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Up
From
Anxiety

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What's News

World-Wide

The administration tried to unify world leaders behind a tougher approach on North Korea, but risked finding itself more isolated amid resistance from China and Russia. Meanwhile, a North Korean ballistic-missile test appeared to fail. A1
◆ A call by Trump to rewrite or rip up a trade agreement with South Korea rattled officials in Seoul. A8

◆ Congress approved legislation to extend funding for the federal government by one week, avoiding a partial government shutdown. A4

◆ Trump will appear at a rally in Pennsylvania on Saturday to mark his 100th day in office and proclaim the start of his term a success. A4

◆ U.S. forces have begun patrolling the Turkey-Syria border to prevent clashes between Turkish troops and Kurdish fighters. A6

◆ The military is probing whether two U.S. soldiers who died Wednesday in Afghanistan might have been killed by friendly fire. A6

◆ Le Pen's pick to succeed her as interim head of France's National Front resigned after Holocaust comments resurfaced. A8

Business & Finance

◆ The economy stumbled in the first quarter as consumers reined in spending despite a rise in household confidence and a surge in stocks. A1

◆ Earnings from Exxon and Chevron added to signals that the world's biggest oil firms may be turning a corner on their path to recovery. A1

◆ Trump signed an executive order to ease regulations on offshore drilling. A3

◆ Qualcomm sharply cut its profit forecast amid its increasingly bitter legal battle with Apple. B1

◆ Overbooking remains a key part of airlines' game plans despite fallout from the United incident. B1

◆ Synchrony's earnings missed expectations, and the stock posted its biggest daily percentage decline ever. B1

◆ GM notched record quarterly profit and revenue, despite signs of weaker pricing and consumer demand in the U.S. and China. B3

◆ U.S. stocks ended higher for the month, boosted by strong corporate earnings. B9

◆ Time Inc. shut down a sales process after lengthy talks with potential buyers, sending shares down 17%. B3

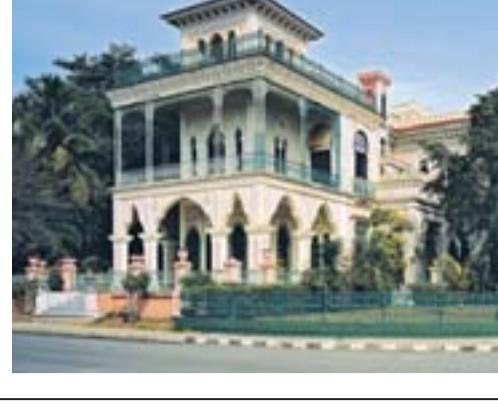
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CUBA LESS TRAVELED
WSJ. MAGAZINE



Growth Slows on Tepid Spending

Economy expanded at a 0.7% rate in the first quarter, presenting a challenge for Trump

By JOSH MITCHELL

The U.S. economy stumbled during the first months of the year, as consumers reined in spending despite a rise in household confidence and a surge in stock prices that greeted the inauguration of President Donald Trump.

Gross domestic product, a broad measure of national output, grew at a 0.7% annual rate in January through March, the slowest pace of expansion in three years, the Commerce De-

partment said Friday. Americans sharply cut back spending on big-ticket items like cars, causing overall consumer purchases to grow at the slowest pace since late 2009.

Major makers of household staples including Procter & Gamble Co. and PepsiCo Inc. this week reported lackluster sales due partly to weak consumer spending. Car maker Ford Motor Co. posted a 35% drop in first-quarter profit. Online retailer Amazon.com Inc. was a bright spot, reporting a jump in profit.

Temporary factors may have suppressed consumer spending in the first quarter. The economy also has a habit of starting the calendar year slowly and then picking up

speed in the spring and summer.

The report offered hopeful signs of stronger growth in the coming months, with U.S. companies stepping up investment in long-term projects.

"If you look at the backdrop for spending, including [rising] income, wealth, as well as confidence, I think it's pretty clear the trend in consumer spending has not suddenly collapsed," said Jim O'Sullivan, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics.

Still, the GDP report was a

Please see GDP page A2

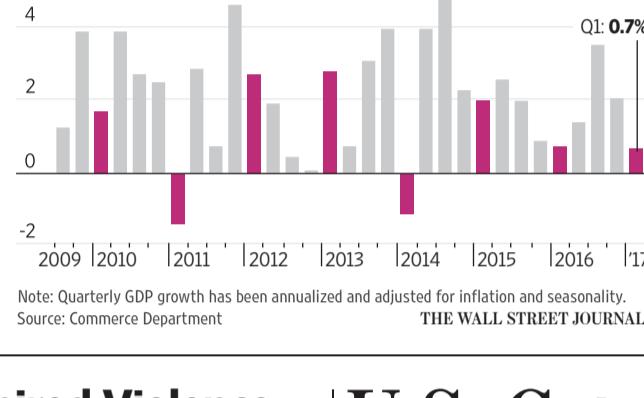
◆ A look at markets in Trump's first 100 days..... B10

◆ Heard: Economy needs consumers to shop again... B10

First Quarters Are the Worst Quarters

Disappointing GDP performance in the first three months of the year is becoming common, raising questions about the Commerce Department's seasonal adjustment methods.

■ First quarters



Note: Quarterly GDP growth has been annualized and adjusted for inflation and seasonality.

Source: Commerce Department

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In Egypt, Pope Francis Condemns Religiously Inspired Violence



CIRIO FUSCO/EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

MEMORIAL: Pope Francis, with the head of the Coptic Orthodox Church, Pope Tawadros II, on Friday visited a shrine for those killed in a December attack at the Coptic cathedral in Cairo. His two-day visit to Egypt follows Palm Sunday bombings at Christian churches in Alexandria and Tanta. A6

Please Do
Not Toss
That Bouquet

* * *
Some brides opt
for 13 pounds of
unusual herbage

By SARA RANDAZZO

Wedding bouquets are going wild and free.

For some brides, long gone are the days of tightly wrapped, ball-shaped bunches of roses or calla lilies that get joyfully thrown over one's shoulder at wedding's end to the delighted crowd.

Now, gigantic, earthy bridal arrangements are moving into the aisle, with some looking a bit more like assemblages of landscaping than traditional wedding décor. And these oversized bouquets definitely aren't made for tossing.

"I would have knocked someone out," said 24-year-old Chandler Banas at the thought of throwing her oversized arrangement of pink peonies and greenery at her Texas barn wedding last summer. Not wanting to chuck the tradition entirely, Ms. Banas had a more modest bouquet made expressly for the toss.

"The bigger, the bolder, the more dramatic the flowers, people just stop in their tracks and say wow," said Jen Farrello, a wedding photographer based in Charlottesville, Va.

Wedding planners, florists and photographers say brides are increasingly looking for that showstopper moment and

Please see BLOOM page A9

Exxon, Chevron Earnings Point to Industry Recovery

By BRADLEY OLSON

The world's biggest oil companies are seeing their highest profits in more than a year, an early signal that they may be turning a corner on their long path to recovery.

Exxon Mobil Corp. on Friday reported its best quarter since 2015, more than doubling profit from the first three months of 2016 when crude prices fell to the lowest level in more than a decade. The company also generated enough cash to pay for new investments and divi-

dends, an increasingly important measure of resilience for big oil companies, which have been piling on debt.

Chevron Corp., which reported a quarterly loss last year, posted a profit of \$2.7 billion. The rosy results came a day after French energy company Total SA reported a 77% rise. Royal Dutch Shell PLC and BP PLC, which will report next week, are expected to show sharp increases.

For the big oil companies,

the gains reflect a rally in oil prices from last year's lows,

and revenue from new projects that have come online after years of multibillion-dollar investments in far-flung places including Angola, Qatar, Australia, Canada and Russia.

They also highlight severe belt tightening by companies that have been retooling strategies as they brace for a potentially extended period of challenging oil prices.

"These companies are cut-

Please see OIL page A5

◆ President signs order to ease rules on offshore drilling.... A3

U.S. Gets Terse Response On North Korea

By FARNAZ FASSIHI AND JAY SOLOMON

UNITED NATIONS—The Trump administration tried to unify world leaders behind a tougher approach toward North Korea on Friday, but risked finding itself more isolated amid stiff resistance from China and Russia, which accused the U.S. of ratcheting up tensions.

North Korea punctuated the debate later in the day by firing a ballistic missile, one of a series of tests that have signaled the country's determination to move ahead with its weapons program despite international condemnation. The missile test appeared to fail, blowing up after launch, according to South Korea, but its timing could bolster the U.S. effort to rally an international response.

On Twitter Friday evening, President Donald Trump wrote: "North Korea disrespected the wishes of China & its highly respected President when it launched, though unsuccessfully, a missile today. Bad!"

Earlier Friday, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson convened the session of the United Nations Security Council and called for member states to increase sanctions on Pyongyang and suspend or downgrade diplomatic relations with Kim Jong Un.

Please see KOREA page A8

◆ Trump's trade talk spurs worries in South Korea.... A8

A Fiery Protest in Brazil



ANTONIO LACERDA/EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

WITH FLARE: A general strike in Brazil disrupted public transport around the country Friday, as protesters stepped up efforts to derail President Michel Temer's planned labor and pension overhauls. A7

THE CALCULATED RISE OF MACRON

Frenchman acquired skills, connected with elite

BY STACY MEICHTRY AND WILLIAM HOROBIN

PARIS—At the height of the financial crisis, Rothschild & Cie. assigned one of its veteran bankers to groom a new hire named Emmanuel Macron.

Mr. Macron had no experience in banking. Instead, he had powerful mentors who had recommended him to Rothschild as a *danseur mondain*—literally, high-society dancer—who could drum up business.

"He was identified as being a very singular person with

lots of contacts," recalls Cyrille Harfouche, the veteran assigned to shepherd Mr. Macron. By the time Mr. Macron left Rothschild four years later, he had negotiated a multibillion-dollar deal and become one of its youngest-ever partners.

Mr. Macron's banking career followed a playbook that now has upended the political order and placed the French presidency within his grasp, with a final-round election

Please see RISE page A9

◆ Holocaust remarks fell Le Pen appointee.... A8

U.S. NEWS

THE NUMBERS | By Jo Craven McGinty

The Rewards of Using Credit Cards Aren't Free



You know the old saying: There's no such thing as a free lunch. There also is no such thing as free credit-card rewards.

About 60% of American consumers are enrolled in a credit-card rewards program that offers benefits such as cash back on purchases, air-travel miles and points that can be redeemed for merchandise. To cash in, all cardholders have to do is pay with plastic. But there are hidden costs, and consumers who don't use rewards cards help foot the bill.

Economists at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston estimate that U.S. households that don't pay with credit cards lose an average of \$50 each year, while households that do pay with the cards gain an average of \$240.

Rewards are bankrolled by interchange fees that merchants who accept credit cards pay to banks that issue the cards. The fees cover the banks' handling costs and offset the risks associated

with offering customers the option of paying with credit.

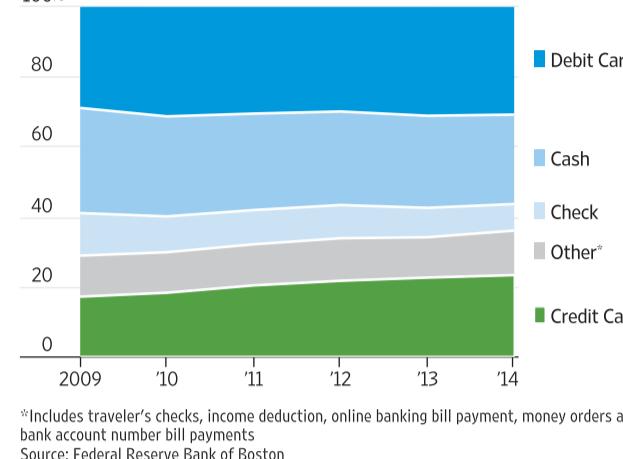
Merchants dislike the fees, which threaten to eat into profits. Conventional wisdom suggests they pass on the expense to their customers by charging higher prices. Costs go up for everyone, but only those collecting rewards receive the benefit.

Whether merchants pass on the full cost is in question, and if they don't, it would alter estimates of how much is, in effect, paid for by consumers who don't benefit.

"We assume there is some pass-through, but we don't know how much," said Scott Schuh, an economist with the Boston Fed who has studied the effects of rewards programs on consumers. "Whether it's close to 0% or close to 100% is key."

It's unclear how much of the expense is passed on, because the information isn't independently collected or publicly reported and may vary by business sector or merchant. But some of the nation's largest retailers have said credit-card fees af-

Paying Up
Fueled in part by banks' use of rewards programs, credit cards have gained in popularity among payment methods. Share of total U.S. transactions in the fourth quarter:



*Includes traveler's checks, income deduction, online banking bill payment, money orders and bank account number bill payments
Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

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fect their prices, and they have acknowledged that some customers absorb the increases without any corresponding benefit.

Merchant discount fees, which include interchange fees, account for roughly 2% of the purchase price of pay-

ment-card transactions. A portion goes to credit-card networks such as Visa or Master Card and to payment processors, which may or may not be the card-issuing bank. But the lion's share—about 75% to 85%—goes to the issuing banks.

A lot is at stake," Mr. Schuh said. "We've estimated that there is on order of \$100 billion a year in total fee revenue that comes from payment cards, including credit cards, debit cards and prepaid cards."

Banks charge interchange fees on all payment cards, but they have a vested interest in encouraging customers to use credit cards: Debit-card fees are capped; credit-card fees aren't.

The debit-card cap, which took effect in 2011, cut the average interchange fee for banks with assets of at least \$10 billion from 50 cents to 24 cents per transaction, reducing annual revenues between \$6 billion and \$8 billion, according to research by Todd Zywicki, a law professor at George Mason University.

To help recoup the loss, Mr. Zywicki said, banks started to shift people to using credit cards. Offering rewards is one way to entice consumers to make the switch.

Today, Mr. Zywicki estimates that 20% of banks' credit-card revenue comes from interchange fees, up

from about 10% a decade or so ago, with the remainder coming from service charges and interest payments on revolving debt—but he cautioned against judging credit-card rewards programs differently from any other loyalty program.

"There's nothing unique about it," he said. "I pay less for a pound of chicken because I use my Giant loyalty card. Someone who doesn't pays more."

He also noted that low-income shoppers, who are less likely to use payment cards, may not shop at the same places as high-income shoppers, which would alter estimates of the transfer of wealth.

Mr. Schuh acknowledged this: "If high-income people only shop at Saks and low-income people only shop at Walmart, the cross-subsidy would be less and probably not large enough to be concerned about."

But regardless of who is picking up the tab, your credit card rewards aren't free. And you can take that to the bank.

GDP

Continued from Page One
stark reminder that Mr. Trump has set out to reach a daunting goal. The economy has expanded at an anemic annual rate of 2% since 2000—including the effects of two recessions. Mr. Trump and his advisers have vowed to boost the growth rate to 3% or more. They are up against long-running headwinds that won't be easily reversed, including an aging population and weak productivity growth.

The latest figures offered the broadest report card on the economy's performance in the first 100 days of the Trump administration. Few presidents have entered office with the kind of expectations facing Mr. Trump. Confidence among consumers and businesses hit multiyear highs and the stock markets hit record levels in the first quarter.

Economists say it is far too early to judge the president's impact on the economy, especially given that he hasn't put in place the main components of his economic plans—a broad tax overhaul which dramatically reduces corporate tax rates, revamped trade deals and a rollback of environmental, labor, health and other regulations.

"Business and consumer sentiment is strong, but both must be released from the regulatory and tax shackles constraining economic growth," Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said in a statement after the GDP report.

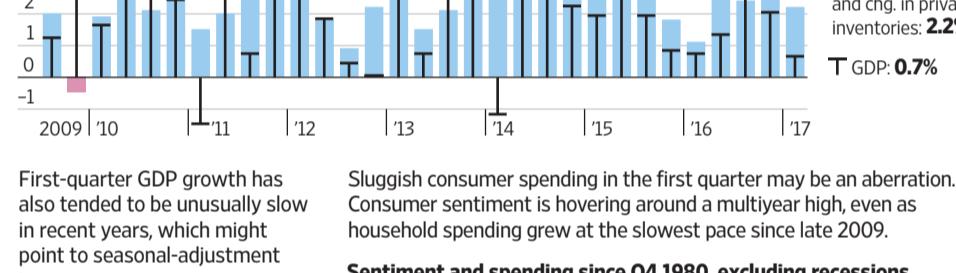
Most economists expect growth to rebound to a rate of between 3% and 4% this quarter and then to settle back into its 2% trend in the months ahead.

Sluggish consumer spending drove the first-quarter slowdown, presenting the biggest puzzle of the economy this year. With confidence and stock prices high, gasoline prices modest and jobs and wages increasing, spending ought to be picking up.

Economists have several theories for why that didn't happen. The unusually warm winter led Americans to spend less than usual on heating their homes, meaning less output from big utilities. And de-

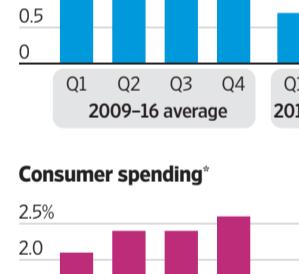
Betting on Bounceback

Much of the first quarter's slowdown in GDP growth can be attributed to volatile categories such as trade and private inventories. When those are stripped out, the figures are close to the average for the recovery.



First-quarter GDP growth has also tended to be unusually slow in recent years, which might point to seasonal-adjustment issues.

GDP, average for each quarter*

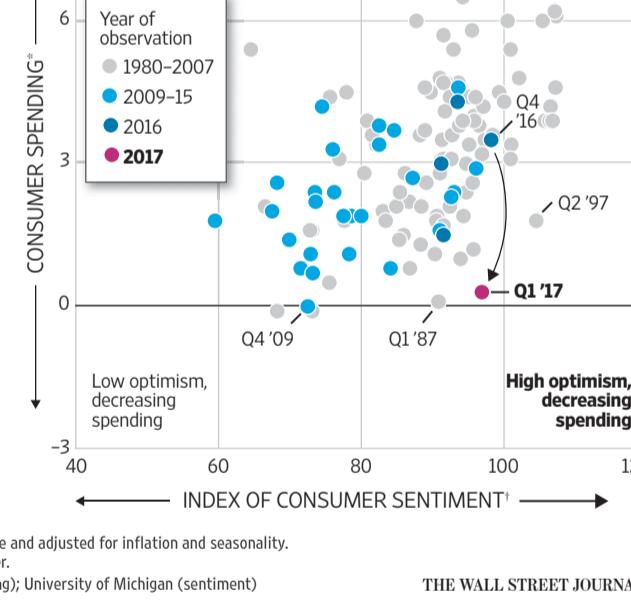


*Quarterly change shown at an annualized rate and adjusted for inflation and seasonality.

†As reported in the final month of each quarter.

Sources: Commerce Department (GDP, spending); University of Michigan (sentiment)

Sentiment and spending since Q4 1980, excluding recessions



*Quarterly change shown at an annualized rate and adjusted for inflation and seasonality.

†As reported in the final month of each quarter.

Sources: Commerce Department (GDP, spending); University of Michigan (sentiment)

the matter.

Heritage officials have leaned on Mr. DeMint, a former Republi-

cian senator from South Carolina,

to resign in recent days after a

dispute over his leadership of

the Environmental Protection Agency.

The agency has maintained sur-

prisingly close ties with Presi-

dent Donald Trump's administra-

tion despite diverging views on

fundamental policy issues, in-

cluding deficits, entitlement

spending and trade.

In a speech Friday, Mr. Trump

thanked Mr. DeMint by name.

"By the way, I want to thank

Heritage," he said, saying "Jim

DeMint has been amazing. I

mean, those people have been

fantastic."

A Heritage spokesman didn't

respond to inquiries Friday.

—Nick Timiraos

ENVIRONMENT

Court Agrees to Pause In Emissions Case

A federal appeals court on Friday put on hold a blockbuster case examining the Obama administration's signature environmental regulations limiting greenhouse-gas emissions from power plants, in a boost for the Trump administration.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit heard oral arguments in the case in September but didn't rule before former President Barack Obama left office.

The Environmental Protection Agency in March asked the appeals court to suspend work on the case, saying it was taking a new look at the power-plant rules. With the court's pause, the administration of President Donald Trump avoids a potential ruling that might have blessed Mr. Obama's approach and made it more complicated for the EPA to go in a different direction. The appeals court said it would put the case on hold for 60 days.

—Brent Kendall

HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Think Tank's President Pressured to Resign

Jim DeMint, the president of the Heritage Foundation, is facing pressure to resign from the influential conservative think tank he has led since 2013, according to people familiar with the matter.

U.S. NEWS

Attorney General Takes Aim At MS-13

BY ARIAN CAMPO FLORES
AND JOSEPH DE AVILA

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions championed stronger border security during a trip on Friday to New York's Long Island, where law-enforcement officials say that an international gang known as MS-13 is responsible for a spate of murders there.

Mr. Sessions's speech was the latest instance in which President Donald Trump's administration cited the gang, whose leadership is based in El Salvador, to promote a crackdown on illegal immigration. Mr. Sessions said former President Barack Obama's administration had allowed the gang to thrive.

"I do think that laxity at the border has made it much easier for the leaders in El Salvador to move people into this country," said Mr. Sessions at a federal courthouse in Central Islip. "There is no doubt about that."

Mr. Obama's backers have vehemently disputed the notion that his policies were weak or contributed to crime.

Federal and local law-enforcement officials paint a complex portrait of MS-13's evolution and operation. They said the gang has gone through periods of expansion and retrenchment over decades as authorities have battled it with waves of arrests and prosecutions.

In recent years, MS-13's leadership in El Salvador has imposed more discipline and organization on its members in the U.S. and pushed to expand along the East Coast, according to officials. Some claimed lax immigration enforcement by Mr. Obama's administration may have helped the gang grow its ranks. Others question whether it has expanded at all, and said that if it has, other factors played a role, including the ambitions of gang leaders in El Salvador and the unraveling of a truce with a rival gang.

"We've seen them metastasize and move to more urban locales," said Patrick Lechleitner, special agent in charge of Homeland Security Investigations in the Washington, D.C. area. "You can't tie it...to one specific thing."

According to police, the killings of four young men on Long Island two weeks ago bore the gang's signature: severe trauma throughout their bodies caused by sharp-edged instruments. In another attack on Long Island in September that police attributed to MS-13, two high-school girls were killed with baseball bats and machetes.

Prisons Balk at Curbing Isolation

State lawmakers look to limit a practice that corrections officials say is a safety matter

BY JOSEPH DE AVILA

State lawmakers across the U.S. are facing resistance as they move to curtail the use of solitary confinement in prisons, showing how hard it is to legislate changes in the nation's chronically understaffed prison system.

In Rhode Island, a push for legislation to limit the use of solitary confinement faced opposition from the state's corrections department, which objected to the creation of explicit laws that would manage the practice.

"We need the flexibility to respond to exigent circumstances," said A.T. Wall, director of Rhode Island's Department of Corrections, who is working with legislators to come to an agreement on changes to the solitary confinement of prisoners.

In New Mexico, Republican Gov. Susana Martinez in April vetoed legislation that banned juveniles and pregnant women from solitary confinement, and limited the use on prisoners with mental illness. She said the bill "oversimplifies and misconstrues isolated confinement in such a way so to eliminate flexibility and endanger the lives of inmates and staff alike."

The pushback on legislating changes to confinement comes after momentum to end the practice following the 2015 admission from the Association of State Correctional Administrators that the prolonged isolation of inmates in prisons is a "grave problem." The group, which includes leaders of state corrections agencies and heads of local jails in large cities, said it was committed to limiting isolation.

Corrections officials say they typically place an inmate in confinement if they violate certain prison rules or if they believe they are a threat to themselves or others.

"We have to manage [inmates] in very close quarters," Mr. Wall said, adding that the facilities main obligation "is to keep everybody safe."

Opponents of the practice cite research that has found that holding inmates in solitary confinement for prolonged periods is detrimental to their mental health and can lead to hallucinations, emotional breakdowns and suicidal thoughts.

Critics of the practice also say isolation without access to programs like anger management and behavioral therapy doesn't rehabilitate those most in need of help.

A study between the association and Yale Law School



A guard stood in the doorway of one of the Secure Housing Units at Pelican Bay State Prison in Crescent City, Calif., in 2012.

In Nevada, Prison Chief Backs Changes

Some leaders in corrections support the idea of curtailing isolation. James Dzurenda, director of the Nevada Department of Corrections, helped craft legislation with state lawmakers that would eliminate the use of isolation for inmates that are seriously mentally ill. The bill—currently being weighed by the state legislature—would allow the use of solitary confinement when inmates posed a threat

to themselves or others and other cases.

Mr. Dzurenda previously ended the practice in Nevada of putting severely mentally ill prisoners in isolation by making administrative policy changes and also created programs where inmates have a gradual transition from solitary confinement back to the general prison population.

"Those offenders are going back into our societies with our kids and our families," Mr. Dzurenda said. "We can't just sit back and watch these offenders get worse."

—Joseph De Avila

found that in the fall of 2015, more than 40,000 inmates in 41 states and jurisdictions were being held in solitary for lengths ranging from 15 days to one year. More than 13,000 inmates were being held for periods of a year to more than six years at that time. There were about 2.2 million inmates in prisons and jails in the U.S. at the end of 2015.

Solitary confinement generally involves keeping inmates alone in a cell for as long as 23 hours. The cells used range in size from 45 square feet to 128 square feet, according to research from Yale Law School. Inmates also have limited access to visitors, prison programs and exercise time.

Amy Fettig, deputy director of the American Civil Liberties Union's National Prison Project, said getting corrections

commissioners to accept legislative changes to the practice has been a challenge. "Even where we have leadership support for change, there is often reluctance to let legislation pass," Ms. Fettig said.

In Minnesota, corrections officials are concerned about funding. A Republican state representative has sponsored legislation that includes providing prisoners with periodic reviews of their status in solitary confinement, among other measures. But the state's corrections commissioner, Tom Roy, said he needs financial resources to hire correctional officers and treatment staff.

"It's very difficult to get resources and political commitment to work with offenders," Mr. Roy said. "It's a brave politician that will do it these days."

EXECUTIVE SKELETON
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Trump Order Eases Offshore Drilling

BY ERIN AILWORTH

President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Friday to ease regulations on offshore drilling and eventually allow more to occur, particularly in the Arctic Ocean.

The order, which takes aim at last-minute Obama administration actions restricting drilling in the Arctic and Atlantic oceans, will likely have limited immediate impact, as a result of low oil prices, which make drilling in the affected areas economically unattractive. The order specifically directs Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to consider leasing in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas, the Atlantic and other areas.

In a signing ceremony, Mr. Trump talked up the order as a way to move the U.S. toward energy independence and lift restrictions that he said have curtailed job growth.

Environmentalists decried his action as a politically motivated reversal of necessary protections for sensitive federal waters. "Some places are too precious to drill, foremost among them all the Arctic Ocean," said Jamie Williams, president of the Wilderness Society. "The Arctic Ocean itself is too fragile to develop safely for oil and gas."

Given low energy prices—after a more than a 2½-year bust, U.S. crude is trading under \$50 a barrel—it is unclear



Tugs towing a mobile drilling unit southwest of Kodiak City, Alaska, for a Shell unit in 2012.

how much immediate interest oil and gas producers have in developing such expensive-to-drill areas.

But given the continued U.S. dependence on fossil fuels, companies need to plan long term to meet future energy needs, said Erik Milito, director of upstream and industry operations at the American Petroleum Institute, an oil and gas trade group.

"There could be huge potential in places like Alaska, the Atlantic, the eastern Gulf,"

Mr. Milito said. "While there may not be a company wanting to go out and drill tomorrow in the Atlantic, over time it's going to be important."

Mr. Trump said the order directs Mr. Zinke to reconsider "burdensome regulations" that slow job creation, including a proposed offshore air rule and a well control rule. The directive also calls for a streamlined permitting process for the privately funded collection of seismic data needed to assess potential offshore re-

sources.

Environmentalists say the president's order will likely face legal challenges. Peter Shelley, senior counsel at the Conservation Law Foundation, said the Obama administration's moves to restrict oil and gas drilling along the East Coast and in the Atlantic had "huge support from fishing communities, from beach communities, from tourists and businesses."

—Michael C. Bender contributed to this article

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U.S. NEWS

Trump Returns to a Keystone of His Win

Visit to Pennsylvania comes as base sticks with president, but Democrats organize

BY PETER NICHOLAS
AND REID J. EPSTEIN

President Donald Trump returns Saturday to a state that proved crucial to his election victory, appearing at a rally in Pennsylvania to mark his 100th day in office and proclaim the start of his term a success.

Mr. Trump had the campaign-style rally on his mind this week as the milestone neared, telling The Wall Street Journal in an interview that he expects a "big, big crowd."

The president had planned to use the forum to highlight a decision to pull out of the 23-year-old Nafta trade agreement. But he scrapped that idea after calls from his Mexican and Canadian counterparts persuaded him to instead renegotiate the deal.

So Mr. Trump will now devote the appearance to what he sees as his achievements at this early point in his term. Aides have been citing the confirmation of his Supreme Court nominee, Justice Neil Gorsuch, along with his efforts to roll back regulations that they see as crimping job creation and economic growth.

Sean Spicer, White House press secretary, told reporters Friday the rally is "an opportunity for him to talk to



JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS

President Donald Trump arriving onstage to speak at the National Rifle Association Leadership Forum in Atlanta on Friday.

voters that elected him and what he's been able to accomplish in the first 100 days."

The event will take place in central Pennsylvania, home to many working-class white voters who helped flip the state to Republicans for the first time since 1988. Last year, Mr. Trump made Pennsylvania the backdrop for key moments of

his presidential campaign, including an economic address near Pittsburgh and laying out his first-100-days plan in Gettysburg in October.

Mr. Trump will take something of a victory lap even though he has failed to deliver on some marquee campaign promises, notably the repeal of former President Barack

Obama's Affordable Care Act.

"The biggest problem for President Trump is that he overpromised," said Charlie Gerow, a Republican operative based in Harrisburg who was a national co-chairman of Carly Fiorina's presidential campaign. "Everything was going to be easy, and he was going to change the world in 100 days,

and it has not been easy."

Still, Democratic and Republican officials alike in Pennsylvania said that Mr. Trump's core supporters have stuck with him through a tumultuous opening act.

Installing Justice Gorsuch on the Supreme Court, Mr. Gerow said, "bought him as much time as he wants" with the

Divisions Still Snag GOP Health-Law Push

BY STEPHANIE ARMOUR
AND KRISTINA PETERSON

After weeks of debating and arm-twisting, Republicans intent on toppling the Affordable Care Act remain vexed by the same obstacle they faced when they tried to overturn the law last month: Taking away people's guaranteed health insurance is hard to do.

A renewed effort to bring a House Republican plan to the floor faltered by week's end, a blow to President Donald Trump's hopes of landing a health-care deal in his first 100 days. Republicans are vowing to push ahead with the bill, saying it has stalled but not died.

But the herculean struggle to craft a politically viable proposal reflects the party's sharp divisions and rising support for the ACA. Conservative Republicans want to gut most of the existing law, citing rising premiums and limited choice. Moderate Republicans remain reluctant to support a new plan that erases the ACA's expanded coverage and patient protections.

Analysts on both sides say it is politically challenging to strip away existing benefits,

'Skinny' Plans Stir Up Debate

In the latest version of their plan to repeal large portions of the Affordable Care Act, Republicans are proposing letting states opt out of the requirement that insurance plans

cover a specific set of benefits.

Republicans hope consumers

could save money by buying "skinny" plans, excluding

items they may not need such as maternity care.

But many experts and studies indicate such changes might

not drive down premiums very much, since insurance plans would still cover big, necessary items like hospital stays and doctor visits.

"The large bulk of costs under an insurance policy are doctors, hospitals and drugs," said Larry Levitt, a senior researcher with the Kaiser Family Foundation, a nonpartisan think tank.

Opponents of the required "Essential Health Benefits" package—which includes 10 categories under the Affordable Care Act—often cite maternity care and mental health treatment as examples of items that drive up costs for people

who don't need those services.

GOP lawmakers included the benefits provision—as well as another proposal letting states opt out of rules on patients with pre-existing conditions—to woo conservative holdouts.

Some centrist Republicans like the required benefits, saying they protect consumers by preventing them from unknowingly buying insurance policies that lack crucial coverage areas.

GOP leaders hope the changes will be enough to unite centrists and conservatives on a larger health-care deal.

—Michelle Hackman

even with promises that free markets would lower costs. The ACA, often called Obamacare, now represents the status quo, and proposed changes to it provoke anxiety—as they did seven years ago when Democrats were struggling to pass the law.

Fifty-one percent of Americans now say the health law is either working well or needs minor modifications, according to an April NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll. Those fig-

ures were considerably lower before the law appeared to be in jeopardy.

The ACA has become "part of the daily fabric of people's lives," said Rep. Tom Rooney (R., Fla.), who nonetheless said the law wasn't sustainable. "A lot of people are very afraid out there of losing coverage, getting sick and not being able to afford to try to get better."

Mr. Rooney is leaning toward supporting the current

GOP bill. "The problem is we haven't really done a good job of explaining why our plan's better," he said.

Republicans disagree over how much to erode central ACA tenets such as protections for people with pre-existing medical conditions, expanded Medicaid spending, and a requirement that insurers cover specific benefits.

The earlier GOP bill would have toppled large chunks of the

Congress Passes Bill To Prevent Shutdown

BY NATALIE ANDREWS
AND KRISTINA PETERSON

WASHINGTON—Congress approved legislation on Friday to extend funding for the federal government by one week, avoiding a partial government shutdown on Saturday.

The stopgap measure gives lawmakers through May 5 to settle on a spending bill to fund the government through the rest of the fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30.

The House voted 382-30 to pass the measure, with 207 Republicans and 175 Democrats backing the legislation. The Senate passed the bill on a voice vote soon after, with no lawmakers objecting. The president was expected to sign the bill late Friday.

Republicans, with control of both chambers and the White House, were set to mark President Donald Trump's 100th day in office Saturday without having passed any major legislation and with the government funding set to run out next week.

Republicans signaled late Thursday that they were still short of the votes needed to revive and pass legislation to replace most of the Affordable Care Act, an effort the GOP president had hoped to undertake on his first day in office.

Lawmakers from both parties said the one-week measure was needed because they ran out of time to finish negotiating some small elements of a five-month spending bill before the Saturday deadline.

The most contentious issues of the longer-term spending bill appeared to have been resolved by Friday. Still, Democrats were trying to block some Republican policy measures in the bill that would cancel environmental and other regulations, as well as a rider that would exempt 7,000 flavors of e-cigarettes from review by the Food and Drug Administration.

Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, the chamber's Democratic leader, said lawmakers were making "good enough progress" in negotiations on funding for the rest of the fiscal year. The agreement would increase spending, as Democrats wanted, for housing assistance, grants for college students and the National Institutes of Health. The spending bill is also expected to increase funding for the military and border security, as Republicans wanted.

Gorsuch's First Days Hint at His Style

BY BRENT KENDALL
AND JESS BRAVIN

WASHINGTON—As Chief Justice John Roberts posed a hypothetical question at a recent Supreme Court argument involving a trucker's route in the mountain west, he struggled to remember which highway crosses Montana—Interstate 90, he thought.

Justice Neil Gorsuch jumped in to correct him, confidently pronouncing, "I-80 across Montana." But the new justice turned out to have been mistaken. "I must apologize—it's 90 across Montana," he interjected five minutes later.

Though inconsequential in the grand debates among the justices, the episode underscored Justice Gorsuch's energetic yet sometimes hasty assertiveness in his early days, offering clues about how he may interact with colleagues and lawyers—and how he will approach cases.

The sample is small so far. Judge Gorsuch's first day on the bench was April 17. And with one possible exception, none of the cases involved the major issues such as abortion rights, firearms access or voting restrictions, which drove Republicans' yearlong block-

ade of a Democratic nominee.

Nonetheless, several early patterns have emerged from his participation in the court's April sitting, which comprised the final 13 oral arguments scheduled until the court's next term begins in October. His questions tended to confirm some attributes his conservative backers had touted—a legal method that focuses on the text of a law rather than the legislative purpose behind it, and an overarching confidence in his own approach.

Equally revealing was the other justices' reaction to their new colleague. Though cloaked in the politesse, remarks from conservatives and liberals alike suggested that the old guard suspects the rookie still has much to learn.

Justice Gorsuch had limited time to prepare for cases that his colleagues had months to review, but he appeared to have closely studied the details. He pressed attorneys to justify their positions in light of the law as written, as if to underscore the interpretive method he champions.

"Wouldn't it be a lot easier if we just followed the plain text of the statute?" Justice Gorsuch said at his first argument. That offer got no takers.

from his colleagues, who indicated the very reason they took the case, involving a civil-service employment dispute, was because the complicated text provided no obvious answer.

"Nobody who is not a lawyer, and no ordinary lawyer, could read these statutes and figure out what they are supposed to do," said Justice Samuel Alito. "Now we'll decide this case, and that will make things clearer," he said.

While the new justice's future votes and opinions remain to be seen, his early style suggests, at minimum, that he will be not just a conservative jus-

tice but a forceful one, unafraid to articulate potentially bold approaches. The next chance to take Justice Gorsuch's measure comes when the court delivers new opinions.

In a trio of criminal cases, he almost exclusively questioned lawyers for the defendants, aside from a question he tossed to a lawyer for Alabama state whose argument to sustain a death sentence came under withering inquiry from the court's liberal wing.

The modern Supreme Court has a famously active bench, with justices competing at

times to get their questions asked and answered. Justice Gorsuch nevertheless found space to interject. Seated at the bench's far end, stage left, he appeared to develop a friendly rapport with Justice Sonia Sotomayor, trading an occasional chuckle.

The new justice, however, drew fire from the opposite end of the bench where Justice Elena Kagan sits. She wasn't shy about rebutting Justice Gorsuch's remarks, at one point dismissing his suggested approach to a case as "a shocking way to interpret this court's opinions."

A photograph of Justice Neil Gorsuch speaking at a podium. He is wearing a dark suit and tie, and is gesturing with his hands as he speaks. A microphone is positioned in front of him. The background is blurred, showing an audience and possibly other members of the Supreme Court.

Early days suggest Justice Neil Gorsuch will be not just a conservative justice but a forceful one.

By JESS BRAVIN

OBITUARIES

TRULY NOLEN
1928 – 2017

Pest-Control Magnate Made Use of Odd Name

Even his name was unusual: Truly Nolen. The family traced it back to French ancestors, and Mr. Nolen milked the novelty for all it was worth. He named one of his sons Really and a daughter Sincere Leigh.

What made Mr. Nolen truly remarkable, though, was that he recovered from polio as a young man and in 1955 founded the Truly Nolen pest-control business. It now has offices in 15 states and franchisees in more than 60 countries.

Unable to afford advertising at first, he bought old cars, painted on his firm's name and phone number, and parked them in high-traffic zones. He later deployed hundreds of yellow cars with

mouse ears to spread word of his extermination business. His sales slogans included "any last wishes, silverfishes?"

Living in Florida, Mr. Nolen made so many Jewish friends that he decided to convert to Judaism in his 60s. He celebrated his bar mitzvah at age 68—in Jerusalem.

Mr. Nolen was a daredevil pilot who regularly went on hazardous sailing and scuba-diving expeditions. Yet he carried his own pepper to restaurants to avoid potentially harmful bacteria.

He died April 18 at his home in Naples, Fla., at the age of 89.

At his funeral, his daughter Sincere praised him for "consistent silliness."

—James R. Hagerty

AL GOLIN
1929 – 2017

Cold Call Paid Off For PR Executive

In 1957, when Al Golin was a young public-relations man in Chicago, a friend suggested he should make a pitch to the owner of a fledgling drive-in hamburger chain.

Mr. Golin promptly made the call to Ray Kroc, who invited him over immediately for a chat. Mr. Golin noted that encouraging local newspapers to write positive stories about the McDonald's chain would be far less expensive than buying ads.

Mr. Kroc hired Mr. Golin for \$500 a month, and the public-relations firm—now known as Golin, part of Interpublic Group—is still working for McDonald's 60 years later.

Mr. Golin urged clients to con-

tribute to local causes, including ones that help children. He called it making deposits in a "trust bank." Those deposits could help protect a company's image "when it faces a crisis or other negative news," he wrote in his 2004 book "Trust or Consequences."

Mr. Golin also preached humility. Before representing McDonald's, he briefly did PR work for Spencer Tracy, and risked addressing the actor by his first name.

"He looked at me and he said, 'That's OK, son, you can call me Mr. Tracy,'" Mr. Golin recalled later.

Mr. Golin died April 8 of cancer in Scottsdale, Ariz. He was 87.

—James R. Hagerty

FROM PAGE ONE

OIL

Continued from Page One
ting their cost structures," said Brian Youngberg, an energy analyst at Edward Jones. "They are leaner and have managed to get more out of each dollar they spend, and it is showing in their results."

Earnings growth for oil-and-gas companies could have hit double digits in the first quarter of 2017, said Joseph Tanous, senior investment strategist for Bessemer Trust. "When oil prices were dipping lower, that was having a drag on the overall results for the S&P 500," he said. "Now we're seeing the opposite of that."

In the U.S., companies also face the prospect of less burdensome regulations under President Donald Trump, who signed an executive order on Friday to ease restrictions on offshore drilling. That order is expected to have limited immediate impact, experts said, because current prices still make drilling in the Arctic Ocean and other affected areas economically unattractive.

Still, major oil companies face significant challenges as they attempt to repair the damage done by the worst price crash in a generation. Among the five largest Western energy giants, net debt more than tripled in the past five years to about \$214 billion as they borrowed to make ends meet.

Balance-sheet woes were among the reasons many were downgraded by ratings firms. Exxon, for instance, lost its triple-A rating from S&P Global Ratings last year for the first time since the Great Depression.

Chevron sold assets to generate enough cash to pay for new spending and dividends, but new projects are likely to bring the company closer to Exxon's performance later in the year. As more money flows in, Chevron is likely to spend it reducing its debt ratio of about 24%, Chief Financial Officer Pat Yarrington said Friday.

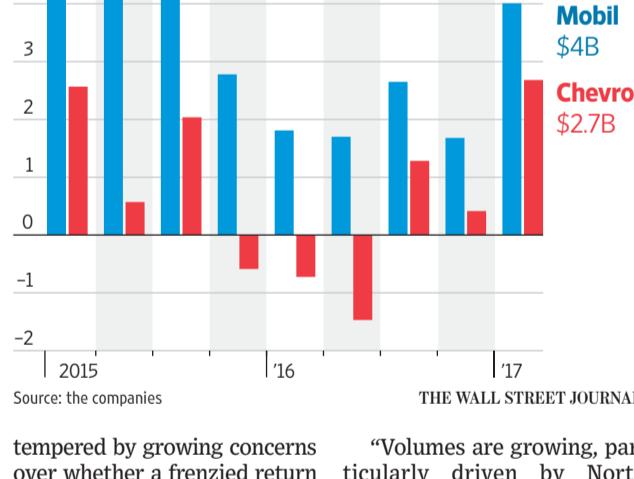
"It's an OK place to be," she said. "Over time, I'd like to see us move a little lower in the debt profile."

Optimism from the relatively strong quarter has been

Recovery Road

Exxon Mobil and Chevron both have reported their highest quarterly profits in more than a year.

Quarterly profit/loss



tempered by growing concerns over whether a frenzied return to U.S. drilling will once again swamp markets.

As oil prices recovered in the past year to prices above \$50 a barrel, U.S. oil companies returned to shale fields at a breakneck pace. The number of rigs operating has more than doubled from a year ago, according to RigData. U.S. production has risen to about 9.3 million barrels a day, just 3% shy of the 2015 peak, accord-

Optimism from the strong quarter has been tempered by drilling concerns.

ing to Rystad Energy.

The increase has been driven in part by lower costs that have improved drilling prospects in a number of fields, as well as positive sentiment stemming from a production cut from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Still, some investors and market analysts are concerned the pace of the U.S. return to drilling has been too hot, raising the prospect that new shale production could bring so much new supply, prices will remain mired around \$50 a barrel for years.

"Volumes are growing, particularly driven by North America," said Jeff Woodbury, Exxon's vice president of investor relations. That factor and others "indicate the need to be cautious going forward."

While a number of companies have managed to generate enough cash at that price to pay for new investment and dividends, executives have acknowledged it will be difficult for them to grow significantly unless oil prices rise further. The pipeline of new projects has dwindled significantly as the companies put the brakes on spending, a step that has the potential to limit growth opportunities within several years.

To make up the difference, Exxon and Chevron are turning for the most part to the Permian Basin in West Texas and New Mexico, an area of great promise in the industry that so far has generated little in the way of profits for many operators. Both companies have unveiled dramatic growth plans for the area.

Chevron said its U.S. production operations earned \$80 million in the quarter. Exxon lost money for the ninth straight quarter in its U.S. drilling business, losing \$18 million. That was an improvement from a loss of more than \$800 million a year ago.

—Anne Steele and Erin Ailworth contributed to this article.

ROBERT M. PIRSIG
1928 – 2017

Uneasy Rider Won Acclaim For Popular 'Zen' Novel

BY JAMES R. HAGERTY

The author of a literary masterpiece faces the tricky question of what to do next. Some go on churning out more books for decades, at the risk of diminishing adoration. Others go into seclusion.

Robert M. Pirsig, whose novel "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance" came out in 1974, for a time declined to be more specific about his address than "somewhere in New England." Yet he surfaced now and then long enough to lament the world's failure to take his philosophy more seriously. His second and final novel, "Lila," published in 1991, was an elaboration of the ideas presented more breezily in the first.

Mr. Pirsig's philosophy, which he called the Metaphysics of Quality, offered "shortcuts to living right" and sought to topple barriers between art and science. Academic philosophers, he complained in a 2006 interview with the Times of London, reacted with "zero support and great hostility." He added, "I think this philosophy could address a lot of the problems we have in the world today."

Mr. Pirsig died April 24 at his home in South Berwick, Maine. He was 88.

His "Zen" novel resonated with disillusioned readers in the mid-1970s. The Watergate scandal and debacle in Vietnam had discredited the old guard, while the hippies' flower power was looking more like self-indulgence than a long-term plan. Riding a motorcycle from Minnesota to California, the trip described in his novel, seemed like a good way to ponder alternatives.

Among other things, he proposed a revival of "gumption." Don't just ride across the land like Dennis Hopper in "Easy Rider,"



giving the finger to rednecks. Learn to repair the machine and appreciate its craftsmanship. "The real cycle you're working on is a cycle called yourself," Mr. Pirsig wrote.

Robert Maynard Pirsig was born Sept. 6, 1928, in Minneapolis. His father was a law-school professor. Robert was a precocious learner and misfit. "I didn't relate to people at all," he said in a 2006 interview with the Guardian.

He graduated from high school at age 15, but then flunked out of the University of Minnesota and enlisted in the Army. His 14 months of service in Korea exposed him to Asian philosophies. He returned to the University of Minnesota and graduated in 1950 with a degree in philosophy, then studied Hindu philosophy in India before returning to Minnesota to study journalism.

He worked as a technical writer until Montana State College hired him to teach English. While there, he encountered a philosophical puzzle he would explore in his books. "I was under legal contract with the

state government of Montana to teach quality even though I had no clear idea what it was, and nobody else did either," as he put it later.

After enrolling in the University of Chicago to pursue a doctorate, he had a mental breakdown and was given shock treatment. He returned to technical writing and in 1968 made the motorcycle trip described in his "Zen" novel, along with his eldest son, Chris.

Of the 122 publishers Mr. Pirsig approached, only one took the bait: William Morrow & Co. gave him a \$3,000 advance. When the book came out, Mr. Pirsig found his fans' adulation and demands on his time so intense that he feared for his mental health. He loaded up a camper, headed for the mountains and began work on his second novel.

In 1979, Mr. Pirsig's son Chris, nearing his 23rd birthday, was stabbed to death during a mugging in San Francisco as he left the Zen Center, where he was a student. At the time, Mr. Pirsig and his second wife, the former Wendy Kimball, were living on a sailboat in England.

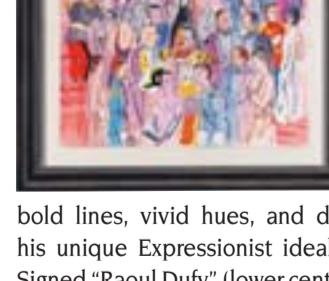
It took him 17 years to publish the second novel, a parable based on the romance between a philosopher resembling Mr. Pirsig and a woman he picked up at a bar. One insight: The Victorians weren't entirely wrong; we still need some social controls to restrain our biological urges. "Lila" received some enthusiastic reviews but wasn't nearly as popular as "Zen."

Mr. Pirsig could live comfortably on his royalties. He monitored and sometimes commented on a website, devoted to his philosophy. Mr. Pirsig is survived by his wife, two children and three grandchildren.

◆ Read a collection of in-depth profiles at WSJ.com/Obituaries



THE LIFE OF THE PARTY RAOUL DUFY



Revered artist. Marvelous composition. Stunning color. Joyful and expressive, this vibrant scene by French Expressionist Raoul Dufy is the quintessence of color and movement. The artist brings this naval officers' reception to life through bold lines, vivid hues, and dynamic brushwork that reflect his unique Expressionist ideals. Original gouache on paper. Signed "Raoul Dufy" (lower center). Paper: 19 3/4" h x 26" w. Frame: 28 3/4" h x 34 3/4" w. #30-6237

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WORLD NEWS

In Egypt, Pope Decries Religious Violence

'Belief and hatred' are incompatible, pontiff says; tight security in wake of church blasts

By FRANCIS X. ROCCA

CAIRO—Pope Francis opened a two-day visit to Egypt with a forceful denunciation of religiously inspired violence and a call for religious freedom, three weeks after Islamic State terrorists killed more than 40 people in bombings at two of the country's Christian churches.

The pope used the first speech of the trip on Friday to issue one of his most extended condemnations yet of Islamist violence. His remarks, addressed to an audience that included the leader of the most authoritative institution in the Sunni Muslim world, was at once a defense of the Middle East's besieged Christian population and a challenge to Muslims to repudiate religious justifications for violence.

"Peace alone is holy and no act of violence can be perpetrated in the name of religion or in the name of God," the pope told a peace conference at Al-Azhar University. "Together let us affirm the incompatibility of violence and faith, belief and hatred."

The pontiff balanced the speech with a strong warning against anti-Muslim sentiment in the developed world, suggesting it would only encourage terrorism.

"It is disconcerting to note that...demagogic forms of populism are on the rise," he said, in an apparent allusion to anti-immigrant movements in the U.S. and Western Europe. Such movements, he added, are "a gift to proponents of radicalism and violence."

Security was tight in Cairo



Pope Francis walking beside Pope Tawadros II, the spiritual leader of Egypt's Orthodox Coptic Christians, at Cairo's St. Mark's Cathedral on Friday.

when the pope landed, reflecting concerns following the attacks this month. Only government and church officials were present at his arrival at the airport, streets that are normally packed were empty, and Egypt's state-run media reported intensified security around churches. The country is already under a state of emergency imposed by President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi following the blasts.

The papal visit could give the extremists an opportunity to stage an attack aimed at stoking sectarian tensions and

embarrassing the Egyptian government, said Andrew Freeman, a London-based analyst with Control Risks, a consulting firm.

The pope's appearance at Al-Azhar was a significant gesture of outreach. The university and the Vatican resumed contacts this year, six years after Al-Azhar cut them off to protest remarks by Pope Benedict XVI about the need for Egypt to protect its Christian minority from terrorist attacks.

Although Christians enjoy

Egypt's Muslim majority, they suffer widespread social discrimination and have been the targets of large-scale terrorist attacks and individual killings.

In his speech, Pope Francis called for combating terrorism and intolerance by teaching the young "their rights and basic freedoms, particularly religious freedom." He also urged a fight against "poverty and exploitation" that he said nourish extremism, and cutting off the flow of armaments and money that fuel violence.

The pope's speech followed remarks by the grand imam of

Al-Azhar, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Tayeb, who said no religion should be blamed "for the crimes of any small group of followers." His examples included Islamist terrorists, but he also said Judaism wasn't to blame for Israel "occupying lands and extirpating millions of the indigenous, defenseless, civilian citizens of the Palestinian people."

Addressing Mr. Sisi and an audience of diplomats and other dignitaries later on Friday, Pope Francis called for "unconditional respect for inalienable human rights such as

equality among all citizens, religious freedom and freedom of expression."

Human-rights advocates have denounced Mr. Sisi for abuses since he came to power in 2013 after a military coup that overthrew President Mohamed Morsi.

Later Friday, the pope also visited Pope Tawadros II, leader of Egypt's Orthodox Coptic Christians, who account for the vast majority of Egypt's 9.5 million Christians, or 10% of the population.

—Dahlia Kholail contributed to this article.

Islamic School Resists Sisi's Calls

By DAHLIA KHOOLAI

CAIRO—A thousand-year-old university where Pope Francis took part in a peace conference on Friday is at the center of a dispute gripping Egypt over how to modernize Islam at a time of terrorist violence.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi in 2015 called on Al-Azhar, the world's leading seat of Sunni Islamic teaching, to revamp Islamic teaching and law amid concerns about extremism in the country.

Al-Azhar's leaders and supporters have rejected specific proposals for reform, on the grounds that its students need a rounded understanding of

the religion. "Leaving out interpretations of hard-liners without proper explanation means absence of the knowledge to counter them," said Ahmed Hosni, president of Al-Azhar University.

