

**A Look Back at 2017****2017 in Review: 'Disruption, Despair and Dumpster Fires'**

Volatile year marked by violent attacks, natural disasters and political chaos

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NEW YORK — The news alerts gushed in: An attack on a concert, a church, an ice cream parlor; an assailant wielding a gun or hammer or acid. There's an earthquake in Mexico, a monsoon in India, a volcanic eruption in Bali, hurricane after hurricane after hurricane. Keep up as your phone vibrates with word of your favorite actor accused of misconduct. Make that anchorman. Or politician. Or radio star.

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The volatile year 2017 shook us so much and so often it felt like whiplash or worse, and that's without even considering Donald Trump, at the center of so much of the turmoil.

“It's almost like one of those horror rides at the amusement park where every time it heads into the next segment it gets worse,” said noted trend-spotter Marian Salzman. “Every time I turn off a device, I feel like I have anxiety because I'm not tracking the news.”

The year, she said, boiled down to “disruption, despair and dumpster fires.”

In retrospect, 2017's destiny seemed sealed in its opening moments.

Just after the new year dawned in Istanbul, a gunman killed 39 people at a nightclub and wounded scores more. The joy of the holiday dissolved into a scene of heartbreak outside the city morgue, where some cried and fell to the ground as they learned of a loved one's fate.

Around the world this year, vehicles were made into weapons, with trucks, cars and

vans plowing down people on the Westminster and London bridges in Britain; in Times Square and on a Manhattan bike path; on a major shopping street in the Swedish capital of Stockholm; on the historic La Rambla in Barcelona.

Terrorism and other violence struck so regularly that many accepted it as a fact of life.

“It can happen anywhere as long as there is one man willing to die,” said Luis Antonio Bone, 66, of Barcelona, who is retired from a cement factory job. Bone is at once realistic and defiant, saying crowded places may make him think about his safety but won't deter him from outings.

“We have to live with it,” he said, “but keep living as we always have.”

That kind of resilience was mustered again and again, even by some of those marked by some of the year's biggest tragedies.

In Texas, Pastor Frank Pomeroy vowed that good would persevere over evil. Pomeroy leads the rural church where a gunman killed 25 parishioners, his own 14-year-old daughter among them. “Rather than choose darkness as that young man did that day, we choose life,” he said in an emotional service only a week after the rampage.

In Las Vegas, too, where 58 people were fatally shot at a music festival, some searched for optimism in the face of savagery. Jay Pleggenkuhle, a 52-year-old landscaper, helped create a memorial garden with a tree for each of the victims. Some 1,000 people volunteered to help with his project, putting aside personal or political differences to work hand in hand.

“People have really been bound together following this tragedy,” he said.

A deadly chemical attack in Syria stirred people around the globe. Missile launches by North Korea brought angst that nuclear war was nearing. Rallies by white supremacists, wearing white hoods and clasp torches, roused uncomfortable memories of the United States' past. All of it broke with such ferocity, it seemed impossible to focus on any one incident too

long.

“Even something like a mass shooting that killed 50 people, the story moves on in just a couple weeks,” said Lauren Wright, a lecturer on politics and public affairs at Princeton University.

In Egypt, twin Palm Sunday attacks am-

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bushed Coptic Christians and a November assault on a crowded mosque killed more than 300. In Britain, 22 people died when a suicide bomber detonated a backpack full of explosives after an



People are thrown into the air as a car drives into a group of protesters demonstrating against a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Va., on Aug. 12, 2017. The white nationalists were holding the rally to protest plans by the city of Charlottesville to remove a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. There were several hundred counterprotesters marching in a long line when the car drove into a group of them.

Ariana Grande show.

Three major storms — Harvey, Irma and Maria — battered Puerto Rico and much of the Caribbean, as well as Texas and Florida, as 2017 went down as one of the most active hurricane seasons in recorded history. Fires tore through California and Portugal; earthquakes rocked Mexico, Iran and Iraq; flooding and an avalanche covered parts of Italy; mudslides leveled homes in Sierra Leone; and a deadly monsoon pummeled

India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

In hotspots around the world, people sought escape. Amnesty International estimated 73,000 refugees took to the Mediterranean in the first half of the year alone, with about 2,000 dying along the way. In Myanmar, the military has been conducting a brutal ethnic cleansing of Rohingya people, killing untold numbers and forcing more than 626,000 to flee into neighboring Bangladesh.

Amid the barrage, other big stories struggled for a spotlight. A grinding civil war in Yemen pushed millions in the impoverished country to famine. A political crisis in Venezuela brought intensifying clashes. In Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe was ousted from control after a 37-year reign. In Spain, a push for Catalan independence degenerated at times into ugly scenes of mayhem.

In the U.S., Trump

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**Women's March**

An estimated 500,000 people converged on Washington, D.C. Jan. 21 — the day after President Trump's inauguration — to show their support for women's rights, civil rights and the environment. Another 3 to 4 million people are estimated to have attended hundreds of sister marches around the world. Portland's sister march drew an estimated crowd of 100,000; the Womxn's March on Seattle drew between 125,000 and 175,000.

The march resulted from months of planning and national as well as local marches drew some controversy, especially over racial inclusion. In mid-January the NAACP Portland Branch, an early sponsor of the Portland event, withdrew its support for the event, saying the organizers did not sufficiently address or include the concerns of racial and ethnic minorities, as well as transgender people. At the same time it announced its withdrawal of support, the NAACP announced a March for Safety and Justice Jan. 28. By the time the march actually took place, the event's original organizer, Dara Glass, had effectively been ousted and replaced by a group of Portland-based activists that included racial and gender justice organizer Margaret Jacobsen and Rebekah Katt Brewis of PDX Trans Pride.

In March, the Oregonian reported \$22,000 in funds raised for the march by its fiscal sponsor, PDX Trans Pride, was not accounted for. According to a spokesperson for the Oregon Department of Justice, the investigation is still ongoing.

A second Womxn's March on Seattle is scheduled in Jan. 20. Portland organizers have not announced any similar plans.