

Twitter


Ali Fedotowsky

So fun watching w/all of u tonight! Make sure to check out my blog on @eonline tomorrow w/all my thoughts. Plus I'll be answering YOUR Q's!


Tierra

WHAT?!?! Did Tierra just show up to a date that she wasn't invited to?!?! So wrong! #Bachelor @eonline


Steven Tyler

"Steven Tyler Act": Hawaii Proposes to Protect Celebs From Paparazzi <http://eonline/UqJE41>


Miley Cyrus

Miley Cyrus Fans Take Over Newsstands With Her Cosmopolitan Cover <http://eonline/UqsPpQ>


Kim Kardashian

Pregnant Kim Kardashian Tweets Photos of Mason Dash Disick as a <http://eonline/Uqpp6z>


Anne Hathaway

2013 Oscars: Anne Hathaway, Hugh Jackman & More Gather for Nominees Luncheon <http://eonline/UqISF1>


Katherine Webb

Katherine Webb Is Engaged to AJ McCarron? Not So Fast... <http://eonline/Uq4UH>

Technology

MOST FACEBOOK USERS TAKE A



AP— Too much drama, boredom and scads of irrelevant information are just some of the reasons Facebook users give for taking a break from the world's biggest social networking site for weeks at a time, according to a new study.

A report from the Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project found that some 61 percent of Facebook users had taken a hiatus of at least several weeks for myriad reasons, whether they were weary of an onslaught of gossip, or for the more pious, the arrival of Lent.

Yet the use of Facebook, whether constant or not, is pervasive in America.

Of the American adults who use the Internet, 67 percent are on Facebook, Pew found. That compares with 20 percent who use LinkedIn and 16 percent who are on

Twitter.

But users do come and go, some temporarily, and some for good. Seven percent of Internet users said they used Facebook at one point but no longer do. By its own count, Facebook Inc. has 1.06 billion users worldwide who check in at least once a month. This includes millions of duplicate and fake accounts. More than 150 million users are in the U.S.

The largest slice of users, 20 percent, said that they were simply too busy with their own lives

to follow the constant stream of status updates, George Takei quotes and baby photos.

Privacy and security concerns, which have received plenty of media coverage, were low on the list. Only 4 percent of people gave these reasons, combined with concerns about ads and spam, as their "Facebook vacation" motivation.

Lee Rainie, director of the Internet and American Life Project, said privacy is more of a big policy question that people do not concern themselves with day-by-day. Rather, people are contemplating how they spend their time and allocate their attention.

"People are making interesting calibrations and recalibrations" about how they spend their time and about the worth of constantly staying connected to friends, family and others online, Rain-

ie said.

And while people do take Facebook breaks, Internet users are logging in more frequently than ever, the study found.

Among other interesting tidbits:

— 59 percent of Facebook users said the site is about as important to them as it was a year ago.

— 12 percent said Facebook is more important to them than it was a year ago and 28 percent said it has become less important.

— 8 percent said they took a break from Facebook because they were spending too much time using it.

— 69 percent said they plan to spend the same amount of time on Facebook in the coming year. Twenty-seven percent plan to spend less time on the site and 3 percent, more time.

Politics

The trials of Chuck Hagel



UPI -- Last week's U.S. Senate confirmation hearing on former Sen. Chuck Hagel's nomination as secretary of defense was contentious and nasty. Hagel almost certainly will be confirmed but he was badly battered in the process.

His former Senate colleague and fellow Vietnam veteran John McCain, R-Ariz., bullied Hagel, R-S.C., on the viability of the surge in Iraq.

Sen. Lindsay Graham, R-S.C., was furious over Hagel's assertion of intimidation of Congress by the "Jewish lobby" and demanded the name of a single senator who succumbed to that pressure.

And rookie Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, after a full four weeks in office, charged Hagel with consorting with a former and controversial U.S. ambassador Hagel hadn't seen in years. Wow!

The good news is that the Senate's Armed Services Committee will take some time to review this nomination. Thus, Hagel has a few weeks to recover from his political wounds (that probably deserve a third Purple Heart) and ready himself for his new duties.

In full disclosure, the senator and I have been good friends and colleagues for many years.

How might Senator Hagel use this lull? In written responses to policy questions posed before the hearing, Hagel listed his top priorities as ensuring stability in Afghanistan post pull out; maintaining our technological edge; and supporting people.

I would suggest a different set and ordering of priorities.

The highest priority must be people. After a dozen years of war; extraordinary strain on personnel and families; the repetition and intensity of extended periods in combat; and many other factors, people require more than lip service. That no one currently occupies the Pentagon's undersecretary job for personnel is a further complication. Hagel must take a hard look across all personnel policies and adjust where adjustment is sorely needed as a first order of business.

Next, he must implement and refine President Barack Obama's "strategic pivot to Asia," sensibly renamed by the Pentagon as rebalancing. Unfortunately, the announcement of that strategy offended, frightened or angered most countries from the Atlantic approaches to Europe to the Bering Sea in the far Pacific. This will take nuance, sophistication and imagination.

His final top priority is dealing not with so-called financial austerity but more likely with a budget implosion. If sequester goes through, this year the Pentagon will take a further \$43 billion reduction. As the fiscal year is half over, those cuts must be taken in six not 12 months, magnifying the potential damage.

