

# Musk's \$44bn gamble, women's rights are hit and relighting the fire

**While the war in Ukraine enters its third month, our focus this week has turned to the US.** The news that Elon Musk has finally staked \$44bn on his Twitter bid was accompanied by a suite of tweets setting out how the “free speech absolutist” would remodel the online town square. Not so fast, cautions our big story: the controversial billionaire may find that buying the platform exposes him to a host of legal problems. Meanwhile, a panel of experts examine the pitfalls for Musk and the perils for users.

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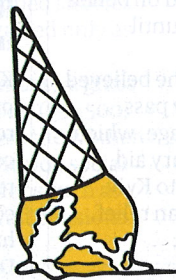
**It has not been a good news week for women in the US and the UK.** A leaked draft, ahead of next month's judgment, suggests America's supreme court will vote to overturn Roe v Wade, thus ending women's federal right to abortion. Will women's rights in the US be thrown back to the 1950s?

The behaviour of male MPs in the Houses of Parliament reached a new low with the revelation that one had been seen openly watching porn. Former parliamentary correspondent Gaby Hinsliff explains why women at Westminster finally spoke up about a topic so ubiquitous it was as mundane as discussing the weather.

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**Our culture features this week take us firmly back to pre-pandemic times.** Laura Barton catches up with Arcade Fire as the Canadian band returns with a new album. Then, Observer art critic Laura Cumming delivers her verdict on the triumphant return of the Venice biennale, where the majority of artists shown - and major prize winners - are women.

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**On the cover**

Elon Musk's \$44bn bet on Twitter gave illustrator Doug Chayka plenty of scope for fun with our cover image this week: "Musk's cowboy persona provided a great opportunity to riff on his cavalier attitude toward speech regulation, and what this could mean for the Twitter deal."

*Illustration: Doug Chayka*



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