

# Dismal Science In the Search For Cures



REVIEW

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. WSJ.



DESIGNS OF A MASTER ARTIST  
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WEEKEND

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SATURDAY/SUNDAY, APRIL 8 - 9, 2017

WSJ.com

## What's News

World-Wide

Trump's decision to strike a Syrian regime air base sent a shot across Russia's bow, signaling that his administration is more willing to use force than its predecessor. **A1, A5-A7**

◆ The president is mulling a major shake-up of his staff as he looks to build a more cohesive operation after a rough start in the White House. **A1**

◆ A man drove a truck into a crowd in Stockholm, killing four in what authorities called a terror attack. **A8**

◆ Gorsuch's Senate confirmation will restore a conservative majority on the Supreme Court and gives the GOP a victory. **A1**

◆ Trump and Xi professed progress in their relationship but showed no signs of consensus on trade or North Korea at a summit. **A9**

◆ A federal judge approved a legally binding overhaul of Baltimore's police department to address concerns about racially biased practices. **A3**

◆ A special counsel probing Alabama Gov. Bentley accused him of obstructing the inquiry and directing law enforcement to advance his personal interests. **A3**

### Business & Finance

◆ Hiring slowed in March but broader trends suggest slack in the labor market is disappearing, leaving the Fed on track to keep raising rates and workers with prospects of better paydays. **A1**

◆ The Dow industrials inched down for the week, with the index declining 6.85 points to 20656.10 Friday. **B10**

◆ U.S. credit-card debt breached \$1 trillion, joining auto loans and student debt in crossing that threshold and hitting its highest mark since the recession. **B1**

◆ 21st Century Fox won EU approval for its bid to acquire U.K.'s Sky, clearing the first of several regulatory hurdles. **B3**

◆ The trial of Samsung Electronics' vice chairman, who is facing charges of bribery and embezzlement, got under way. **B1**

◆ Uber struck back at a lawsuit from Alphabet's Waymo, saying claims it stole trade secrets are unfounded and a tactic to stifle its own self-driving-car effort. **B3**

◆ Venezuelan officials plan to make a \$2.1 billion bond payment due next week. **B9**

◆ China's foreign-exchange reserves rose for the second straight month in March. **B9**

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What's Become Of the American Dream

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WEEKEND

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, APRIL 8 - 9, 2017

WSJ.com



President Donald Trump on Thursday was briefed in a secure room at Mar-a-Lago in Florida as the U.S. carried out a bombing on Syria. **A5**

## Strike Fuels Russia Tensions

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump's quick-fire decision to strike a Syrian regime air base sent a shot across Russia's bow, signaling that his

### U.S. Strikes Syria

- ◆ Gerald F. Seib: Trump move sends global message... **A5**
- ◆ Yaroslav Trofimov: Assad rule not endangered.... **A6**
- ◆ Airstrike raises tensions with Tehran..... **A7**

administration is more willing to use force than its predecessor, even if it means riling the Kremlin and its allies.

For months, officials in the Trump administration have been saying the U.S. must approach Russia from a position of strength, before improving

relations with Moscow. When deciding how to respond to this week's chemical-weapons attack, which the U.S. military blamed on Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces, the 11-week-old administration also considered what message Mr. Trump wanted to send to

the rest of the world in one of his earliest foreign-policy tests.

"This is bigger than Syria," a senior administration official said. "It's representative of how he wants to be seen by other world leaders. It is important that people understand this is a different administration."

Mr. Trump said he undertook the military strike to prevent and deter Mr. Assad from using chemical weapons. While it appeared to be a one-time action, U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley warned more could be forthcoming.

The unilateral strike represented a relatively modest intervention, U.S. officials said, small enough to avoid an intractable rift with Russia ahead of Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's first official trip to Moscow next week. It crippled 20 of Mr. Assad's jet fighters, according to the Pentagon, but didn't target the air base's runway. Local media reported Syrian planes were using the runway later Friday, though U.S. officials didn't confirm that.

The strikes didn't come with any clear new policy doc-

Please see TRUMP page A6

As he turned to the Syrian crisis that prompted the White House to adopt a war footing culminating in Thursday's missile strike, Mr. Trump was increasingly unhappy over the feuding that has run through the West Wing and is determined to see it end, the official said.

Mr. Trump is specifically evaluating whether to keep his chief of staff, Reince Priebus, and his chief strategist, Steve Bannon, in their current positions.

Two people close to the White House said Mr. Trump has been talking to confidants about Mr. Priebus's performance and has asked for names of possible replacements.

Mr. Trump is "trying out different names with his friends," one of those people said.

While Mr. Trump has made

Please see STAFF page A7

## Hiring Pace Slows in March, But Jobless Rate Ticks Down

By JEFFREY SPARSHOTT

WASHINGTON—U.S. employers slowed their hiring in March but broader trends suggest slack in the labor market is disappearing, leaving the Federal Reserve on track to keep raising interest rates and workers with prospects of better paydays.

Nonfarm payrolls rose by a seasonally adjusted 98,000 in March from the previous month, the Labor Department said Friday, a slowdown from

earlier in the year. Still, the unemployment rate dropped two-tenths of a percentage point to 4.5%, the lowest level since May 2007. The drop in the jobless rate occurred even as more people entered the labor force, meaning there was more than enough hiring to absorb new workers.

"That really underscores the health of labor market," said Michelle Girard, chief U.S. economist at NatWest Markets.

The March hiring slowdown came after two strong months

of gains, 216,000 in January and 219,000 in February, leaving the average for the first quarter as a whole at 178,000, near its pace for all of 2016.

The labor-force participation rate held steady at 63% in March. The rate has been trending lower for decades, partly because the population is aging and more workers are retiring, though economic fac-

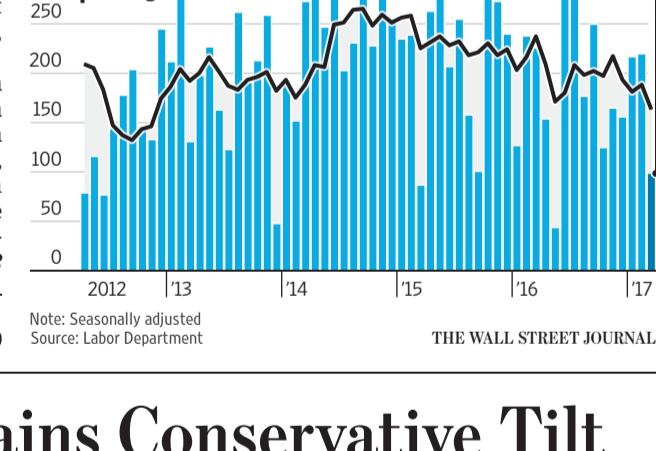
Please see JOBS page A2

◆ Heard on the Street: Data obscure tight jobs market... **B10**

### Deceleration

Payroll growth slowed in March, partly due to unusually warm weather in January and February that shifted hiring earlier in the year.

#### Monthly change in total nonfarm payrolls



## If You Say You Went to St. Mary's, You Will Need to Be More Specific

\* \* \*

Colleges with similar names struggle to stand out; applying to the wrong Cornell

By MELISSA KORN

Early in this year's NCAA men's basketball tournament, Snapchat displayed the Rattler logo of St. Mary's University in San Antonio to appeal to those following a first-round game. Meanwhile, traffic spiked to the website for the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, Kan.

Neither team was even eligible to play in the tournament—though Saint Mary's College of California in Moraga, Calif., and Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Md., both earned berths in March Madness.

Andrew Festa, who oversees social media for St. Mary's in San Antonio, said

the school's Twitter feed was "bombed" with misdirected well wishes throughout the tournament, especially after the Snapchat snafu.

He ultimately sent out a message from the university's official account, noting the different Twitter handles for his and the California school.

"A lot of times, I bite my tongue," he said. "But for this, I felt I could be a little more laid back and have fun with it."

The St. Mary's College Gaels asked online whether the Texas school was rooting for them in their match-up with the University of Arizona. Mr. Festa responded with a clip of actor Will Ferrell pumping his

Please see NAMES page A9



The St. Mary's Rattler

## Court Regains Conservative Tilt

BY BRENT KENDALL  
AND BYRON TAU

WASHINGTON—Neil Gorsuch's confirmation by the Senate on Friday will restore a conservative majority on the Supreme Court that dates back more than 40 years, and it gives Republicans a hard-nosed victory after unprecedented political wrangling over

the court's direction.

The Senate's 54-45 vote closed the book on more than a year of uncertainty over the high court's future after Justice Antonin Scalia's unexpected death in February last year left it split evenly between liberals and conservatives. The vacancy, spanning two presidential administrations, was the longest since

the Civil War era.

As President Donald Trump's first appointee to the Supreme Court, Judge Gorsuch, at the relatively young age of 49, is likely to put his mark on the court for decades, helping shape constitutional law and playing a key role in some of the biggest legal questions of the day. His confirmation

Please see COURT page A4



## Attack Kills Four In Central Stockholm

Police investigate the scene where a truck drove into a crowd Friday in the Swedish capital's busiest shopping area, in what authorities called a terror attack. Four people died and 15 were wounded. 'Our whole country is in a state of shock,' Prime Minister Stefan Löfven said. **A8**

# U.S. NEWS

# Introducing Method Into the March Madness

March Madness ended Monday. How did your bracket work out?

Most of the 40 million people who fill out brackets to predict the winners of each game in the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship make picks based on their knowledge of the game, wishful thinking or flat-out guessing. But in a sudden-death elimination tournament, things get crazy. Favorites falter. Underdogs rally. Brackets blow up.

This year, the American Statistical Association decided to counter the madness with a method. In a contest it called Statsketball, ASA challenged high-school and college students to fill out brackets in a pair of challenges based on a statistical analysis of their own design. Winners, who were judged on points and strategy, received ASA membership, a T-shirt and \$200.

"We wanted students to think hard about how they might take available information and turn it into some understanding of what future events might look like," said ASA executive director Ronald L. Wasserstein. "You

could pick your team based on your favorite color, or you could use a model that takes into account player performance, home and road activity, and records against similar opponents."

In the Pick 'em Upset Challenge, contestants chose winners for each of the 32 first-round games. Two points were awarded for correct picks plus the seed difference for upsets. Correctly picking No. 8 seeded Wisconsin to upset No. 1 seeded Villanova would have yielded seven bonus points (8-1=7) plus two points for having picked a winner, a total of nine points.

"There is a bit of skill," said Michael Lopez, a professor of mathematics at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., who designed the challenges. "You have to recognize what upsets are more likely."

Twenty-five undergraduates and 107 high-school students competed. The winners were Naveen Gooneratne, a senior from Lower Merion High School in Pennsylvania, and Michael McLaughlin, a junior at Temple University.

Mr. McLaughlin tested different metrics, such as strength of schedule, to see how they correlated with the performance of low-seeded teams in past NCAA tournaments, then used the results

## This is Statsketball

High-school and college students in a March Madness contest run by the American Statistical Association started out with 224 draft points to "spend" on a portfolio of teams. The winning college students developed cost-efficiency ratings for the teams in the tournament, based on their history and how much they cost to draft. Here are the picks from the winning team:

TEAM	EXPECTED CONTEST POINTS	÷ DRAFT COSTS	= COST EFFICIENCY	ROUND-BY-ROUND RESULTS						TOTAL CONTEST POINTS
				1st Round	2nd Round	Sweet 16	Elite Eight	Final Four	Champ. Game	
Wichita St.	2.42	8	0.30	✓						1
St. Mary's	3.51	12	0.29	✓						1
SMU	2.74	15	0.18							0
Cincinnati	2.24	15	0.15	✓						1
Mid. Tenn. St.	0.80	6	0.13	✓						1
Gonzaga	8.82	75	0.12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	19
Arkansas	1.13	10	0.11	✓						1
Oregon	2.56	25	0.10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		11
Michigan	1.19	12	0.10	✓	✓	✓	✓			3
Virginia	1.55	17	0.09	✓						1
Miami (Fla.)	0.91	10	0.09							0
Iowa St.	1.50	17	0.09	✓						1
Texas Southern	0.06	1	0.06							0
UC Davis	0.02	1	0.02							0

Note: Expected points are calculated by running 10,000 simulations of the tournament and averaging the results. Draft costs are based on the seed of the team with higher seeds costing more.

Source: North Carolina State University sophomores Jason Thompson and Graham Pash

points they would earn.

The 11 teams they selected went on to win 14 games for 23 points, with their strongest team, Kentucky, making it to the Elite Eight.

The college winners were North Carolina State sophomores Jason Thompson and Graham Pash, who simulated the tournament 10,000 times, used the contest's point system to calculate each team's average expected points, and divided it by the cost in draft points to produce each team's cost efficiency.

For example, Wichita State was expected to earn an average of 2.4 points per round and cost 8 draft points for a cost efficiency rating of .30. Gonzaga was expected to earn an average of 8.8 contest points per round, but cost 75 draft points for a cost efficiency rating of .12.

They picked 10 cost-efficient teams that then went on to win 16 games, collecting 40 points, only to fail in the final. They had picked Gonzaga to go all the way.

Almost. Gonzaga lost to North Carolina.

In basketball, and statistics, that's the way the ball bounces. "You can't expect that predictions are always going to come out," Mr. Wasserstein said. "But a prediction based on a good model will be a better prediction in the long run."

to calculate the probability of upsets by this year's low seeds. He correctly predicted the outcomes of 25 games, earning 73 points, including 23 upset points.

Mr. Gooneratne, who estimated the probability of upsets using data from the website RotoGuru, picked 29 winners, earning 79 points, including 21 upset points.

In Build Your Own Bracket, the second chal-

lenge, each contestant had 224 draft points to "spend" on a portfolio of teams with the goal of choosing the overall NCAA champion among the group—but the spending cap prevented them from loading up on top seeds, which, at 75 points, were the costliest option.

Once a portfolio was picked, the teams earned 1 point for a win in the first round, 2 for a win in the second, and 3, 5, 8

or 13 points for wins in subsequent rounds. Eight undergraduates and 18 high-school students participated.

The high-school winners were James Andrews, Jordan Levy and Connor Heuerman, seniors at College Park High School in Pleasant Hills, Calif., who estimated the probability each team would win every round of games, then calculated the expected value of teams based on the contest

To prevent inflation from rising too much more, the central bank has begun raising short-term interest rates. After a quarter percentage point increase in March, the Fed has penciled in two more this year. It also plans to start gradually reducing a large portfolio of mortgage and Treasury bonds.

"We think the case for a June rate hike has improved on this report," said Michael Hanson, chief U.S. macro strategist at TD Securities. "We would not be surprised to hear a few Fed officials sound a bit more hawkish with an unemployment rate now at their expected low for the end of this year."

This is not to say that all is improving uniformly for workers. The labor-force participation rate for prime-age workers, ages 25-54, held steady at 81.7% last month. It was nearer 83% before the recession. That means many people who could be working are still sitting on the sidelines.

The long-term unemployed also continue to struggle. The unemployment rate for workers who have been looking for work for more than six months is above its prerecession level, though it has improved markedly from its 2010 peak.

Craig Grant was laid off last September by FedEx Corp. after 12 years with the company, most recently as a regional manager.

The 43-year-old turned down an offer to relocate his family to Plano, Texas, from Oxford, Conn., but then struggled to land an interview, let alone a job, with a company in commuting distance to his home.

Mr. Grant ultimately turned to a program for the long-term unemployed, which helped him tune up his application and interview skills.

He received an offer this month to work as a branch manager for Suburban Propane, a fuel distributor, at roughly the same salary as at FedEx. "It can be tough," Mr. Grant said.

## U.S. WATCH

### NEW YORK

#### Gambler Is Convicted Of Insider Trading

A federal jury in Manhattan found legendary gambler William "Billy" Walters guilty on 10 criminal charges related to insider trading, dealing a significant blow to a figure who had long eluded the clutches of the government.

The nearly four-week trial of Mr. Walters, 70 years old, examined accusations that he earned illegal profits through tips about Dean Foods Co. from Thomas C. Davis, the company's former chairman.

Mr. Davis pleaded guilty in May 2016 to charges that include securities fraud and perjury and cooperated against Mr. Walters, a longtime friend.

An attorney for Mr. Walters, Barry Berke, said Mr. Walters planned to appeal the conviction.

Federal and state authorities had indicted Mr. Walters four other times on charges related to his gambling, but he had never been convicted.

—Erica Orden

### FAA RESTRICTIONS

#### Drones Banned Over U.S. Military Facilities

The Federal Aviation Administration banned drone operators from flying their unmanned aircraft over more than 130 U.S. military facilities, the latest sign of escalating security concerns prompted by the popular technology's widespread adoption.

The agency said Friday it was acting "to address national security concerns" raised by the Pentagon and U.S. intelligence and security officials, though it didn't provide details.

The airspace restrictions, which will go into effect April 14, mark the first time the FAA has singled out drones for such sweeping nationwide action. In the past, the FAA has banned flights over public events and it has studies under way to devise ways to keep unmanned aircraft from flying over airports.

—Andy Pasztor

### CALIFORNIA

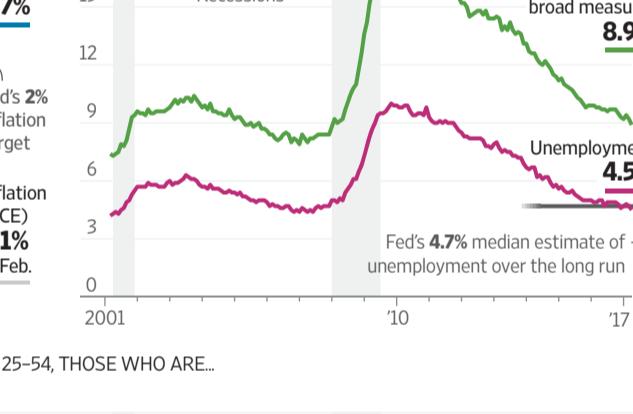
#### Governor Declares End to Drought

California Gov. Jerry Brown on Friday declared an end to the drought in most of the state, but kept in place a conservation plan and some water restrictions he said are necessary to endure future dry spells.

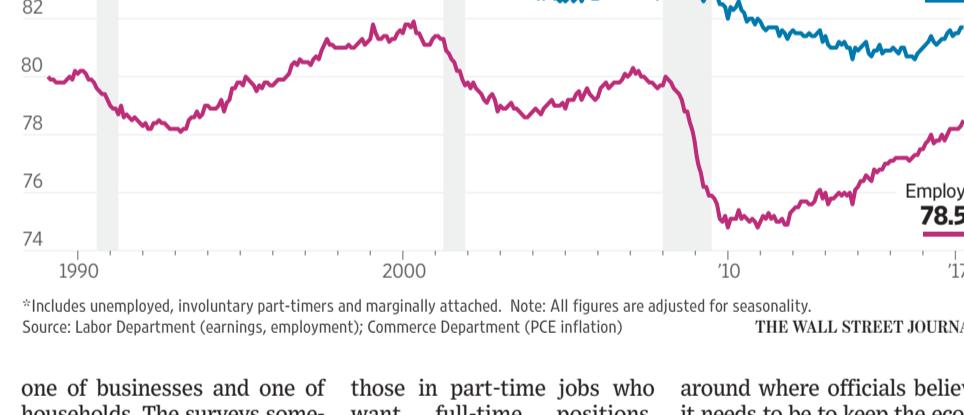
The announcement was expected after years of mandatory water restrictions, and an unusually wet winter that refilled reservoirs to overflowing.

"This drought emergency is over, but the next drought could be around the corner," Mr. Brown said Friday.

—Jim Carlton



AS A SHARE OF ALL CIVILIANS AGES 25-54, THOSE WHO ARE...



\*Includes unemployed, involuntary part-timers and marginally attached. Note: All figures are adjusted for seasonality.

Source: Labor Department (earnings, employment); Commerce Department (PCE inflation)

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

one of businesses and one of households. The surveys sometimes point in different directions. While the business survey showed the monthly slowdown in hiring, the survey of households, upon which the jobless rate is calculated, showed a large gain in employment—472,000 for the month.

That helped to drive improvements in several measures of joblessness. For example, an alternative measure of unemployment and underemployment, which includes those who have stopped looking and

those in part-time jobs who want full-time positions, dropped to 8.9% in March, down from 9.2% the prior month and the lowest since December 2007. The rate averaged 8.3% in the two years before the recession.

The Fed has been closely monitoring the labor market for signs of reduced slack. Officials have forecast an unemployment rate of 4.5% from the end of this year through 2019, with the longer-run rate settling at 4.7%. The latest numbers mean joblessness is right

around where officials believe it needs to be to keep the economy expanding without fueling inflation.

As joblessness shrinks and firms bid up wages, inflation tends to rise. Consumer-price increases had been running below the Fed's 2% objective for nearly five years until February, when the central bank's preferred measure of inflation finally hit the goal. That means the Fed's two primary goals—low, stable inflation and unemployment—are now within its grasp.

Chinati numbered around 15,000 three years ago. A photo of the artist's daughter, Rainer Judd, was taken at a private ranch north of Marfa. The photo caption incorrectly said she was near Casa Perez, a ranch owned by the Judd Foundation.

**Art dealer** Emmanuel Perrotin employs 86 people world-wide, and last year he bought a bookshop and exhibition space in Seoul. An article about him in the April edition of WSJ. Magazine incorrectly said he had 80 employees world-wide and bought a bookshop and office space in Seoul. Mr. Perrotin began an apprenticeship at a small gallery when he was 17 years old; the article incorrectly said he was 16. Mr. Perrotin also first met Takashi Murakami in 1993, and he sold T-shirts with the Japanese artist's Hiropon figure at New York's Gramercy International Art Fair in 1994, one year after the two men met. The article incorrectly said Messrs. Perrotin and Murakami met in 1994 and incorrectly implied the sales at the New York art fair were in 1996. The daughter Mr. Perrotin shares with Patricia Kamp is 5 years old; the article incorrectly said she is 4. Meanwhile, Luis Laplace's firm, Laplace, did the renovation and interior design of Mr. Perrotin's Paris apartment. This detail was omitted from the article.

**The names** of models Myrtle Bolt and Christopher Einla were misspelled as Martha Bold and Christopher Einia in "Good Jeans" in the April edition of WSJ. Magazine. Also, Mr. Einla is with Elite Model Management. The article incorrectly said he is at Messrs. Perrotin and Murakami met in 1994 and incorrectly implied the sales at the New York art fair were in 1996. The daughter Mr. Perrotin shares with Patricia Kamp is 5 years old; the article incorrectly said she is 4. Meanwhile, Luis Laplace's firm, Laplace, did the renovation and interior design of Mr. Perrotin's Paris apartment. This detail was omitted from the article.

**The web address** for the natural toothpaste brand Terra & Co. is terraandco.com. The address was misspelled as terrandco.com in the Sources section for the What's News article about toothpastes in the April edition of WSJ. Magazine.

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## U.S. NEWS

# Alabama Governor Fights To Block Impeachment

BY ARIAN CAMPO-FLORES

A special counsel investigating Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley accused him of obstructing the inquiry and directing law enforcement to advance his personal interests in a highly critical report released Friday to lawmakers weighing whether to impeach him.

The report capped days of mounting troubles for Mr. Bentley, who is accused of misusing state personnel and property to carry out an alleged affair with a former aide, Rebekah Caldwell Mason.

The judiciary committee of the Alabama House of Representatives hired the special counsel, Jack Sharman, to delve into the matter. The committee plans to hold hearings to evaluate the report and decide whether to recommend impeaching him.

In the 124-page report, Mr. Sharman claims Mr. Bentley sought to cover up details of his relationship with Ms. Mason, including surreptitious recordings taped by his ex-wife of him speaking "provoca-

tively" to the aide.

"Concerned that those recordings could become public, Governor Bentley directed law enforcement officers to perform tasks that had no law enforcement justification," the report reads. For instance, Mr. Bentley instructed officers to investigate who might have copies of the recordings and to identify potential crimes they could be charged with, according to the report.

Mr. Sharman also criticized Mr. Bentley for failing to cooperate with the investigation and accused him of obstructing it. "The Committee may consider the Governor's noncooperation as an independent ground for impeachment," the report reads.

Ross Garber, an attorney for Mr. Bentley, said, "We will review today's document dump, which appears to be an amalgam of hearsay, rumor and innuendo. I continue to have confidence that there will ultimately be fairness and due process in this matter."

Earlier Friday, Mr. Bentley filed a lawsuit in Montgomery County Circuit Court to block release of the report. The gover-

nor's attorneys argued that the judiciary committee was depriving the governor of due process by pursuing a rushed schedule and vague, ambiguous charges against him. Calling the proceedings "fundamentally unfair," they asked the court for an injunction barring the committee from issuing the special counsel's findings or holding hearings.

Later in the day, a state judge assigned to hear the case recused himself because of a conflict of interest. The case was then transferred to another state judge, who issued a temporary restraining order late Friday delaying the start of the committee hearings.

Clay Redden, a spokesman for the judiciary committee, said the committee filed a notice of appeal seeking expedited action from the Alabama Supreme Court to overturn the order. He said the committee would meet Monday to address procedural issues.

Standing on the steps of the state capitol on Friday, Mr. Bentley again apologized to the people of Alabama for subjecting



Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley, in front of the state capitol Friday, said he has no plans to resign.

them to such a public spectacle. "Let me say to the people of this state how sorry I am," he said. "There's no doubt that I have let you down." But Mr. Bentley said he had no plans to resign. "I have done nothing illegal," he said. "If the people want to know if I misused state resources, the answer is simply no."

Mr. Bentley, a Republican, is facing growing political pressure. On Wednesday, the Ala-

bama Ethics Commission found probable cause that the governor violated state ethics and campaign-finance laws. It determined that he may have misused state resources, including personnel and equipment, presumably in carrying out the alleged affair.

It also found he may have improperly used campaign funds to pay legal fees for Ms. Mason, improperly received campaign con-

tributions and improperly lent his campaign money. In the past, she has denied having had an affair and said she had a professional relationship and strong friendship with the governor.

The commission referred the matter to the Montgomery County district attorney for possible prosecution. The violations would be felonies, each punishable by two to 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$20,000.

