



## Analysis: Only markets stand in way of Japan's Takaichi

BUSINESS, 6A

# Telegraph-Forum

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A 2023 study found that 75% of college students feel free to report their professors if they say something objectionable. Self-identified liberal students were more likely than conservative students to report their professors to the administration. GETTY IMAGES

## Student informants spur academic freedom debate

### Classroom speech, rights of educators and pupils under scrutiny

**Austin Sarat**  
Amherst College  
THE CONVERSATION

Texas A&M University told philosophy professor Martin Peterson in early January that he could not teach some of Greek philosopher Plato's writings that touch on "race and gender ideology."

The university's local chapter of the American Association of University Professors, an organization of professors

### Silencing a professor from teaching a certain subject fits within what experts have long recognized as encroaching on academic freedom.

and academics in the United States, quickly denounced this requirement.

Peterson, in response to his university's direction, replaced the Plato readings with material on free speech and academic freedom.

Silencing a professor from teaching a certain subject fits within what experts have long recognized as encroaching on academic freedom.

In another high-profile incident at Texas A&M in September, a student filmed an exchange with an English literature professor, Melissa McCoul, who was talking about gender identity.

The student said that McCoul was violating President Donald Trump's January 2025 executive order that recognized "women are biologically female, and men are biologically male." As a result, the student told her professor, as seen in her video, "I've already

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## How Black History Month got its start

### Origins trace back to event created in 1926

**Alex Perry**  
Cincinnati Enquirer  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Black History Month is celebrated throughout the month of February, and its origins trace back 100 years. Here's what to know about its founder, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, and how the month-long celebration of Black history and culture has evolved over the years.



Woodson

### Who founded Black History Month?

Historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson helped launch the national recognition of Black history.

Woodson was born on Dec. 19, 1875, in New Canton, Virginia. He later worked as a coal miner in West Virginia beginning at age 17 before attending high school. Woodson earned degrees from Berea College (Kentucky) and the University of Chicago before earning a doctorate from Harvard in 1912, according to the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, an organization Woodson founded in 1915.

Black History Month dates back to 1926, when Woodson, a historian and author, launched Negro History Week to highlight the achievements of Black Americans, according to the ASALH. It later became a month-long celebration

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## Trump statue is stuck in Zanesville amid payment dispute

**Shawn Dignity**  
Zanesville Times Recorder  
USA TODAY NETWORK

ZANESVILLE – All that glitters is gold – or maybe more the opposite could be true – as a 15-foot-tall statue of President Donald Trump completed in January 2025 slum-

bers in an Old Coopermill Road foundry.

The statue, now newly gilded with gold leaf, lies in the midst of an eight-month payment impasse and copyright infringement rift between Zanesville sculptor Alan Cottrill and an upstart cryptocurrency group heading \$PATRIOT, a memecoin honoring Trump.

The Patriot group still owes a little more than \$90,000 for the \$300,000 undertaking, Cottrill told the Times Recorder. Around \$75,000 of that comes from 15 months' worth of copyright misuse after the memecoin started using the statue as its logo when it launched on Election Day 2024, and unbeknownst to Cottrill.

"I felt that they tried to take advantage of me and the statue that I made," Cottrill said. "That statue isn't leaving Zanesville until they pay."

Once completed, the bronze statue, which was first commissioned in August

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