How Husband-Wife Team Built \$12 Billion Fortune With A Startup



It all began with millennial angst at user-unfriendly soft-

While teaching design programs part-time in 2008 when she was at university in Perth, Australia, Melanie Perkins grew frustrated with the clunky desktop-based tools she was helping her students understand.

"Facebook was taking off at the time - people could jump in and use that so easily and yet design tools took years of training to learn," Perkins recalled in a Medium post in 2018. "I wanted to make design software simple, online and collaborative."

It was a winning formula. A funding round last week valued their graphic design company, Canva, at \$40 billion. That gave Perkins, 34, and her husband and cofounder Cliff Obrecht, 35, a fortune of \$5.9 billion each, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

The latest funding round makes the Sydney-based firm the fifth-largest startup in the world, according to data from

Trump's inner circle on

Thursday received subpoe-

nas to appear before a con-

gressional committee to

shed light on what exactly

the former president said

and did on the day rioters entered the US Capitol ear-

Congressional investiga-

tors are closing in on the Republican billionaire,

whom Democrats accuse of

being responsible for the

deadly attack on the seat of

Washington on January 6.

trolled special investigato-

Trump has dismissed as

ing events at the Capitol

and are a witness regarding

Representative Bennie

Thompson, who chairs the

committee, wrote in a letter

Dan Scavino, another of

SEOUL: The influential

sister of North Korean leader

Kim Jong Un on Friday said it

was "admirable" of the South

to propose a formal end to the

Korean War but demanded

Seoul first drop its "hostile

policies" towards Pyongyang.

carried by Pyongyang's offi-

cial KCNA news agency,

were in response to South

Korean President Moon Jae-

in's recent calls for declaring

an official end to the 1950-53

conflict that ended in a truce,

not a peace treaty, leaving the

two sides technically at war

In a speech at the UN

for more than half a century.

General Assembly earlier this

week, Moon proposed the

declaration of an end to the

conflict that broke out 71

years ago, stressing such an

act would "make irreversible

Kim Yo Jong's remarks,

Trump's close advisors

to Meadows.

activities of that day,

democracy

committee, which

Democratic-con-

members

lier this year.

4 Of Trump's "Inner Circle"

Summoned In US Capitol Riot Probe

Donald

WASHINGTON: Four who was subpoenaed, is

research firm CB Insights, and Perkins the richest selffemale billionaire under the age of 40. Among investors Canva's Franklin Templeton and Capital Global Sequoia

Right Direction' Perkins and Obrecht, who married earlier this year, said in an interview this week that they aren't slowing down. "We want to build one of the world's most valuable companies," said Perkins, who is executive officer. 'We're moving in the right direction, but we're not there yet." Canva users have created more than 7 billion designs, but Perkins wants it to become ubiquitous. That includes ultimately replacing PDF resumes with responsive web-based tools.

She and Obrecht own at least 30% of the company, Perkins disclosed in a Medium post that accompanied news of the company's valuation. A former Google employee, Cameron Adams,

A Canva spokesperson, Lachlan Andrews, declined to

Canva is popular with bloggers, students and mar-keters who can select tem-plates and then customize them to make logos, resumes, flyers or even T-shirt designs. Its tools are used by more than 10 million students and teachers, as well as companies including American Airlines Group Inc., Zoom Video Communications Inc., SkyScanner, Intel Corp., Salesforce.com Inc., PayPal Holdings Inc. and Marriott International Inc., according to Perkins. Canva says that it's on track to surpass \$1 billion in annualized revenue by

year-end.