# Judge Approves Accord to Overhaul Baltimore Police

BY SCOTT CALVERT  
AND ARUNA VISWANATHA

BALTIMORE—A federal judge approved a legally binding overhaul of the Baltimore Police Department to address concerns about racially biased practices, despite repeated Justice Department requests to put the brakes on the Obama-era agreement.

Friday's decision by U.S. District Judge James Bredar means the 227-page consent decree—completed by the city and the Obama administration days before President Donald Trump took office in January—now carries the force of law and is to be implemented under the watch of an independent monitor.

Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh said the city would continue moving ahead with reforms aimed at rebuilding public trust in the police. "Our goal is a stronger police department that fights crime while it serves and protects the civil and constitutional rights of our residents," she said.

The ruling makes the Justice Department a formal partner in an overhaul likely to last years. In a statement, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said he had "grave concerns" that some provisions in the agreement "will reduce the lawful powers of the police department and result in a less safe city."

The court's decision marks the latest example of federal judges thwarting the Trump administration's efforts to block Obama-era policies or implement new ones. The administration revised its first executive order on immigration and refugees after a court blocked it, only to see its second similarly curtailed. Two appeals courts are scheduled to consider the latest version of the order in the coming weeks.



Police responding to a Baltimore disturbance. The city has agreed to oversight of the police in a bid to instill public confidence in change.

The consent decree requires the Baltimore Police Department to enact new policies and training to ensure stops, searches and arrests are constitutional, and to use techniques to try to resolve incidents without force. Its provisions also detail when officers can use force and how such actions are to be reported to supervisors. The Justice Department could seek to modify the consent decree as it is implemented.

City officials say they are committed to the overhaul,

which Ms. Pugh says could cost at least \$10 million a year, in part because they believe independent oversight will

give the public confidence that systemic change is occurring.

While the Justice Department didn't move to scuttle the consent decree, its lawyers unsuccessfully sought to have Judge Bredar grant a delay so agency lawyers could conduct a review. In rejecting the Justice Department's request for a delay, Judge Bredar wrote that "it would be extraordinary for the court to permit one side to unilaterally amend an agreement already jointly reached and signed."

He also referred to a hearing held Feb. 1, about two weeks into the Trump administration, in which the Justice Department said it remained

committed to the accord and urged the court to sign it. Mr. Sessions was sworn in as attorney general on Feb. 9.

"The time for negotiating the agreement is over," Judge Bredar added.

A Justice Department investigation had found that Baltimore police engaged in widespread unconstitutional practices and racially biased policing. The probe began after the 2015 death of Freddie Gray, a black man who died of injuries sustained in police custody.

Judge Bredar, appointed in 2010 by then-President Barack Obama, said the facts of the case, including comments from

dozens of people at a public hearing Thursday, "make clear that time is of the essence."

The Justice Department's changed position on the Baltimore agreement reflects the Trump administration's stated goal of scaling back scrutiny of local police to focus instead on an increase in violent crime.

In his statement, Mr. Sessions said the settlement included "clear departures from many proven principles of good policing that we fear will result in more crime."

Baltimore has experienced unusually high levels of violent crime the past two years. In 2015, the city logged its highest

## Some Requirements Of Consent Decree

- ◆ Ensure stops, searches and arrests are constitutional and not racially biased.
- ◆ Have officers use de-escalation techniques and try to resolve incidents without force.
- ◆ Officers should provide detailed information to supervisors when force is used.
- ◆ Ensure detainees are transported safely.
- ◆ Investigate sexual assaults thoroughly and without gender bias.
- ◆ Respect First Amendment rights.
- ◆ Dispatch specially trained officers for incidents involving people in crisis or with behavioral health disabilities.
- ◆ Conduct full investigations of alleged officer misconduct.

# Four Prisoners Found Dead in South Carolina

BY VALERIE BAUERLEIN  
AND SCOTT CALVERT

Four inmates died Friday at a maximum-security prison in Columbia, S.C., that houses the state's most violent prisoners.

State law enforcement officers and the local coroner said they are investigating. "This doesn't appear to be a natural event," said Gary Watts, coroner for Richland County. He declined to comment further.

The men who died were John King, 52 years old; William Scruggs, 44; Jason Kelley, 35; and Jimmy Ham, 56, the state Department of Corrections said.

Violence has been ticking up in prisons, but prison experts say it is rare to have so many fatalities. "It's an extraordinary situation to find four inmates," said Jeffrey A. Schwartz, a California criminal-justice consultant.

Kirkland is home to a specialized housing unit where the state's most dangerous offenders are imprisoned.

# Arizona Expands Education Program

BY TAWNELL D. HOBBS

Arizona lawmakers approved the expansion of a voucher-like program that will eventually allow about 30,000 students to use public money for private school or other educational purposes, such as online schools and tutoring services.

The state's Empowerment Scholarship Account program gives parents and guardians direct access to money to pay education costs.

The program currently serves an estimated 3,500 students who fit certain eligibility criteria, such as being in underperforming schools, having been adopted or being in foster care, and having military parents or special needs. Enrollment has been capped at 5,000.

A bill signed into law late Thursday by Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey would gradually expand enrollment by allowing about 5,500 additional students to sign up each year through 2022. All public-school students in the state

could apply, about 1.1 million, but approximately 3% would be accepted.

The vote in Arizona's Senate and House of Representatives to expand the program, which was launched in 2011, was nearly split along party lines. Democrats objected, saying the expansion could take funding from public schools, while Republicans said it

would give parents a choice and save a few million dollars.

The annual voucher amount currently averages about \$5,700 for non-special-needs students. Special-needs students receive an average of about \$19,000 a year.

Under the revised plan, parents of students considered low income can receive 100% of funding that a public school

would receive, while most other categories of students will receive 90%. Parents submit quarterly expense reports to maintain eligibility.

Educational entities serving 50 or more students who take standardized tests would have to make overall results available to the public under the expanded plan.

State scholarship accounts, also called education savings accounts, are similar to traditional school-voucher programs, which allow families to use public funds to attend private schools. But families using the scholarship programs have more options in using the funding, as their educational options extend beyond just private schools.

Last year, an education-savings-account program in Nevada ended after the state Supreme Court ruled that it used a funding source that was unconstitutional and was drawing on money allocated for public schools. Nevada citizens and parents of children in Nevada public schools brought the lawsuit.



Arizona's Empowerment Scholarship Account program is expected to serve about 30,000 students by 2022.

ROBERT BENSON FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

## U.S. NEWS

# Trump Gets a Rare Bipartisan Nod

By REID J. EPSTEIN  
AND JANET HOOK

WASHINGTON—For the first time since his inauguration, Donald Trump is being treated like a conventional president.

Mr. Trump's ordering of a missile strike on a Syrian air base that his administration says launched a chemical attack this week drew enthusiastic support from across the GOP spectrum and tempered praise from most Democrats.

The political reaction to Mr. Trump's military intervention against Syria marks a dramatic change from the resistance the president has faced from Democrats and skepticism from some Republicans since he assumed office in January.

"In the short run, this will clearly benefit him politically," said Karl Rove, the top political aide to President George W. Bush. "It will cause people to look at him differently, and it will cause our adversaries to see us differently."

The airstrikes Mr. Trump ordered on Syria transformed his profile, at least for now, from a president whose skepticism about interventions was at odds with GOP orthodoxy, into a more conventional foreign-policy figure in the mainstream of his party.

GOP hawks such as Sens. John McCain, Lindsey Graham and Marco Rubio had been skeptical of Mr. Trump's foreign-policy leadership. Their allies said the Syria response would help him gain credibility and rally support behind his beleaguered presidency.

Even Bill Kristol, a conservative commentator who has been a relentless critic of Mr. Trump, said the move seemed to be well executed and in keeping with what other GOP presidents would do. "If you thought this White House looks like total chaos and craziness, you can say, 'Gee, at



GOP Sen. John McCain, who has been skeptical of Donald Trump's foreign policy, backed the airstrikes in a Senate speech on Friday.

least in this instance it looks like it's functioning,' he said.

Mr. Kristol and other Trump critics said they were unsure how long the moment of leadership or the policy behind it would last, given Mr. Trump's record of inconsistency.

"Is this the moment where he is perceived as serious and steady?" asked Brian Katulis, an official in President Bill Clinton's administration who is a senior fellow at the liberal Center for American Progress. "Quite frankly, we don't know, and experience shows he is likely to revert to true to form, erratic and mercurial."

Democrats who have stridently opposed Mr. Trump's agenda praised the airstrikes.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York

called it "the right thing to do." Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California called the military response "a limited, and I think an important strike, and it accomplished its purpose and sent a message."

**Democrats back Syria strikes, though DNC head says, 'Congress should be consulted.'**

Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez, who has harshly criticized Mr. Trump, didn't denounce the attack, but raised the issue of whether Mr. Trump consulted

Congress. "Americans deserve to know Trump's broader strategy and whether or not it includes diplomacy. Congress should be consulted," he said.

Large numbers of Republicans have reversed their position on congressional approval for Syrian airstrikes since President Barack Obama weighed attacking in 2013.

At the time, Republicans such as House Speaker John Boehner insisted Mr. Obama lay out a fuller plan for action in Syria before launching airstrikes after the Assad regime carried out a suspected chemical attack. Scores of Republicans said they would oppose an authorization for use of force. No vote was taken.

Now, many of those same Republicans praised Mr.

Trump for taking action.

"This action in Syria was appropriate and just," said Speaker Paul Ryan, who opposed Mr. Obama's 2013 plan.

Mr. Trump's airstrikes on Syria also have had the effect of unifying elements on the political far left and far right.

Sen. Rand Paul (R., Ky.) said the airstrikes are "illegal, and they're unconstitutional." Rep. Barbara Lee (D., Calif.), the lone member of Congress to vote against the post-9/11 authorization to use force against Afghanistan, said the airstrikes represent "a dangerous military escalation into the Syrian civil war and are without legal justification."

—Siobhan Hughes

and Natalie Andrews

contributed to this article.

## Donald Trump's First 100 Days

The administration's latest actions and agenda at a glance

### FRIDAY

◆ **Syria:** Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said the U.S. is "prepared to do more" in response to Syria's suspected use of chemical weapons. Moscow suspended an agreement with Washington for military coordination in Syrian skies following the U.S. missile attack on a Syrian base.

◆ **Supreme Court:** The Senate confirmed Judge Neil Gorsuch, President Donald Trump's nominee to the Supreme Court, ending a 14-month vacancy on the high court that spanned two presidential administrations and sparked one of the most bitter political fights in Washington in recent memory. Judge Gorsuch is scheduled to be sworn into office on Monday.

◆ **Economic adviser:** Mr. Trump said he would nominate Kevin Hassett, an expert in tax policy and one of the most prominent economists at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, to serve as the chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

### QUOTES

"Making sure that Assad knows that when he commits such despicable atrocities he will pay a price is the right thing to do."

—Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, Democratic leader, referring to President Bashar al-Assad of Syria

"What we're doing now is illegal and unconstitutional, and the ramifications could be extreme."

—Sen. Rand Paul, Kentucky Republican, on Fox Business Network

# National Security Aides Disclose Defense Investments

By ALEXANDRA BERZON  
AND COULTER JONES

Two White House officials involved in national security disclosed last week that they have significant investments in major defense contractors.

The disclosures raise concerns among some legal and ethics experts about possible conflicts of interest their investments pose. Administration officials say any conflicts will be avoided.

One of the officials, National Security Council chief of staff Keith Kellogg, has about \$188,000 to \$338,000 invested

in two contractors that together had more than \$2 billion in defense contracts last fiscal year, government contracting records show.

Mr. Kellogg will hold on to those stocks but isn't expected to have any reason to be involved in decisions that would have a "direct or predictable" impact on those companies, a White House official said. He will recuse himself in the "remote chance" that a matter does arise, the official said.

Mr. Kellogg served as acting national security adviser for a short period before H.R. McMaster was appointed.

K.T. McFarland, the deputy national security adviser, has about \$850,000 to \$2.2 million invested in eight publicly traded companies with contracts last year worth more than \$100 million each, as well as other companies with smaller Defense Department contracts. She is planning to shed all of her stocks in which she has shares worth more than \$15,000, the White House official said.

These situations illustrate some of the potential pitfalls facing an unusually wealthy White House staff, a number of whose holdings include stock in companies that do business

with the government and can be affected by policy decisions.

Around 180 White House employees filed financial-disclosure reports last week, with top advisers to President Donald Trump disclosing assets worth between \$757 million and \$1.9 billion. Officials said aides signed ethics agreements and properly divested assets that would pose a conflict.

Former government ethics officials say that for national security officials in particular, holding on to stock in major defense contractors would present potential pitfalls in navigating laws that prevent government

employees from becoming involved in decisions in which they have a financial stake.

While NSC officials aren't involved in day-to-day contracting decisions, their advice could affect specific companies in discussions on budgeting or other matters, they said.

Mr. Kellogg has between \$100,000 and \$250,000 invested in **CACI International Inc.**

, which provides technology to support national security for intelligence and defense agencies. Companies it owns made at least \$1.6 billion from Defense Department contracts last fiscal year, according to

government contracting records. Mr. Kellogg also disclosed \$87,604 invested in Cubic Corp., which provides military training, communication and networking systems and made around \$433 million last year from DOD contracts, according to government data.

Both companies were former employers of Mr. Kellogg.

Ms. McFarland's stocks, which she is largely selling, include such major defense contractors as **United Technologies Corp.**, **General Electric Co.** and **Honeywell International Inc.**

—Rebecca Ballhaus contributed to this article.

# COURT

Continued from Page One  
tion allows Mr. Trump to keep a promise he made to wary conservatives during the presidential campaign.

The new justice's influence may be especially notable early on, because the court has moved gingerly during the 14 months it was short-handed, sidestepping some issues and narrowly resolving others. With Judge Gorsuch's arrival, that is likely to change as soon as April 17, when he is expected to join his colleagues on the bench for the first time.

It isn't entirely clear where Judge Gorsuch will fall on the conservative legal spectrum, but his long record as an appeals-court judge suggests he is almost certain to side with his fellow conservatives in most cases, meaning the court will essentially resume the ideological composition disrupted by Justice Scalia's death.

Judge Gorsuch's elevation means Republicans, especially Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R., Ky.), succeeded in an unorthodox strategy of refusing to consider former President Barack Obama's nominee for the vacancy. Mr. Obama named Judge Merrick Garland in March of last year, but GOP leaders said voters should have input through their choice of a president in the November election. It was a tactic that many Democrats have called a theft of the seat, and it created a strong undercurrent of acrimony during the confirmation process.

The new justice will be



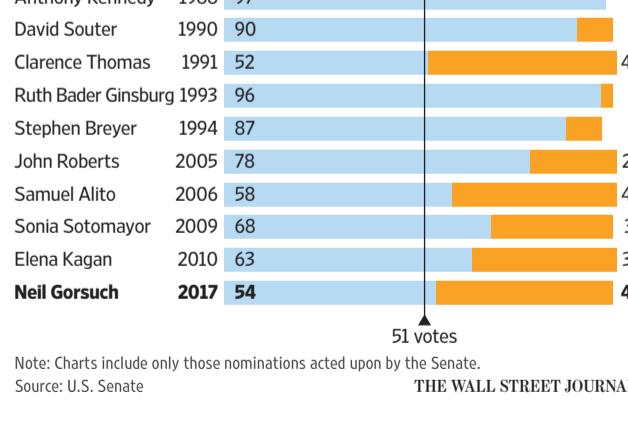
Judge Neil Gorsuch, confirmed by the Senate Friday, is joining the Supreme Court as it hits the home stretch of its 2016-2017 term.

sworn in Monday morning at a private ceremony at the Supreme Court, followed later in the day by a public ceremony at the White House. He will then face the immediate challenge of boning up on thousands of pages of briefs.

He is joining the court as it

## Opposition Votes

Neil Gorsuch's nomination to the Supreme Court generated more opposition in the Senate to any nominee since Clarence Thomas.



Note: Charts include only those nominations acted upon by the Senate.

Source: U.S. Senate

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

such's arrival.

The justices considering the coming cases have been preparing for months. Judge Gorsuch won't have that luxury. The new justice also could immediately confront decisions about which new cases to add to the court's docket for next term beginning in October.

The Supreme Court during its period of limbo has been slow to accept new cases, especially on high-profile, ideologically divisive issues. That hesitancy could soon fade.

They include a case examining the eligibility of churches for government-aid programs that raises significant questions about the separation of church and state—an issue that could quickly highlight the importance of Judge Gor-

Trump's executive order on immigration and refugees could come before the court in the near future. Two appeals courts are hearing oral arguments next month on the order, which suspended U.S. entry for people from six Muslim-majority countries, a move the administration has said would help fight terror.

Judges in Hawaii and Maryland have suspended the executive order after challengers said it was motivated by religious animus, which the White House denies. If appeals courts don't immediately restore the order, the president could ask the high court to intervene on an emergency basis, quickly inserting the justices into one of the most controversial issues of Mr. Trump's early tenure.

Beyond that, hard-fought social issues are working their

way through the courts on matters such as gay and transgender rights. Congress and conservative state legislatures, meanwhile, could try again to impose new restrictions on abortion.

The justices also have dozens of cases pending in which they have heard oral arguments but haven't yet issued rulings. Judge Gorsuch almost certainly won't participate in those cases, unless the court is deadlocked 4-4 and his vote is needed to break the tie.

There haven't been many obvious deadlocks in those cases, but oral arguments in some have suggested divisions among the justices. Among them is a case examining whether a U.S. Border Patrol agent can be sued for shooting an unarmed Mexican teenager who was standing on the Mexican side of the border. If there is a deadlocked case, new oral arguments would likely be scheduled for Judge Gorsuch's benefit. Any rearugued cases could be put off until the fall.

Judge Gorsuch's confirmation follows a period in which partisan political fighting over the court rose to new levels. Friday's Senate vote was the closest for a Supreme Court nominee since Justice Thomas was confirmed on a 52-48 vote in 1991 after allegations of sexual harassment. Democrats' anger over the decision to deny Judge Garland a hearing helped drive a filibuster of Judge Gorsuch, prompting Senate Republicans to trigger a rule change eliminating the 60-vote threshold on high court nominees. These moves played out in a showdown on the Senate floor this week.

## U.S. STRIKES SYRIA

# Jolted by Images, Trump Forged Decision

President narrowed options amid meetings with world leaders and his advisers

BY CAROL E. LEE  
AND ELI STOKOS

WASHINGTON—Mr. Trump was in the Oval Office Tuesday morning as images of lifeless children who had been gassed in Syria were displayed on the medium he favors most: television.

He decided to respond, but had no clear plan.

What transpired over the next 57 hours was a series of decisions by a new president with no military or elected-office experience, leading to the first U.S. airstrikes against the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad since the civil war began six years ago.

"That moment the other day was in some ways transformative," said Sen. Bob Corker (R., Tenn.), who spoke with Mr. Trump Thursday night after the U.S. launched 59 Tomahawk missiles onto an air base in northern Syria. "It was very evident to me that there became a real connection from him to what happened in Syria in a very personal way," Mr. Corker said. "I think he felt like he had no choice."

Mr. Trump's approach was a dramatic departure from the one his predecessor undertook when confronted with atrocities in Syria. President Barack Obama rarely showed emotion in public over Syria, let alone drew such a connection between his personal reaction to events and his decisions as commander-in-chief. Mr. Trump



### Who's Who in the Briefing Room

- 1 Joe Hagin Deputy Chief of Staff
- 2 Jared Kushner Adviser to the President
- 3 Steven Mnuchin Treasury Secretary
- 4 Wilbur Ross Commerce Secretary
- 5 Sean Spicer Press Secretary
- 6 Donald Trump President of the United States
- 7 Rex Tillerson Secretary of State
- 8 H.R. McMaster National Security Adviser
- 9 Reince Priebus Chief of Staff
- 10 Gary Cohn National Economic Council Director
- 11 Dina Powell Deputy National Security Adviser
- 12 Michael Anton National Security Aide
- 13 Stephen Miller Senior Adviser
- 14 Stephen Bannon Chief Strategist

Source: The White House/Reuters

displayed both.

Details of the chemical weapons attack were first explained to Mr. Trump Tuesday around 10:30 a.m. during his daily intelligence briefing in the Oval Office. Later that morning, he saw the images unfold on TV, according to aides. "He immediately began to contemplate what this would mean going forward," a senior administration official said. "He wanted to be presented with a lot of options."

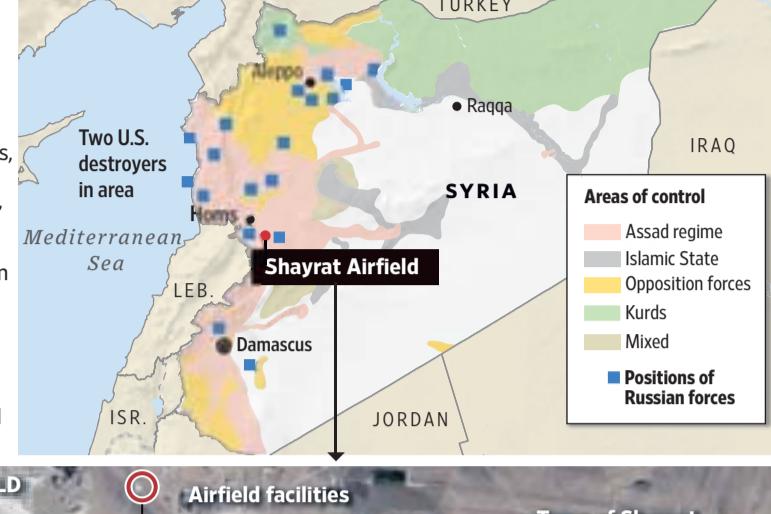
Mr. Trump spent several hours on Tuesday in meetings and on the phone working

through a response. He met with his military advisers around 8 p.m. On Wednesday morning, Mr. Trump met again with his team, and then welcomed King Abdullah II of Jordan to the White House. Around 3 p.m., after lunch with the king, Mr. Trump returned to the Situation Room, the secure facility in the White House, and told aides he wanted a "proportional response."

At that meeting, Mr. Trump narrowed the scope to three options: two military—one more aggressive than the other—and a third, nonmili-

### Surprise Strike

The 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles that struck the Assad regime's Shayrat airbase were meant to destroy fighter jets, aircraft shelters, ammunition bunkers, and air defense and radar systems. The Trump administration has said the airbase was directly tied to the chemical-weapons attack on the town of Khan Sheikhoun that killed at least 85 people.



Sources: Institute for the Study of War (control areas); Defense Department (strike locations); Google Earth (image)

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

tary option involving a package of diplomatic and economic measures. He told his advisers he wanted more information about each.

On Thursday, at a meeting around 1:30 p.m. on Air Force One, Mr. Trump narrowed his options to two, and ultimately chose the less-aggressive military option. Mr. Trump arrived at his Florida estate around 4 p.m., met with his team again, and ordered the strike. The advisers with the most sway with him were Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Na-

tional Security Adviser H.R. McMaster, Vice President Mike Pence and Jared Kushner, Mr. Trump's son-in-law and senior White House adviser, according to aides.

Mr. Trump's chief strategist Steve Bannon argued against military strikes, two senior administration officials said. A separate senior official said no one argued in favor of the more-robust military option.

By 7:10 p.m., Mr. Trump had put on a tuxedo and, with first lady Melania Trump, went to dinner with Chinese President Xi Jinping, his wife and some

cabinet officials and senior aides. As they dined on New York strip steak, roasted root vegetables and chocolate cake, the U.S. military began firing missiles into Syria.

Senior officials moved between dinner and a nearby secure room, called a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility, or SCIF, that the White House set up and where the operation was monitored. By the time Mr. Trump said goodbye to Mr. Xi, the missiles had hit. He informed the Chinese president as he walked him out and proceeded to the SCIF.

## Syrian Rebels Laud U.S. Missile Strike

BY RAJA ABDULRAHIM

BEIRUT—Syrian opposition supporters hailed the U.S. missile strike on a Syrian air base, but said they doubted it would shift the balance of power in a war that has increasingly tipped in favor of the regime.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's office said the attack was "a reckless and irresponsible act that only reflects a shortsightedness, a narrow horizon, and a political and military blindness."

The U.S. said the cruise-missile strike on Shayrat air base was retaliation for a deadly chemical attack on an opposition-held town earlier this week.

Opposition activists and medical workers said the regime launched a new chemical strike, using chlorine gas, on a rebel-held area on the outskirts of the capital Damascus on Friday, injuring two people. American officials were looking into the unconfirmed reports that chlorine was used, a senior administration official.

Friday's U.S. missile strike was the first direct attack on the regime since the war began in 2011, and rebels said it could make Mr. Assad more willing to negotiate a political settlement to end the war. Four rounds of peace talks this year have yielded no progress as a ceasefire crumbled and the situation on the ground worsens for civilians and opposition forces.

"It's going to have a real impact on the political process," said Yahya al-Aridi, a spokesman for the opposition delegation to the talks. "This is the first time in over six years the regime will be carefully calculating its steps. For the first time it feels really and seriously threatened."

At least 16 people were killed in the U.S. attack, including



Syrian military leaders are seen inspecting the damage at the Shayrat airfield in a handout photo from Syrian Arab news agency SANA.

## U.S. Action Sends a Global Message



CAPITAL JOURNAL  
GERALD F. SEIB

**S**yria was on the receiving end of the dozens of cruise missiles launched on President Donald Trump's orders Thursday night, but the message they sent went out to North Korea, Russia, China and Iran as well.

No international action taken by a president ever occurs in isolation. That is particularly true for a new president, whose intentions and instincts are being carefully scrutinized by other world leaders.

Mr. Trump's words, style and worldview have been especially unorthodox and difficult to read. In particular, it has been unclear which Trump persona would prevail: the America First leader, who suggested he would shrink from engaging in world hot spots to focus on America's own problems, or the tough-guy leader, who suggested he wouldn't hesi-

tate to use American power.

The Syrian action, at least, implies that the tough guy may prevail. While the strike itself was distinctly limited—and may or may not presage a willingness to be pulled more deeply into Syria's murderous war—the picture of cruise missiles flying has ripple effects elsewhere.

**F**or starters, the action comes precisely as the new president is being tested by North Korea and its erratic leader, Kim Jong Un. In fact, nobody has challenged Mr. Trump more directly; the North Korean's welcome note to Mr. Trump has been a series of missile tests seemingly designed to show that his quest to develop the ability to deliver a nuclear warhead to Seoul, Tokyo or Los Angeles will continue unabated.