In recent months, Al-Azhar's head, Grand Imam Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb, has rebuffed two of Mr. Sisi's proposals. One called for uniform prewritten sermons to be delivered by imams during Friday prayers, thereby eliminating the risk of hard-line rants in sermons attended by millions of Egyptian Muslims.

Al-Azhar rejected the proposal, saying its clerics were properly educated and better

prepared to discuss the basic needs of everyday Egyptians.

Then in February, Al-Azhar dismissed Mr. Sisi's proposal to end a traditional practice in which a Muslim man can divorce his wife verbally without going through a court procedure. The Council of Senior Scholars said the government's efforts should instead focus on improving the everyday lives of Egyptians.

The moves soured relations between Mr. Sisi and Sheikh al-Tayeb. "You're giving me a hard time," Mr. Sisi joked in a televised speech in February.

A 2012 law gave the Council of Senior Scholars the exclusive right to choose its head,

but that privilege is now under threat. Some parliamentarians loyal to Mr. Sisi are working on a draft law that would give the president a say in who runs Al-Azhar.

Egyptian Muslims regard Al-Azhar as the country's main source of Islamic guidance, and a firewall against distortions of Islam. Al-Azhar oversees hundreds of schools, including scientific colleges.

Al-Azhar's student body has also been the source of some of Mr. Sisi's most vocal opposition, as hundreds of students protested the 2013 coup that brought him to power.

—Francis X. Rocca contributed to this article.



Grand Imam Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb and Pope Francis in Cairo.

MOHAMED ABD EL GHANY/REUTERS

U.S. Probes Deaths of Two Soldiers

BY BEN KESLING AND GORDON LUBOLD

WASHINGTON—The U.S. military is investigating whether two U.S. soldiers who died Wednesday in Afghanistan might have been killed by friendly fire, the Pentagon said Friday.

The two Army Rangers were killed and one other U.S. soldier was wounded in a nighttime raid on Islamic State in Nangarhar province, Afghanistan, according to the Pentagon. Officials are investigating the possibility the soldiers were killed by compatriots in a confusing and intense firefight that erupted soon after the raid began.

Two platoons of U.S. Army Rangers, about 50 troops, and about 40 Afghan commandos were inserted by helicopter near a location known to be the headquarters compound of Islamic State. Some 35 enemy militants were killed in the operation, according to Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman.

The two Rangers, Sgts. Joshua Rogers and Cameron Thomas, were part of an operation conducted to target the top leader of Islamic State in Afghanistan, Abdul Hasib, though the Pentagon doesn't know if the main target was killed, Capt. Davis said.

American Troops Start Patrols To Avert Turkish-Kurd Clashes

By DION NISSENBAUM

WASHINGTON—U.S. forces have started patrolling the Turkey-Syria border to prevent further clashes between Turkish troops and Kurdish fighters that have undermined the fight against Islamic State, U.S. officials said Friday.

The patrols are part of an American effort to prevent the rival forces from targeting each other as the U.S. prepares to launch a major effort to drive Islamic State from its largest Syrian stronghold.

"U.S. forces are patrolling in Northern Syria to maintain stability in the area and prevent incidents that could divert efforts to defeat ISIS in Syria," said Col. John Dorrian, a spokesman for the U.S.-led military coalition against Islamic State, also known as ISIS.

Turkey triggered the crisis on Tuesday when it launched airstrikes on U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters in Syria, killing at least 18 people and destroying the group's headquarters, U.S. officials said. Turkey gave the U.S. only an hour's notice of the airstrikes, they said.

U.S. military commanders objected to the strikes, but Turkey went ahead without giving the Americans enough time to ensure that their

forces were out of harm's way, the officials said. American forces were less than 6 miles from the site of the airstrikes.

The airstrikes triggered heavy artillery and mortar exchanges between Turkish troops and Kurdish forces along the border, raising concerns that Turkey might send its forces into Syria.

In recent days, U.S. officials said, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, called their Turkish counterparts and urged them to reduce tensions. U.S. officials also reached out to Kurdish forces in Syria and

urged them to focus their fire-power on Islamic State, not Turkish troops.

The border tensions come as the U.S. is preparing to launch a bid to drive Islamic State from Raqqa, the group's de facto Syrian capital. The U.S. has worked with the Kurdish forces, known as the YPG, to seize control of 20,000 square miles of northern Syria.

But the U.S. has restricted its direct aid to the YPG because Turkey views the Kurdish fighters as terrorists.

The Trump administration

is expected to approve plans to directly arm the YPG, a move that Turkey strongly opposes.



U.S. armored vehicles driving near the Syria-Turkey border Friday.

WORLD NEWS

Brazilians Protest Against Overhauls

BY JEFFREY T. LEWIS
AND LUCIANA MAGALHAES

SÃO PAULO—A general strike in Brazil disrupted public transportation around the country Friday, as unions and protesters stepped up their efforts to derail President Michel Temer's planned labor and pension overhauls.

In São Paulo, the financial capital and industrial hub, many bus, metro and train lines weren't operating, and major roads and arteries were blocked by protesters, according to city authorities.

In Brasília, the capital, access to the city's international airport was also blocked by protesters, TV images showed. Local media reported public transportation systems were affected in cities across Brazil.

Mr. Temer is seeking to cut back the generous pension

system and reduce some worker protections, saying both changes are needed to reignite the economy.

Brazil has suffered through its worst economic recession on record over the past two years, depressing tax revenue and making the proposed changes urgent, some economists say.

The pension proposal, which is in a committee in the lower house of Congress, would close loopholes that allow Brazilians to retire in their mid-50s with pensions as high as their latest salary. That situation has led to social-security costs eating up about half of the nation's budget.

Mr. Temer already faces resistance in Congress to the unpopular pension overhaul, and analysts said public opposition could force the administration to scale back an already watered-down proposal.



Demonstrators in São Paulo, Brazil's financial capital, threw tables onto a burning barricade during the country's general strike on Friday.

NACHO DOCE/REUTERS

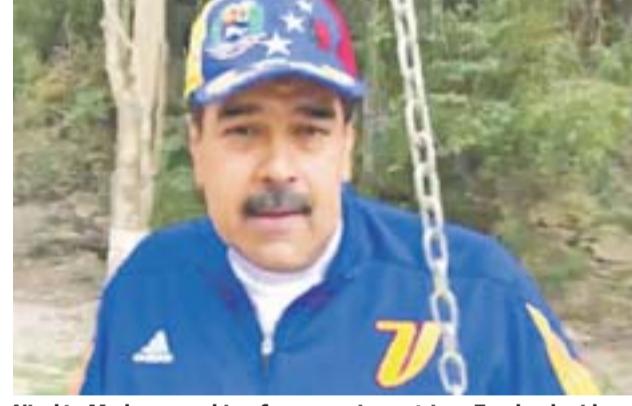
Amid Turmoil, Venezuela's President Stars in Cheery Videos

BY KEJAL VYAS

CARACAS, Venezuela—As antigovernment protests and deadly unrest shake the streets here, President Nicolás Maduro is presenting an image of a very different country in videos that show him strolling through bucolic settings, hip-hop dancing and swinging on a swing set with his wife.

"Peace will prevail," the former bus driver says in one video as he drives other ruling-party officials through a middle-class neighborhood in his car. The footage inadvertently shows them cruising past graffiti that calls the president a "murderer of students," an apparent reference to some of the people killed in numerous clashes between demonstrators and security forces.

Mr. Maduro is facing mounting calls for his ouster amid a crumbling economy



Nicolás Maduro speaking from a swing set in a Facebook video.

and shortages that have many poor people scrapping through trash for food. But in a series of unevenly edited videos he has posted on social media recently, the embattled leftist leader assures viewers that all is fine and that he is comfortably in charge, firmly

guiding the country while small groups make trouble.

"We have to keep Venezuela in the game of peace," Mr. Maduro said in one offering as he plays catch on a manicured baseball field with the country's No. 2, Diosdado Cabello, both of them wearing mono-

grammed uniforms.

After Mr. Maduro rules one of his own pitches a strike, he vows to crush "brutal fascist attacks," snags a pop-up and shouts, "Winning!"

Savvy state propaganda helped Mr. Maduro's late predecessor, Hugo Chávez, forge a messianic following among Venezuela's slum-dwelling masses. Media experts say Mr. Maduro is imitating his mentor's reality-show-like media strategy, which allowed him to win over the country with his folksy charm. But for many Venezuelans, the current president comes across as tone-deaf and out of touch with his countrymen.

"For some time, Maduro and officialdom have been determined to negate reality," said Alberto Barrera, who wrote a book about Mr. Chávez and closely tracks the government's media strategies.

"He's acting as if nothing

were happening. It's as if he lived somewhere else."

Venezuela, once an economic model for Latin America, is racked by sky-high inflation, rampant crime and hunger. At least 29 people have been killed in nearly a month of civil unrest. Mr. Maduro's media campaign reflects little of that grim reality.

The Information Ministry didn't respond to a request to comment on the strategy. Meanwhile, the president and his aides have been holding nearly daily events at the Miraflores presidential palace to underscore what they say is their commitment to social peace.

In one video, the president calmly plants a tree and admires a butterfly. In another, he tries but fails to spin a basketball on his index finger before dancing to rap music.

As he takes a peaceful ride in a cable car down from the

top of the Avila mountain range that overlooks Caracas in another post, Mr. Maduro warns his detractors to prepare for defeat before insisting they sit down for talks.

"There's a high level of contradiction, incoherence in Maduro's communication," said Marcelino Bisbal, a communications professor at Central University of Venezuela.

Mr. Bisbal says his research shows that when Mr. Maduro comes onto state television, viewership falls off. "Most people just change the channel," he said.

The president's forays into social media haven't been runaway hits either. His live addresses on Facebook often attract fewer than 100 viewers. His 3.1 million followers on Twitter amount to more than one million fewer than those who still follow the account of Mr. Chávez, who died in 2013.

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WORLD NEWS

Holocaust Remark Fells Aide to Le Pen

By NICK KOSTOV

PARIS—French presidential candidate Marine Le Pen's appointee to succeed her as interim head of the National Front party resigned Friday, after prior comments resurfaced in which he appeared to play down the Holocaust.

Ms. Le Pen stepped down temporarily as head of the National Front on Monday, a customary move by French presidential candidates to show they intend to represent all French people, not just their followers, if they are elected. She faces centrist Emmanuel

Macron in a runoff in little more than a week.

Her successor, Jean-François Jalkh, bowed out Friday after the re-emergence of remarks attributed to him in a 2000 interview that seemed to question the Nazis' use of deadly Zyklon B gas in Auschwitz and other death camps.

"He considers that the climate isn't conducive for him to carry out this interim role," Louis Aliot, a party official, told French radio station RMC, adding Mr. Jalkh "formally contests what he is accused of."

In the comments published

in *Le Temps des savoires* (The Time of Knowledge), Mr. Jalkh said Zyklon B couldn't have been used for liquidations in the camps.

"I consider that from a technical standpoint it is impossible—and I stress, impossible—to use it [Zyklon B] in mass exterminations. Why? Because you need several days to decontaminate a space...where Zyklon B has been used," the author of the article, Magali Boumaza, quotes Mr. Jalkh as saying.

Mr. Jalkh couldn't be reached to comment. On Thursday, he told the French

daily *Le Monde* he didn't remember the interview.

"I have no memory of this," the newspaper quoted him as saying. "I'm not a beginner at the National Front—I've been here since 1974. I challenge anyone to say that they've heard me talk about this topic."

In her long-running efforts to become president of France, Ms. Le Pen has sought to moderate her party's tone and move it away from the xenophobic legacy of her father, Jean-Marie Le Pen, who has minimized the gravity and scope of the Holocaust.

His daughter has tried to

position the National Front as a mainstream political force, even expelling her father in a high-profile battle in 2015. But he has remained a thorn in his daughter's side, criticizing her campaign for failing to be aggressive enough.

Ms. Le Pen faces long odds to defeat Mr. Macron in the runoff, partly because of the perception among mainstream voters that the kind of racism that long kept the National Front on the edge of French politics is still rife in the party.

A Harris survey published Thursday showed she would lose 39% to 61%.



National Front's Marine Le Pen

PATRICK KOVARIK/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Anti-Muslim Nationalists Force Shutdown of Islamic Schools in Myanmar



HOLDING THE LINE: Police officers in Yangon, Myanmar, blocked a road after Buddhist extremist monks gathered to force the closure of two Islamic religious schools Friday.

EU Readies Northern Ireland Promise

BY VALENTINA POP AND JASON DOUGLAS

European Union leaders were set to promise on Saturday that if Northern Ireland were to unite with the Republic of Ireland in the future, it would automatically rejoin the bloc.

While EU officials insist the promise—to be included in the formal minutes of Saturday's EU summit on Brexit—only sets out a principle that has long been understood, the move could cause irritation in London amid a U.K. election campaign and among the unionist community in Northern Ireland.

EU officials said Ireland's government has requested that the statement set out a principle that has long been understood. Following the reunification of Germany, East Germany automatically became a member of the bloc.

"This is not about triggering any process to bring about a united Ireland," one diplomat said. However, he said Brexit had "brought about great uncertainty" for both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

In a peace deal signed in 1998 after decades of conflict between unionists and republicans, the U.K. guaranteed to support Irish unity if Northern Ireland were ever to hold a referendum and decide to join the Republic of Ireland.

Britain reiterated its commitment to that principle Friday, saying in a statement that Northern Ireland's constitutional position is based "firmly and clearly on the freely given consent of its people."

China suggested both sides had equal responsibility in defusing the situation.

"The use of force does not solve differences and will only lead to bigger disasters," China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the council. He said there can't be "double standards" and talks must resume without preconditions. "Let's put aside the debate of who should take the first step and stop arguing who is right and who is wrong," Mr. Wang said.

China also pushed back against the notion that it has the power to unilaterally influence North Korea to curb its nuclear and military ambitions.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres, addressing the council, called North Korea "one of the longest-standing and most serious issues before the United Nations."

China's confrontational approach toward the Trump administration fed simmering skepticism in Washington that China is prepared to confront North Korea.

Mr. Trump said repeatedly after meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping this month in Florida that he thought Beijing was willing to crack down more forcefully on Pyongyang.

Mr. Tillerson met Foreign Minister Wang later Friday and praised Beijing for its "constructive" approach toward North Korea, despite differences over the diplomatic track.

The U.S. Treasury Department's former point man on North Korea, Daniel Glaser, said Thursday that U.S. policy makers needed to understand that China views North Korea as an ally, regardless of its frustration with Kim Jong Un.

—Jonathan Cheng in Seoul contributed to this article.

CHINA

Human Gene-Editing Trial Gets Under Way

A Chinese university modified human genes and injected them into a cancer patient on Friday, marking only the second time a revolutionary technique has known to be tested on humans.

The gene-editing process, Crispr-Cas9, has generated excitement and concern since American universities produced breakthrough research on it in 2012.

While the West has moved slowly amid a debate over the ethics of using such a technology, China has announced seven Crispr-Cas9 trials in humans.

The first, last year, took place at Sichuan University's West China Hospital.

The latest trial began at the Nanjing University's Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital this month, said Jia Wei, who co-leads the trial and is the vice-director of the university's Clinical Cancer Institute.

—Preetika Rana

TURKEY

EU Maintains Ankara's Membership Bid

Europe's top diplomats meeting in Malta on Friday said they are unwilling to formally end Turkey's longstanding bid to join the European Union, but they pressed Ankara to make clear its intentions.

German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said a new partnership plan should be forged before the EU and Turkey abandon Ankara's membership bid. Federica

Mogherini, the EU's foreign-policy chief, said EU members expressed frustration with Turkey's human-rights record and testy relations with Europe. But she said there was common ground on seeking cooperation with Turkey.

—Julian E. Barnes

UNITED KINGDOM

Economy Cools Amid Consumer Pullback

The U.K. economy slowed sharply in the first quarter as

consumers pared back spending, a warning sign on growth ahead of a national election in June and the start of Britain's exit talks with the European Union.

The British economy expanded at a quarterly rate of 0.3% in the first quarter, the Office for National Statistics said, less than half the speed of the 0.7% expansion in the final three months of last year.

It was the weakest quarterly expansion since the first quarter of 2016.

—Jason Douglas

Trump's Trade Talk Rattles Seoul Officials

BY WILLIAM MAULDIN AND JONATHAN CHENG

President Donald Trump's call to rewrite—or rip up—a trade agreement with South Korea is alarming some lawmakers and business lobbyists still unnerved by threats earlier this week to pull out of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

White House officials said Friday that Mr. Trump is dissatisfied with the five-year-old trade deal with one of America's closest Asian allies. Mr. Trump called it "an unacceptable, horrible deal" in an interview Thursday with Reuters, saying Seoul should come to the table to overhaul the bilateral trade agreement or see the U.S. pull out. He also insisted South Korea pay for a potent antimissile system provided by the U.S.

The sudden criticism of a close ally—and the threat to pull the U.S. out of its second-biggest trade agreement behind Nafta—triggered a new round of concern among business groups and lawmakers who oversee trade and Asian economic issues. "It's off-the-top-of-the-head reckless, and the effect it will have is destabilizing at a critical moment on the Korean Peninsula," said Rep. Gerry Connolly (D., Va.), co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Korea.

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KOREA

Continued from Page One
Un's regime.

But in the contentious session, Chinese and Russian diplomats sought to shift the blame for the nuclear crisis to Washington. Moscow's deputy foreign minister accused Mr. Trump of "reckless muscle flexing" by sending more military assets to the Korean Peninsula. "The whole world is seriously wondering if there is going to be a war," the minister, Genady Gatilov, told the council.

U.S. officials also feared there could be serious damage to its Asian security alliance after Mr. Trump, in an interview, called for South Korea to pay for the deployment of a U.S.-built missile defense system, Terminal High-Altitude Air Defense, or Thaad, and to renegotiate or scrap the countries' bilateral trade pact.

The deployment of Thaad has been a contentious issue in South Korea in the run-up to May 9 elections that could bring in a left-leaning president willing to confront Washington and engage Pyongyang.

For years, North Korea has traded on its perceived higher tolerance for conflict and loss of life, using the prospect of war to gain leverage in negotiations. But lately Mr. Trump has signaled that he could also engage in brinkmanship, telling the Reuters news agency in the interview Thursday that the U.S. could have a "major, major conflict with North Korea" if diplomacy didn't work.

Mr. Trump also doled out the tough message to South Korea, whose cooperation has been crucial to the U.S. strat-

egy on the Korean Peninsula and which would bear the brunt of any casualties in a conflict. His comments to Reuters on Thursday night were off-the-cuff, and neither the State Department nor the South Korean government knew about them ahead of time, according to U.S. officials.

Mr. Tillerson tried to calm matters with Seoul during a Friday meeting at the U.N. with his South Korean counterpart, according to U.S. officials.

One U.S. administration official said Mr. Trump's comments on renegotiating the South Korea trade agreement were consistent with his overall strategy of getting better deals for the U.S. government.

Mr. Tillerson's speech on Friday was seen by the White House as the start of a cam-

paign to isolate North Korea. He urged all countries to cut or suspend diplomatic and economic ties with Pyongyang—comments directed in part at China, North Korea's key ally.

Mr. Tillerson also said the U.S. would be willing to negotiate with North Korea only if the Kim regime exhibited good faith by honoring U.N. resolutions meant to curb its ballistic missile and nuclear program, which it has consistently violated.

"We will not negotiate our way back to the negotiating table," he said, adding the U.S. "would not reward" North Korea's bad behavior with talks.

China called for unconditional diplomacy and accused the U.S. and South Korea of ratcheting up tensions by expanding military exercises and

suggested both sides had equal responsibility in defusing the situation.

"The use of force does not solve differences and will only lead to bigger disasters," China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the council. He said there can't be "double standards" and talks must resume without preconditions. "Let's put aside the debate of who should take the first step and stop arguing who is right and who is wrong," Mr. Wang said.

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—Jonathan Cheng in Seoul contributed to this article.

Growing Gap

The U.S. trade deficit in goods with South Korea has soared since a free-trade pact between the two nations took effect in 2012.

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On Friday, the centrist People's Party, whose candidate is running second in the polls for the coming presidential election, issued a statement saying that "existing South Korean-U.S. agreements should be respected."

A senior trade ministry official said the South Korean government hasn't received any official offer from the Trump administration to renegotiate or terminate the

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IN DEPTH

RISE

Continued from Page One
against Marine Le Pen on May 7. Mr. Macron made friends in high places who propelled him to ever-higher echelons of French society. Along the way he acquired a repertoire of skills, from piano and philosophy to acting and finance, that helped impress future mentors.

The approach allowed Mr. Macron to shortcut the traditional political path. Rather than run for office in his hometown, gradually building a constituency, he proceeded straight to Paris, where he became an expert on banking and European technocracy. He acquired a mastery of arcane regulations, from the 3,334-page French national labor code to the plumbing of the European Union's single market, that made him a valuable potential aide to politicians being whipsawed by the EU's complexity and the gyrations of global markets.

Now the future of France, and in considerable measure of the EU itself, could be in the hands of a 39-year-old who was little-known to much of the world until this year. His duel with Ms. Le Pen over France's place in Europe has redrawn French politics, sweeping aside mainstream candidates and the traditional left-right divide they represent.

Mainstream French parties have called on their supporters to rally behind Mr. Macron in the contest against Ms. Le Pen, the far-right nationalist who would withdraw France from the EU's common currency.

A Macron win would put Europe's second-largest economy under an outspoken EU supporter who wants to establish a command center for the Continent's defense, create a border police force, loosen France's rigid labor rules, cut payroll taxes and reduce French public-sector employment by 120,000.

A Pragmatist

Mr. Macron is a political pragmatist who has long cast himself as an outsider. He was musician to his banking colleagues and a capitalist inside a Socialist government before squaring off with nationalists as a pro-Europe candidate.

Interviews with Mr. Macron over two years, as well as with campaign aides, government officials and friends, reveal a man who set his sights on high office early, showing a willingness to defy convention in pursuit of that goal. That drive ultimately set Mr. Macron on a collision course with the one mentor who elevated him to the senior ranks of government, President François Hollande.

Born to a family of doctors in the northern city of Amiens, Mr. Macron met his future wife, Brigitte Trogneux, while he was in high school and she was his drama coach. She was more than 20 years his senior, a member of a prominent business family of chocolatiers, and married.

The teenager spent hours with Ms. Trogneux to adapt a play by the Italian playwright Eduardo de Filippo about a

Macron's platform

Economy: Cut corporate income tax rate to 25% from 33.3%. Abolish some local taxes. Eliminate 120,000 public-sector jobs over five years. Spend more on renewable energy, upgrades to public services.

Labor: Cut payroll taxes. Expand unemployment-benefit eligibility. Let firms negotiate directly with employees on working hours.

Security, Foreign Policy: Hire 10,000 more police. Increase prison capacity. Boost defense spending to 2% of GDP. Negotiate with EU countries to create border force of 5,000. Process refugee applications faster.

Education: Cut class size. Allow bilingual instruction. Don't expand ban on Islamic headscarves to universities.

Electoral Reform: Reduce number of lawmakers. Bar them from hiring family as assistants.

clever actor who tries to outsmart a powerful local official. She cast him in the lead role. "We worked a lot together," he recalled.

Mr. Macron's parents sent him to finish high school in Paris, but he remained in touch with Ms. Trogneux. A couple of years later, she broke off her marriage and moved to Paris to live with Mr. Macron.

By then he was making his way into rarefied circles. He studied philosophy and became the assistant of Paul Ricoeur, one of France's best-known philosophers. He enrolled in the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, the elite academy that trains French ministers, central bankers and presidents.

Graduating near the top of his class, Mr. Macron earned a post in the Inspectorate General of Finance, a corps of state auditors that serves as a finishing school for the establishment. He cultivated powerful alumni such as French power broker Alain Minc and former Prime Minister Michel Rocard.

Macron skipped the usual path in politics by gaining skills such as banking instead.

One alumnus recalled sitting down with Mr. Macron for the first time and asking him where he saw himself in 30 years. "President of the Republic," he replied, according to this person.

Mr. Macron remembered the exchange differently—that he simply said he was open to a career in politics.

The alumnus advised Mr. Macron to avoid conventional politics, saying it wouldn't guarantee him financial security, and helped line up a job for him at Rothschild, a venerable investment bank that straddles the worlds of French fi-

rying the bouquet, which now hangs dried in her bedroom.

During the ceremony, her sister bore the brunt of both her own blend of greenery and Ms. Terris's bouquet, which she said was surprisingly heavy. "It's like she's carrying a toddler of plant matter," Ms. Terris recalled.

Commenters erupted in excitement after a photo appeared online last year of a bride holding a mix of garden roses, pepper berry vines, jasmine and amaryllis that subsumed her entire midsection.

Branches jutted off the three-foot-wide arrangement and strands of greenery flowed down toward the ground.

Brides-to-be asked the Virginian florist behind the design, Sherry Spencer, for a bouquet just like it—and weren't deterred when told that the model in the photo is actually holding a 30-pound table centerpiece, a suggestion by Ms. Farriello to get a dramatic shot.

"They couldn't get enough of it," said Ms. Spencer, a part-owner of Southern Blooms.

The shift toward large, free-flowing bouquets is being driven in part by the ascendant role of the internet in wedding culture, those in the industry say. Wedding blogs, Instagram accounts and photo-sharing websites like Pinterest



Emmanuel Macron, a man of many skills including networking, faces Marine Le Pen for the French presidency on May 7 in a vote heavy with significance both for France and for the European Union.

AP/LEEMO MONSARD/DP/GTY IMAGES

nance and politics.

Mr. Macron impressed his Rothschild bosses by seeking to do more than open doors. Mr. Harfouche said Mr. Macron wanted to learn "the hard way." So he was given a crash course in the number-crunching and financial modeling that goes into mergers and acquisitions. Word also spread of his piano virtuosity. "He could have been an artist," Mr. Harfouche said.

While at the Inspectorate, Mr. Macron had worked as an assistant to an economic committee of *eminentes grises* that included Nestlé SA Chairman Peter Brabeck-Letmathe. Mr. Macron began meeting with the executive regularly, pitching an acquisition target: Pfizer Inc.'s baby-food business.

Ultimately he persuaded Nestlé about the acquisition as a way to boost its presence in China, one of the few baby-food markets where the Swiss company wasn't a market leader. When a bidding war broke out with French rival Danone SA, Mr. Macron scrambled to clinch the \$11.8 billion Nestlé purchase.

The deal made Mr. Macron, by then a partner at Rothschild, a wealthy man. It also made him an adviser sought after in French political circles, including Mr. Hollande, the Socialist Party leader who was then challenging French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

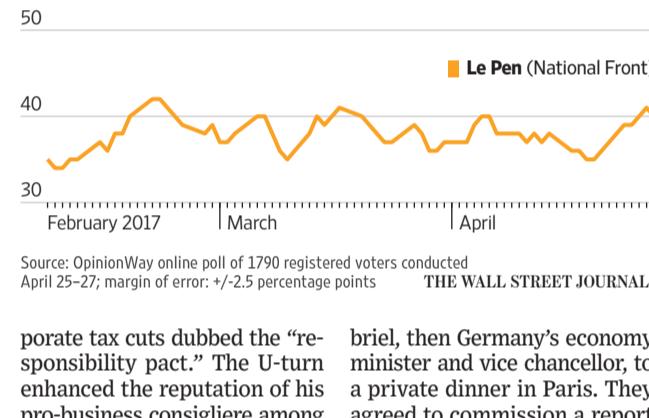
Mr. Hollande hired Mr. Macron as an aide, dispatching him to reassure investors and business leaders nervous about the candidate's plan for a 75% tax on incomes above €1 million.

After winning the presidency in 2012, Mr. Hollande brought Mr. Macron to the Elysée Palace as deputy chief of staff. As business leaders threatened to leave France, citing the tax policy, Mr. Macron warned his boss in an email that he risked turning France into "Cuba without the sun."

Mr. Hollande relented, scaling back his contentious tax plan and introducing some cor-

Macron vs. Le Pen in the Polls

French poll respondents have favored Emmanuel Macron over Marine Le Pen since February when asked whom they'd favor if the two ended up in a runoff, as they now have.



Source: OpinionWay online poll of 1,790 registered voters conducted April 25-27; margin of error: +/-2.5 percentage points THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

porate tax cuts dubbed the "responsibility pact." The U-turn enhanced the reputation of his pro-business consigliere among members of the Socialist Party's frustrated free-market wing who had flocked to Mr. Macron's side.

With the wind in his sails, Mr. Macron abruptly quit as an Hollande aide in the summer of 2014, saying he wanted to try starting his own business. Mr. Hollande hosted an elaborate Élysée Palace send-off at which the president quipped in a toast that whenever he travelled abroad, people remarked: "Ah! You work with Emmanuel Macron."

Mr. Macron responded with a serious speech, urging the assembled politicians to overhaul the country.

Weeks later, Mr. Hollande ousted Economy Minister Arnaud Montebourg over his opposition to spending cuts—and offered Mr. Macron the job.

Mr. Macron didn't immediately say yes. He demanded a mandate to overhaul the economy.

"You will be here to reform," Mr. Hollande replied.

Four days into the new post, Mr. Macron invited Sigmar Ga-

briel, then Germany's economy minister and vice chancellor, to a private dinner in Paris. They agreed to commission a report from economists that could serve as a blueprint for a grand bargain Mr. Macron envisioned to revive the EU's fortunes: Germany would provide stimulus by spending more, and France would become a European model of economic rectitude by paring back its generous labor protections.

In the months that followed, Mr. Macron huddled with Socialist heavyweights such as Mr. Ferrand and Gérard Collomb to plot a run for the presidency. Without the backing of a long-established party, he would need to tap his contacts in the business world. That meant taking the unusual step in French politics of hosting private fundraising dinners, inviting people who had their own networks of potential donors.

In the spring, Mr. Macron unveiled his own political party, *En Marche*, or "On The Move," mortally wounding Mr. Hollande's re-election chances. At first, the president refused to publicly acknowledge Mr. Macron wanted his job.

"It's not just a question of hierarchy—he knows what he owes me. It's a question of personal and political loyalty," Mr. Hollande said in a TV interview at the time.

Days later, Mr. Macron delivered the coup de grâce in a local newspaper interview confirmed by his spokeswoman.

"When a president names someone minister," he said, "it's not to make him a servant."

Last Aug. 30, with TV cameras watching, Mr. Macron boarded a covered riverboat docked at the economy ministry and rode it down the river Seine to the Élysée Palace to deliver his resignation.

BLOOM

Continued from Page One
see flowers as a way to stand out. The practice has also bloomed as couples use more locally sourced products, which in florals can mean wildflower blooms, branches, vines, succulents and even fruits and vegetables.

When Hayley Terris told her family that she was planning an intimate wedding surrounded by redwoods in Big Sur, Calif., "My dad joked, will you be walking down the aisle holding a bunch of kale?" Ms. Terris said. Little did he know, he wasn't far off. Ms. Terris's centerpieces incorporated artichokes and lines of baby pomegranates, and her self-described "huge, organic, big bouquet" was a lush array of peonies, garden roses, and foraged elements like cascading rain tree pods.

The flowers perfectly matched the earthy vibe Ms. Terris, a producer, writer and comedian in Los Angeles, said she envisioned for her November woodland wedding. "The thing was so massive, I felt so terrible I could only use it for a day," she said, so she strutted around all the next day at the beach and at a restaurant car-

rying the bouquet, which now hangs dried in her bedroom.

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A photograph of a model holding a 30-pound table centerpiece became a wedding-blog sensation that inspired brides.

spotlight the most dramatic weddings and newest ideas, which are then replicated across the country.

couples and can push the boundaries beyond what an everyday bride may want. Such shoots serve as inspiration for real weddings and help wedding vendors publicize their work.

"I do styled shoots for the bride I want to get," said Marisa Kozak Ringe, owner of Revel Petals in Los Angeles, which uses only locally grown flowers. Once, she even grew oyster mushrooms to incorporate into a model's florals. Ms. Kozak Ringe said that while she often likes massive bouquets as a statement piece, they can go too far. "There's a border we're crossing where they can be so unruly they're almost taking over the fashion of the dress," she said.

Erin Benzakein, owner of Floret Flowers in Washington state, said that in some of the styled shoots she sees, she thinks, "No one can carry that, it's like a tree."

Florists say the oversize bouquets aren't always more expensive, though it takes more skill to create designs that look loose but won't fall apart. Large bridal bouquets can range from around \$150 to \$350 or higher, depending on the market. Couples spent an average of \$2,354 on wedding flowers and décor last year, according to a survey from

wedding-planning website The Knot, which represented just over 7% of total budgets.

Actress and youth facilitator Candice-May Langlois said that when she planned her wedding last year atop a mountain in British Columbia, "we just went very big." That applied to her bouquet, a colorful array of proteas, air plants, daisies and greenery that was wider than her body and covered part of her bohemian, floor-length dress.

Ms. Langlois said she didn't consider the burden the unwieldy arrangement would place on her maid of honor, who had to hold the bouquet throughout the 20-minute ceremony. When the wind picked up, the bridesmaid also held on to the bride's veil. "This poor girl," she said. "She was just handling it so well with a big smile on her face."

When San Francisco florist Natasha Kolenko designed a 13-pound, cascading bouquet of eucalyptus, protea, banksia and passionflower for a high-school acquaintance, the bride joked that if it was heavy, her arms would look better because they'd be flexing.

As one big-bouquet bride wrote on Twitter in December: "I literally could not lift my right arm for 2 solid days after my wedding."

OPINION

The Man Who Saved Europe the Last Time

By Henry A. Kissinger

The attribute of greatness is reserved for leaders from whose time onward history can be told only in terms of their achievements. I observed essential elements of Germany's history—as a native son, as a refugee from its upheavals, as a soldier in the American army of occupation, and as a witness to its astonishing renewal.

Only a few who experienced this evolution remain. For many contemporary Germans, the Adenauer period seems like a tale from an era long transcended. To the contrary, they live in a dynamic established by Konrad Adenauer, a man whose lifespan, from 1876 to 1967, covered all but five years of the unified German national state first proclaimed in 1871.

Devastated, impoverished, partitioned, the Federal Republic came about after World War II by the merger of the American, British and French zones of occupation, containing just two-thirds of Germany's prewar population. Five million refugees from Germany's prewar territories needed integration; they agitated for the recovery of lost territories. The Soviet occupation zone, containing 18 million people, was turned into a communist political entity.

Konrad Adenauer restored democracy to Germany and helped unify a devastated Continent.

The Federal Republic's advent capped a century of discontinuity. The Empire after Bismarck had felt beleaguered by the alliances surrounding it; the Weimar Republic after World War I had felt abused by an imposed peace settlement; Hitler had sought an atavistic world dominion; the Federal Republic arose amid a legacy of global resentment.

The newly elected German Parliament chose Adenauer as chancellor by a margin of just one vote on Sept. 15, 1949. Shortly afterward, on Nov. 22, 1949, he signed the Petersberg Agreement with the three Allied high commissioners, conferring the attributes of sovereignty on the Federal Republic but withholding its premise of juridical equality. The center of its mining activity, the Ruhr, remained under special Allied control, as did the industrial Saar region along the French border. Adenauer's acquiescence to these terms earned him the sobriquet from his opposition "Chancellor of the Allies."

In his first formal encounter with the three high commissioners, on Sept. 21, 1949, Adenauer demonstrated that he would accept discrimination but not subordination. The high commissioners had assembled on a carpet; to its side, a place for Adenauer had been designated. The chancellor challenged protocol by stepping directly onto the carpet facing his hosts.

From this posture, Adenauer heralded a historic turning point. The new Federal Republic would seek, in his words, "full freedom" by earning a place in the community of nations, not by pressure or by seizing it. Calling for an entirely new conception of foreign policy, Adenauer proclaimed the goal of "a positive and viable European federation" to overcome "the narrow nationalistic conception of the states as it prevailed in the 19th and 20th century . . . in order to restore the unity of European life in all fields of endeavor."

Adenauer's conduct reinforced his rejection of European history. Tall, erect, imperturbable, his face immobile from an automobile accident in his youth, he exuded the serenity of the pre-World War I world that had formed him. Equally distinctive was his sparse speaking style. It conveyed that unobtrusiveness and performance, not exhortation or imposition, were to be the operating style for the new Germany.

Winston Churchill had made a comparable proposal for Europe two days before in Zurich, but Churchill was not in office then. Governing amid defeat and division, Adenauer had proposed an indefinite (possibly permanent) partition of his country while integrating it into a nascent European structure. The country whose nationalism had precipitated two world wars would henceforth rely on partnership with its erstwhile enemies.

The turn westward proved fundamental. The choice of Bonn as the new capital, located in the westernmost part of Germany, with close links to Western Europe, was symbolic. Adenauer convinced the Parliament to select Bonn because, as he said sardonically, he wanted the capital to be in the wine region, not amid potato fields, and not least because his home village of Rhöndorf (population of about 1,000) was not suitable for a capital.

It required all of Adenauer's personality and stature to implement these visions. Opposition came largely from the Social Democratic Party, which, while pro-democracy, insisted on a national policy of neutrality. The opposition included vestiges of German conservatives, one of whose spokesmen was Heinrich Brüning, the chancellor whose overthrow in 1932 had opened the way for Hitler.

Adenauer proved adamant. He made democratic regeneration his first priority as the precondition to integration into Europe. A renewed reputation for reliability was essential. Maneuvering between the superpowers would destroy confidence and repeat historical tragedies.

Adenauer's foreign policy was founded on the moral imperative of democracy. He envisaged a relentless progression toward the twin goals of a security partnership with America and political integration with Europe.

The Petersberg Agreement of 1949 was followed by negotiations over European defense, spurred by the Korean War and the Soviet



Konrad Adenauer (second from left), Sept. 21, 1949, with the high commissioners of the occupation (left to right), America's John J. McCloy, Britain's Sir Brian Robertson and France's André François-Poncet.

military buildup in Central Europe. As NATO was forming, Adenauer urged the European nations to pool their efforts into the European Defense Community. After the French Assembly rejected this concept, Adenauer in 1954 agreed to the Paris Accords, which ended West Germany's occupation, affirmed its sovereignty, and opened the way to its national membership in NATO. The culmination was Adenauer's 1955 visit to Washington. When the German national anthem was played as he visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Adenauer described it as the most moving moment of his life.

European integration followed a comparable, in retrospect inevitable, sequence. From France and Germany's 1951 agreement to establish the Coal and Steel Community to the Treaty of Rome in 1957, which established the European Economic Community, Adenauer, working with wise French leaders, overcame one of world history's once-hereditary national animosities.

Within the space of six years, Adenauer had moved his country from an outcast to an equal member in political and security arrangements unprecedented in European history. This was made possible by a spirit of American creativity which, in the Marshall Plan and the origin of NATO, overcame America's pre-World War II isolationism.

The U.S. became Germany's principal link to security through NATO, and to economic recovery through the Marshall Plan. France, as the link to the European Community, played a comparable role. In America, John Foster Dulles symbolized the relationship; in France, President Charles de Gaulle. They both represented to Adenauer elements capable of stabilizing the inevitable storms the future might hold. In that sense, Adenauer viewed Europe as a potential corrective to the fluctuations into

which global responsibilities and a certain inherent restlessness on occasion drew the U.S. When, in 1956, Guy Mollet, France's prime minister, stressed a gap between the obligations of NATO and American conduct in the Suez Crisis, Adenauer defended the existing structures as flexible enough to recover shared vitality: "Europe will be your revenge," he said.

I had the privilege of hearing Adenauer's vision in several conversations with him over a 10-year period. His courtesy and serenity were his most memorable traits. Our first meeting took place in 1957, shortly after a Soviet ultimatum threatening Berlin. Adenauer concentrated on the nightmare of everyone privy to nuclear planning: whether any U.S. president would actually bring himself to unleash the catastrophe on which NATO nuclear strategy was based. Since the official answer was formal but the actual one would depend on unknowable contingencies and personalities, he raised the question at every subsequent meeting.

Another major issue preoccupying Adenauer was geopolitical evolution. Did I realize that a break between China and Russia was imminent? The West should prepare for that contingency and not provide too many temptations to its adversaries by its divisions. He construed surprised silence as assent and, on his first visit to the White House in 1961, repeated the prediction, adding, to an astonished President Kennedy: "Professor Kissinger agrees with me."

In 1962, as part-time consultant to President Kennedy, I was asked during a crisis to reassure Adenauer about America's determination and capacity to defend Berlin and support Germany. I had been briefed to present details of some nuclear capabilities and deployments on a personal, presidential basis—information which, at that time, was shared with only the U.K.

As I began my presentation of the political issues, Adenauer interrupted: "They have already told me this in Washington. If it did not convince me there, why would it convince me here?" I replied that I was an academic, and a government employee only a quarter of my time. Adenauer was nonplussed. In that case, he replied: Let us assume you will convince me three-quarters of the way.

But when I presented the military briefing, Adenauer was transformed—partly because of the enormous gap in the West's favor that it demonstrated, but above all because of the confidence President Kennedy had shown in him. It turned into the warmest of all my meetings with him.

A moving aftermath followed some decades later. I received a letter whose sender I did not recognize. He had served as an interpreter during that conversation (though German is my native language, I generally conduct official conversations in English because my vocabulary is more precise, especially on technical matters). Adenauer had given me his word of honor not to distribute the nuclear information I had shared with him. The interpreter informed me that he had, in fact, given a full record of my briefing to Adenauer, who had instructed him to destroy the nuclear portion out of respect for his word of honor.

The historic German-American partnership that began with the Adenauer chancellorship proceeded from almost diametrically opposed starting points. Adenauer assumed office at probably the lowest point of German history. The U.S. was at the zenith of its power and self-confidence. Adenauer saw his task as rebuilding Christian and democratic values through new designs for traditional German and European institutions. America had equally grand objectives and, at times, pursued them with insistent certainty. For Adenauer, the reconstruction of Europe was the rediscovery of ancient values; for America, the implementation of prevailing ones. For Adenauer to succeed, it was necessary to stabilize the soul of Germany; for America, to mobilize existing idealism. Occasionally there were strains, especially when American optimism overestimated the scope for more-fragile structures and divergent historic memories.

The Atlantic relationship between Bonn and Washington transformed, however, the shattered world it inherited and helped create a half-century of peace between major powers.

This system is now under stress from simultaneous upheavals on several continents. Can it heal a fractured world by rediscovering the conviction and creativity with which it was built?

Mr. Kissinger served as national security adviser and secretary of state under Presidents Nixon and Ford. This is adapted from an April 25 speech to the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Does the Public Need Protection From Rogue Auctioneers?



CROSS COUNTRY
By Luke Hilgemann and Russ Latino

Maurine Ohlhausen, announced a task force aimed at reducing occupational licensing. "I challenge anyone," she said, "to explain why the state has a legitimate interest in protecting the public from rogue interior designers carpet-bombing living rooms with ugly throw pillows."

State lawmakers in Mississippi are taking the need for reform to heart. Two weeks ago Gov. Phil Bryant signed into law H.B. 1425, which will significantly rein in licensing boards. Too often industries have been left to regulate themselves, which in practice means entrenched players write rules to keep out new competitors. It helped that occupational licensing boards were largely immune from federal antitrust laws.

But that changed two years ago when the Supreme Court ruled on *North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners v. FTC*. The case involved the state board's regulation of teeth-whitening services. Dentists had complained that nondentists were offering teeth whitening at lower prices. So the board, which was

composed primarily of dentists, began sending cease-and-desist letters. When the FTC objected, the board claimed immunity.

The Supreme Court did not buy that argument. In a 6-3 decision, the justices held that the dental board could not claim immunity, because it was controlled by "active market participants" and was not "actively supervised" by the state. In other words, lawmakers can't simply set up a professional licensing board, back away to let the industry regulate itself, and then allow that industry to claim that it is acting on behalf of the state.

Enter Mississippi's law. H.B. 1425 explicitly endorses competition and says that the state's policy is to "use the least restrictive regulation necessary to protect consumers from present, significant and substantiated harms." Under the law, the governor, the secretary of state, and the attorney general must review and approve all new regulations from professional licensing boards to ensure compliance with the new legal standard.

This should be a model for other states. Lawmakers from Florida to Nevada have moved recently to curb occupational licensing, but their efforts often have been limited to certain professions or specific barriers to work. Mississippi's law goes further, since it covers all licensing boards controlled by industry participants, spells out a pro-competition test, and requires new rules to be approved by elected officials accountable to voters.

Mississippi has smartly targeted the core problem: Anticompetitive regulations harm the economy, slow job growth, and raise consumer prices. There was a time when these

restrictions were largely limited to doctors, lawyers and other high-income occupations. In the 1950s only about 1 in 20 American workers needed a license, but now roughly 1 in 4 do.

This puts a real burden on the economy. A 2012 study by the Institute for Justice examined 102 low-income and middle-income occupations. The average license cost \$209

and required nine months of training and one state exam. On the list of states with the most licenses, Mississippi was fifth. Barbers needed one, and so did landscape workers and auctioneers.

Even the Obama administration saw the problem. A 2015 report from the White House said that licensing can "reduce employment opportunities and lower wages for excluded workers." In 2011 three academic economists estimated that these barriers have resulted in 2.85 million fewer jobs nationwide, while costing consumers \$203 billion a year thanks to decreased competition.

When new licenses are created, proponents argue they will protect the public. But the 2015 White House report concluded that "most research does not find that licensing improves quality or public health and safety." How would a bad auctioneer pose a safety risk? Or think about it this way: The Institute for

Justice study says that Mississippi "is one of only 10 states to license landscape contractors." Does that mean residents of the other 40 states need to be on the lookout for perilously misplaced bushes or hazardously scattered mulch?

The real intent behind many occupational licensing laws is to protect the business of the people who sit on the regulatory boards. Often they are accountable neither to elected officials nor voters, so they have no incentive to serve the public interest. That's why Mississippi's law is so important: It is a sure sign that state leaders are starting to recognize the importance of ending this state-sanctioned protectionism and giving more citizens the freedom to experience the dignity of work.

Mr. Hilgemann and Mr. Latino are, respectively, chief executive officer and Mississippi state director of Americans for Prosperity.

Notable & Quotable: Post-Obama Democrats

From "The Democrats' First 100 Days" by Matthew Continetti, FreeBeacon.com, April 28:

What is the Democratic agenda? What does the party have to offer besides disunity, obstruction, incoherence, obsession, and obliviousness? They haven't rallied behind a plan to fix Obamacare or an alternative to the president's tax proposal. They seem dead set against enforcement

of immigration laws, they seem opposed to any restrictions on abortion, they seem as eager as ever to regulate firearms and carbon dioxide. It's hard to detect a consensus beyond that. Banks, trade, health care, taxes, free speech, foreign intervention—these issues are undecided, up for grabs.

For eight years President Obama supplied the Democratic message, provided the Democrats answers to

public questions. Now Obama himself is under fire for agreeing to deliver a \$400,000 speech to Cantor Fitzgerald. He is already a figure of the past: His hair gray, his legacy under siege, his time spent lounging on Richard Branson's yacht or listening desultorily to Chicago undergrads. The energy is with Bernie Sanders, with the identity-politics movements, with the paramilitary "antifa" bands.

OPINION

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Trump's Next 200 Days

By now you're probably exhausted by the saturation coverage of President Trump's first 100 days, but the more important period starts Sunday on day 101. The next 200 or 300 days will determine whether Mr. Trump is a successful President or a Republican Jimmy Carter.

This week ended with some warning signs. On Friday the government reported that the economy grew by a mere 0.7% in the first quarter. Later adjustments may improve the estimate, and there were some encouraging internal data, but this is the weakest GDP report in three years. (See below.)

This mediocre performance is a reminder to Republicans that symbolism and executive orders aren't sufficient to switch the economy out of neutral. Better policies need to be put in place, and that will mean fixing the dysfunction in the White House and Congress that was so evident in the first 100 days.

On Thursday the House again delayed until next week a possible vote on health-care reform. A sense of political urgency and a compromise between conservatives and moderates have revived the prospects for repealing and replacing ObamaCare, but holdouts in both factions may scupper this second effort too. If Mr. Trump and the GOP hope to avoid repeating the debacle on the rest of their agenda, they need focus, a coherent strategy and more discipline than they have shown so far.

One lesson of the health bill fiasco is that the GOP needs a strategy to persuade. Paul Ryan knows his way around a slide deck, but the House Speaker doesn't have the bully pulpit that the President rarely uses effectively. Mr. Trump played a diligent inside game with Congress on health care, listening to members and working the phones, but he neglected to mobilize the public.

Vague comments about a really elegant bill and sporadic tweets are no substitute for, say, a trip to Kentucky to meet with the Americans who can't buy any insurance because ObamaCare's rules are so onerous that no company will sell it. Speeches that expose problems with the status quo and explain how to solve them have been presidential staples for a reason. This is also why hyperbolic or false tweets are so counterproductive. They squander Mr. Trump's credibility for when he really needs it.

Rewriting the tax code for individuals and corporations will be even more difficult than health care, and good policy alone won't make the sale. The early signals here aren't encouraging.

A GDP Warning for the GOP

The U.S. economy grew by a scant 0.7% in the first quarter of 2017, and Republicans should take it as a warning that they'd better start moving on tax reform if they want to prevent a midterm election washout in 2018.

President Trump and other Republicans have been dining out on the improvement in consumer and business confidence since Election Day, and with some cause. But the first quarter results show that sentiment alone won't lift the economy out of its 2% Obama growth doldrums. The so-called Trump reflation trade in stocks is a bet on pro-growth policies, and that trade can deflate as quickly as it rose if those reforms don't materialize.

The first-quarter report is also a good window on the state of the current expansion, which will hit its eighth anniversary in June. Consumers have powered most of that growth, and the first quarter was weak in large part because they took a breather. Consumer spending barely rose in the quarter and contributed a meager 0.23% to GDP.

The quarter was saved by a revival in business investment, which rose a healthy 10.4% in

The worst growth in three years shows the need for tax reform.

the quarter and contributed 1.62% to the GDP increase. This investment was offset by a sharp decline in inventories that deducted 0.93% from

GDP, but which will probably rebound in future months. Net exports also helped thanks to faster growth overseas, which ought to caution the Administration about starting trade wars.

All of this reflects the ad hoc decision-making that too often defines this White House, which is another way of saying this President. More than most Presidents Mr. Trump will be measured by performance because he lacks a large party or ideological base of support. He needs to show policy results that produce faster economic growth. That means learning the lessons of the first 100 days so they aren't repeated in the next 200.

More investment can lead to greater labor productivity and higher wages, which in turn will lead to more consumer spending. The weaknesses in this expansion are on the supply side of the economy, not a lack of demand as the "secular stagnation" theorists have claimed.

This is why the GOP's deregulation agenda is so critical, and tax reform that spurs investment even more so. The disappointing first quarter shows there's no time to waste.

MetLife's Systemically Important Case

President Trump last week ordered a review of the Financial Stability Oversight Council's haphazard process for designating systemically important financial institutions. Hear,

hear—and all the more reason for the White House to drop the government's appeal of a federal judge's ruling rescinding MetLife's designation, or at

the very least support a hold on the case.

The Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC) slapped MetLife with the SIFI label in 2014 after using a process that federal judge Rosemary Collyer last year deemed "arbitrary and capricious." The SIFI designation imposes substantial capital and other regulatory requirements in return for an implicit government guarantee, but bank-style regulations don't fit the insurance business. It's unlikely there would be a run on life insurance like there could be on bank deposits.

Judge Collyer found that the council, which is led by the Treasury Secretary, failed to project how the market would destabilize or which financial institutions could be affected if MetLife failed. Nor did it perform a cost-benefit analysis or even adhere to its own methodology for evaluating nonbank financial companies.

The Obama Administration appealed the decision, and one of the government's arguments is that Dodd-Frank doesn't specifically require

Trump's failure to stop Obama's appeal could limit his policy choices.

a cost-benefit analysis. Nor do many laws, but as the Supreme Court held in *Michigan v. EPA*, this statutory silence doesn't obviate an agency's responsibility to consider the costs of its regulations.

A three-judge panel of the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals that includes two Obama appointees heard the appeal last October and could issue a decision any day. One risk is that the court's ruling could enshrine the too-big-to-fail policy for nonbanks such as MetLife and establish a judicial precedent that cost-benefit analyses are optional. This would upend Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin's review of the SIFI designation process and complicate regulatory revisions.

Earlier this week, MetLife asked the D.C. Circuit to hold off on issuing a decision until Mr. Mnuchin completes his 180-day review. An abeyance "will enable the new Administration to determine whether any of FSOC's positions in this case should be reconsidered," MetLife argued, and "at a minimum, the findings of the forthcoming report may substantially illuminate this court's consideration of the issues on appeal."

White House officials have debated a MetLife intervention but aren't explaining the reasons for their reluctance to put a stop to the legal appeal. They may end up regretting it if judges tie their hands.

ing. Mr. Trump surprised his own advisers by ordering a Wednesday roll out of his reform outline when they thought they had more weeks to prepare. It's obvious the Administration wasn't ready with a consistent message or response to the critics.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer caused a micro-panic this week when he said the Trump plan would revoke the tax advantages for 401(k) retirement savings, which it would not. Where is the message that cutting corporate tax rates will lift incomes, which the economic literature clearly shows? And where are the waves of surrogates out making the case and rallying supporters to reinforce it?

