

News

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“News” refers to novel
information about recent
affairs

News in History



Source

Within journalism, “news”
refers to novel information
about recent affairs that is in
the public interest

News and Newsgathering

- The emphasis on public interest is influenced by principles from the [Age of Enlightenment](#)
- This view considers newsgathering to be an important activity, which is oriented around the systematic collection and distribution of novel information
 - Similar to what we call “reporting” today
 - ‘Professional’ reporting is a historically recent development, though

“The News”

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After Night of Looting, Chicago's Magnificent Mile on Edge

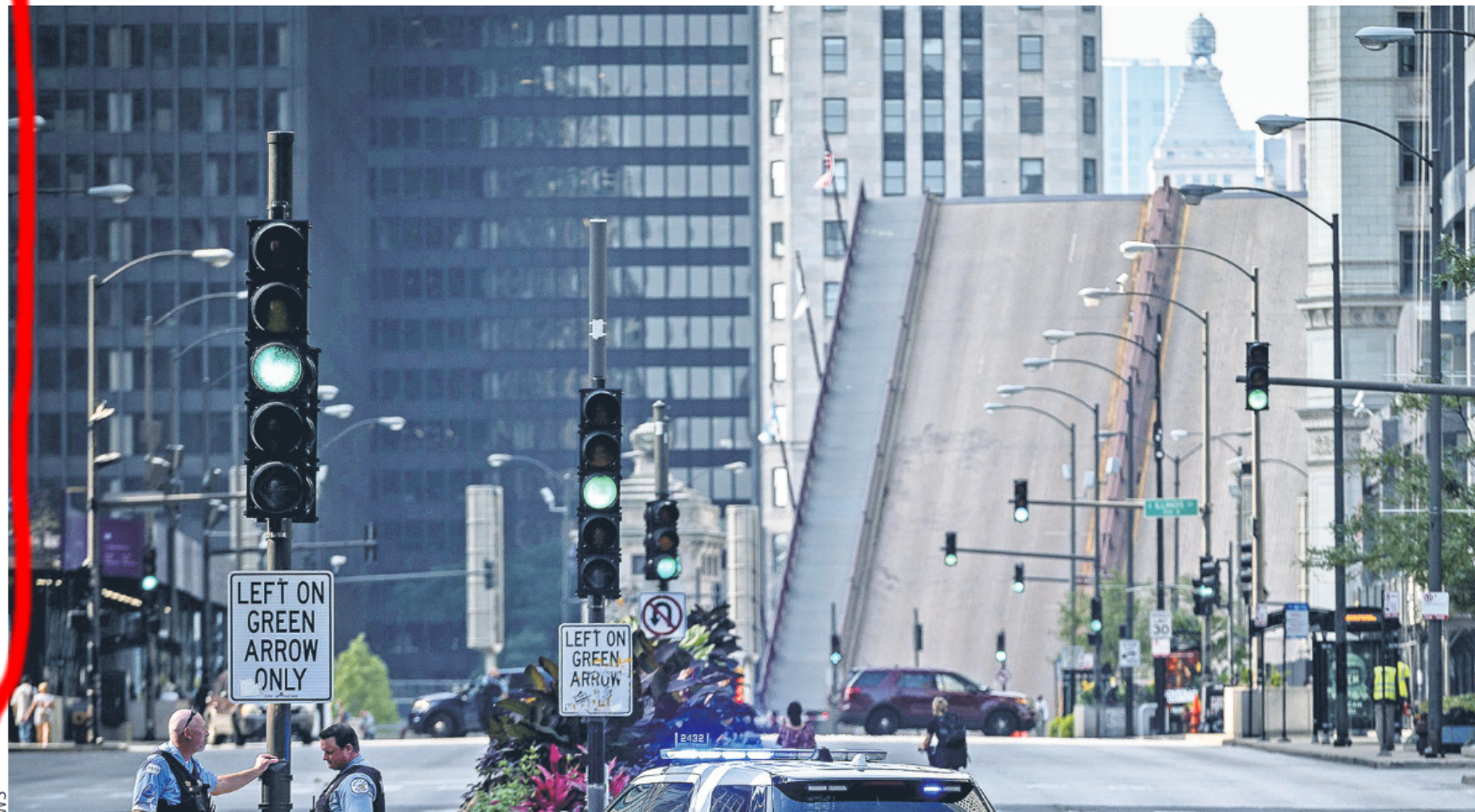
What's News

Business & Finance

Mcdonald's sued ex-CEO Easterbrook, seeking to recoup tens of millions it paid him in severance and benefits and alleging he lied about sexual relationships with employees before his ouster last fall. **A1**

◆ **The EPA is preparing** to rescind requirements that oil-and-gas producers be equipped to detect methane leaks in their systems. **A2**

◆ **The U.S. budget deficit** shrank last month as household and businesses made



Source

News and “The News”

- “News” and “the news” are modern cultural constructs that reflect the society they’re embedded within
 - They are, therefore, not natural things that just ‘exist’
- The dominant ways of thinking about “news” and “the news” reflect the historical development of newsgathering in those places

News and Newsworthiness

- Constructions of “news” and “the news” also reflect who has **the authority** to define “news” and **newsworthiness**
 - Determining “the news” requires someone to define what news is important as well as what is important about that news
- We can thus also think about “news” more broadly as **a form of knowledge** about the world we live in
 - Those able to determine “the news” thus have considerable power in shaping our perceived realities

Key Takeaways

- In journalism, “news” refers to novel information about recent affairs that is in the public interest
- Newsgathering, as a distinct professional activity, is a historically recent development
- “News” is a modern cultural form; not a natural thing that just “exists”
- Those recognizes as stewards of “the news” have power in shaping perceptions of reality
- News can also be understood as a form of knowledge