It's hard to imagine Mr. Trump didn't have the North Koreans in the back of his mind as he made his decision to strike, or that Mr. Kim won't think he may need to be a bit more careful.

That message likely also reached the man Mr. Trump happened to be meeting Friday, Chinese President Xi Jinping. The Chinese have more influence over North Korea than anyone, and they seem perpetually torn over how to use that influence.

On the one hand, the Chinese don't like the idea of a reckless nuclear-armed North Korea busting up the scenery on the world stage. On the other hand, they worry that confronting Mr. Kim too directly could prompt even more erratic behavior by him, chaos on the Korean Peninsula and a bigger American military presence in the region in response.

If Chinese leaders are convinced that the U.S. is pre-

President Bashar al-Assad.

The Russians and their Syrian patrons may have thought that presence would shield Mr. Assad from American hostilities. And they may have thought that doubly true after Mr. Trump, who campaigned on a platform of improving relations with Russia and skepticism about involvement in Middle Eastern fights, took office.

Those presumptions now are, at a minimum, called into question

*The move implies that the president's tough-guy persona may prevail.*

pared to take dramatic action to stop North Korea's nuclear program, their incentive to move on their own to prevent such a sequence of events goes up. Perhaps that is how Mr. Xi will read his options.

For Russia, the Syria move may represent a rude discovery that Mr. Trump won't be the pliant partner that the Kremlin had hoped for. The biggest change in Syria since President Barack Obama declined to take a similar military step there was a dramatic escalation in Russia's presence on behalf of Syrian

Russian leader Vladimir Putin also has to consider whether Mr. Trump will be a partner in Syria to fight Islamic State forces there, as often suggested during the campaign, or an obstacle in the Kremlin's efforts to prop up the Syrian regime.

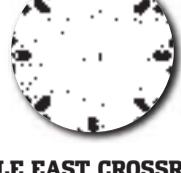
Finally, Iran, Syria's other big international enabler, has to think anew about the potential costs of its own involvement in Syria—and the consequences it might face if it breaks out of the deal it struck to curb its nuclear activities.

All these actors are capable of making big trouble for Mr. Trump if they feel threatened, but they also might choose to moderate their behavior if they think the new president isn't withdrawing from the world stage.



Syrian military officials visit a pilot wounded in the U.S. strike.

## U.S. STRIKES SYRIA



MIDDLE EAST CROSSROADS  
YAROSLAV TROFIMOV

**I**t's not 2013 anymore, and striking the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad today carries fewer consequences than when the U.S. ignored its "red line" on Damascus's use of chemical weapons.

This time around, thanks to solid Russian support, the Assad regime isn't under serious threat. As a result, there is no "you break it, you own it" risk to consider. President Donald Trump, in ordering Friday dawn's missile launch against Syria to retaliate for a sarin gas attack on the Syrian town of Khan Sheikhoun, didn't have to contemplate how the U.S. would handle a resulting vacuum in Damascus.

In a way, that's also why the countries that long pushed for a U.S. intervention against Mr. Assad—from Saudi Arabia to Turkey to France—aren't cheering as loudly now. The criticism, from Russia and other Syrian allies, is also relatively muted. The American strike, while an "act of aggression," was merely "ritual," Russian lawmaker Dmitri Sablin said. Michael Fallon, the British defense secretary, described the attack as "very limited, very appropriate, and very narrowly focused."

Of course, this new escalation of the long-running Syrian war can still spin out of control. In the short term, it's likely to affect the U.S. ability



Syrian victims of an alleged chemical attack leave the hospital in Hatay, Turkey, on Friday before being carried back to the border.

to pursue its separate military campaign against Islamic State in eastern Syria and could provoke far more serious friction with Moscow.

But if Friday's strike on Syria's Shayrat air base is a one-off rather than a prelude to a larger campaign, as appears to be the case for now, it won't alter the balance of power in a war the Assad regime looks increasingly likely to win.

That wasn't the case four years ago. After Damascus fired rockets carrying chemical weapons into a rebel-controlled suburb of Damascus in August 2013, President Barack Obama, together with Britain and France, was on the verge of unleashing a massive air campaign that would have destroyed Syrian air defenses and crippled the regime's air force.

At the time, Syrian rebels

ranging from secular militias to the jihadists of the future Islamic State were advancing on several fronts. Air power was indispensable for the regime's survival. It allowed Mr. Assad to blunt rebel off-

### The military situation in Syria is completely different now.

fenses and disrupt rebel supply lines.

By attacking civilians in rebel areas from the air, he could also provoke a refugee exodus, depopulating the uprising's main strongholds.

The prospect of precipitating a collapse of the Assad regime when no clear alterna-

tive was available, and when jihadist elements were on the rise, was one of the reasons the Obama administration ended up aborting the planned airstrikes in favor of a Russia-brokered deal meant to dismantle the regime's chemical-weapons capability.

The military situation in Syria is completely different now. The war's tide has turned in the regime's favor over the past year, largely thanks to relentless bombing by the Russian air force.

The Assad regime has recaptured the rebel-held half of Syria's largest city of Aleppo, and regained several other areas around the country. Moderate rebels backed by Turkey and Saudi Arabia are at their weakest point since the war began, in part because the regime and the Syrian Kurd-

ish militias have started co-operating against them.

It is Russian warplanes that carry out the bulk of sorties against the rebels. Syrian planes of the kind destroyed by U.S. Tomahawks on Friday now play a largely auxiliary role in the Russian effort. For obvious reasons, the U.S. can't target these Russian aircraft or installations, and went out of its way to ensure there were no Russian casualties in Friday's attack.

The presence of Russian planes and sophisticated air-defense systems is also a key reason why the U.S.—faced with the risk of aircraft being shot down—had to use missiles rather than jets for the strike on Shayrat. It's a limitation that's not going away—and that would make the kind of air campaign contemplated in 2013 impossible today.

## Haley Defends 'Moderate' Response

BY FARNAZ FASSIHI

UNITED NATIONS — U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley said that the U.S. military strike on a Syrian air base was a necessary and "measured response" and warned that the U.S. was prepared to do more, if necessary.

Ms. Haley's comments on Friday were delivered at a Security Council debate on the U.S.'s decision to target Syria's regime for the first time in the six-year conflict. "It's time for all civilized nations to stop the horrors in Syria and demand a political solution," she said.

Her warnings in recent days served as the earliest indications of the Trump administration's direction on Syria. On Wednesday, she was the first administration official to warn that the U.S. was willing to take action alone on Syria if the United Nations failed to act collectively.

On Friday she reiterated the position that U.S. military officials so far haven't pointed to the likelihood of additional action against the Syrian regime.

The division and deadlock usually on display at the Security Council appeared to have deepened in the aftermath of the U.S. strikes. The prospect of reaching a political solution through a U.N.-led process appeared further from reach as supporters and opponents of Syria ripped into each other with accusations and insults.

Three competing resolutions were circulated among council members on Thursday.

Russia told the council on Friday that the U.S. resolution "was not even worth looking at." Ms. Haley said compromising on Russia's watered-down version would only strengthen Bashar al-Assad.

## Syria's Six-Year War, From Arab Uprising To Global Conflict

The conflict in Syria has claimed more than 400,000 lives and forced millions to flee their homes since it began more than six years ago.

But President Bashar al-Assad has survived, retaining control of strongholds across the country with the military backing of Iran and Russia.

President Donald Trump on Thursday sharply escalated the U.S.'s involvement in Syria, ordering direct strikes on a regime air base in retaliation for a suspected chemical-weapons attack carried out earlier this week by the regime.

Here are some key moments in the long-running war.

**March 2011:** Antigovernment demonstrations sweep across Syria, inspired by Arab Spring uprisings. The Syrian government violently cracks down on



Men inspecting the damage from a regime airstrike on the rebel-held city of Douma on Friday.

protesters, kicking off a civil war.

**May 2011:** The U.S. sanctions Mr. Assad and senior Syrian officials, in an attempt to end escalating violence in the country.

**August 2011:** For the first time, President Barack Obama says Mr. Assad must step down. "We have consistently said that President Assad must lead a democratic transition or get out of the way," Mr. Obama said. He has not led.

For the sake of the Syrian people, the time has come for President Assad to step aside.'

**August 2013:** A chemical attack on the rebel-controlled Eastern Ghouta district of Damascus triggers calls for military action against Mr. Assad. Mr. Obama considers the move, but ultimately doesn't, triggering condemnation that his administration has been too soft on the regime.

**September 2013:** Mr. Obama says his oft-cited 'red line' on Syria isn't a personal red line, but one established by the international community after banning the use of chemical weapons. "I didn't set a red line," he says. "The world set a red line."

**September 2013:** The U.S. and Russia, an Assad ally, agree on a deal to destroy Syria's stockpile of chemical weapons.

**October 2013:** Syria officially joins the Chemical Weapons Convention, vowing to relinquish its chemical arsenal to avert the threat of U.S. military action.

**May 2015:** Islamic State captures the Syrian city of Palmyra, a United Nations-declared World Heritage Site. In the following months, militants destroy ancient temples and statues.

**September 2015:** Russia starts bombing raids, mostly targeting opposition rebels, across Syria in support of Mr. Assad and his beleaguered forces.

**March 2016:** Syrian regime forces, backed by Russian warplanes, regain control of Palmyra.

**September 2016:** The U.S. mistakenly strikes Syrian military personnel for the first time.

**December 2016:** Islamic State retakes Palmyra, forcing Syrian troops to evacuate and exposing how stretched the government's forces are.

**December 2016:** The Syrian regime regains full control of Aleppo, stripping the opposition of its last major urban stronghold in the country in a significant symbolic and strategic blow.

**March 2017:** The Syrian regime recaptures Palmyra from Islamic State, which planted mines and explosives as it retreated.

**April 4, 2017:** A suspected chemical-weapons attack, believed to be caused by the banned nerve agent sarin, kills at least 85 people and sickens nearly 600 in the northwestern town of Khan Sheikhoun. The U.S. later accuses the Assad regime of carrying out the attack and of breaching the 2013 agreement.

**April 7, 2017:** The U.S. strikes a Syrian air base with Tomahawk missiles, a retaliation for an alleged regime chemical attack in Idlib.

—Asa Fitch and Thomas Grove

## TRUMP

Continued from Page One  
trine on Syria, which experts say would be required to alter the course of the broader war Mr. Assad is winning thanks to Russia's support.

Still, the symbolic impact of the first direct U.S. strike on Mr. Assad since the beginning of the Syrian conflict has altered the dynamic between U.S. and Russia over Syria. For years Russian President Vladimir Putin was able to take advantage of a strictly limited appetite for risk in Washington—something the strike shows has now changed.

One immediate result was Moscow's declaration on Friday that it had suspended an agreement to coordinate military flights over Syria with Washington. U.S. officials said lines of communication remained open, but a weakening of such exchanges could heighten the risk of an incident over Syria, where U.S. jet fighters fly regularly in the campaign against Islamic State. The U.S. strikes could also lead to unpredictable reactions by Mr. Assad and his backers, in particular Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah.

Despite such dangers, allies of Mr. Trump said they hoped the show of resolve marked the beginning of a change in Washington's broader negotiating stance with Moscow.

"Hopefully, this is something that very much changes the type of conversation that will take place between Putin and Tillerson when they meet," said Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker (R., Tenn.). Mr. Corker said the operation showed "the kind of pushback" Mr. Putin understands.

It could also complicate Mr. Tillerson's visit, at a moment when hopes for a quick U.S.-Russian rapprochement already had faded.

"There's a question of how well that visit will go," said a senior administration official, who questioned whether Mr. Putin's calculus has changed. "I doubt it, but we'll see. The early Russian response isn't encouraging."

In addition to the Syria conflict, Mr. Tillerson heads to Russia to raise other U.S. concerns, including Russia's intervention in Ukraine, what the U.S. has called a violation of a Cold War-era pact that bans intermediate-range missiles, and Moscow's alleged interference in the 2016 campaign.



Despite the new strains, Moscow still planned to host Mr. Tillerson on his official visit next week. And even as Trump administration officials hit out at Mr. Assad, Russia's longtime ally, the White House said the U.S. still wants to cooperate with Russia.

"I think that there can be a shared commitment to defeat ISIS and also agree that you can't gas your own people," White House press secretary Sean Spicer said. "There is a mutual level of human decency that I think we can expect out of everybody."

Mr. Corker said one question Mr. Tillerson may try to answer in the visit is why the Assad regime had access to these chemical weapons despite a 2013 deal between the U.S. and Russia to remove Mr. Assad's stockpile.

The strikes have raised questions about Mr. Trump's

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Friday that additional sanctions on Syria likely were forthcoming, signaling a hardening line that Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis has also been promoting.

For years, Obama administration officials at the State Department and the Pentagon expressed frustration with White House unwillingness to use greater force in Syria, leaving former Secretary of State John Kerry with little leverage in his negotiations with Russia. Many of them approved of Thursday's decision to strike Mr. Assad.

Mr. Putin has been able to undertake risky military gambits in places such as Syria and Ukraine in part because he has a lock on domestic politics in Russia, with little criticism or opposition, a luxury the White House doesn't enjoy.

"I think they calculate that if this is a game of chicken, that we'll probably be the first ones to swerve to the side of the road," said Michael Carpenter, the former U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense for Russia under Mr. Obama.

"They calculate that. It remains to be seen if that's the case."

—Alan Collison contributed to this article.

## U.S. STRIKES SYRIA

# Airstrike Raises Tensions With Tehran

Iranian officials say Trump administration violated international law with operation

BY JAY SOLOMON

WASHINGTON—The U.S. airstrikes on Syria stoked new tensions with Iran and generated calls in Tehran for increased military support for President Bashar al-Assad's regime.

Iranian officials said on Friday the U.S. strike violated international law and accused President Donald Trump of siding with Islamic State and al Qaeda in Syria.

"Not even two decades after 9/11, [the] U.S. military is fighting on same side as al-Qaeda & ISIS in Yemen & Syria," Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif tweeted on Friday. "Time to stop hype and coverups."

But Mr. Trump and his advisers have already taken steps in recent months to try to roll back Iranian influence in the Middle East, despite the landmark nuclear agreement forged between Tehran and global powers in 2015.

Many Middle East analysts said Iran could seek to mobilize even more military support for Mr. Assad in coming months. This is in addition to the thousands of Shiite fighters it has already deployed in Syria since civil war broke out in the country in 2011.

Syria serves as Iran's closest regional ally and the land bridge for Iranian supplies going to Lebanese and Palestinian militias at war with Israel.

"The key question now is, what's the Iranian response to the attack? Do they double down?" said Andrew Tabler, a Syria expert at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Iranian experts said the government has no choice, given the billions of dollars it has already invested in Mr. Assad over the past six years.

"Iran and Russia have paid a high cost in Syria, both finan-

### Tangled Alliances

The U.S. missile strike more deeply enmeshes America in the six-year Syrian conflict involving Russia and regional powers, and has set it at odds with countries that it is indirectly working with in Iraq in fighting Islamic State.

#### AGAINST ASSAD REGIME

##### TURKEY

**GOALS:** Depose the Assad regime in Syria. Curtail Syrian Kurdish groups affiliated with the PKK, a banned Kurdish group in Turkey.

**ACTIONS:** Sends troops into Syria, backs Syrian rebel groups with weapons, funds and training.

##### U.S.

**GOALS:** With the help of Western and regional allies, degrade and ultimately defeat ISIS. Shore up the government in Iraq. Seek a political resolution to Syrian conflict, one that likely removes Assad.

**ACTIONS:** Strikes ISIS targets in both Syria and Iraq and assists Iraq, Kurdish and Syrian moderate forces with weapons, training and military advisers fighting ISIS.

##### SAUDI ARABIA

**GOALS:** Limit Iranian influence. Secure the ouster of the Assad regime. Combat ISIS.

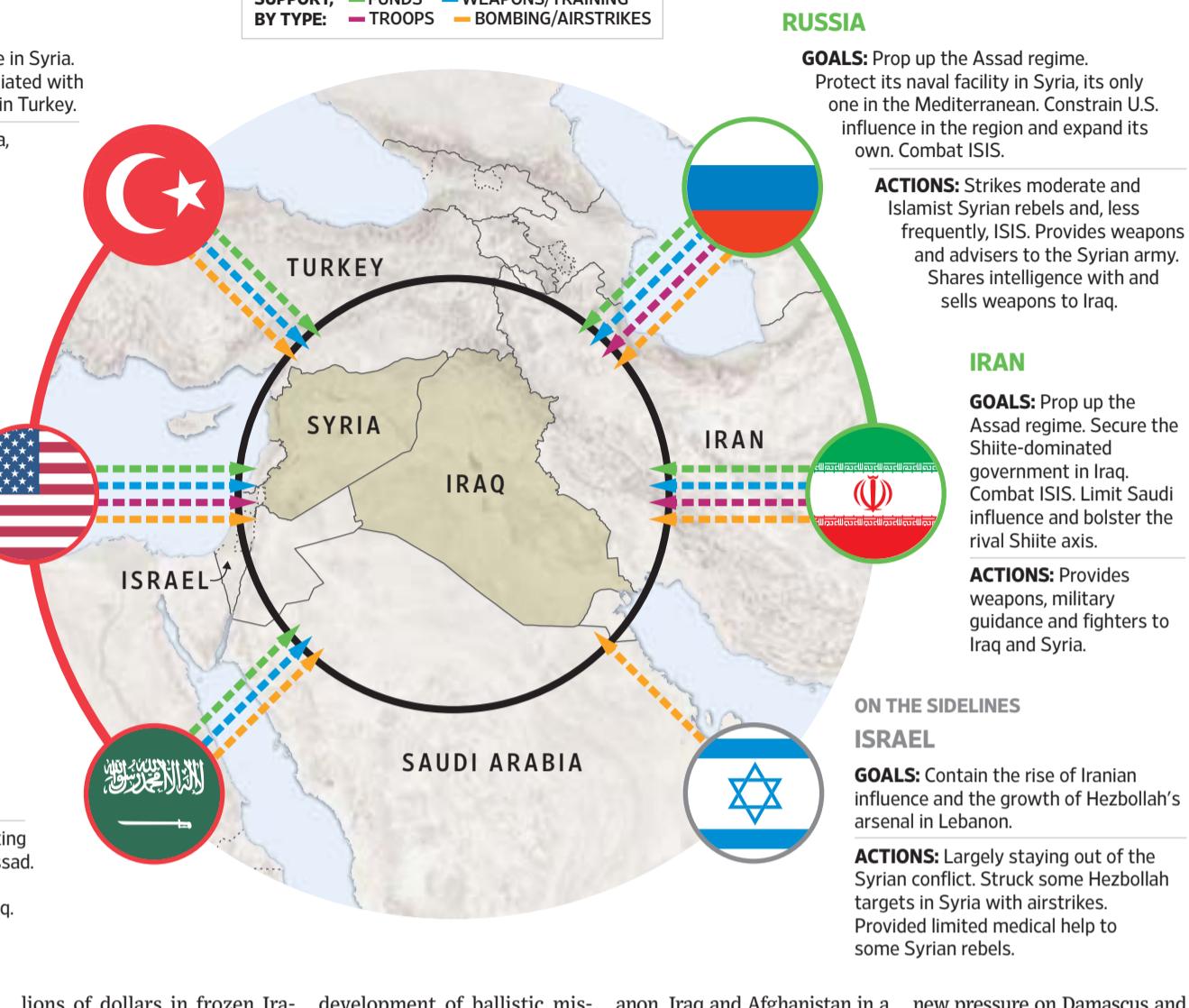
**ACTIONS:** Provides financial backing to Syrian rebel groups fighting Assad. Limited participation in airstrikes against ISIS in Syria but not in Iraq.

Source: Staff reports

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

cially and in human life, and Iran has lost even more than Russia," said Foad Izadi, a professor at Tehran University. "Therefore, Iran will not sit back indifferent."

Mr. Trump, a Republican, campaigned last year against former President Barack Obama's diplomatic outreach to Iran and the nuclear deal, which constrained Tehran's capabilities but also released bil-



lions of dollars in frozen Iranian assets.

Since taking office, Mr. Trump has signaled he will abide by the agreement. But he has also taken steps to try to constrain Tehran's military capabilities and presence across the Mideast.

Mr. Trump's administration has sanctioned dozens of Iranian companies since January for allegedly aiding Tehran's

development of ballistic missiles. And it has also increased support for a military coalition led by Saudi Arabia that is fighting an Iranian-backed militia in Yemen.

Military analysts said Mr. Assad may have deployed chemical weapons on Tuesday because his troops have been stretched thin by the civil war.

Iran has mobilized as many as 10,000 militiamen from Leb-

anon, Iraq and Afghanistan in a largely successful military effort to buttress Mr. Assad's defenses.

But U.S. and Arab officials believe the Syrian government has inadequate forces to hold territory it has reclaimed in recent months from rebel militias.

U.S. officials have said in recent days that they believe Thursday's airstrikes will re-

new pressure on Damascus and potentially serve as a warning that Mr. Trump's administration won't tolerate future chemical weapons attacks. Shutting down chemical attacks, they argue, will force Iran and Russia to either pour more resources into Syria or to engage in a diplomatic process to end the Syrian civil war.

—Aresu Egbali in Tehran contributed to this article.

## STAFF

*Continued from Page One*  
clear he has affection for Mr. Priebus, the chief of staff has emerged as a target because he is in overall command of a White House operation that has struggled.

Mr. Trump's approval ratings are in the low 40s, an all-out White House effort to pass a health-care overhaul fell short, and two executive orders barring certain travelers from entering the U.S. are tied up in court. Mr. Priebus has absorbed some of the blame for these early missteps.

Another top aide who could be removed or reassigned in a staff reshuffle is Mr. Bannon, a figure who represents an economic nationalist, "America first" perspective that was central to Mr. Trump's electoral victory, the other person said. Though that message resonates strongly with the president's core voters, Mr. Bannon has sparred both with Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law and senior adviser, and with Gary Cohn, one of the president's top economic advisers.

Mr. Trump has privately questioned the performance of his aides in the past yet in the end left his staff intact. It is possible he could do that here, while sending a message that the infighting needs to stop.

Messrs. Kushner and Cohn spring from an internationalist, establishment wing that isn't a natural fit with Mr. Bannon's more pugnacious nationalism.

The Syrian strike also has elevated the influence of senior military officers in the administration. Those officers have been courting Mr. Kushner, who holds a broad portfolio of international assignments.

Continued infighting has "a very short life cycle," the administration official said, adding that the president is expected to make a decision soon.

Asked about possible staff changes, White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters said such reports are "driven by people who want to distract from the success taking place in this administration."

A senior staff shake-up could redefine a Trump presidency that has struggled in the early going. It also could reposition Mr. Trump as a more centrist



The changes center around Steve Bannon, left, and Reince Priebus.

figure to the degree that Mr. Bannon is marginalized while aides such as Mr. Cohn ascend, potentially opening an avenue to better relations with Democrats who have strongly opposed almost all of Mr. Trump's agenda.

Mr. Trump scored a major victory Friday, however, with the confirmation of his Supreme Court pick Neil Gorsuch, who will be sworn in next week.

Possible candidates for Mr. Priebus's job include Mr. Cohn, a former Goldman Sachs Group Inc. executive, people familiar with the matter said. It is also possible Mr. Trump would bring

President Trump himself at times has fueled the internal acrimony.

in an outsider, the people said. Mr. Cohn has told the president he would be an eager and able chief of staff, people familiar with the matter said.

Mr. Cohn said the reports about a shake-up are "completely false."

"Reince is leading our team effectively," Mr. Cohn said.

The prospect of a shake-up was reported Friday by Axios, an online news site.

The president himself at times has fueled the internal acrimony, according to people familiar with the matter. He started asking friends to rate the performance of his top aides following the failure in March to pass a health-care bill through the Republican-controlled House, the people said.

Mr. Bannon has been at Mr.

Trump's side since August when he was brought in as part of the campaign's third leadership team. Mr. Bannon's allies say any internal battles he is involved in are over policy and the direction of the president's agenda.

He has tussled most frequently with Mr. Cohn, the people said. The two men, both with blue-collar backgrounds, have jockeyed over where they sit in meetings. But the bigger issue between them has been changes to the federal tax code and international trade, the people said.

Mr. Cohn has suggested the possibility of a carbon tax, which Mr. Bannon views as anathema to the "economic nationalism" that he infused into Mr. Trump's campaign, the people said.

Mr. Bannon has also found himself on the opposite side of internal policy debates with Mr. Kushner, who encouraged his father-in-law to bring Mr. Bannon into the presidential campaign in the final months of the race.

The two worked closely during the campaign, and in the first days of the administration. When the president's team divided up desks inside the White House, Messrs. Bannon and Kushner decided to take down a wall separating their two offices and replace it with a door.

One friend of Mr. Bannon said Mr. Trump would be wise to keep him in his current role, describing him as someone who will stay true to the insurgent, outsider spirit that drove the campaign.

"Steve Bannon has been the protector of the flame," said Pat Caddell, who served as a pollster for former President Jimmy Carter's 1976 campaign.

—Eli Stokols and Jay Solomon contributed to this article.



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# WORLD NEWS

## Truck Attack in Sweden Rattles Europe

At least four died after driver smashed into crowd in Stockholm's shopping district

By DAVID GAUTHIER-VILLARS  
AND RADHOUANE ADDALA

STOCKHOLM—A man drove a heavy truck into a crowd in Stockholm's busiest shopping area, killing four people in what authorities called a terror attack, and highlighting how exposed European cities are to the low-tech tactic of mowing down pedestrians with a vehicle.

Friday's attack, which police said also left 15 wounded, appeared drawn from the playbook used by suspected Islamic State sympathizers in London last month, and Nice, France, as well as other European cities last year.

"Sweden has been attacked," Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven said. "Our whole country is in a state of shock."

Mr. Löfven said he had ordered tighter border controls after police said they were still hunting for the attacker.

Police said late Friday that they had detained and identified a man seen in security-camera footage near the attack scene.

They declined to say whether he was a Swedish citizen and cautioned they had yet to ascertain what role he played.

"We are acting as if the attacker was still on the run," said Stefan Hector, an official with Sweden's national police.