Part of the problem is that the White House has been so slow in filling out the Administration. Mr. Trump's cabinet has considerable talent, but the second and third tiers of the executive branch are still empty. By one calculation, the Administration hasn't even nominated 465 of the 556 positions that require Senate confirmation. The White House has too often vetoed qualified candidates because they weren't Trump loyalists during the campaign. But there aren't nearly enough experienced Trump loyalists to fill out a government.

The most important issue is whether Mr. Trump can discipline his own pattern of setting policy by impulse. This week the White House stepped all over its tax rollout by leaking that Mr. Trump was prepared to withdraw from the North American Free Trade Agreement. That set off a panic inside the Administration that included his own Agriculture and Commerce secretaries.

Mr. Trump later told the Washington Post that he was "all set to terminate" Nafta unilaterally. He said he relented only after personal intercessions by Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. It may make sense for Mr. Trump to keep adversaries off balance, but it is self-defeating to keep allies and neighbors wondering whether he'll punish them without notice.

All of this reflects the ad hoc decision-making that too often defines this White House, which is another way of saying this President. More than most Presidents Mr. Trump will be measured by performance because he lacks a large party or ideological base of support. He needs to show policy results that produce faster economic growth. That means learning the lessons of the first 100 days so they aren't repeated in the next 200.

Instead of lowering tax rates, the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Less Really Is More With Capital-Gains Taxes

Mark Bloomfield and Oscar S. Pollock's case for cutting the capital-gains tax rate to 15% is compelling based on historical experience and logic ("Need Revenue? Try Slashing the Capital-Gains Tax Rate," op-ed, April 21).

Democrats used to argue that cutting capital-gains tax rates would cost the government revenue, but most now acknowledge that the opposite effect has occurred in practice and that tax revenue goes down when capital-gains rates go up. However, most Democrats still oppose reductions in rates as a matter of fairness, the reason given by then-presidential candidate Barack Obama in 2008 during a primary debate with Hillary Clinton. So even though a capital-gains tax cut is a win-win-win for taxpayers, the federal government and the economy, populists on the left will fight it tooth and nail because some wealthier taxpayers get more immediate tax benefits than do others.

As soon as a capital-gains tax rate cut is on the table, look for crack investigative reporters to catalog the potential tax-savings windfall that will accrue to President Trump's trust and companies. Democrats and the media are consumed with class warfare and digging in the weeds to expose marginal winners of policy changes, while oblivious to tax and regulatory reforms that are winners for the entire economy—and Washington. We have just endured eight years of subpar growth as a trade-off for fairness. A capital-gains tax rate cut will have to overcome class warfare, envy, populist optics and the media before it can help the economy and supply more revenue to tax-cut opponents in Washington who crave more revenue.

ROB SHIPLEY
Orlando, Fla.

State and local taxes interfere with the incentive effect of lower federal rates. For example, New York taxes capital gains at the same high rates as other income. City residents pay a top combined state and city rate of 12.696%, almost two-thirds of the proposed 20% federal rate. States can and do enjoy the incentive effect of lower federal rates, without reducing their own rates. High state rates dampen the incentive effect of lower present and proposed federal rates on capital gains.

Instead of lowering tax rates, the

law could be changed to exclude a portion of capital gains from federal gross income. For example, if the top federal rate were 35% and the desired rate on capital gains is 20%, reduce gross income by 15/35ths of capital gains. Section 1202 of the Internal Revenue Code makes that kind of adjustment for certain tax-favored gains. Many years ago it did so for all long-term capital gains.

Most state tax laws conform to federal definitions of income and then make adjustments. Unless and until states change their conformity rules, the 1202 approach would reduce effective state tax rates in line with the federal reduction.

S. PAUL POSNER
New York

A better policy would be to set a date after which the capital-gains tax rates would be eliminated. From that point on, all income, regardless of how it is earned, would be taxed at the same rate. This would raise more immediate revenue than the authors' plan of slashing rates, as investors would rush to cash out their positions before the lower rates are eliminated. And in the future it would increase the mobility of capital since investment money will flow freely to where it can be most productive and profitable and not be frozen for a year while waiting to be eligible for a lower tax rate.

Taxing all income at the same rate would also be a good first step in removing much of the complexity from the tax code and avoid many of the tax schemes, such as carried interest, that seek to reclassify income to obtain a lower tax rate.

In the past, cuts in the capital-gains tax rates have been used successfully to stimulate the economy when it suffered from a lack of capital. Today's economy has enough capital but not enough demand. Taxing investment and earned income at the same rate would transfer some of the tax burden from workers to investors and would put more money in the hands of people with the greatest propensity to spend it, thereby stimulating demand and providing investment opportunities for all that cash that is sitting idle. It would also go a long way toward eliminating some of the inequity in our tax code.

EM. PROF. ANDRE MONTERO
Kingsborough Community College
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Tort Bar Helps Victims, Raises Costs, Prospects

As an attorney who's helped consumers injured by defective drugs and products for 40 years, I am outraged by the misinformation in "The Tort Bar's Senate Undertaker" (Review & Outlook, April 21).

You fail to mention the millions of dollars given by pharmaceutical companies and giant corporations to U.S. senators to ensure that consumers do not have the right to access the court system or file actions against those corporations that recklessly and negligently injure tens of thousands of consumers annually.

You neglect to mention that the billions of dollars Mark Lanier garnered in tort verdicts are based on punitive damages assessed against the corporations which injured consumers and were awarded by juries based on the intentional and reckless conduct of those corporations. Further, those dollars have not been paid to Mr. Lanier and will never be recovered, per the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to limit punitive damages.

Pharmaceutical companies have lied to the public and placed profits over safety in developing their dangerous drugs and products. These cor-

porations put their own interests above those of consumers, they seek legal immunity from liability caused by their dangerous products and want to be insulated from facing accountability for their actions. Corporations must be held accountable to the decisions of American juries.

MICHAEL BURG
Denver

Your editorial is the poster child for why so many Americans dislike politicians.

JIM DARNELL
Chicago

The law-firm fundraiser for Sen. Lindsey Graham, "the most important opponent of tort reform on Capitol Hill," epitomizes one of our major congressional problems: Money begets access and expects favors. Many of our top tort attorneys are among the wealthiest Americans, yet they want to prevent changes in the law that will allow their damaged clients to receive a larger slice of the pie. Three class-action suits netted me the grand total of \$43.51 in 2011, and I received \$4 as a result of a Bank of America class action in 2012. The law firm handling one of that year's BoA class-action suits asked the judge for a \$150 million fee. Aren't you embarrassed, Sen. Graham?

We have a two-tier society, and congressional members of both political parties share the blame. Beware, Sen. Graham, more legislation to line the pockets of the "haves" will sink your ship.

JAMES W. HANWAY, M.D.
Sarasota, Fla.

Pepper ... And Salt

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



"828,000 square miles
for \$15 million—as is?"

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LUKE A. CROGHAN
Fort Pierce, Fla.

OPINION

Trump Has Been Lucky in His Enemies



DECLARATIONS
By Peggy Noonan

Donald Trump's tax-reform plan strikes me as daring. Whether it's the daring of bright children or the daring of shrewd professionals who've gamed it out with the Hill remains to be seen. The simplification part is good and will be received as a balm by the taxpayers. Ronald Reagan once said even Einstein was driven to distraction by his tax forms, which explained his hair. The proposed cuts themselves are certainly big and blunt; economic and social thinkers will weigh in soon on whether they're wise or just.

Cursing pols, screeching students and intolerant abortion advocates have become the face of the left.

Refusing to eliminate the deductions for mortgage interest and charity was a dodging of bullets. I'm not convinced the former is fair. It's hard to see the higher justice in treating homeowners better than renters. Maybe a real-estate lobbyist will explain. The latter was I suspect the work of the New Yorkers in the White House. Opera, ballet and theater all come out of New York, home too of the greatest museums and libraries. If the charitable deduction goes away, their contributions go down. If the greatest opera goes down in New York, that art form no longer exists in America. And a great nation must have opera. Apart from that, wealthy New Yorkers, such as people at Goldman Sachs, enjoy being

on the great arts boards, and cutting the deduction is no way to accomplish that. God bless social ambition as a force for good.

The whole thing looks like something that had to be hurriedly slapped together to put a cap on the president's first hundred days. I wrote a highly sophisticated acquaintance who's also a big Trump supporter to ask if she liked the plan. The response: "I am getting tired of biggest wall, biggest bomb, biggest tax cut. How about something that can actually happen?"

Now to a hundred-day summation—three thoughts after observing the past three months.

If this thing works—if the Trump administration is judged by history as having enjoyed some degree of success—it will definitely open up the U.S. political system in a wholly new way. Before Mr. Trump it was generally agreed you had to be a professional politician or a general to win the presidency. Mr. Trump changed that. If he succeeds in office it will stay changed. Candidates for president will be able to be . . . anything. You can be a great historian or a Nobel Prize-winning scientist. You can be a Silicon Valley billionaire. You can be Oprah, The Rock, or Kellyanne. The system will attract a lot of fresh, needed, surprising talent, and also a lot of nuts and poseurs.

But again, only if Mr. Trump succeeds. If he doesn't, if he's a spectacular failure, America will probably never go outside the system like this again, or not in our lifetimes.

If the Trump administration ends in failure or disaster, we will realize in retrospect that 2016 handed us a perfect historical irony. Donald Trump was the only Republican who could have won the GOP nomination. He was the shock the base wanted, the strange, magical Wonder Pony who could break through a broken system. He was also the only Republican who could have won the general election.



A protester in Berkeley, Calif., April 15.

But he could also prove to be the only Republican who could not succeed in office. The others—John Kasich, Jeb Bush—actually knew how to govern, knew all the systems and traditions, knew what was required by high office and what was not allowed.

So the only one who could win was the only one who couldn't do the job. If that happens, it will be some kind of irony, if irony's the word.

I end with a lyric from the old show "Pippin": "A simple rule that every good man knows by heart / It's smarter to be lucky than it's lucky to be smart."

Mr. Trump has struggled so colorfully the past three months, we've barely noticed his great good luck—that in that time the Democratic Party and the progressive left have been having a very public nervous breakdown. The new head of the Democratic National Committee, Tom Perez, performs unhinged diatribes. He told an audience in Las Vegas that "Trump doesn't give a sh—about health care." In a Maine

speech, "They call it a skinny budget. I call it a sh—y budget." In Newark, he said Republicans "don't give a sh—about people."

This is said to be an attempt to get down with millennials. I know a lot of millennials and they're not idiots, so that won't work.

The perennially sunny Rep. Maxine Waters of California called Mr. Trump's cabinet "a bunch of scumbags." New York's junior Democratic senator, Kirsten Gillibrand, has taken to using the F-word in interviews.

I thought Mr. Trump was supposed to be the loudmouth vulgarian who swears in public. They are aping what they profess to hate. They excoriated him for lowering the bar. Now look at them.

And they're doing it because they have nothing else—not a plan, not a program, not a philosophy that can be uttered.

The closest they got to meaning recently was when Mr. Perez found it helpful to say, of a Democratic mayoral candidate who'd backed some pro-life bills, that that kind of thinking had no place in the party.

Bernie Sanders rightly called this out as madness. You can't do this if we're going to become a 50-state party."

Imagine a great, lost party defining itself by who it's throwing out. They're like the Republicans the past 20 years, throwing people out for opposing Iraq or George W. Bush, or for not joining NeverTrump. Where does this get you? It gets you to where we are.

That most entrenched bastion of the progressive left, America's great universities, has been swept by . . . well, one hardly knows what to call it. "Political correctness" is too old and doesn't do it justice. It is a hysteria—a screeching, ignorant wave of sometimes violent intolerance for free speech. It is mortifying to see those who lead great universities cower in fear of it, attempt to placate it, instead of stopping it.

When I see tapes of the protests and riots at schools like Berkley, Middlebury, Claremont McKenna and Yale, it doesn't have the feel of something that happens in politics. It has the special brew of malice and personal instability seen in the Salem witch trials. It sent me back to rereading Arthur Miller's "The Crucible." *Heather Mac Donald danced with the devil! Charles Murray put the needle in the poppet!* As in 17th-century Salem, the accusers have no proof of anything because they don't know, read or comprehend anything.

The cursing pols, the anathematizing abortion advocates, the screeching students—they are now the face of the progressive left.

This is what America sees now as the face of the Democratic Party. It is a party blowing itself up whose only hope is that Donald Trump blows up first.

He may not be lucky in all of his decisions or staffers, or in his own immaturities and dramas. But hand it to him a hundred days in: He's lucky in his main foes.

Let's Take Exception to the Term 'American Exceptionalism'

By Juliana Geran Pilon

In a recent speech, former U.N. Ambassador John Bolton called for foreign policy based on an American exceptionalism that a hostile world "far too often neither understands nor appreciates." The same day, Democratic political operative Ronald Klain wrote that "progressives should claim one of the oldest ideas in American thought—the concept of American exceptionalism—for their own." Are they talking about the same thing? Not likely.

The term "American exceptionalism" isn't as old as Mr. Klain imagines, and the Founders didn't coin it. Stalin did. When the American Communist Jay Lovestone informed him, in 1929, that America's working class wouldn't be joining the party, the Soviet dictator rejected what he called this "heresy of American exceptionalism."

The term was completely redefined a few decades later. "As significant portions of the electorate—think Southern Democrats—shifted toward the GOP in the 1960s and 1970s, conservative thinkers charted a new Republican identity emboldened by triumphalism and uncompromising patriotism," wrote Columbia journalism professor Terrence McCoy in 2012. "Doubting exceptionalism became 'un-American.'"

The term didn't catch on immediately. Before the mid-1990s the term appeared in national publications fewer than 500 times. In 1996, sociologist Seymour Martin Lipset used it to explain why the U.S. is an "outlier" when compared with the rest of the world. Noting that "various seemingly contradictory aspects of American society are intimately related"—religiosity co-existed with individualism, optimism with high crime rates—he described America's uniqueness as "a mixed blessing."

The term persisted as Americans sought a vision in a post-Cold War era. References to exceptionalism

had exploded in print and online publications, to more than 4,000 in 2010 alone. In 2012 the Republican Party platform titled a 12-page section "American Exceptionalism" and defined the term as "the conviction that our country holds a unique place and role in human history." In 2016 the GOP promoted the idea to its platform preamble, which begins: "We believe in American exceptionalism."

Candidate Donald Trump, however, didn't care for the term. As he told a group of Republicans in 2015, he thought it impolite: "I don't want to say, 'We're exceptional. we're more exceptional.' Because essentially we're saying, 'We're more outstanding than you . . .' He also questioned the premise: "We're dying. We owe 18 trillion in debt. I'd like to make us exceptional. . . . We may have a chance to say it in the not-too-distant future. But even then, I wouldn't say it. . . . Let's not rub it in."

In response, progressives have emerged as champions of exceptionalism. In an essay for Foreign Affairs

this past January, historian Stephen Wertheim complained that "Trump has distinguished himself in one dramatic respect: He may be the first president to take office who explicitly rejects American exceptionalism."

It started in 1929 as a communist 'heresy' before becoming a 'conviction' and then a mere 'story.'

But wait—the first president who does what? Ronald Reagan called America a "shining city on a hill," but he never mentioned "American exceptionalism." Neither did George W. Bush. The first American president who did was Barack Obama. At an April 2009 press conference in Strasbourg, France, a reporter asked the new president if he subscribed "to the school of American exceptionalism

that sees America as uniquely qualified to lead the world."

The answer was ambiguous at best. "I believe in American exceptionalism, just as I suspect that the Brits believe in British exceptionalism and the Greeks believe in Greek exceptionalism," Mr. Obama said. "The fact that I am very proud of my country and I think that we've got a whole lot to offer the world does not lessen my interest in recognizing the value and wonderful qualities of other countries, or recognizing that we're not always going to be right, or that other people may have good ideas."

America is exceptional, Mr. Obama seemed to be saying, but no more so than anyone else. The Atlantic's Peter Beinart picked up the theme after Mr. Trump's inauguration, rejecting another writer's warning that "Trump's brand of nativism could be the death knell for American exceptionalism." Don't worry, Mr. Beinart counseled: "American exceptionalism is not a set of enduring national character-

istics that a president can undermine." Rather, it is "a story that America's leaders tell about what makes America different from Europe. As realities on both continents change, and different American leaders emerge, those leaders change the story."

As Humpty Dumpty said: "When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less." There's no question America is unique: Our Constitution is the longest-lasting in the world today, and manifestly the most successful in world history. But "American exceptionalism"—a heresy, a conviction, an insult, an ever-changing story—is too susceptible to equivocation and manipulation. Let's drop the phrase and focus on the meaning of America itself.

Ms. Pilon is a senior fellow at the Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization and author of "The Art of Peace: Engaging a Complex World" (Transaction, 2016).

America's Most Anti-Reform Institution? The Media



BUSINESS WORLD
By Holman W. Jenkins, Jr.

Editor in Chief

As team Trump digs into taxing, spending and health-care reform, it's learning a vital lesson of Washington. Once a government benefit is given, it can never be taken away. If young people have been overcharged by ObamaCare so middle-aged people can be undercharged, then the solution is to undercharge young people too. The taxpayer—usually visualized as a hedge fund manager—can always pay more.

Ditto the budget as a whole. The Washington Post moans that the

White House's new spending plan would "eliminate the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, which coordinates the federal response to homelessness across 19 federal agencies," including providing funding for "Meals on Wheels, a national nonprofit group that delivers food to homebound seniors."

Never mind that Meals on Wheels is not a federal program. Funding comes from private donations and state and local governments, sometimes using small parts of federal block grants.

The Post further moans that the Trump budget "guts federal funding for affordable housing and kicks the financial responsibility of those programs to states and local governments."

Never mind that the federal government doesn't have access to resources the states and localities don't. Its tax base is their tax base. If housing subsidies are a local priority, let local leaders raise and spend the money locally. They are likely to do a better job addressing a local problem than Washington is.

Such considerations are logical but go unmentioned in the rush to suggest any cut in spending is untenable. Budget debates are conducted in terms of sob stories: What? You're not in favor of meals for the elderly? You're not in favor of export loans for small manufacturers? You don't think our fighting men and women deserve the best equipment and training money can buy?

Try it yourself. It's all sob stories, never a discussion of costs and benefits.

The second shoe fell with the

Trump tax plan this week, though it was the same shoe as far as the media was concerned. "Trump's Plan Shifts Trillions to Wealthiest," went the New York Times headline.

Shifts? The plan doesn't raise taxes on anybody, except the affluent and businesses by ending certain deductions, and does so partly to pay for lower rates for the affluent and businesses. There is no taking

Spending cuts are unendurable, but when the crisis comes, will the press point a finger at itself?

from the poor to give to the rich. Our income tax is almost exclusively a tax of the affluent and business. Working-class Americans are taxed through payroll taxes, which fall far short, even so, of covering their expected future benefits.

As long as the basic structure of American taxes remains intact, the rich would be postponing future tax payments—hopefully fattened by faster growth rather than higher tax rates—to give themselves a tax cut now. As any who are not completely blinded by partisanship will admit, the Trumpian goal here is to bring the economy back to a speedier long-term growth rate. Even the New York Times acknowledges as much, in the 17th paragraph.

There may be much to regret in President Trump's temperament, his nonmastery of detail, his estrangement from the facts. Not without utility, though, is his generalized

disdain for the major media, the most reflexively anti-reform institution in American life. Both major parties look like hotbeds of free-thinking in comparison.

The media are a major factor in the outcomes we get. Large spending commitments are willed into being without willing the tax revenues or economic growth to pay for them. Social Security and Medicare are in a \$70 trillion hole. Unfunded pension and health-care liabilities of the states and localities are at least \$2 trillion. Federal debt has doubled to \$20 trillion in less than 10 years. GDP growth has fallen by half. In our next recession, annual deficits could quickly surge to \$1 trillion.

Our comeuppance lies in a less and less distant future. But today we get only the horror of any proposed budget cut. We get the intollerability of any entitlement reform—and will continue to get such reporting right up to the day when it all unravels. Any cut in the nominal tax rate for affluent taxpayers is an attack on the poor even if this claim has no relation to the logic of how our tax system actually works.

Entitlements won't entitle: Medicare will pay for an operation only at a price no doctor will accept. Programmed into law already is a 29% across-the-board cut to Social Security when its trust fund runs out in 12 years.

Then, in the other great twitch of American journalism, will come the blame-laying. The finger will be pointed at everybody but the press itself for wringing out of our politicians any inclination they might have mustered to meet our challenges head-on.

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The strategy of overbooking flights remains crucial for most airlines. Their thin profit margins can rest on the last one or two passengers who board a plane.

Apple Dispute Hits Chip Maker

By TED GREENWALD

Qualcomm Inc. sharply cut its profit forecast Friday, saying it no longer expects any patent-licensing revenue from the iPhone in the current quarter as a result of the chip maker's increasingly bitter legal battle with Apple Inc.

The company said it expects revenue to come in 8% to 9% below its previous forecast.

The change in Qualcomm's forecast stems from royalties it no longer expects to receive from some companies that manufacture the iPhone. Apple's contract manufacturers, rather than Apple itself, have direct licensing agreements with Qualcomm. Some have withheld royalties because Apple has stopped reimbursing them amid the legal fight, Qualcomm said.

Qualcomm on Friday said Apple informed the San Diego company that it would continue to withhold reimbursements from its contract manufacturers on sales in the quarter that ended in March.

"Without an agreed-upon rate to determine how much is owed, we have suspended payments until the correct amount can be determined by the court," an Apple spokesman said in a statement.

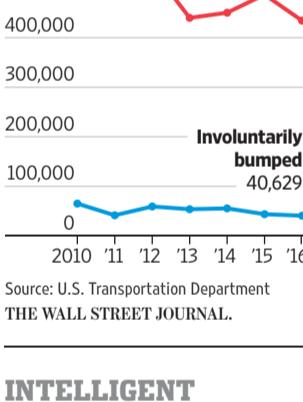
The development escalates the toll for Qualcomm of a feud that has contributed to a more-than-15% drop in its share price since Apple brought suit in January.

80%

Share of Qualcomm's 2016 pretax profit tied to patent licensing.

Taken Off

Those fliers volunteering to wait for later flights dwarf the number of those who give up their paid seats involuntarily.



INTELLIGENT INVESTOR
By Jason Zweig

Investors Believe In Magic

Investors believe the darndest things. In one recent survey, wealthy individuals said they expect their portfolios to earn a long-run average of 8.5% annually after inflation. With bonds yielding roughly 2.5%, a typical stock-and-bond portfolio would need stocks to grow at 12.5% annually to hit that overall 8.5% target. Net of fees and inflation, that would require approximately doubling the 7% annual gain that stocks have produced over the long term.

Individuals aren't the only investors who believe in the improbable. One in six institutional investors, in another survey, projected gains of more than 20% annually on their investments in venture capital—even though such funds, on average, have underperformed the stock market for much of the 2000s.

Although almost nothing is impossible in the financial markets, these expectations are so far-fetched they border on fantasy.

The traditional explanations for believing in an investing tooth fairy who will leave money under your pillow are optimism and overconfidence: Hope springs

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The Stamford, Conn.-based

By SUSAN CAREY

In wake of the fallout from the passenger incident on United Airlines, Southwest Airlines Co. is planning to stop overbooking flights by the end of June. But don't expect other airlines to follow suit or for the practice to go away.

The strategy of overbooking, or overselling seats to account for no-show customers, remains a key part of most airlines' game plans, especially as carriers enjoy their most profitable streak in history.

Involuntary bumping of airline passengers invariably leads to pain of some sort, ranging from customer inconvenience to the kind of crisis that hit United Continental Holdings Inc. earlier this month. On average, 111 paying

fliers a day were involuntarily bumped for a host of reasons last year, according to government data.

Most carriers figure that there is more benefit than risk. Still, operational and safety reasons often also contribute to the shortage of seats. Mechanical or weather-related issues, for instance, lead to a reduction of available seats, which causes the unloading of passengers and luggage on a short notice.

Most large carriers, which have gotten larger and fewer in number over a decade of consolidation, believe if they don't intentionally sell more tickets than they have seats, they would have to raise their fares. Their thin profit margins can rest on the last one or two passengers who board the plane

and this decades-old practice is an embedded part of most carriers' business plans.

Overbooking "is a valid business process," Ed Bastian, Delta Air Lines Inc.'s chief executive, told investors earlier this month. "It is not a question...as to whether you overbook. It's how you manage an overbook situation." Delta on Thursday stood by that remark.

U.S. airlines have been so successful at the strategy that they filled 82.2% of their seats in 2016, near the record of recent years, up from 78.8% a decade earlier.

It is rare that the practice leads to a physical altercation such as on United Express Flight 3411, an overbooked flight, when passenger Dr. David Dao was forcibly dragged

off a plane.

Often, "mini-tragedies," like people missing weddings, funerals, and job interviews, are the result, said George Hobica, president of flier advocacy group Airfarewatchdog.com.

How many seats they overbook is proprietary by airline, but experts said they have fine-tuned this practice relying in part on historical trends on no-shows by time of day, day of week, season and popularity of routes, among other factors.

Southwest Airlines said it typically oversold just one seat on its each of its Boeing Co. 737 jets configured to carry 143, though still had to involuntarily bump almost 15,000 passengers last year, by far the highest level in the industry.

United Express Flight 3411, Please see BUMPED page B2

'Godfather of Smart Beta'

Rob Arnott doubts how some investors are using strategies he pioneered

By AARON KURILOFF

The "godfather of smart beta" is having fresh doubts about how some on Wall Street are using the increasingly popular passive-investing strategies he pioneered.

Smart-beta funds, which try to beat standard index funds' returns

by allocating money based on factors like companies' dividend payments, sales, or volatility, attracted record inflows of \$55 billion last year. According to BlackRock Inc., which operates several of the biggest smart-beta exchange-traded funds, they are headed toward \$1 trillion under management globally by 2020.

Rob Arnott, an early architect of such investing tactics, says these funds' popularity makes some of the strategies expensive, undermining what made them appealing in the first place.

In a paper published ear-



In a paper, Rob Arnott, founder of Research Affiliates, questions approaches including so-called momentum strategies.

lier this month by Research Affiliates LLC, the investing firm he founded, Mr. Arnott questioned approaches including so-called momentum

strategies, which buy stocks experiencing rapid price gains. The approach's benefits seldom exceed trading costs and fees, he said.

He has also built tools that he said will help investors determine which strategies are overpriced.

"You can't time markets," he said in an interview. "You can't pick tops and bottoms. But you can identify what's trading cheap relative to history and what's expensive."

His new research follows a critique of the strategies that began in February last year, in which he said a smart-beta crash was "reasonably likely."

The paper, titled "How Can 'Smart Beta' Go Horribly Wrong?", singled out low-volatility funds—which are typically designed to produce market-like returns with less risk—saying that a surge of money from performance-chasing investors had driven up valuations to unsustainable levels, reducing the prospects for their future returns.

"Our own low-vol fund is expensive," Mr. Arnott said. Asset managers including

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Synchrony Punished After Earnings Miss

By ANNAMARIA ANDRIOTIS

Synchrony Financial, the largest store credit-card issuer, reported earnings that fell and missed expectations, sending shares 16% lower to \$27.80 in trading Friday.

It was the worst one-day percentage decline ever for the company's stock.

The Stamford, Conn.-based

company's results are the latest that will stir concern about the health of consumers' finances after a long period of growth and recovery from the 2008 financial crisis.

Synchrony, spun off from General Electric Co. earlier this decade, reported first-quarter earnings of 61 cents a share that missed analysts' estimates of 73 cents a share.

The net charge-off rate for

The income figure, down from 70 cents a share a year earlier, was largely because Synchrony increased the money it set aside to cover future loan losses by 44.6% to \$1.31 billion. That was higher than analysts' forecasts of \$1.04 billion, due in large part to the company's higher charge-off rate.

The net charge-off rate for

the quarter was 5.33%, up 0.59 percentage point from a year prior and higher than the consensus forecast of 5.11%. The increase led the company to raise its guidance for net charge-offs, saying on its earnings call that it now expects full-year 2017 charge-offs at or slightly above 5%. That is up from its previous outlook in

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| Amazon.com.....A1 | G | Silver Lake Partners...B2 | Silverside Partners.....B2 |
| Apple.....B1,B10 | General Motors.....B3 | SoftBank Group.....B2 | Southwest Airlines....B1 |
| AQR Capital Management.....B2 | I | Synchrony Financial....B1 | Tencent Holdings.....B2 |
| Bank of Communications.....B2 | J-K | T | Time.....B3 |
| Berkshire Hathaway...A2 | JetBlue Airways.....B2 | United Continental Holdings.....B1 | Total.....A1 |
| BP.....A1 | KnightScope.....B10 | U | Toyota Motor.....B3 |
| C | M-N | X | Xiaomi.....B2 |
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| Delta Air Lines.....B1 | P | | |
| Didi Chuxing Technology.....B2 | Pamplona Capital Management.....B3 | | |
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Chinese Ride-Sharing Giant's Valuation Tops \$50 Billion



China's Didi Chuxing Technology Co. said it raised \$5.5 billion in a new funding round which will help fuel its global expansion and push into artificial intelligence.

The cash infusion brings the Beijing-based ride-hailing company's valuation to more than \$50 billion, making it one of Asia's largest startups, according to people familiar with the matter.

Didi, which counts **Alibaba Group Holding** and **Tencent**

Holdings among its investors, was valued at \$36 billion in August after merging its operations with rival **Uber Technologies** Inc.'s China business following a costly battle for customers.

The new funding round includes investments from Menlo Park, Calif.-based **Silver Lake**, Tokyo-based Japanese telecom and tech giant **SoftBank Corp.**, Shenzhen-based **China Merchants Bank Co.** and China's **Bank of Communications** Co., according to

people familiar with the matter.

This funding round makes Didi more valuable than Chinese consumer electronics company **Xiaomi Corp.**, whose valuation was \$46 billion after a funding round in December 2014.

As of the fall, Didi said it was handling more than 20 million rides a day. Like other technology companies including Uber and **Alphabet Inc.**'s Google, it is looking to expand into autonomous cars as technology disrupts traditional

transportation solutions, opening a research and development lab in Silicon Valley this March.

The lab, which will focus on intelligent driving technologies and AI-based security, expects to double its team of about 50 staff by year's end. Its larger rival Uber unveiled ambitious plans on Tuesday to test flying cars within three years in the hope of lowering commute times and transportation costs.

—Liza Lin and Kane Wu

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CARDS

Continued from the prior page the 4.75%-to-5.0% range, which the company had only announced a quarter prior.

Net interest income increased 12% from the first quarter of 2016 to \$3.6 billion.

Earlier this past week, Capital One Financial Corp. posted first-quarter earnings that missed analyst estimates by a wide margin, largely due to a 33% jump in provisions for loan losses in the company's U.S. credit-card business from the previous quarter. Rival card issuer Discover Financial Services also missed estimates this quarter, though more narrowly, as its provisions rose by 14%.

Capital One shares are down about 6% since reporting Tuesday after market close, while Discover's are down about 7%. Charge-offs occur when credit-card lenders write off unpaid defaulted balances as a loss. The metric increased at many credit-card issuers in the first quarter from a year ago, though they remain low industrywide.

However, the increases are raising red flags because they are the result of weakening credit conditions among borrowers. Card issuers describe the phenomenon as "normalization," but "it doesn't feel very normal," said Don Fandetti, card-payment analyst at Citi who covers Synchrony.

Also worrisome for analysts is that credit-card issuers, including Synchrony and Capital One, are finding that their recent estimates for credit-card performance were too rosy. "The bigger-picture issue here is you have several card issuers who have effectively underestimated the loss projections," Mr. Fandetti said.

The rising losses aren't so much a sign that the economic cycle is turning, as unemployment remains near record lows.

Rather, it is a result of loosening credit standards among some issuers in recent years

and overspending by consumers. Subprime lending in the credit-card sector has been on the rise in recent years as competition has intensified and lenders have agreed to take on customers with lower credit scores in search of more revenue and greater returns.

Meanwhile, credit-card debt recently topped \$1 trillion, returning to levels last seen during the recession. Many lenders have been increasing spending limits on credit cards, resulting in some consumers taking on more debt than they can handle.

So far the charge-off rates are going up the most at card

issuers that lend to more borrowers with lower credit scores and in some cases lower incomes. Domestic card net charge-off rates at Capital One, for example, increased by nearly 1 percentage point in the first quarter from a year ago to 5.14%. Meanwhile, card issuers that deal with more affluent and creditworthy borrowers are experiencing smaller increases. Charge-offs for U.S. card member loans at American Express Co. increased to 2.0% in the first quarter from 1.7% a year prior.

Another issue has also emerged for credit-card issuers. As the supply of charged-off credit-card balances is rising, banks are selling off the debt to collection firms at lower prices. Synchrony said the lower recovery pricing played a role in its higher-than-expected reserve build in the first quarter. Pricing is also being impacted by potential new rules from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that could make it harder for debt-collection companies to recover unpaid debts from consumers.

The increase in charge-offs doesn't pose a problem, at least for now, for the largest card networks, Visa and Mastercard. That is because they aren't lenders and their earnings are largely based on the number of transactions and payments volume that flow through their networks.

BETA

Continued from the prior page BlackRock and Invesco Ltd.'s PowerShares have said the strategy performs well over the longer term, and noted the assets account for only a fraction of the investing universe.

John Feyerer, director of equity ETF products at PowerShares, called his firm and Research Affiliates "kindred spirits," adding "we've been partners more than a decade, but that doesn't mean we're always going to agree."

Cliff Asness, the co-founder of **AQR Capital Management LLC** and another early designer of smart-beta strategies, has said the valuations do matter, but aren't the only thing that matters. This month, he wrote that Mr. Arnott's warnings consisted of "repeated breathless white papers" instead of "give-and-take debate."

Mr. Arnott's critique of smart beta started as an inquiry into why some of his own strategies had underperformed for two years and investors were instead buying newly expensive approaches, such as low-volatility funds.

Investors poured money into low-volatility funds for much of last year, then dumped them as stocks surged to new records last autumn in what BNP Paribas SA research at the time described as "a brutal readjustment."

BlackRock's iShares Edge MSCI Minimum Volatility USA exchange-traded fund, the largest low-volatility ETF, rose roughly 13% from the beginning of 2016 through its peak for the year in July, outperforming the S&P 500's 6.4% advance, according to FactSet. It then fell 4.2%.

Doug Cameron contributed to this article.



Brad Torchia for The Wall Street Journal

from its July peak through year-end, while the S&P 500 added 2.9%. The ETF is up 7% so far this year, compared with 6.5% for the S&P 500.

At its heights in July, stocks within the ETF traded at an average of roughly 24 times their past 12 months of earnings, more than 20% higher than the iShares Core S&P 500 ETF, according to FactSet.

Mr. Arnott's Research Affiliates manages almost no money. Instead, it designs products—such as mutual and exchange-traded funds—for clients including Pacific Investment Management Co. and PowerShares. Licensing ideas and collecting fees for a living means they must offer those shops something their existing armies of investment researchers don't already provide, Mr. Arnott said.

Mr. Arnott, the son of a pastor, turned a love of computers, math and research into a globe-spanning investment advisory business.

His first target was the standard index fund. During the technology bust of the early 2000s, he was managing money at First Quadrant, cruising Pasadena, Calif., on vintage motorcycles and publishing dozens of papers on financial theory.

As the market tumbled, Mr. Arnott saw big index funds—which typically allocate money to companies based on their market capitalization—dragged down by losses from a relatively few large companies. So he joined those proposing to break the link between market capitalization and portfolio weighting, relying instead on factors such as price, momentum, volatility, or combinations of factors.

Mr. Arnott's paper "Fundamental Indexation" laid the groundwork for Research Affiliates' Fundamental Index, or RAFI, series of funds with PowerShares.

Vanguard Group founder and indexing pioneer John C.

Bogle called him "a brilliant academic" and "the greatest marketer I've ever met."

RAFI-branded strategies now have almost \$140 billion under management around the world. Research Affiliates also licenses strategies to partners under other brand names, including roughly \$36 billion for Pimco.

As smart beta spread, many credited Mr. Arnott for demonstrating the strategy's feasibility. As of March 31, the flagship PowerShares FTSE RAFI US 1000 Portfolio has outperformed the Russell 1000 by an average of almost 1 percentage point a year over its roughly dozen-year lifespan, according to PowerShares. The fund charges fees of 0.39%, or \$39 on a \$10,000 investment, less than most actively managed funds. It beat the index by roughly 14 percentage points in 2009, according to FactSet.

"I wish I was as sure of anything as he is of everything," Mr. Bogle said.

Over 40,600 people were involuntarily bumped in 2016, out of 660 million fliers.

that its "forecast of no-shows is usually quite accurate." It typically overbooks flights by less than 3% of a plane's seat capacity, and 4% of its flights have more ticketed passengers seeking to board than seats available.

After the recent incident, however, the carrier said it plans to reduce overbooking, particularly on flights that historically have experienced lower rates of volunteers ceding their seats for compensation, on smaller aircraft and last flights of the day.

To be sure, the number of involuntarily bumped passengers has gradually declined as airlines have honed their operations and made it more attractive for passengers to volunteer to fly later. More than 40,600 people were involuntarily bumped in 2016, out of 660 million passengers who flew last year, according to the latest data available from the U.S. Department of Transportation. That was down from 43,700 fliers in 2015, out of 601 million total air travelers.

Southwest CEO Gary Kelly said on an investor call this



Patrick T. Fallon/Bloomberg News

JetBlue doesn't have an overbook policy, though operational factors have resulted in bumpings.

BUSINESS NEWS

General Motors Keeps Riding Its Trucks

GM posts another strong quarter, even as U.S. auto market begins to soften

By MIKE COLIAS

Brawny vehicles like the Chevrolet Silverado pickup and Cadillac Escalade SUV continue to rumble over the trouble spots appearing in General Motors Co.'s path.

GM notched record profit and revenue in the first quarter, despite signs of weaker pricing and consumer demand in the world's two largest car markets—the U.S. and China—and widening losses in Europe, South America and parts of Asia.

The results underscore how reliant GM's bottom line remains on pickup trucks and sport-utility vehicles, despite efforts in recent years to improve its car offerings to better compete with Toyota Motor Corp. and other Asian producers. Large pickups and SUVs are thought to generate the majority of GM's profits even though they account for roughly 11% of global sales.

GM said the 34% jump in first-quarter net income to \$2.6 billion was helped in part by the continued pricing power of its truck lineup.

The nation's largest auto maker by sales posted first-quarter operating profit of



GM posted record profit and revenue for the first quarter on strong sales of pickups and SUVs.

Sales Speed Ahead But Stock Stalls Out

Despite beating profit forecasts, General Motors' shares were flat Friday, as they have been for much of the auto industry's unprecedented seven-year run of rising sales. The stock, which closed at \$34.64 on Friday, has struggled to stay above the \$33 IPO price from 2010 despite two straight years of record profits, the reinstatement of a common-stock dividend and billions in stock buybacks.

The lethargic stock price has drawn interest from activist shareholders including Greenlight Capital's David Einhorn, who has nominated a slate of three directors and is pushing a plan to divide GM's shares into

two classes, separating its dividend from its operations. GM is urging shareholders to vote down the proposal at its annual meeting in June.

Analysts point to concerns about a sales peak and whether GM can sustain strong profitability if U.S. auto sales turn sharply lower. Industry sales are slipping—they're projected to decline for the fourth straight month in April—though few analysts expect a steep decline in coming years.

In a research note Friday, Barclays analyst Brian Johnson said GM might have to cut U.S. production later this year, and could be forced to spend more on incentives if industry demand slows further. "Despite the strong beat," he wrote, "we question whether this result will fundamentally alter the market view on GM."

\$1.70 a share, breezing past Wall Street expectations of \$1.47 a share. It also stood by its per-share forecast of \$6 to \$6.50 for the year.

Ford Motor Co. and Fiat-Chrysler Automobiles this week also posted earnings that topped analysts' estimates, bolstered largely by pickup truck and SUV sales.

"The pickup market remains very robust and strong," GM finance chief Chuck Stevens told reporters Friday, noting that the company's four North American

truck factories are "running full-on" to meet demand.

GM continues to generate the bulk of its profits in North America, where it continues to command high prices for pickups and big SUVs, even as pricing erodes on passenger cars and smaller SUVs industrywide.

GM's average prices in the U.S. slipped overall compared with a year ago, but the average price of a GM pickup truck edged up nearly \$700, to \$42,650, a spokesman said.

The stout truck business is

helping offset growing signs of trouble in other areas of GM's business. In the U.S., softening demand for passenger cars industrywide forced GM in recent months to cut production, laying off more than 4,000 workers.

Shrinking car demand is leading to trouble for auto makers' finance arms. GM estimates used-car prices nationally sank 7% in the first quarter, the steepest drop in recent years. Weaker used-car prices can siphon away sales of new cars as

consumers choose cheaper options, while falling resale values make it more expensive for car companies to lease vehicles.

Meanwhile, GM's sales in China fell 5%, and pricing was squeezed amid slowing demand after the government reduced a tax incentive for smaller vehicles. GM countered by selling a higher mix of pricier vehicles, including Cadillacs and Buicks, it and maintained flat equity income from its Chinese joint ventures at around \$500 million.

GM continues to lose money

in Europe, a region it will exit this year upon the expected closure of the sale of its Opel division to French car maker Peugeot. GM's first-quarter loss in Europe was \$206 million, versus \$6 million a year earlier, amid exchange-rate pressure stemming from Brexit. Losses in South America widened to \$115 million, from \$67 million, as conditions in Brazil remain difficult despite GM's expectations for improved performance in the region this year.

Festival Organizers Pull Plug in Bahamas

By NEIL SHAH

The much-hyped Fyre Festival has gone up in flames—with organizers abruptly canceling the high-end concert in the Bahamas, where stranded attendees were trying desperately to get home.

After months of growing troubles, festival organizers on Friday called off the inaugural two-weekend island music festival, whose tickets ranged from \$1,500 to \$250,000 a person for one weekend. The Wall Street Journal reported earlier this month that Fyre's organizers were running into problems.

The festival was heavily promoted on social media by supermodels and entertainers such as Kendall Jenner, along with comedians and football players. The event was billed as "the cultural experience of the decade." Around 6,000 to 7,000 people were expected for each weekend.

Instead of luxury accommodations, gourmet meals and yachts, fans arriving at the festival grounds were greeted with a site that appeared unfinished, with dogs roaming the vicinity, limited staffing and subpar food and amenities, according to reports and social-media accounts.

On Thursday afternoon, festival organizers focused on helping fans as news of the debacle ricocheted across social media. It is unclear exactly how many music fans remain stranded in the Bahamas. We are "currently supporting guests to make sure everyone [is] getting off [the] island comfortably and safely," said Eddie James, a festival representative, by email.

Time Inc. Halts Search for Buyer

By JEFFREY A. TRACHTENBERG AND AUSTEN HUFFORD

Shortly after 4 p.m. Thursday, Time Inc.'s board met for the third time this week. On the agenda: whether to continue talking to potential suitors or shut down a sales process that had been in motion since December, a person familiar with the situation said.

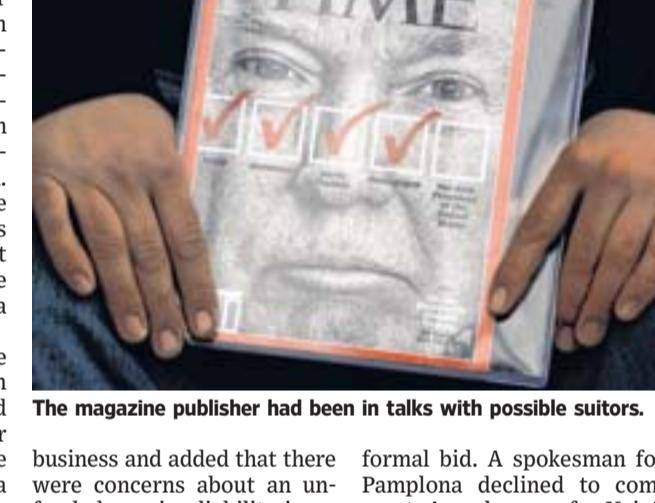
The storied publisher chose the latter, saying Friday it is choosing not to sell itself, but rather will try to navigate challenging times in the media business on its own.

The board's decision came after lengthy discussions with potential buyers that showed no sign of ending in the near future. **Meredith** Corp., the Des Moines, Iowa-based media company that owns magazines including Family Circle and Better Homes & Gardens, as well as 18 TV stations, was widely considered the most logical acquirer.

Market reaction was punishing, with Time shares ending the day off 17% at \$15.20. Meredith shares fell 9.7% to \$58.55.

Meredith was still working on its financing package and was considering an offer under \$20 a share, according to people familiar with the situation. Those people said Meredith's potential bid was well below ranges being discussed by competitors.

A person familiar with Meredith's thinking said the company was finding it difficult to arrange financing because of the current state of Time's



The magazine publisher had been in talks with possible suitors.

business and added that there were concerns about an unfunded pension liability issue in the U.K. This person said Meredith remains interested in acquiring select properties from Time if divestiture is part of Time's plans.

A person familiar with Time disputed both assertions and said the company is on track with its financial performance. This person also said "the pension is almost fully funded."

The Time board, which met by teleconference, also considered a second bidding group that included private investment firm **Najafi Cos.** and private-equity firm **Pamplona Capital Management**, the person familiar with the situation said.

That group appeared to be more aggressive in terms of a potential higher offer but also needed more time to make a

formal bid. A spokesman for Pamplona declined to comment. A spokesman for Najafi declined to comment.

Time's board decided that the company had been in limbo long enough. The board liked the management team it had put in place last September, and supported their plan to emphasize digital and data initiatives.

"The board determined that pursuing our own plan is the right course of action," Time Chief Executive Rich Battista said in an interview. "We think it's in the long-term interest of our shareholders to execute that plan."

Mr. Battista noted that Time never formally put itself up for sale.

Time Inc., which publishes People, Sports Illustrated, Fortune and its namesake Time, was founded in 1922 and

boasts millions of subscribers for its largest titles. But like many media companies, Time has struggled with declining circulation and falling print advertising rates that have yet to be offset by rising digital revenue.

Nevertheless, Time has made a number of moves, acquiring digital content and ad technology companies meant to generate new streams of growth. The company said it expects to bring in more than \$600 million in digital advertising revenue this year.

"We've emerged as a major player in social, video, branded and native content," Mr. Battista said, referring to the rise of social media, the proliferation of online videos in recent years and the trend of having paid-for content appear on media sites that is sponsored or written by advertisers.

Mr. Battista said Time will examine its magazine portfolio with an eye toward focusing on what he described as "core assets and core areas of growth. We'll evaluate our portfolio and look to potentially dispose of noncore assets."

He declined to be more specific about potential sales and declined to disclose the size of the offers that Time had received.

Mr. Battista added that "there are exciting opportunities to partner with third parties."

Jen Wong, Time's chief operating officer, added, "You're going to see us focus and double down."



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BUSINESS NEWS

Startup Seeks Solution for a Critical 911 Problem

Ex-FCC leaders join effort to improve emergency system that can't pinpoint the location of cellphone callers

By RYAN KNUTSON

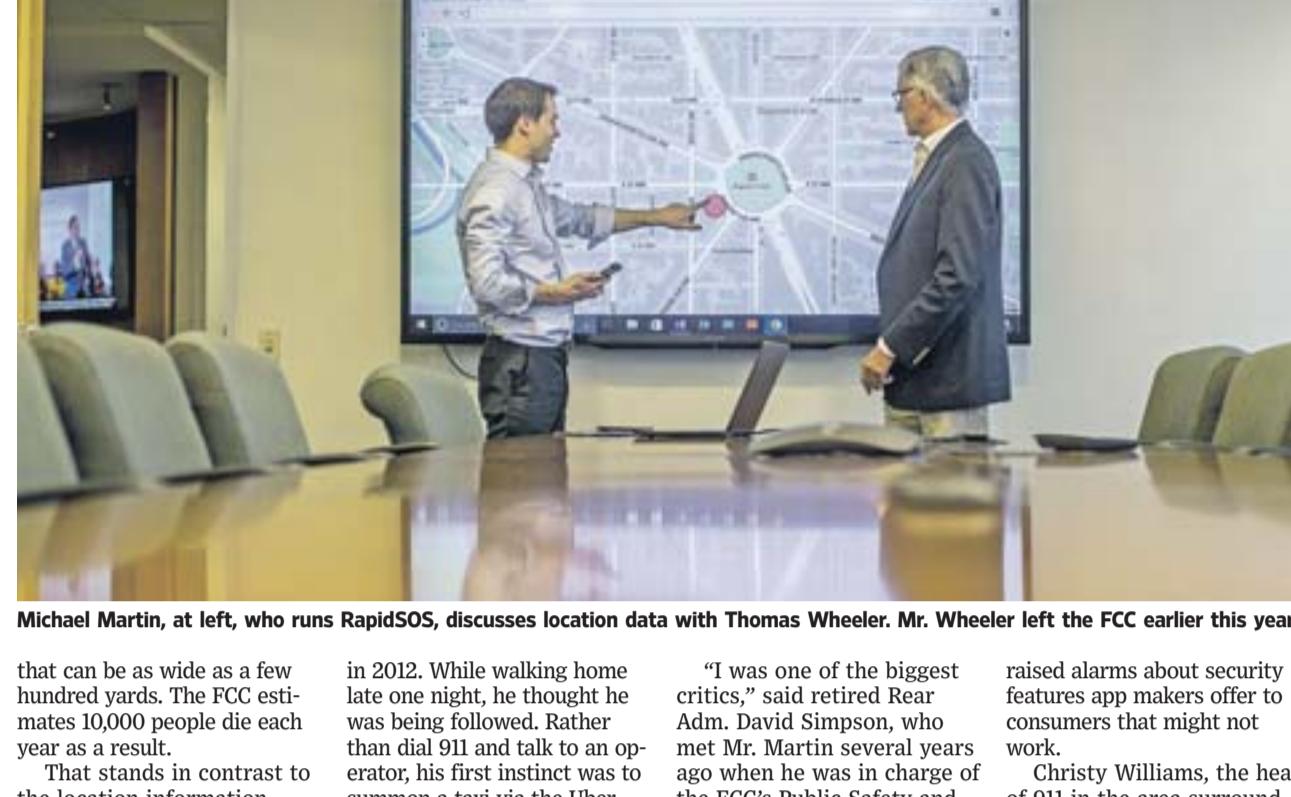
Three former leaders of the Federal Communications Commission are investing in a startup that seeks to solve one of 911's biggest problems: Operators often can't see the exact location of cellphone callers.

Thomas Wheeler, who left the agency earlier this year, felt regulations adopted during his tenure didn't do enough to solve the problem. Passed in 2015, the rules gave wireless carriers six years to develop technology that could still be imprecise during 1 out of 5 calls.

"I thought I ought to put my money where my mouth is," said Mr. Wheeler, who is also taking on an official advisory role at the startup, called RapidSOS. The company is building a database that can link the rich location data from smartphones and other internet-connected devices into the software at 911 centers.

Also investing are Julius Genachowski, who was FCC chairman from 2009 to 2013, and Dennis Patrick, who ran the agency in the late 1980s. They are part of a group of backers, including the investment arm of Motorola Solutions Inc., putting \$14 million into the New York-based startup, which has 37 employees.

The investment highlights the struggles to improve the aging 911 system, which was developed for landline telephones in the late 1960s. While calls made from landlines deliver an exact address, 911 operators only receive a location estimate for cellphone callers



Michael Martin, at left, who runs RapidSOS, discusses location data with Thomas Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler left the FCC earlier this year.

that can be as wide as a few hundred yards. The FCC estimates 10,000 people die each year as a result.

That stands in contrast to the location information available on smartphones. The blue dot on Google Maps, for instance, is often accurate to just a few yards. Google Maps primarily relies on the phone's GPS, its proximity to Wi-Fi hot spots and triangulation between cell towers. Wireless carriers—which are responsible for providing location information to 911—primarily use just GPS and cell-tower triangulation.

RapidSOS is run by Michael Martin, 30 years old, who became interested in 911 shortly after moving to New York City

in 2012. While walking home late one night, he thought he was being followed. Rather than dial 911 and talk to an operator, his first instinct was to summon a taxi via the Uber app.

Afterward, "I was like, 'There ought to be an app for 911,'" he said. Mr. Martin quit his job at a venture-capital fund and enrolled at Harvard University so he could explore the idea.

In 2014, Mr. Martin launched a 911 app, now called Haven, with co-founder Nick Horelik. But after talking with more than 100 of public-safety officials during a 2014 road trip across the country, he soon learned an app wasn't the right approach.

"I was one of the biggest critics," said retired Rear Adm. David Simpson, who met Mr. Martin several years ago when he was in charge of the FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. Now, Mr. Simpson has joined with RapidSOS as a paid adviser. "They have listened and learned."

An app is a bad idea, Mr. Simpson says, because it would be hard to ensure that the roughly 6,500 answering centers in the U.S.—many using different technologies—could receive the app's calls and other data. If it fails, who would be liable?

The FCC recently sought public comments on 911 apps after the National Association of State 911 Administrators

raised alarms about security features app makers offer to consumers that might not work.

Christy Williams, the head of 911 in the area surrounding Dallas, was one of the first to share her skepticism about apps with Mr. Martin. She'll never forget his answer: "We're a bunch of geeks who can make any technology happen and we can make what you need," she recalls.

Mr. Martin refocused RapidSOS on the database, which is now integrating with companies such as Motorola Solutions and Airbus DS Communications that make call-answering software used by 911 operators. Once activated, the 911 answering systems

will be able to ping the RapidSOS database for better location and other data, such as health information supplied by the user, after a cellphone call arrives.