Tech Billionaires The pair's new fortune makes them the 9th- and 10th-richest people in Australia, according to the Bloomberg index. While the country's fortunes have long been linked to commodities industries, Perkins and Obrecht join a group that's topped by fellow tech founders Mike Cannon-Brookes and Scott Farquhar of Atlassian, a softwaredevelopment company. Perkins also becomes

Australia's second-richest woman after Gina Rinehart, 67, who has a net worth of \$17.9 billion derived largely from an iron-ore business. In her latest Medium post,

Perkins vowed that she and Obrecht would donate the vast majority of their Canva

US Committee Challenges Pfizer's Covid Booster Authorisation For High-Risk Adults

WASHINGTON: A committee of US health experts on Thursday declined to approve Pfizer booster shots for individuals at high risk of Covid exposure due to their jobs, despite authorization from a different agency just the night before. The decision has contributed to growing confusion about the campaign for booster doses in the United States, which the administration of President Joe Biden announced in mid-August but has since lost momentum. The Centers for Control and Disease Prevention (CDC) committee voted Thursday to recommend a third dose of Pfizer's vaccine for people over age 65 and for those with underlying conditions who are at risk of developing a severe case of Covid. CDC chief Rochelle Walensky has yet to sign off on the recommendations, but is expected to give them the green light. The and Food Drug

Administration (FDA) on Wednesday, however, authorized the third Pfizer doses for a broader swath of the American public, including those at high risk of Covid-19 exposure due to their jobs or other circumstances, such as teachers, grocery store employees, health care workers and prison inmates. But the CDC committee voted nine to six against including that category. The hours-long debate left several experts torn, as the scientific community has failed to come to a consensus about whether a coronavirus

vaccine booster shot is nec-

"It's too soon," said Beth Bell, a physician and a member of the CDC committee.

"In my opinion, there's little marginal benefit to making this booster dose available at this time," said Bell, a clinical professor in the department of global health at the University of Washington. Some have pointed to the risk of myocarditis, an inflammation of the heart muscle, in young men as a cause for concern with a widely available third jab. And in addition to worries about the complexities of administering third doses-- as a vocal minority of Americans have still refused to get vaccinated at all -- some experts also have concerns about the lack of data on the efficacy and safety of adding another shot to the Pfizer vaccine regi-

The original two doses are still proving successful at keeping the vast majority of their recipients out of the hospital with coronavirus,

anyway, they say.
Data does suggest, however, that the vaccine's efficacy against infection does significantly decline in older people over time.

About 13 million people age 65 and older in the United States received the Pfizer vaccine more than six months ago and would now be eligible for a booster shot.

The Biden administration had originally planned on a mass campaign to administer third doses to all recipients of both the Pfizer and Modern Covid vaccines, starting

"It's definitely a very relat-A Food Deal Sparks Row Between Brazil's Bolsonaro And UK's Boris Johnson

lowers on TikTok.

avalanche of online coverage

and high-profile television

broadcasts: The death of young adventurer Gabby Petito sparked immense US

and worldwide interest --

and triggered debate over the

disproportionate attention

accorded missing white

the 22-year-old travel blog-

ger's body in Wyoming, and

Tuesday's ruling of her death

as a homicide, drew head-

Laundrie, Petito embarked

on a cross-country camper

van journey to explore

majestic landscapes of the

But Laundrie returned

home to Florida alone -- 10

where hundreds of thousands

of people go missing every

year. And yet Petito's fate

"At first I was interested

just because it was a very

captivating story. It was

Why did he come back?

Why did she not come

back?" explained 28-year-

old Paris Campbell, a come-

dian and writer in New York.

Under her pseudonym "sto-

pitparis," Campbell has post-

ed roughly 30 videos on the

subject to her 265,000 fol-

a staggering

With her boyfriend Brian

lines far and wide.

American West.

triggered

amount of interest.

The recent discovery of

BRASILIA: Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said on Thursday that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, whom he met this week in New York, asked him for an "emergency" agreement to supply a food product that is lacking in

Bolsonaro, speaking on his weekly webcast to sup-porters, did not name the product, but said he had passed Johnson's request to his agriculture minister, Tereza Cristina.

"He wants an emergency agreement with us to import some kind of food that is lacking in England," he

The British Embassy in Brazil disputed Bolsonaro's account, saying that what the Brazilian president said was not its recollection of

The president's office did not immediately respond to the product.

A natural gas price surge has forced some British fertilizer plants to shut in recent weeks, leading to a shortage of CO2 used to put the fizz into beer and sodas and stun poultry and pigs before slaughter.