The rampage, which came a day after Sweden's police, military and security services



People gather around one of the victims after a truck crashed into department store Ahlens on Drottninggatan, in central Stockholm,

TT NEWS AGENCY/REUTERS

jointly practiced their terror-response capabilities, underscored the formidable security challenge posed by isolated attackers turning vehicle into weapons.

"It's very difficult," said Magnus Ranstorp, a professor at Sweden's National Defense College. "If you put barriers in one place, they can attack somewhere else."

Police cordoned off a large area around the crime scene, causing traffic chaos in surrounding streets.

Authorities also shut down subway services for several hours, leaving many people struggling to make their way

home through a maze of checkpoints.

Swedish brewery Spendrups said the vehicle used in Friday's attack belonged to its fleet of delivery trucks. It was stolen by a masked man around 2:30 p.m. local time, as a company driver was completing a Stockholm delivery round, Spendrups spokeswoman Rose-Maria Hertzman said.

Right after taking control of the truck, the attacker drove an estimated 500 yards through the crowded Drottninggatan pedestrian shopping street, according to witnesses, before crashing into a depart-

ment store.

Gahangir Sarvari, a 56-year-old Swede from Iran, said he was on Drottninggatan when he heard screams.

"I saw a body on the street, a young girl. She was still gasping for life. On my right, I saw another body that was bloody," he said. "I didn't know what to do."

The attack occurred near the central Stockholm site of a December 2010 attack in which Taimour Abdulwahab, a Swedish citizen who lived in the U.K., blew himself up near Christmas shoppers, injuring two others.

Friday's incident was the

fifth major attack in Europe in less than a year in which a vehicle appeared to be used as a weapon of terror. In July an attacker in Nice, France, plowed into revelers celebrating Bastille Day, killing 86.

In December, another man drove a truck into a Berlin Christmas market, leaving 12 dead.

Last month, a man driving a small sport-utility vehicle slammed into pedestrians and police officers on London's Westminster Bridge.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for those attacks, and has called on sympathizers to use vehicles to kill.

### Death Toll in Attack In U.K. Rises to Five

LONDON—A 31-year-old Romanian woman who fell into the River Thames during last month's terrorist attack has died after her life support was switched off, U.K. officials said Friday, bringing to five the number of victims of the deadliest strike on British soil in over a decade.

Andreea Cristea suffered a lung injury after she fell over the railings on Westminster Bridge during the attack by Khalid Masood. He mowed down pedestrians on the bridge before crashing his car near the gates of Parliament and stabbing a policeman. Masood was shot dead.

The Romanian architect had come to London to celebrate her boyfriend's birthday, and the pair had been walking toward the London Eye Ferris Wheel. —Wiktor Szary

An estimated 300 Swedes went to Syria between 2012 and 2016, possibly joining the ranks of Islamic State, according to Mr. Ranstorp. He said the roughly 150 who have returned are subject to risk assessments and in some cases monitoring. "Very few if any have gone to jail," he said.

In Brussels, the head of the European Union executive, Jean-Claude Juncker, condemned the Stockholm attack, saying "an attack of any of our member states is an attack on us all."

—Neanda Salvaterra  
and Valentina Pop  
contributed to this article.

## Turkish Referendum Opens Rift Among German Turks

By RUTH BENDER

BERLIN—Over the past month, Gökay Sofuoğlu has personally tried to persuade some 400 German Turks to vote "no" in a Turkish referendum on extending the powers of the country's president.

"Someone who lives here has to adhere to democratic principles," said Mr. Sofuoğlu, head of the Turkish Community in Germany, a body representing the three million German Turks in what is the world's largest Turkish diaspora. "We can't accept any backward steps."

His appeals have earned him friends among critics of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. But he has also received a fair share of emails, text messages and letters from fellow German Turks calling him a terrorist and a traitor.

As Turkish nationals around the world began early voting last week for the April 16 referendum, a rift has been opening inside Germany's Turkish community, once hailed as a model of integration and stability.



SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES

Turkish nationals lined up outside the consulate in Berlin to cast their votes on March 27.

The referendum campaign has thrown up battle lines between various factions: supporters of Mr. Erdogan against followers of his U.S.-based nemesis, cleric Fethullah Gülen; admirers of a strong state against advocates of democracy; and

ethnic Turks against Kurds. German officials fear the tensions could split apart a once-placid minority and erode decades of integration efforts.

The importation of inner-Turkish conflicts is inflaming not only rifts in the Turkish

community, but also anti-Turkish sentiment," said Burak Copur, an expert on Turkey at the University of Duisburg-Essen. "That is poison for peaceful coexistence."

With polls showing "no" and "yes" voters locked in a

virtual tie, Mr. Erdogan has made increasingly nationalist appeals to woo Turks living in European countries. His comparisons of the German and Dutch governments to the Nazi regime for blocking campaign rallies last month have heightened worries he was turning Turkish nationals against their home countries.

Online message boards and Facebook pages run by Erdogan supporters here, many with tens of thousands of followers, have criticized German media reports on the referendum as biased. Many German Turks say the heated campaign is destroying friendships, splitting families and spreading fear, especially among the president's critics.

Ercan Karakoyun, a prominent follower of Mr. Gülen, has urged the U.S.-based cleric's supporters to stay away from the vote, fearing unrest. Mr. Erdogan has accused Mr. Gülen of masterminding last year's failed coup, although the cleric has denied any involvement.

"The atmosphere is tense,"

said Haydar Narin, a 45-year-old electrician, after voting "no" at the Berlin Consulate. "I felt under pressure and like I was being watched going in there."

Turkey's consul in Berlin, Erdinç Evrigen, said the consulate had taken steps to guarantee an open and safe vote. Every party, he said, has observers in the shipping containers set up for voting at the consulate and private security guards have been hired.

Turkish nationals in Germany have largely backed Mr. Erdogan in the past. In the November 2015 parliamentary elections, nearly 60% of registered voters backed the president's Justice and Development Party.

Yakup Özdemir, a 47-year-old mechanic who left Turkey when he was 1, said Mr. Erdogan was the best thing that ever happened to the country. He said he was thinking of returning.

"I've worked and paid taxes for 30 years here but I don't feel like I really belong," he said.

### CALL FOR BIDS

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POLICY SUPPORT PROGRAM. PROMEDU IV. IDB LOAN NO. 3455/OC-AR.

INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR BIDS NO\_01/2017

1.This call for bids is issued as a result of the General Procurement Notice for this Project published in the Development Business, reference no. IDB928-07/16, on July 13, 2016. 2.The Argentine Republic has been granted Loan no. 3455/OC-AR by the Inter-American Development Bank, to finance the Educational Equality Improvement Policy Support Program (PROMEDU IV). A decision has been made to use part of the funds of this Loan to make the payments of the Contract resulting from this call for bids. 3.The Ministry of Education and Sports invites eligible Bidders to submit sealed bids for the Construction and Furnishing of Primary Level Educational Establishments in the following regions: Argentine Northeast, Argentine Northwest, and the Metropolitan Area. 4.The bidding will be performed in accordance with the procedures for International Competitive Bidding (ICB), as established in the document of the Inter-American Development Bank entitled "Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works financed by the Inter-American Development Bank" (GN-2349-9), and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries, as defined in said policies. 5.Interested eligible Bidders can obtain additional information from the Procurement Directorate (contrata@me.gov.ar) and review the bidding documents at the address specified below (1) from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 6.Qualification requirements include technical, financial, and legal aspects. More details are provided in the Bidding Documents.

7.Interested Bidders can obtain a full set of the Bidding Documents in Spanish by submitting a written request to the address specified below (1) or by writing an e-mail. 8.Offers will be received at the address specified below (1) up to 1:00 p.m. on May 9, 2017. Electronic bids are not allowed. Bids received after the deadline will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the representatives of the Bidders who wish to attend, at the address specified below (1), at 3:00 p.m. on May 09, 2017. All the bids must be accompanied by a Bid Guarantee for the following amounts:

GROUP	AMOUNT OF THE GUARANTEE \$RA	GROUP	AMOUNT OF THE GUARANTEE \$RA
Argentine Northeast Group 1	730,596	Argentine Northwest Group 2	636,504
Argentine Northeast Group 2	442,844	Argentine Northwest Group 3	442,844
Argentine Northeast Group 3	358,762	Metropolitan Area Group 1	670,409
Argentine Northeast Group 4	814,678	Metropolitan Area Group 2	798,057
Argentine Northeast Group 5	682,019	Metropolitan Area Group 3	750,319
Argentine Northeast Group 6	646,514	Metropolitan Area Group 4	510,589
Argentine Northwest Group 1	556,436	Metropolitan Area Group 5	1,005,614

9. The address referred to herein is: (1) Ministerio de Educación y Deportes (Ministry of Education and Sports) Dirección de Contrataciones (Procurement Directorate) Santa Fe 1548, 4º Piso Frente(1548 Santa Fe Av, fourth floor [front]). Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires (CP 1062) (Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, zip code: 1062) República Argentina (The Argentine Republic).

BY NEKTARIA STAMOULI

VALLETTA, Malta—Greece and its international creditors agreed on the main points of a deal that could keep the country's bailout program going, according to Greek and European Union officials.

The resolution would end a months-long deadlock over fresh austerity measures and possibly clear the way for talks on debt relief.

Eurozone finance ministers gathering in Malta on Friday approved the return of international bailout supervisors, including the International Monetary Fund, to Athens to settle outstanding details and draft the final agreement.

"We have an agreement on the overarching elements of policy," Eurogroup Chairman Jeroen Dijsselbloem said after the Eurogroup meeting. "The big blocks have now been sorted out and that should allow us to go to the final stretch."

Athens must reach an accord with creditors to receive help to make about €7 billion (\$7.5 billion) in debt payments in July.

European lenders, particularly Germany, have insisted that Greece agree to further controls to its public finances before Berlin and the IMF discuss debt relief.

In February, Athens agreed to squeeze public spending again after the current bailout program ends in 2018. But the two sides have argued over

*'We have an agreement on the overarching elements of policy.'*

when the new austerity measures will take effect, with Athens preferring gradual implementation, which would ease some of the domestic opposition to further squeezes.

Under the deal, Greece would commit to spending cuts, largely through pension reductions, and revenue-raising measures equaling about 1% of gross domestic product in 2019, according to people familiar with the talks. A simi-

lar amount in 2020 is set to be raised from a reduction in the threshold for paying personal-income tax. The resolution keeps the pressure on Athens to maintain control over public spending by requiring it to bring forward the 2020 remedies by a year if Greece misses its primary surplus target.

The two sides also agreed on a package of growth measures, mostly consisting of tax cuts, that would be implemented if primary budget surpluses targets are met.

But Athens and the creditors decided to postpone until next year the contentious issue as to which forecasts—EU or IMF—will form the basis to activate the budget tightening.

Greece pledged in mid-2015 to achieve a primary surplus of 3.5% of GDP in 2018—before debt payments—and for an unspecific number of years in the future. However, the IMF believes that Greece's current public finances put it on track for a primary surplus of just 1.5% and has been reluctant to participate in the lending program without further measures to increase the surplus.

## WORLD NEWS

# Launch Intrudes on U.S.-China Summit

BY JEREMY PAGE  
AND TE-PING CHEN

BELJING—U.S. missile strikes on Syria overshadowed Chinese President Xi Jinping's first summit with President Donald Trump and sharpened the focus on possible American military force against Beijing's ally in North Korea.

The Chinese government avoided directly criticizing Washington over Friday's strike, which U.S. officials say was in response to a chemical-weapons attack by Syria's government forces on civilians in the country.

A foreign ministry spokeswoman instead reiterated Beijing's call for a United Nations investigation into the chemical-weapons attack.

China was hoping the summit, which started Thursday at Mr. Trump's private club in Florida, Mar-a-Lago, would stabilize a relationship that was plunged into crisis in December by his repeated threats to confront Beijing on trade and territorial issues.

A friendly, respectful meeting was especially important for Mr. Xi as he seeks to bolster his domestic standing and avert a flare-up over trade or the Korean Peninsula ahead of a Communist Party leadership shuffle this autumn. Chinese officials are hugely sensitive to protocol and media coverage during presidential visits.

"For China, the optics of the attack during the visit, most likely during the dinner itself, will be viewed as a sign of disrespect," said M. Taylor Fravel, an expert on China's foreign and security policies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "Everyone is going to be talking about the Syria strike and not Xi's visit, thereby undercutting the symbolic value of being feted at Mar-a-Lago."



ALEX BRANDON/ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday after their meetings at the president's private resort in Palm Beach, Fla.

# Trump, Xi Make Limited Headway

BY LOUISE RADNOFSKY  
AND JEREMY PAGE



JOE SKRIPER/REUTERS

First lady Melania Trump and China's first lady Peng Liyuan during their visit Friday to a school in West Palm Beach, Fla.

PALM BEACH, Fla.—President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping professed progress in their relationship but showed no signs of consensus on trade or North Korea as they wrapped up a 21-hour summit upended by the U.S. airstrike on Syria.

Mr. Trump's secretaries of state, Treasury and commerce, speaking after the summit, said they hadn't reached specific agreements on curbing North Korea's nuclear program or cutting the U.S. trade deficit with China, but had established strong chemistry over candid conversations.

No particular steps were agreed on North Korea, whose nuclear capabilities remain a source of concern to both the U.S. and to China, said Rex Tillerson, the U.S. secretary of state, following the Thursday-to-Friday summit at Mr. Trump's private club in Florida, Mar-a-Lago.

Mr. Tillerson said Mr. Xi had agreed matters were at a "very serious stage" and made a commitment to a peaceful resolution. Mr. Trump had indicated that the U.S. would be

happy to work with Beijing but that the U.S. was prepared to "chart our own course" if China could not help.

The greatest gift delivered by the Chinese, said Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, was their presence. Still, he said, they had opted to instigate a "100-day plan" on trade between the two countries that he characterized as unusually speedy, and to include "waystations of accomplishment."

A primary goal for the U.S. would be to increase exports to China and reduce the U.S. trade deficit, Mr. Ross said, but a wide range of products

were discussed. He said he was struck that China expressed interest in reducing its trade surplus with the U.S. because of the impact it was having on money supply and inflation.

That was the first time he had heard Chinese officials say that in a bilateral context, he said.

Steven Mnuchin, the Treasury secretary, said no decision on Chinese intervention in currency setting was reached.

Both sides had expressed hope that the leaders' first summit would help to recalibrate relations after a period

of turbulence and to address deep differences, especially on trade and North Korea's nuclear program.

But as a dinner of pan-seared Dover sole with champagne sauce and dry aged prime New York strip steak was concluding on Thursday evening, the summit took an unexpected turn when Mr. Trump informed Mr. Xi of the missile strike on a Syrian airfield, including the number of missiles launched and the rationale behind them. Mr. Tillerson said Mr. Xi had understood that such a response was necessary when people were killing children.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman on Friday avoided directly criticizing Washington over the airstrike and instead reiterated Beijing's call for a United Nations investigation into the chemical-weapons attack. China has long opposed unilateral military action and has joined Russia in vetoing several U.N. Security Council resolutions against Syria.

The strike wasn't discussed publicly on Friday morning, when reporters attended part of a meeting between the two leaders and other senior offi-

cials in a cream-and-gilt room at Mar-a-Lago.

"We have made tremendous progress in our relationship with China" and developed "an outstanding relationship," said Mr. Trump, flanked by administration officials including his son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner.

Mr. Trump said that he expected additional progress in the relationship in the future and that "lots of very potentially bad problems will be going away," without specifying which problems.

Mr. Xi praised Mr. Trump's "warm reception" and said that they had reached several important understandings, although he also didn't provide details.

"More importantly, we've got deeply acquainted, established a kind of trust and built an initial working relationship and friendship," Mr. Xi said.

On Friday, U.S. first lady Melania Trump and Madame Peng Liyuan of China, a popular singer, visited a local public middle school that specializes in arts instruction. Later, the two presidents took a stroll in the gardens of the resort.

—Te-Ping Chen contributed to this article.

# Venezuela Bars Opposition Leader From Holding Office

BY ANATOLY KURMANAEV

CARACAS, Venezuela—Authorities barred leading opposition politician Henrique Capriles from holding office for 15 years, effectively disqualifying him from running for president in elections expected next year.

The office of the comptroller general on Friday disqualified Mr. Capriles, the governor of the populous Miranda state, for allegedly breaking contracting rules and misusing public funds, according to a copy of the ban seen by The Wall Street Journal.

Mr. Capriles's lawyers said the charges are false and politically motivated. "It is obvious that the comptroller's office is used as a mechanism of political persecution," they said.

The ruling means the country's two most popular politicians according to the polls, Mr. Capriles and Leopoldo Lopez, can't run for office in the foreseeable future," said José



CARLOS GARCIA RAWLINS/REUTERS

Miguel Vivanco, the Americas director of Human Rights Watch in Washington.

The move against Mr. Capriles comes after Vice President Tareck El Aissami blasted him on Thursday for leading antigovernment protests that led to clashes between police and demonstrators earlier that day. Mr. El Aissami called the

protesters terrorists and compared them to coup plotters who briefly overthrew Mr. Chávez 15 years ago.

"The final plan was to get to Miraflores [Presidential] Palace to provoke violence and bathe the streets of Caracas in blood," Mr. El Aissami said. He called on Attorney General Luisa Ortega to investi-

tigate Mr. Capriles and other opposition leaders.

An attempt last month by judges appointed by Mr. Maduro to dissolve the opposition-controlled congress triggered a major political crisis.

Tens of thousands of people Thursday blocked Caracas's main highway. Protests turned lethal when a student pro-

tester in Miranda died in a clash with national guards.

The opposition alliance called for a national rally on Saturday and said it would keep pressure on Mr. Maduro until he calls general elections.

"The government's plan this year was clearly to progressively tilt the playing field to the point where they can win an election," said David Smilde, a Venezuela expert at Tulane University. "It looks increasingly blatant."

The latest move is likely to strengthen radical factions of the opposition over moderates such as Mr. Capriles. "This is just going to accelerate the conflict," Mr. Smilde said.

Mr. Capriles and Mr. Lopez are both at least 20 percentage points ahead of any ruling-party leaders, according to the latest Venebarometro poll.

"The government knows it's in a real bind," said Michael Shifter, the president of the Inter-American Dialogue policy group in Washington.

# NAMES

Continued from Page One

fists.

Most colleges want to stand out, with unique architecture or special academic programs. But some schools have to fight extra hard because of their names.

At least 12 colleges and universities in the U.S. have variations on the name Saint (or St.) Mary. There are three Westminster Colleges. Two Georgetowns. Complicated webs of Wesleyans and Concordians, some but not all of which are affiliated with those similarly named. And don't start with the Loyolas. (We count four in the U.S.)

Then there is Northeastern and Northwestern, DePaul and DePauw and Wake Forest and Lake Forest, which can sound the same in a noisy room.

Andrew Green, the assistant men's basketball coach at Westminster College in Fulton,

Mo., called his mother the morning after his team enjoyed a November 20-point blowout. "As soon as my mom picks up the phone, she's somber, saying, 'That was a tough one, I'm sorry,'" Mr. Green recalled.

Then it clicked. "Mom, did it look like our gym?" he asked. "Mom, did you know any of the players? Mom, did you see me on camera?"

Turns out she had been watching the Westminster College in New Westminster, Pa., in a losing effort the same night. To her credit, both teams have navy blue uniforms and stream their games online.

For the rest of the season, Mr. Green said, his brother helped their mother navigate to the correct Westminster website for game time.

Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., once had to take down an article highlighting a noteworthy alum who in reality had attended Augustana University in Sioux Falls, S.D., recalls Leslie DuPree, director

of web services and new media at the Illinois school. The story was pulled from the college's website within an hour and was caught before it went into the print edition of its magazine, she said.

While many universities historically drew students from their immediate geographic regions and so weren't easily mixed up with nominal doppelgängers elsewhere, the growth of global marketing and ease of web searches has complicated the matter of school pride.

Seton Hall University in Greenville, Pa., and Holy Cross College in Notre Dame, Ind., have received donations intended for Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J., and the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. Seton Hall and Holy Cross officials said they redirect gifts when that happens.

A few years ago, a security officer at Augustana College in Illinois was called by a college switchboard operator, who had

been contacted by a student to open an under-construction library so the student could retrieve keys and a backpack; the student, meanwhile, was waiting outside an also-under-construction library at Augustana University in South Dakota.

The name similarities often go back decades or centuries, and school officials say they're

too steeped in history to abandon the nomenclature outright. The three Westminster Colleges or their predecessors were founded in the latter half of the 19th century with ties to the Presbyterian Church, while the St. Mary's schools are generally connected to Catholic orders.

Tony Piscitello, senior advancement director at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, said the school tried to distinguish itself by adding "of Minnesota" in the mid-1990s. Though it helped differentiate the school from other St. Mary's institutions, the move left some prospects convinced it was the theology school for the state university.

Officials at Our Lady of the Lake College in Baton Rouge, La., are hoping their recent name change—to Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University—with Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio.

Martin Rosenfeld, who grew up mainly in Europe because

his father was in the Army, accidentally sent his ACT score to Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, instead of Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

"I don't know how it happened," recalls Mr. Rosenfeld, who was living in Italy at the time and is now 19 years old. "It was late at night. I probably wasn't paying attention."

The following week, his Cornell University application still showed a blank spot in the section for test scores. He realized where the scores went, then read up on the Iowa school and thought it would be an even better fit than the New York one because of the small size and class structure. He applied there instead. Mr. Rosenfeld, now a freshman and a tour guide at Cornell College, said he's happy with the choice—except that he's sick of correcting friends and family who assume he's at the Ivy League institution. "I have to explain, 'No, not that Cornell. The one you haven't heard of.'"



GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES

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## WORLD NEWS

# Protests Direct Ire at Zuma

Mass demonstrations over his leadership as nation's credit rating takes another hit

BY JOE PARKINSON  
AND GABRIELE STEINHAUSER

PRETORIA, South Africa—Tens of thousands of South Africans took to the streets across the country Friday to call for the resignation of President Jacob Zuma after a week of turmoil that posed the gravest threat yet to his eight-year rule.

As protesters marched in Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban, Fitch Ratings cut South Africa's foreign- and local-currency credit rating to junk, becoming the second ratings agency this week to determine that the debt of Africa's most industrialized economy was no longer investment grade.

The protests, which featured dozens of placards castigating the junk credit rating, marked the most broad-based expression of popular anger at a president long dogged by scandal.

The latest furor had erupted after he recently fired the finance minister and shuffled his cabinet.

In Pretoria, streets surrounding the Union Buildings were thronged with protesters, while demonstrators lined some roads and bridges that ring the capital. In downtown Johannesburg, there were skirmishes as the main opposition Democratic Alliance gathered a few streets away from a counter-march by supporters of the ruling African National Congress. Police fired rubber bullets at stone-wielding protesters.

"This is the moment we need to stand up," said Amos, a 31-year-old government worker in Pretoria, holding a poster of Mr. Zuma saying "Nope" in place of Barack Obama's "Hope." "The country needs to show we won't ac-



Thousands marched, above, against the South African president in Cape Town on Friday. Armed ANC members, below, gathered outside the party headquarters in Johannesburg.



cept this."

Analysts said the protests likely would not decisively change the political arithmetic in a country still dominated by the ANC, which appeared to close ranks around Mr. Zuma after a week of public recriminations. Despite the show of force, neither South Africa's largest trade unions nor the leftist Economic Freedom Fighters called their members onto the streets en masse. More protests have been set for next week, while Parliament on April 18 will consider the opposition's motion for a no-confidence vote against Mr. Zuma, a vote he is widely expected to survive.

"It's going to take a lot to change the ANC's position. If the numbers and frequency [of protests] increase dramatically and if we have the same phenomena as Brazil or South Korea, then things could really shift," said Darius Jonker, an analyst at EurasiaGroup, a New York-based risk consultancy.

ANC leaders loyal to Mr. Zuma framed the protests as being led by a white minority threatened by the president's vow to redistribute wealth. Standing outside the party's Luthuli House headquarters, which was protected by party paramilitaries, Collen Maine, the leader of the ANC's power-

ful Youth Wing said that he welcomed junk status if it would be accompanied by the radical economic transformation promised by the president.

"Zuma has done for us what Nelson Mandela never did....Our message is clear, we are defending Luthuli House and Zuma," he said.

Mr. Zuma, a 74-year-old former ANC intelligence chief, is no stranger to scandal, having survived challenges including a ruling that he violated the constitution by refusing to repay public funds used to remodel his private home, and allegations that he let a wealthy family that is close to him choose cabinet appointments. He has repeatedly denied the allegations.

Opposition parties and civil society groups called for Friday's national day of action after Mr. Zuma's sweeping cabinet shuffle prompted a firestorm of criticism from inside and outside his own party. The days that followed saw a growing chorus of ANC veterans, allied trade unions and the Communist Party call for Mr. Zuma to step down.

SPAIN

## Basque Separatists Claim Arms Handover

The Basque separatist group ETA said Friday that it had handed over arms and explosives and declared itself a "disarmed organization," as it claimed it was making good on its pledge last month to disarm.

However, its disarmament plan has been viewed with skepticism by Spanish officials and ETA victims, and the group acknowledged its disarmament was incomplete and could be derailed by what the ETA called "enemies of the peace," according to a letter published on the BBC News website.

Spain's Interior Ministry didn't immediately respond to a request to comment. Officials had asked for the arms handover to be "unilateral, complete, definitive and verified."

The ETA called on people to support an official handover on Saturday in Bayonne, a city in the French Basque Country. The handover, if confirmed, would come five years after the ETA declared a cease-fire to end its decades-long bloody campaign, which claimed more than 800 lives.

—Jeannette Neumann

CANADA

## Job Gains Reflect Strong Factory Sector

Employment in Canada increased in March at a stronger-than-expected clip as the factory sector recorded its best one-

month performance in almost 15 years. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate rose as more people looked for work amid improving economic prospects.

The economy added a net 19,400 jobs last month, Statistics Canada said. The jobless rate edged upward to 6.7% from 6.6%, as 47,000 people entered the workforce to look for employment.

The solid report adds to recent evidence the economy is expanding at an accelerated pace after years of lackluster growth.