The final hurdle is persuading handset makers like Apple Inc. and Alphabet Inc.'s Google to update their smartphones so that when someone dials 911 the device automatically populates the RapidSOS database with the caller's more precise location. Google and Apple declined to comment.

RapidSOS says the database will be free for 911. It hopes to make money by charging car makers or alarm-monitoring companies to integrate it so those devices could pass rich data to 911 if an emergency is detected.

RapidSOS isn't the only company working on 911 location technology. And wireless carriers hope their solution will be running by 2018. The carriers' plan is to log the location of Wi-Fi hot spots and other devices to augment GPS data.

In trials late last year in Texas, RapidSOS was able to deliver location information to the 911 center that was more accurate than what the wireless carriers delivered. In one case, RapidSOS targeted the caller within a few feet while the carrier data was off by about 1,000 yards, said Rodger Mann, the 911 mapping expert for the district.

"They're onto something here," said Steve Souder, who ran 911 in Fairfax County, Va., for years. "Anything is better than what we have now."

Biggest 1,000 Stocks | WSJ.com/stocks

How to Read the Stock Tables

The following explanations apply to NYSE, NYSE Arca, NYSE MKT and Nasdaq Stock Market listed securities. Prices are composite quotations that include primary market trades as well as trades reported by Nasdaq OMX BXSM (formerly Boston), Chicago Stock Exchange, CBOE, National Stock Exchange, ISE and BATS.

The list comprises the 1,000 largest companies based on market capitalization.

Underlined quotations are those stocks with large changes in volume compared with the issue's average trading volume.

Boldfaced quotations highlight those issues whose price changed by 5% or more if their previous closing price was \$2 or higher.

Footnotes:

¹New 52-week high.

²New 52-week low.

³Indicates loss in the most recent four quarters.

⁴First day of trading.

Wall Street Journal stock tables reflect composite regular trading as of 4 p.m. and changes in the closing prices from 4 p.m. the previous day.

MARKETS DIGEST

EQUITIES

Dow Jones Industrial Average

20940.51 ▼40.82, or 0.19%
 High, low, open and close for each trading day of the past three months.

Trailing P/E ratio 20.50 18.77
 P/E estimate * 17.83 16.93
 Dividend yield 2.33 2.56
 All-time high 21115.55, 03/01/17

Current divisor 0.14602128057775

21500
 21000
 20500
 Session high
 DOWN UP Close
 Session open ► Open
 Close ► Open 19500
 19000
 65-day moving average
 Bars measure the point change from session's open

18500
 Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr.

Weekly P/E data based on as-reported earnings from Birinyi Associates Inc.

S&P 500 Index

2384.20 ▼4.57, or 0.19%
 High, low, open and close for each trading day of the past three months.

Trailing P/E ratio 24.17 24.12
 P/E estimate * 18.42 17.65
 Dividend yield 1.97 2.19
 All-time high 2395.96, 03/01/17

2390
 2350
 2310
 2270
 2230
 2190
 2150
 65-day moving average

Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr.

Nasdaq Composite Index

6047.61 ▼1.33, or 0.02%
 High, low, open and close for each trading day of the past three months.

Trailing P/E ratio *26.04 21.86
 P/E estimate * 20.75 17.95
 Dividend yield 1.09 1.29
 All-time high: 6048.94, 04/27/17

6070
 5950
 5830
 5710
 5590
 5470
 5350
 65-day moving average

Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr.

Major U.S. Stock-Market Indexes

| | High | Low | Latest Close | Net chg | % chg | High | 52-Week Low | % chg | YTD % chg | 3-yr. ann. |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Dow Jones | | | | | | | | | | |
| Industrial Average | 20987.76 | 20926.75 | 20940.51 | -40.82 | -0.19 | 21115.55 | 17140.24 | 17.8 | 6.0 | 8.4 |
| Transportation Avg | 9211.24 | 9077.34 | 9097.63 | -96.36 | -1.05 | 9593.95 | 7093.40 | 15.6 | 0.6 | 6.3 |
| Utility Average | 707.99 | 702.18 | 704.35 | -3.23 | -0.46 | 720.45 | 625.44 | 7.6 | 6.8 | 8.3 |
| Total Stock Market | 24862.97 | 24722.98 | 24737.28 | -80.58 | -0.32 | 24868.78 | 20583.16 | 16.2 | 6.3 | 8.2 |
| Barron's 400 | 644.42 | 638.58 | 638.76 | -5.06 | -0.79 | 643.82 | 491.89 | 22.7 | 6.2 | 8.0 |
| Nasdaq Stock Market | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nasdaq Composite | 6074.04 | 6040.71 | 6047.61 | -1.33 | -0.02 | 6048.94 | 4594.44 | 26.6 | 12.3 | 14.1 |
| Nasdaq 100 | 5600.00 | 5575.21 | 5583.53 | 12.25 | 0.22 | 5583.53 | 4201.05 | 28.6 | 14.8 | 16.3 |
| Standard & Poor's | | | | | | | | | | |
| 500 Index | 2393.68 | 2382.36 | 2384.20 | -4.57 | -0.19 | 2395.96 | 2000.54 | 15.4 | 6.5 | 8.4 |
| MidCap 400 | 1751.66 | 1732.10 | 1732.76 | -16.65 | -0.95 | 1758.27 | 1416.66 | 18.5 | 4.3 | 8.9 |
| SmallCap 600 | 862.92 | 850.94 | 851.36 | -10.48 | -1.22 | 863.08 | 670.90 | 22.6 | 1.6 | 9.6 |
| Other Indexes | | | | | | | | | | |
| Russell 2000 | 1419.21 | 1399.75 | 1400.43 | -16.70 | -1.18 | 1419.43 | 1089.65 | 23.8 | 3.2 | 7.8 |
| NYSE Composite | 11579.31 | 11531.89 | 11536.07 | -42.44 | -0.37 | 11661.22 | 9973.54 | 10.5 | 4.3 | 3.1 |
| Value Line | 528.21 | 523.94 | 524.05 | -3.85 | -0.73 | 529.13 | 435.06 | 13.8 | 3.5 | 2.9 |
| NYSE Arca Biotech | 3642.09 | 3599.64 | 3636.28 | 18.49 | 0.51 | 3642.30 | 2818.70 | 17.9 | 18.3 | 14.5 |
| NYSE Arca Pharma | 512.74 | 510.40 | 511.98 | -0.18 | -0.04 | 554.66 | 463.78 | 0.5 | 6.3 | -0.03 |
| KBW Bank | 92.48 | 91.21 | 91.24 | -0.98 | -1.06 | 99.33 | 60.27 | 32.1 | -0.6 | 10.4 |
| PHLX® Gold/Silver | 83.35 | 81.06 | 83.10 | 2.03 | 2.50 | 112.86 | 73.03 | -10.5 | 5.4 | -3.1 |
| PHLX® Oil Service | 155.96 | 153.37 | 153.42 | -0.65 | -0.42 | 192.66 | 148.37 | -14.9 | -16.5 | -19.4 |
| PHLX® Semiconductor | 1019.11 | 1002.89 | 1005.53 | -17.77 | -1.74 | 1023.29 | 630.77 | 55.8 | 10.9 | 20.9 |
| CBOE Volatility | 11.16 | 10.29 | 10.82 | 0.46 | 4.44 | 25.76 | 10.36 | -31.1 | -22.9 | -8.2 |

\$Philadelphia Stock Exchange

Sources: SIX Financial Information; WSJ Market Data Group

Late Trading

Most-active and biggest movers among NYSE, NYSE Arca, NYSE Mkt and Nasdaq issues from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. ET as reported by electronic trading services, securities dealers and regional exchanges. Minimum share price of \$2 and minimum after-hours volume of 5,000 shares.

Most-active issues in late trading

| Company | Symbol | Volume (000) | Last | Net chg | % chg | After Hours | High | Low |
|----------------------------|--------|--------------|--------|---------|-------|-------------|--------|-----|
| SPDR S&P 500 | SPY | 13,010.2 | 237.95 | -0.13 | -0.05 | 238.59 | 237.83 | |
| iPath S&P 500 VIX ST Fut | VXX | 4,749.5 | 15.04 | 0.03 | 0.20 | 15.07 | 14.98 | |
| PwrShrs QQQ Tr Series 1 | QQQ | 4,699.9 | 135.96 | -0.03 | -0.02 | 136.07 | 135.69 | |
| iShares Russell 2000 ETF | IWM | 4,676.7 | 139.08 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 140.87 | 138.21 | |
| Van Eck Vectors Gold Miner | GDX | 4,591.5 | 22.25 | 0.02 | 0.09 | 22.35 | 22.23 | |
| iShares MSCI EAFE ETF | EFA | 3,361.7 | 63.80 | ... | unch. | 63.81 | 63.75 | |
| First Select Sector SPDR | XLF | 2,950.7 | 23.51 | -0.02 | -0.08 | 23.77 | 23.51 | |
| iSh Core US Aggregate Bd | AGG | 2,658.2 | 109.25 | ... | unch. | 109.29 | 109.22 | |

Percentage gainers...

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| Patriot National | PN | 19.7 | 3.73 | 0.84 | 29.07 | 3.75 | 2.89 |
| Eclipse Resources | ECR | 5.3 | 2.16 | 0.15 | 7.46 | 2.16 | 2.01 |
| Jumel International ADR | JMEI | 13.0 | 3.48 | 0.17 | 5.14 | 3.49 | 3.30 |
| AXT | AXTI | 6.1 | 7.00 | 0.25 | 3.70 | 7.00 | 6.75 |
| Tonix Pharmaceuticals | TNXP | 27.9 | 4.30 | 0.12 | 2.87 | 4.38 | 4.20 |
| Hortonworks | HDP | 7.4 | 8.25 | -2.16 | -20.75 | 10.98 | 8.25 |
| Trinseco S.A. | TSE | 5.5 | 58.51 | -7.90 | -11.89 | 66.40 | 58.51 |
| First NBC Bank Holding | FNBC | 7.1 | 2.50 | -0.15 | -5.66 | 2.65 | 2.50 |
| Genworth Financial A | GNW | 647.3 | 3.88 | -0.16 | -3.96 | 4.05 | 3.88 |
| Schwab U.S. LgCp Value | SCHV | 19.0 | 48.55 | -1.13 | -2.27 | 49.68 | 48.55 |

...And losers

Hortonworks

Trinseco S.A.

First NBC Bank Holding

Genworth Financial A

Schwab U.S. LgCp Value

Primary market NYSE, NYSE Mkt, NYSE Arca only. ^{}(TRIN) A comparison of the number of advancing and declining issues with the volume of shares rising and falling. An Arms of less than 1 indicates buying demand; above 1 indicates selling pressure.

Trading Diary

Volume, Advancers, Decliners

NYSE NYSE Mkt

Total volume *1,020,717,499 16,657,797

Adv. volume * 337,275,626 8,418,555

Decl. volume * 649,364,868 7,915,175

Issues traded 3,099 341

Advances 1,152 157

Declines 1,834 158

</

WEEKEND INVESTOR

TAX REPORT | By Laura Saunders

How Trump Wants to Change Your Deductions



Expect big changes to your deductions if Congress adopts President

Donald Trump's tax changes. The proposals released Wednesday explicitly call for doubling the standard deduction and protecting write-offs for homeownership and charitable gifts.

The standard deduction is a fixed amount taxpayers can subtract from income if they don't itemize write-offs for mortgage interest, donations to charity, state and local taxes and other items on Schedule A. This benefit dates to 1944, when Congress wanted to simplify filing as it broadened the income tax from a "class tax" to a "mass tax" to help finance World War II, said Joseph Thorndike, a historian with Tax Analysts.

INVEST

Continued from page B1
eternal, and each of us thinks we're better than the other investors out there.

There is another reason so many investors believe in magic: We can't handle the truth.

The efficient-market hypothesis holds that stock prices fully reflect all the relevant information that is available. What if, instead, investors are so efficient at avoiding some information that it might as well not even exist? Psychologists call this behavior "information avoidance." You could also call it intentional ignorance.

"It's a motivated decision to say 'no' to learning available but unwanted information," says Jennifer Howell, a psychologist at Ohio University.

Currently, the standard deduction is \$6,350 for single taxpayers and \$12,700 for married joint filers. About 70% of tax returns opt to use it instead of itemizing.

Mr. Trump wants to double the standard deduction, raising it to \$12,700 for singles and \$25,400 for married joint filers. According to an estimate by the Tax Policy Center, this change could reduce the percentage of itemizers from 30% to as little as 5%.

Such an increase could cut taxes and simplify filing for many people. It would also take pressure off the overburdened Internal Revenue Service, because the agency wouldn't have as many deductions to police.

While the full implications of Mr. Trump's proposals won't be clear until crucial details are revealed,

the changes could create winners and losers.

Last year, both Mr. Trump and House Republicans issued tax plans with large increases in the standard deduction. To make this feasible, they proposed re-

3

The number of tax brackets the White House calls for

scinding the personal exemption, which is a break of \$4,050 per person for taxpayers and their dependents.

The current proposals don't address this issue, but the loss of this valuable break could hurt large families, unless other benefits are broadened.

Another maneuver in Mr. Trump's 2016 plan would have rescinded a special tax status for single parents. This change, together with others he proposed, would have caused many single parents to owe more despite a larger standard deduction, according to Roberton Williams of the Tax Policy Center.

For example, Mr. Williams said, a single parent earning \$100,000 would owe about \$1,400 more under Mr. Trump's 2016 plan than under current law unless changes are made.

Mr. Trump's recent proposals, which include his promise to protect deductions for mortgage interest and charitable donations, suggests that other write-offs on Schedule A are in jeopardy. Currently, these include breaks for medical expenses; state and local taxes

paid; investment interest; casualty and theft losses; gambling losses, and certain employee expenses, among others.

The deduction for state and local taxes is especially at risk given the Republican majority in Congress. Its benefits go mostly to taxpayers in states where Democrats hold sway, such as California, New York and New Jersey.

This deduction also costs the government a great deal of revenue. Taxpayers using it this year will save more than \$100 billion, according to the congressional Joint Committee on Taxation. That is more than the mortgage-interest deduction.

Should this deduction be repealed, the pain would be spread unevenly due to another quirk in the law: taxpayers subject to the Alternative Minimum Tax already

lose all or part of their state and local tax deductions.

The Alternative Minimum Tax was first imposed nearly 50 years ago to keep the wealthy from overusing tax breaks. Based on the tax's current construction, taxpayers who earn about \$200,000 to \$1 million a year wouldn't feel the loss of their state and local tax deductions as much as middle-class taxpayers or very high earners, Mr. Williams said.

There is yet another way deductions could take a hit if Mr. Trump's proposals are adopted.

The White House release calls for three tax brackets—10%, 25% and 35%—instead of seven. While that could bring a welcome drop in tax rates for many, it would also lower the value of write-offs, because the savings from deductions are proportional to the tax rate.

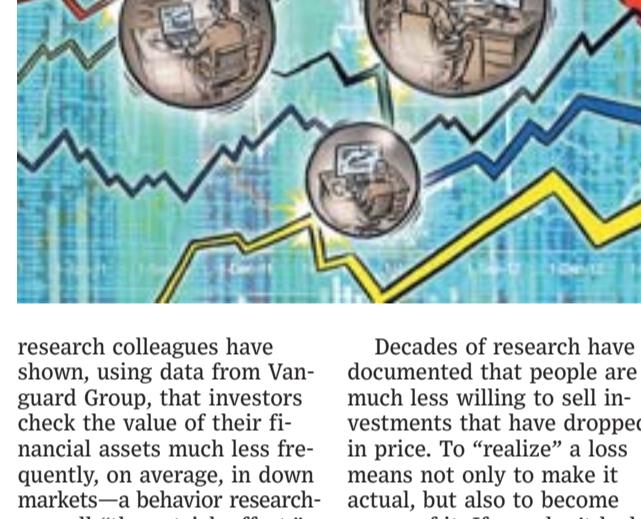


ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPHE VORLET

research colleagues have shown, using data from Vanguard Group, that investors check the value of their financial assets much less frequently, on average, in down markets—a behavior researchers call "the ostrich effect."

Decades of research have documented that people are much less willing to sell investments that have dropped in price. To "realize" a loss means not only to make it actual, but also to become aware of it. If you don't lock

past results and, if they differ, by how much and why?

A survey in March and April of nearly 2,000 economists, security analysts and corporate executives found that in 30 out of 41 countries, including the U.S., these experts are calling for stocks to outperform bonds by a wider margin than they did when last surveyed in 2015.

While not impossible, anyone calling for even higher returns after years of robust gains in stock markets around the world needs to look for loopholes in his or her logic.

Finally ask: What conditions or circumstances would it take for me to be proven wrong? If your answer is "none" or "that's impossible," you have a severe case of information avoidance. The only cure for that might be the shock of losses that come at you like a bolt from the blue.

Futures Contracts

Metal & Petroleum Futures

Contract Open High hi lo Low Settle Chg Interest

Copper-High (CMX)-25,000 lbs.; \$ per lb.

May 2,583.5 2,601.5 2,577.5 **2,596.5** 0.0165 7,409

July 2,596.0 2,616.0 2,587.5 **2,607.5** 0.0145 128,880

Gold (CMX)-100 troy oz.; \$ per troy oz.

May 1265.90 1267.20 1264.70 **1266.10** 2.40 479

June 1265.20 1269.90 1264.20 **1268.30** 2.40 336,256

Aug 1268.70 1273.00 1268.00 **1271.70** 2.40 52,690

Oct 1271.60 1276.10 1271.50 **1275.00** 2.40 7,780

Dec 1275.20 1279.70 1274.50 **1287.30** 2.40 52,935

Feb '18 1279.50 1282.90 1279.50 **1281.70** 2.40 7,793

Palladium (NYM)-50 troy oz.; \$ per troy oz.

May 812.80 812.80 826.55 13.70 1

June 813.50 830.35 ▲ 813.05 826.70 13.70 31,663

Sept 814.25 829.25 ▲ 813.85 826.45 13.60 3,664

Dec 823.50 823.50 823.50 826.60 13.60 155

Platinum (NYM)-50 troy oz.; \$ per troy oz.

May 949.80 949.80 947.50 **946.30** -0.10 46

July 946.10 955.30 945.30 **948.70** -0.10 60,351

Silver (CMX)-5,000 troy oz.; \$ per troy oz.

May 17,225 17,375 17,130 **17,191** -0.074 3,360

July 17,280 17,445 17,185 **17,262** -0.072 156,597

Crude Oil, Light Sweet (NYM)-1,000 bbls.; \$ per bbl.

June 49.27 49.76 48.80 **49.33** 0.36 591,781

July 49.59 50.09 49.12 **49.62** 0.31 258,980

Aug 49.91 50.33 49.37 **49.85** 0.29 114,127

Sept 50.04 50.56 49.64 **50.08** 0.28 192,785

Dec 50.42 51.06 50.16 **50.59** 0.27 282,527

Dec '18 50.34 50.76 50.10 **50.36** 0.20 134,347

NY Harbor ULSD (NYM)-42,000 gal.; \$ per gal.

May 1,516.2 1,521.5 1,4924 **1,5040** -0.0032 5,596

June 1,516.3 1,528.2 1,4972 **1,5072** -0.0044 130,223

Gasoline-NY RBOB (NYM)-42,000 gal.; \$ per gal.

May 1,555.2 1,583.1 ▼ 1,538.2 **1,548.0** -0.0020 5,198

June 1,559.7 1,587.9 ▼ 1,538.6 **1,548.1** -0.0062 138,253

Natural Gas (NYM)-10,000 MMBtu.; \$ per MMBtu.

June 3,240 3,298 3,229 **3,276** .037 269,621

July 3,324 3,374 3,310 **3,353** .033 211,173

Sept 3,351 3,382 3,327 **3,364** .026 125,047

Oct 3,367 3,397 3,344 **3,379** .025 158,108

Jan/18 3,625 3,645 3,600 **3,630** .019 101,546

April 2,962 2,979 2,958 **2,971** .005 92,775

Agriculture Futures

Corn (CBT)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.

May 360.00 361.25 355.50 **358.00** -4.00 23,943

July 367.75 369.00 363.50 **366.50** -2.75 741,373

Oats (CBT)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.

May 222.75 239.00 222.75 **237.50** 14.50 102

July 223.00 230.00 220.50 **228.00** 5.50 4,810

Soybeans (CBT)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.

May 945.00 947.00 941.50 **945.25** -50 12,535

July 956.50 958.50 952.50 **956.25** -1.00 369,569

Soybean Meal (CBT)-100 tons.; \$ per ton.

May 310.00 312.40 309.30 **311.70** 1.20 6,278

July 314.00 316.70 313.50 **315.80** 1.00 207,773

Soybean Oil (CBT)-60,000 lbs.; cents per lb.

May 31.73 31.85 31.36 **31.45** -25 4,005

July 32.04 32.18 31.62 **31.71** -25 229,984

Rough Rice (CBT)-2,000 cwt.; \$ per cwt.

May 913.00 918.50 ▼ 913.00 **913.00** -50 587

July 946.00 950.00 ▼ 936.00 **942.00** -1.00 9,854

Wheat (CBT)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.

May 413.00 418.50 413.00 **418.50** 5.00 4,138

July 430.50 434.50 429.50 **432.50** 1.00 310,329

Wheat (KC)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.

May 420.50 425.00 420.50 **424.75** 4.00 2,136

July 433.00 439.50 433.00 **437.2**

FINANCE & MARKETS

Currency Markets Get Jolts Under Trump

Largest political effect on volumes came as Germany was accused of manipulating euro

By JON SINDREU

Among the many pronouncements from the Trump administration's first 100 days, none seems to have shaken foreign-exchange markets more than one that sparked fear of a currency war.

According to new figures by CLS Bank International, the world's largest foreign-exchange-services company, the biggest politically related impact on currency volumes in

this period was on Jan. 31, when President Donald Trump's trade adviser, Peter Navarro, accused Germany of using a "grossly undervalued" euro to "exploit" trading partners.

Adding all the hours of that day, trading volumes transacted by CLS deviated by \$215 billion from the 2016 average.

This was a much larger deviation than any other day marked by CLS as a key political date. It was mostly due to a sharp rise in volumes right after Mr. Navarro's statement was made public. Taking the day as a whole, volumes were 38% higher than average. The dollar fell 0.9% against the euro—the most traded currency pair.

CLS settles the majority of currency transactions in the world, according to figures by the Bank for International Settlements.

The next-largest blip came on April 7, when the U.S. military launched a direct missile strike on a Syrian air base, and volumes deviated a cumulative \$150 billion.

By contrast, the reactions were much more muted around health-care and tax-overhaul announcements, or even when Mr. Trump actively tried to talk down the dollar on April 12. In all of these cases, the deviations were smoothed across the whole day.

Mr. Trump has on many occasions accused other coun-

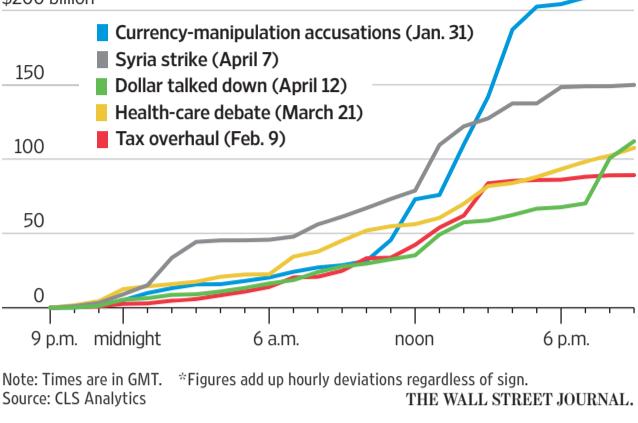
tries, chiefly China, of keeping their foreign-exchange rates artificially low, damaging U.S. industry.

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal earlier this month, however, he said his administration won't label China a currency manipulator. The U.S. president continued to strike a much friendlier tone with China in recent weeks, seeking to find common ground amid the military threat posed by North Korea.

This means that, even as concerns about a potential government shutdown keep rising, currency traders might have much less work going forward if the prospect of a currency war fades.

How Fears of a Currency War Rattled Markets

How much currency-trading volumes cumulatively deviated* from their 2016 hourly averages during each trading day.



Note: Times are in GMT. *Figures add up hourly deviations regardless of sign.
Source: CLS Analytics

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

At Poker Tournament: Politics, Drinks, Recriminations

By GREGORY ZUCKERMAN

As David Magerman counted down to April 20, a confrontation with Rebekah Mercer wasn't on his mind.

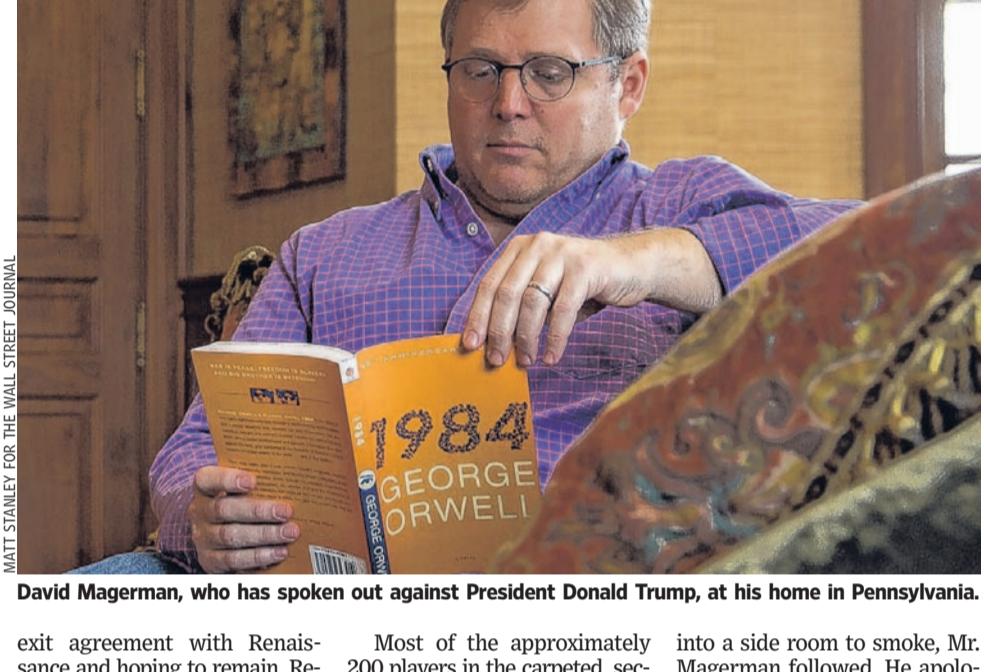
The Renaissance Technologies Corp. executive was anticipating the annual hedge-fund poker tournament that evening at New York's St. Regis hotel benefiting Math for America, which supports math and science teachers. The event serves as an annual showdown among investors who rely on computer models and are known as quants, professional poker players and others.

He knew James Simons, Math for America's founder and chairman of Renaissance, the Long Island hedge fund where Mr. Magerman worked, would be there, as would other Renaissance executives, including Robert Mercer, the firm's co-chief executive officer.

It would be the first time Mr. Magerman would see many people in the industry since his decision in late February to criticize the role Mr. Mercer and his daughter Rebekah played helping Donald Trump's presidential campaign. Subsequent to speaking with The Wall Street Journal about his views, the 48-year-old executive was suspended from Renaissance without pay in the fallout from the high-profile disagreement.

Mr. Magerman remains suspended, but he chose to attend the poker event. Mr. Magerman and others at the event recently described what transpired to The Wall Street Journal.

For weeks, Mr. Magerman vacillated between desiring an



David Magerman, who has spoken out against President Donald Trump, at his home in Pennsylvania.

exit agreement with Renaissance and hoping to remain. Recently, he and the firm had decided they could work together again, he said. Mr. Magerman viewed the poker evening as an opportunity to repair the frayed relationship.

"I was anxious," he said. "But I wanted to reintroduce myself and be part of the culture again, to show I was making an effort."

Driving three hours from his home outside Philadelphia, Mr. Magerman reached the St. Regis and pledged \$5,000 to enter the tournament. Just after 7 p.m., he began playing No Limit Hold 'Em at a table with about seven others, including Mr. Simons and Dan Harrington, a member of the Poker Hall of Fame.

Most of the approximately 200 players in the carpeted, second-floor ballroom wore suits or sports jackets, contrasting with Mr. Magerman's jeans and open-collar dress shirt. He

You're pond scum... You've been pond scum for 25 years; I've always known it.'

stopped by Mr. Mercer's table, complimenting him on his suit, a friendly exchange that buoyed Mr. Magerman.

When Mr. Simons ducked

into a side room to smoke, Mr. Magerman followed. He apologized to Mr. Simons for the negative attention thrust on the firm after his criticism of the Mercers. "I'm sorry how things played out," he said he told Mr. Simons. "I respect you and want you to know that."

Mr. Mercer, Mr. Simons and Renaissance declined to comment for this article.

Back at his table, Mr. Magerman lost some early hands but remained in good spirits, pledging an additional \$15,000 for buy-ins to continue playing.

A few tables away, Mr. Mercer was playing against investors and others, including sports-finance executive Chris English. Mr. Mercer won several

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CAREERS

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21 F12 Blk/Bge 3k.....

Sold Here New

22 F12 Blk/Bge 1k.....

Sold Here New

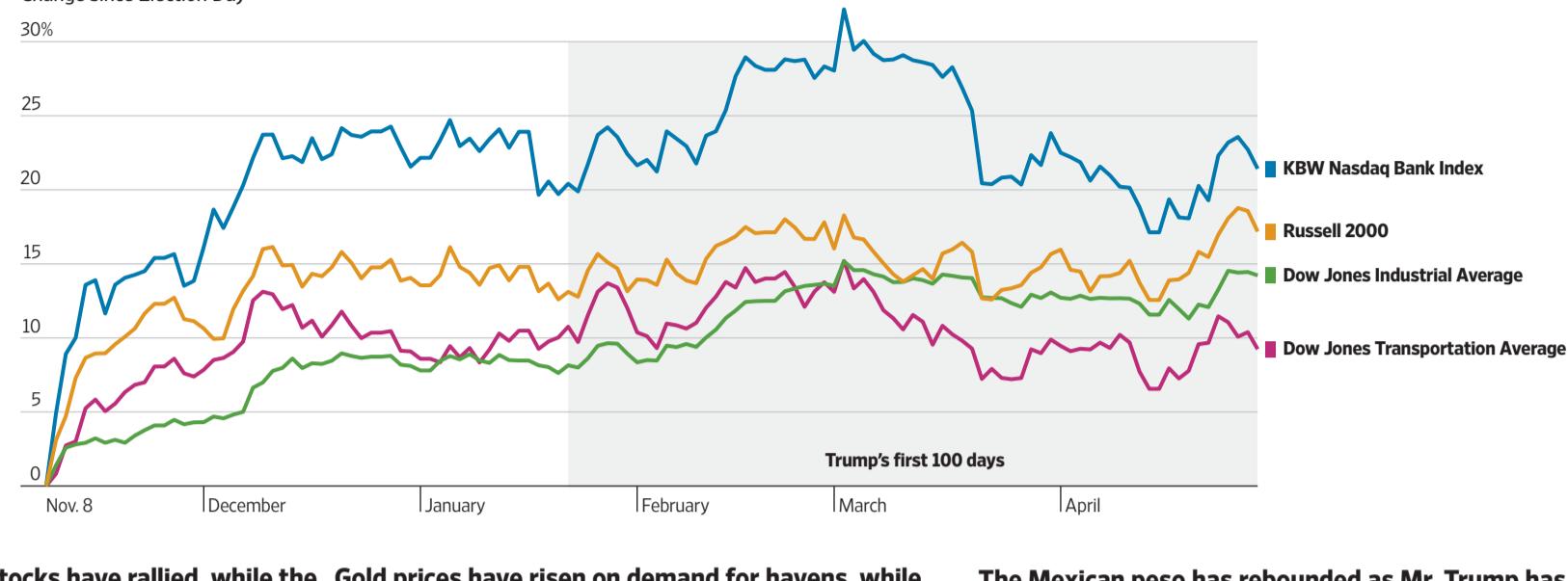
23 F12 Blk/Bge 1k.....

MARKETS

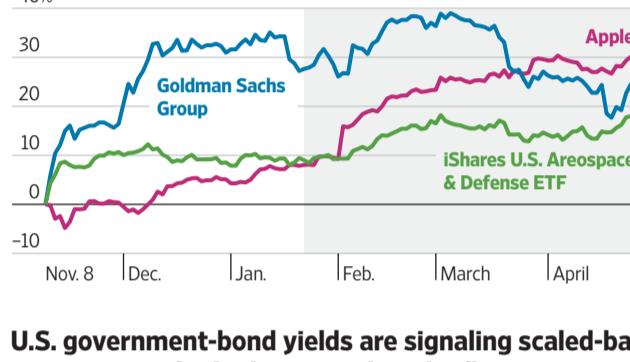
TRUMP'S FIRST 100 DAYS

Great Expectations

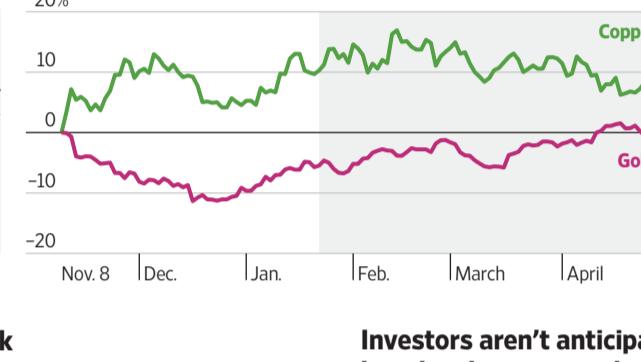
The election of President Donald Trump ushered in a wave of bets on stronger U.S. economic growth, but some of the moves have moderated.



Defense and technology stocks have rallied, while the bank sector has given back some postelection gains.



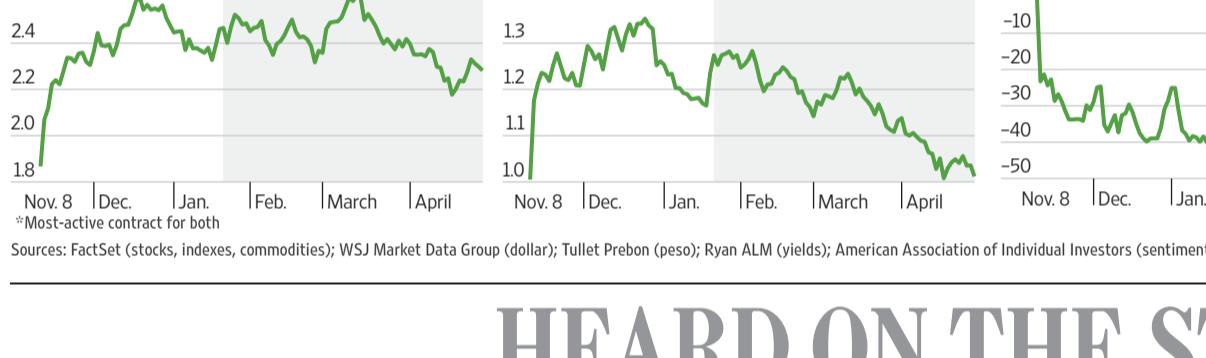
Gold prices have risen on demand for havens, while fading hopes for an infrastructure build-out hit copper.



The Mexican peso has rebounded as Mr. Trump has softened some of his protectionist stances.



U.S. government-bond yields are signaling scaled-back expectations for higher growth and inflation.



Investors aren't anticipating big swings in stocks, but they have grown less bullish in recent weeks.



Sources: FactSet (stocks, indexes, commodities); WSJ Market Data Group (dollar); Tullet Prebon (peso); Ryan ALM (yields); American Association of Individual Investors (sentiment)

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Economy Needs Consumers to Shop Again

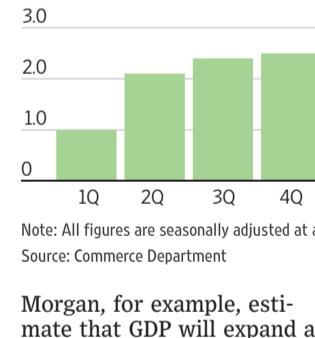
First-quarter slowdowns have become such a regular feature of the U.S. economy that investors will be tempted to brush off this last one. They shouldn't.

Friday's gross-domestic-product report didn't look good. The Commerce Department reported that the economy grew at a 0.7% annual rate in the first quarter, marking its weakest showing in three years. It probably isn't the kind of report President Donald Trump wanted to see as he rounds out his first 100 days in office.

Over the past eight years, the economy has grown at an average rate of 1% in the first quarter, while growing at a 2.3% rate over the remaining three quarters. Much of the blame for this quirk has been placed on difficulties the Commerce Department has faced adjusting the GDP figures for seasonal swings in an evolving economy. So it is natural to think growth will pick up, and that is what forecasters are banking on. Economists at J.P.

Spent Up

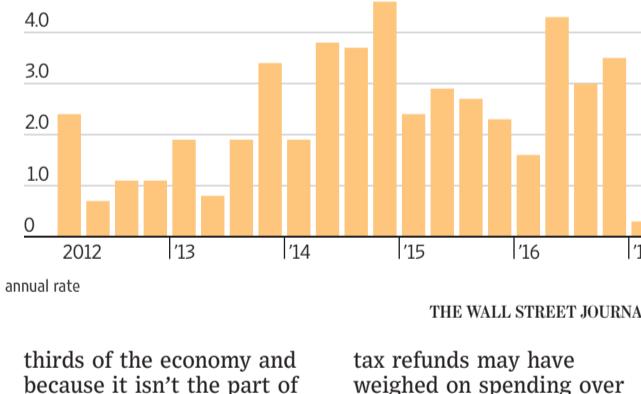
Average change in gross domestic product over the past eight years



Note: All figures are seasonally adjusted at an annual rate

Source: Commerce Department

Consumer spending, change from the previous quarter



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

leery of extending credit for auto purchases and other consumer items, while the number of consumers falling behind on payments has started to rise. And the many Americans who are pessimistic about Mr. Trump's policies may rein in spending more than the optimists increase their purchases.

So it may be up to businesses to take the baton. They started to in the first quarter, investing more on new equipment and expansion efforts and maybe lifting salaries. But there is the question of whether they will keep doing that if consumer spending is looking tepid. And while Mr. Trump and Congress might be able to craft a tax-cut and spending package to push things into higher gear, businesses will probably wait until they see it.

The coming week's jobs report will be the first significant piece of hard data for the second quarter. Investors need to watch closely.

—Justin Lahart

'Big Oil' Is Getting Less Bold

"Big Oil," the moniker attached to the giant, multinational energy companies, is slightly less apt than it was a year ago even as the industry's financial fortunes have improved.

Exxon Mobil and Chevron reported first-quarter earnings on Friday that, collectively, were \$5.6 billion, or 416%, higher than a year earlier, driven by a big rise in crude prices. But they were both less oily and less international than in the past.

Crude output fell at both companies, reflecting a major retrenchment in capital expenditures and a greater reliance on natural gas. Overall hydrocarbon production was down for Exxon and roughly flat for Chevron, but both companies only saw growth domestically, largely from shale formations.

The change reflects a shift in strategy. While neither company has abandoned mammoth, technically challenging international projects, unconventional U.S. production is attracting more of their money even as overall spending has plunged.

The key attraction of doing this is the much lower exploration, political and financial risk since there are no dry holes, a capricious government won't nationalize fields and the investment spigot can be turned off if commodity prices tumble. The downside is that much smaller companies can do the same thing.

For now, the news is good for both Exxon and Chevron. They are finally generating enough cash to rebuild their weakened balance sheets and to perhaps resume their once-prodigious share buybacks. In the longer run, though, big oil's resemblance to small shale may mean skimpier returns across the next cycle.

—Spencer Jakab

Qualcomm Gets Pelted by Apple's Move

For two companies in the phone business, Qualcomm and Apple didn't communicate very well.

A week ago, Qualcomm left out of its fiscal third-quarter forecast the possibility that Apple, a huge customer, would withhold more royalty payments while the two were battling in court.

On Friday, Qualcomm said it was later informed by Apple that it effectively would withhold the payments by not paying its manufacturers for Qualcomm's royalties.

This adds up to a 22% reduction in earnings per share for the June quarter. Qualcomm's main challenge now will be convincing investors there is nowhere to go but up.

Apple has a strong interest in lowering its costs and protecting its high iPhone margins. And its financial contribution to Qualcomm is substantial—giving it a lot of near-term leverage to bring to bear.

Note that Qualcomm reduced its June quarter revenue forecast by \$500 million, which would be based on Apple devices sold during the March quarter. IDC estimates that Apple sold 51.6 million iPhones during the period. That works out to a bit under \$10 per iPhone.

It also indicates Apple is responsible for a little over one-quarter of Qualcomm's entire royalty business, which in turn accounts for the vast majority of the com-

pany's operating profit. The midpoint of Qualcomm's adjusted per-share earnings forecast for the June quarter came down by 22% versus a 9% reduction in its revenue outlook. Stacy Rasgon of Bernstein estimates Apple accounts for more than \$1 of Qualcomm's annual per-share earnings. Last year Qualcomm made \$4.44 in adjusted earnings per share.

The gamble now is that things can't get worse. But these cases are highly unpredictable, and can take years to resolve. And the timing on Qualcomm completing its merger with NXP is also uncertain. Apple has shown it can bite down hard. Qualcomm will need to show it can bite back.

—Dan Gallagher

OVERHEARD

In the hometown of Android, a man wanted to show that humans are still top of the heap. He appears to have failed.

Encountering a 300-pound crime-fighting robot called K5 in a parking lot in the Silicon Valley town of Mountain View, Calif., home to Google's Android operating system, the inebriated 41-year-old knocked it down and was later arrested by police. The robot escaped with scratches and is back on the job.

Was it the alcohol that led the alleged assailant to topple the harmless, spinning, whistling machine made by Knight-scope? Even if he didn't have a clue about the proximity sensors, he must have known that it was taking video.

Perhaps he did and was just angry at the company for an earlier incident, when one of the company's robots, an earlier model, ran over a toddler's foot at a shopping mall.

He may just have been worried about his job. Robots could take over 38% of U.S. jobs by the 2030s, according to a study by consulting firm PwC.

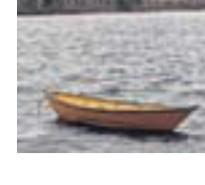
One of the industries most at risk is food service, and the incident occurred near a branch of Taco Bell. Or he may have been a truck driver—among the professions that will be the first to lose their jobs to our future robot overlords, according to PwC. Yet another possibility is that he is a former security guard.

Could Becky Hammon become the first female head coach in the NBA?



C11

REVIEW



To mark a big Thoreau birthday, books on his love of water and trees

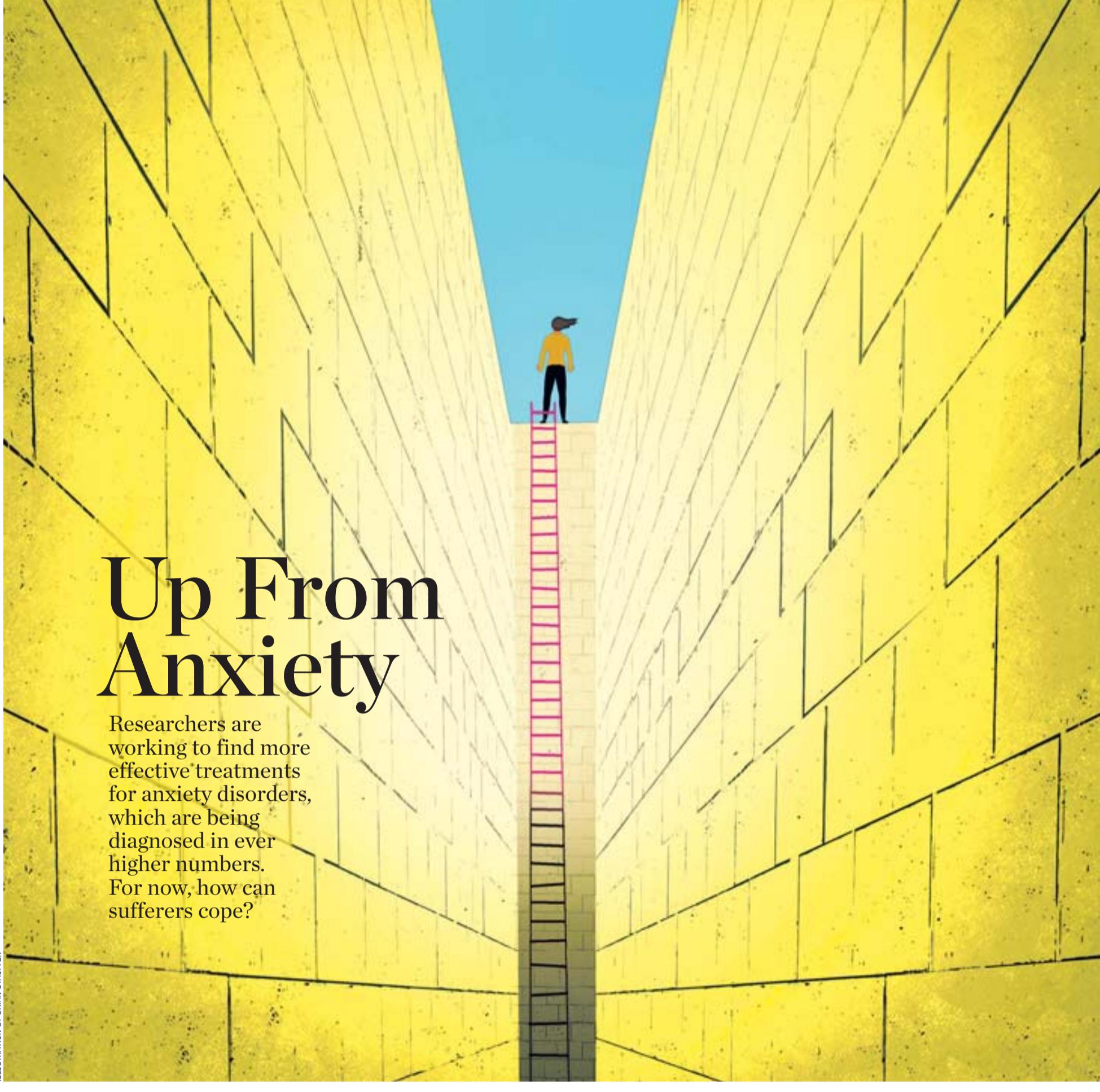
C5

BOOKS | CULTURE | SCIENCE | COMMERCE | HUMOR | POLITICS | LANGUAGE | TECHNOLOGY | ART | IDEAS

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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Up From Anxiety

Researchers are working to find more effective treatments for anxiety disorders, which are being diagnosed in ever higher numbers. For now, how can sufferers cope?

BY ANDREA PETERSEN

EAR AMBUSHED ME.

It was early on a December morning in 1989. I was a sophomore at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, staring at a wall covered in long sheets of printer paper and trying to figure out which of the listed classes to take for the coming semester.

I felt fine. I was groggy from a late night of studying and touched by a bit of that Midwestern late-fall dread, anticipating another long winter of bundling up against the fierce wind and cold. But I was OK.

And then, a second later, I wasn't. A knot of fear erupted at the base of my spine and traveled upward. My stomach flipped, and I broke out in a thin film of sweat. My heart rate shot up; I felt the erratic *thump thump* banging against my ears, my stomach, my eyes. My breathing turned shallow and fast. Fuzzy gray blotches appeared before my eyes. The letters before me warped, words dipped and buckled.

The onset was as sudden as a car crash. Something in my body or brain had gone dramatically and irrevocably wrong. My noisy internal monologue—usually flitting from school to boys to a

laundry list of insecurities—coalesced around one certain refrain: *I'm dying. I'm dying. I'm dying.*

I didn't know it at the time, but I was suffering from severe anxiety, a medical condition recognized by doctors going as far back as the ancient Greeks. Today, 11 different anxiety disorders are listed in the "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders," the bible for mental-health professionals, and they are being diagnosed in rising numbers.

Unfortunately, even as we have learned more

If you met me now, you probably wouldn't notice my anxiety. But it has been a struggle.

about the varieties of anxiety in recent decades, the underlying causes of the disorder have remained poorly understood. But that is changing. Scientists have started to unravel some of the mysteries of the anxious brain, and their discoveries may soon lead to new and better treatments.

In my own case, the racing heart, the shallow breathing and the terror didn't abate. For a month or so, I barely moved from the living room sofa at

my parents' house, about 90 minutes from campus. I spent the days with my fingers pressed against my neck, feeling my pulse, counting the beats, reassuring myself that I was alive. I developed weird new symptoms: tingling in my face and feet, chest pain, constant vertigo. The world was flat and out of focus, as if I were wearing someone else's glasses. My thoughts careened toward worries about heart attack, stroke, insanity.

Over the next year, I saw more than a dozen doctors. I had several EKGs, countless blood tests, two echocardiograms, a CT scan and an MRI of my brain, and an EEG to check my brain's electrical activity. I took many trips to the emergency room.

This medical odyssey cost my parents thousands of dollars. Doctors suspected multiple sclerosis, a brain tumor, Epstein-Barr virus and chronic fatigue syndrome. I dropped most of my classes and barely left my room. At one point, I peered over the banister of a rooftop parking garage and thought of jumping. I went to a psychiatric emergency room and was sent home. I had six sessions of psychotherapy, in which I was asked whether I was angry with my father. I largely stopped eating.

Please turn to the next page

This essay is adapted from Ms. Petersen's new book, "On Edge: A Journey Through Anxiety," which will be published by Crown on May 16.

INSIDE



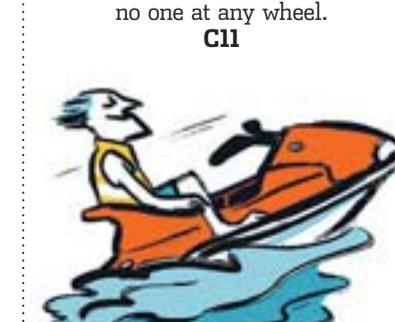
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The myth of 'Mommy Brain':
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ISTOCK (BOOKS, MIND & MATTER)

REVIEW



Continued from the prior page

And still no one knew what was wrong with me.

Fast-forward to the beginning of the next school year. I was sitting in a psychiatrist's office at the campus health center, telling the doctor that I wouldn't—I couldn't—leave until she did something to help me. She said that she could prescribe Prozac, an antidepressant, or she could refer me to the anxiety disorders program at the University of Michigan hospital. *Anxiety disorder*. It was the first time that anyone had said those words to me.

I eventually learned that I had symptoms of four different conditions. I was having panic attacks—sudden, intense periods of blinding terror, rapid breathing and chest pain—several times a day (diagnosis: panic disorder). The rest of the time I worried, living with the nervous expectation of imminent disaster (diagnosis: generalized anxiety disorder). I had developed a long list of particular fears, too: dentists, flying, driving on highways, taking medication, touching dirt, using a new tube of toothpaste and even licking envelopes (diagnosis: specific phobia). And my world was becoming smaller as more places became no-go zones: movie theaters, stadiums, lines (diagnosis: agoraphobia).

The number of Americans expected to have at least one anxiety disorder in the course of their lives is staggering: one in three, ages 13 or older, according to researchers at Harvard Medical School and Technische Universität Dresden. The number is even higher for women—about 40%. Each year, about 40 million American adults have an anxiety disorder, and that doesn't include the millions of garden-variety worriers and insomniacs whose anxiety, though not debilitating, leaches away joy and steals their peace of mind.

Rates of anxiety disorders, as well as depression, seem to be increasing among young people, particularly college students. According to a 2016 survey by the American College Health Association, 17% of students were diagnosed with or treated for anxiety problems during the previous year, and nearly 14% were diagnosed with or treated for depression. That is up from about 10% each for anxiety and depression in 2008.

A certain amount of anxiety is a good thing, motivating us to study for tests, prepare for presentations, save for retirement. Too much anxiety, however, can be incapacitating and expensive. Anxiety disorders cost the U.S. about \$63 billion a year, according to a 1999 study published in the *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*, the most recent estimate available. The tally includes doctor and hospital visits, psychiatric treatment, prescription drugs and the value of lost productivity at work. Anxiety can also lead to depression, substance abuse and even suicide. Anxious people who work have lower incomes. They are less likely to marry, and, if they do, more likely to divorce.

If you met me now, you probably wouldn't notice my anxiety. I have a career that I love. I'm happily married, with an adorable 8-year-old daughter. I have friends, laugh a lot, go to parties and bake pies. My affliction is often invisible.

But it has been a struggle. In tough years, I take medication and cycle through new therapies. In easy years, I still have to

My Escape From Anxiety

My therapist first had me create a "fear hierarchy," a list of things and situations I avoided because of anxiety. Standing in line at a coffee shop. (Lines made me feel trapped.) Taking a vitamin. (I was afraid it would make me sick.) Running up a flight of stairs. (I panicked when my heart rate went up.) As the weeks went by, I tackled each one. The idea was for me to actively face my fears by eliciting anxiety symptoms and gathering evidence that experiencing them wouldn't lead to whatever catastrophe I'd conjured up.

There is mounting evidence that mindfulness techniques, like meditation and yoga, are effective at easing anxiety symptoms, too. And new technologies are spawning treatments that aim to directly target the brain dysfunctions that underlie anxiety disorders.

