

MONDAY
Money

TUESDAY
Build the Change

WEDNESDAY
Sport

THURSDAY
Science

FRIDAY
Culture

THE DAY
Turning news into lessons



NEWS DETECTIVES

TODAY'S BIG STORY

Thousands out of marathon for 'using cars'

Should we embrace cheating?
The Mexico City Marathon has disqualified more than a third of runners for cutting corners in their dash to reach the finish line.

The runners gave it **110%**. They ran, of course, but they also biked. They got into cars. Some of them even rode the bus.

More than a third of runners in the Mexico City Marathon have now been **disqualified** for cheating. That's 11,000 people!

The race referees were assisted by **eagle-eyed** members of the public. On social media, outraged running enthusiasts documented **blatant** cheaters, or "tramosos" in Spanish.

In a major marathon like this, runners have to pass a checkpoint every 5km. They also have an app which measures



"Tramosos": Anger at the scale of cheating rocked Mexican social media.

THE STORY SO FAR

Marathons, a race over 26 miles, take their name from a battle in ancient Greece. The messenger Pheidippides ran back to Athens from Marathon to tell the news of Athens victory over Sparta.

their time and their "splits" — how fast they run between checkpoints.

Most of the 11,000 will have failed to cross all of the checkpoints.

In 2007, Mexicans were entertained by another marathon cheating **scandal**, when the failed 2006 presidential

candidate Roberto Madrazo was thrown out of the Berlin Marathon.

His race data showed he had run one 15km section of it twice as fast as the world record.

Madrazo **resurfaced** on social media to defend this year's disqualified runners.

In a statement, the marathon organisers called the event "an occasion to **reaffirm** the **transcendental** values of sport".

The winner takes home around £26,000. This year the honour went to Celestine Chepchirchir from Kenya, and Hector Garibay from Bolivia. They both won fair and square.

KEY WORDS

110%: More than everything

Disqualified:
Ruled out

Eagle-eyed:
With good vision

Blatant: Obvious

Scandal: Something that shocks people

Resurfaced:

Came back into public attention

Reaffirm:

To promise or say something again

Transcendental:

Uplifting, spiritual



YOU DECIDE

Should we embrace cheating?

YES. People were clearly having fun taking part in the marathon. A little cheating does not do any harm.

NO. It does not feel good to train for years and lose to someone who rode the bus. We cannot allow that.



THE DETECTIVE ZONE

SPOT THE FAKE

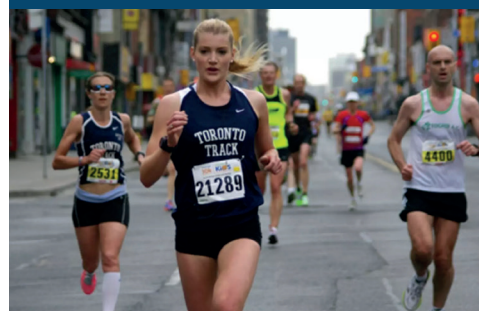
One of these three news stories is fake.
Which one?

Robot conducts orchestra in Korea

Scientists cover killer robot with fungus skin

Robot marathon winner actually man in tinfoil

What age was the oldest competitor in a modern day marathon?



- A) 89
- B) 92
- C) 100
- D) 79

TIME TO DESIGN!

Can you design a system of organised cheating?
Try to come up with five “bonus” rules for a marathon that allow people to get creative with reaching the finish line.

Step one:

Think about your design!
Maybe runners can ride the bus but have to add an hour onto their times, or maybe you're allowed to use a bike if you wear armour.

Step two:

Create your design!
Present your five bonus rules. If you have time, draw examples on rule cards.



Talking point

Is training to run a marathon a good use of your free time?

Amaze someone

The South African Sergio Motsoeneng once ran an ultramarathon with the help of his brother Fika, who ran most of it disguised as him so Sergio could stay fresh.

In 1980, the runner Rosie Ruiz won the Boston Marathon, or so it seemed. It turned out she had only run the last 800 metres and was disqualified.

THE EXTRA PAGE

As many as 11,000 runners disqualified

Approximately 11,000 runners in the Mexico City Marathon were disqualified for cheating, according to a report in Spanish newspaper Marca.

Organisers of the 27 August race launched an investigation after receiving complaints that runners had used cars, bikes and public transportation to cut sections of the course, Marca reported. The 11,000 disqualified runners make up more than a third of the total 30,000 participants.

The runners were disqualified after missing checkpoints that were placed every five kilometres along the 42.195-km course.

"The Mexico City Sports Institute informs that it will proceed to identify those cases in which participants of the XL Mexico City Marathon Telcel 2023 have demonstrated an unsportsmanlike attitude during the event and will invalidate their registration times," race organisers said in a statement.

"This great event not only represents an outstanding celebration



Going too far: Thousands of people missed checkpoints during the race.

for all the inhabitants of the capital, but also an occasion to reaffirm the transcendental values of sport."

The Mexico City Marathon holds World Athletics Gold Label Status, which is awarded to events that uphold the strictest standards for planning, organisation and delivery.

Disqualifications are common at the annual race, with some 6,000 runners denied their finishers' medals amid accusations of cheating in 2017, and another 3,090 at the 2018 event. ■

This is an edited version of a story from
© The Independent [7/09/2023]

Read more on this topic



Running on Empty by
SE Durrant

Nosy Crow



Ghost by
Jason Reynolds

Knights of Media

Answers to the puzzles Marathon question

C) 100 years old, Fauja Singh ran the Toronto marathon in 2011.

Spot the fake

Robot marathon winner actually man in tinfoil