—Paul Vieira

UNITED KINGDOM

## Carney Calls Brexit 'A Litmus Test'

The U.K.'s exit from the European Union represents "a litmus test" for major economies' commitment to a robust, global financial system, the governor of the Bank of England said, as the central bank ordered foreign lenders based in London to present comprehensive contingency plans that cover a messy Brexit divorce.

Mark Carney said the global financial system stands at "a fork in the road," where one path leads to continued cooperation between regulators across borders and the free flow of capital world-wide, while another leads to greater protectionism and a fragmenting of the financial system.

A turn toward protectionism, he said, would lead to "less reliable and more expensive financing for households and businesses, and very likely lower growth and higher risks in all our economies."

—Jason Douglas



BUN FUN: Sri Lanka children competed in a bun-eating contest as part of Sinhala and Tamil New Year's celebrations Friday.

## OBITUARIES

WILLIAM T. COLEMAN JR.  
1920 — 2017

BY JAMES R. HAGERTY

William T. Coleman Jr. was part of a team of lawyers who persuaded the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Brown v. Board of Education*, to rule in 1954 that state-sanctioned racial segregation violated the Constitution.

He graduated at the top of his Harvard Law School class, served in President Gerald Ford's cabinet as transportation secretary, argued 19 cases before the Supreme Court and was a director of companies including International Business Machines Corp. and PepsiCo Inc. He was one of the few African-Americans of his generation to become a top-level insider in business and government.

In his later years, he also was frustrated that American schools and neighborhoods remained largely segregated. "We underestimated the complexity of achieving sustained integration," he wrote in his 2010 memoir, "Counsel for the Situation."

He shunned extreme language. "You accomplish things by being in the room when the deal is made, and it's just not in your interest to take positions where you're not going to get in the room," he said in an oral history.

Mr. Coleman died March 31 at a retirement home in Alexandria, Va. He was 96.

William Thaddeus Coleman Jr. was born July 7, 1920, in Philadelphia. His father, who had a college degree in sociology, ran a boys' club, and his mother had been a teacher of German and history. When Bill was in second grade, his father showed up at his school and caught him clowning in class. After thrashing him, his father ordered him to apologize to the teacher. "My days as class clown came to an abrupt end," he wrote.

In high school, a swimming coach told him blacks weren't al-



lowed on the swimming team. When his father complained, the school eliminated the team rather than integrating it.

The coach, a history teacher, gave him high grades and a recommendation to the University of Pennsylvania, where he studied political science and economics and graduated summa cum laude.

On arrival at Harvard Law School, he met Elliot Richardson, who became a lifelong friend and served in the Nixon and Ford cabinets. After World War II service, he finished his Harvard studies and served as a clerk to Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter.

When he began looking for long-term employment, top law firms in New York and Philadelphia snubbed him. He finally won a job from the Paul Weiss firm in New York and later jumped to a Philadelphia firm where he rose to become partner.

Thurgood Marshall, later a Supreme Court justice, recruited Mr. Coleman to help devise strategy for the legal fight to end school segregation. They argued that only by

mingling children of different races at an early age could there be the types of friendships and cultural understanding that could lead to equal opportunities. To avoid alarming conservative justices, they used the term "desegregate" rather than "integrate."

President Ford initially offered to make him secretary of housing and urban development. He resisted, partly because he thought federal housing policy was misguided. "America's inner cities were cluttered with federally subsidized high-rise housing projects that spawned vertical black ghettos," he wrote.

He accepted the offer of transportation secretary and served in the Ford cabinet for nearly two years, dealing with issues including landing rights for Concorde supersonic jets and the introduction of air bags in cars.

Later, he was a senior partner at the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers, where he handled commercial-law cases. He relished legal problem-solving, and it allowed him to live well. Blue-chip companies "pay me a hell of a lot of money to tell them what to do and what not to do," he said in an interview with the National Visionary Leadership Project. He also remained active in civil rights. In the case of *Bob Jones University v. U.S.*, he helped deny tax exemptions for private schools practicing racial discrimination.

Writing his memoir late in life, Mr. Coleman counseled patience: "Incremental progress is usually the best course. Our nation is too large, diverse and complex to adjust to radical, comprehensive change efficiently."

He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Lovida, their three children and four grandsons.

◆ Read a collection of in-depth profiles at [WSJ.com/Obituaries](http://WSJ.com/Obituaries)

PAM EDSTROM  
1946 — 2017

## Microsoft PR Manager Got Calls Answered

Pam Edstrom became public relations manager for Microsoft Corp. in 1982, it was just a "scrappy little startup," as she later put it, and journalists weren't lining up to meet the boyish chairman, Bill Gates.

She sought an appointment with a New York Times technology editor. "I don't talk to public relations people," she recalled being told. Before long, as Microsoft emerged as a dominant force in computer software, Mr. Gates was beaming from the cover of Time magazine. "A few days later, the technology editor for the New York Times called me," she said in a commencement address.

A New York Times spokeswoman declined to comment.

ADRIAN COLES  
1930 — 2017

## Retired British Major Championed Hedgehogs

Adrian Coles, a retired British Army major, had a ready answer when people asked why he founded the British Hedgehog Preservation Society in 1982.

"Everybody loves the hedgehog," Maj. Coles told The Wall Street Journal a decade later. "He's a good chap, with nothing at all against his character. All he does is eat beetles, wood lice and slugs—and who likes beetles, wood lice and slugs?"

Maj. Coles served in the British Army for 25 years, with postings in Cyprus and Germany, before settling down as a local government council member in England's Shropshire County. His campaign for hedgehogs originated when he and his daughter

Among Microsoft's marketing tactics was arranging for thousands of pillow cases with Windows logos to be placed in Las Vegas hotels during a technology show in the early 1980s. Ms. Edstrom left Microsoft in 1984 to become co-founder of what is now WE Communications, a global PR firm with 800 employees.

When she started out, technology companies' news releases tended to focus on the technical details of a product's performance. She broadened the message to suggest what the product would do for people who didn't care about the technicalities.

Ms. Edstrom died March 28 of cancer at her home in Vancouver, Wash. She was 71.

Annie found one stuck in a metal grid designed to keep cattle from passing through a gate. They used sticks and a sauce pan to free the animal.

The hedgehog, as the Journal noted in 1992, is "half the size of a loaf of bread, very likely to be flea-infested and resembles a toilet brush." None of those attributes have diminished the popularity of hedgehogs.

The hedgehog protection society says it has 11,000 members and two full-time staff members. It provides information for people who find sick or injured hedgehogs.

Maj. Coles died March 23 at the Royal Hospital Chelsea in London. He was 86.

# OPINION

THE WEEKEND INTERVIEW with Ayaan Hirsi Ali | By Tunku Varadarajan

## Islam's Most Eloquent Apostate

**T**he woman sitting opposite me, dressed in a charcoal pantsuit and a duck-egg-blue turtleneck, can't go anywhere, at any time of day, without a bodyguard. She is soft-spoken and irrepressibly sane, but also—in the eyes of those who would rather cut her throat than listen to what she says—the most dangerous foe of Islamist extremism in the Western world. We are in a secure room at a sprawling university, but the queasiness in my chest takes a while to go away. I'm talking to a woman with multiple fatwas on her head, someone who has a greater chance of meeting a violent end than anyone I've met (Salman Rushdie included). And yet she's wholly poised, spectacles pushed back to rest atop her head like a crown, dignified and smiling under siege.

Ayaan Hirsi Ali, born in Somalia in 1969, is Islam's most eloquent apostate. She has just published a slim book that seeks to add a new four-letter word—*dawa*—to the West's vocabulary. It describes the ceaseless, world-wide ideological campaign waged by Islamists as a

**The West's obsession with 'terror' has been a mistake, she argues. Dawa, the ideology behind it, is a broader threat.**

complement to jihad. It is, she says, the greatest threat facing the West and "could well bring about the end of the European Union as we know it." America is far from immune, and her book, "The Challenge of Dawa," is an explicit attempt to persuade the Trump administration to adopt "a comprehensive anti-dawa strategy before it is too late."

Ms. Hirsi Ali has come a long way from the days when she—"then a bit of a hothead"—declared Islam to be incapable of reform, while also calling on Muslims to convert or abandon religion altogether. That was a contentious decade ago. Today she believes that Islam can indeed be reformed, that it must be reformed, and that it can be reformed only by Muslims themselves—by those whom she calls "Mecca Muslims." These are the faithful who prefer the gentler version of Islam that she says was "originally promoted by Muhammad" before 622. That was the year he migrated to Medina and the religion took a militant and unlovely ideological turn.

At the same time, Ms. Hirsi Ali—now a research fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution, where I also work—is urging the West to look at Islam with new eyes. She says it must be viewed "not just as a

religion, but also as a political ideology." To regard Islam merely as a faith, "as we would Christianity or Buddhism, is to run the risk of ignoring dawa, the activities carried out by Islamists to keep Muslims energized by a campaign to impose Shariah law on all societies—including countries of the West."

Dawa, Ms. Hirsi Ali explains, is "conducted right under our noses in Europe, and in America. It aims to convert non-Muslims to political Islam and also to push existing Muslims in a more extreme direction." The ultimate goal is "to destroy the political institutions of a free society and replace them with Shariah." It is a "never-ending process," she says, and then checks herself: "It ends when an Islamic utopia is achieved. Shariah everywhere!"

Ms. Hirsi Ali contends that the West has made a colossal mistake by its obsession with "terror" in the years since 9/11. "In focusing only on acts of violence," she says, "we've ignored the Islamist ideology underlying those acts. By not fighting a war of ideas against political Islam—or 'Islamism'—and against those who spread that ideology in our midst, we've committed a blunder."

There is a knock on the door. I hear hushed voices outside, presumably her bodyguard telling someone to come back later. To add to the mildly dramatic effect, a siren is audible somewhere in the distance, unusual for the serene Stanford campus. Ms. Hirsi Ali is unfazed. "What the Islamists call jihad," she continues, "is what we call terrorism, and our preoccupation with it is, I think, a form of overconfidence. 'Terrorism is the way of the weak,' we tell ourselves, 'and if we can just take out the leaders and bring down al Qaeda or ISIS, then surely the followers will stop their jihad.' But we're wrong. Every time Western leaders take down a particular organization, you see a different one emerge, or the same one take on a different shape. And that's because we've been ignoring dawa."

Ms. Hirsi Ali wants us to get away from this game of jihadi Whac-A-Mole and confront "the enemy that is in plain sight—the activists, the Islamists, who have access to all the Western institutions of socialization." She chuckles here: "That's a horrible phrase . . . 'institutions of socialization' . . . but they're there, in families, in schools, in universities, prisons, in the military as chaplains. And we can't allow them to pursue their aims unchecked."

America needs to be on full alert against political Islam because "its program is fundamentally incompatible with the U.S. Constitution"—with religious pluralism, the equality of men and women, and other fundamental rights, including the toleration of different sexual orientations. "When we say the



ZINA SAUNDERS

Islamists are homophobic," she observes, "we don't mean that they don't like gay marriage. We mean that they want gays put to death."

Islam the religion, in Ms. Hirsi Ali's view, is a Trojan horse that conceals Islamism the political movement. Since dawa is, ostensibly, a religious missionary activity, its proponents "enjoy a much greater protection by the law in free societies than Marxists or fascists did in the past." Ms. Hirsi Ali is not afraid to call these groups out. Her book names five including the Council on American-Islamic Relations, which asserts—and in turn receives in the mainstream media—the status of a moderate Muslim organization. But groups like CAIR, Ms. Hirsi Ali says, "take advantage of the focus on 'inclusiveness' by progressive political bodies in democratic societies, and then force these societies to bow to Islamist demands in the name of peaceful coexistence."

**H**er strategy to fight dawa evokes several parallels with the Western historical experience of radical Marxism and the Cold War. Islamism has the help of "useful idiots"—Lenin's phrase—such as the Southern Poverty Law Center, which has denounced Ms. Hirsi Ali as an "extremist." She sees that smear as a success for dawa: "They go to people like the SPLC and say, 'Can we partner with you, because we also want to talk about what you guys talk about, which is civil rights. And Muslims are a minority, just like you.' So, they play this victim card, and the SPLC swallows it. And it's not just them, it's also the ACLU. The Islamists are infiltrating all these institutions that were historic and fought for rights. It's a liberal blind spot."

Western liberals, she says, are also complicit in an Islamist cultural segregation. She recalls a multiculturalist catchphrase from her years as a Somali refugee in Amsterdam in the early 1990s: "Integrate with your own identity," they used to tell us—*Integratie met eigen identiteit*. Of course, that resulted in no integration at all."

Ms. Hirsi Ali wants the Trump administration—and the West more broadly—to counter the dawa brigade "just as we countered both the Red Army and the ideology of communism in the Cold War." She is alarmed by the ease with which, as she sees it, "the agents of dawa hide behind constitutional protections they themselves would dismantle were they in power." She invokes Karl Popper, the great Austrian-British philosopher who wrote of "the paradox of tolerance." Her book quotes Popper writing in 1945: "If we extend unlimited tolerance even to those who are intolerant, if we are not prepared to defend a tolerant society against the onslaught of the intolerant, then the tolerant will be destroyed, and tolerance with them."

I ask Ms. Hirsi Ali what her solution might be, and she leans once more on Popper, who proposed a right not to tolerate the intolerant. "Congress must give the president—this year, because there's no time to lose—the tools he needs to dismantle the infrastructure of dawa in the U.S." Dawa has become an existential menace to the West, she adds, because its practitioners are "working overtime to prevent the assimilation of Muslims into Western societies. It is assimilation versus dawa. There is a notion of 'cocooning,' by which Islamists tell Muslim families to cocoon their

children from Western society. This can't be allowed to happen."

Is Ms. Hirsi Ali proposing to give Washington enhanced powers to supervise parenting? "Yes," she says. "We want these children to be exposed to critical thinking, freedom, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the rights of women." She also suggests subjecting immigrants and refugees to ideological scrutiny, so as to deny entry, residence and naturalization to those "involved with, or supportive of, Islamism."

In effect, Ms. Hirsi Ali would modernize the "communism test" that still applies to those seeking naturalization. "I had to answer questions when I applied for citizenship in 2013: 'Are you, or have you ever been, a communist?' And I remember thinking, 'God, that was the war back then. We're supposed to update this stuff!' Potential immigrants from Pakistan or Bangladesh, for instance, should have to answer questions—'Are you a member of the Jamat?' and so on. If they're from the Middle East you ask them about the Muslim Brotherhood, 'or any other similar group,' so there's no loophole."

Might critics deride this as 21st-century McCarthyism? "That's just a display of intellectual laziness," Ms. Hirsi Ali replies. "We're dealing here with a lethal ideological movement and all we are using is surveillance and military means? We have to grasp the gravity of dawa. Jihad is an extension of dawa. For some, in fact, it is dawa by other means."

**T**he U.S., she believes, is in a "much weaker position to combat the various forms of nonviolent extremism known as dawa because of the way that the courts have interpreted the First Amendment"—a situation where American exceptionalism turns into what she calls an "exceptional handicap." Convincing Americans of this may be the hardest part of Ms. Hirsi Ali's campaign, and she knows it. Yet she asks whether the judicial attitudes of the 1960s and 1970s—themselves a reaction to the excesses of Joseph McCarthy in the 1950s—might have left the U.S. ill-equipped to suppress threats from groups that act in the name of religion.

I ask Ms. Hirsi Ali if there's any one thing she would wish for. "I would like to be present at a conversation between Popper and Muhammad," she says. "Popper wrote about open society and its enemies, and subjected everyone from Plato to Marx to his critical scrutiny. I'd have liked him to subject Muhammad's legacy to the same analysis."

"But he skipped Muhammad, alas. He skipped Muhammad."

*Mr. Varadarajan is a research fellow in journalism at Stanford University's Hoover Institution.*

## The Georgia Race to Replace Tom Price Is No Referendum on Trump



**CROSS COUNTRY**  
By Kate Bachelder Odell

Atlanta

By now perhaps you have encountered the name Jon Ossoff: The 30-year-old Georgia filmmaker is competing for the House seat recently vacated by Tom Price, who left to join President Trump's cabinet. Mr.

Ossoff, a Democrat, is receiving more

attention than one would expect, given that Georgia's Sixth District has sent Republicans to Congress since the 1970s, including former Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Reasons for the fawning profiles of Mr. Ossoff start with the obvious:

He's competitive, polling around 40%

in a race with 18 candidates, 11 of

them Republicans. If no candidate

clears 50% in an April 18 election,

the top two finishers, regardless of

party, will head to a June runoff. Mr.

Ossoff will almost certainly make the

cut. There's even a chance he will

take a majority of the first vote and

win outright.

A second reason for interest is

that the race can be viewed as a

referendum on President Trump. Mr.

Ossoff is pitching himself as the

candidate to "make Trump furious."

Nationalizing the campaign cer-

tainly brings advantages: Last quar-

ter Mr. Ossoff raised more than \$8

million, and the Daily Kos blog even

passed the hat for him. This explains

why 95% of his donors are from out-

side Georgia. Staffers from the Dem-

ocratic Congressional Campaign

Committee have parachuted in to

help. On an afternoon drive through

the district, I pass an Ossoff sticker

on a car with Illinois plates.

The theory is that the district might be ready to flip: Mitt Romney carried it by more than 20 points in 2012, and Mr. Trump squeaked out a win by a mere 1.5 points. Yet even as President Trump struggled, Mr. Price won re-election by 23 points. The real insight may be that this is a district so red, not even Donald Trump could lose it. The place is home to the kind of affluent and educated Republicans who disdain Mr. Trump—

or at least have the prudence not to utter anything charitable about him in public. Some of them cast split Clinton-Price ballots. Yet they may not be ready to sign up with a Daily Kos tricenarian.

If Mr. Ossoff has a shot, it has less to do with Mr. Trump than with GOP dysfunction. Of the 11 Republicans running, only one consistently polls near 20%. That's Karen Handel, a former Georgia secretary of state who, since leaving office, has lost two statewide bids—a tight match for governor in 2010 and a 2014 Senate primary. Ms. Handel enjoys the broadest name recognition, but voters may recognize that she didn't win. Still, Whit Ayres, a pollster working for the Handel campaign, says the district tends to reward mainstream Republicans who "have a record of concrete results" in public office.

As the Republican front-runner,

Ms. Handel is drawing attacks from the right. There's Bob Gray, a former city councilman, who is positioning himself as the guy to ride sidecar with President Trump. One ad features him in front of a swamp, firing up drainage equipment and then—oh no—there goes Bob, in camouflage waders, plunging in. Mr. Gray is polling at about 10%, but his Trump credentials took a hit when social-media posts surfaced showing that he may have shared a picture last year of a yard sign featuring Mr. Trump and Hillary Clinton with the caption "Nope" and "Noper." (The Gray campaign denies he posted such a sign.)

One reason Mr. Gray is competitive is that the Club for Growth is pouring hundreds of thousands of dollars into ads and mailers on his behalf. He has also made appearances with Betty Price, a state representative who happens to be married to Tom Price. The mystery is why Mrs. Price isn't out and about with Ms. Handel, whom the Prices have supported in past races.

Two Republican candidates, both former state senators, are polling in the high single digits. Self-funder Dan Moody is crushing the airwaves with ads to raise his name recognition. Judson Hill touts endorsements from Newt Gingrich and Marco Rubio, who won the district in the presidential primary. Mr. Hill's gambit is to rack up ballots in Cobb County, where voters on April 18 will also have an election to fill the state senate seat Mr. Hill just vacated.

Any of these names could surge in the next week, but the menagerie of other candidates could also siphon off a point or two each. Sean Hannity is promoting former tea-party

organizer Amy Kremer. The rest of the bunch includes businessmen, an economist, and the Trump campaign's diversity director. Kurt Wilson is running on a single-issue platform of term limits. (There's always one.)

Mr. Ossoff's best shot is winning 50% on April 18 and denying Republicans a chance to consolidate. His campaign has more money than it knows how to burn, but that hasn't fended off scrutiny: He has been accused of inflating a "top secret" security clearance on his résumé.

The National Republican Campaign Committee is trying to turn out folks to vote for any GOP candidate to deny Mr. Ossoff a majority. An ad by the Congressional Leadership Fund featured footage of Mr. Ossoff dressed up as Han Solo during his days at Georgetown University. The idea was

to portray him as a goofball unready to make tough calls. This seems to have backfired. Suburbanites like "Star Wars."

Early voting, which started this week, is leaning Democratic, as "the Resistance" flames with enthusiasm for Mr. Ossoff. "Maybe Republicans are still trying to sort out who they'll vote for," suggests Kyle Kondik, who is following the race at the University of Virginia's Center for Politics. The risk is that GOP voters may decide they don't have time to study the views and idiosyncrasies of 11 different candidates. Some may figure they can wait until the choices are narrowed. That's what Mr. Ossoff wants them to think.

*Ms. Odell is an editorial writer for the Journal.*

## Notable & Quotable: Tanks

*From remarks by Christopher DeMuth, former president of the American Enterprise Institute (1986-2008), on accepting the Bradley Prize, April 6:*

Think tanks have risen to prominence and influence at a time when two much older institutions—the ones they are closest to—have been in decline. Universities and colleges have succumbed to demands to embrace orthodoxy and suppress open inquiry and dissent. Government and politics have succumbed to demands to regiment every aspect of society and commerce and ameliorate every difficulty of private life. . . .

In universities, armies of diversity deans, teacher-sensitivity trainers, and student-contentment counsellors are displacing faculty—whose tenured positions are supposed to carry responsibility for upholding academic standards. In government, fleets of specialized agencies are displacing elected legislators—whose constitutional positions are supposed to carry responsibility for deliberation and collective choice.

Bureaucracies are useful and necessary, but not when they are pursuing their own agendas, free of direction from a recognized authority or establishment. They have gained autonomy in what Robert Nisbet called the twilight of authority.

## OPINION

### REVIEW & OUTLOOK

## What You Can't Ask a Job Candidate

Progressive big cities often seem to be competing to be the most hostile business environment, and Philadelphia has taken the lead with a new law prohibiting employers from even asking about a job candidate's wage history. The city's Chamber of Commerce fought back this week with a suit to block the law as an unconstitutional restriction on employers' free-speech rights, and employers elsewhere may want to take notice.

In January Philadelphia passed an ordinance that bars employers from asking job applicants about their prior compensation unless the prospective employee "knowingly and willingly" divulges the information. The city council is worried that women earn less than men, and progressives say employers may perpetuate this disparity by asking about an applicant's wage history. Employers that ask the new unmentionable could incur civil and criminal penalties including \$2,000 per violation and 90 days in jail for repeat offenses.

One problem is that discussions about compensation are a normal part of the give-and-take between employers and prospective hires. Employers might ask about an applicant's wages to screen out the overqualified or to know the compensation it will take to lure new talent. Headhunters use salary histories to recruit executives and high-level professionals from other firms.

Yet the Philadelphia law abridges the speech of only one party at the negotiating table—the employer. Job applicants are free to ask how much the employer typically pays its workers. Research indicates that men are more likely than women to initiate negotiations about compensation, so the Philadelphia law could even have the perverse effect of increasing gender wage disparities.

A bigger legal issue is that government restrictions on speech must be narrowly tailored

### Philadelphia tries to stifle the free speech of employers.

to meet a compelling interest. But as the Chamber's lawsuit brought by attorney Miguel Estrada notes, the Philadelphia ordinance targets speech that is "only tenuously and indirectly related to perpetuating possible effects of past discrimination." The city could have taken a narrower approach—for example, by barring employers from basing compensation solely on prior wages.

Philadelphia's ordinance also applies broadly to any employer that "does business" or "employs one or more employees" in the city. So Amazon could conceivably be prohibited from inquiring about a Seattle computer programmer's wage history because the company delivers items in Philadelphia.

Federal courts have sometimes deferred to state efforts to regulate out-of-state businesses operating within their borders, but the Philadelphia ordinance goes a step further by controlling conduct that occurs entirely outside of the city's jurisdiction. This arguably violates the Constitution's Commerce Clause, which the Supreme Court has held "precludes the application of a state statute to commerce that takes place wholly outside the State's borders."

Liberals have perpetuated the conceit that women earn less than men because of discrimination, but the reality is more complex. Women sometimes trade higher pay in return for flexibility at work or take time off to raise children. Research shows that most gender wage disparities reflect education or experience or factors other than discrimination.

The Philadelphia fight is part of a larger trend by state and local governments to restrict speech in pursuit of political goals. Similar laws are under consideration in New Jersey, Virginia, Pittsburgh, New Orleans and Washington, D.C., among other places. If the courts bless Philadelphia's ordinance, employers around the country may soon have one more barrier to hiring the best workers for the job.

## Obama WMD Intelligence Failure

When the Bush Administration failed to find the weapons of mass destruction that Saddam Hussein was thought to have, opponents used the intelligence failure to discredit the war in Iraq and call George W. Bush a liar. Will there be any even remotely similar accounting after the Obama Administration's intelligence failure in Syria, where Bashar Assad has used chemical weapons we were told he didn't have?

On Tuesday at least 85 civilians, including children, were killed by a gas attack in the rebel-held town of Khan Sheikhou. The World Health Organization says the attack likely involved banned nerve agents, with other medical experts pointing to sarin as the culprit.

Why is this an intelligence failure? Because the Obama Administration assured the world that it had forced Mr. Assad to give up all chemical weapons. In an interview with National Public Radio on January 16, Susan Rice, then the White House national security adviser, was unequivocal:

"I think the President [Obama] stated the U.S. view, which is the use of chemical weapons is not something we're prepared to allow to persist, and we didn't. We managed to accomplish that goal far more thoroughly than we could

### Susan Rice said Assad had given up all his chemical weapons.

have by some limited strikes against chemical targets by getting the entirety of the declared stockpile removed." The residents of Khan Sheikhou beg to differ.

Ms. Rice's assurances were part of the Obama Administration's foreign-policy victory lap as it ended its time in office. But did she or others know at the time that Mr. Assad still had stockpiles of sarin gas? Were there dissenting intelligence reports raising doubts about the Assad-Russian pledges that the regime had turned everything over to United Nations monitors?

Reuters reported on April 6 that "U.S. intelligence agencies suspect Assad did not turn over all chemical weapons stockpile—intelligence official." No kidding, but did Ms. Rice not know this a mere two months ago when she gave that interview to NPR?