One approach is called attention bias modification, or ABM. Researchers have discovered that many anxious people have what is known as an attention bias to threat: They simply see more peril in the world. In studies, they respond more quickly to threatening stimuli like angry faces, even when the images are flashed too quickly for them to be consciously processed. ABM treatment often uses a simple (actually quite boring) computer task to try to normalize this attention bias—for instance, getting subjects to pay more attention to images of faces with neutral expressions than to those with threatening ones.

Scientists are also experimenting with transcranial magnetic stimulation, or TMS, a noninvasive treatment using a device that is placed over the scalp and generates a magnetic field. TMS has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for treating migraines and treatment-resistant major depression, and it could help alleviate anxiety symptoms by activating parts of the brain that have been found to be sluggish in people with anxiety disorders.

Many with anxiety rely on medication as well. I finally turned to it in my late 20s, after a health scare: I was walking down Seventh Avenue in Manhattan when a chunk of my vision disappeared. My doctor reassured me that it was just an ocular migraine, a version of the headache in which funky visual changes are the primary symptom, but the episode triggered a swift slide into constant worry about my health—and everything else.

Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), like Prozac (fluoxetine), Paxil (paroxetine) and Zoloft (sertraline) are best known as antidepressants, but doctors also prescribe them for excessive anxiety. Reams of studies have shown them to be at least modestly effective in treating anxiety disorders.

My first SSRI made my skin crawl, so I tried a second. At first, I didn't feel much of anything. But slowly, over several weeks, some space seemed to open up in my brain. Instead of the worry occupying, say, 70% of my mind, it now seemed to take up 40%. And the volume of my anxiety was turned down a bit, too.

I'm lucky that I found a medication that worked for me. At least a third of people with anxiety disorders don't get much relief from the available drugs, and even when they do, the drugs can have undesirable side effects. A flurry of new research is trying to use brain scans and other tests to predict which patients will respond to which medications or therapy, but practical applications could be years away.

Though I've been on SSRIs for eight of the past 18 years, they have never cured my out-of-whack anxiety. Even on medication, I'll get the occasional panic attack. That's why I always keep another one, Klonopin, tucked in my handbag. Klonopin can melt my anxiety and many of its annoying accoutrements—racing heart, shallow breathing, twisted thoughts—in about 30 minutes. It can even derail a full-blown panic attack if I take enough. I don't take it often, but my life "before K" and "after K" is starkly delineated.

Klonopin (or the generic clonazepam) is a benzodiazepine, a class of drugs that also includes Valium and Xanax. The number of American adults who filled prescriptions for such drugs jumped 67% between 1996 and 2013, up from 8.1 million to 13.5 million people. But these drugs can cause a daunting list of side effects and can be addictive and abused. Combined with enough alcohol and other drugs, they can be lethal.

One promising drug is ketamine, most commonly used as an anesthetic but also known as the street drug Special K. It has been shown to relieve symptoms of depression within hours, and there have already been small positive trials with patients with post-traumatic stress disorder

and obsessive-compulsive disorder. A few scientists are even starting to look at MDMA, better known as Ecstasy, as a way to augment treatment.

As I've looked more deeply into the research about my condition and the treatments for it, I've often asked myself: If I could wish my anxiety away, would I?

I certainly don't see my anxiety as a gift, but it has some upsides. When I'm avoiding some necessary confrontation or saying yes to too many superfluous obligations, I feel it, and it kicks me into action. Weirdly, anxiety makes me live a more authentic life. And a more empathetic one. It has made me feel vulnerable and more open to asking for help, thereby deepening my friendships.

People who have a brush with death often talk of how it has given them a sense of what really matters. An omnipresent fear of disaster and a constant bracing for catastrophe can do that, too. Time takes on more urgency. The background hum of uneasiness in my mind has motivated me to work harder, to speak more honestly and, curiously, to take more risks than I might otherwise have.

Anxiety means that I'm simply not mellow enough to take things for granted. And that has made my life all the richer.

MIND & MATTER: SUSAN PINKER

'Momnesia'? No, Pregnancy May Add Intelligence

AS A MOTHER of three, I had always thought of pregnancy as a time of increased girth but decreased smarts. I wasn't alone in thinking that my mental capacities were temporarily making way for the needs of the new arrival. Mommy Brain and Momnesia—pop terms for the sleepiness of pregnancy and the postpartum period—have branded such folk wisdom with the veneer of truth.

But that is where the proof for Mommy Brain ends. Though many women say that pregnancy makes their thinking fuzzy, an impressive body of research shows the opposite. Pregnancy and motherhood seem to make mothers smarter.

A 2014 study led by the late Craig Kinsley of the University of Richmond and published in the journal Hormones and Behavior showed that lactating mother rats beat childless rats at hunting—an asset not linked to any detectable uptick in their ability to hear, see or smell. Instead, mother rats had a fertility-related boost in mental power making them better at providing for themselves and their young.

Thanks to work by Dr. Kinsley and his team, we also know that the pregnancy-related hormones of motherhood restructure some brain areas not typically linked to reproduction, such as the hippocampus. This seahorse-shaped brain area consolidates memories and helps us figure out how to navigate through space. Motherhood-related hormones might explain why pregnant and lactating rats beat their non-reproducing female peers at running mazes, for example.

Amazingly, these hormones can also protect mothers' brains from injury, says Adam Franssen, an associate professor of biology at Longwood University in Virginia and a former colleague of Dr. Kinsley's. Five years ago, Dr. Franssen led a study that exposed mother rats and childless rats to new experiences and then injected an acid into the rats' hippocampi to create amnesia. The mother rats' memory and problem-solving abilities rebounded more quickly, compared with female rats without offspring.

Recent evidence suggests that pregnancy induces changes in the human brain, too. In a study published a few months ago in the journal *Nature Neuroscience*, Elseline Hoe

ckzema of Leiden University in the Netherlands and colleagues scanned the brains of about 80 women and men, half of whom were hoping to become parents. The couples who wanted to have a baby were scanned before pregnancy, then again if they got pregnant, after the baby was born and when the baby turned 2.

Women who became pregnant between the scanning sessions showed neural changes so distinct that a computer could distinguish between pregnant and nonpregnant women based on their brain scans alone. The heightened estrogen and progesterone hormones of pregnancy trimmed back some "gray matter"—the cell branches that connect neurons to each other—which has the effect of sharpening, not diminishing, mental capacities. The neural pathways that remain are streamlined and strengthened in the process.

The regions affected included ones linked to maternal bonding and memory. And the changes weren't temporary. As Dr. Hoekzema said in an interview, they lasted for at least two years after a child was born.

Cognitive tests showed that this pruning of gray matter was associated with greater social acuity, and there was no attendant decline in the women's intelligence. The mothers' neural pruning affected the same areas that were activated—brain regions linked to empathy and nurturing—when they saw photos of their own babies. The change is "really about refinement and specialization...and a better recognition of emotions," Dr. Hoekzema told me.

Add these findings to a big Swedish study released in March, showing that parenthood is linked to living longer in both sexes, and we can discredit two old saws: Children don't

FROM TOP: COURTESY ANDREA PETERSEN/ALAMY



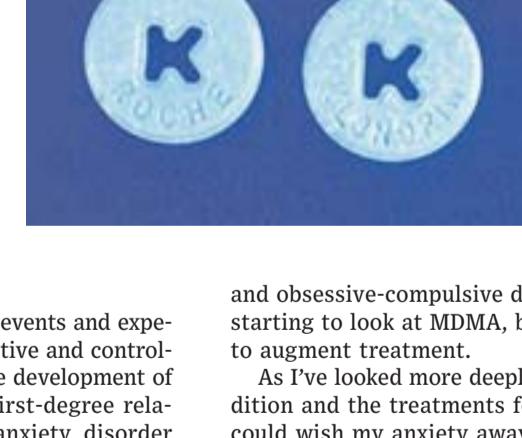
THE AUTHOR (second from left) with her parents and sister after her graduation from the University of Michigan in 1992. **RIGHT,** The number of American adults who filled prescriptions for drugs such as Klonopin jumped 67% between 1996 and 2013.

be diligent: Sleep eight hours. Do yoga. Take it easy on the wine. Pare down my responsibilities. And still I grapple with worry-induced insomnia. I tend to procrastinate, terrified of making the wrong choices. I have odd, unexplained physical symptoms—a tingling arm, chest pain. I can't drive on highways.

Scientists have found that many childhood events and experiences—from illness to trauma to overprotective and controlling styles of parenting—can contribute to the development of anxiety. It is also partly genetic. Having a first-degree relative—a parent, sibling or child—with an anxiety disorder bumps a person's risk of developing one by up to five times that of the general population.

When I got sick in college, I was terrified that I was following in the footsteps of my grandmother: She heard voices and, plagued by paranoia, once tried to burn down her own home with her husband and three children in it. After that, she spent three years in a mental institution. I have an aunt with bipolar disorder. My father struggles with depression. My mother is a worrier with frequent insomnia and an anxiety-fueled cleaning compulsion.

In college, I eventually recovered after a stint of cognitive behavioral therapy. CBT usually involves 12 to 15 weekly sessions with a therapist, plus daily homework. It is the most rigorously studied nondrug treatment for anxiety disorders, and about half of the patients who do it experience clinically significant improvement.



and obsessive-compulsive disorder. A few scientists are even starting to look at MDMA, better known as Ecstasy, as a way to augment treatment.

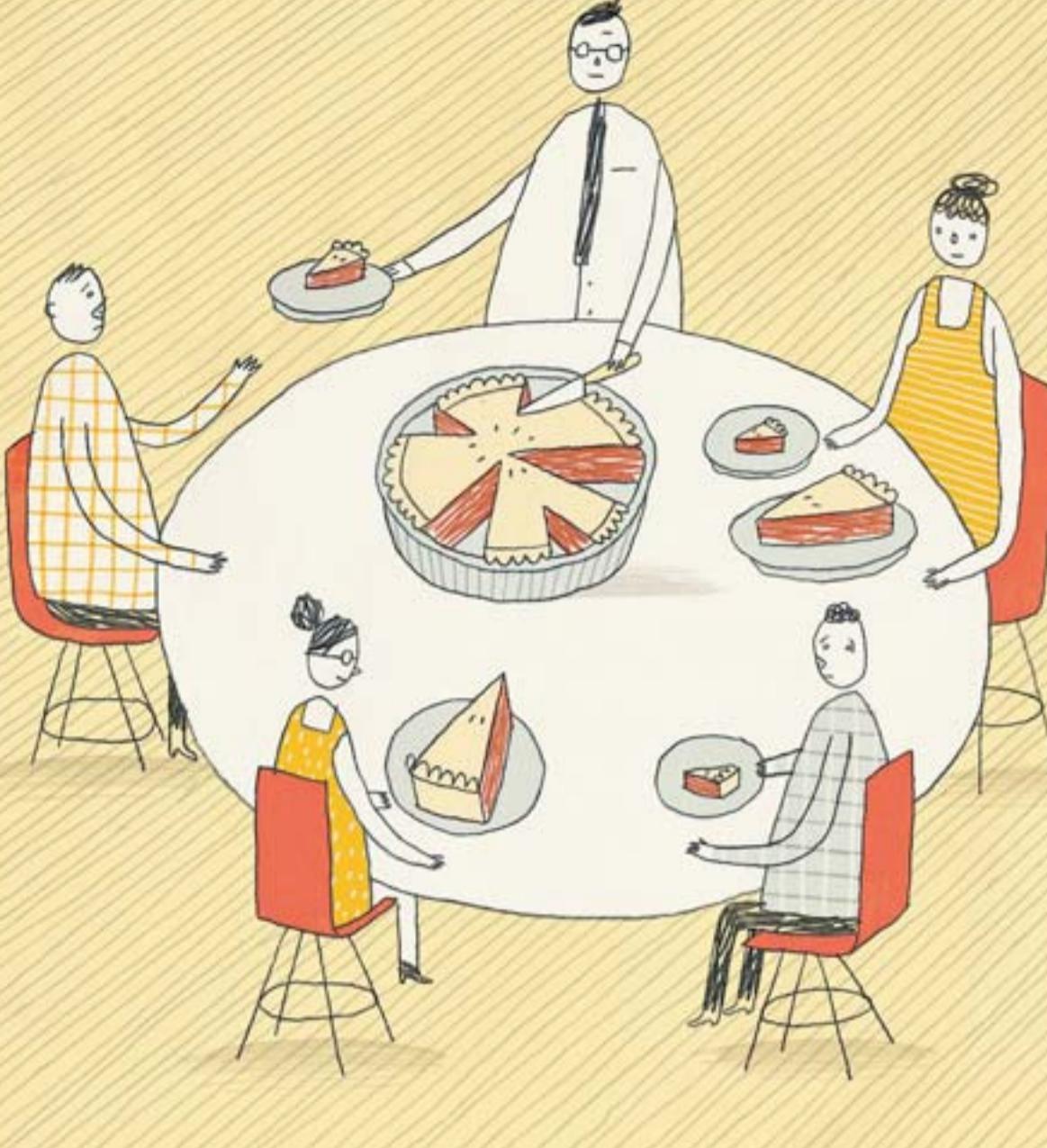
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Anxiety means that I'm simply not mellow enough to take things for granted. And that has made my life all the richer.

REVIEW



BRIAN REA

Inequality Isn't The Real Issue

What people care most about is fair chances, not the distribution of wealth

BY CHRISTINA STARMANS,
MARK SHESKIN AND PAUL BLOOM

WHAT DO AMERICANS and Europeans see as the greatest threat now facing the world? A recent survey by the Pew Research Center found that the most common answer is inequality—ranking above religious and ethnic hatred, pollution, disease and nuclear weapons. Pope Francis has called economic inequality “the root of social evil,” and inequality was a major theme in the last presidential election, with different solutions offered up by candidates of the left and right.

Many of us seem to consider inequality intrinsically and obviously immoral. Hundreds of studies have found that when you ask people—including young children—to distribute resources such as money, they have a strong bias toward giving everyone the same amount. Psychologists who study these issues claim to have discovered “a universal desire for more equal pay” and fundamentally “egalitarian motives” in our interactions with each other. This consensus is nicely cap-

tured by the primatologist Frans de Waal, who suggests, “Robin Hood has it right. Humanity’s deepest wish is to spread the wealth.”

We used to share such views, but having examined the relevant research, we can find no evidence that people are, in fact, concerned with economic inequality for its own sake. Rather, they are bothered by other problems that are connected with economic inequality, such as poverty, the erosion of democratic values and, most interesting to us, unfairness.

A 2011 study in the journal *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, by Michael Norton and Dan Ariely, asked a sample of more than 5,500 Americans to estimate the actual distribution of wealth in the U.S., and then to suggest what they saw as an ideal distribution. One of their main findings was that Americans were unaware of just how unequal their society is:

They thought that the bottom 40% had 9% of the wealth and the top 20% had 59%, while the actual proportions were 0.3% and 84%. Most interesting to us, however, was the way people responded when asked about their ideal

distribution of wealth. Their allocation was far from equal. In fact, people thought on average that, in the perfect society, individuals in the top 20% should have more than three times as much money as individuals in the bottom 20%.

A similar endorsement of inequality appears in studies done in 16 other countries, and it holds for men and women, people on the right and left of the political spectrum, and teenagers. As Dr. Norton puts it, “people exhibit a desire for inequality—not too equal, but not too unequal.” Other research points to an even greater acceptance of inequality, with one study finding that people prefer for the richest 20% to have 50 times the wealth of the poorest 20%.

How do we reconcile this with all the laboratory studies that have seemed to find a strong

bias for equality? It turns out that in these studies, equality is confounded with fairness. Recipients of the distributed goods are intentionally made to be indistinguishable from one another with respect to considerations such as need and merit. With this setup, a preference for fairness leads to an equal dis-

tribution because there is no reason to assign a larger share to anyone.

In other studies, psychologists have been careful to separate concerns about equality from concerns about fairness. When you do this, both adults and children reject unfairly equal distributions in favor of distributions that are fair but unequal. For example, in a 2012 study published in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Gen-*

Research doesn't support the claim that we are natural-born socialists.

eral by Alex Shaw and Kristina Olson, 6- to 8-year-olds insisted on dividing rewards equally between two boys who both cleaned a room. When one boy was described as having done more work, however, the children demanded that the harder worker receive a larger reward.

Or consider a situation with two individuals who are identical in all relevant regards, but one gets \$10 and the other gets nothing. This is plainly unequal, but is it fair? It can be, if the allocation is random. Adults consider it fair to use impartial procedures such as coin tosses and lotteries when distributing many different kinds of resources, and children have similar views. In the rewards-for-room-cleaning study, if children were given a fair “spinner” to randomly choose who got the extra reward, they were happy to create inequality. One person getting three rewards and another getting two (or 10 and zero for that matter) can be entirely fair and acceptable, although it is clearly not equal.

The Princeton philosopher Harry Frankfurt makes a similar point in his recent book *On Inequality*. He notes that few people worry about inequalities between the very rich and the very, very rich, even though the inequalities might be greater, both absolutely and proportionately, than the inequalities between the poor and the moderately well-off. This suggests that it isn’t inequality in itself that is really bothering us.

Admittedly, some will find this point obvious. When many scholars, policy makers and activists complain about inequality, they are actually worried about the negative consequences of inequality, or about unfairness in how this inequality came about. Inequalities of wealth would be fine with them so long as there were no negative consequences and the process was fair, and they would reject equal societies that violated fairness.

However, others rage against economic inequality as such, insisting that there is something fundamentally wrong with a world in which some have so much more than others. For some, this is a rational and principled view. But we think that many of these equality-obsessives are in the grips of a false consciousness. They fail to distinguish worries about inequality from worries about unfairness. They are confused about what they really want. Human beings, the research suggests, are not natural-born socialists, but we do care about justice.

Paying more attention to this distinction can help to sharpen political discourse. It allows us to zoom in on certain critical questions that have long been of interest to political scientists and moral philosophers. When is it unjust to treat people the same—that is, which factors (hard work, skill, need, morality) are fair grounds for inequality and which are not? Which resources should be distributed on the basis of merit?

Americans overwhelmingly believe, for instance, that a fair electoral system requires that every adult gets one and only one vote. But there is heated disagreement over whether fairness dictates that everyone should have equal access to health care and higher education.

Extreme economic inequality deeply troubles many people, including us. But the source of this outrage isn’t that people see inequality as inherently wrong; it’s that they see it as the result of unfairness. There is no consensus about what a perfectly just world would look like, but for most of us, it will be an unequal one.

*Dr. Starmans is a postdoctoral associate in psychology, Dr. Sheskin is a postdoctoral associate in cognitive science, and Dr. Bloom is a professor of psychology, all at Yale University. This article is based on a paper that they recently published in the journal *Nature Human Behavior*.*

THE BONDS OF BASEBALL, FROM MY DAD TO MY SON

BY LEE SIEGEL

I DON'T DENY that soccer is a magnificent sport: tough, cerebral and balletic. Yet, watching the game on television with my young son, I always felt as though I was a stranger in a foreign land. I could never adjust to the fact that so much was going on and so little happening, or understand why all the histrionics about fouls was tolerated. When I went to his team's matches in our small New Jersey town, I shouted and yelled encouragement along with the other moms and dads, but it wasn't my game.

Imagine my relief when this year, at the age of 10, my son told me that he had had enough of soccer and wanted to play baseball instead. Having grown up playing baseball, I could now join him in his new passion.

Any sport that has accompanied you through life acquires a certain metaphorical power. When I stand behind my son to teach him to bat, draping myself over his small body and holding the bat along with him, I feel that I'm embracing my past and my future, even as we practice together how to handle whatever the present wants to pitch at us.

Baseball has connected us as soccer never could. One function of religion is to tame life's pain and perplexities by reshaping them into stories that, across the generations, organize mystery into familiar mental pictures. One function of sports is to organize familiar rituals of play that also pass—with their own stories and feats—from one generation to the next.

In my own Jewish family, where religion



A GAME handed down over generations can express deep emotions, writes Lee Siegel.

was more a matter of sentiment than a spiritual framework, baseball was the true religious bond between my father and me. So much of what we couldn't talk about got expressed simply by playing the game. Our left hands snugly gloved, we threw the baseball back and forth in our modest backyard, silent, unspeaking, as the sun set and my parents' marriage slowly came apart.

At my Little League games, my father cheered for me so loudly that I could always hear his voice above the din. He didn't really understand the game. In fact, he wasn't very

sports-minded at all. But he was failing in his job as a real-estate broker, and competition in the marketplace was killing him. Watching me successfully compete in the game stood his everyday ordeal on its head.

He never talked to me about what was happening at his job. But whenever I caught his eye as I stood on the mound, enacting the tics and fidgets I had seen famed Yankees such as Whitey Ford or Mel Stottlemyre indulge in, more emotion passed between us over the heads of the crowd than ever did when we were alone together.

With my own son, too, we exchange feelings that are at once both concrete and elusive, something beyond words, when our eyes meet after he's caught a fly ball or gotten a hit.

Watching him play, I'm not only reliving those times when my father watched me play—I'm redeeming them. I knew even then that my father was floundering in life. I heard his fights with my mother and my mother's rising discontent. Part of the emotion that passed between us as he rooted so loudly for me was a certain embarrassment on my face—and his awareness of my embarrassment.

Thankfully, my own family life doesn't carry this burden, whatever my failings might be as a husband and a father. When I root for my son at his games, it is very simple. He smiles back, proud of himself and of me.

My joy in watching baseball on TV with my son, or going to Yankees games with him, or watching him play Little League, doesn't have much to do with baseball's fabled transcendence. For all the complex feelings I had about my father, my transports have their source in the simple fact that I used to play the game with him.

Watching my own son play baseball, or playing with him, gives me the necessary illusion that he will do the same with his child, and that his child will continue with his or her own child, and on and on, the bonds between father and child becoming ever stronger, into the same changeless dusk.

Mr. Siegel's many books include his new memoir, “The Draw,” just published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

REVIEW

WORD ON THE STREET: BEN ZIMMER

An Era of 'Hold My Beer' Gaffes

IF YOU HAVE SPENT time on Twitter over the past month or so, you might have noticed a flurry of jokes about current events, all using the same three-word phrase as a punchline: "Hold my beer."

The structure of the joke goes like this: Someone does something outrageous, and then someone else says "hold my beer" as a prelude to doing something even more outrageous.

On Twitter, the participants in the imaginary interaction can even be corporate entities. Take two airlines that recently suffered P.R. nightmares: United Airlines, when a passenger was violently dragged off a flight in Chicago, and American Airlines, when a flight attendant in San Francisco ended up in a yelling match with a passenger protesting the treatment of a flier with young children. Passengers recorded both incidents.

After video of the altercation on the American flight went viral, a Los Angeles resident weighed in on Twitter: "United Airlines: We treat our passengers the worst. American Airlines: Hold my beer!"

The origins of the "hold my beer" punchline go back to jokes told in the 1990s about Southern "rednecks." The comedian Jeff Foxworthy, who turned redneck jokes into a cottage industry, included this one in his 1996 book, "No Shirt. No Shoes...No Problem!": "What are a Redneck's famous last words? Simple. 'Y'all watch this!'"

A few years later, those "famous last words" had morphed in some tellings to "Hold my beer and watch this!" One version of the joke said that the National Transportation Safety Board had determined that those were the final words of 89.3% of drivers in fatal crashes in the state of Texas.

Online, the expression became associated with so-called "fail" videos, showing people attempting wildly misguided and foolhardy stunts.

On the popular link-posting site Reddit, such videos are tagged as "hold my beer," or simply "HMB," as in "HMB while I mount a wild horse."

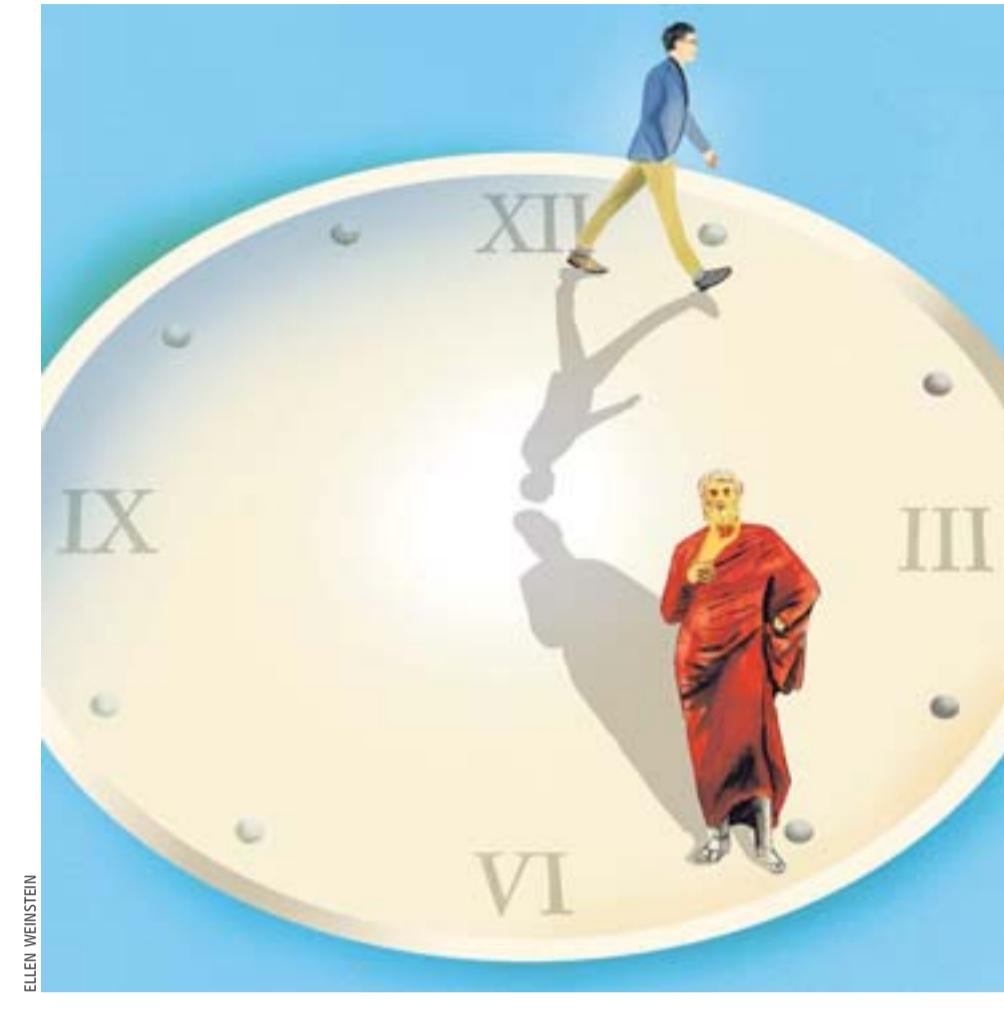
When the phrase made the leap to Twitter and other social media, "hold my

Famous, jokey last words.

"beer" turned into an all-purpose reaction to any public embarrassment or controversy, framed in a jokey formula. Last year, it worked as dark humor for those upset about the U.K.'s vote to leave the European Union and the subsequent election of President Donald Trump. In that case, the U.S. was imagined saying "hold my beer" to post-Brexit Britain.

This month saw a burst of usage on Twitter, especially after White House press secretary Sean Spicer, overlooking the Nazi gas chambers, claimed that Adolf Hitler had not used chemical weapons on his own people, as Syrian President Bashar al-Assad had. (Mr. Spicer later apologized for the comparison.)

But the latest round of "hold my beer" jokes has also been the subject of backlash. On the millennial-focused media site Mic, "hold my beer" has been deemed "a worn-out web cliché, an easy way to pander for engagement without any sort of nuanced appreciation of the gaffe on which it comments." It may be time to retire "hold my beer" and brew a catchphrase that's not so stale.



WILCZEK'S UNIVERSE: FRANK WILCZEK

The Ancient Question of Time

WHEN I STARTED COLLEGE, I was eager to get on with studying science and math. But the University of Chicago was determined to civilize me, and I got a big dose of ancient philosophy. Reading Plato, Aristotle and the like made a deep impression on me. In the long run, they even helped my physics.

Of course, their views on physics, and science in general, ranged from naive to wrong. By modern standards, they didn't know much. But they asked fundamental questions and discussed them vigorously. If you want to break free of conventional wisdom, the ancient philosophers are an inspiration. At the frontiers of knowledge, their subversive, childlike questions can take you to new territory.

"What then is time?" asked St. Augustine in his "Confessions." "I do not know. If nothing passed away, there would not be past time; and if nothing were coming, there

would not be future time...Those

two times, therefore, past and future, how are they, when even the past now is not; and the future is not as yet?" As it turns out, St. Augustine's questions have been at the forefront of physics over the past century.

Albert Einstein was a great fan of the ancient Greeks. Before he wrote the papers that made him famous, he and a few friends formed a discussion group that they called—tongue in cheek—"the Olympia Academy," where they discussed philosophy and literature as well as science. A 1947 New Yorker profile reported that Einstein

"reads the Greeks to [his ailing sister] Maja every night for an hour or so, even if he has had a very tiring day." "How can an educated person stay away from the Greeks?" Einstein asked. "I have always been far more interested in them than in science."

In formulating the special theory of relativity, Einstein realized that to address the paradox that the speed of light is a universal constant, appearing the same to moving observers, he would need to re-pose a philosophical question ("What is time?") in an operational form ("What must you do to measure time?").

In analyzing that question, Einstein showed that different observers, moving with respect to one another, arrive at different definitions of time.

In everyday life, we experience a big differ-

ence between past and future. We remember the past but guess the future; the past is completed, the future unfolds. Run backward, an ordinary movie doesn't look realistic. People generally don't drive quite as fast and furious in reverse, especially while looking forward. Yet the fundamental laws of physics don't take past and future into account: They are accurate (with minor exceptions) whether things run forward or backward in time.

So why are past and future equivalent? Physicists have made spectacular progress toward answering that question, but they still hope to discover experimentally a peculiar new kind of particle—the axion, which cancels out potential past-future asymmetry—to complete their story.

The opposite question is similarly profound: Since the laws of physics don't distinguish between past and future, why does our

own world, at least as we experience it? Much of the explanation stems from inexorable tendency of matter to evolve from order to disorder. It is easier to make a mess than to clean one up. A precise form of that observation is codified in the second law of thermodynamics, which says that entropy in an isolated system increases over

time. The direction of that increase distinguishes the future from the past.

Islands of order resist this onslaught, of course, and we humans seek them out. We take special interest in discovering that our present retains parts of the past, in the form of relics and memories. Physicists do the same thing with the universe, in work we could call cosmic forensics. Such research has allowed us to uncover evidence for the origin of our universe in a great explosion, the big bang.

Scientists have magnificent tools today, but fundamental discoveries still often hinge on asking the right "naïve" questions. St. Augustine dared to ask, "What is the past?" and Einstein taught us to refashion that into, "What must we do to measure the past?" In the quantum world, that is a pointed question—and my current obsession—because measurement is a disruptive process, which disturbs the thing being measured.

Once again, my intellectual heroes are guiding us toward fertile ground.

**Einstein
read the
Greeks to
his sister
every night.**

A highly absorbent powder that might one day replace wells.

R&D: DANIEL AKST

Turning Air Into Potable Water

PULLING WATER from thin air is easy: Just pour a cold drink on a hot day and watch the condensation form. The challenge is collecting more than a few drops without costly equipment or high energy bills.

Scientists at the University of California, Berkeley, and MIT have come up with a promising alternative. Using a highly absorbent powder called a metal organic framework, or MOF, they have developed a device about the size of a Kleenex box that can suck lifesaving amounts of water out of the air even in extremely arid places. For energy, the system relies on nothing more than the power of the sun.

The magic is all in the MOF (pronounced to rhyme with "toff"). In one configuration, the scientists embedded the MOF powder in a copper sheet mounted on a metal plate inside a box installed outdoors. The box can be left open at night to suck up moisture from the atmosphere, squirreling the liquid away in the MOF's many pores. But close the box during the day, and the sun's heat—captured through the box's glass top—warms the MOF-laden copper enough to release the captured moisture as vapor. That vapor liquefies when it hits the much cooler condenser plate underneath. The water then drips down into a bucket or jar.

In lab conditions, a kilogram of MOF pulled in about a cup of water in roughly 85 minutes. The scientists project that, in real-world use, one kilogram of MOF should absorb 2.8 liters of water during 12 hours of 20-30% relative humidity—about what you'd find in a desert. That performance could be repeated day after day (the MOF doesn't wear out or get used up), making a larger version of the device a plausible source of water for residential use in poor, dry places far from power lines. The technology might also someday be used in emergency situations, such as lifeboats.

Berkeley chemist Omar Yaghi, who pioneered MOFs in the 1990s and co-authored a paper on the new research, thinks that the technology could work in less extreme circumstances too—as a low-cost, low-energy substitute for wells or municipal water systems. In his vision, homes could pull their own water right out of the air at little or no cost beyond purchasing the equipment. Homes with inadequate sun could power an electrical version by plugging it into an outlet. Those lacking electricity could use a model heated by a cooking fire.

Dr. Yaghi notes that different MOFs, made from a variety of metals and organic substances, can be concocted for many different functions, such as compressing natural gas without enormous pressure. For the research at hand, the scientists chose a zirconium-based MOF for its ability to pull water from even low-humidity atmosphere—and its readiness to let go of the water without being subjected to very high temperatures, which would have required high energy inputs. Zirconium-based MOFs would be too expensive for poorer parts of the world, but Dr. Yaghi says that MOFs from cheaper metals, such as aluminum, can be developed to work as well or better. The formula could be fine-tuned, he says, to maximize efficiency for different climates.

Although the technology produces water that is potable, it isn't exactly palatable: The distilled water lacks the minerals that give water its normal flavor. But dissolving a mineral powder or tablet could easily remedy that, says Dr. Yaghi.

"Water harvesting from air with metal-organic frameworks powered by natural sunlight," Hyunho Kim, Sungwoo Yang, Sameer R. Rao, Shankar Narayanan, Eugene A. Kapustin, Hiroyasu Furukawa, Ari S. Umans, Omar M. Yaghi and Evelyn N. Wang, *Science* (April 13)

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



A Tai Chi High

Chinese devotees of the martial art celebrated Tai Chi Day on Sunday. They were standing on a suspended glass bridge in a mountainous area of Beijing's Fangshan District.

Answers
To the News Quiz on page C13

**1.B, 2.D, 3.C, 4.C, 5.B,
6.A, 7.B, 8.D**

BOOKS

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Saturday/Sunday, April 29 - 30, 2017 | C5

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* * * *

America's First Environmentalist

In the midst of desolation, catching sight of redemption is often a matter of looking more closely

The Boatman

By Robert M. Thorson
Harvard, 315 pages, \$29.95

Thoreau and the Language of Trees

By Richard Higgins
California, 230 pages, \$24.95

BY JOHN KAAG

THIS YEAR, in the doldrums of summer, a crowd of nature lovers and scholars will gather on the shores of Walden Pond in honor of Henry David Thoreau, who would be 200 on July 12. Lectures will be delivered. The stillness of the pond will be contemplated. Cake will be eaten. Pictures will be taken. The moment will be captured in freeze frame. I'll be there and will happily participate, but I can't help thinking that there's something disturbingly passive and stationary about the way that we memorialize America's first environmentalist, a man who was forever on the move. Two recent books suggest that the best way to celebrate Thoreau's life might be to follow his example: to handle the oars and use our hiking boots. This, Thoreau insisted, is the only way to learn about life and its passing.

In "The Boatman: Henry David Thoreau's River Years," geologist Robert M. Thorson highlights the irony of our Thoreau memorializing being centered on Walden, an island of confined water, when, in fact, he felt most at home skimming across the Concord River. "Henry's unheralded river book," according to Mr. Thorson, "is his journal." And like the river, the journal goes on and on: two million words, written over 24 years, containing "astonishing observations and philosophical reflections linked to flowing water in some way." As a natural scientist, Mr. Thorson isn't writing a comprehensive book about Thoreau—readers will have to wait for Laura Dassow Walls's biography, due out this summer, for that—but rather a scrupulous account of the environment Thoreau loved most and, important for our day, the ways in which he expressed this passion in the face of ecological degradation.

At the age of 23, Thoreau, already an expert boatman, observed that the movement of the Concord reflected



OLD THOREAUVIAN A fisherman's dory on the Merrimack River. Thoreau and his brother paddled one like it on the Merrimack and Concord in 1839.

"the stream of our life" and was an "emblem of all progress, following the same law with the system, with time, and all that is made." Mr. Thorson suggests that this insight expresses an "enthusiasm for the continuous flow of matter and energy that is distinctly absent from his later descriptions of Walden Pond." Mr. Thorson argues convincingly—sometimes beautifully—that Thoreau's thinking and writing were integrally connected to paddling and sailing.

For Thoreau, New England watersheds of the 19th century represented the abiding challenges of the Anthropocene epoch, an age in which the Earth's ecosystems and geology have been dramatically altered by the forces of human civilization. How to recognize and accommodate, how to live with and through, change: According to Thoreau, this is the key to effective boating and meaningful living.

Henry and his brother, John, tried

to negotiate this flux on what they called the "White Mountain expedition" in August of 1839. They set off in the Musketaquid (meaning "grass-ground river"), a fisherman's dory that they had crafted that spring, and sailed north on the Concord to the Merrimack on a two-week trip that would be memorialized in Thoreau's first book, "A Week on the Concord and Merrimack River." Henry and John were river companions, two men facing the flow of life together. But then the river changed course. Suddenly. Two years after this trip, John cut his finger with a razor, contracted tetanus, developed lockjaw and died days later in his brother's arms. Thoreau would have to negotiate the river by himself. His time on the water provided a vital lesson in coping with change but also with what seemed like unadulterated destruction.

As Thoreau dealt with personal loss, the Industrial Revolution contin-

ued to hum along in the towns of Lowell and Billerica, several miles downriver from Concord. A dam and canal had been constructed and later

In his 20s, Thoreau had a fury bordering on violence: 'what may avail a crow bar against that Billerica Dam!'

expanded, decimating populations of salmon, shad and alewives. Fish weren't the only ones affected by the dam; the meadowland surrounding Concord was now routinely flooded. Thoreau's neighbors, whose farms relied on haymaking, risked losing their livelihood. This tension between meadowland farm and factory, between nature and human progress, would become what is termed the

"flowage controversy," and Henry would be in the middle of it.

Immediately after John's death, Thoreau longed for a time when, in his words, "the 'grass-ground' river will run clear again," and he turned with fury on the industrialists whose damming and blasting threatened to obliterate the rivers the brothers once loved. Fury bordering on violence: "Who knows ... what may avail a crow bar against that Billerica Dam!" he exclaimed in his late 20s. This warning spirit on behalf of the natural world is well documented by Thoreau scholars. What has not been documented, to this point, is the exact way that Thoreau's rage gave way to lament and, more important, ultimately to a more constructive acceptance of a world both natural and human-made.

This is where Mr. Thorson is at his most incisive. With the meticulous care of a modern geologist, he excava-

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The Medical-Industrial Complex

An American Sickness

By Elisabeth Rosenthal

Penguin Press, 406 pages, \$28

BY LAURA LANDRO

IN AMERICAN health care, profit is the primary motivation, the industry outfoxes every attempt to rein in costs, and consumers are the victims of predatory practices. That's the bottom line for Elisabeth Rosenthal, whose "An American Sickness" is a harsh indictment of an enterprise she dubs the "medical-industrial complex."

She parcels out blame to virtually every sector for putting financial gain over patient needs, from the pharmaceutical companies that maneuver to protect their lucrative patents to nonprofit hospitals that skimp on the charity care they are required to provide for tax-exempt status but shower CEOs with corporate-style perks and salaries. Insurance-company policies, she says, push prices up rather than contain them. Device makers, lab companies and specialists pile on more charges and unnecessary procedures until the system is staggering under the weight of its inefficiency.

Other journalists have turned their sights on the failings in U.S. health care, including Steven Brill in "America's Bitter Pill" (2015) and Frank Lalli in "Your Best Health Care Now" (2016), but Dr. Rosenthal brings an inside perspective to the task. Before launching her career as a journalist—first at the New York Times and now at Kaiser Health News, a project funded by the Kaiser Family Foundation—she earned a

medical degree, trained in internal medicine and worked as an emergency-room doctor.

It's somewhat surprising, then, that she has so little good to say about anyone in medicine or how little attention she gives to the advances in science and technology that have improved patient care and saved lives. While she highlights a

persuasive with more balance and a greater willingness to acknowledge the many trade-offs that any health-care arrangement will require, even the single-payer alternative she seems to favor.

"An American Sickness" lands amid a battle by the current administration to scrap the Affordable Care Act. Though Dr. Rosenthal sees

market that operates by its own self-serving rules. Among them: More treatment is always better; providers default to the most expensive option; more competitors drive prices up, not down; and there is no such thing as a fixed price.

Such claims capture some of the oddities and ordeals of American health care, but the incentives and

orders, leading to worse outcomes and more treatment. Concern that patients will file a malpractice suit leads doctors to practice defensive medicine and order more tests and treatments. Costs are shifted from the uninsured to the insured, with a matrix of cross-subsidies thwarting any attempt at a uniform price. Because the cost of developing drugs is so high, the drugs might not exist if pharmaceutical companies could not recoup their investment by way of patents. Dr. Rosenthal quotes a professor of health law saying that "people had a lot of faith in the American medical



The American health-care system is in need of reform. Does it deserve to be condemned?

handful of players who have fought to bring down costs or resisted what she sees as usurious practices, her theme is not the good but the bad and the ugly, and she never strays far from condemnation. The points she makes are valuable, but her broader case might have been more

the intent of that law as noble, she takes the view that it didn't solve the problems of affordability and access or do anything to curb spending and address other troubles that beset the system. She believes that, for more than a quarter-century, medicine has become a dysfunctional

disincentives of the current set-up can be complicated, the effects varied and the trouble traceable to more than greed. For example, over-treatment is consumer-driven as well as profit-driven; patients may demand more care than is necessary and fail to comply with doctors'

profession—that they would act differently than other businesses—but they were wrong." But health care operates like a business only part of the time.

"An American Sickness" cites the evolution of health insurance, a postwar construct meant to protect patients and keep the charitable groups that ran hospitals afloat, as the source of the "original sin" that catalyzed this for-profit juggernaut. While to some extent insurers do better if they negotiate better rates for care, Dr. Rosenthal says, their main goal is to carve out their piece of the pie. Hospitals, she says, adapted to the financial incentives of the insurance companies by charging

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BOOKS

'I have eaten your bread and salt. / I have drunk your water and wine. / The deaths ye died I have watched beside / And the lives ye led were mine.' —Rudyard Kipling

The Father of the Son

John Lockwood Kipling

Edited by Julius Bryant

& Susan Weber

Yale, 580 pages, \$75

BY MAXWELL CARTER

RUDYARD KIPLING'S FATHER, Lockwood, is little remembered today. Growing up, however, I came across him in Rudyard's Great Game masterpiece, "Kim" (1901), the Anglo-Indian curator in which was modeled on Lockwood; in "Quest for Kim" (1996), Peter Hopkirk's study of the novel's real-life bases; and finally, in connection with Endicott Peabody, the founder of Groton School. In 1899, the Rector, as Peabody was known, received Lockwood's opinion on the school's seal: undistinguished, inappropriate and dull. (The design has since been altered.) Yet I never knew what to make of the senior Kipling. Only now, with the beautiful and illuminating catalogue, "John Lockwood Kipling: Arts and Crafts in the Punjab and London," which accompanies an exhibition presently moving from London's Victoria and Albert Museum to the Bard Graduate Center Gallery in New York, do I fully appreciate the man, his art and his eye.

Each of the 17 chapters has its charms, but the first two by the V&A curator Julius Bryant, the volume's co-editor (with Susan Weber, of Bard), are essential reading.

The first explores Lockwood's fascination with and expatriation to India. While British interest in Indian art and design didn't reach the fever pitch of Egyptomania, the effect of the Great Exhibition of 1851 was profound. Previously, South Asian miniatures, textiles and artifacts collected by officers of the East India Co. were to be found in private residences or the Company's London headquarters. At the Crystal Palace, the public experienced 30,000 square feet worth of "spectacular" Indian displays. These included, Mr. Bryant writes, "carpets, embroideries, Kashmir shawls, saris from Benares... carvings in wood, ivory, and stone... swords, daggers, musical instruments, and... two great diamonds: the Darya-i-Noor ('Sea of Light') and the Koh-i-Noor ('Mountain of Light'). (The former was auctioned in 1852; the latter, said in the 16th century to be worth "the whole world's expenditure for half a day," is the pride of the Crown Jewels.) Jostling in the captivated throng was the teenage John Kipling, who would add his mother's maiden name, Lockwood, in his early 20s.



RUBAIYAT A blue-ink drawing for a plate by John Lockwood Kipling, ca. 1879.

Lockwood had been born in Yorkshire in July 1837, two weeks after Queen Victoria ascended to the throne. An unhappy student, he was, Mr. Bryant suggests, "destined for the life of an itinerant preacher" until his path-altering visit to the Great Exhibition. Thereafter, he attended art school and apprenticed for the ceramics manufacturer Pinder, Bourne and Hope in Staffordshire. He wed Alice Macdonald, sister-in-law of the Pre-Raphaelite painter Edward Burne-Jones, in March 1865 and, "despite his new professional and social prospects in South Kensington," left for Bombay the next month to teach at the recently established Sir J.J. School of Art and Industry. Alice was pregnant with Rudyard on the voyage; he would be born in December.

Whatever Lockwood's prospects in London, Bombay was booming in the mid-1860s. India's expanding railway network and the blockade of Confederate ports had tripled cotton exports from western India to Lancashire mills. Increased revenue flowed, in part, to the cultural institutions that attracted and employed Lockwood and his peers. He relocated to Lahore in 1875 to become the principal of its new art school, his stated object "to revive crafts

now half forgotten, and to discourage as much as possible the crude attempts at reproduction of the worst features of Birmingham and Manchester work now so common among natives." Noted for his elec-

Lockwood Kipling was going to be an 'itinerant preacher' until he visited an exhibit of Indian art.

tic talents, keen eye, "natural charm" and humor—his personal motto was "Fumus Gloria Mundi," or "Smoking, the Glory of the World"—he juggled curating, teaching, writing, design and family for the next 18 years.

With the exception of five extended furloughs, Lockwood resided in India between 1865 and 1893. He retired from Lahore for health reasons at 55 and settled quietly in Wiltshire in 1895, avoiding London's intellectual circles and controversies. Alice died in November 1910; Lockwood, two months later. George Birdwood, who peevishly campaigned against British art education in India, remembered him in 1915 as "one of the noblest of Eng-

lishmen that ever served their country in India."

Further sections of "John Lockwood Kipling," which highlight his achievements as sculptor, designer, collector, educator, conservationist, journalist, illustrator, "Pater" and teacher, leave no doubt about his powers or versatility.

The book's detail (Lockwood's laborious illustrations for "The Jungle Book" were carved in relief, then photographed for publication) and insight (to Lockwood, there was "no pure, timeless art or truly authentic traditional ornamentation") are interwoven with rich, contextual images. Reproduced here are Valentine Prinsep's rendering of the 1877 "Proclamation" Durbar (an over-the-top public ceremony at which Victoria was proclaimed empress of India), for which Lockwood oversaw the amphitheater, lighting and banners; sepia-toned classroom, workshop and exhibition interiors; Rudyard's intricate Tibetan pen case and Lockwood-fashioned bookplate; and, my favorite, an exquisite copper ewer featured among the "Muhammadan relics" Lockwood sought to preserve.

Lockwood's hands-on conservation and sympathetic character set him apart from William Morris, with whom he is often compared. "John Lockwood Kipling" captures this essential vigor and warmth and happily doesn't fall in with Blimpish nostalgists or the strident movement to discredit all things British in India. Good art is good art and good writing, good writing. On the merits, the works of Kipling, father and son, should be valued irrespective of the Raj and the moral and political failings they sometimes reflected.

Alas, Lockwood's obscure brush with Groton didn't make its way into the text. At any rate, the Peabody link was Harvard professor Charles Eliot Norton, whom the Kiplings stayed with en route to the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. Lockwood's life spanned the Victorian and Edwardian ages; his career, fittingly, was bookended by the wonders of the Crystal Palace and the White City. He did many things and did them well; traveled the world; enjoyed 45 years of loving and collaborative matrimony; and left an impossibly varied legacy—commissions, disciples and, not least, Rudyard. In other words, Lockwood's life was every bit as remarkable and rewarding as his art.

Mr. Carter is the head of the Impressionist and modern art department at Christie's in New York.

Health Care

Continued from page C5

the highest prices they could come up with, which led doctors to order more tests and treatments and led device- and drug-makers to come up with ever more sophisticated and expensive products. While many advancements in medicine have clearly offered benefits to patients, Dr. Rosenthal sees it all as a money chase: "No one was protecting the patients," she writes.

She shows the problems of byzantine medical-payment structures and vividly describes the army of coders and consultants who work around rules aimed at containing costs. When Medicare announced that there would be one payment for the first 90 minutes of chemotherapy, with a second payment for any part of each hour thereafter, it started receiving lots of bills for infusions lasting 91 minutes.

But much of the time it seems as if Dr. Rosenthal sees no justification for

To ensure profits, an army of coders works around the rules aimed at containing medical costs.

anyone to get paid or turn a profit, which of course would sink any business. She cites anesthesia as an example of price escalation, since anesthesiologists get paid for supervising less-educated nurse anesthetists while the doctors are "sitting in the lounge monitoring their portfolios." In the next breath she notes that, as the 2014 death of Joan Rivers illustrates, when things go wrong in the operating room they can go very wrong, very fast. You want an anesthesiologist supervising, and she presents no evidence that in most cases they are not doing so.

She is also critical of the trend toward private rooms in hospitals, seeing it as costly, with little medical justification. But more hospitals are going to all private rooms, and studies suggest that they may lower the risk of virulent hospital infections. Anyone who has had to share a room with another sick patient knows the value of privacy and quiet in the healing process.

Dr. Rosenthal endorses a number of solutions that have been put forth by health economists, including turning to models in other countries that have some form of nationalized health care. While she acknowledges that it's hard to imagine the U.S. moving that way any time soon, she sees Medicare as a single-payer system that, by gradually dropping its age of entry, could be a path to more coverage. Many of Medicare's initiatives, she argues, could serve as models for the private sector, such as bundled payments, which pay a single price for an entire episode of care—like a knee replacement—allowing hospitals to do well when they stay within budget but forcing them to eat overruns.

She also cites the success of Kaiser Permanente (officially separate from the Kaiser Family Foundation), the California-based managed-care organization where doctors are salaried and thus have no incentive to overtreat and where electronic records are used to coordinate care. She praises the health care offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs too, despite its problems, for its transparency and its attention to standards, such as those governing when patients should get a particular test.

For patients, her advice is to use reliable online resources to shop for the best and most reasonably priced insurance and treatment. Some strategies may be too complex for many patients, such as those for buying drugs from other countries. But asking why a doctor is ordering a test or whether a treatment is really required is everyone's prerogative. As Dr. Rosenthal writes: "We all need to be more 'difficult' patients."

It isn't necessary to accept all of Dr. Rosenthal's criticisms—or to agree with her assessment that profit is the main driver behind everything in American health care—to concede that reform is needed. Nor is it necessary to unequivocally condemn a system that has done so much for so many, whatever its flaws.

Ms. Landro, a former Journal health columnist, is the author of "Survivor: Taking Control of Your Fight Against Cancer."

CHILDREN'S BOOKS: MEGHAN COX GURDON

Putting On a Brave Face

ADOLESCENTS who imagine that violence is being done to them when they hear speech they dislike—that they

are victimized by the expression of "offensive" ideas—would be wise to pick up a copy of "**Man's Search for Meaning**" (Beacon, 159 pages, \$10.99). It may give them perspective. In this new edition of Viktor Frankl's powerful 1946 Holocaust memoir, abridged for young readers and introduced by novelist John

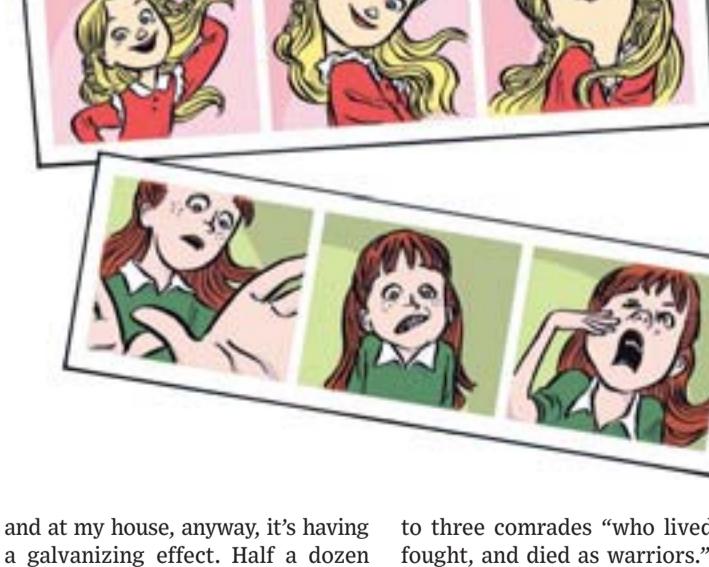
Both are found everywhere.... No group consists entirely of decent or indecent people." Concerning these and other moral questions, Frankl still has much to teach the world.

You might not think that the physical training to become a Navy SEAL could take the form of a semi-facetious novel written for elementary-school kids, but it can, it has,

tough Navy SEAL uncle. "Hard work and discipline are how you achieve things," Uncle Jake tells his nephew. "You have to *make things happen*." Jon Bozak's comic drawings highlight the disparities between goofy Marc and his manly, muscle-bound mentor. In a sober dedication, Mr. Willink, a retired SEAL, dedicates his tale of motivation and improvement

to three comrades "who lived, and fought, and died as warriors."