The cuts can be taken PROVIDED the Pentagon has the flexibility to manage them. The law states cuts must be made "evenly" meaning equally. That will be a disaster. So Hagel must get Congress to redefine that requirement. And he must be prepared to deal with even greater cuts that are certain to be forthcoming as long as debts and deficits loom so large. No one in the Pentagon has dealt with downsizing for a very long time further hindering the process.

Hagel should also engage his considerable intellect and imagination for creative solutions to many challenges. For example, Hagel was constantly reminded by senators to preserve the "defense industrial base," namely the capacity to arm our military with advanced weapons systems. This is a concept from the 19th century.

It isn't ships, aircraft or drones that matter. What we put in them does. What is needed is a defense "intellectual property" base and a strategy of regeneration and reconstitution wherein we pay to keep the ability to rebuild these capacities when and if needed.

● By HARLAN ULLMAN

Food

'TREE OF LIFE' HAS KURDISH



AFP — Seen by some as emblematic of the Mediterranean landscape and cuisine, the olive tree in fact has its domesticated roots in Kurdish regions, said a study Wednesday that seeks to settle an age-old debate.

Harvesting of wild olive trees called oleasters has been documented from the Near East (the area around ancient Palestine and Jordan) to Spain since the Neolithic or New Stone Age that started about 10,000 BC.

The tree then became domesticated, a process thought by some researchers to have started in the Near East about 6,000 years ago.

Other experts, though, have offered evidence for simultaneous domestication of different olive cultivars across the Mediterranean.

Now an international team of experts used genetic data, molecular dating, fossil records and climate modelling to determine that the iconic tree's roots lie in only one place -- somewhat fur-

ther north and east than many had thought.

"We conclude that the western Mediterranean was not a major primary centre of domestication of the olive tree," the team wrote in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*.

"The cradle of primary domestication of the olive tree is located in the northeastern Levant."

This refers to the modern-day Kurdish zone between Syria and Turkey, study co-author Guillaume Besnard of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) told AFP.

From there, the do-

mesticated olive probably spread through the eastern Mediterranean and Cyprus, westwards to Turkey, Greece, Italy and the rest of the Mediterranean "in parallel to the expansion of civilisations and human exchanges in this part of the world", said the report.

The domesticated olive tree, *Olea europaea*, is central to Greek, Roman and early Christian mythology, and the olive branch remains a symbol of peace today.

The ancient Greeks believed that Athena, goddess of war and wisdom, presented the Athenians with their first domesticated olive tree, from which all others sprouted.

"The importance of the cultivated olive tree in people's lives has turned this species into a symbol of ancient, sacred literature, and the origins of this crop are often subject to controversies," the paper said.

"According to our study, the maternal origin of the majority (about

90 percent) of cultivated olives today is clearly the Near East," or roughly the modern-day Middle East, added Besnard.

"I don't think anybody will dispute that any more."

For the study, the team sampled DNA data from 534 cultivated olive types and 1,263 oleasters from 108 locations, as well as 49 trees from a sub-Saharan subspecies.

The researchers also concluded that three main branches of wild olive split from a common ancestor at least 1.5 million years ago, said Besnard.

The olive tree has been called "the tree of life" for the sustenance it provides and its non-food uses, ranging from soap to oil for lighting and sculpture.

The olive today yields some 2.4 million tonnes of oil in Europe alone, with Spain the top producer.

It is farmed as far afield as southern Africa, Australia, Japan and China.

EARL GREY DESCENDANTS SELL ENGLISH TEA TO CHINA



Reuters -- An estate owned by descendants of the 19th century British aristocrat for whom Earl Grey tea was named is turning history on its head by selling English tea to China.

The Tregothnan estate in the southwestern English county of Cornwall started selling tea from its tiny plantation in 2005 and last year produced about 10 metric tons (11,023 tons) of tea and infusions.

Although a drop in the ocean of global tea production, which the UK Tea Council estimated to be about 4.3 million metric tons, Tregothnan has found a niche for its products by trading on England's historical reputation as a nation of tea-lovers.

"It's unique. There's no one else who's growing tea in England and putting

English tea on the market," owner Evelyn Boscawen told Reuters.

The long history of immersing tea leaves in hot water for a refreshing drink is not lost on the son of the current Viscount Falmouth and a descendant of British Prime Minister Charles Grey, for whom the bergamot-flavored Earl Grey tea is named and whose Reform Act of 1832 sowed the seeds of modern parliamentary democracy and universal suffrage

in Britain.

Chinese tea has been coming to Britain since the East India Company first imported it in the 17th century for consumption by wealthy aristocrats.

By the Victorian era, taking tea had become a regular ritual at almost every level of society from elaborate afternoon tea for the rich in country houses to tea and gruel for the working poor as depicted by author Charles Dickens.

But the Boscawens at Tregothnan are bucking the historic trend of tea flowing from East to West by beginning to export some of their wares to China and elsewhere.

"We do see China as an opportunity at the moment," Boscawen said. "The Chinese are great lovers of buying exotic things from all over the

world. Even if it might have come from China (originally)."

Tea, native to Asia, is not traditionally grown in Britain but can be cultivated outdoors at Tregothnan, which is situated in England's southwest and benefits from an unusual microclimate similar to that of Darjeeling in India.

Less similar to India is the tiny scale of production at Tregothnan, which might be large enough to be considered a small Darjeeling tea garden, the English estate's commercial and garden director Jonathan Jones said.

Tregothnan is part of a wider trend of small tea producers in strange parts of the world, according to Jane Pettigrew, a tea expert and author of several books on the subject.