Then again, perhaps Ms. Rice was so preoccupied with reading the summaries of intelligence reports on the Trump campaign or transition officials that she didn't have time to dig into the Syrian chemical threat. Maybe the House and Senate intelligence committees can add these questions to their list of what to ask Ms. Rice when she testifies about her habit of "unmasking" the identities of Americans surveilled by U.S. intelligence.

## What's the Matter With Connecticut?

Connecticut's progressive tax experiment has hit a wall. Tens of thousands of residents are fleeing for lower tax climes, which has prompted Democrats to propose—get this—paying new college grads a thousand bucks to stick around. Maybe they're afraid an exodus of young people will turn the state Republican.

Hard to believe, but a mere 25 years ago—a lifetime for millennials—Connecticut was a low-tax haven for Northerners. The state enacted an income tax in 1991 that was initially a flat 4.5% but was later made steeply progressive. In 2009 former Republican Governor Jodi Rell raised the top rate on individuals earning \$500,000 or more to 6.5%, which Democratic Gov. Dannel Malloy has lifted to 6.99% (as if paying 0.01% less than 7% is a government discount).

Connecticut's top tax rate is now higher than the 5.1% flat rate in the state formerly known as Taxachusetts. In 2012 the Tax Foundation ranked Connecticut's state and local tax burden second highest in the country behind New York. Due to recent property and income tax hikes, the Nutmeg State may now be in the lead.

You don't need a Yale degree to figure out the tax hikes have been a disaster. A net 30,000 residents moved to other states last year. Since 2010 seven of Connecticut's eight counties have lost population, and the hedge-fund haven of Fairfield County shrank for the first time last year. In the last five years, 27,400 Connecticut residents have moved to Florida. Florida Governor Rick Scott should pay Mr. Malloy a broker's fee.

More than 3,000 Connecticut residents have moved to zero income-tax New Hampshire in the last two years. While liberals wax apocalyptic about Kansas's tax cuts, the Prairie State has

### The state's politicians now want to bribe college grads to stay.

welcomed 1,430 Connecticut refugees since 2011 and reversed the outflow between 2005 and 2009. Yet liberals deny that tax policies influence personal or business decisions.

After losing General Electric to Boston last year, Mr. Malloy bribed the hedge funds Bridgewater and AQR Capital with \$57 million in taxpayer subsidies not to leave the state. Other beneficiaries of the Governor's corporate welfare include Cigna, NBC Sports, ESPN and Charter Communications.

Democratic legislators have now taken the subsidy idea one step further by proposing a tax credit averaging \$1,200 for grads of Connecticut colleges who live in the state as well as those of out-of-state schools who move to the state within two years of earning their degree. Democrats say the tax credit would cost the state \$6 million each year assuming only 10% of eligible college grads sign on.

Yet the main reason young people are escaping is the lack of job opportunities. Since 2010 employment in Connecticut has grown at half the rate of Massachusetts and more slowly than in Rhode Island, New Jersey or Kansas. If the kids reject the tax-credit deal, maybe Gov. Malloy will start negotiating the terms and conditions for staying with each graduate. Or perhaps Democrats could seek President Trump's help to build a wall around the state.

Meanwhile, Democrats are wrangling with a projected \$1.7 billion budget deficit next year because tax revenues keep trailing projections. The state's teacher pension bill is projected to grow by a third over the next two years, and some Democrats want to impose a 19% tax on hedge funds' carried interest. At this rate they're going to need a much bigger tax bribe for those kids to stay in the state.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The Nasty Partisan Washington Masquerade

Regarding your editorial "Susan Rice Keeps Her Mask On" (April 5): Susan Rice said she "leaked nothing to nobody." Doesn't that double negative really mean she leaked something to somebody? If Sarah Palin said something like that, the media would have crucified her.

ED WALDOVOGEL  
Naples, Fla.

Your editorial "Susan Rice Unmasked" (April 4) asks: "Where are the civil libertarians when you really need them?" We are right here, working to end the most significant threat of political surveillance: warrantless backdoor searches of FISA Section 702 data. Unmasking requests like Ms. Rice's are fairly routine. They must be approved by the NSA as necessary to understand foreign intelligence. By contrast, FBI personnel can conduct searches for Americans' communications, collected without a warrant using Section 702, for reasons that have nothing to do with foreign

intelligence or national security, and without any suspicion of wrongdoing. As you note, Sen. Ron Wyden has championed reforms to this backdoor search loophole, and so have civil libertarian organizations. But Rep. Devin Nunes, whom you call "the one official in Washington who seems interested in pursuing the evidence of politicized surveillance," blocked this effort on multiple occasions. Fortunately, when Section 702 is set to expire at the end of this year, we have another chance to fix a loophole that is far more dangerous to Americans' rights and vulnerable to abuse than routine unmasking.

JAKE LAPERRUE  
The Constitution Project  
Washington

With all due respect, Michael Flynn lost his job because he lied to Vice President Mike Pence about his conversations with Russians.

TOM GAGNON  
Sun City Center, Fla.

### Scalia and the Surprise Princeton Document

In your March 25 Notable & Quotable from the late Justice Antonin Scalia's confirmation hearing, Scalia states, "Let us assume that somebody runs in from Princeton University, and on the basis of the latest historical research, he or she has discovered a lost document which shows that it was never intended that the Supreme Court should have the authority to declare a statute unconstitutional. I would not necessarily reverse *Marbury v. Madison* on the basis of something like that."

I am at Princeton and I have that document. It is hiding in plain sight in James Madison's notes on the 1787 Constitutional Convention. On August 15, 1787, Madison "moved that all acts before they become laws should be submitted both to the Executive and supreme Judiciary Departments, that if either of these should object 2/3 of each House, if both should object, 3/4 of each House, should be

necessary to overrule the objections and give to the acts the force of law."

The Constitutional Convention resoundingly rejected judicial veto of statutes. According to convention delegate John Mercer, combining legislative and judicial power would lead to "legislative usurpation and oppression" by the Supreme Court. The framers of the Constitution believed that requiring Congress to override a judicial veto with a supermajority granted too much power to the judiciary. In the current system, Congress cannot even override a Supreme Court ruling with unanimity.

Madison's records show that the Convention contemplated allowing the Supreme Court to declare statutes unconstitutional but decided against it.

THEODORE FURCHTGOTT  
Princeton University  
Princeton, N.J.

### The Pros and Cons of a Modified 'Pence Rule'

Yale Law School's Asha Rangappa claims that "A Modified 'Pence Rule' Would Be Good for Working Women" (op-ed, April 4). Vice President Mike Pence distinguishes himself as a man of honor and integrity. Feminists, however, outraged over his pro-life stance, have blown a gasket over the so-called Pence Rule.

Ms. Rangappa seeks to impose a new politically correct Pence Rule 2.0, allowing for "informal networking to take place in groups of three or more, regardless of sex." Would it ruin the fun if everyone brought a lawyer too?

I wonder if one very vocal women's rights advocate and recent presidential candidate wishes that the Pence Rule had been promoted during her stay in the White House.

FRANCIS X. SCHROEDER  
Rockville Centre, N.Y.

of severely limiting any kind of sexual harassment would seem to outweigh any costs, as Ms. Rangappa suggests.

ARI WEITZNER  
New York

I read Ms. Rangappa's op-ed twice and still don't know what she wants; it's edutalk at its finest.

No female attorneys or court employees were allowed in my judges's chambers alone without the bailiff being present.

This not only protects everyone from rumor or innuendo but protects the males because in any dispute about what went on between a male and female, the female's charges would be deemed true and anything the male said dissembling.

LARRY STIRLING  
San Diego

### There Were Shades of Light And Dark in Richard Nixon

Robert K. Landers's review of John A. Farrell's "Richard Nixon: The Life" (Bookshelf, March 29) makes the important point that Nixon didn't challenge the results of the 1960 presidential election because he felt a challenge would be too harmful to the country.

It is also worth noting that even though he received very few votes from Jewish voters, during the 1973 Yom Kippur War he ordered Israel to be resupplied after it sustained terrible losses in the first two days of fighting. He did this in the middle of his Watergate problems and at the risk of the Soviets backing out of his nuclear-arms agreement. This changed the tide of the war and probably saved Israel.

Nixon was often controversial, but many of his achievements were forgotten after his resignation.

JEROME S. REICH  
Miami

### Pepper ... And Salt

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



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JAMES SIMPSON  
Chair, Department of English  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, Mass.

## OPINION

# What's Become of the American Dream?



**DECLARATIONS**  
*By Peggy Noonan*

I want to think aloud about the American dream. People have been saying for a while that it's dead. It's not, but it needs strengthening. We should start by saying what it means, which is something we've gotten mixed up about. I know its definition because I grew up in the heart of it and remember how people had long understood it. The American dream is the belief, held by generation after generation since our beginning and reanimated over the decades by waves of

**Part of the problem is definitional. It isn't just about houses, cars and material prosperity.**

immigrants, that here you can start from anywhere and become anything. In America you can rise to the heights no matter where and in what circumstances you began. You can go from the bottom to the top.

Behind the dream was another belief: America was uniquely free, egalitarian and arranged so as to welcome talent. Lincoln was elected president in part because his supporters brought lengths of crude split-rails to the Republican National Convention in Chicago in 1860. They held the rails high and paraded them in a floor demonstration to tell everyone: This guy was nothing but a frontier rail splitter, a laborer, a backwoods nobody. Now he will be president. What a country. What a dream.

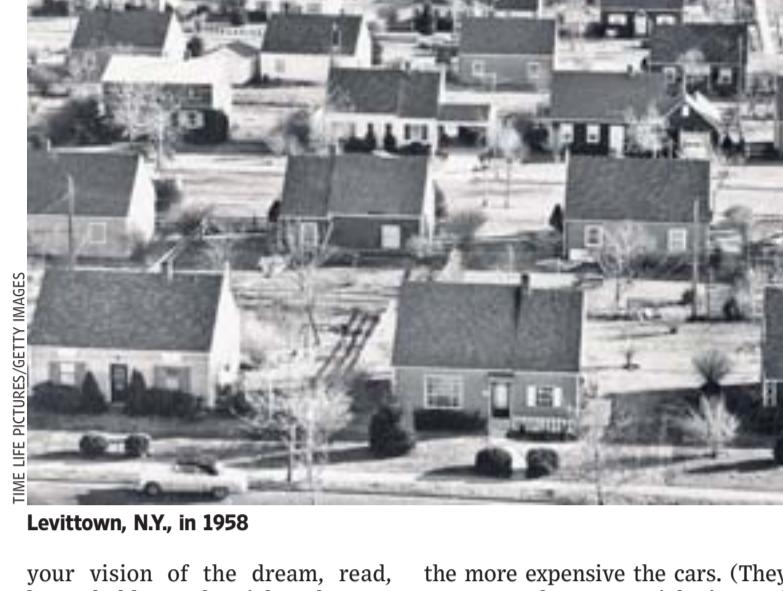
This distinguished America from

old Europe, from which it had kicked away. There titles, families and inherited wealth dictated standing: If you had them, you'd always be at the top. If you didn't, you'd always be at the bottom. That static system bred resentment. We would have a dynamic one that bred hope.

You can give a dozen examples, and perhaps you are one, of Americans who turned a brilliant system into a lived-out triumph. Thomas Edison, the seventh child of modest folk in Michigan and half-deaf to boot, filled the greatest cities in the world with electric light. Barbara Stanwyck was from working-class Brooklyn. Her mother died, her father skipped town, and she was raised by relatives and foster parents. She went on to a half-century career as a magnetic actress of stage and screen; in 1944 she was the highest-paid woman in America. Jonas Salk was a hero of my childhood. His parents were Jewish immigrants from Poland who settled in East Harlem—again, working-class nobodies. Naturally young Jonas, an American, scoped out the true facts of his time and place and thought: I'll be a great lawyer. His mother is reported to have said no, a doctor. He went on to cure polio. We used to talk about him at the public school when we waited in line for the vaccine.

In America so many paths were offered! But then a big nation that is a great one literally has a lot of paths.

The American dream was about aspiration and the possibility that, with dedication and focus, it could be fulfilled. But the American dream was *not* about material things—houses, cars, a guarantee of future increase. That's the construction we put on it now. It's wrong. A big house could be the product of the dream, if that's what you wanted, but the house itself was not the dream. You could, acting on



Levittown, N.Y., in 1958

your vision of the dream, read, learn, hold a modest job and rent a home, but at town council meetings you could stand, lead with wisdom and knowledge, and become a figure of local respect. Maybe the respect was your dream.

Stanwyck became rich, Salk revered. Both realized the dream.

How did we get the definition mixed up?

I think part of the answer is: Grandpa. He'd sit on the front stoop in Levittown in the 1950s. A sunny day, the kids are tripping by, there's a tree in the yard and bikes on the street and a car in the front. He was born in Sicily or Donegal or Dubrovnik, he came here with one change of clothes tied in a cloth and slung on his back, he didn't even speak English, and now look—his grandkids with the bikes. "This is the American dream," he says. And the kids, listening, looked around, saw the houses and the car, and thought: He means the American dream is things. By inference, the healthier and more enduring the dream, the bigger the houses get,

the more expensive the cars. (They went on to become sociologists and journalists.)

But that of course is not what Grandpa meant. He meant: *I started with nothing and this place let me and mine rise.* The American dream was not only about materialism, but material things could be, and often were, its fruits.

The American dream was never fully realized, not by a long shot, and we all know this. The original sin of America, slavery, meant some of the oldest Americans were brutally excluded from it. The dream is best understood as a continuing project requiring constant repair and expansion, with an eye to removing barriers and roadblocks for all.

Many reasons are put forward in the argument over whether the American Dream is over (no) or ailing (yes) or was always divisive (no—dreams keep nations together). We see income inequality, as the wealthy prosper while the middle class grinds away and the working class slips away. There is a widening distance, literally, between the rich

and the poor. Once the richest man in town lived nearby, on the nicest street on the right side of the tracks. Now he's decamped to a loft in SoHo. "The big sort" has become sociocultural apartheid. It's globalization, it's the decline in the power of private-sector unions and the brakes they applied.

What ails the dream is a worthy debate. I'd include this: The dream requires adults who can launch kids sturdily into Dream-land.

When kids have one or two parents who are functioning, reliable, affectionate—who will stand in line for the charter-school lottery, who will fill out the forms, who will see that the football uniform gets washed and is folded on the stairs in the morning—there's a good chance they'll be OK. If you come from that now, it's like being born on third base and being *able* to hit a triple. You'll be able to pursue the dream.

But I see kids who don't have that person, who are from families or arrangements that didn't cohere, who have no one to stand in line for them or get them up in the morning. What I see more and more in America is damaged or absent parents. We all know what's said in this part—drugs, family breakup. Poor parenting is not a new story in human history, and has never been new in America. But insufficient parents used to be able to tell their kids to go out, go play in America, go play in its culture. And the old aspirational culture, the one of the American dream, could counter a lot. Now we have stressed kids operating within a nihilistic popular culture that can harm them. So these kids have nothing—not the example of a functioning family and not the comfort of a culture into which they can safely escape.

This is not a failure of policy but a failure of love. And it's hard to change national policy on a problem like that.

## In Striking Syria,

**By Walter Russell Mead**

President Trump faced his first serious foreign-policy test this week. To the surprise and perhaps frustration of his critics, he passed with flying colors.

In the first place, the president read the situation correctly. Syrian President Bashar Assad's horrific and illegal use of chemical weapons against civilians was not merely an affront to international norms. It was a probe by Mr. Assad and his patrons to test the mettle of the new White House.

This must have looked like a good week to challenge Washington. The Trump administration is beset by critics. Most senior national-security posts remain unfilled. The White House is torn by infighting. The Republican Party is divided by the bitter primary campaign and its recent health-care fiasco.

President Trump concluded, correctly, that failing to respond effectively to Mr. Assad's challenge would invite more probes and more tests. He moved quickly and decisively against the provocation, demonstrating that the days of strategic dithering are gone.

Second, Mr. Trump chose the right response: a limited missile strike against the Syrian air base that, according to American intelligence, had launched the vicious gas attack. This resonated well nearly everywhere. At home, it won approval from Jacksonians and others who want a strong president. The strikes vindicated America's prestige and dealt a clear setback to those who seek to humiliate or marginalize the U.S. But no ground troops were involved and Mr. Trump made no move toward long-term counterinsurgency or nation-building, the type of campaign that many Americans, his base in particular, have learned to view skeptically.

Internationally, the strike was also popular. Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, putting awkward phone calls behind him, spoke up forthrightly in Mr. Trump's support.

## Trump Made All the Right Calls

administration was signaling that the engagement would be limited, and the Russians could therefore temper their response. By using cruise missiles, the administration also guaranteed that the action would be impossible to prevent.

Finally, Mr. Trump gets extra points for deftness. He struck at a Russian proxy while holding a summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping in which North Korea was a major topic.

**After this week, American opponents will sweat a bit more, but there are bigger challenges to come.**

That's a polite way to make the point that the U.S. and its allies have kicked the North Korean can down the road for too long. To avoid the kind of crisis that would benefit no one—and China least of all—Beijing ought to bring a new sense of focus and urgency to its dealings with Pyongyang. Mr. Trump's decision to use missiles against a pariah state in the Middle East may give diplomacy a better chance to avoid similar steps in much more dangerous Northeast Asia.

President Trump can expect to reap some political benefits from his Syria strike. It should bring many (though never all) Republicans into closer alignment with the White House. It also undermines the idea that Mr. Trump is some kind of Putin puppet. The Jacksonian voters whose enthusiasm put Mr. Trump in the White House will consider their faith in his leadership qualities reinforced, happy that the U.S. is no longer led by a ditherer-in-chief.

Mr. Obama's acolytes now will have

to spend less time attacking Mr. Trump and more time trying to defend their own tattered legacy in Syria. Remember when they told us that Mr. Obama's "brilliant" deal with Messrs. Putin and Assad had eradicated chemical weapons there? Some curious journalists may even start asking whether officials in the Obama administration knew that Mr. Assad retained dangerous stockpiles of sarin gas but kept quiet to make their Syria diplomacy look less abject.

But while Mr. Trump and his associates bask in their success, they should remember their foreign policy travails are only beginning. Russia, Iran and China all seek to roll back American power. The European Union—whatever its shortcomings, a bulwark of American power—faces its

greatest threat in half a century from the combination of flawed policies at home and ruthless challengers abroad. The bloodbath in the Middle East is by no means finished. Turkey, once a pillar of regional stability and American security, threatens to become unmoored from the West and the NATO alliance that has kept it safe since the Truman administration. As anarchy and sectarian conflict rage across the Middle East, the passions of religious fanaticism and terrorism burn brighter and hotter than ever.

Mr. Trump has passed his first test, but more difficult ones are yet to come. If he is to succeed—and every American and friend of world peace must pray that he does—he will need a team in the White House that commands his full confidence. The extraordinary talents now in charge at the State Department, the Defense Department and the National Security Council need to staff up and surround themselves with the best the country can offer. There is no job in the world more difficult than the U.S. presidency. President Trump will need all the help he can get.

*Mr. Mead is a fellow at the Hudson Institute, a professor of foreign affairs at Bard College, and editor at large of the American Interest.*

## The Pepsi Degeneration—and Beyond

**By Bari Weiss**

Pepsi unveiled a new commercial this week—then quickly veiled it again. The ad—produced by PepsiCo's own "content creation" arm, Creators League—stars model Kendall Jenner. Over two minutes and 40 seconds, Ms. Jenner is transformed into a revolutionary, ditching her blond wig and joining the crowd in the streets. The tension between the attractive, multicultural band of protesters and the police evaporates as Ms. Jenner

hands a can of soda to a cop. The slogan: "Live bolder, live louder, live for now."

The company pulled the ad after just about everyone pilloried it, among other things for trivializing civil disobedience, specifically the Black Lives Matter movement. What bright ideas can we expect to see next? Here are a few:

• *Rosa Parks, the New, Fresh Face of Uber.* This one will really bring Americans back together. We'll shoot in black and white. Open with a close-up on Rosa Parks (Rihanna in glasses), looking exhausted from a long day working as a seamstress. The bus begins to fill up with whites and we notice the driver, James F. Blake (Charlie Sheen), getting agitated. Finally, he walks over to Rosa's seat and confronts her. As he berates our heroine, she reaches into her bag . . . and pulls out her iPhone. She orders up an UberX—Rosa's just like us!—and a sleek black sedan pulls up beside the public bus. It's cheers and interracial hugs all round as Beyoncé's "Lemonade" swells in the background. Thanks to Uber, all is well again in Montgomery.

• *Mark Ruffalo for Rolex.* In 1926 Rolex changed the world when it created the first waterproof watch. Let's celebrate the pioneering technology of the Oyster—but this time we're leaving behind the yachts. What better way to illustrate our grit than a cinéma-vérité-style docudrama featuring Mark Ruffalo (unshaven, wrinkled linen shirt) on a

dinghy with Syrian refugees? Mark joins a beautiful woman and her children as they flee Aleppo and head toward Greek shores. Lots of close-up shots on Mark's wrist as the waves crash against the boat. "Rolex: For durable lives."

• *Nelson Mandela for Sandals Resorts.* Everyone knows Mandela loved a vacation: "I went for a long holiday for 27 years," he once joked.

**Rosa Parks for Uber, Gandhi for Sprite: Socially conscious ad-campaign pitches I'd like to see.**

Fast forward to 1971, where she's morphed into a plucky Gloria Steinem wearing aviator glasses and Air Force Ones at the first annual meeting of the National Organization for Women. And finally—twist!—we'll have her playing herself at the Women's March in Washington, walking with her kids, all in matching Nike Frees. "Nike: Grab back."

• *Aung San Suu Kyi for Activia.* American women know that nothing says feminine strength more than a low-calorie fermented-milk product. That's why we think Burmese dissident Aung San Suu Kyi is the perfect person to replace Jamie Lee Curtis as the new spokeswoman for Activia. Tilda Swinton would be *perfect* for this role. "Stay light and fit in your fight against the junta."

• *Gandhi for Sprite.* At last, the perfect role for token Hollywood Indian guy Dev Patel. We open on Gandhi (Patel sweating heavily in loincloth) during the tail end of one of his 17 hunger strikes. The press comes into his modest room to interview him and ask about his demands. We expect him to talk about British rule or the evils of the caste system, but instead, in a parched whisper, he says: "All I ask for is a Sprite. Obey your thirst for national independence."

*Ms. Weiss is an associate book review editor at the Journal.*

Holman W. Jenkins, Jr. is away.

## THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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# SPORTS

## THE MASTERS

# The Other Masters Is Over at Merv's House

BY BRAD REAGAN

Waynesboro, Ga.

**ON SATURDAY MORNING**, golfers from around the country will gather in a small Georgia town to nibble on pimento-cheese sandwiches and compete for the honor of wearing a coveted green jacket.

It's a tradition unlike any other, except this isn't the Masters at Augusta National. It's the Masters at Merv's.

Merv is Merv Waldrop, a courtly 55-year-old county administrator with a white beard who for 27 years has put on a parallel—if much less venerable—tournament for his friends each April on a course he carves out of his yard. This year, as it has been for the last 15, the tournament will be held on a 9-hole course that criss-crosses the grounds of a ramshackle former plantation where Merv lives 30 miles south of Augusta in Waynesboro, Ga.

Merv's Masters mirrors many of the traditions at Augusta National, with fewer of the pretensions. Amateurs at Augusta stay in the Crow's Nest, a small living quarters above the clubhouse; in Waynesboro, the Crow's Nest is Merv's attic. Just as at Augusta, the previous year's winner gets to choose the menu for the annual pre-tournament champions dinner, though at Merv's the event is held in a barn on the back of the property.

Whereas Augusta National spends millions to get its fairways the perfect shade of green and keep its azaleas in full flower, Merv's preparations involve mowing the grass Friday morning and sprinkling some fire-ant killer on the mounds dotted around the course.

And of course the champion is awarded a green jacket. On Friday, Merv pulled out five thrift-store jackets of various sizes—and slightly different hues—that he has accumulated over the years. "The jackets don't leave the property," he said.

This year roughly 60 players from eight states are expected for the two-day event. On the most celebrated weekend in golf, few savor it more than Merv.

"It's probably a lot like [Augusta National founder] Bobby Jones intended. You know, he bought a run-down plantation on the outskirts of Augusta and invited all of his friends for a golf tournament," he said during a walking tour of the course.

The tournament originated one afternoon in Crystal River, Fla., when Merv and a couple of buddies started chipping balls at flowerpots in his yard while watching the 1991 Mas-



A temporary golf course in the front yard of Merv Waldrop is prepared for the annual Masters at Merv's in Waynesboro, Ga.

SEAN RAYFORD FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

ters. They decided to make it an annual affair. When Merv moved back home to Waynesboro, he jumped at the chance to purchase the former plantation home seven miles outside of town in large part because he knew it would make an ideal setting for the tournament.

The layout is not exactly Amen Corner: The longest hole measures about 90 yards, but the course offers a number of unique challenges. Not least, the St. Augustine grass that covers most of the greens presents a notoriously bumpy putting surface, forcing players to choose from a variety of strategies.

Some putt with a 1-iron or other low-loft club. Others play the entire course with only a putter. Missed one-footers are commonplace.

"It would drive you crazy if you really wanted to try to shoot a low score," said Steve Francis, of Daytona Beach, Fla., who has played in 26 of the 27 tournaments.

This year, as for most of the past decade,

the favorite to claim the green jacket is Tim Kuntz, a former college golfer turned Wal-Mart manager from Homosassa Springs, Fla., who has won the title seven times.

"He's our Jack Nicklaus," Merv said.

The competition is serious. Andrew Gage of Crystal River, Fla. says he was in contention last year after Saturday's first two rounds, and decided to play Sunday completely sober. He says he won't make that mistake this year.

But Kuntz and other participants say the

tournament is more importantly a testament to Merv's unique ability to collect and maintain friendships with people from widely different backgrounds. The roster of this year's event features fellow parishioners from

Merv's church, work colleagues, college buddies and a number of strays like Joshua Madden, a 27-year-old Kansan who met Merv outside a Missouri-Georgia football game in Columbia, Mo., several years ago.

Surrounded by Missouri fans, Merv was dressed head-to-toe in Georgia gear, smoking a cigar to celebrate his team's victory. "I just had to talk to that guy," said Madden. "We've been friends ever since."