In the sincere, affecting pages of "**Rolling Thunder**" (Scholastic, 32 pages, \$17.99), a picture book for children ages 3-10, writer Kate Messner and illustrator Greg Ruth also pay tribute to the sacrifices of veterans and their families. The title refers to the cavalcade of bikers that descends on the nation's capital every Memorial Day to honor the service of those in uniform.



and at my house, anyway, it's having a galvanizing effect. Half a dozen chapters into "**Way of the Warrior Kid**" (Feiwel & Friends, 179 pages, \$13.99), my daughter Flora, 11, jumped up and announced that she was going for a run—in the pouring rain. I had already made my own resolutions after reading Jocko Willink's tale of a feckless, flaccid fifth-grader, Marc, who turns himself around one summer under the tutelage of his super-cool, super-

We follow a boy and his family, who travel to Washington by train, and the boy's grandfather, who goes by motorcycle. Mr. Ruth's paintings are full of light—there's a stirring scene of people preparing for the ride in the mists of dawn, the slim obelisk of the Washington Monument like a beacon across the river. "Motors growling, roaring near / crowds that cry and wave and cheer," Ms. Messner writes, "raising flags of white and black, / for those who never made it back." Parents may need to pause while reading this aloud; it's an emotional wringer.

A different sort of emotional intensity runs through the pages of the graphic novel "**Real Friends**" (First Second, 224 pages, \$12.99), a heart-stabbing tale of the everyday social agonies of girlhood. In the travails of a freckled redhead named Shannon, author Shannon Hale captures the lurching power shifts, the thousand cruelties and the sudden intoxicating joys of elementary-school friendships.

Shannon is an imaginative child from a large family. Affectionate and exuberant and a little obtuse, she's vulnerable not only at school but also at home, where her troubled big sister appears to her (and to readers ages 8-12) as a huge, shaggy bear.

LeUyen Pham's expressive, colorful panel illustrations (see left) match the story to perfection; in an afterward, she writes that Ms. Hale seems to have "crawled inside my memories and handpicked all these events and feelings and insecurities from my childhood and called them [her] own." It's a view a lot of readers will share.

Boyne, the modern teenager will enter a crucible of violence and victimhood that was not in anyone's head.

Frankl (1905-97), a Viennese psychiatrist, endured three years as an inmate in Nazi concentration camps. He survived, in part, by achieving just enough intellectual distance to be able to observe himself and those around him; amid the horror, he became doctor and patient, teacher and student. "Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms," Frankl concluded, which was "to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way." He also came to believe that there are only two races in the world: "the 'race' of the decent man and the 'race' of the indecent man.

FIRST SECOND BOOKS

Four books, from the sober to the lighthearted, that help young readers cope with adversity.

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BOOKS

'The central idea of the American Founding—and indeed of constitutional government and the rule of law—was the equality of mankind.' —Harry V. Jaffa

A Conservative Showdown

Patriotism Is Not Enough

By Steven F. Hayward

Encounter, 280 pages, \$25.99

BY WILLIAM ANTHONY HAY

THE CLICHE has it that academic disputes are especially vicious because the stakes are so low. But now and then the stakes are high indeed. Over the course of several decades, two political philosophers battled over how best to understand American democracy. They were serious scholars with strong points of view and clashing personalities, so part of the quarrel had to do with matters of style and modes of expression. But ideas were the heart of the matter.

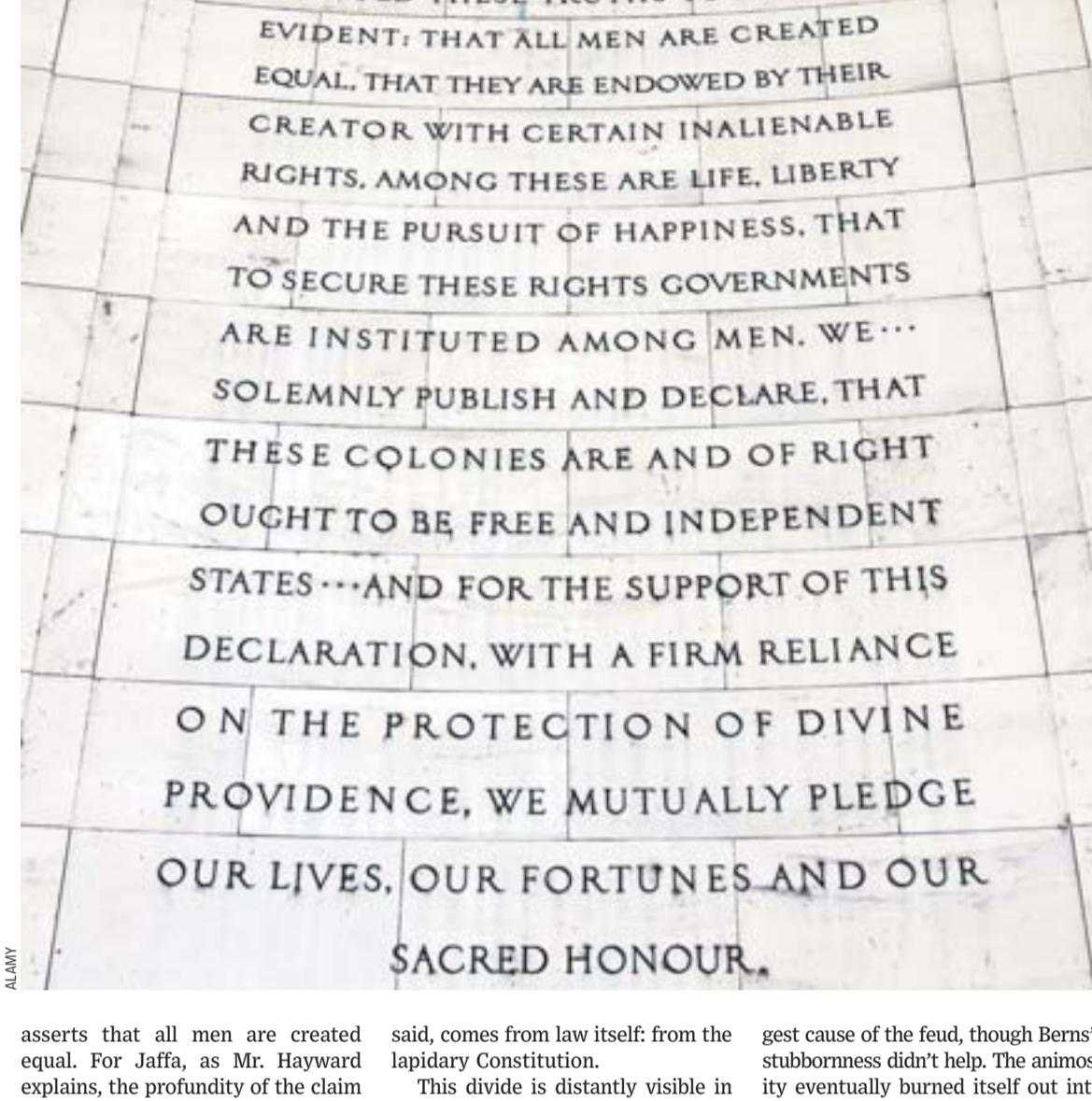
In "Patriotism Is Not Enough," Steven F. Hayward presents a memoir of his own dealings with these remarkable men—Walter Berns and Harry V. Jaffa, who died on the same day in 2015—and traces their points of difference to a larger debate over the principles that guide American democracy. The book is a fascinating chronicle in itself and an instructive tour of important political precepts.

At the heart of Mr. Hayward's narrative is Leo Strauss (1899-1973), the German émigré who taught for many years at the University of Chicago. Strauss looked to classical Greek philosophy as a source of wisdom rather than regarding it as a mere historical episode. A charismatic teacher, he shared with his students his concern—especially pressing in the 1960s—that Western society had lost its sense of purpose and legitimacy and faced a crisis. He believed that restoring the primacy of natural rights—rights that were God-given or embedded in nature—offered a path to recovery.

Although Strauss looked to antiquity for political wisdom, several of his students and protégés, including Berns and Jaffa—who would go on to academic careers, Berns at Cornell and Jaffa at Claremont-McKenna—devoted themselves to the texts of the American founding. They sought in these texts a continuity with classical ideas but also a distinctive American understanding of the best sort of political system or "polity." It was with such foundational documents that the quarrel began.

Mr. Hayward traces the rift to a stroll in Claremont, Calif., in the early 1970s, when Berns said to Jaffa that the opening of the Declaration of Independence was one of the best things ever written, "but the ending was one of the worst." Mr. Hayward quotes a contemporary observer saying: "And the fight was on."

The Declaration, as we know,



asserts that all men are created equal. For Jaffa, as Mr. Hayward explains, the profundity of the claim rested on the word "equal." Equality is not something granted by man-made law but rather built into nature—it is "self-evident," as the Declaration says. Jaffa argued that this truth lay behind Lincoln's opposition to slavery and, more broadly, behind the justice of the Union's cause. The Civil War, in Jaffa's view, fulfilled the Declaration's promise and brought a flawed and morally compromised Constitution into line with the country's founding principles.

For Berns, though, "natural rights aren't worth a darn thing without a government to secure them," as Mr. Hayward puts it. The key passage in the Declaration, for Berns, was: "To secure these rights, governments are instituted among Men." A "strong but decent government," Mr. Hayward writes, summarizing Berns's view, "transforms natural rights into civil rights by a supreme act of positive law—in our case, the Constitution." The words that Berns deplored at the end of the Declaration referred to the "protection of Divine Providence." Protection, he might have

said, comes from law itself: from the lapidary Constitution.

This divide is distantly visible in current debates in the Supreme Court, when a statute is said to threaten or secure certain rights. For Jaffa and like-minded thinkers, the

greatest cause of the feud, though Berns's stubbornness didn't help. The animosity eventually burned itself out into strained civility.

Not surprisingly, alongside the differences between the two thinkers—which included debates over the politi-

Berns said that the opening of the Declaration was one of the best things ever written, 'but the ending was one of the worst.' The fight with Jaffa was on.

origin of those rights is self-evident. For others, it is less so—one reason that Berns warned against letting natural rights play a large role in jurisprudence: The chances for rights-fueled overreaching was too great, he believed, threatening the Constitution's practical wisdom.

Today's confusion over what principles should guide our lawmaking—or regulate our society—make the Berns-Jaffa quarrel freshly relevant. And a quarrel it was, conducted in letters and in print, as Mr. Hayward notes. He sees Jaffa's combative style and refusal to compromise as the big-

ical importance of personal virtue—existed a host of affinities, as Mr. Hayward shows. Both men, guided by Strauss, opposed value-free social science, believing that the study of society required not quantitative analysis but a philosophic examination of first principles and their application. They also faulted academic political science—"the sacrifice of political relevance on the altar of methodology," as Berns said. And both rejected the pointed, if facetious, definition of a statesman as a politician safely dead. They instead elevated the role of statesmanship, defining it as a lea-

der's capacity to reconcile principle with circumstance in securing a just result. Leadership as skilled management did not suffice.

And what of the people whom statesmen must lead? Berns and Jaffa both recognized that democracy, with its susceptibility to momentary passions, presented a challenge to citizenship. Berns in particular noted how important it was, in America, to form the character of citizens so that, as Mr. Hayward summarizes, "they will give their consent to wise leadership and withhold it from fools, bigots, and demagogues." Thus patriotism needs to be taught, and it is best taught by inculcating the principles of democratic liberty. Here too Berns and Jaffa would have agreed.

Mr. Hayward recounts his story with a generous spirit: He clearly admires both men, with whom he studied or shared think-tank affiliations. And he has an astonishing capacity to explain complex matters in accessible prose. By giving Leo Strauss such a central role, however, he inevitably slighted other approaches to the founding era.

Forrest McDonald, for instance, overthrew Charles Beard's economic interpretation of the Constitution by challenging the facts on which it rested. That project, pursued in the 1950s, was forensic rather than philosophical. In more recent years, scholars like Pauline Maier and Jack P. Greene have stressed the historical precedents and contemporary debates that shaped key founding episodes.

For Mr. Hayward, the Straussians—not just Jaffa and Berns but a cluster of scholars and public intellectuals—redefined American conservatism. He argues that, thanks to their work, the preoccupations of midcentury conservatism gave way to an outlook that newly valued the country's first principles. Mr. Hayward sees the result as a more analytically rigorous and thus politically effective conservatism.

Here he overstates the case. Other conservative traditions remained robust—populist, traditionalist, religious, nationalist, communitarian—and indeed play a prominent part in our roiling political moment. They often emphasize the empirical over the philosophical, the wisdom of custom and lived experience over metaphysics. A comparative study of their current influence and effectiveness lies outside the scope of Mr. Hayward's narrative. That said, "Patriotism Is Not Enough" offers an illuminating—and lively—episode from one valuable perspective. Who knew that an academic dispute could be so interesting?

Mr. Hay's biography of Lord Liverpool, Britain's prime minister in 1812-27, will be published next year.

Thoreau Beyond Walden Pond

Continued from page C5

vates Thoreau's journals, notebooks and correspondence, concentrating on the last years of the naturalist's life and exposing the way he became what today we would call a fluvial geomorphologist, an environmental scientist devoted to understanding the form and function of rivers. "Since the dawn of antiquity," Mr. Thorson writes, "rivers, even more so than coasts, have been the primary battlefields in [humans'] war against nature." Through the late 1850s, Thoreau attempted to determine with precision how the rivers would hold up.

In March of 1859, the flowage controversy came to a head: Representatives from six meadowland towns met the factory owners in the Concord court. Henry was hired by the townspeople to assess the damage that downstream dams were doing to their country. He was paid to take measurements on the rivers for five days. He worked steadily, fastidiously, for two months. Mr. Thorson's attention to detail in describing Thoreau's findings is deeply admirable, if at points a bit too painstaking. But, in his defense, truly understanding something as complex as human ecology requires close attention to detail. Thoreau understood this with the clarity of first-hand experience.

At the end of the flowage controversy, the industrialists won, but, according to Mr. Thorson, so did Henry David Thoreau. He reached a deeper, more complex understanding of the delicate relation between humans and the natural world. "His pioneering river science of 1859-1860 did not position humans as masters and commanders of their water-sheds," Mr. Thorson explains, "as did the engineers of his day. Instead he

mised by modern industry, to woodlands, compromised by unprecedented deforestation. In the face of destruction, Thoreau discovered steady, swaying markers of salvation.

Such discoveries can still be made, but Mr. Higgins reflects that "most of us do not see the beauty of trees, even though they may be right in front of us." In Thoreau's words, "A man shall perhaps rush by and trample down plants as high as his head... yet if he ever favorably attends to them, he may be overcome by their beauty." Sometimes, in the midst of desolation, catching sight of redemption and renewal is simply a

thing powerful, something fragile yet enduring. If one wished to exchange presents in celebration of Thoreau's birth, this book would be a true gift.

What exactly did Thoreau see in trees? Mr. Higgins, a former newspaper reporter who now lives in Concord, explains that Thoreau delighted in the immediacy of branches and bark, in "the parts, form, colors, and stance of trees." The immediate burst of foliage, in turn, did something to Thoreau's mood, what Mr. Higgins calls his "heart": "The trees of autumn especially exhilarated him. Their riotous colors suggested to him that life's daily routine should be interrupted 'by an analogous expression of joy and hilarity,' and that our 'spirits should rise as high as Nature's.' These interruptions gave Thoreau the chance to write poems and essays replete with arboreal imagery. The woodland, as much as the river, was Thoreau's muse. As he became more interested in the natural sciences, trees became occasions to exercise his mind, but "Thoreau's scientific work did not come at the expense of his idealism, which remained the final lens through which he saw nature." Finally, trees, according to Mr. Higgins, "were also guides and companions to Thoreau's soul. They were spires, he said, that lifted his vision to 'heaven.' Rooted in the earth, trees were the signposts to something beyond. So what did Thoreau see in the trees? Life itself, in every aspect.

Mr. Higgins's is a beautiful book. It does, however, omit one story about Thoreau and trees that deserves to be retold. On an extremely warm April morning in 1844, the 26-year-old Thoreau and his friend Edward Hoar sailed up the Sudbury River toward

its headwaters. They fished for most of the morning and landed on the banks of Fairhaven Bay near Sudbury, Mass., where they planned to have lunch. Thoreau made a campfire. A dry wind caught a spark. A day later, 300 acres of meadow and woodland had been burned to the ground. Thoreau's nickname for many years after was "Burnt Woods." It was an accident. Like the sudden flooding of a river's embankment. Or like cutting one's finger with a razor. But the trees perished all the same. Thoreau's crusade on behalf of nature was, at least in part, an act of atonement in the face of nature's tragedies.

If you walk through Thoreau's "burnt woods" today, just a stone's throw from Walden Pond, you'll notice that many of the trees have returned. "The oak dies down to the ground," Thoreau writes, "leaving within its rind a rich virgin mould, which will impart a vigorous life to an infant forest." Trees, according to Mr. Higgins, taught Thoreau how to live but also how to die, and suggested that death was never simply the end. Weeks after the death of John Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson's son Waldo died of scarlet fever. Henry Thoreau wrote to his dear friend: "Every blade in the field—every leaf in the forest—lays down its life in its season as beautifully as it was taken up.... Dead trees, sere leaves, dried grass and herbs—are not these a good part of our life?" Perhaps. But for now, it's still possible to live—to go over the river and through the woods.

Mr. Kaag is a professor of philosophy at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, and the author of "American Philosophy: A Love Story."

BOOKS

'He came unto his own, and his own received him not.' —John 1:11

FICTION CHRONICLE: SAM SACKS

Crossed Loyalties


BY THE TIME an observant Muslim reaches eminent old age, Pakistani novelist Nadeem Aslam notes in "The Golden Legend" (Alfred A. Knopf, 319 pages, \$27.95), he may have a dark bruise on his forehead, formed by thousands of prostrations during a lifetime of daily prayers. Since the discoloration is a mark of devotion, young Islamic militants, looking for holiness on the cheap, have found a way to accelerate the process: "They struck their heads on the floor with deliberate vehemence in order to acquire it and they were threateningly contemptuous of men who did not do the same, whose brows were yet unmarked."

Their behavior—so telling in its perverse conflation of piety and aggression—makes it easier to divide the new breed of zealots from those they label infidels, who include the minority Christians at the center of Mr. Aslam's beautifully imagined novel. The setting is a poor neighborhood outside Zamana, a thinly veiled version of the Pakistani city of Lahore. The main characters are a husband-and-wife architectural team, Massud and Nargis, and a young Christian woman named Helen who has become an informal member of the family since the murder of her mother, the couple's housekeeper.

Their home is among the last remaining oases of interfaith understanding. In its library are detailed models of the Great Mosque of Córdoba and the Hagia Sophia, landmarks of hybrid architecture. But when the story begins, the family is caught in the teeth of the country's epidemic violence. Massud is killed in the crossfire of a shootout involving a CIA officer, and Nargis is forced by a heavy-handed Pakistani intelligence agent to publicly exonerate the American spook for the sake of diplomacy (in accordance with Shariah law, she will receive blood money). Before she can comply, however, fundamentalists who claim to have found a crucifix inside a mosque incite a pogrom against the neighborhood Christians, and she protects Helen by secreting her away to a remote family property.

Another entangled figure joins them in the hideout. Imran is a Kashmiri separatist who enters a jihadist training camp but abandons the militants when he realizes that their targets—mostly people who have been falsely accused of blasphemy—have nothing to do with Kashmir. He helps Helen evade the mob, making him one of the rare terror recruits to escape the spiral of hatred and retribution that invariably falls on society's most vulnerable groups.

When reduced to summary, "The Golden Legend" can seem to feature violence in melodramatic excess. Death is meted out by Americans, Hindu nationalists, the Pakistani government and the swelling ranks of Muslim fundamentalists. Yet Mr. Aslam describes it all with other-



MINORITY A Christmas service at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Lahore, Pakistan.

worldly calmness and simplicity. Some writers have the gift of making the prosaic remarkable; this author makes the unfathomable appear almost ordinary, drawing readers into his multifaceted story and making its brutality more recognizably terrible.

Mr. Aslam's expansive view of history lends his writing this equanimity, as well as its stubborn sense of hope. Nargis's most valued possession is a book written by Massud's father called "That They Might Know Each

it, Youssef, a retired civil servant, reflects on the happy years of his education and employment and even thinks with some nostalgia about the comparatively manageable era under Saddam Hussein. But his young cousin Maha, a witness to war and jihadist genocidal violence, can only picture a future elsewhere. At the crux of their argument is this question: Should they try to hold out in their homeland, where their ancestors have resided for nearly 2,000 years,

books of Apocrypha. Since the Iraq war, however, "many trees have been cut and burned so that the Americans can see the snipers and the snipers can see them."

For American readers, the most painful thing about Mr. Antoon's short, concussive book will be the demonstration of how much harm and how little good the war has done for a gravely persecuted people.

Youssef and Maha don't often see eye to eye, but both agree that "nothing prior to 2003 bore any resemblance to the savagery that came afterward."

"Spoils" (Little, Brown, 292 pages, \$26), the debut by Army veteran Brian Van Reet, begins in Iraq in 2003, weeks after the start of the war. Hurtling straight into the action, the novel depicts a nighttime firefight that leaves three American soldiers, including Spc. Cassandra Wigheard, hostages of a terror cell. The story borrows from disparate sources. One is the real-life capture and rescue of Army Pvt. Jessica Lynch. Another is the mythological tale of the Trojan princess (and famously unheeded prophet) Cassandra, taken by the Greek army as a prize of war. But "Spoils" wears these influences lightly. It's original, deftly plotted and incisively intelligent.

The chapters are divided into three converging points of view. Wigheard is a strong-willed 19-year-old whose imprisonment forcibly acquaints her with her enemy, many of whom are teenagers like herself. Tank crewman

Spc. Sleed, who's part of the unit assigned to rescue her, only sees these combatants through the sights of a gun. The collateral damage the army regularly inflicts has left him desensitized, and even "good kills" in the heat of combat feel "like fear and adrenaline and not much else, like winning at Russian roulette and having the taste of gunmetal forever on your tongue."

The most eye-opening sections are those narrated by one of Wigheard's captors, Abu Al-Hool, an aging veteran of Afghanistan and Chechnya who has become disenchanted by the salted-earth tactics of the extremists flocking to Iraq like bloody-minded pilgrims. The son of a well-to-do Egyptian businessman, Al-Hool is a sophisticated interlocutor, and his dark meditations dwell as much on the soul of modern jihad as on the American invaders. "It is a vexing paradox that the coarsest and most sinful among us often become the most pious," he observes.

Mr. Van Reet occupies these sparing perspectives with impressive balance and dispassion, avoiding the sense of victimhood that often saturates fiction about American soldiers in Iraq. Though the novel offers no pat resolutions, a strange and surprising connection emerges between captive and captors. "I always had an idea of what the Americans would be like," a young jihadist confides. "But they are different than I thought. They're just people."

In Lahore, a widow is pressured to exonerate her husband's killer for the sake of diplomacy. She ends up hiding out with a Christian fleeing persecution.

Other," which chronicles the "umbilical connections" between East and West, Islam and Judeo-Christianity. To her the true Pakistan is a place of cultural exchange, a major artery of the Silk Road, where "one continent poured itself into another." Her vision, as well as the quiet love story that arises between Helen and Imran, provides an eloquent reproach to the false purity of the young men who bash their foreheads in prayer.

Sinan Antoon's "The Baghdad Eucharist" (Hoopoe, 129 pages, \$14.95), originally published in 2012 and now translated from the Arabic by Maia Tabet, gives a vivid snapshot of the plight of Christians in Iraq. In

or should they join the diaspora?

Mr. Antoon, a native Iraqi who expatriated to the U.S. after the Gulf War, suggests that only one answer is possible. "The Baghdad Eucharist" culminates in a terror attack during a church service, the sort of event that has become so hellishly frequent as to cast doubt on the long-term survival of Christianity in the Middle East. Youssef's memories of challenging coexistence between faiths and sects seem anachronistic. He speaks movingly of his love for the date palm, which was "sacred to the ancients as a source of life and sustenance," and plays a vital symbolic role in both the Quran and the Bible's

books of Apocrypha. Since the Iraq war, however, "many trees have been cut and burned so that the Americans can see the snipers and the snipers can see them."

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Don Quixote in the Sahara

Moving the Palace

By Charif Majdalani
New Vessel, 198 pages, \$16.95

BY NATHANIEL POPKIN

IN 'MOVING THE PALACE,' Lebanese-French author Charif Majdalani renders the complex social landscape of the Middle East and North Africa with subtlety and finesse. The hero

Two adventurers in the early 1900s trek across the desert carrying a disassembled palace.

of this novel, a Lebanese adventurer named Samuel Ayyad, is a master of linguistic and cultural translation. He is a personal bridge between the Muslim and Christian, Arab and European worlds. Yet one doesn't need to care about the region's history, or its present-day contexts, to enjoy "Moving the Palace." Ayyad's brio and Mr. Majdalani's richly textured prose are reason enough.

After finishing his studies in Beirut around 1908, Ayyad, "from a fam-

ily of poets" (his father, Nassib, is the author of a seminal Arab-English dictionary), eschews the life of a scholar or functionary. He chooses instead to set out for "the most thankless land known at the time," the Sudan.

There he takes a post as a translator for the British colonial military, which is attempting to reconsolidate power over Egypt and the Sudan by defeating insurgent Mahdist tribes.

Mr. Majdalani, the author of five other books of fiction and nonfiction, immerses the reader in this tinted world of djellabas, caravans, daggers, banquets and palanquins. (First published in French in 2007, the book appears now in Edward Gauvin's alluring translation.) Ayyad quickly impresses the British officer in charge, Col. Edward Moore, with his cultural insight, his facility in Arabic, French and English, and his "fanatical ambition to distinguish himself from the soldiers."

This last quality—Ayyad's fierce personal independence from even the military that pays his salary—lends critical distance that helps avoid decorative set-piece tropes. At a sumptuous dinner with chieftains, "Samuel thinks himself in some Orientalist dream." Seduced by

neither Arab sensuality nor British military discipline, he is indeed free to call things as they are.

He is, however, seduced by adventure. Moore assigns Ayyad the job of

make, Shafik Abyad, a dealer in antiquities who is transporting an entire Alexandrian palace, disassembled and packed in numbered crates,

across the desert in hopes of finding



finishing off a Mahdist-aligned warlord in the mountains and sends him funds to buy the support of other tribal chiefs. Once the warlord has been defeated, Ayyad is free, and his pockets are filled with excess gold. He meets another Lebanese on the

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make, Shafik Abyad, a dealer in antiquities who is transporting an entire Alexandrian palace, disassembled and packed in numbered crates,

and they set off with their ridiculous convoy in tow.

They have no more chance of selling the palace than Don Quixote did of slaying the knight. Yet if Ayyad,

"starting to look lost, for his eyes are too wide for a face that shrinks a little more each day" after months in the desert, is a sort of Quixote, Ayyad is far too certain a figure to be Sancho. And this, perhaps, is the book's shortcoming. Ayyad, a hero from the start, rarely falters. Often challenged but almost never compromised or weakened, he is more myth than man.

Something, however, seduces Ayyad into joining Abyad on his trek, and that may be the force of the landscape, present and yet untouchable. At one point, he notices "on the horizon, carved out in immaculate light, archipelagoes of baobabs . . . like legions of unmoving women hitching up their robes."

Here Mr. Majdalani lets the desert, giver of clarity but thief of reason, assert its power. It is a reminder of the beauty and complexity of a landscape that is lost in our fixation on Islam, terror and oil.

Mr. Popkin is the author of the novel "Lion and Leopard."

BOOKS

'Only a mountain has lived long enough to listen objectively to the howl of a wolf.' —Aldo Leopold

Evolution at Warp Speed

How to Tame a Fox (and Build a Dog)

By Lee Alan Dugatkin & Lyudmila Trut
Chicago, 216 pages, \$26

BY JENNIE ERIN SMITH

IN THE SOVIET UNION under Joseph Stalin, scientists studying genetics had reason to fear not just for their livelihoods but their lives. The field, then largely focused on creating plant and animal hybrids for agriculture, came under attack by the crackpot "peasant scientist" Trofim Lysenko, who in the 1930s persuaded Stalin that genetics was for bourgeois capitalists, and that he had better ways to turn failing farms around. During Lysenko's reign of influence, researchers were captured by government agents and thrown into prisons, where many died. Into the '50s, even after Stalin's death and the discovery of DNA, any Soviet scientist interested in genetics or evolutionary biology had to cloak his or her work in some other guise.

Dmitri Belyaev was one of those scientists. Though his elder brother, an expert on silkworm genetics, was arrested and executed during one of Lysenko's purges, he survived thanks to his accomplishments as a fur breeder; fur was a lucrative Soviet export in those days. In "How to Tame a Fox (and Build a Dog)," biologists Lee Alan Dugatkin and Lyudmila Trut recount the story of an evolutionary experiment Belyaev launched in secret during those dark years, carried out on remote breeding farms where silver foxes, color variants of the red fox, were raised en masse. After Belyaev's death in 1985 the experiment was taken over by Ms. Trut, who has kept it going through the present day with mind-boggling results.

In 1952 Belyaev began asking farmers to identify their least aggressive foxes for breeding, claiming that he wanted to learn how to make them tamer over generations, and more fertile. This was true, in a sense. What he was really thinking about was how to mimic and accelerate the process by which some wolves—close relatives of foxes that are also naturally averse to humans—"evolved over tens of thousands of years into the lovable, loyal dog," write Mr. Dugatkin and Ms. Trut.

Belyaev suspected that natural behavioral variation among wild wolves was key to their becoming domesticated. Some wolves were ever so slightly less skittish by nature, he knew, and this may have been the first link in the chain. One way to test the hypothesis was to see whether selectively breeding foxes that were naturally calmer than their siblings might not only increase tameness over gen-



CAGEY A domesticated silver fox in Novosibirsk, Siberia.

erations but also bring about certain physical and reproductive changes associated with domestication.

Domesticated mammals differ from their wild brethren in that their mating is not tightly tethered to the seasons, allowing them to breed more than once a year. They also have different features: spots and splotches, floppy ears, curly tails. Charles Darwin had wondered how and why these features arose, and suspected that they came about spontaneously; a curly-tailed pig or a spotted cow offered little advantage to the farmer. But why they should occur alongside tame behavior was a mystery.

Belyaev had noticed dramatic color changes in minks several generations removed from the wild. It was hard to explain as a result of either natural or artificial selection. The animals weren't inbred, and changes resulting from accumulations of random mutations would not arise so quickly. Belyaev suspected the animals' genes were simply being expressed differently—turned on and off, perhaps, by environmental cues—and that this produced the heritable traits he saw.

It was easier to envision the farmed foxes changing colors than turning dog-like, though. They were seriously ill tempered, lunging and snapping at their keepers, who had to wear thick padded gloves when approaching their

cages. As it turned out, though, some were marginally less excitable. After a few generations of selectively mating the calmest foxes, the differences were subtle but noticeable: An increasing proportion did not go out of their way to bite the hand that fed them.

In 1959 Belyaev persuaded Ms. Trut, then a graduate student in Moscow, to install herself on a large commercial fox farm in Siberia, where winter temperatures dropped to 40 below, and to expand the project. To receive official sanction, the scientists couched the work as research in fox physiology. It was basic science masquerading as applied science; Lysenko still cast a pall.

A few years later, when the tame foxes were in their fourth generation, one male pup, which the researchers called Ember, wagged its tail when Ms. Trut approached. Tail-wagging was something foxes were not known to do, and this wasn't something that could be explained by conditioning, either: The tamer foxes were being raised under the same harsh conditions as the rest. Ms. Trut was unsure whether it was a fluke.

None of Ember's siblings wagged their tails, but some of his descendants did, suggesting the behavior could be inherited. Later generations were even more affectionate, pressing themselves up against the side of their pens when Ms. Trut approached, and rolling over

on their backs for belly rubs. Instead of biting her hand, they licked it. Fox pups displaying these new behaviors were deemed "elite." The elites even opened their eyes a few days earlier than the control foxes, as though "itching to start interacting with people,"

After decades of breeding, descendants of wild foxes began to roll on their backs for belly rubs.

the authors write. And they retained much of their playfulness as they aged, instead of turning skittish.

In the '60s, genetics finally resumed its rightful place in Soviet science. Belyaev became the director of a new institute in Siberia, and could, despite Cold War constraints, share his and Ms. Trut's findings with colleagues overseas. Ms. Trut built an experimental fox farm to take the project in new directions. She now had an increasingly cuddly bunch of elite foxes that enjoyed being picked up and petted and playing with toys. In the 1970s, some lived with Ms. Trut, acting like pets, even jumping into her bed. The elite foxes continued to change. They developed white spots on their heads.

In the 10th generation, one was born with floppy ears that didn't straighten out, as fox ears always did within weeks. They had dramatically lower levels of stress hormones than the control foxes, and females became ready to mate out of season. Even the structure of certain glands, and their skeletons, was different. Researchers were witnessing evolution at "warp speed," the authors write, and Belyaev's hypothesis being borne out.

The nagging question was why this particular suite of physical and behavioral changes occurred together. Research into hormones was fairly new, but Ms. Trut and her mentor had a hunch that they were the link. A change in the expression of a gene that affected the endocrine system could result in seemingly unrelated effects: the elites' white spots, for example, were found to result from differences in the timing of their embryological development. Belyaev came up with a broad theory to explain what was going on. Natural selection, the authors write, "had stabilized the hormonal recipe for building a fox and its behavior in the wild. Now the selection for tameness... was destabilizing that formula."

Mr. Dugatkin is a veteran science writer with a knack for turning sprawling subjects into compact, enjoyable narratives. Ms. Trut, now in her 80s, is both a co-author and a subject of this book, an unusual arrangement. But her intense participation adds a rare degree of intimacy to this science story, especially as it progresses into the years beyond Belyaev's death, which were hard ones.

The collapse of the Soviet Union caused Ms. Trut's research funds to dry up. In the 1990s many of her foxes starved, and Ms. Trut was forced to euthanize others before she launched an eloquent appeal to scientists and animal lovers overseas. Her articles drew attention to the foxes' plight and to the discoveries that remained to be mined from a well-run evolutionary experiment then half a century underway.

Ms. Trut has been collaborating in recent years with Russian and foreign colleagues, whose genomics work has shed tremendous light on her findings. One visiting researcher found that most of the changes in gene expression that distinguished Ms. Trut's tame foxes from wild ones could be mapped onto a specific region of fox chromosome 12. Amazingly, the important distinctions to be found between wolves and dogs occur on the same chromosome. Why the traits should come as a package is still a mystery. The fox experiment will continue indefinitely.

Ms. Smith is the author of "Stolen World: A Tale of Reptiles, Smugglers and Skulduggery."

Where Presidents Play

A Meeting of Land and Sea

By David R. Foster
Yale, 336 pages, \$40

BY ALEXANDRA STYRON

EARLY IN "A Meeting of Land and Sea: Nature and the Future of Martha's Vineyard," David Foster describes what he calls the "holiday test." Mr.

Foster, an ecologist at Harvard, encourages his students to gauge the wisdom of their research topics by imagining a Thanksgiving conversation with "Uncle Bob and Aunt Hilary." An ill-considered choice might result in a scene like this: "After you stumble

Martha's Vineyard, from a lump of glacial till to a Xanadu for celebrities.

through a few sentences laced with terms like 'lake sediments,' 'postglacial,' and 'pollen analysis,' Hilary is peering over your shoulder toward the shrimp cocktail, and Bob interrupts to ask exactly who is funding this work and how it will lead to a real job."

The point of the exercise is not to dissuade future ecologists from boring deep into their subject matter but to encourage them to make their work both compelling and relevant. I confess that Aunt Hilary remained much on my mind as I made my way through this grand survey of an island I know well. Mr. Foster's book is lush and handsome, both exhaustive in its exploration of the island's natural land-

scape and profoundly considerate of the human impact—past, present and future—upon that landscape. But ultimately it is the work of an academic. And so I wondered: Would my layman's devotion to the place bear up under so much eco-science and data?

Could I share Mr. Foster's zeal for geomorphology, dendrology, climatology? For extirpated wildlife and failed zoning plans? Or was I gazing at the finger food?

Well, a little.

But tenaciousness rewards the patient reader. The scope of Mr. Foster's narrative is vast, and its fine detail is crucial to taking in the entire view.

As most any visitor will attest, the island is rich in personality. A corrugated triangle of land just off the coast of Massachusetts, it measures roughly 100 square miles, comprising six distinct municipalities. Edgartown, with its stately whaling homes and preppy vibe, is a world apart from the windswept beach culture of bohemian Chilmark. Tisbury's commercial hurly-burly ensures that it never gets confused with its more serene neighbor, West Tisbury. Aquinnah remains both wild and remote. And, well, no-

where is quite like the town of Oak Bluffs. But more protean than the character of the towns is the land they have come to occupy. Rocky hillsides here, dense woods there; rolling green pastures and sandy grass plains; marshland, moors, brackish inlets, freshwater ponds. Together these diverse regions make up a highly dynamic ecosystem—all of it ringed by a spectacular seashore that

as a static landmass than as a constantly mutating organism. Forest gives way to farmland, which again gives way to forest; beaches erode only to backfill other beaches down the strand; rustic waterways become grist mills, then conservation land in perpetuity. And all along the way are the people drawn to the island for different reasons, shaping its resources as the tides shape the coast. As the

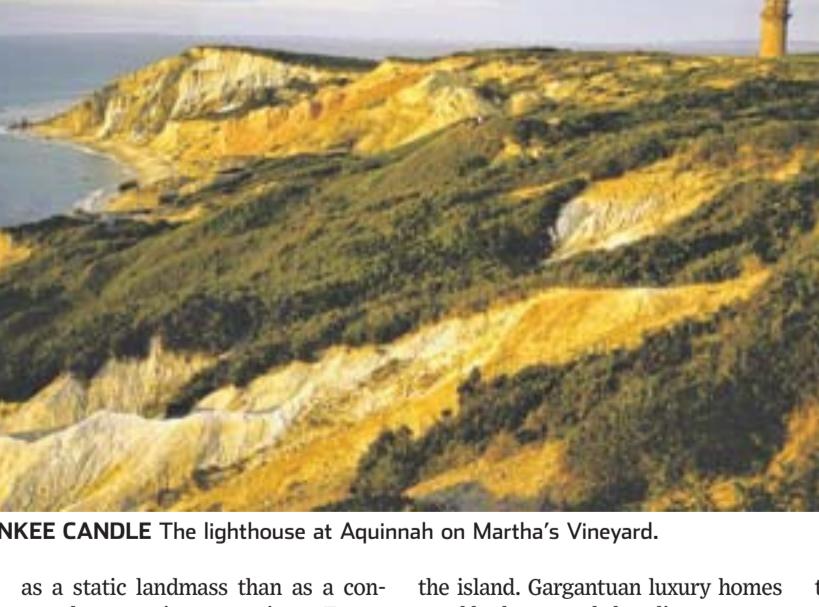
professor and conservationist Nathaniel Southgate Shaler wrote of the island in 1874, "every nook and cranny will... give to those who search it in this spirit a mass of curious things, quite as rich as those we could bring to light out of the darkest corner of Europe, and far more comprehensible."

Of course, some of those things are finite. The last hundred years have seen an explosion of development on

the golf course you hate is better than the housing development originally planned—that can allay the fears of even the twitchiest tree-hugger. And his portraits of the people and organizations that have long protected the island are heartening. So, too, is his sense of history. For instance, a consideration of the island's arboreal complexion shows that tree species do succumb to various blights but are almost always replaced by more salubrious breeds, without any human intervention. In the end, one of the surest achievements of "A Meeting of Land and Sea" is the balance that is struck between concern and hope. For every graph that charts new construction, Mr. Foster offers a countervailing map delineating land that will remain forever wild.

As for the future of the Vineyard, change is, as always, the one thing we can count on. Here Mr. Foster counsels a measure of passivity, arguing for "less hubris" in our interventions. We cannot deter nature, nor can we stop progress. Rather we can assess all the attendant forces and make responsible decisions based on what we've learned. Mr. Foster's protocol—alliances between landowners and conservation organizations, grants for local farmers, history-minded civic planning—is intended to work with nature, not against it. But still he would have us remember that we are, all of us, stewards of tomorrow. As a favorite island bumper sticker says, it is always time to "Save What's Left."

Ms. Styron is the author of "Reading My Father: A Memoir."



YANKEE CANDLE The lighthouse at Aquinnah on Martha's Vineyard.

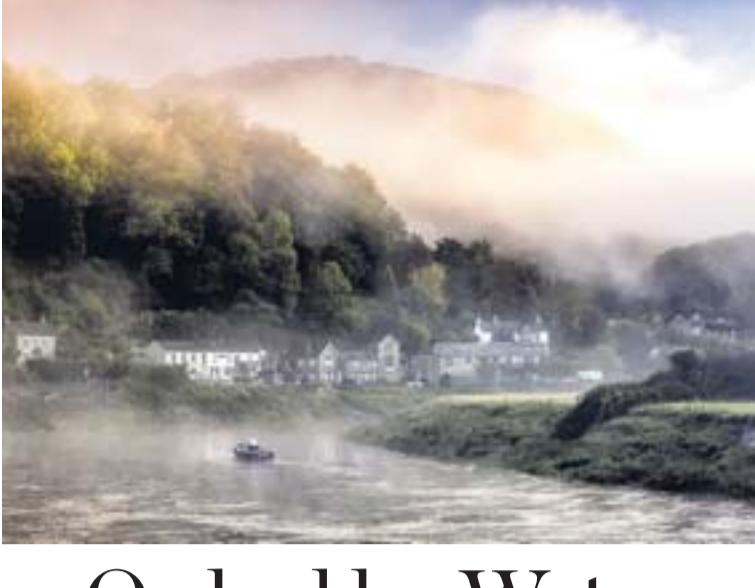
the island. Gargantuan luxury homes speckle the rugged shorelines, narrow roadways are often choked with traffic, new commercial districts abound. Every summer, the island's population explodes; the stresses placed on a fragile system cannot be overestimated.

But all is not gloom and doom. As a contextualist, Mr. Foster presents ideas—the now extinct heath hen was never particularly abundant anyway,

BOOKS

'In wartime, truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies.' —Winston Churchill

MYSTERIES: TOM NOLAN



Ordeal by Water

'A STRANGE PLACE,' is how English policewoman Erin Morgan describes the rural town of Beckford, where she's investigating a recent suspicious death, "full of odd people, with a downright bizarre history. And all through the middle of it, there's this river, and that's the weirdest thing... [I]t seems like whichever way you turn... somehow you always end up back at the river." That ubiquitous flowing presence corkscrews throughout the highly suspenseful **"Into the Water"** (*Riverhead*, 388 pages, \$28), the second novel by Paula Hawkins, whose first was the international best seller **"The Girl on the Train."**

The Beckford death that Morgan is looking into took place in the river—as did, months earlier, the death of a teenaged girl whose demise was deemed a suicide. The river's history as a watery gravesite—especially in its most treacherous spot, "the drowning pool"—goes back over three centuries, to its use as a place for the "swimming" of women accused of being witches: "the ordeal by water." Ever since, in the prose of its most recent victim, Beckford writer-photographer Danielle "Nel" Abbott, "it has drawn to its shores the unlucky, the desperate, the unhappy, the lost. They come here to swim with their sisters."

Nel had become obsessed with the river's morbid history, and her research on the subject disturbed and threatened various neighbors. She herself was close to a recent adolescent victim of the river, who'd been best friends with Nel's own teenage daughter. And Nel's aggressive probing had led her to a disturbing conclusion: "Beckford is not a suicide spot," reads a passage in her interrupted work. "Beckford is a place to get rid of troublesome women." Was that the case with Nel Abbott?

Detective Inspector Sean Townsend, the town's top cop, thinks both recent deaths were suicides. But Morgan, new to Beckford, is skeptical. Homicides or not, it's clear big secrets

have been kept in this small town, some for generations.

The facts behind all these intrigues are teased out with impressive skill by Ms. Hawkins, who tells a complex narrative in mostly brief chapters through the eyes and voices of more than a dozen characters—in the third and first person, in action scenes and inner monologues, in chapters from Nel's unpublished manuscript. There is Nel's embittered sister Julia, who's engaged in a lifelong internal tirade against her

A 'drowning pool' claims two victims in a new page-turner by the author of **'The Girl on the Train.'**

accomplished, insensitive sibling: "The things I want to remember I can't, and the things I try so hard to forget just keep coming." There's Det. Townsend ("trim and sharp-looking, as though if you got too close to him you might cut yourself"), a lifelong Beckford resident who's seen everything and is starting to see it repeat itself. There's Nel's daughter Lena, by turns sulking, guilty and angry: "Why do adults always ask the wrong questions?" And there's Nickie Sage, self-declared psychic and descendant of witches, whose fortune-telling business has been shut down by marketplace regulators: "EU rules! Consumer Protection! Time was, the likes of Nickie were prosecuted (persecuted) under the Witchcraft Act and the Fraudulent Mediums Act. Now they fell afoul of European bureaucrats."

Keeping track of all these characters can at times be daunting. But the effort proves worthwhile in a chronicle whose final pages yield startling revelations—despite the puzzlement of the policeman in charge. "Sometimes, with things like these," an overwhelmed Sean Townsend cautions, "there is no truth to be found." Think again, Detective Inspector.

FIVE BEST: A PERSONAL CHOICE

Giles Milton on Churchill's spies

Winston Churchill's Toyshop

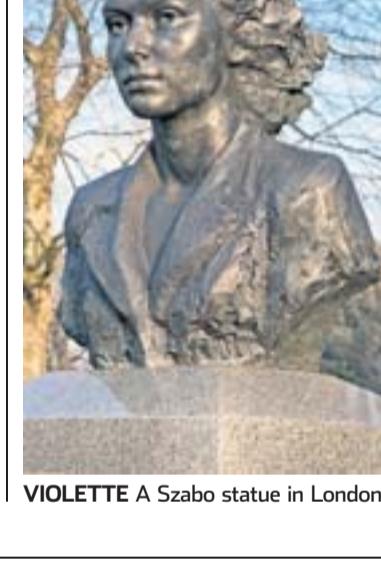
By Stuart Macrae (1971)

1 STUART MACRAE spent World War II working for a secretive outfit code-named MD1. Established by Winston Churchill, it produced bespoke explosives for sabotage, assassinations and hit-and-run raids. One of its most destructive weapons was the limpet mine, used to wreck everything from battleships to power stations. MD1 also invented the Sticky Bomb, the PIAT antitank gun and the Cas-trator, a miniature booby trap. In total, it produced more than 10 million devices. It was housed in an unassuming country mansion called the Firs, where much of Macrae's time was spent trying to control the eccentric and mavericks who worked there. Mishaps occurred regularly. Laboratories exploded, bombs detonated unexpectedly and—on one notable occasion—a stray missile "very nearly wiped out General de Gaulle." Every page of Macrae's narrative is overlaid with the wit and charm of its gregarious author. When critics dismissed MD1 as "Winston Churchill's toyshop," he had a quick rejoinder: "The toys we produced were rather dangerous ones."

Operation Sea Lion

By Leo McKinstry (2014)

2 IN MAY 1940, Winston Churchill wrote a gloomy letter to President Roosevelt informing him of Hitler's intention to invade Great Britain. "The scene has darkened swiftly. We expect to be attacked here ourselves both from the air and by parachute and air-



VIOLETTE A Szabo statue in London.

borne troops." Churchill's fears of invasion were fully justified, as Leo McKinstry makes clear in this impeccably researched book. Hitler's Wehrmacht had swept through much of Europe by July 1940, and Britain alone stood in the way of total victory. Yet the nation seemed woefully ill prepared for war. When one young volunteer was asked, "What steps would you take if you saw the Hun come down in parachutes?" he shrugged and replied, "Bloody long ones." Mr. McKinstry challenges the widely held assumption that Hitler was defeated by Britain's Spitfire pilots. He also argues that the country was nowhere near as unready as is claimed. It had a formidable fleet of destroyers that could have wreaked havoc on any seaborne invasion. It also had a secret guerrilla force specially trained to attack any Nazi foothold in southern England. The British were both ready and willing to fight a very dirty war against Hitler.

Secret War Heroes

By Marcus Binney (2005)

3 FEW MEMBERS of Britain's wartime guerrilla unit, the Special Operations Executive, were as colorful as the 10 characters who stride through the pages of Marcus Binney's narrative. Most idiosyncratic of all is Bill Sykes, a stocky pensioner with a pleasant smile and thick spectacles. "He has the manner and appearance of an elderly, amiable clergyman," wrote one acquaintance. But he also happened to be a master of silent killing, one whose every sentence was said to end with the words "and then kick him in the testicles." Chilling, ruthless and clinical, he trained Allied saboteurs being dropped behind enemy lines. Mr. Binney's gallery of eccentrics also includes Harry Ree, who blew up a Peugeot factory being used to produce Nazi munitions. Ree had begun the war as a Cambridge-educated pacifist, but he ended it—like so many in SOE—as a destructive genius.

Between Silk and Cyanide

By Leo Marks (1998)

4 LEO MARKS SET OFF to war with a one-way railway ticket, a black-market chicken and a mischievous sense of humor. He would end up inducted into the SOE—largely because the interviewer mistakenly believed he was related to the wealthy businessman Sir Simon Marks. The young Marks



MR. MILTON is the author, most recently, of **'Churchill's Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare.'**

had never met his namesake, but that didn't stop him from promising to "to nudge Sir Simon in the right direction the next time we dined together." In addition to inventing devilish codes and ciphers, Marks trained undercover agents heading into occupied Europe, many of whom have cameo roles in his account of Britain's secret war against the Nazis. One of the most moving episodes concerns the agent Violette Szabo and her use of a coded love poem written by Marks himself. The poem was to become Szabo's epitaph—a fitting testimony to her courage in the face of Nazi torture. The irresistible appeal of this book is the self-deprecating humor of its author. Marks is a master storyteller, and he has a gripping tale to tell. Although it's a doorstopper of a book, it can be devoured in a single sitting.

The Winter Fortress

By Neal Bascomb (2016)

5 OF ALL THE SABOTAGE operations of World War II, the destruction of the Vemork industrial plant in Norway was the most spectacular. It was also the most important. Vemork produced the heavy water (deuterium oxide) that Hitler needed to produce an atomic bomb. The first attempt to destroy Vemork had been a fiasco, but in February 1943 a new and highly trained team of Norwegian saboteurs was parachuted in. Their mission was little short of suicidal: They were to slip undetected into Vemork, blow up the machinery and then escape through the fjords. It is a story that has been told many times (in both book and film), but Neal Bascomb has produced a gripping narrative of an extraordinary mission. Even Gen. von Falkenhorst, the commander of German forces in Norway, was impressed by the saboteurs' bravado. "The most splendid coup I have seen in this war," he said.

Best-Selling Books | Week Ended April 23

With data from NPD BookScan

Hardcover Nonfiction

| TITLE / AUTHOR / PUBLISHER | THIS WEEK | LAST WEEK |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Make Your Bed 1 William H. McRaven/Grand Central Publishing | 10 | |
| Old School: Life in the Sane Lane 2 Bill O'Reilly/Henry Holt & Company | 1 | |
| This Fight Is Our Fight 3 Elizabeth Warren/Metropolitan Books | New | |
| Note to Self 4 Connor Franta/Atria Books | New | |
| Killers of the Flower Moon 5 David Grann/Doubleday Books | New | |

Nonfiction E-Books

| TITLE / AUTHOR / PUBLISHER | THIS WEEK | LAST WEEK |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Shattered 1 J. Allen & A. Parnes/Crown/Archetype | New | |
| Killers of the Flower Moon 2 David Grann/Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group | New | |
| Hillbilly Elegy 3 J.D. Vance/HarperCollins Publishers | 4 | 4 |
| The Zookeeper's Wife 4 Diane Ackerman/W.W. Norton & Company | 3 | |
| The Immortal Life Of Henrietta Lacks 5 Rebecca Skloot/Crown/Archetype | - | |
| This Fight Is Our Fight 6 Elizabeth Warren/Henry Holt & Company | New | |
| Oh She Glows Every Day 7 Angela Liddon/Penguin Publishing Group | - | |
| Habit Stacking 8 S.J. Scott/S.J. Scott | - | |
| I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings 9 Maya Angelou/Random House Publishing Group | - | |
| The Anxiety Toolkit 10 Alice Boyes, Ph.D./Penguin Publishing Group | - | |

Hardcover Fiction

| TITLE / AUTHOR / PUBLISHER | THIS WEEK | LAST WEEK |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| The Fix 1 David Baldacci/Grand Central Publishing | New | |
| Oh, the Places You'll Go! 2 Dr. Seuss/Random House Children's Books | 5 | |
| The Black Book 3 James Patterson&David Ellis/Little, Brown and Company | 1 | |
| Fast and Loose 4 Stuart Woods/G.P. Putnam's Sons | New | |
| All By Myself, Alone 5 Mary Higgins Clark/Simon & Schuster | 7 | |

Fiction E-Books

| TITLE / AUTHOR / PUBLISHER | THIS WEEK | LAST WEEK |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| The Fix 1 David Baldacci/Grand Central Publishing | New | |
| Fast and Loose 2 Stuart Woods/Penguin Publishing Group | New | |
| The Letter 3 Kathryn Hughes/Headline Book Publishing, LTD | 8 | |
| The Missing Ones 4 Patricia Gibney/Patricia Gibney | 9 | |
| Blue Moon 5 Linda Howard/Pocket Star | New | |
| A Darkness More Than Night 6 Michael Connelly/Little, Brown and Company | - | |
| The Black Book 7 James Patterson&David Ellis/Little, Brown and Company | 2 | |
| The Woman in Cabin 10 8 Ruth Ware/Gallery/Scout Press | 10 | |
| A Man Called Ove 9 Fredrik Backman/Washington Square Press | - | |
| Everything, Everything 10 Nicola Yoon/Ember | - | |
| The Black Book 11 James Patterson&David Ellis/Little, Brown and Company | 5 | |
| Caught 12 Harlan Coben/Penguin Publishing Group | - | |
| Born in Death 13 J. D. Robb/Penguin Publishing Group | - | |

Methodology

NPD BookScan gathers point-of-sale book data from more than 16,000 locations across the U.S., representing about 85% of the nation's book sales. Print-book data providers include all major booksellers (now inclusive of Wal-Mart) and Web retailers, and food stores. E-book data providers include all major e-book retailers. Free e-books and those sold for less than 99 cents are excluded. The fiction and nonfiction lists in all formats include adult, young adult, and juvenile titles; the business list includes only adult titles. The combined lists track sales by title across all print and e-book formats; audio books are excluded. Refer questions to Peter.Saenger@wsj.com.

