

The world according to AOC, concrete lessons and the secrets of dust

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's explosive entrance on to the US political scene at the age of 29, as the youngest woman ever to be elected to the House of Representatives, was a beacon of hope for the progressive left during the dark days of the Trump presidency. Five years on, AOC is established as an influential figure in the Democratic party, known for her advocacy of green policies and efforts to engage marginalised groups. In a wide-ranging interview, she talks to Washington bureau chief David Smith about the climate crisis, misogyny in US politics and the potential - one day - for a presidential run of her own.
The big story *Page 10* →

This time of year often marks a new term for school and college students. But in England, a major political row has threatened to engulf the government as safety fears over a form of aerated concrete forced more than 100 schools to remain closed, as Peter Walker and Sally Weale report.

For those with an eye further afield, on the graduate jobs market, turn to page 30 where Hibaq Farah and Tom Ambrose consider the future careers most likely to withstand the coming onslaught of artificial intelligence.
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In Features, Matthew Bremner's investigation into the massacre of migrants in the North African Spanish enclave of Melilla is a sobering but important read. Jay Owens changes the pace somewhat with an exploration of dust, and what it reveals about the world around us.

Then, in Culture, the US pop sensation Olivia Rodrigo opens up to Laura Snapes about the pressures of fame and her regrets about a childhood lived out as a TV actor.

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On the cover

The American Democratic politician and activist Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, photographed in Washington DC in 2019 after taking up her role as US representative for New York's 14th congressional district, and in doing so becoming the youngest-ever US congresswoman.

Photograph: David Williams/Redux/Eyevine



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