Corey Hall liked the idea of Merv's Masters so much that he copied it. When the Army last year transferred the 25-year-old Georgia native to Fort Lewis, near Tacoma, Wash., he started his own version of the event that he calls the Evergreen Masters.

Last year, he hosted about 45 players, including many members of his fiancee's family, who he introduced to southern delicacies like fried okra. "They love it, but they have no idea what it is," he said.

For his part, Merv never married or had children, and he says the annual golf tournament is his version of a big family gathering with good music, food and golf. "To me, it's kind of like what heaven is going to be like."

## HEARD ON THE FIELD

### Sergio Makes Friday Surge

Sergio Garcia long ago concluded that he was not a fan of Augusta National Golf Club. At the 2009 Masters, he called the course "too tricky." At the 2012 Masters, he declared that the problem in his long-running quest to win his first major championship was himself. "I'm not good enough," he said.

But at age 37, the Spaniard may yet prove himself wrong this weekend.

Garcia shot a 3-under-par 69 in the second round of the Masters on Friday to vault into contention at 4 under for the tournament. He entered the clubhouse tied for the lead with Charley Hoffman, whose first-round lead per-

tered out with a 75 on another cool, windy day.

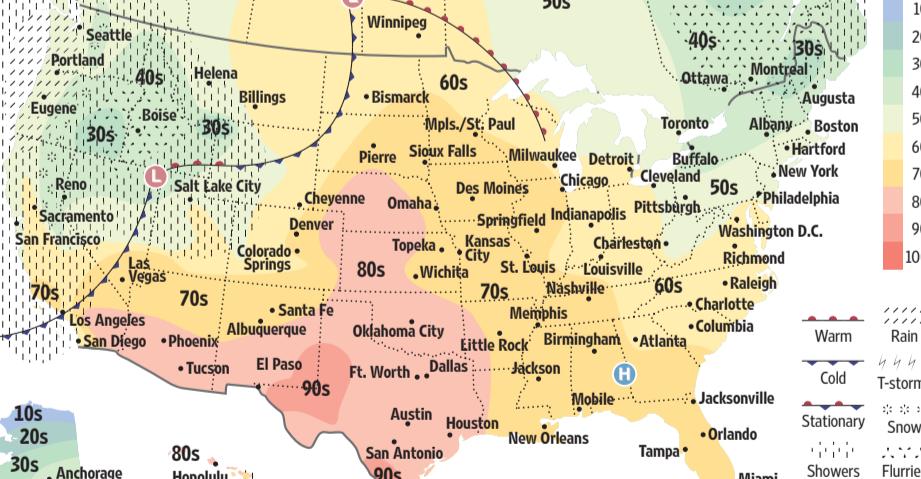
It would be an understatement to say Garcia has been in this position before. Twenty-two times, he has finished in the top-10 at a major. Twelve times, he has finished in the top five. But this weekend will bring the hope that maybe, finally, this major will be the one.

"Having a chance is the best thing," Garcia said, "and winning it, I'm sure it's amazing."

Danny Willett of England became the first defending Masters champion to miss the cut since Mike Weir in 2004. Meanwhile, Stewart Hagestad, a 25-year-old New York financial analyst who qualified by winning the U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship last year, made the cut at 3 over.

—Brian Costa

### Weather



### U.S. Forecasts

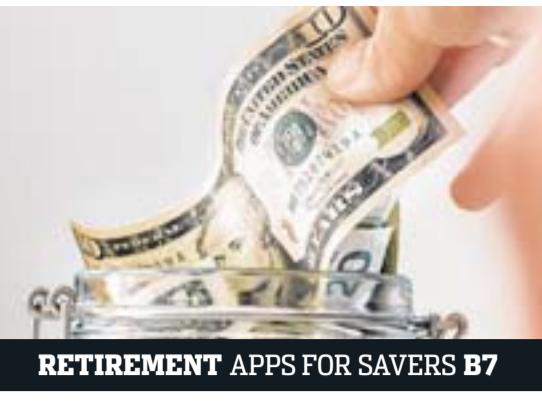
s...sunny; pc...partly cloudy; c...cloudy; sh...showers;

t...storms; r...rain; sf...snow flurries; sn...snow; L...ice

City	Today			Tomorrow		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Anchorage	45	29	s	45	31	c
Atlanta	69	47	s	77	50	s
Austin	84	65	pc	84	69	c
Baltimore	61	38	s	69	51	s
Boise	48	33	c	52	36	pc
Boston	51	36	c	60	46	s
Burlington	43	32	sf	58	49	pc
Charlotte	67	41	s	73	48	s
Chicago	70	56	s	77	61	c
Cleveland	57	44	s	72	59	pc
Dallas	84	64	s	85	66	c
Denver	74	39	pc	56	29	pc
Detroit	60	47	s	70	61	pc
Honolulu	84	68	s	85	72	dc
Houston	82	62	s	84	69	pc
Indianapolis	63	50	s	74	61	pc
Kansas City	75	65	s	75	52	t
Las Vegas	74	52	pc	70	51	s
Little Rock	78	57	s	81	60	pc
Los Angeles	69	51	pc	72	51	s
Miami	78	64	s	80	68	dc
Milwaukee	64	53	s	69	57	c
Minneapolis	75	53	s	67	45	r
Nashville	71	49	s	81	56	pc
New Orleans	75	56	s	79	62	s
New York City	55	42	pc	66	50	s
Oklahoma City	80	62	s	80	56	t

City	Today			Tomorrow		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Amsterdam	55	40	pc	67	47	t
Athens	66	51	s	67	53	pc
Baghdad	86	59	s	83	59	s
Bangkok	94	80	t	95	81	t
Beijing	64	39	c	64	40	pc
Berlin	57	45	c	63	47	pc
Brussels	59	42	pc	68	48	s
Buenos Aires	79	66	t	73	56	t
Dubai	95	78	s	95	77	s
Dublin	59	42	s	55	38	sh
Edinburgh	61	43	s	57	38	sh

City	Today			Tomorrow		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Frankfurt	65	44	pc	72	49	s
Geneva	68	44	s	72	46	s
Havana	78	59	s	84	65	s
Hong Kong	80	72	pc	80	73	t
Istanbul	57	45	pc	57	43	pc
Jakarta	89	75	t	89	76	t
Jerusalem	68	50	s	66	48	pc
Johannesburg	74	57	c	77	56	pc
London	68	48	pc	72	44	s
Madrid	75	44	s	75	45	s
Manila	93	78	pc	94	77	s
Melbourne	80	58	sh	62	52	r
Mexico City	80	53	pc	81	53	pc
Milan	72	49	s	73	50	pc
Moscow	47	29	sh	45	35	c
Mumbai	91	77	pc	91	77	pc
Paris	69	44	s	75	50	s
Rio de Janeiro	89	75	pc	89	75	pc
Riyadh	99	71	pc	97	75	s
Rome	68	48	pc	69	47	s
San Juan	87	71	pc	86	73	pc
Seoul	60	48	pc	67	44	pc
Shanghai	72	55	c			



RETIREMENT APPS FOR SAVERS B7

# BUSINESS & FINANCE



MARKETS PLAYING DEFENSE B10

GEORGE FREY/BLOOMBERG NEWS

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DJIA 20656.10 ▼ 6.85 0.03% NASDAQ 5877.81 ▼ 0.02% STOXX 600 381.26 ▲ 0.1% 10-YR. TREAS. ▼ 9/32, yield 2.375% OIL \$52.24 ▲ \$0.54 GOLD \$1,254.30 ▲ \$4.00 EURO \$1.0591 YEN 111.10  
**South Korean tycoon faces charges in corruption scandal that has roiled nation**

BY EUN-YOUNG JEONG AND TIMOTHY W. MARTIN

SEOUL—Flanked by security guards and dressed in a light-gray suit, Lee Jae-yong, the de facto head of the Samsung conglomerate, entered a courtroom here on Friday and told a judge his birth date, job title and home address, as his trial began in a corruption scandal that has gripped South Korea. Nearby, some of Mr. Lee's

all-star team of 10 lawyers sat in two rows in a courtroom packed with about 150 people. The tycoon had arrived at the complex with his arms and wrists bound by a rope, which was removed before he stepped into the hearing room.

The **Samsung Electronics** Co. vice chairman faces charges of bribery, embezzlement, perjury, hiding assets abroad and concealing profit gained from criminal acts. Four of Mr. Lee's lieutenants at Samsung face the same charges excepting perjury. All five have denied wrongdoing.

During Friday's hearing, the judge didn't directly ask Mr. Lee, 48 years old, for a formal

response to the charges. The executive, who has been in jail since mid-February, hasn't sought bail.

The hearing, lasting more than seven hours, marked the start of a court case Korean media are calling the trial of the century. The case could stretch into next year, meaning Samsung, the world's largest smartphone maker, is likely to face a prolonged leadership vacuum. Mr. Lee's absence from the helm comes as Samsung fends off calls from shareholders to shake up its structure and tries to recover from last year's costly recall of Galaxy Note 7 handsets.

Along with the country's

now-deposed president, Park Geun-hye, Mr. Lee is the highest-profile figure in the corruption scandal. Prosecutors' case centers on some \$37 million that Samsung arranged to pay to entities allegedly controlled by Choi Soon-sil, a friend of the former president. Samsung has acknowledged making some of the payments, but has denied they were in exchange for political favors. Ms. Park, who was removed from office last month, and Ms. Choi have denied wrongdoing.

The trial is getting underway as South Korea's family-run conglomerates, known as

Please see TRIAL page B2



Credit-card balances have risen 6.2% over the past 12 months.

## U.S. Consumers' Credit-Card Tab Hits \$1 Trillion

BY ANNAMARIA ANDRIOTIS

Credit-card debt breached the \$1 trillion threshold in the U.S., joining auto loans and student debt in crossing that level, and hitting its highest mark since the nation's last recession.

The new data from the Federal Reserve marks the latest sign of an increasing appetite for household debt. Rising consumer borrowing is often a positive sign for the U.S. economy as it typically means consumers are spending more on big-ticket items, such as cars, and smaller purchases often charged on cards. And while some are concerned about auto lending to risky borrowers and defaults on student loans, the quality of most credit-card debt remains strong.

Data released Friday show that U.S. consumers owe \$1.004 trillion on credit cards, up 6.2% from a year ago and 0.3% from January. It is also the highest amount since January 2009.

On Friday, the Fed also revised credit-card debt figures it reported in previous months and raised December's credit-card debt level to \$1.001 trillion, making that the first post-recession trillion-dollar card breach. The Fed had previously reported \$998.9 billion for December.

With the February data, credit cards are now the third consumer-lending category to enter into trillion-dollar territory in recent years, following auto loans, which hit the milestone in the past two years, and student loans, which pushed over \$1 trillion before that. The new data is based on the Fed's revolving debt figure, of which more than 95% comprises credit-card balances. It is higher than the Federal Reserve Bank of New York's card figures, though those numbers are also rising.

Consumer debt trends of late reflect some broad changes in the economy, including more workers putting

off home purchases and instead borrowing for other items. Mortgages, while a far larger market, represents a smaller share of overall consumer debt than it did in 2008; meanwhile, auto and student loans have gained ground.

Total consumer debt, including mortgages, by the end of last year was within 1% of the previous peak back in 2008, according to data recently released by the New York Fed. It expects that figure to pass the previous peak later this year.

The big question among economists is how long this bullish streak in consumer debt can keep going. While there is little sign that unemployment will rise soon, economists are looking closely at the impact of rising rates on consumers' ability to afford debt.

"The situation for the consumer is positive right now, but...there are always risks associated with accumulating debt," said Dana Peterson, economist at Citi Research. "Rising interest rates will increase those risks over time."

Looser underwriting standards in several loan categories, including credit cards and auto, also have led many lenders to warn of higher losses to come. For now, most borrowers are paying their debts on time due largely to rising incomes and the low unemployment rate.

But there are signs of trouble looming. Missed payments on consumer loans—while mostly at near record lows—are on the rise in the credit-card market. Personal loan and subprime auto-loan delinquencies are mostly rising.

Rising interest rates pose additional risks, because most credit cards have variable interest rates.

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## Conflicted And Not So Free Of Friction

All financial advisers—like all people who perform a service for anyone else, including journalists—have conflicts of interest. That's true regardless of whether they work for someone else or for themselves, whether

they earn fees or commissions, or whether they call themselves "fiduciaries" who put clients' interests ahead of their own.

Investors should bear that simple truth in mind as the Labor Department announced this past week that it would delay a rule requiring anyone providing specific investment advice on retirement accounts to minimize conflicts of interest.

And you should be wary of financial advisers who aggressively market themselves with the label "conflict free." No matter how sincerely they may believe it, that description is impossible.

This past week I found hundreds of financial advisers' websites that claim to be free of ethical dilemmas. Such assertions include "with a fee-only adviser you can be assured of conflict-free advice," and "when you work with us, you can feel confident that you are receiving objective and conflict-free advice." Some even say they are "100% conflict

Please see INVEST page B2

## Fresh Face of Swiss Banking Makes Waves at Julius Baer

Collardi's aggressive strategy has divided industry insiders

BY MAX COLCHESTER AND BRIAN BLACKSTONE

ZURICH—In the discreet world of Swiss private banking, **Julius Baer Group AG** Chief Executive Boris Collardi likes to stand out.

After taking the helm of the century-old bank in 2009 at the age of 35, Mr. Collardi doubled its size with a string of bold deals, aggressively expanding the private bank as several Swiss lenders fell by the wayside amid a crackdown on secrecy rules.

Today, as he plans for further expansion, hiring more bankers and perhaps bulking up through more acquisitions, some bankers in Zurich question whether the hard-charging Mr. Collardi is

tipped by some in the industry as a future leader at a larger Alpine institution like **Credit Suisse Group AG**.

"I am today in a very lucky spot," Mr. Collardi says, sitting in his office

out of his depth. Others say the snowboard-loving executive embodies a new generation of go-getting Swiss financiers. As a rare Swiss top banking executive, he is

In Zurich, that makes Mr. Collardi a local celebrity of sorts. A keen networker, he has been snapped on the red carpet with Leonardo DiCaprio, Sophia Loren and Carlos Slim at events sponsored by the bank. But in everyday life, the 42-year-old says he tries not to get noticed. "I live the most discreet life you can imagine," he says.

Mr. Collardi's rise and Julius Baer's expansion have coincided with a Swiss bank-

Please see BORIS page B2

## File Under Sticky: Free Tax Prep and Data Mining

BY PETER RUDGEAIR AND LAURA SAUNDERS

The tax-preparation business isn't really about taxes anymore. It's about charging millions of Americans little or nothing for tax preparation as a way to get at their other information.

**Intuit Inc.**, maker of the popular TurboTax products, this year offered free preparation to millions of Americans with simple returns, and **H&R Block Inc.** countered with a more generous offer. Both companies hoped new customers would pay for add-ons to their returns, or prove to be "sticky" and pay fees some day. Meanwhile, personal-finance portal **Credit Karma Inc.** is charging consumers

nothing at all for its tax-prep service.

Alabama Revenue Commissioner Julie Magee is among those who welcome Credit Karma's offer. She believes people shouldn't have to pay to do their taxes, and she recently helped her 26-year-old daughter file her taxes using Credit Karma's new service.

"It was easy, totally free, and very secure," said Ms. Magee, adding that Credit Karma's "interview process looks and feels like the software people pay for."

Behind the wave of free offers is a significant trend: More Americans than ever are comfortable filing their taxes online.

This development has made TurboTax a household name,

but it now threatens margins across the industry. Notably, the average fee this year for returns prepared in H&R Block's own offices is \$21, while its current online fee for many filers is \$94.

As a result, tax-preparation firms need more than taxes to ensure their future. Some are using tax filers' information to recommend credit cards and loans; others see profits in using data to suggest financial strategies based on tax returns.

"The winner is the taxpayer, and the loser is everyone who can't monetize [their customers]," said Brad Smith, Intuit chief executive.

As millions of Americans hand over some of their most

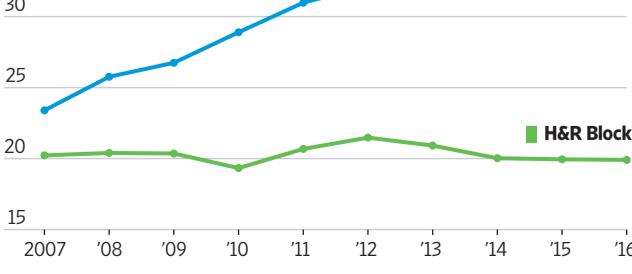
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### Turbocharged

Intuit's TurboTax products for do-it-yourself filers have surged in popularity in recent years.

#### Individual tax returns

40 million



Source: the companies

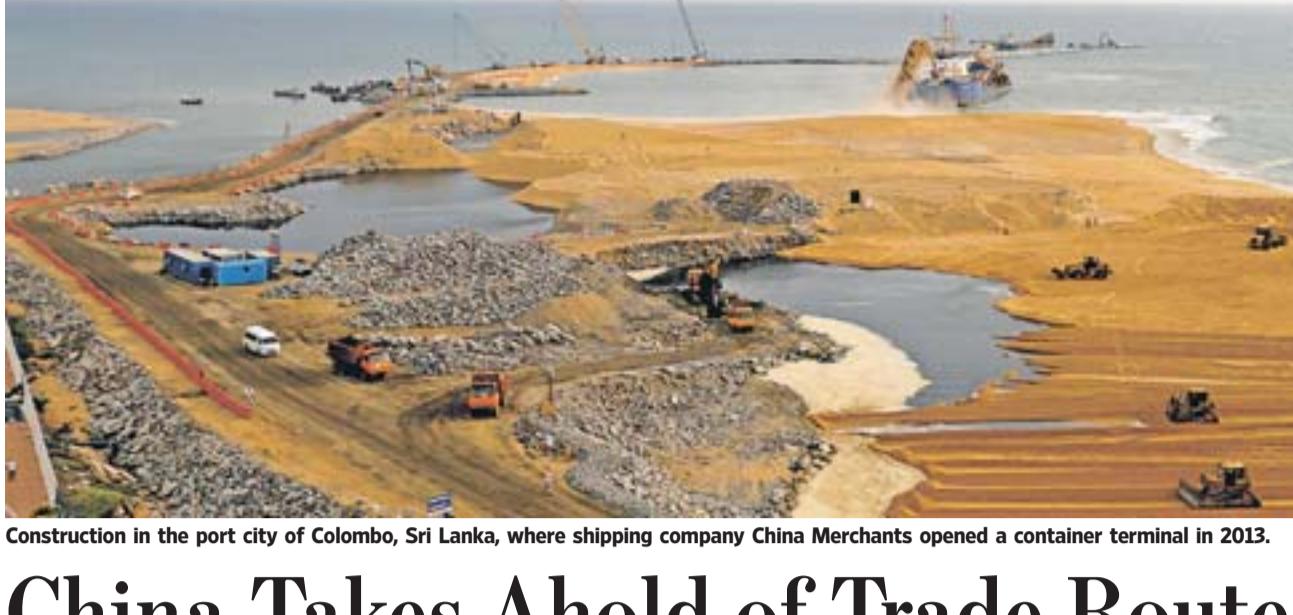
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## BUSINESS & FINANCE



Construction in the port city of Colombo, Sri Lanka, where shipping company China Merchants opened a container terminal in 2013.

# China Takes Ahold of Trade Route

By COSTAS PARIS

Chinese state-run shipping companies are investing billions of dollars in ports worldwide to ease the movement of Chinese goods, as the ocean-freight industry emerges from a slump and as Beijing becomes a vocal promoter of globalization.

The moves are paying off financially for the likes of **Cosco Group** and China Merchants Holdings International Co., but the overriding objective, Chinese officials say, is to control one of the world's busiest trade loops. Ports on the route, running from Asia through the Suez Canal to Europe, would give priority to Chinese vessels.

The so-called Maritime Silk Road, the brainchild of Chinese President Xi Jinping, is part of One Belt, One Road, a \$4 trillion effort to connect China and Europe by land and sea. With the Trump administration looking askance at global trade deals, Mr. Xi has become a champion of globalization.

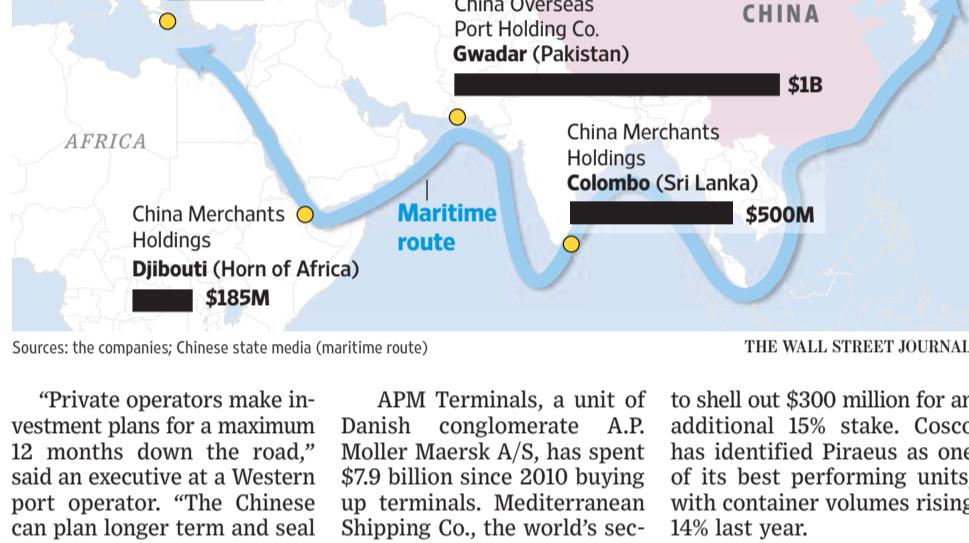
China's strategy "is taking shape with loads of money behind it," said George Xiradakis, of Athens-based XRTC shipping consultancy, who advises China Development Bank. "As the West retrenches, the Chinese are out to dominate sea trade."

In January, state-owned China Development Bank gave Cosco a \$26 billion credit facility to develop its shipping interests. Cosco, whose container line lost \$1.4 billion last year, is the world's sixth-largest port operator and fourth-largest liner company.

### Dropping Anchor

China has been spending heavily on ports for its Maritime Silk Road initiative.

Chinese investments in ports since 2010:



Sources: the companies; Chinese state media (maritime route)

"Private operators make investment plans for a maximum 12 months down the road," said an executive at a Western port operator. "The Chinese can plan longer term and seal deals in places like Africa and Asia run by authoritarian regimes where we can't go because of our shareholders and public opinion."

Shipping lines have been adding more ports in anticipation of a recovery in freight rates, which for years have been below break-even levels. Meanwhile, a wave of consolidation has cut the number of container operators from 20 to a dozen, and they have grouped into alliances for sharing vessels and port calls. The trend has port operators racing to attract dockings as bigger, but fewer, ships will serve the main routes.

APM Terminals, a unit of Danish conglomerate A.P. Moller Maersk A/S, has spent \$7.9 billion since 2010 buying up terminals. Mediterranean Shipping Co., the world's second-largest container carrier, in January bought 54% of the biggest container terminal in Long Beach, Calif., from bankrupt Hanjin Shipping Co.

Cosco, China Merchants and **China Overseas Port Holding Co.** have spent more than \$4 billion since 2010 for stakes in 21 of the top 50 container ports, according to research by Theo Notteboom, a professor of port economics at universities in China and Belgium.

Cosco has invested in terminals in Seattle, the Italian port of Vado and Greece's Piraeus. Last year it paid \$300 million for a 51% stake in Piraeus's port operator and has agreed

to shell out \$300 million for an additional 15% stake. Cosco has identified Piraeus as one of its best performing units, with container volumes rising 14% last year.

China Overseas, which has run operations at the Pakistani port of Gwadar since 2013, is investing \$1 billion in projects there. "Ports like Gwadar and Piraeus are important because they move Chinese cargo first, and if you control the ports, you also control how much other shipping lines can do business," Mr. Notteboom said. China Merchants paid \$185 million in 2012 for a stake in the Red Sea port of Djibouti.

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—Trefor Moss contributed to this article.

## BORIS

Continued from the prior page

ing identity crisis. The neutral nation, once a popular place to hide cash from tax collectors, has been rocked in recent years by a series of scandals. Banks, including Julius Baer, have had to pay multimillion-dollar settlements to U.S. authorities for their alleged role in helping American clients avoid paying tax. Those payments hit banks' bottom lines as new regulations aimed at aligning Swiss banking rules with the rest of the world led some foreign clients to pull

Some financial advisers are forthright: Ethical dilemmas are inevitable. "No compensation structure can be conflict free," declares the website of **Sensible Financial Planning & Management**, an advisory firm in Waltham, Mass.

"We talk about that with clients," says the firm's founder, Rick Miller. "Being straightforward with people about what the conflicts are makes for a better relationship."

Such an admission can be the start of a fruitful conversation about whose interests come first. That's a much better basis for trust than any pretense of perfection.



Boris Collardi, right, with Carlos Slim and Sophia Loren.

Investors should, too. If your current or prospective financial adviser claims to be conflict free, download the firm's ADV brochure, a required regulatory disclosure form available at adviser-info.sec.gov or the firm's own website.

Search the document for the word "conflict." Chances are, the firm has told government regulators that its way of doing business raises several conflicts of interest.

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Born in Nyon in the French-speaking part of

Switzerland, Mr. Collardi got into banking at 19, joining Credit Suisse as part of a graduate training program at the behest of his father, who saw it as a safe career choice. Skipping college, he rose through the ranks by learning German and building a strong network of contacts in Zurich. He was sent to help build the bank's operations in Singapore. When he returned, he was in demand as a rare Swiss banker with experience in Asia. He joined the board of Credit Suisse's private bank. In 2006, he defected to Julius Baer to work as its chief operating officer.

The private bank had already been expanding quickly outside Switzerland under the guidance of then-CEO Alex Widmer. In December 2008, Mr. Widmer committed suicide. The following spring Mr. Collardi was promoted to the top job with a simple mandate: keep expanding the bank.