Hardcover Business

| TITLE / AUTHOR / PUBLISHER | THIS WEEK | LAST WEEK |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Strengths Finder 2.0 1 Tom Rath/Gallup Press | 2 | |
| Unshakeable 2 Tony Robbins/Simon & Schuster | 1 | |
| The Five Dysfunctions of a Team 3 Patrick M. Lencioni/Jossey-Bass | 4 | |
| Emotional Intelligence 2.0 4 Travis Bradberry & Jean Greaves/TalentSmart | 3 | |
| The New Rules of Work 5 Alexandra Cavoulacos & Kathryn Minshew/Crown Business | New | |
| Total Money Makeover 6 Dave Ramsey/Thomas Nelson | 5 | |
| Extreme Ownership 7 Jocko Willink & Leif Babin/St. Martin's Press | 6 | |
| The Energy Bus 8 Jon Gordon/John Wiley & Sons | 7 | |
| Radical Candor 9 Kim Scott/St. Martin's Press | 8 | |
| The 4-Hour Workweek 10 Timothy Ferriss/Crown Publishing Group (NY) | - | |

REVIEW



JOSH HUSKIN FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WEEKEND CONFIDENTIAL: ALEXANDRA WOLFE

Becky Hammon

BECKY HAMMON was a pioneer when she became the NBA's first female full-time assistant coach, for the San Antonio Spurs, in 2014. A number of sports commentators now think that she may break another barrier, becoming the league's first female head coach. Last month, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver told ESPN that it was his responsibility to ensure that a woman gets the job "sooner rather than later," and the Spurs' head coach, Gregg Popovich, has said that Ms. Hammon would be well equipped for a team's top spot.

For now, however, Ms. Hammon has more immediate concerns. On

Thursday night, the Spurs won their series against the Memphis Grizzlies in the first round of the NBA playoffs. This Monday, they will face the Houston Rockets in the opening game of the Western Conference semifinals.

A former college and WNBA star, Ms. Hammon, 40, is small for the sport, as she herself acknowledges. "I can't help it if God only made me 5-foot-6," she says. "I would've loved to have been 6 feet, but...you kind of develop and evolve what you need to evolve."

She has been playing basketball since she was in kindergarten in Rapid City, S.D. Her father coached

her club and recreational teams. When she asked him if she'd ever be able to play in the NBA, he told her no. When she asked him if she'd ever be able to dunk the ball, he again told her no. The challenge helped to motivate her.

Her father also gave her advice that has stuck with her: Because she was smaller than the other players, he told her, "Don't try to be in the air too much. Just be on the ground and rule the ground."

She had to learn to be strategic and to be aware of all the players on the court, giving her a head start on the kind of thinking that a coach does. She also found that the men-

| The NBA assistant coach may yet head a team of her own

tal aspects of the game were at least as important as the physical ones. "I don't care if you're a man or a woman," she says. "The best thing about Michael Jordan was his mind for the game."

She went on to play at Colorado State University, where she was the most decorated women's player in the school's history. She signed on with the WNBA's New York Liberty in 1999.

She struggled at first in the professional league. "When I was drafted, I was the last person picked to sit on the bench," she says. "I had to work to improve every year." She was traded to the

'Me being a woman really has nothing to do with it.'

San Antonio Stars in 2007, where she earned the nickname "Big Shot Becky" for her ability to make crucial baskets at pivotal moments.

The following year, Ms. Hammon drew some controversy by becoming a Russian citizen to play for the country's team in the 2008 Olympics. (The U.S. won the gold that year, while Russia took the bronze.) She would have rather played for the U.S. team, but she was never offered a spot. "You get to a point where, for whatever reason, the door was just closed, and I had no way to open that door," she says. "So I looked the other way, and the door was open, so I walked through." She played for the Russian team again in 2012.

Back in San Antonio, she tore her anterior cruciate ligament in 2013. While recovering, she started attending Spurs practices, offering suggestions to the legendary Mr. Popovich, whose unusual coaching techniques include quizzing his players on world events as a team-building exercise.

The following season, he hired her as an assistant coach, and she left the WNBA. She works with five other assistant coaches, including former NBA player Ime Udoka and Italian coach Ettore Messina. Her role includes researching other teams' players and studying their tendencies on the court—"not just the top seven guys but number 14 and 15 on the bench," she adds.

She is no longer the only woman working as a full-time coach in the NBA. In 2015, the Sacramento Kings hired former WNBA player Nancy Lieberman as an assistant coach.

Last month, radio talk show host Mike Francesca set off an outcry when he told a caller on his program that he didn't think a woman would be a head coach in the NBA in his lifetime—or in any men's professional sports. He also said that Ms. Hammon had "no shot." Mr. Popovich said to ESPN that the remarks were "nonsense."

Ms. Hammon declined to comment on the controversy, but she certainly seems determined to go farther in the league. She recently turned down the plum position of head coach of the women's basketball team at the University of Florida. "I just don't feel like my journey in the NBA is done yet," she says. "It would be like getting off two exits too early."

She doesn't dwell on being one of the few women coaching in the NBA. "At the end of the day, me being a woman really has nothing to do with it," she says.

On a typical game day in San Antonio, she goes to practice for two to three hours in the morning, then to a gym to work out. She goes home before heading back to the arena around 4 p.m., where she stays until about 11. When she isn't coaching, she enjoys fishing and scuba diving.

Does she miss playing basketball herself? "I miss it so much I try not to think about it," she says. And although she loves coaching, she still thinks of herself as a player. "I don't think you ever lose it."

MOVING TARGETS: JOE QUEENAN

The Dream of Even More Driverless Transport

THIS WEEK, this newspaper reported that Amazon may move beyond its much-ballyhooed investment in delivering goods by drone to other unmanned transport. That might include crewless cargo ships and pilotless airplanes, the Journal speculated. The wider social benefits of such revolutionary technologies should be obvious.

A self-operating cargo ship would have no crew for Somali pirates to hold for ransom. Yes, the roving sea dogs could still seize the vessels themselves, but top-flight buccaneerologists say that sidelining crews would eliminate the main reason young men become pirates in the first place: the fun factor.

"If you can't unfurl the Jolly Roger and issue time-honored threats like 'Aye, ye lubber lot, I'll spit you on my very cutlass,' what's the point of being a pirate?" says Rambo Debussy, a Geneva-based consultant on nautical security. "All the drama will disappear. In fact, the arrival of crewless cargo ships

is so imminent that high-tech firms based in Mogadishu, Brazil and Southeast Asia are already experimenting with crewless pirate ships."

The public may take longer to accept pilotless passenger aircraft, and Nascar enthusiasts may balk at the concept of a completely driverless Indianapolis 500. It's bad enough that the revered Dale Earnhardt Jr. is about to retire, but everyone else too? What's the point of watching car crashes at 270 miles per hour if nobody is in the car?

Still, other types of driverless transportation would clearly be a great boon, especially for public safety.

"Driverless bicycles would allow pedestrians to cross downtown streets at rush hour without fear of being run over by some idiot tourist on a rent-a-bike or some frantic delivery man from a Chinese restaurant," says Brooke Veloce, a Brooklyn-based expert on archaic modes of urban transporta-

The thrill is gone: Will anyone use jet skis that eliminate every risk?



tion. "A driverless bicycle would never dream of going north on Fifth Avenue or south on Sixth. Same thing for driverless scooters. Not to mention driverless Rascals."

Amazon and its rivals shouldn't stop there. Right now, public safety officials are pushing hard for driverless motorcycles. "Driverless choppers won't weave in and out between 18-wheelers or roar down the highway at 90 miles an hour," says Jezebel Sternhagen, media liaison at the Center for Automotive Realism. "Driverless Harleys won't

keep doing 75 on icy mountain roads with poor visibility and no guard rails. Of course, a lot of motorcyclists will complain that this is the whole reason for riding the damn things in the first place."

Similar concerns make technologists wonder about the viability of driverless snowmobiles. "You think these knuckleheads don't know that if you rocket through the Great North Woods at full throttle

while you're totally wasted, you might end up with your face decorating a tree trunk?" asks Coyote Fairuckles, editor of Real Simple Xtreme Offtrack magazine. "Same deal with clowns on jet skis who plow into concrete piers at 90 miles an hour. These ding-dongs just won't go driverless. It would take away the thrill."

Driverless solutions have even reached the Hudson Valley, where Washington Irving's beloved "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" takes place. But here, the pain is evident. The problem is that insurers have tripled the rates for drivers of haunted hay wagons, says Trish Van Den Gouda, executive director of the local Society for the Preservation of Vehicular Nostalgia. "Things have gotten so bad," she explains, "that we can't get Headless Horseman insurance anymore. So this year, Ichabod Crane will be pursued by a headless, horseless horse. Or something. You call this progress?"

REVIEW

EXHIBIT



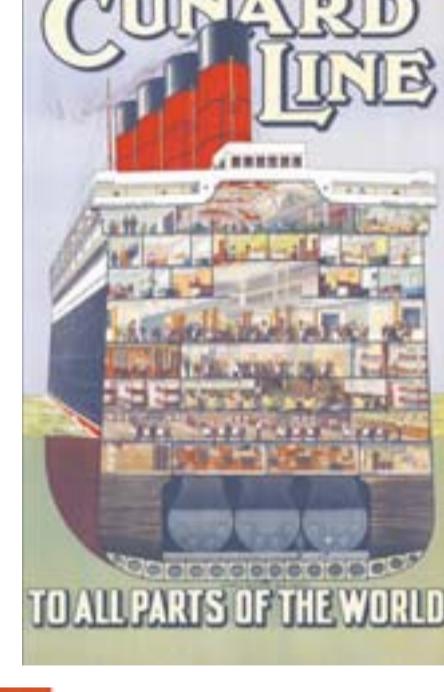
A.

BOATS WITH THE MOST

FOR A LONG TIME, ocean liners were the largest moving objects ever built. Even today, their size is rivaled only by aircraft carriers. The exhibit "Ocean Liners," at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Mass., starting May 20, showcases vintage posters, sketches of luxurious interiors and other cruise-themed items from the 19th and 20th centuries. The exhibit and an accompanying book trace the evolution of ocean liners from functional ships designed to go from one destination to another to vacations in themselves. Back in those days, says co-curator Dan Finamore, the ships "were representative of progress and the future." —Alexandra Wolfe

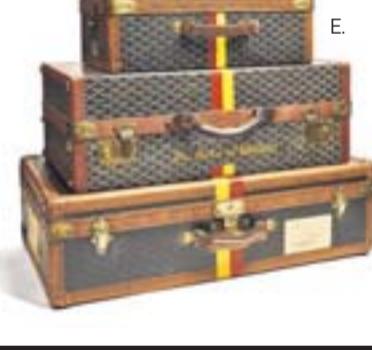


B.



D.

A. A 23-foot model of the Queen Elizabeth from 1949.
B. In the early 1900s, first-class cabins were sumptuously decorated. By the 1930s, many travelers wanted a more sleek style, as shown in this design proposal from around 1935.
C. In this 1929 poster, the tiny car hoisted in the air is meant to show the ship's scale and advertise the fact that it was a mechanical marvel.
D. This view of a ship cut in half aims to highlight both the elegance of the passenger spaces, including double-height dining rooms, and the high-tech mechanics below.
E. The luggage of the Duke of Windsor, a frequent ocean-liner traveler, circa 1950.



E.

COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM TOP: KATHY TARANTOLA (2); LUKE ABIOL; VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM, LONDON; JARROD STAPLES

C.

ASK ARIELY: DAN ARIELY

Does Wearing a Helmet Make Us Less Safe?

Dear Dan,

A friend told me recently that wearing a bike helmet is actually more dangerous than not wearing one because those who wear a helmet take more risks, which outweighs the benefits of having their heads protected. Should I tell my kids to stop wearing helmets? —Phil

Definitely not, but the question is a complex and interesting one. The real issues here are: what kinds of injuries helmets can prevent, how wearing a helmet alters our behavior and how our risk-taking changes over time.

Let's think for a minute about a related case: seat belts. When drivers, pushed by legislation, began to wear seat belts as a matter of course, they might have felt extra-safe at first, making them think that they could get away with driving more aggressively. But after a while, as wearing a seat belt became fairly automatic, that sensation of cocooning safety subsided. The tendency to take extra risks subsided too. So the full benefits of seat-belt use only emerged after we got used to wearing them all the time.

The same can be said about helmets. When we initially put one on, we may feel overconfident and cut more corners with road safety. But once helmet-wearing becomes a habit, we should revert to more prudent behavior, which will let us realize the helmet's full benefits. That is especially important, of course, with children.



Dear Dan,

I'm finding dating tricky these days. I'd like to show some chivalry, but it isn't clear how to do that. Try as I might to pay the bill for dinner as a sign of respect and care, the women I've been out with seem to want to split it. Any advice? —Ron

Acts of chivalry are acts of respect. They aren't about practicality but about doing something kind for the other person. So I would suggest instead that you open the car door for your dates.

Decades ago, when car doors had to be unlocked manually, it was customary for the driver to open the door for the passenger. These days, when car locks release with a click and a beep from a keychain, doing so seems like a pointless gesture.

But that only makes it a stronger signal of chivalry: You don't have to open your date's door to let her in or out, but by choosing to do so, you offer a true act of consideration and caring. And it's not only a nice gesture—it's cheaper than picking up the tab.

Dear Dan,

Why don't people bike more? Bicycles are amazing vehicles—fast, efficient, easy to park, good for our health and our planet. What's holding us back? —Ziv

Simple: hills. Bicycles are fine things, and technology will no doubt continue to make them lighter, faster and safer. But all of these improvements aren't likely to overcome our laziness—our deep-seated desire to move through the world with as little effort as possible.

Have a dilemma for Dan?

Email AskAriely@wsj.com.

PLAYLIST: ROBERT CRAY

Voices Shaped By Gospel



O.V. Wright's church-influenced treatment of secular songs stuns a blues musician

Robert Cray, 63, is a five-time Grammy-winning blues singer-songwriter and guitarist. His new album is "Robert Cray & Hi Rhythm" (Jay-Vee). He spoke with Marc Myers.

Back in the early 1980s, I was performing at a blues festival in the San Francisco Bay Area when Sonny Rhodes, a blues singer and guitarist, invited me over to his house. We were sitting around talking when he began putting on records. One of them was "Ace of Spades" by O.V. Wright.

I leaned forward. I hadn't heard Wright before but learned later that he was a gospel-blues singer-songwriter and instrumentalist who had died at age 41 in 1980. What struck me was how he sang secular music in the gospel tradition, much the way Al Green did in the late 1960s and '70s. After I left Sonny's place, I went looking for Wright's albums and found a copy of "Nucleus of Soul," from 1968. The last song, "**I WANT EVERYONE TO KNOW**," knocked me out and deeply influenced my emotional approach when singing the blues.

The ballad starts with a solemn piano backed by an organ. Then Wright comes in, followed by a twangy guitar, drums and horns along with a gospel choir. Wright first sings about how much he loves a woman. His complaint is that while everyone else is aware of his love for her, she doesn't seem to know or care.

A mentor who could work up audiences.

"I just can't understand why, why, why you don't know / I've given all the love / the love I possess / I done everything I could, baby / to try to teach you your happiness."

Throughout the song, Wright is squalling about his romantic woes, trying to get through to her, but he never does.

"I Want Everyone to Know" is sweet and beautiful. It has a slow, rocking, lullaby quality, and you can hear Wright preaching through his singing. The raw, emotional power of his voice is really something.

A friend of mine, organist Charles Hodges, had an opportunity to play with Wright. He said that the first time he did, he arrived in the parking lot at the same time as Wright.

Charles asked Wright why there were ambulances outside. Wright laughed and said, "You'll see." Apparently, Wright's singing-preaching style could really work up audiences to the point of collapse.

O.V. WRIGHT, photographed in 1967.



REFINIS/GETTY IMAGES



PLAY

NEWS QUIZ: Daniel Akst

From this week's
Wall Street Journal

1. China launched an aircraft carrier. What was especially noteworthy about it?

- A. It was the country's first.
- B. It was the first built in China.
- C. It was built in Russia.
- D. It was nuclear-powered.

2. Mike Nesmith of the Monkees has a new book out. Which of these wasn't among his fellow members of the made-for-TV band?



- A. Davy Jones
- B. Micky Dolenz
- C. Peter Tork
- D. None of the above

3. Findings in San Diego suggest that humans inhabited North America more than 130,000 years ago. What did archaeologists unearth there?

- A. A sign warning, "Giant Sloth Crossing"
- B. A human femur dated through the use of optically stimulated luminescence
- C. Fractured mastodon bones and stone tools
- D. A list of restaurant specials featuring paillard of mammoth in a ginger balsamic reduction (without a price)

4. A new book about Janesville, Wis., focuses on the aftermath of GM's departure. What other familiar brand is woven into the city's history?

- A. Kraft Cheese

To see answers, please turn to page C4.

- B. Clairol hair coloring
- C. Parker Pen
- D. Jane Magazine

5. Guinness World Records calls the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace the world's largest church, and it is drawing worshipers once again as well as tourists. Where is it?

- A. Goa
- B. Ivory Coast
- C. Syria
- D. Libya

6. Nokia is striving for a comeback with internet-connected gadgets. Which of these is part of the three-pronged strategy?

- A. A bathroom scale
- B. A talking trash can
- C. A solar-powered fridge
- D. A Wi-Fi cooktop

7. The director Jonathan Demme died at 73. Which of his films won an Oscar for best picture?

- A. "Philadelphia"
- B. "The Silence of the Lambs"
- C. "Something Wild"
- D. "Stop Making Sense"

8. The Trump administration took steps to impose a 20% tariff on Canadian softwood, often used in U.S. home-building. Canadian producers had already increased sales to China—and taken what other step to protect against falling exports to the U.S.?

- A. Growing more hardwood
- B. Exporting more finished soft-wood products
- C. Urging Canadians to heat with wood
- D. Buying U.S. sawmills

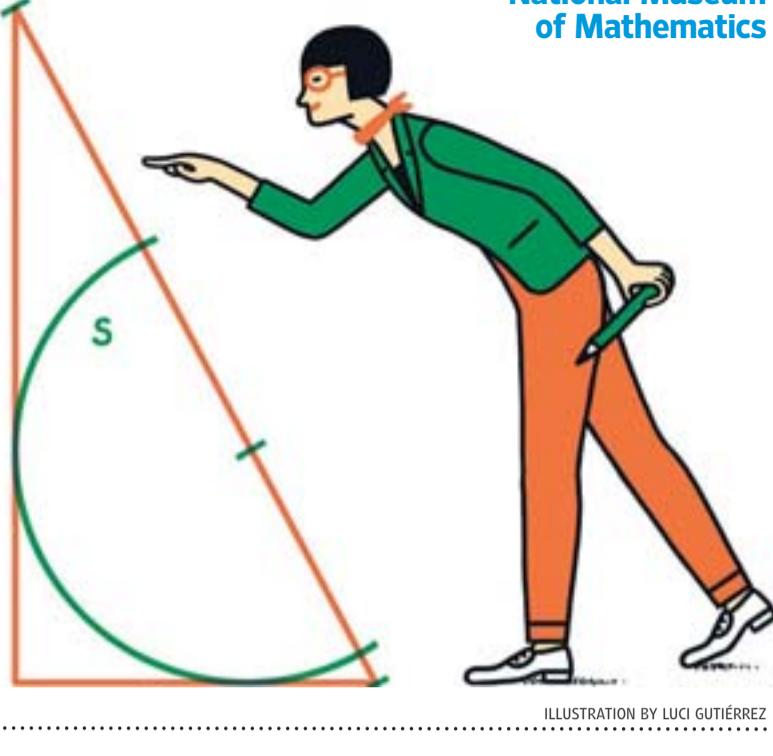
VARSITY MATH

This week, Coach Taylor tries her hand at a pair of puzzles on the theme of right triangles.

Hypotenuse Partition

The largest possible semicircular arc *S* is inscribed in the right triangle *R* so that the center of *S* is on the hypotenuse of *R*. The two endpoints of *S* and its center split the hypotenuse into four segments. The lengths of three consecutive segments out of those four, in order from one vertex of the hypotenuse toward the other, are 16, 120 and 120.

What is the length of the fourth segment (which has as one of its endpoints the other vertex of the hypotenuse)?



Provided by the

National Museum of Mathematics

ILLUSTRATION BY LUCI GUTIÉRREZ

Peri-area?

Coach Taylor calls a right triangle "perimetric" if all of its sides have integer lengths, measured in the same unit, and its perimeter is numerically equal to its area

(measured in square units of the same unit as the side lengths were measured).

Find all perimetric right triangles.

+ Learn more about the National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) at momath.org

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLES

For previous weeks' puzzles, and to discuss strategies with other solvers, go to WSJ.com/puzzle.

Machine Edited

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The new letters spell AUTOCORRECT.

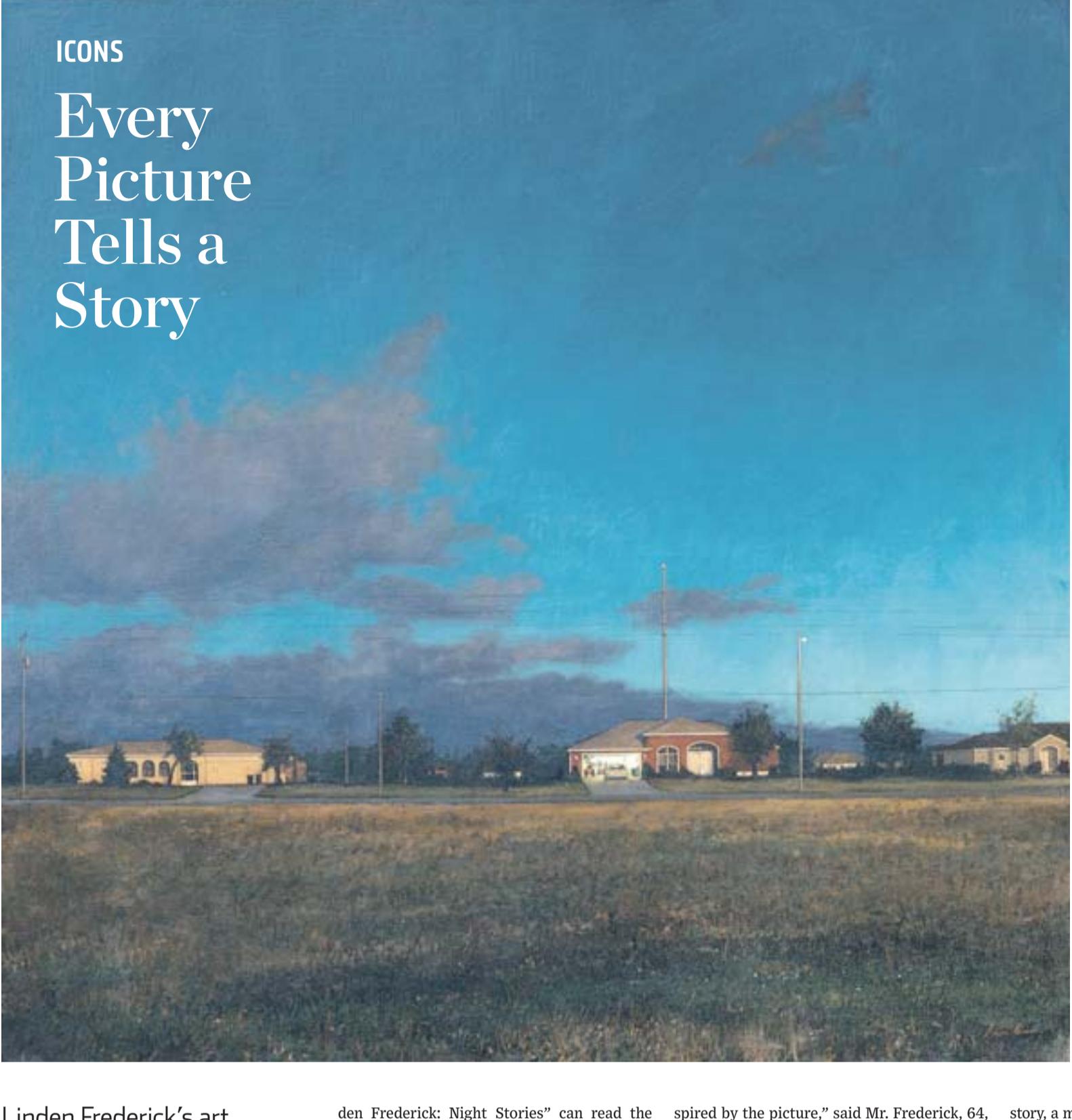
Tie Game

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REVIEW

ICONS

Every Picture Tells a Story



Linden Frederick's art inspires tales by Anthony Doerr, Ann Patchett and other top authors

BY ELLEN GAMERMAN

SOME ART takes its subject from literature. It is far more unusual for literature to take its inspiration from art. But that is exactly what 15 writers—many of them prize-winners or best-sellers—have done for a new exhibition.

Each has focused on one of the 15 paintings in Linden Frederick's show at New York's Forum Gallery, opening May 11. Visitors to "Lin-

den Frederick: Night Stories" can read the short stories—which average a few thousand words—on electronic tablets as they view the new paintings. Many of the pictures are moody, photorealistic images of downtrodden New England towns at dusk.

The exhibition, seven years in the making, features work by Pulitzer Prize winners Anthony Doerr ("All the Light We Cannot See"), Richard Russo ("Empire Falls") and Elizabeth Strout ("Olive Kitteridge"). Other contributors include Dennis Lehane ("Mystic River"), Ann Patchett ("Bel Canto") and the screenwriter Lawrence Kasdan ("The Big Chill" and several "Star Wars" films).

"The mandate for the show is not necessarily to write about the picture but just to be in-

spired by the picture," said Mr. Frederick, 64, who splits his time between the Maine cities of Portland and Belfast. "I see it as a kind of trigger." A book of the stories and paintings, on sale at the gallery, will be widely available this fall.

The project took off after Mr. Frederick told his friend Mr. Russo about the idea at dinner one night. Mr. Russo started reaching out to his writer friends about the venture, and word spread to other authors.

Mr. Frederick and Mr. Russo, both upstate New York natives, knew of each other long before they met in Maine about eight years ago.

"I kept hearing stories about this painter up in

His
paintings
are 'all
narrative.'

story, a married woman stashes chicken noodle soup in the freezer, with plans to bring it to a dying customer who captivates her. Though Mr.

Dubus said that one rule of creative writing is never to start a story with a person looking in a mirror, the painting sparked a mental picture of a woman doing just that. So he started with the mirror anyway, and the story took off from there.

Andre Dubus III, the author of "House of Sand and Fog," took on "Ice," a 2016 painting of a snowy corner store with an icebox out front. In his

story, a married woman stashes chicken noodle soup in the freezer, with plans to bring it to a dying customer who captivates her. Though Mr.

Dubus said that one rule of creative writing is never to start a story with a person looking in a mirror, the painting sparked a mental picture of a woman doing just that. So he started with the mirror anyway, and the story took off from there.

Mr. Frederick is looking for

new ways to combine his painting with other art forms, including music. "I kind of enjoyed the collaborative process," he said. "Writers, artists, musicians, we tend to work in isolation. I just found this extremely satisfying."

LINDEN FREDERICK/FORUM GALLERY, NEW YORK

MASTERPIECE: 'DEATH OF SARDANAPALUS' (1827), BY EUGÈNE DELACROIX

REVOLUTIONARY TECHNIQUES, INCENDIARY IMAGE

BY MARY TOMPKINS LEWIS

IN HIS BRILLIANT first decade of painting, the French artist Eugène Delacroix (1798–1863) captured many of his era's most evocative themes: the rise of the dandy in bourgeois culture, the novel appeal of contemporary literary subjects, the piteous plight of Greece in its struggle for independence from Ottoman rule. Though he proclaimed himself a classicist, the young Delacroix was already a worthy antagonist to the older and archly conservative Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres. Numerous public commissions and praise in the liberal press for his imaginative compositions and exquisite color sensibilities established Delacroix as a prodigy, an heir to both Michelangelo and Rubens and the ostensible leader of an emerging Romantic school in French painting.

After continued successes at the Paris Salons, however, the painter shocked critics and supporters alike with his submission to the second 1827–28 exhibition of his now famous (and infamous) "Death of Sardanapalus," singled out by one commentator as the worst work on view. A macabre fantasy of sadistic slaughter marked by voluptuous beauty, a luminous palette and a loose, painterly technique, it was Delacroix's only early history painting not to be purchased by the state. The monumental and magisterial canvas languished for years in his studio and was rarely seen before finally entering the collection of the Louvre in 1921. Even today it elicits impassioned critical responses.

Delacroix's subject drew most immediately—if broadly—on the epic "Sardanapalus" (1821) by Lord Byron. In the English Romantic poet's drama, the ancient—and famously dissolute—Assyrian king, when faced with defeat by his enemies, bids his faithful courtiers to escape the royal palace at Nineveh and then orders its destruction and his own demise. Offstage, his favorite Greek concubine, Myrrha, lights the funeral pyre and joins him there to die.

While capturing the opulent exoticism of the poet's narrative, Delacroix rejects Byron's transformation of the debauched monarch to enno-



SCALA / ART RESOURCE, NY

KEPT IN OBSCURITY for decades, the painting ultimately became a Romantic emblem.

bled, valorous hero. In his ruthless painted massacre, which the artist cataloged in detail, everything Sardanapalus touches is put to the torch: A terrified white horse, whose bridle drips with shimmering pearls, is slain by a Nubian slave; an exotically costumed servant at center stabs one of Delacroix's most alluring, Rubensian nudes. At far right, an attendant lurches forward over smoldering flames, while above, in a heart-rending vignette, the beautiful Bactrian Aischeh hangs herself to escape a murderous henchman approaching from a screen of smoke and fire. Above the relentless mayhem and amid his own accumulated chattel, the diminutive bearded sultan watches dispassionately from his plumped, vermilion bed. Adorned with fantastic

elephants' heads and strewn with beautiful nudes, it defies the moralizing image of the historic, heroic death bed to pull the viewer into the painting's violent maelstrom even as its figures tumble into our space.

Though crimson tassels and streaming red ribbons act as analogues for bloody wounds and flickering flames, little else is left to the imagination. What Byron had written as a "closet play," intended only for small dramatic readings, has been

come a theatrical orgy of horror.

Delacroix's anomalous composition—where a stagelike, frontal plane filled with giant, roiling figures is pitted against the painting's deeply receding background—confounded his contemporaries, but it is crucial to the paint-

ing's outré effect. The savage carnal energies that sweep across its surface become all the more immense and disturbing when framed by the yawning chasm occupied by the submissive, scaled-down king. Likewise, the luminous, splayed arms of Sardanapalus's consort, which trace the bed's diagonal, and such nearby figures as the shadowed and heavily painted Sallenenes at left, who struggles to remove a javelin cruelly piercing his chest, intensify the painting's entwined themes of unbridled sexuality and brute sadism.

Delacroix's revolutionary techniques here were on a par with his incendiary image. He primed his canvas with distemper, a medium favored for its matte effects, and then alternated thick layers of paint with thin, diluted glazes to achieve a richly varied surface. Lavish brushwork, as seen in passages of painted fabric and countless glittering jewels, enhanced its lush effects. Though it has darkened over time, Delacroix also drew on techniques employed in his preparatory pastels, applying hatchmarks of one color pigment within another color field to amplify the painting's brilliant palette. Such conceits, while not lost on later Impressionists, left critics complaining of his loose handling and lurid hues.

Though kept in obscurity for decades, Delacroix's polemical "Sardanapalus" ultimately became a Romantic emblem, an explosive embodiment of the decadence, emotional excess and Orientalist fever that consumed French culture in the early decades of the 19th century. Painted in the waning days of the Bourbon Monarchy, it resonates for some scholars as pointed commentary on the dangers of dynastic and absolutist power. Such readings fail to account, however, for what made it such a subversive work in its era: Delacroix not only eroticized violence and death in his "Sardanapalus," but took obvious pleasure in the process. While he would later decry the "fatal gift" of his imagination, he luxuriated for the moment in its largesse.

Ms. Lewis teaches art history at Trinity College, Hartford, Conn.

Get cracking on
the 'urban
chickens' craze
with these
prefab coops
D9



OFF DUTY



7 insider
wine bars where
sommeliers
spend their
nights off
D7

EATING | DRINKING | STYLE | FASHION | DESIGN | DECORATING | ADVENTURE | TRAVEL | GEAR | GADGETS

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Saturday/Sunday, April 29 - 30, 2017 | **D1**



TAKE MONDAY OFF

Portland Of Plenty

Oregon's determinedly quirky city makes for a boredom-free long weekend—especially on two wheels



ON THE OREGON TRAIL Clockwise from upper left: Tony Tellin leads the tea-making process at Steven Smith Teamaker; bike-share riders pass by Powell's, one of the country's largest bookstores; a 'seafood tower' at Headwaters restaurant at the historic Heathman hotel; the newly expanded Portland Japanese Garden at Washington Park.

BY LUCY FELDMAN

BEFORE PORTLAND, ORE., established itself as a hipster utopia and beleaguered punch line—a land of vegan tattoos, fastidious food-truck chefs and all things crafty and pickled—visitors were already taken with its abundant natural attributes. The Willamette River divides the city, forest trails wind throughout it, and Mount Hood and the coast each sit just over an hour's drive away. A cleverly planned long weekend in Portland will tap both aspects: sampling urban obsessiveness and the abundant verdure of the Pacific Northwest.

On the city's east side is the stuff of "Portlandia"—a cluster of crafting collectives (Welding Basics, anyone?) and shops selling everything from Feminine Divine Tea to taxidermied antelopes. On the tonier west side, you'll find discerning boutiques, stately watering holes, lush gardens and forested parks. Don't miss the riverfront and its 12 bridges, many of which are pedestrian-friendly. In fact, much of the city ministers to pedestrians and cyclists, thanks to extensive public transit and bike lanes, and an enduring small-town ethos. Stand at a crosswalk and just try to wave a car past—you've initiated a stand-off of politeness. Here's our recommended three-day itinerary.

DAY ONE // FRIDAY

5 p.m. Land at Portland International Airport and make note of its oddly high-profile teal carpet (know of any other airport rugs with a fervent Instagram following?) before hopping on the Metropolitan Area Express (MAX) train. It's a 40-minute ride into the city to the cheap-and-cheerful **Society Hotel**, housed in a recently reclaimed 1880s lodging house (*from \$135 a night for a private room, thesociedad-hotel.com*). For more luxurious digs, ride the MAX 10 minutes far-

ther to **Sentinel Hotel**, an elegant mash-up of two historic buildings (*from \$185 a night, sentinelhotel.com*).

7 p.m. Dinner time. The Portland Streetcar loops around the busiest areas of the city on both sides of the river. Hop on a blue line train (pay the \$2 fare with cash or pay through the PDX Streetcar Mobile app), grab a window seat and ride across the water to SE Grand Avenue and Hawthorne Boulevard. An 8-minute walk east brings you to **Teote Areperia**, where a La Cena Carne platter loaded with spicy,

saucy Latin-American shredded meats, beans, fried plantains and hot buttered arepas awaits. Dig in on the patio near the fire pit (*1615 SE 12th Ave., teotepdx.com*).

9 p.m. All that feasting calls for a little healthy movement. Walk 10 minutes to **Pips & Bounce**, a ping-pong social club. Rent a table for 30 minutes for \$15, and have yourself a volley while sipping a "Pong-tail" or an Oregon beer on tap. Friday night is Cosmic Pong—expect black lights (*833 SE Belmont St., pipsandbounce.com*).

DAY TWO // SATURDAY

8:30 a.m. Start your Saturday with a jolt to-go, practically de rigueur in this caffeine-addicted city, from **Case Study Coffee Roasters** (*802 SW 10th Ave., casestudycoffee.com*), then wander south

through downtown for about 15 minutes to the **Portland Farmers' Market** at Portland State University, a year-round destination with over 140 vendors at the height of the summer season (*portlandfarmersmarket.org/our-markets*). Please turn to page D4

[INSIDE]

GARDEN LEVELS

How a designer literally elevated a sunlight-challenged backyard space **D8**



MIND YOUR OWN BISCUITS

Breakfast baking with a twist you'll want to adopt **D6**



ON THE LAM IN VIETNAM

Flee the mobs at Ha Long Bay and set sail in more serene environs **D5**



HELLO, YELLOW

Pastels for men that don't skew 1982 **D2**



STYLE & FASHION

HOW TO WEAR IT

A Smarter Shade of Pale

For a lot of guys, pastel clothing conjures up the 'Preppy Handbook' or worse. But these springy strategies put the cool back in sherbet

BY JACOB GALLAGHER

LAST MONTH, as stylist Brian Coats was prepping Jimmy Fallon to host "Saturday Night Live," the two pondered sprucing up Mr. Fallon's look with pastels. With spring and Easter in the air, Mr. Coats later told us, "people get in the mood for that kind of palette." The stylist, who's worked with Mr. Fallon for nearly five years, came up with a pale-green-and-ice-blue bow tie from Alexander Olch, worn with a navy suit.

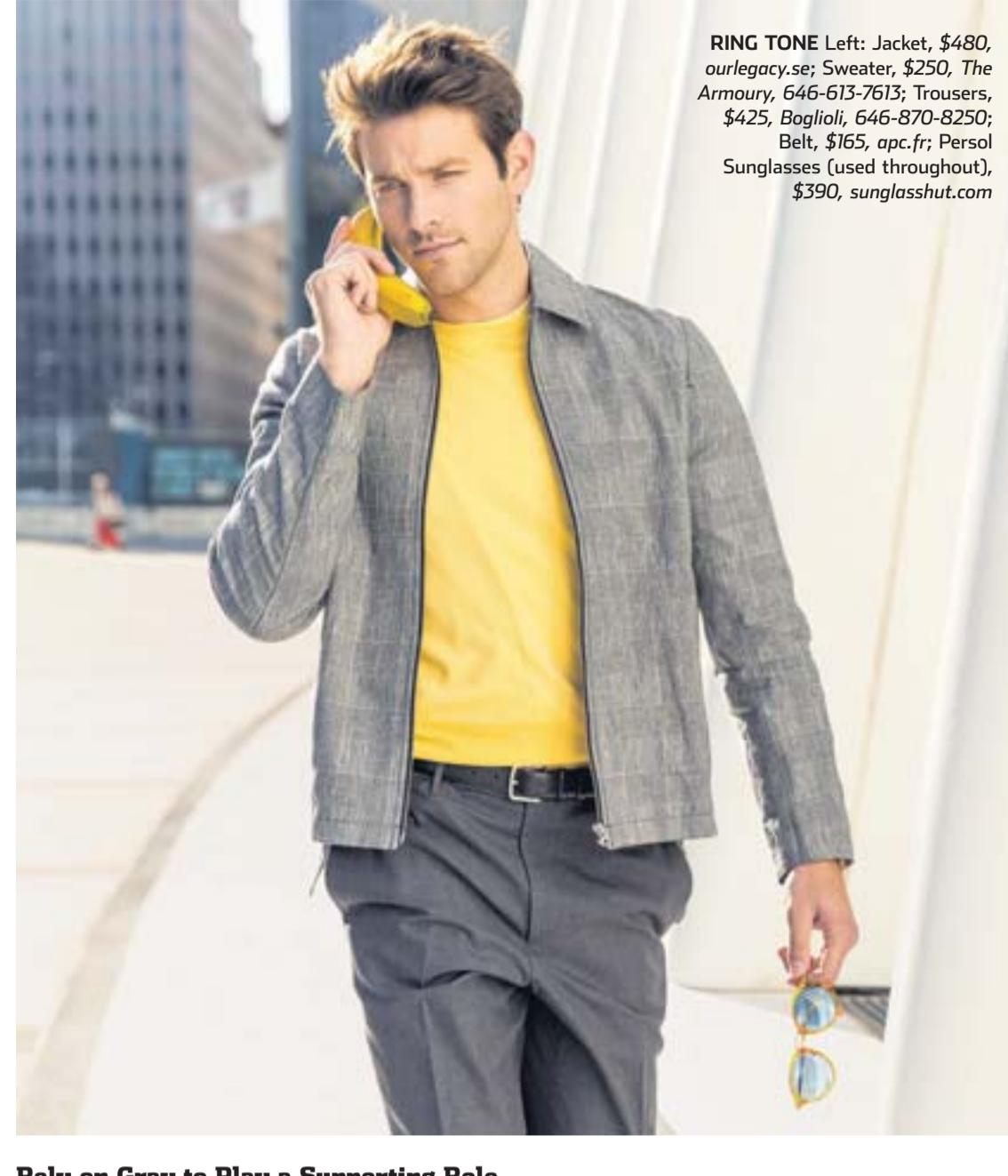
That instinct to exploit the seasonal appeal of pastels coincides with the greater prominence of these softer shades in menswear. "Those sunwashed colors of the Amalfi Coast and Capri, they get men excited about something different," said Tom Kalenderian, vice president in charge of menswear at Barneys New York. The department store dedicated part of a recent mailer to peachy-pink shoes for men. As unsupportable as blush-hued brogues might sound, Mr. Kalenderian points out that pastels are not some come-from-nowhere trend: Most men already have a

pale blue, or even pink, dress shirt in their weekly rotation. "Let's be honest, [soft colors] are very flattering," he said. Mr. Coats agrees: "Pastel is always easier to mix and it's easier on the eyes."

But it may be time to push beyond that blue or pink shirt. New York designer Alex Drexler advocates a faded lavender shade as a painless upgrade. For his label Alex Mill, Mr. Drexler makes a crewneck T-shirt in a pale purple-gray that the most traditional of dressers could endorse without a snort. He limits the pastels in his collections to T-shirts and short-sleeve polos, which go swimmingly, he said, with jeans and white sneakers.

Even a sliver of peach, mint or aqua can have an impact. Greg Chait, founder of the Elder Statesman, a Los Angeles cashmere label, sometimes wears his own pastel sweaters with worn-in Levi's but he also likes to layer a colorful T-shirt under a blue or heather-gray pull-over. "It will pop out of the collar of whatever sweater I'm wearing," said Mr. Chait, "it's really subtle, but it's there."

Here, three more ways to strategically incorporate pastels into your spring style.



RING TONE Left: Jacket, \$480, ourlegacy.se; Sweater, \$250, The Armoury, 646-613-7613; Trousers, \$425, Boglioli, 646-870-8250; Belt, \$165, apc.fr; Persol Sunglasses (used throughout), \$390, sunglasshut.com

Rely on Gray to Play a Supporting Role

Perhaps the most accessible way to wear pastels is to offset their Easter-egg quality with neutral colors. Navy or khaki are the obvious choices but, in combination with pastels, they can read as too traditionally preppy or conservative. In short, uninspired and not particularly 2017. Our preferred move: Swap those options out for shades of gray—anywhere on the spectrum from dove to charcoal. As demonstrated here, pairing a lemon-yellow sweater with a medium-gray jacket and dark-gray trousers looks more of-the-moment, instead of stuck in 1982. Banana phone optional.

Hit the Mute Button

Wearing pastel-on-pastel isn't always a crime. Or even a misdemeanor. The trick to getting away with it is to choose shades that aren't quite so purely bright. (The term "pastels" encompasses a complex range of pale colors.) Look for two pastel hues that both have a dusty, desert-y quality—like the slightly muted aqua and grayed-out lavender here—and combine them at will. Alex Mill's Mr. Drexler is a fan of toned-down pastels. His versions, he said, "don't scream pastel." Of course, if you are going to double up on pastels, leave the bright sneakers, windbreaker and ball cap at home. Capping the number of non-neutral colors at two ensures that your outfit won't look as if it were inspired by a box of macarons.

Left: Hoodie, \$185, [Freemans Sporting Club](http://freemanssportingclub.com), 212-673-3209; Shorts: \$375, [Ermenegeglio Zegna](http://ermenegeglio.com), 855-449-3462; Sneakers, \$70, [Vault by Vans](http://VaultbyVans.com), 212-226-7776



Concern Yourself With Materials

While shell-pink trousers might sound like something only a John Cheever character would wear, you can pull them off in a manner that doesn't even come close to the unapologetically garish "go-to-hell" pants of preps. How? Opt for the textured weave of linen instead of cotton. "Natural fabrics like linen work really well in pastel," said Sean Dixon, the co-founder of Richard James, a Savile Row label that is never shy when it comes to color. A color "almost becomes faded the moment you put it into a linen." The mellowing effects of the summery textile are evident in these softly sophisticated salmon-hued pants. Downside: Dry-cleaning.

Left: Wallace & Barnes Shirt, \$118, jcrew.com; Helbers T-shirt, \$250, matchsfashion.com; Pants, \$595, [Canali](http://canali.com), 212-752-3131; Buc Shoes, \$100, ghbass.com; Hat, \$40, jcrew.com



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ADVENTURE & TRAVEL

THREE FREEWHEELING DAYS IN PORTLAND

Continued from page D1

9:15 a.m. You may have noticed searing-orange bicycles racked around the city. Nike's **Biketown bike share** program allows you to rent one for \$2.50 per 30-minute ride, or \$12 for the day (biketownpdx.com). Pick up your ride outside the Smith Memorial Student Union (between SW Mill St. and SW Harrison St.). Ride over Tilikum Crossing—the newest of Portland's bridges, accessible only to pedestrians, cyclists and mass-transit vehicles—to Clinton Street on the east side.

10:15 a.m. Since you'll be biking around for the balance of the day, carbo-load at **Off the Waffle**. Try the signature Liege waffle, crisply caramelized on the outside (2601 SE Clinton St., offthewaffle.com).

11:15 a.m. Five minutes on your bike brings you to the east side's Division Street, a strip of cult coffee shops, boutiques and a slew of popular dining spots, including **Tidbit Food Farm**, a cluster of food trucks in a charmingly scruffy garden (SE 28th Place and Division St.). Lock up your bike at one of the public racks (locks provided; press "hold" so no one else takes it). Grab another coffee—or at least snap an Instagram—at **Stumptown Coffee's** first location, a landmark in Portland's coffee culture (4525 SE Division St., stumptowncoffee.com), then scope out stationery shop **Little Otsu**, catnip for paper hoarders (3225 SE Division St., littleotsu.com) and nearby art gallery **Nationale** (3360 SE Division St., nationale.us).

1 p.m. Once you hit 38th Avenue, cycle north about 10 blocks to Hawthorne Boulevard, one of the original meccas for the plaid-shirted and wool-beanie-topped natives. **Jackpot Records** carries a vast collection of rock, jazz, hip hop and soul vinyl (3574 SE Hawthorne Blvd., jackpotrecords.com), while quirky little **Perfume House** stocks nearly as many fragrances (3328 SE Hawthorne Blvd., theperfumehouse.com). Finally, check out **Tender Loving Empire**, both a record label and a retail shop with locally made jewelry and beauty products (3541 SE Hawthorne Blvd., tenderlovingempire.com).

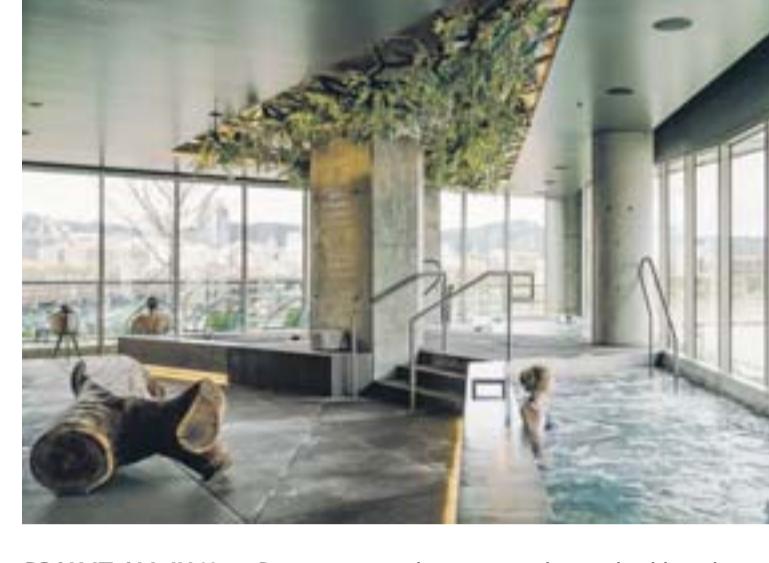
2 p.m. For lunch, head to **Fried Egg I'm in Love**, a rock 'n' roll-themed egg-sandwich food truck, featuring local farm eggs and sourdough bread from Portland French Bakery. Order the Yolko Ono—homemade pesto, parmesan and a sausage patty all sandwiched around an expertly fried egg—and take a seat at one of the picnic benches (3207 SE Hawthorne Blvd., friedegglove.com).

3 p.m. Follow that cheesy sandwich with a stop at nearby **Commons Brewery**, which offers 13 beers on tap; typically all but one are made on-site. Sip your way through a flight, with a view of the brewers at work (630 SE Belmont St., commonsbrewery.com).

4:30 p.m. Hop on the bike for a five-minute ride to Stark Street, where you'll find the "vegan mini mall," featuring vegan cafe **Sweat-pea Baking Co.** (1205 SE Stark St.; sweetpeabaking.com), vegan grocery store **Food Fight!** (1217 SE Stark St.; foodfightgrocery.com), vegan boutique **Herbivore Clothing Co.** (1211 SE Stark St.; www.herbivoreclothing.com) and vegan tattoo parlor **Scapegoat Tattoo**. If you're wondering what makes a tattoo vegan: Scapegoat's inks, unlike standard ones, contain no bone char or other animal products (1223 SE Stark St., scapegoattattoo.com).

5 p.m. Feeling inspired by all this local industry? Around the corner is the "maker space" Art Design Portland, aka **ADX**, a multiroom jungle of equipment, including tablesaws, torches, a laser cutter, jewelry tools and a screen-printing press. Your mission: Build and wire a one-of-a-kind Edison-bulb lamp with the help of an instructor—or dream up a project of your own. Schedule private classes in advance (417 SE 11th Ave., adxportland.com).

8 p.m. Dinner is only a 12-minute ride away, at Pine Street Market in Old Town, on the west side, where the vendors include some of the city's most crowded-about chefs. Ditch today's bike on the rack at SW 2nd Avenue and head inside. Try **Marukin Ramen**, one of the famed Japanese chain's hot bowls, or **Pollo Bravo** for rotisserie chicken and tapas. For dessert, scoop up a



SOAK IT ALL IN Knot Springs spa, with its various hot and cold pools, overlooks the Willamette River.



STUFFED TO THE GILLS From above: Paxton Gate, a taxidermy and gift shop; Tidbit Food Farm and Garden, one of Portland's many food-truck 'pods'; Blue Star Donuts are flavored with seasonal and local ingredients.



Headwaters. James Beard Award winner Vitaly Paley's fourth and newest restaurant in the city, it's embedded in the historic Heathman Hotel. Start with something fresh from the sea bar, like diver scallops served with foie gras, or smoked fish with herring schmear (recipe courtesy of Mr. Paley's grandmother). Follow with halibut en papillote or grilled octopus (1001 SW Broadway, headwaterspdx.com).

9:30 p.m. A lazy 10-minute stroll will bring you to another of Portland's oldest restaurants, established in 1879: **Huber's Cafe**. Order a "Spanish Coffee," which comes with a fiery show—the bartender will fling and light your rum, triple sec, kahlua and coffee cocktail aflame and top it with cream and a dash of nutmeg before sliding it your way (411 SW 3rd Ave., hubers.com).

DAY FOUR // MONDAY



Portland Zoo (explorewashingtonpark.org). Start at the **Portland Japanese Garden**, which recently underwent a \$33.5 million expansion featuring a new cultural village designed by renowned Japanese architect Kengo Kuma (611 SW Kingston Ave., japanesegarden.com).

12:45 p.m. Just below the Japanese Garden is the **International Rose Test Garden**. Sniff around the rows of over 10,000 rose plants (and 650 varieties), and pause on a bench to take in the city views (400 SW Kingston Ave.).

