being an agent of another government," said Mr. Chung, 49, who is ethnic Chinese. "We're in a position now where people are running scared."

Australia has been thrown into turmoil over allegations that China is trying to buy its politicians and sway its elections, charges that have led to increased scrutiny of the rising superpower's efforts to influence Australia. But there are also fears that a campaign to stamp out Chinese influence risks becoming a McCarthy-esque witch hunt.

The Chinese government has been using proxies in Australia for years to polish its image and press for its priorities, including reunification with Taiwan and sovereignty over much of the South China Sea. These efforts have intensified under President Xi Jinping, who seems to view Australia — which has benefited greatly from trade with China — as a laboratory for efforts to sway opinion abroad and increase China's global influence.

In practice, that means tycoons born in China with ties to the Communist Party have exploited Australia's weak campaign finance laws to donate millions to Australian political parties. Chinese diplomats have also mobilized Chinese students for rallies and to speak out against what they see as anti-Chinese views, while local Chinese-language media tends to follow the fiercely nationalistic tone set by China's state-run outlets.

But a thunderous backlash has now arrived, with a public outcry condemning anyone accused of links to Chinese influence, and a series of new measures that would strengthen espionage laws, outlaw foreign political donations and criminalize efforts to interfere in Australia's democracy.

Critics, including human rights groups, worry that the legislation, and the intensity of anti-China sentiment, will stir hysteria and unfairly target Australia's large and diverse ethnic Chinese community.

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Beth Rudin DeWoody, the owner of the recently opened Bunker Artspace in West Palm Beach, Fla., an area trying to get a piece of the art scene pizzazz of Miami.

## An oasis of provocative art in a playground of the rich

WEST PALM BEACH, FLA.

### Not far from Mar-a-Lago is the Bunker Artspace, packed with eccentricities

BY BOB MORRIS

Beth Rudin DeWoody, the art world doyenne born into a New York real estate fortune, was walking through the Bunker Artspace, a renovated Art Deco building here that she recently opened as an exhibition space for her renowned and eccentric collection.

Although just two miles from Mar-a-Lago, the building is another world, and an indication that this serene, largely residential area is making a play for some of the art scene pizzazz of Miami, a bit more than an hour's drive south.

"This is the X-rated area," Ms. De-

Woody, a slim woman in her mid-60s, was saying downstairs in a corner gallery of the Bunker. Dressed in tropical-fruit colors, and with her third husband, Firooz Zahedi, a photographer, and their small white poodle following, she passed a Paul McCarthy white silicone bust with a sex toy. A Nick Cave assemblage had one, too.

There was a painting depicting a crucifixion by George Condo that might not be pleasing to some of her more conservative neighbors, and a deer's head made of zippered black leather likely only to please a sadomasochist. Nearby, were John Waters's doll-size sculptures of Michael Jackson and Charles Manson having a play date.

Ms. DeWoody, who is president of the Rudin Family Foundations and on the boards of the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Hammer Museum, owns more than 10,000 pieces of art, including a vast array of work that is

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