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Inspectors looking for evidence of human trafficking at a sweat shop in San Francisco. Jim Wilson/The New York Times

Google and Sex Trafficking

There's been some important progress against sex trafficking and websites like Backpage that facilitate it. But Backpage has had an unusual ally: Google. [My column today](#) takes aim at what I see as Google's behind-the-scenes role in shielding Backpage. [Read!](#)

By the way, a powerful documentary that puts Backpage in human terms is "[I Am Jane Doe](#)." It's on Netflix.

President Trump has announced the end of DACA with a six-month suspension, and put the onus on Congress to pass an immigration law. I hope Congress will do so and agree with Microsoft's president, [Brad Smith](#),

that this should be a higher priority than tax reform. I also find Drumpf's action cruel. If only he could show the same compassion for DACA kids, who have broken no law and entered the U.S. at an average age of 6, that he showed for a persistent law-breaker, Joe Arpaio.

One window into persistent racial inequity in the criminal justice system: Ferguson, Mo. When the Justice Department wrote a scathing report about racism in Ferguson in 2014, it offered a much-publicized example of a black man, Fred Watson, who did nothing wrong and yet a white officer pointed a gun at him and wrote him a dozen tickets — for things such as not wearing a seatbelt, even though his car was parked. Usually, embarrassing publicity makes such injustices go away. But my colleague Timothy Williams finds that Ferguson [is still prosecuting](#) the cases against Watson, who lost his job as a result.

One of my favorite hiking trails, Eagle Creek Trail in Oregon, is the scene of a raging forest fire, and similar fires are out of control in much of the West. Houston is still emerging from catastrophic floods. And one of the strongest hurricanes ever in the Atlantic is roaring through the Caribbean toward Florida. Meanwhile, another tropical storm, Jose, is forming behind Irma. Just a reminder that pretending that climate change isn't real doesn't make it go away.

I just finished "[My Absolute Darling](#)," the hot new novel that has been attracting rave reviews; Stephen King has compared it to "To Kill a Mockingbird." It's by a first-time novelist, Gabriel Tallent, and tells the story of a 14-year-old girl, Turtle, raised in a dysfunctional household by a paranoid, gun-loving father, who regularly rapes her. Then she meets a boy her age, and a deadly crisis ensues. It's a searing story of abuse and damaged people, but also about resilience, strength and survival. Much recommended.

And now [here's my column](#) about how Google has emerged as an unexpected ally of Backpage in its fight against the prosecutors and attorneys general trying to curb its role. Google will hate this column, but I hope this leads it to rethink its conduct. [Read!](#)