To "Millions Of Eyes On The Lookout"

able situation," she told AFP. 'Millions of eyes' on look-

How Disappearance Of US Blogger Led

In images shared by the couple on social media, they are all smiles -- barefoot in a canyon or surveying the ochre rocks of state and national parks.

days before Petito's family According to Campbell, reported her missing -- and the disconnect between how people "romanticize" Petito's has since disappeared. On Thursday, the FBI issued a roadtripping life and the "tragedy" of what occurred warrant for Laundrie's arrest. Similar tragedies are sadly fueled the fascination. commonplace in a country Campbell said she has

gained more than 100,000 followers since she began reporting on the case last week. By Thursday the hashtag #GabbyPetito had accumulated more than 915 million views on TikTok.

Campbell devotes several hours each day to producing her videos, adding it was a comment by a Petito cousin, urging her to continue her work, that served as motiva-

"It felt like it was the right thing to do," she said.

In the deluge of the sometimes fanciful postings about the case, some videos have moved the investigation forward. One couple reported on YouTube that they saw Petito's and Laundrie's white van in Grand Teton National Park. Police took the claim seriously, according to US media, and Petito's body was found near the van's reported location. "In this case social

media is very much like an AMBER (child abduction) alert, just more effective,' said Michael Alcazar, a retired New York police detective and a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

"You have... millions of eyes on the lookout," boosting the chances of the case being resolved, he said.

'Missing white woman syndrome

Such extraordinary vigilance is rarely afforded to Black or other minority women who go missing. The disappearances of

young white females -- especially those who are relatively wealthy and fit traditional stereotypes of being attractive" -- get far more media coverage than their minority counterparts, according to lawyer and criminologist Zach Sommers, who has conducted research on "missing white woman syn-

Fifty percent of the articles he studied focused on white women, a category which accounts for only about 30 percent of those missing, Sommers estimat-

ed.

The blonde and "fragile" Petito, in the eyes of some, became a "damsel in distress" who needed saving, a narrative that pervades American culture, Sommers

Chinese Clothing Line In Racial Violence Row, "Indians" Seen In A Print

BEIJING: A Chinese fashion label has pulled a children's clothing line and apologised after consumer complaints surfaced about prints that contained references to racial violence and suggestive phrases including

'let me touch you". The designs by JNBY, widely shared on Chinese microblogging platform Weibo, prompted outrage and criticism among users who said that the designs were unsuitable for impressionable youngsters.

One photo showed an item with the English words: "The whole place is full of Indians. I will take this gun and blow them to pieces while anoth er had cartoons of a boy being shot with multiple

arrows. "What is JNBY trying to express with such prints?" one social media commenter wrote. "I used to like their adult's clothing, but didn't expect their children's line to be so sinister!" JNBY apologised on

Thursday, saying that it received complaints involving products with "inappropriate patterns" on its children's apparel line. 'We have immediately pulled all the related product series from our shelves,

revoked relevant publicity material, and set up a specialised group to investigate internally," the brand said in a statement on Weibo. JNBY, a popular designer

label founded in 1994 and headquartered in Hangzhou. added that it had also opened channels for refunds and apologised to buyers.

It reported net profits around 624 million yuan (\$96.6 million) for the most recent financial year.

Many users were unmoved by JNBY's expression of

remorse. "This is not a problem that

can be solved with an apolo-

gy," one argued.

Ex US Cop Derek Chauvin Convicted Of Geroge Floyd's Murder Files Appeal

Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin has appealed his conviction for the murder of George Floyd, citing 14 complaints about his high-profile trial earlier this year in a case that roiled the United States and laid bare deep racial divisions.

The killing of Floyd, a 46year-old Black man, in May 2020 went viral after being caught on camera and sparked America's biggest demonstra-

appealed the conviction Thursday night with a Minnesota district court, on the last day he was able to do

udicial misconduct and lists multiple issues with the jury selected for the trial, among other objections.

The former police officer accuses the court of "abusing its discretion" by denying requests to postpone or move the trial, and refusing to sequester the jury for its dura-

white man, was filmed kneeling on Floyd's neck, indifferent to the dying man's groans and to the pleas of distraught passers-by.