1:30 p.m. A quick downhill ride drops you at **Verde Cocina en la Perla** for lunch. Return the bike at NW Flanders Street and NW 14th Avenue, a block away, before sitting down for a Mexican brunch featuring generous portions of local vegetables, handmade corn tortillas and farm-fresh eggs. Whatever you're getting, add the bacon—or, as they call it, "smoked candy" (524 NW 14th Ave., verdecocinamarket.com).

3 p.m. Stroll around the Pearl District, a former warehouse zone turned stylish retail destination, and pop into **Hunt & Gather**, an art and

home goods store (1302 NW Hoyt St., huntgather.com) and **MadeHere PDX**, which features only locally made items, from leather bags to cooking skillets (40 NW 10th Ave., madeheredpx.com).

4:30 p.m. Make your way to **Powell's**, an iconic bookstore that occupies an entire city block. Duck into the rare book room; at least one title dates back to 1480 (1005 W Burnside St., powells.com).

6 p.m. Just up the street is the **People's Bike Library of Portland**, a public art piece featuring a pole stacked with children's bicycles (corner of SW 13th Ave. and W. Burnside Ave.). The tower is dedicated to Portland's bike culture and specifically the Zoobombers, a cycling group. Every Sunday, the Zoobombers unlock the mini bikes from their pedestal, hop on the MAX train to the top of Washington Park, then speed down through the hills after dark. If you're feeling adventurous, skip the rest of the day's plan and hang around to join up at around 8:30 p.m.

7 p.m. For dinner, head several blocks south for a seafood feast at



The Sentinel Hotel, a mash-up of a 1923 Elks Lodge and a 1902 hotel.

9 a.m. After two nonstop days, you've earned a little R&R. Report to the new **Knot Springs** spa first thing in the morning for a Thai massage. Plan to spend time before or after the massage in the pools, where floor-to-ceiling windows overlook the river and the city skyline (book a week in advance; 33 NW 3rd Ave., knotsprings.com).

12:30 p.m. Next up: **Steven Smith Teamaker's tasting room**. Curate your own tasting flight from a list of over 30 varieties made on-site, such as Astoria's Amaro, a combo of cascara, honeybush and other botanicals, or order a tea on tap, served chilled and slightly carbonated (110 SE Washington St., smith-tea.com).

1:15 p.m. Just across the street, settle in for a cozy lunch at **Olympia Provisions**. Surround yourself with boards piled high with charcuterie and cheese, served with house-made pickles and other trimmings (107 SE Washington St., olympiaprovissions.com).

2:30 p.m. At the cavernous **Grand Marketplace**, an eight-minute walk away, drift among the vintage wares and wears, from typewriters to faux furs (1005 SE Grand Ave., grand-marketplacepdx.com).

3:30 p.m. Pick up a new bike at SE 6th Avenue and SE Alder Street for a scenic riverside ride to Mississippi Avenue along the tree-lined esplanade. Don't miss **Paxton Gate**, a taxidermy specialty shop artfully crammed with curios, from shark eyeballs to hanging heads galore (4204 N. Mississippi Ave., paxtongate.com).

4:30 p.m. Before heading to the airport, grab a final beer and a burger at **Ecliptic Brewing**—maybe the farro burger with pickled carrots, since you're unlikely to find one back home (825 North Cook St., eclipticbrewing.com).

ADVENTURE & TRAVEL

Almost No One Aboard in Vietnam

While tourist boats swarm Ha Long Bay, a nearby national park offers the same indelible scenery without the scene



BY HENRY WISMAYER

THE ROCKY islets resolved through the haze at the bow, and the captain slowed the boat so we could take it all in. Some of the islands stood densely packed like monks in conclave, others lone and admonitory like the fins of monstrous sea creatures. As I cruised through Vietnam's Bai Tu Long National Park inventing metaphors, it struck me: This was the first time I'd been relaxed in days.

Just a week earlier, I'd been on another boat, a few miles west in Ha Long Bay, but the atmosphere there had been very different.

Don't get me wrong: Ha Long Bay, the fabled archipelago of limestone pinnacles in the Gulf of Tonkin, off Vietnam's northeast coast, is a thing of wonder, often exalted as the country's most unmissable sight. The problem lay in the circus that all the wonder had attracted. One of a dozen tourists on a three-day boat tour, I'd cruised sulkily between the outcrops, corralled along prescribed routes in an armada of junk-boats (traditional Chinese sailboats) all following the same itinerary. There were gauche light-shows at night and kayak trips, launched from offshore pontoons, by day. There were visits to floating villages that felt like human zoos drifting on cubes of polyethylene. When we went swimming a French traveler turned to me and quipped: "Ever get the feeling you're swimming in a sewer," as we dodged the litter bobbing in the water.

Yes, three days in Ha Long Bay had validated that most cynical of traveler's maxims: The trouble with beautiful places is that everyone wants to see them. Call me mean-spirited, but I've always felt that natural grandeur and crowds are incompatible. Perhaps it's my urban upbringing, but for me a holiday doesn't merit the label un-



less you can escape the crush. And now, a few days later, I had, in another bay just a few miles north.

Bai Tu Long National Park, just 5 miles up-coast from Ha Long, used to be part of a single sprawling limestone plateau. The bedrock eroded over 20 million years to create hundreds of surreal, steep-sided islands jutting from the water. Yet while its celebrated World Heritage site neighbor has been overrun by 5 million tourists a year, Bai Tu Long remains a backwater, seldom visited and little-known.

When we stopped to swim, in water the color of jade, there were no other boats to dodge, no litter to sully the view.

This short trip, a two-day tour arranged through local operator Ethnic Travel with just eight other travelers, had begun like Ha Long excursions, with a minibus setting out from the motorcycle-heavy throng of Hanoi's Old Quarter. But this time, when the cavalcade of minibuses turned off for the chaos

of Ha Long City's tourist wharf, ours continued north. Soon, a whole new array of sea monster shadows rose precipitously on the horizon.

The tour group debarked at the Cai Rong harbor, where lamp-shade-hatted peddlers wove among the rusted fishing vessels that jammed the quay side. Our own boat turned out to be more salubrious, with rattan furniture on the deck, a cabin roof of plaited reeds and twin-booms wrapped in orange sails. A shoeless captain wished us a nice trip, then steered us out into Bai Tu Long Bay.

The vistas, I soon discovered, offered all of Ha Long's scenery without any of the attendant noise and congestion. According to the local creation myth, a celestial dragon, sent by the supreme Jade Emperor to protect Vietnam from sea invasion, plummeted to Earth in Ha Long, then took off again from Bai Tu Long. The outcrops are the eggs she left behind. Blessed with space and quiet, I found myself dreaming up my own legends. What had looked like monsters from the distance seemed more static, more melancholy up close, like the crumbling battlements of an ancient city abandoned to a flood.

Two days cruising in Bai Tu



SO LONG, THRONG Clockwise from top: Cruising Vietnam's Bai Tu Long Bay, a serene alternative to congested Ha Long Bay; an onboard lunch spread; one of Ethnic Travel's junk-boat excursions in Bai Tu Long.

Long involved many of the same diversions as the standard Ha Long itinerary. We kayaked amid the islands and sat in a rowing-boat while a local woman defied her wrinkles by sculling us around a floating village. But when we stopped to swim on the first afternoon, in warm water the color of jade, there were no other boats to dodge, no litter or slicks of spilled petrol to sully the view. All travel is consumerism, but once in a while, it's nice to be able to kid yourself that you aren't one of millions trying to see it all.

Boats are barred from dropping anchor in the national park overnight, so in the evening we withdrew to Quan Lan, a slender island on the archipelago's eastern rim. We made landfall around 6 p.m., at a post-apocalyptic-looking harbor of weathered concrete, then traveled by tuk-tuk to a nearby village. Inside a tidy compound, we were greeted by our host, Mr. Sao, a stout retiree with the face of a boxer and a doting uncle's smile. His house, a homestay since 1998, was a gaudy palace complete with Palladian columns and lilac walls.

The old man regaled us with tales of how he made his fortune,

combing Quan Lan's long sand

beaches for sai-som, a type of

worm popular in Chinese medicine. "Most of us have never tasted it," he said, over green tea in the incense-filled lounge. "That would be like eating money."

I'd spent my last night in Ha Long with a pillow clamped against my ears to block out the noise of drunken carousing from other tourist junks parked alongside. Tonight we cooked our dinner—spring rolls and rice noodles—in Mr. Sao's tranquil courtyard, and slept like a dream.

It was late afternoon the next day when we made a last stop before returning to the mainland. Our captain weighed anchor in the lee of a group of nameless islands, summits thick with vegetation, bases scoured clean by eons of tide and typhoon waves.

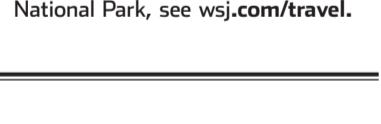
The full privilege of visiting Bai

Tu Long struck me then. The frenetic Vietnam of 90 million people

crammed onto a sliver of Asia felt

a million miles away. I stepped

over the rail, and dove in.



► For details on touring Bai Tu Long National Park, see wsj.com/travel.

BOOKSHELF

CARE TO STEP OUTSIDE?

Now that spring has legitimately arrived, three photo-driven books offer a fresh take on outdoor diversions



'Mobitecture: Architecture on the Move'
Phaidon, \$25

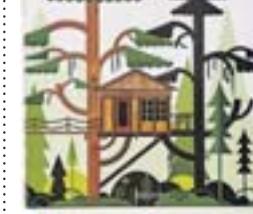
Tempted by the heady idea of life on the open road but find mobile homes hopelessly clichéd? Order this just-released book, by Rebecca Roke, *tout de suite*. Divided into eight chapters, including "Human," "One & Two Wheels," and "Sleds +," the book compiles hundreds of innovative movable

shelters, from zany to ingenious, cooked up by architects, engineers and other visionaries. They've reimaged tents, camper vans and, yes, even sleds. Consider, for instance, the wearable tent-cloak, which unpacks from a pair of high-top shoes, transforming its wearer into a human frame for layers of bright pink and blue waterproof fabric. Perhaps you'd prefer the "Foldavan," a lightweight camper that attaches to a bicycle, or a bikeable sauna pod that features classic wooden benches with seating for six. There's nothing clichéd about a shvitz to go.



'Wildside: The Enchanted Life of Hunters and Gatherers'
Gestalten, \$60

A series of essays and arresting images, this rambling tome showcases people who spend their lives and earn their livelihoods in wild places around the world. Among them: Swedish moose huntress Eva Bro-mée, who thrives in the "endless silent wilderness" near the Norwegian border, and mushroom-forager Bruno Augsburger, whose compulsion to discover the next patch has led him from Zurich to Alaska to Iceland. Some of the "hunters and gatherers," such as perfumer Hall Newbegin and cabinetmaker Morten Høeg-Larsen, are more modern nomads than traditional mountain folk. But all are devoted naturalists and wanderers and make a compelling case for spending as much time al fresco as possible, as do the many photos of sweeping landscapes and otherworldly environs.



'Tree Houses: Fairy Tale Castles in the Air'
Taschen, \$70

If your favorite childhood memories are of hiding out in lofty playhouses conspiring with your friends (or you still aspire to do so), Philip Jodidio's photo-heavy coffee table book will turbocharge your longing for a space among the trees. The volume includes 50 tree houses around the world, both private aeries (including one belonging to the Doors' guitarist Robby Krieger) and those open to the public. Among the most unusual and inviting: the Teahouse Tetsu on the grounds of Japan's Kiyoharu Shirakaba Museum, where you can slurp your tea eye-level with the cherry blossoms, or the Yellow Tree House Restaurant, an orb nestled in a redwood in Warkworth, New Zealand. Pining for a sleepover in the pines? Consider the Mirrorcube Hotel in Sweden, which slyly blends in with its woodland surroundings by reflecting them. How's that for a proper hideout? —Lane Florsheim

EATING & DRINKING

BREAKFAST 2.0

The Rest Is Gravy

The biscuit defines this dish, whether you opt for a topping of sausage or tomato

BY SARAH KARNASIEWICZ

COOKS ARGUE over many things, but about Southern-style buttermilk biscuits there is consensus. Flaky, light and tall as a top hat: These are the signs of an ideal specimen. The daughter of Connecticut Yankees, I'd always thought of superior biscuit-making mojo as akin to perfect pitch or noble blood—you're either born with it or not. Then I met Whitney Otawka and Ben Wheatley.

When it comes to light, flaky biscuits, overthinking, like overkneading, is best avoided.

For the last two years, Ms. Otawka and Mr. Wheatley have been the culinary director and executive chef, respectively, at the Greyfield Inn on Cumberland Island, Georgia. A gilded age "cottage" built by the Carnegie clan on an isolated 17-mile spit of land inhabited by more wild horses than humans, the white clapboard

structure is a Southern fantasy of porch swings and Spanish moss. Sunset cocktails are served from the gun room; a breakfast of biscuits and gravy arrives on fine china.

About those biscuits: I'd be content to eat instant ramen 51 weeks a year if it meant I could afford to spend the remainder at Greyfield, stuffing my maw. Thankfully, Ms. Otawka and Mr. Wheatley—who met working at Five & Ten in Athens, Georgia, and married in 2015—take hospitality seriously. After I pestered them during a recent visit, they generously agreed to tutor me in the biscuiteer's craft.

With his background in pastry, Mr. Wheatley takes the lead on biscuit prep at Greyfield. Inspiration for accompaniments is never far off. In cooler months, when shipments of locally raised pork arrive, a rib-sticking, creamy sausage gravy is the best way to stave off the chill. In the warmer months, the 1½-acre kitchen garden Ms. Otawka and her crew harvest provides plenty of fodder. A riff on the lesser-known but no-less-classic Southern tomato gravy is spiced with piquant harissa



and brightened by a few fistfuls of greens.

Hoping to recreate just a bit of that Cumberland magic at home, I peppered the couple with questions: Must I always use buttermilk? Will I need cake flour?

And where do you stand on the butter vs. lard debate? Mr. Wheatley's responses—"Yes," "No" and "Butter, I guess?"—were succinct and unlaborious. Between the lines I got the gist: When it comes to light, flaky biscuits, over-

thinking, like overkneading, is best avoided.

Indeed, the secret to his lofty biscuits turned out to be a super-simple technique: folding. Mr. Wheatley pats out and folds his dough, over and over again, until fine lay-

ers stack up; bits of ice-cold butter create pockets of steam between the layers during baking. The result? Architectural biscuits that rise up tender and golden and tall every time, and which anyone, mojo or no, can master.

Buttermilk Biscuits

TOTAL TIME: 25 minutes SERVES: 6

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a mixing bowl, sift together **2 cups all-purpose flour** and **1 tablespoon baking powder**. Mix in **½ cup kosher salt**. Using the wide holes on a box grater, grate **½ cup unsalted butter, frozen**, into bowl. Use your fingers to massage butter into flour mixture until the size of small

pebbles. Add **¾ cup full-fat buttermilk**, stirring with fork, until dough comes together. // Dust work surface with **flour**. Turn dough out onto work surface and knead just until it comes together. Gently pat dough into a 1-inch-thick rectangle. Fold dough in half to make a square, then gently pat into a rectangle again. Fold in half again. Pat dough into a 6-by-9-inch rectangle about 1 inch thick. Use a sharp knife or

bench scraper to cut dough into 6 smaller rectangles. Transfer to a baking sheet. Melt **1 tablespoon butter** and brush on tops of biscuits. Bake until puffed and golden, 16-18 minutes.

Classic Sausage Gravy

TOTAL TIME: 25 minutes SERVES: 6

In a large cast-iron skillet over medium heat, cook **1 pound pork breakfast sausage**, breaking up with a wooden spoon, until

crumbly and well-browned, about 12 minutes. // Stir in **¼ cup all-purpose flour** and cook, stirring frequently, until pan drippings have absorbed flour, about 5 minutes. // Gradually stir in **2½ cups half-and-half**. Let mixture come to a low simmer and cook, stirring frequently, until thick enough to coat back of spoon. Add a pinch each of **mustard powder**, **ground allspice** and **freshly ground black pepper**. To serve, spoon gravy over warm, split buttermilk biscuits.

Spicy Tomato Gravy and Greens

TOTAL TIME: 20 minutes SERVES: 6

Heat a cast-iron skillet over medium heat. Add **2 tablespoons butter**. Once melted, add **½ white onion, finely diced**, and **1 cup shiitake mushrooms, finely diced**. Cook until vegetables are soft and caramelized, about 5 minutes. Stir in **3 cloves garlic**,

minced, 1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme and 2 teaspoons Harissa powder or paste, and cook 1 minute more. Add **4 tablespoons butter**.

Once melted, add **½ cup all-purpose flour** and cook, stirring constantly, until flour has absorbed all the butter and you have a light roux, 1 minute. Slowly add **3 cups whole milk** to pan, stirring constantly to break up any lumps. Bring gravy to a simmer. // Stir in **1 (14-ounce) can fire-roasted tomatoes**,

drained, and 1 small bunch of curly kale, stemmed and chopped.

Cook until kale is tender, about 3 minutes. Season with **salt** and **freshly ground black pepper** to taste, then stir in **1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice**.

Adjust seasoning as necessary. To serve, spoon over warm, split buttermilk biscuits.

—Adapted from Whitney Otawka and Ben Wheatley of Greyfield Inn, Cumberland Island, Georgia

A LITTLE SOMETHING SWEET

PUT THIS CAKE ON YOUR HONEY DO LIST

Moist, rich and not overly sweet, this simple Moroccan dessert gets its complex flavor straight from the beehive

IN MOROCCO, honey features in age-old remedies for all sorts of ailments, and in savory dishes as well as desserts. A lamb tagine may be ever so mildly sweetened with honey; fried dough will be dipped in it before being rolled in sesame seeds. But to my mind, there's no better vehicle for honey's complex sweetness than this almond-strewn Moroccan cake.

The recipe comes from Dee Rettali, pastry chef at the popular London café Fernandez & Wells, who married into a Moroccan family. One afternoon, heading south from Rabat, where they'd gone to buy honey, she and her in-laws needed a rest and a snack, so they stopped the car by the side of the road. Ms. Rettali watched as her mother-in-law poured honey into a terracotta dish and set it over a small burner she'd brought with her. Having just come from the market, she also had almonds and ingredients for a simple batter, which she poured over the honey and nuts. After cooking, she flipped the cake out of the dish and sprinkled it with orange blossom water.

If you're a camper or happen to cart around a small



pantry in your backpack, by all means try this. But the recipe at right, adapted for the oven, yields the same golden crust and moist interior.

Just don't use the bland gooey stuff found in a bear-shape bottle in the supermarket. Buckwheat or chestnut

honey will lend a pungent depth, whereas a mellow, floral Tupelo honey will murmur Van Morrison. Citrus-blossom and wildflower honeys are always crowd-pleasers. If you like a cake that's not too sweet, try spicy Tasmanian leatherwood honey.

I recently used a Scottish heather honey infused with GlenDronach single-malt whisky—decidedly not a Moroccan approach, but it did make for an irresistibly boozy cake. However inauthentic, it was my kind of medicine.

—Aleksandra Crapanzano

Moroccan Honey Cake

This recipe makes enough batter for a large cake. If you don't have a 10-inch springform pan, don't use a smaller one. Instead, use two loaf pans or a 10- or 11-inch cast iron skillet, and slice the cake directly from the pans or skillet.

ACTIVE TIME: 20 minutes TOTAL TIME: 1½ hours SERVES: 10

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 4½ sticks butter | baking powder | 1 teaspoon orange blossom water, optional |
| 2½ cups sugar | 1 cup almond flour | |
| 8 eggs | 1 teaspoon salt | 2 cups sliced almonds, toasted |
| 3¼ cups all-purpose flour | ½ cup buttermilk | |
| 2 tablespoons | 1 cup honey | |

- Preheat oven 350 degrees. Butter a 10-inch springform pan.
- In a large mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar together until pale and light, about 7 minutes. Beat in eggs, one at a time, until thoroughly incorporated.
- In a second mixing bowl, combine flour, baking powder, almond flour and salt.
- Fold dry ingredients into butter mixture. Pour in buttermilk and gently mix until thoroughly incorporated.
- Pour batter into pan and bake until cake springs back when pressed, 45 minutes. Remove from oven. While cake is still warm and in pan, slowly drizzle with honey. (If honey is not pourable, gently heat it until it is liquid.) Allow honey to soak into cake. If using orange blossom water, sprinkle it on now. Then sprinkle on almonds and gently press them into place. Allow cake to cool in pan until ready to serve.
- To serve, remove sides of springform pan but leave cake on pan base, as transferring cake might cause almonds to slip off. This cake is best served at room temperature or still a little warm from baking.

—Adapted from "Rustic" by Jorge Fernandez and Rich Wells

EATING & DRINKING

ON WINE LETTIE TEAGUE



The Wine Bars That Sommeliers Belly Up To

IF YOUR JOB included selecting, tasting and serving some of the greatest wines in the world, where would you choose to drink wine on your day off? That was the question I posed to seven top wine directors in seven cities across the country. I hoped they'd name some under-the-radar destinations where the wines were well-chosen and well-priced and the staff was knowledgeable without being uptight. The wine directors did that and more, responding with a range of great places that included restaurants with deep cellars of old bottles as well as local hole-in-the-wall favorites. Here, their top picks:

Shelley Lindgren

Wine director and co-owner, A16 and SPQR, San Francisco, A16 Rockridge, Oakland

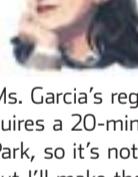


RECOMMENDS
High Treason,
443 Clement St.,
San Francisco

"It's a little off the beaten path, in a nondescript location," said Ms. Lindgren about her favorite drinking spot. But the wines on offer are anything but nondescript. High Treason's co-owner and wine director, Michael Ireland, an alumnus of Meadowood in Napa and Quince in San Francisco, has assembled a tight list of wine, sake and beer from small producers, and the cider and Sherry selections are large. On Sommelier Mondays, starting around 6:30 p.m. and continuing late into the night, "everyone in the wine business comes by and spins records," said Ms. Lindgren. The evenings came about organically thanks to San Francisco's tight community of sommeliers, who gravitated to the bar soon after it opened last year in the Inner Richmond district. The name refers to Mr. Ireland and his partners, who relish the "treason" of forswearing their fine-dining training to open this simple wine bar.

Maria Garcia

Wine director, République,
Los Angeles



RECOMMENDS
Bar Bandini,
2150 West Sunset
Blvd., Los Angeles

Ms. Garcia's regular wine haunt requires a 20-minute drive. "It's in Echo Park, so it's not super-close to me, but I'll make the trek," she said. The selection is very eclectic and changes fairly often; Ms. Garcia visits a couple of times a month, after work and on her day off. Bar Bandini's wine director and co-owner, Jason Piggott, insisted his list is not "purposely geeky." Instead, it's oriented to natu-



HIT LISTS Manhattan's Compagnie des Vins Surnaturels. Below: High Treason in San Francisco.

ral wines that are typically lower in alcohol and easier to drink—"gluggable" in Mr. Piggott's terms—like Cabernet Franc from the Loire. Non-professionals and wine drinkers from outside the neighborhood should know that the bar has no phone number to call if they get lost. "What's the point?" said Mr. Piggott. "We wouldn't answer it anyway."

Raj Vaidya

Head sommelier, Restaurant Daniel and the Dinex Group, New York



RECOMMENDS
**Compagnie des
Vins Surnaturels**
249 Centre St.,
New York

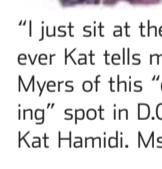
At this chic downtown outpost of a popular Paris wine bar, managing partner and wine director Caleb Ganner offers plenty of "Scooby snacks for sommeliers," said Mr. Vaidya. By that he means wines that sommeliers like to drink—small-production Champagnes, Chablis, obscure wines from the Jura—and some very good food as well. "In Paris it's a natural-wine bar, but in New York Caleb has taken it to a whole different level: It's more like a restaurant," said Mr. Vaidya. He usually visits on Sundays and Monday nights, when, starting at 9:30, the bar features "mixtapes" of wines and music chosen by guest wine directors, winemakers, distributors and somme-



liers. A recent evening featuring wine-maker Larry Stone included music by Jimi Hendrix, John Coltrane and Pink Floyd, and wines from superstar producers such as Alain Voge, Simon Bize and Jean-Louis Chave.

Andy Myers

Wine director José Andrés Think Food Group, Washington, D.C.



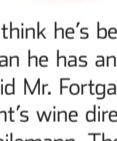
RECOMMENDS
Etto, 1541 14th St.
NW,
Washington, D.C.

"I just sit at the bar and drink whatever Kat tells me to drink," said Mr. Myers of this "delightfully unassuming" spot in D.C. and its wine director, Kat Hamidi. Ms. Hamidi's list has a

very particular point of view, with a near-exclusive focus on wines from Sicily and Beaujolais. The selection includes smatterings of Lambrusco and Prosecco, too, because Ms. Hamidi considers them an ideal match for pizza, and the bar features a wood-fired oven. Quite a few customers seek Ms. Hamidi's guidance, especially if they are unfamiliar with wines such as the 2011 Cottanera Nerello Mascalese "Fatagione," a red wine from Sicily described as "brawny with some chew" on the list. There's a second wine list as well, dubbed "the Holy Trinity" because it features wines from chef/owner Peter Pastan's three favorite Italian producers: Quintarelli, Conterno and Valentini.

Andy Fortgang

Wine director and owner, Le Pigeon, Portland, Ore.



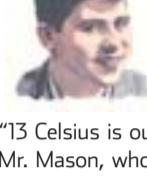
RECOMMENDS
Davenport, 2215
East Burnside St.,
Portland, Ore.

"I think he's been buying more wine than he has any reason to for years," said Mr. Fortgang about this restaurant's wine director and co-owner, Kurt Heilemann. The list is full of "great gems," including many attractive options in the \$50-\$100 range that would easily cost much more elsewhere. Over the last decade, Mr. Heilemann has accumulated an inventory of

well-aged, well-priced bottles, including quite a few prize Burgundies and great Champagnes from producers like Pierre Péters and Ulysse Collin. The 2012 Ulysse Collin Blanc de Noirs Les Maillons, for instance, costs around \$90 retail but a mere \$125 on this list—a markup well under the industry standard.

Jack Mason

Master sommelier, Pappas Bros. Steakhouse, Houston

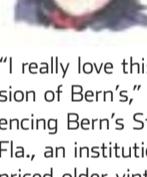


RECOMMENDS
13 Celsius, 3000
Caroline St., Houston

"13 Celsius is our usual hangout," said Mr. Mason, who drinks and trades tips there with colleagues from the wine world. The place is a favorite in part because of the people but also because "the prices are very affordable," said Mr. Mason. He most often orders a bottle of Champagne and "a little bit of food." (The bar menu features cheeses, salads and panini.) Mr. Mason's most recent order was a bottle of Marc Hebrart Brut Rosé Champagne, at a very reasonable \$82. As for the wine bar's appeal to professionals, proprietor Michael Sammons noted that there was a "straight-up nerd factor" about some of the wines, though plenty of "regular" folk show up as well, especially for 13 Celsius's once-a-month wine classes.

Belinda Chang

Sommelier at large, former managing partner/wine director, Maple & Ash, Chicago



RECOMMENDS
The Village, 71
West Monroe St.,
Chicago

"I really love this place. It's our version of Bern's," said Ms. Chang, referencing Bern's Steakhouse in Tampa, Fla., an institution known for its well-priced older vintages. The list at the Village, an Italian restaurant celebrating its 90th anniversary this year, also runs quite large and features wines purchased decades ago and only gently marked up. "I'm not sure the sommelier, Jared [Gelband], realizes how special the cellar is," said Ms. Chang. I put this to Mr. Gelband, and the 35-year-old wine director assured me he's well aware of how lucky he is. The Village is one of three Italian Village Restaurants at the same address, each with its own bar, and its wine list currently has about 1,100 bottles, ranging from a pleasant, lesser-known Umbrian Grechetto for \$35 to a comprehensive listing of all the great Super Tuscans, including Masseto, Solaia and Sassicaia.

► Email Lettie at wine@wsj.com.

SLOW FOOD FAST SATISFYING AND SEASONAL FOOD IN ABOUT 30 MINUTES

Smoky Chicken Enchiladas



The Chef
Spike Gjerde

His Restaurants
Woodberry Kitchen,
Parts & Labor,
Bird in Hand,
Grand Cru and
Artifact Coffee, all
in Baltimore; A
Rake's Progress,
soon to open in
Washington, D.C.

**What He's
Known For**
Obsessively
researching and
championing Mid-
Atlantic farmers
and foodways.
Unpretentious
cooking rooted in
superb ingredients.

LIKE MANY of chef Spike Gjerde's dishes, this one began with an ingredient he was excited about. "There was this amazing guy harvesting open-pollinated corn with a team of horses," he said. "It was like, 'OK, what can we do with this?'"

He milled the corn at his Baltimore restaurant Woodberry Kitchen and made fresh tortillas. With a stash of chilies and tomatoes on hand, put up in peak season, enchiladas seemed the logical next step.

TOTAL TIME 35 minutes SERVES 4

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 2 dried ancho chilies, stems removed | 1 (28-ounce) can crushed tomatoes | roast chicken |
| 1/2 cup warm water | 1 pinch of spicy paprika | 9 ounces sharp white cheddar, grated |
| 1 yellow onion, cut into wedges | 1 teaspoon dried oregano | 1 generous handful cilantro leaves |
| 6 cloves garlic | 14 corn tortillas | 3 scallions, thinly sliced |
| Kosher salt | 1 1/2 pounds shredded rotisserie, poached or | |

1. Place dried chilies in a small bowl and cover with warm water. Cover bowl with a plate and let chilies rehydrate until they become pliable, about 5 minutes.

2. Set broiler to high. Season onions and garlic with a pinch of salt. Spread vegetables across a baking sheet. Broil until well charred in spots, 2-3 minutes. Remove from broiler and set aside. Set oven temperature to 425 degrees.

3. Place tomatoes, paprika, oregano, charred onions and garlic, and rehydrated chilies along with their soaking liquid in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Bring liquid to a simmer and cook until onions and chilies soften, about 7 minutes. Off heat, use a handheld blender or food processor to purée

to a thick, smooth, uniform sauce, taking care with hot liquid. Set sauce back over low heat and gently simmer to keep warm.

4. Coat bottom of a 9-by-9-inch baking dish with a thin layer of sauce. Arrange a single layer of tortillas over sauce, trimming edges to fit. Scatter a loose layer of chicken over tortillas and top with a loose layer of grated cheese. Continue layering sauce, tortillas, chicken and cheese until dish is nearly full. End with a layer of tortillas, a layer of sauce and a final layer of cheese.

5. Bake enchiladas on top rack of oven until cheese topping bubbles and browns in spots, 15-20 minutes. Garnish with cilantro and scallions and serve immediately.



FIRE AWAY Charring the onions and garlic before blending them into the sauce gives these enchiladas a delectable smoky flavor.

DESIGN & DECORATING

GARDEN TOUR

Tiers of Happiness

A level-headed designer builds up to maximize the tiny backyard of a Dublin row house—and counters dreary Irish weather with defiant cheer

BY DEBRA JO IMMERGUT

IN HIS MEMOIR "Angela's Ashes," Frank McCourt noted that, while his family's hometown in Ireland gained a reputation for piety, it was actually the rain that drove the townspeople into the church, "our only dry place." Dublin designer Roisin Lafferty also knows the challenges of Ireland's "unfortunate weather," as she calls it. But the inhospitable climate hasn't discouraged her clients from wanting in on the current trend toward seamless indoor-outdoor living. She tackled this conflict when revamping a client's 1817 Georgian row house in Dublin's Ranelagh neighborhood. Her mission: transform its tiny, hemmed-in back garden into a highly functional space that would beckon even on the bleakest of days.

Ms. Lafferty developed some smart strategies for maximizing utility and beauty in the 840-square-foot plot, from carving the space into distinct multilevel zones to cleverly deploying pattern and color (not to mention mirrors). They should prove helpful for any homeowner who craves an al fresco experience but wrestles with a lack of square footage, privacy or fine-weather days. Whether you are sunning yourself amid its virtuosic tile work or gazing at its tiers through the gloom, said Ms. Lafferty, "that garden can't help but lighten your mood."

One Mantel, Hold the Fire

Ms. Lafferty referenced many elements of the home's interior design (also her handiwork) in the garden, unifying inside and out aesthetically and making the combined spaces appear larger. "The back of the house is all glass," she said, "so we designed the garden very much as an extension of the house, as an outdoor room." Since the home boasts multiple mantelpieces, the designer wanted one for the second-tier sitting nook at the garden's heart as well. She sourced a cast-iron Victorian piece from Dublin's Macs Salvage Yard, then had it stripped and coated with metal-friendly aqua Hammerite paint that relates to a blue-heavy interior palette. She propped the piece against a retaining wall tiled with Vives ceramic squares, another design element borrowed from indoors. "We wanted you to feel like you're in a living room, very much cocooned," noted the designer.



Bold in the Cold

A garden that exudes visual energy even in lousy weather demands bright finishes and plantings with personality, said Ms. Lafferty. Hewing to a blue-and-green scheme, the designer cloaked the dining area in emerald Equipe Evolution InMetro subway tile, whose glistening concavities bounce light into the oft-shady spot. A custom table inlaid with azure Mainzu ceramic tiles evokes sunny Spanish afternoons. Contrasting plants, such as the white-leaved Cornus Alba and a purplish Aubrieta, crown the dining nook. Climbing the garden's rear wall, Pyracantha "Orange Glow" and "Fire Red" provide evergreen foliage and hot-hued berries. Plastic-framed IKEA mirrors add sparkle and depth, reading almost as windows, for "an Alice in Wonderland feel," the designer said.



Zone Poem

To add drama and a sense of spaciousness to the cramped yard of a Dublin row house, local interiors architect Roisin Lafferty borrowed a strategy from her work designing restaurants. Eateries, often subdivided into zones (bar area, booth seating), offer "a physical journey as you walk through." Here, a lower-level dining area and two tiered sitting areas were created partly via excavation, but any small space can be easily carved into zones, noted Ms. Lafferty, by using different materials to define each area. The floor-

ing surfaces give each of this garden's tiers a distinctive visual foundation: a patchwork of patterned Vives ceramic tile on the dining level, plum-colored gravel and slate for the middle tier, and mellow salvaged yellow brick, manufactured a century ago in the city's Dolphin Barn factory, for the top level. For a clean background to this complex mix, Ms. Lafferty had retaining walls sculpted from extra-white Ecocem cement and boundary walls clad in treated cedar slats painted an understated blue-green, Cuprinol's Seagrass. The horizontal strips handily support vines.



A Separate Peace

Angled across a corner at the space's highest level sits what Ms. Lafferty called "a surprise element": a vintage limestone fountain discovered at a local architectural salvage. The hand-carved font can't be seen from much of the garden, but it can be heard, and the cheerily murmuring water helps create a sense of sanctuary in a space that's cheek-by-jowl with neighboring properties. The landscaping on the upper tiers further screens sound, provides a bit of airy coverage and blurs the garden's rectilinear lines. Delicate trees that fit well in diminutive spaces include crimson-hued Acer Palmatum "Bloodgood" and narrow-leaved Prunus Angustifolia. A climbing rose, Rosa Banksiae "Alba," veils the boundary walls with soft foliage and snowy summer blooms.

FRESH PICKS



THE FABRICS Cloth Encounters

In May, F. Schumacher & Co. will relaunch—and expand—Frank Lloyd Wright's first (and only) textile collection. The line-up: six of the architect's original 1955 prints, some updated with a more contemporary color palette, plus six never-released patterns culled from his archival sketches, which the company's creative director, Dara Caponigro, said still feel "new and fresh. Good design is good design." The textiles are suitable for upholstery as well as window treatments. From about \$200 per yard, D & D Bldg., 212-759-5408 x 204

ALL'S WRIGHT WITH THE WORLD

Frank Lloyd Wright would have turned 150 this June. Three ways to join the party

THE EVENT

Tour de Force

As part of Chicago's annual Wright Plus Housewalk tour (May 20), architecture buffs get special access to four privately owned Wright-designed homes in Oak Park (including the Arthur B. Heurtley house, below). Full-fledged enthusiasts might want to opt for the Ultimate Plus Weekend Package (May 18-21), which includes tickets to an intimate 7-course dinner served inside a Wright home. \$100 for housewalk and \$2,650 for weekend pkg., flwright.org



THE EXHIBIT

Held in High Regard

To mark the anniversary, New York's Museum of Modern Art has amassed nearly 400 works for a Wright retrospective, beginning June 12. Highlights include: a model of an East Village apartment that never came to fruition (right), restored by conservators over 450 hours; renderings of the architect's Prairie-style homes; and dining chairs from Tokyo's now-demolished Imperial Hotel.



GEAR & GADGETS

Putting Down Roosts

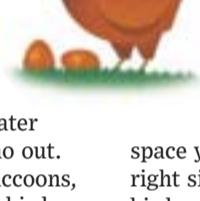
As raising chickens in one's backyard goes mainstream, prefab poultry housing is something to crow about

BY MICHAEL TORTORELLO

If you're looking to join the ranks of the urban dwellers and suburbanites who raise chickens in their own backyards, consider these helpful guidelines from the literature: A chicken coop should ideally face east. The right dimensions are 10 feet long, half that width, and about 4 feet high. The coop will need a large window, with a protective grate to exclude predators. On opposite walls, attach nesting boxes and perches. Enclose a run and the birds will frolic and bathe themselves in dust. Finally, a coop should include a door—a human-scale door—for the *gallinarius* to enter.

Gallinarius? Ah yes, that's Latin for the chicken keeper: you. The literature cited here comes from the classical Roman writer Marcus Terentius Varro, and his series "De Re Rustica" ("On Agriculture"). More than 2,000 years later, the specs still work. (If you're just getting around to urban farming with a new home flock, you needn't feel embarrassed about being behind the times.)

Beyond the basics, the coop kits we've chosen to review below share two important traits. First, these coops possess the curb appeal to stake a claim in the front yard, not just the back. Second, their makers all tend chickens themselves. They've thought about how to move straw bedding in and out of the box, where to position food, water and eggs to keep the guano out. They've spotted hawks, raccoons, and coyotes stalking their birds



and have girded the coops accordingly. Their kits arrive via post with idiot-proof instructions. (Each of the kit builders also provided the names of customers to discuss how the coops have performed.) A word or two on how much space your new flock will need. The right size depends on whether your birds will spend most of the day

cooped up or roaming the yard (a decision that's only a little less subjective than how a parent raises a child). And the breed matters: a 16-pound Brahma (picture Shaquille O'Neal in a chicken suit) will demand more room than a 2-pound Silkie Bantam.

With those variables in mind, a reliable formula comes from Dyan Twining, who founded Urban Coop Company, and maintains a flock of

300 birds at her home outside Austin, Texas. "We plan for no less than 4 square feet per bird," Ms. Twining said. "And they need about 8 inches of roost space per bird," for perching. "And one egg box"—that is, a sheltered nesting area—"per six chickens."

This is a good time to mention what bird fanciers call "chicken

math": a formula that reflects the irresistible urge to buy—and one day breed—ever more birds. If you plan to foster N chickens in the backyard, six months later, you will actually have purchased N+2 or N+4; and a year later, 2N or even N². Pro tip: When you're coop shopping, it's not a bad idea to leave room for your flock to multiply.



The Country Chalet ▲

The Louis 6, an A-frame structure, looks like a minimalist lake home, but more important, in very strong wind "the frames don't blow over," said co-creator Pat Didear. The floor plan is split level, with a run on the ground and nesting loft above. The wall flips open in two segments to form a door for the chickens and a screened perch/porch. One feature these coops don't include? A chicken ladder for leading fowl to their nests. However, having observed his own flock, Mr. Didear knows that is no loss. "Birds fly." \$799, ranch-coop.com

The Modern Atelier ▼

The Eglu Cube's blow-molded plastic panels come in two unnatural hues: magenta or Kelly Green. Given that its inventors were design students at London's Royal College of Art, the coop is also utilitarian: The droppings tray slides in and out (you can power-wash the whole coop) and an attachable run sells in 2-meter-long modules. The only complaint of Eglu owners Kim and Josh Berg, of Santa Ynez, Calif., is that their tiny house could be roomier, to accommodate more birds. "It's America, doggone it!" Mr. Berg said. \$899, omlet.us



The Playhouse ▲

Dyan Twining started selling practical, compact coops, yet something was missing. "People wanted to hang out with their chickens," she said. So Ms. Twining designed the 9-by-8-foot Round-Top Walk-In. It's the right scale for the two-dozen birds kept by Billy Kalbacher, a general contractor who constructs mansions in the Hamptons. He praised the coop's materials and its practicality: "What we built in a day and a half with this coop would have taken my guys a week to build." \$3,899, urbancoopcompany.com

The Hobbit Hut ▼

Something just feels right about cooping birds in a cedar-shake Hobbit house. The design might seem "inherently impractical," said co-creator Melissa Pillsbury. But the challenges of a vaulted home have inspired ingenious solutions. The roof on their 3-by-5-foot Lightfoot flips open for easy access; removable perches double as bedding rakes. Order the fitted run (shown) and optional wheels and you've got a "chicken tractor," which allows your fowl to forage throughout your lawn. \$1,190, wooden-wonders.com



THE FIXER MICHAEL HSU



Perfect Eggs at the Office?



QI'd like to prepare a proper breakfast in my office kitchen. Do microwave egg cookers really work?

AOff Duty food editor Beth Kracklauer—who is very discerning about her eggs—helped me investigate. We concluded that, unless you like your eggs dry and spongelike, you should avoid gadgets that claim to cook omelets, scrambled eggs or fried eggs in a microwave.

Ms. Kracklauer was impressed, however, with Nordic Ware's \$16 Microwave Egg Boiler, an ovoid container that hard- or soft-boils up to four eggs. Just fill the base with water, add eggs and pop into the microwave for six to 10 minutes. Placing the contraption on a plate before you start will make it easier to remove from the microwave (it will be very hot). Let the eggs rest for a few minutes before handling.

What makes the Egg Boiler so effective? A special microwave-safe aluminum lining that shields the eggs and prevents them from getting nuked. Instead, only the water gets heated, effectively steaming the eggs to perfection. This approach yielded eggs with creamy yolks—the gold standard.

We also found that poaching in a microwave works pretty well, too. All you need for this is a mug: Simply

crack a raw egg into a cup of water and nuke for about 45 seconds, stir, then microwave in 20-second increments or so until done, stirring gently each time.

But to minimize the potential for mess when poaching, it's helpful to use Sistema's Microwave Easy Eggs (\$7)—essentially a small bowl with a locking lid to prevent splattering. A hole at the top lets you drain off the

water in the sink. Ignore the included instructions, which suggest using only a splash of water, and follow the nuke-and-stir approach outlined above. To avoid soggy-egg syndrome, Ms. Kracklauer suggests patting your eggs dry with a paper towel before enjoying.

Have a lifestyle problem that a gadget might solve? Email us: thefixer@wsj.com



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GEAR & GADGETS

RUMBLE SEAT DAN NEIL



BMW C 650 GT: Too Powerful to Call a 'Scooter'

IT'S FAIR TO OBSERVE that motorcycle enthusiasts aren't very smart. If we were, we wouldn't ride motorcycles, would we?

This year, thousands of Americans will diligently research their first bike purchase, read all the road tests, compare all the features, then wobble away on a machine that will make them miserable. Too big, small, fast, heavy, too...motorcycle-y.

I have ridden the bike these soon-to-be unsatisfied consumers really want, whether they know it or not. It is the friendliest, most practical and cooperative two-wheeler that's ever showed up at my house: automatic transmission; automatic parking brake; heated seats and grips; power-adjustable windscreen; lockable storage for two helmets and yet more stowage concealed in the bodywork.

Yet for all this bike's virtues as a life appliance, its design is strikingly uncompromised, virile and dramatic, a crystal-nosed bullet trailing shock waves in two-tone composite bodywork. The pride of ownership factor would be insane.

But thousands of undersatisfied bike owners will never know, because the BMW C 650 GT isn't a motorcycle at all but a scooter. An uncommonly fast, powerful, heavy and costly scooter, but a scooter nonetheless—which, in America, makes this roundly superior transportation device culturally inferior.



BMW

I would like to change that.

Yes? I see a hand in back? As per Corradino D'Ascanio's original conception for the Vespa, a scooter's defining features include a step-through frame, which makes mounting and dismounting the machine easy (even if you're Audrey Hepburn in a tight skirt); a rear-mounted engine concealed in bodywork; and full front fairing with integrated floorboards shielding feet and legs from wind and road spray.

In Postwar Europe, scooters emerged as cheap, basic transportation, a role they still play around the world.

But the times and mission have changed. BMW Motorrad invokes the challenges of "urban mobility." The target audience is young, upscale European commuters trying to eel their way into the business centers of Paris, London and Rome while keeping their trousers clean.

To the bones of the scooter phenotype, BMW added layers of Bavarian muscle and sinew, starting with a strong, selfless 647-cc parallel-twin cylinder engine, producing 60 hp at a fervid 7,500 rpm and a top speed over 100 mph, depending on the headwind. Ease off the right-hand twist-throttle a bit and the GT will find its happy place, cruising at 80 mph at around 5,000 rpm, sounding a rich, breathy thrum, the diamond-bladed lawn mower of the gods.

It's here, on the interstate, where you will find the GT's first surprise: superior wind protection and absence of buffeting at speed. Even on BMW's big tourer, the K 1600 GT, I have to hunch a bit to keep my helmet below the slipstream rising off the windscreen. The C 650 GT's oversize, height-adjustable screen directs the lashing wind overhead. The scooter's enveloping fairing ahead and full-length floorboards below also help create a remarkable pocket of calm at the rider's position. I do believe I could light dad's pipe in there.

BMW calls the GT—and its

sister bike, the C 650 Sport—a "maxi-scooter" but at this point the nomenclature fails us, especially the naff and unserious "scooter." For all its maximal-ness, the C 650 GT presents as neither scooter nor motorcycle but a perfecting gene-splice of both, a moment of branching evolution on our way to motorcycle 2.0.

One thing it's not is budget-sensitive transportation. You could buy two fine commuter motorcycles for the price of the GT. But it is a fully vested BMW, a match in materiality, construction and design to the mainline bikes: a stiffer-than-hell tubular-steel, trellis-style frame; single-sided aluminum swing arm; beefy upside-down telescopic front forks held with twin yokes and single rear coil-over strut, yielding 4.5 inches of suspension travel front and rear; dual floating front brakes and a single disc rear; wide and sporty 17-inch tires.

Nor can it be called small—with an overall length of 87.3 inches, the GT measures within 4.3 inches of the dreadnaught K 1600 GT—or light (it's 575 pounds). And if you're thinking of lane-splitting in Los Angeles, know the GT is also broad of beam, just 3.5 inches narrower than the K-ship.

Is it fast? Better to say it's fast enough, plus 10%. For maximum ease of use, the GT combines an automatic trans-

mission—a belt-style CVT—and a centrifugal clutch. This arrangement, common to scooters, is essential to their step-in, twist-and-go ease.

Departing from a stop, the first quarter-turn of throttle is answered with a fairly soft, elastic response. The rising revs and pace soon marry, the torque engages and the bike surges forward nicely. Note: Tandem riders especially will appreciate the seamless acceleration compared to the snatching jerks of a conventional gearbox.

No, alas, the GT will not carry a wheelie off the line—at least, I don't think. But with

The design is uncompromised, virile and dramatic.

0-60 mph acceleration under 7 seconds, it moves out quite smartly. No apologies to make there.

To my surprise, our spiffy tester also displayed more-than-respectable handling chops—agile at low speed, overachieving in corners, feeling settled and serene at both ends, thanks to its low center of gravity and sport-tuned suspension. It leans so effortlessly it could actually use a bit more side clearance. ABS and stability control are standard.

But mainly, transcendently,

HE SCOUTS, HE SCORES
The 2017 BMW C 650 GT, left, and C 650 Sport have the engineering and construction of a full-fledged motorcycle.

the GT is more comfortable than a motorcycle. Any motorcycle. It's a matter of posture: Aboard the GT, the rider sits on the soft, molded-leather saddle with feet hip-width apart, knees bent at 90 degrees or less (the scooter has forward-position floorboards), elbows close to the body, hands low. Even more than the heated grips and seat, the GT's ergonomic comfort is what qualifies it as a long-distance machine.

Here afoot is a provocative notion: Motorcycles are uncomfortable as a matter of inherited and obsolete design (inherited from horse riding and cycling, by the way). In prototypical form, a motorcycle requires the operator to hike a leg over the central mass, straddle the engine and gas tank, legs spread, arms extended to the handlebars, knees kinked, with feet balanced on narrow pegs.

This is a posture, a pleasure, one can bear for only so long. In the first hour, sure, that Ducati Panigale between your thighs is going to feel amazing. By hour three it's going to feel like you are giving birth to it.

The BMW poses a simple, Why? Here is a machine that looks amazing, handles like a sport bike, and sits like the most coveted chair in the conference room. Maybe it isn't a motorcycle, but it isn't a scooter either.

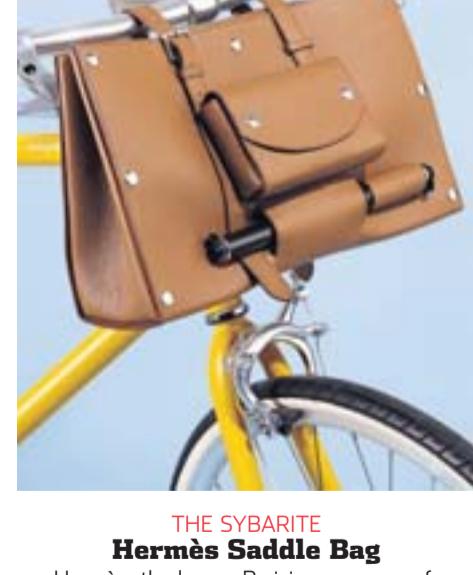
Whatever it is, I feel smarter just riding it.

A FETCHING NEW SPIN ON SATCHELS

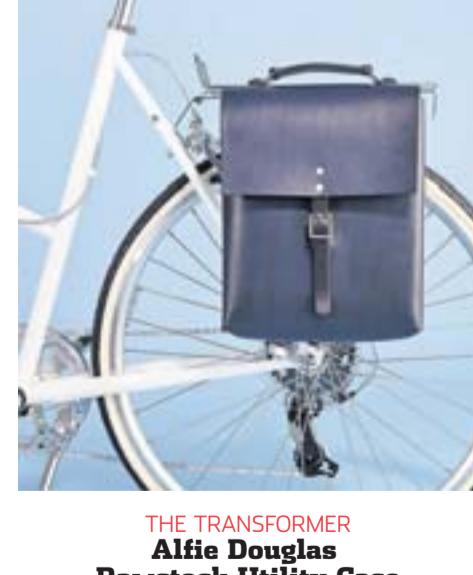
Whether you're peddling to the farmers' market or an after-work affair, these chic bags will sit just as stylishly on your bike as they will on your shoulder



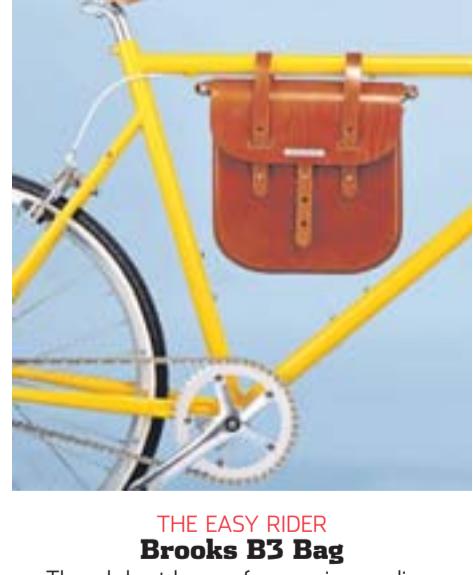
THE CLASSICIST
Hill & Ellis Sherlock Bag
This oxblood leather option hides its universal pannier clips inside a nondescript leather enclosure that won't betray the bag's ability to hop on a bike. A clever addition: Two strips, trimmed with chrome, clip onto the side of the bag and can be positioned to display either a reflective material (for safety) or matching leather (for discretion). Waterproof, reflective rain-cover included.
\$250, hillandellis.com



THE SYBARITE
Hermès Saddle Bag
Hermès, the luxury Parisian purveyor of all things luxury, fashioned this bike bag from the brand's signature Clemence bull calfskin. The bag offers two belted straps that can conveniently be adjusted to fit your bike or your arm. An included bike pump slips neatly into a loop on the bag's exterior. Also available: a small smartphone-size tool kit (\$950), complete with a leather-wrapped wrench.
\$4,275, hermes.com



THE TRANSFORMER
Alfie Douglas Rawstock Utility Case
Handcrafted from two pieces of vegetable tanned leather, this sturdy case, which will be available this summer, is minimal yet versatile. The thick metal loops on the bag's back as well as its removable straps allow it to easily transform from a pannier into a sleek briefcase, shoulder bag or backpack. Choose from navy, black and natural leather.
\$590, alfiedouglas.com



THE EASY RIDER
Brooks B3 Bag
Though best known for premium cycling saddles, Brooks England has also been making bike bags since the 19th century. A collaboration with London's Royal College of Art, this modern take is produced using the same machinery and techniques as the brand's bike saddles. Classic button-stud closure straps help secure the bag to your bike's main frame or rear rack. \$285, brooksengland.com
—Lauren Ingram

White Bisou Bike, \$695, and Matte Gold Ace Hotel Limited Bike, \$875, tokyobike.com