Floyd repeatedly said "I



The scene, filmed and uploaded by a young woman, quickly spread around the

Hundreds of thousands of people subsequently poured onto streets across the country and overseas to demand an end to racism and police brutality.

The ex-cop and three of his colleagues arrested Floyd on suspicion of having passed a fake \$20 bill in a store in Minneapolis, a northern city of around 400,000 people.

They handcuffed him and pinned him to the ground in the street.

In the filed documents, Chauvin said he has no income and no legal representation in the appeals process. A defense fund that paid for his representation during the trial was terminated after his sentencing.

Relief at risk The sacked police officer, who was present for the full six weeks of his trial, did not testify, invoking his Fifth Amendment right against selfincrimination.

His lawyer said he had followed police procedures in force at the time and that

Floyd's death was due to health problems exacerbated by drug

But, at the end of the highprofile trial in April, a jury took less than 10 hours to convict Chauvin of Floyd's mur-

He was found guilty on all three charges -- second-degree murder, third-degree murder, and second-degree manslaugh-The other three police offi-

cers are to face state charges next year for their roles in Floyd's death. Chauvin's conviction was

greeted with relief across the country.

Many had feared an acquittal would lead to worse unrest, while others worried that once again a white police officer would get away with what they saw as murder.

called the sentencing a "historic" step towards racial reconciliation in the United Chauvin had a record of

The Floyd family's lawyer

using excessive force before the unarmed Floyd died under

biased, is particularly interwas acquitted by the ested in Mark Meadows, Trump's chief of staff at the Senate. Trump has consistently time. "It appears you were The cause and source with or in the vicinity of refused to acknowledge his remains enigmatic, CIA Trump on defeat to Biden and contin-January 6, had communicaues to make unfounded said last week. tions with the president and claims that he won the others on January 6 regard-

election.

and Kashyap Patel. The committee wants the

believed to have been with Trump on January 5 during a discussion on how to convince members Congress not to certify the November presidential election victory of Joe Biden over Trump.

Several hundred rioters entered the Capitol building as Congress was in the process of formally certifying Biden's victory, falsely claiming the vote had been stolen.

The stunningly violent and chaotic assault left five people dead, including a Capitol police officer.

Trump was impeached by the Democratic-controlled House in January for inciting insurrection but

Other Trump associates summoned by the committee include Steve Bannon

four men provide a set of documents by October 7, and testify before Congress the following week.

Kim Jong Un's Sister Demands South

Korea Drop "Hostile Policies": Report

progress in denuclearisation

and usher in an era of com-

Kim, a key policy adviser

to her brother Kim Jong Un,

said it was an "admirable

idea" to propose a formal end

to the war but insisted the

South should remove its hos-

Making such a declaration

with "double-dealing stan-

dards, prejudice and hostile

policies" still in place "does

not make any sense," she

war to be declared, respect for

each other should be main-

tained and prejudiced view-

point, inveterate hostile poli-

cy and unequal double stan-

dards must be removed first,"

She added making such a declaration would "hold no

she said.

"For the termination of the

plete peace".

tile attitude first.

CIA Removes "Hotbed" Station Chief Over Havana Syndrome Handling: Report WASHINGTON: The CIA

removed its Vienna, Austria station chief recently amid criticism the person did not take seriously a surge in mysterious "Havana syndrome" cases, the Washington Post reported Thursday.

Dozens of cases affecting embassy staff and Central Intelligence Agency officers and family members have been reported in Vienna recently, but the unnamed station chief expressed skepticism and showed insensitivity, the Post intelligence said, citing

sources. CIA spokesperson declined to confirm or deny the report, but said the agency takes seriously scores of possible incidents of the mysterious ailment in US diplomatic missions around the world.

Deputy Director David Cohen "Have we gotten closer? I think the answer is ves -- but not close enough to make the

analytic judgment that people are waiting for," he said. The US government, including the CIA and Pentagon, has ramped up staff to investigate and provide treatment for the

Dubbed "Havana syn-

water and would change

nothing" under current condi-

But the North would be

willing to have talks on improving ties with Seoul if

the South withdrew hostility

'after breaking with the past

Kim Yo Jong last week

accused Moon of "slander"

after both Koreas carried out

North Korea carried out

two missile firings this month

alone, one involving a long-

range cruise missile and the

other short-range ballistic

Pyongyang's recent launches

as "provocations" when he

oversaw a successful test-fir-

ing of a submarine launched

ballistic missile (SLBM) last

week, making the South one

of a handful of nations with

That prompted Kim Yo

Jong to condemn Seoul's

"illogical attitude that

describes their similar behav-

iour as a legitimate action to

support peace, and ours as a

Communications between

the North and South have

largely been cut in the after-

math of a second US-North

summit in Hanoi that col-

lapsed in February 2019 as

then-president Donald Trump

and Kim Jong Un couldn't

agree on the terms of an

threat to peace".

the advanced technology.

described

missile launches.

missiles.

when it often provoked us".



condition first showed up in the Cuban capital, the ailment is marked by bloody noses, headaches, vision problems and other symptoms that

resemble concussions. Some people experiencing it have reported hearing focused, high-pitched or sharp sounds that left them nauseated. The incidents are little understood and have sparked theories that they were caused by a weapon that used focused microwaves. ultrasound, poison or are even

a reaction to crickets. But for several years, senior government officials missed the complaints, judging them to be the symptoms of people under stress or reacting with hysteria to unknown stim-

The administration of Joe Biden has geared up the investigation into what have been

renamed anomalous health

If the cases are caused by something like a directed energy attack, US officials suspect Russia could be behind it.

The Post called Vienna, where the United States has a large embassy and intelligence collection operation, "hotbed" of AHI incidents. with dozens of people report-ing unexplained symptoms. The issue has US officials

around the world jittery. In August Vice President Kamala Harris delayed by several hours a visit to Vietnam after the US embassy there reported a possible case involving "acoustic incidents. And during a visit to India

by CIA Director William Burns in early September, an official in his retinue reported symptoms and sought medical assistance, according to the

published Thursday showed. The findings push back the date at which the continent was colonized by its first inhabitants by thousands of

The footprints were left in mud on the banks of a long-

Sediment filled the indentations and hardened into rock, protecting evidence of our ancient relatives, and giving scientists a detailed insight

those of teenagers and children; large adult footprints are less frequent," write the authors of the study published in the American journal Science. "One hypothesis for this is

adults are involved in skilled tasks whereas 'fetching and carrying' are delegated to "Children accompany the teenagers, and collectively

the division of labor, in which

Researchers also found tracks left by mammoths, prehistoric wolves, and even giant sloths, which appear to have been around at the same time as the humans visited the

For decades, the most commonly accepted theory has been that settlers came to the present-day Bering Strait.

called Clovis culture -- named

This was considered the continent's first civilization, and the forerunner of groups that became known as Native Americans.

the first settlements.

had not been more than maximum" -- the period when ice sheets were at their most This episode, which lasted

until about 20,000 years ago, is crucial because it is would have been very diffi-

Did Humans Settle In North America Before Ice Age End? Ancient Footprints Show...

Footprints dating back 23,000 years have been discovered in the United States, suggesting settled America long before the end of the last Ice Age, research

since dried up lake, which is now part of a New Mexico

into their lives. "Many tracks appear to be

teenagers they leave a higher number of footprints."

The Americas were the last continent to be reached by

North America from eastern Siberia across a land bridge --From Alaska, they headed

after a town in New Mexico.

However, the notion of Clovis culture has been challenged over the past 20 years, with new discoveries that have pushed back the age of

pushed-back estimate of the age of the first settlements 16,000 years, after the end of the so-called "last glacial widespread.

believed that with ice covering much of the northern parts of the continent, human migration from Asia into North America and beyond

south to kinder climes. Archaeological evidence, including spearheads used to kill mammoths, has long suggested a 13,500-year-old settlement associated with so-

Generally, even

tions for racial justice in decades. Chauvin, who in June was sentenced to more than 22 years in prison for killing Floyd by kneeling on his neck for nearly 10 minutes,

He accuses the state of prej-

Chauvin, a 45-year-old

can't breathe" before he died.