Shortly after Mr. Collardi took over, Julius Baer split from its asset-management unit, GAM, and a series of acquisitions followed, including ING Groep NV's Swiss private bank in 2009 and Bank of America Corp.'s non-U.S. wealth-management unit in 2012. In 2014, Julius Baer

acquired the private banking assets of Israel's Bank Leumi with 7 billion Swiss francs (\$7 billion) under management. The bank's share price has climbed 40% since Mr. Collardi's promotion.

Mr. Collardi doesn't exclude more deals might be in the pipeline. "We will be looking at the bigger transactions in the future," he says.

Mr. Collardi's aggressive strategy isn't without risks. Analysts fret about the pricey expansion. "Costs are going up, and you have to hope that revenues will follow," says Andreas Venditti, an analyst at Swiss private bank Vontobel.

Some people close to the bank worry that the executive, who used to personally sign off on every hire, has too much autonomy. "There is no one above him to control him," says one person familiar with the bank. A member of the board says those worries are unfounded.

As for his own future, Mr. Collardi remains coy, only saying that he is excited to see the bank through the next stage of its strategy. "I have time," he says. "I can do this job another five years, another 10 years even—after that, I will only be 52."

cantly longer if he is found guilty on all charges.

Mr. Lee is the first Samsung leader to be jailed. His father, Samsung Chairman Lee Kun-hee, was convicted in 2008 for embezzlement and tax evasion but was pardoned and never served time behind bars.

Despite the legal and political turmoil, Samsung Electronics' business is thriving. On Friday, the company said it expects a 48% increase in first-quarter operating profit compared with a year earlier, helped by booming sales of semiconductors and displays.

A judge is expected to rule on Mr. Lee's case by late May.

## INVEST

Continued from the prior page

free."

Approximately 70 advisers affiliated with **LPL Financial Holdings Inc.**, the Boston-based independent brokerage and investment firm, feature this claim on their websites: "Because the firm has no proprietary products to sell, LPL Financial advisers can provide truly objective, conflict-free advice and investment recommendations."

In an email, LPL said: "The language on these websites refers to the relationship between the adviser and LPL. By not offering proprietary products" such as house-brand mutual funds or annuities, "LPL allows its advisers to serve investors without conflicts resulting from incentives to recommend proprietary products."

Added LPL: "Of course, in offering financial services, the potential for conflicts of interest often arises as the industry continues to evolve."

**The label 'conflict free' can lull investors into dangerous complacency.**

LPL's regulatory filings disclose several conflicts. For example, LPL affiliates may receive special payments for bringing clients with them from their former firms and may earn more when clients invest in one product or service than in another.

I read some of the "conflict-free" wording on advisers' websites aloud to Brian Hamburger, president of **MarketCounsel**, a firm in Englewood, N.J., that helps advisers comply with investment regulations. "It pains me to hear you read these," he said, "like nails on a chalkboard."

"Conflict free" is good marketing. But it is a bad description of financial advice, because it can lull investors into dangerous complacency.

In almost 17 years of counseling thousands of investment advisers, says Mr.

Investors should, too. If your current or prospective financial adviser claims to be conflict free, download the firm's ADV brochure, a required regulatory disclosure form available at adviser-info.sec.gov or the firm's own website.

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money as a result of the deal.

Prosecutors detailed for the first time discussions that took place in one of three meetings between Mr. Lee and Ms. Park. During the meeting, a prosecutor said, Mr. Lee mentioned Elliott Management Corp., the U.S. activist hedge fund that was opposing the merger. He told Ms. Park that assistance was needed to deal with Elliott, one of the prosecutors told the court.

Song Wu-cheol, Mr. Lee's attorney, denied the exchange unfolded that way. He presented slide after slide of excerpts from the prosecutors' indictment, accusing them of

taking liberties in portraying the events.

Beyond the 2015 merger, prosecutors outlined how they said the Samsung empire and Mr. Lee benefited from their ties with the Park administration. The examples included the potential conversion of Samsung's life-insurance unit into a financial holding company and the 2016 initial public offering of its biologic-drugs unit. These moves, at some point, required government approval or involvement.

Mr. Lee's lawyer argued that these matters went beyond the president's purview because those decisions fell to

other parts of government where she didn't have direct involvement.

Samsung said the corporate actions were part of "normal business activities." The defense team denied that Samsung's assist from the Park administration.

"The 2015 merger didn't require the president's support and there is no evidence that the president was involved," Mr. Song said.

If Mr. Lee is convicted, a prison sentence of at least three years is highly likely, according to several experts on the Korean legal system, though it could be significant.

cantly longer if he is found guilty on all charges.

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## TRIAL

Continued from the prior page

chaebols, face criticism over transparency and how they transfer power from one generation to the next.

Prosecutors on Friday laid out the case as to how Mr. Lee and his lieutenants allegedly maneuvered to ensure executive power would flow to Mr. Lee from his father, who has been incapacitated since 2014 but remains chairman.

Mr. Lee holds just a 0.6%

stake in Samsung Electronics,

the conglomerate's crown jewel. For him, the 2015

## BUSINESS NEWS

# Fox-Sky Deal Gains, but Clouds Gather

EU regulators clear 21st Century Fox's bid for British TV giant; U.K. reviews remain

By STU WOO  
AND JASON DOUGLAS

LONDON—Rupert Murdoch's **21st Century Fox** Inc. cleared the first of several regulatory hurdles in its \$14.5 billion bid to acquire all of British TV giant **Sky** PLC, winning approval from European Union antitrust authorities on Friday.

As Mr. Murdoch tries a second time to consolidate ownership of Sky, more hurdles loom, including possibly a widening sexual-harassment scandal at 21st Century's Fox News.

Some high-profile critics of the deal here are asking British regulators to consider the New York company's corporate culture in their own review of the purchase.

U.K. officials have a broad mandate to determine whether a TV license owner is "fit and proper," and it is unclear whether regulators' evaluation would extend to conduct in the U.S. A cross-party group of British politicians, in two lengthy submissions to telecommunications regulators about the deal, contends such conduct should be taken into account.

A spokesman for the regulatory agency, called Ofcom, declined to comment. 21st Century Fox has said it is committed to maintaining high

broadcasting standards, and says it expects approval of the deal.

In December, Fox offered £11.7 billion for the 61% of Sky it doesn't already own. Fox has said it wants to combine its global entertainment assets with Sky's distribution network and content, including rights to European soccer games.

Sky shares on Friday gained nearly 1%, to 969 pence, in London trading, still significantly short of Fox's £10.75 a share offer, partly a reflection of uncertainty that the merger will go through.

Last month, the deal was referred to Britain's media watchdog to determine whether it meets broadly framed public-interest tests.

Ofcom is reviewing whether Fox's full ownership of Sky will maintain "plurality"—or diversity of viewpoints—across the British media. Fox has said it would.

Mr. Murdoch and his family are major shareholders in both Fox and News Corp. News Corp owns a number of U.K. newspapers, including the Sun, Britain's best-selling tabloid, the Times of London and the Sunday Times. News Corp also owns The Wall Street Journal.

The U.K. regulator also is determining whether Fox qualifies as a "fit and proper" owner of a British TV license.

In recent days, a wave of brands have pulled advertising from Fox News anchor Bill O'Reilly's show, after the New York Times reported he and

21st Century Fox paid millions of dollars to female employees at the U.S. cable news network who claim Mr. O'Reilly sexually harassed or verbally abused them.

Last summer, Roger Ailes resigned as Fox News chairman amid a company probe into his conduct, after multiple sexual-harassment claims against him. The company settled one suit brought by former Fox News host Gretchen Carlson for about \$20 million, according to people familiar with the matter. U.S. federal prosecutors are also probing whether 21st Century Fox properly disclosed to investors settlement payments made to alleged victims.

Mr. Ailes has denied wrongdoing. 21st Century Fox has stood by Mr. O'Reilly, saying he denies the merits of the allegations against him but "has resolved those he regarded as his personal responsibility." Mr. O'Reilly, in a statement to the Times, said he is "vulnerable to lawsuits from individuals who want me to pay them to avoid negative publicity." He said he put previous controversies to rest to spare his children. 21st Century Fox has said "we have and will continue to cooperate on all inquiries with any interested authorities."

After Ofcom makes a decision, the U.K.'s culture secretary can either clear the Fox-Sky merger, refer it to Britain's competition authority for further review or ask Fox to make concessions.

## Bowing to Pressure, KFC to Curb Antibiotics



Fast-food giant **KFC** committed to halting the use of chicken raised with antibiotics commonly used to treat humans, yielding to consumer groups that have warned for years that such practices can help foster dangerous bacteria.

The **Yum Brands** Inc. chain said it would cut antibiotics in its poultry chain by the end of

next year, following other restaurant companies that have scaled back antibiotics used to keep chickens, hogs and cattle healthy on farms and feedlots where animals are raised by the tens of thousands.

**Chick-fil-A** Inc., **McDonald's** Corp., and Subway have pledged reductions in antibiotic use. Suppliers like **Perdue**

**Farms** Inc., **Pilgrim's Pride** Corp. and **Tyson Foods** Inc. made similar shifts.

KFC said cutting such antibiotics out of its U.S. poultry supply chain by the end of 2018 will require changes on 2,000 farms that supply it with chicken strips, wings, drumsticks and other products.

—Jacob Bunge

## Uber Rebutts Waymo Theft Claim

By JACK NICAS

**Uber Technologies** Inc. struck back at a federal lawsuit from the driverless-car unit of Google parent **Alphabet** Inc., saying claims it stole trade secrets are unfounded and simply a tactic to stifle its own self-driving-car effort.

The ride-hailing company requested that the U.S. District Court in San Francisco deny a motion filed last month by Alphabet unit Waymo to temporarily halt Uber's driverless-car program while the case plays out.

Waymo has accused Uber of copying its laser-sensor system for its driverless cars in part by using information from more than 14,000 Waymo files allegedly stolen by one-time Google engineer Anthony Levandowski, who now leads Uber's self-driving-car program.

Uber said in a legal filing Friday that the judge shouldn't grant Waymo's request for a preliminary injunction because the central premises of Waymo's argument "are

demonstrably false." Uber said its laser-sensor system is different from Waymo's, noting among other things that it has four lenses rather than one.

Uber also said it can't find any of the 14,000 files in question on its computers.

**14,000**

Number of digital files that Waymo alleges were stolen

Waymo said in a statement: "Uber's assertion that they've never touched the 14,000 stolen files is disingenuous at best, given their refusal to look in the most obvious place: the computers and devices owned by the head of their self-driving program."

Waymo wants Uber to search Mr. Levandowski's computers for the files, but Mr. Levandowski has invoked his Fifth Amendment rights and refused to turn over documents.

Waymo argued in its initial injunction request last month that files obtained from a vendor and the state of Nevada show Uber was working on a laser-sensor system that "bore a striking resemblance to—and shared several unique characteristics with—Waymo's highly confidential" system.

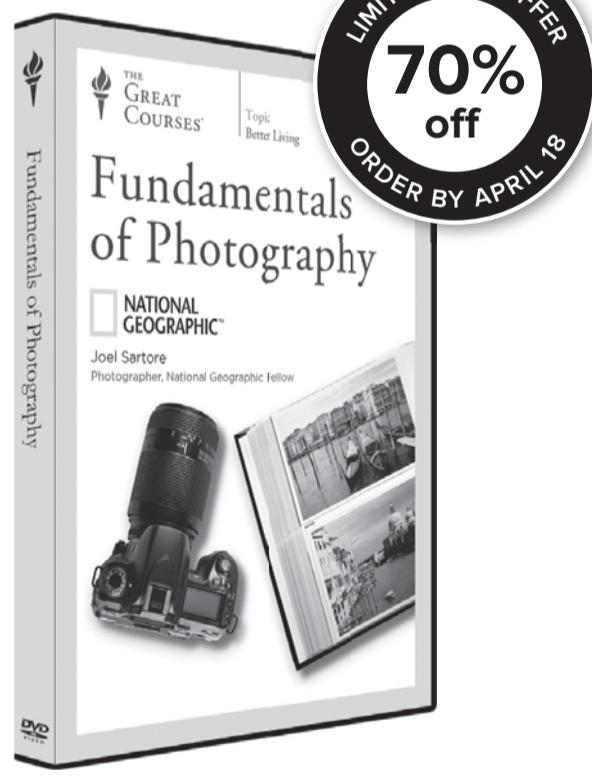
While it develops its own lidar system, Uber said it uses off-the-shelf technology from manufacturer Velodyne Lidar Inc. in self-driving cars it has

on the road now.

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- Composition II—Background and Perspective
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- Let's Go to Work—Wildlife
- Let's Go to Work—People and Relationships
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## BUSINESS & FINANCE

# How to Know When You Should Get Tax Help

For many filers, the biggest question as tax day looms is: Should I do my own return or pay a professional?

The answer is, it depends.

Do-it-yourself filers almost always pay less—and sometimes nothing at all. Many free offers expired in March, but taxpayers with incomes below \$64,000 can still use brand-name services to prepare returns online at no charge through Free File. It's a consortium of a dozen commercial tax preparers,



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**LAURA  
SAUNDERS**

including **H&R Block Inc.** & **Intuit Inc.**, which provide services through a portal at IRS.gov.

**Credit Karma Inc.** is also offering free tax prep, but it has limits. It doesn't offer all federal forms, and it can't be used for all state returns. All taxpayers can also use Free File Fillable Forms at IRS.gov, which allow you to fill in IRS forms and e-file them for free.

The service checks math, but otherwise there's no hand-holding.

For those with less-complex returns, these free services and lower-cost commercial software can provide enough guidance to minimize taxes and avoid errors.

But they are no bargain if they cause a filer to miss out on valuable benefits or make mistakes that attract IRS attention.

*For returns that are complex, paying a professional can bring some tax savings.*

For returns that are complex—either every year or occasionally—paying a professional can ease anxiety and bring offsetting tax savings. Especially if you have one of these issues, consider

hiring a professional preparer for tax planning, tax filing or both:

**Schedule C (for a business):** The rules on mileage, depreciation, home offices, paying contractors and many other issues are often tough to apply.

**Investment sales:** Investors must report their total gain or loss to the IRS. That means knowing the correct purchase price, which includes adjustments such as reinvestment of dividends.

Brokers must report this information to the IRS in some cases, but it's important to check for mistakes.

**Partnerships:** The taxation of partnerships is highly complicated, as they aren't

themselves taxable. Instead, they pass through to their owners their income, losses, depreciation and other items.

Taxpayers who receive a Schedule K-1 from a partnership often need help, especially in the year of a sale.

**Retirement:** The transition to retirement, including payouts taken from tax-sheltered retirement plans such as a 401(k), involves many complex decisions with tax effects.

**Sale of a home:** There's an exemption of \$250,000 of gain for singles and \$500,000 for married couples. The rules are complicated, but even people who don't qualify for the en-

tire exemption often get a partial one. Do-it-yourself programs can't always handle the exceptions.

**Divorce:** It's important to sort out alimony issues, as well as who takes which credits and exemptions for children. "Even good divorce lawyers may not fully consider how to maximize tax benefits," says Jonathan Horn, a longtime tax preparer in New York City who is now on the staff of the American Institute of CPAs.

**Extraordinary medical expenses:** Taxpayers with medical costs high enough to be eligible for a deduction may be able write off other medical expenses they aren't aware of.

## PREP

*Continued from page B1*

private data to corporate middlemen, though, there are risks for both privacy and security. Credit Karma, on its consent form this year, told tax filers it can use their 2016 return data through 2025.

Among current players, Credit Karma has the most aggressive vision of tax prep's future. The company, founded in 2007 and recently valued at \$3.5 billion, expanded by providing free credit scores and reports to borrowers who previously paid about \$80 to get them with other services.

Credit Karma now earns hundreds of millions of dollars a year in fees from credit-card firms and other lenders, which place products with its 60 million consumers. To extend its reach, CEO Kenneth Lin bought AFJC Corp., an online tax-prep provider, for an undisclosed sum last year.

Credit Karma says it encourages, but doesn't require, users of the free tax preparation to share their tax data so the company can match them

with lenders. "Today, virtually no one charges for the credit score," said Mr. Lin. "We're excited that we might have a similar impact" on tax filing.

Last year, Americans used Intuit's software to file more than a quarter of all individual returns. To maintain and extend its dominance, Intuit is piloting a service for TurboTax users through a partnership with student-loan provider Earnest Inc.

If taxpayers consent, Intuit runs their data through Earnest's algorithms, which also pull borrowing and payment histories from credit bureaus. Earnest will then determine how much it can save users on their loans and make offers on the spot.

In exchange for access to Intuit's estimated five million TurboTax customers with student debt, Earnest will pay Intuit a referral fee based on the loans it closes. Intuit is considering expanding such sharing to firms offering mortgages and credit cards, among other financial products.

"All of them need distribution...and everyone's got to pay their taxes," says Varun Krishna, the Intuit executive

who heads the project.

H&R Block, the oldest national tax-prep firm, also made a free tax-filing offer. But unlike Intuit and Credit Karma, H&R Block has an urgent need to drive foot traffic into 10,500 locations operated by the company and its franchisees. These outposts contribute nearly \$9 out of every \$10 Block earns in tax-prep fees.

H&R Block has teamed up with **International Business Machines Corp.'s Watson computer system** to offer tax-wise financial strategies at no extra charge to taxpayers using its preparers.

Starting this year, every Block tax preparer's desk has two computer screens—one for the preparer, and one for the customer following along. The Watson system, based on the taxpayer's specific data, offers suggestions—such as reducing withholding, buying a home or saving more in a company retirement plan. As Watson gains experience, its recommendations are expected to become more sophisticated, and H&R Block hopes they will help get and keep customers.

**Cash Prices** | [WSJ.com/commodities](http://WSJ.com/commodities) Friday, April 07, 2017

These prices reflect buying and selling of a variety of actual or "physical" commodities in the marketplace—separate from the futures price on an exchange, which reflects what the commodity might be worth in future months.

	Friday	Friday
<b>Energy</b>		
Propane,tet,Mont Belvieu-g	0.6455	18,4000
Butane,normal,Mont Belvieu-g	0.7854	13829
NaturalGas,HenryHub-i	3.200	
NaturalGas,TranscoZone3-i	3.120	
NaturalGas,TranscoZone6NY-i	2.930	
NaturalGas,PanhandleEast-i	2.790	
NaturalGas,Opal-i	2.800	
NaturalGas,MarcellusNE PA-i	2.810	
NaturalGas,HaynesvilleLA-i	2.960	
Coal,C Aplic,12500Btu12S02-r,w	51,750	
Coal,PwdrRvrBsn,8800Btu,0.8502-r,w	11,500	
<b>Food</b>		
Beef,carcass equiv.index		
choice 1-3,600-900 lbs-u	190.97	
select 1-3,600-900 lbs-u	181.71	
Broilers,dressed 'A'-u	n.a.	
Broilers,National comp wghtd-u,w	0.9741	
Butter,A Chicago	2,0975	
Cheddar cheese,bbi,Chicago	143.50	
Cheddar cheese,bk,Chicago	146.00	
Milk,Nonfat dry,Chicago lb.	81.00	
Cocoa,Ivory Coast-w	2262	
Coffee,Brazilian,Comp	1,3828	
Coffee,Colombian, NY	1,5709	
Eggs,large white,Chicago-U	0.8050	
Flour,hard winter KC	12.55	
Hams,17-20 lbs,Mid-US fob-u	n.a.	
Hogs,Iowa So,Minnesota-u	62.94	
Pork bellies,12-14 lb Mid-US-u	n.a.	
Pork loins,13-19 lb Mid-US-u	0.9128	
Steers,Tex-Oklahoma,Choice-u	n.a.	
Steers,feeder,Oklahoma,u,w	154.66	
<b>Fats and Oils</b>		
Corn,oil,crude wet/dry mill-u,w	37,5000	
Grease,choice white,Chicago-u	0.2750	
Lard,Chicago-u	n.a.	
Soybean oil,crude,Cent II-u	0.2962	
Tallow,bleach,Chicago-u	0.3000	
Tallow,edible,Chicago-u	0.3350	

KEY TO CODES: A=ask; B=bid; BP=country elevator bids to producers; C=corrected; E=Manfra,Tordella & Brooks; G=ICE; I=Natural Gas Intelligence; L=liverpoolindex.com; M=midday; N=nominal; n.a.=not quoted or not available; R=SNL Energy; S=The Steel Index; T=Cutok Limited; U=USA; W=weekly; Z=not quoted.

\*Data as of 4/6

Source: WSJ Market Data Group

## Global Government Bonds: Mapping Yields

Yields and spreads over or under U.S. Treasuries on benchmark two-year and 10-year government bonds in selected other countries; arrows indicate whether the yield rose(▲) or fell(▼) in the latest session

	Country/Coupon (%)	Maturity, in years	Latest(▲)	20	40	80	100	120	Previous	Month ago	Year ago	Spread Under/Over U.S. Treasury, in basis points
1.250	<b>U.S.</b>	2	1,282	▲	●				1,242	1,330	0,692	
2.250		10	2,373	▲	●				2,341	2,518	1,688	
5.250	<b>Australia</b>	2	1,665	▼	●				1,689	1,859	1,884	38.3
4.750		10	2,562	▼	●				2,587	2,829	2,462	18.9
0.000	<b>France</b>	2	-0.513	▼	●				-0.487	-0.549	-0.443	-179.5
0.250		10	0.889	▼	●				0.902	0.964	0.438	-143.9
0.000	<b>Germany</b>	2	-0.807	▼	●				-0.786	-0.883	-0.501	-208.9
0.250		10	0.228	▼	●				0.265	0.321	0.094	-214.5
0.300	<b>Italy</b>	2	-0.090	▼	●				-0.075	-0.051	0.054	-137.3
1.250		10	2,043	▼	●				2,098	2,187	1,398	-33.1
0.100	<b>Japan</b>	2	-0.214	▼	●				-0.203	-0.290	-0.235	-149.6
0.100		10	0.050	▼	●				0.061	0.070	-0.058	-232.4
2.750	<b>Spain</b>	2	-0.233	▼	●				-0.207	-0.159	0.060	-151.6
1.500		10	1,602	▼	●				1,623	1,728	1,621	-77.1
1.750	<b>U.K.</b>	2	0.114	▼	●				0.143	0.105	0.355	-116.8
4.250		10	1,078	▼	●				1,105	1,194	1,330	-129.5

Source: Tullett Prebon

## Corporate Debt

Price moves by a company's debt in the credit markets sometimes mirror and sometimes anticipate moves in that same company's share price. Here's a look at both for two companies in the news.

## Investment-grade spreads that tightened the most...

Issuer	Symbol	Coupon (%)	Maturity	Current	One-day change	Last week	Stock Performance
JPMorgan Chase	JPM	7.900	April 30,'19	112	-29	135	86.18
Cisco Systems	CSCO	1.400	Sept. 20,'19	21	-24	47	32.96
Ford Motor Credit	F	1.897	Aug. 12,'19	89	-21</td		

# BIGGEST 1,000 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, ICE 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:**  
 1-New 52-week high.  
 2-New 52-week low.  
 3-Indicates loss in the most recent four quarters.  
 4-FIRST day of trading.

**H-**Does not meet continued listing standards  
**I-**Has filing  
**q-**Temporary exemption from Nasdaq requirements.  
**t-**NYSE bankruptcy

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.

Friday, April 7, 2017

YTD % Chg	52-Week			Yld %	Net % Chg		
	Hi	Lo	Stock	Sym	% PE	Last	Chg
<b>NYSE</b>							
10.54 23.90 18.72 ABB	<b>ABB</b>	3.2 2.25 23.29	-0.02				
-9.19 40.72 26.46 <b>AECOM</b>	<b>ACM</b>	... 31 33.02	-2.37				
-4.99 13.32 10.49 <b>AES</b>	<b>AES</b>	4.3 dd 11.04	-0.12				
4.74 75.40 63.45 <b>Aflac</b>	<b>AFL</b>	2.4 11 72.90	-0.05				
-4.52 43.89 36.10 <b>AT&amp;T</b>	<b>T</b>	4.8 19 40.59	-0.01				
1.33 71.06 51.01 <b>AXIS Capital</b>	<b>AXS</b>	2.3 12 66.14	-0.04				
14.11 45.84 36.76 <b>Abbott Labs</b>	<b>ABBV</b>	2.47 43 47.83	0.16				
4.66 68.12 55.66 <b>AbbVie</b>	<b>ABBV</b>	3.9 18 65.54	-0.06				
0.26 126.53 108.66 <b>Accenture</b>	<b>ACN</b>	2.10 117.44	0.63				
25.01 28.89 16.93 <b>AcuityBrands</b>	<b>AYI</b>	3.0 25 17.32	-0.02				
14.08 76.09 39.66 <b>Adient</b>	<b>ADNT</b>	1.6 dd 66.85	0.23				
-16.01 177.83 132.98 <b>AdvancedAuto</b>	<b>AAP</b>	2.3 22 140.05	-0.51				
27.38 6.64 4.39 <b>AdvSimEngng</b>	<b>ASX</b>	4.0 17 6.42	-0.02				
-11.57 6.09 3.36 <b>Aegon</b>	<b>AEG</b>	5.6 21 4.89	-0.11				
4.25 49.66 31.45 <b>AerCap</b>	<b>AER</b>	... 9 43.78	-0.28				
3.51 136.50 104.59 <b>Aetna</b>	<b>AET</b>	1.6 20 128.36	-0.48				
10.67 179.85 130.48 <b>AffiliatedMgrs</b>	<b>AMG</b>	0.5 19 16.81	0.01				
15.98 54.82 39.34 <b>AgilentTechs</b>	<b>A</b>	1.0 34 52.84	-0.31				
6.17 60.10 35.05 <b>AgnicoEagle</b>	<b>AGC</b>	0.9 47 44.59	-0.33				
6.74 111.88 81.17 <b>Agricultr</b>	<b>AGU</b>	3.7 17 93.77	-0.16				
6.13 150.45 124.02 <b>AutoProducts</b>	<b>APP</b>	2.8 20 135.01	-0.18				
-11.57 6.09 3.36 <b>Aeron</b>	<b>AER</b>	0.9 32 19.76	-0.01				
4.29 44.66 31.45 <b>AerCap</b>	<b>AER</b>	... 9 43.78	-0.28				
3.51 136.50 104.59 <b>Aetna</b>	<b>AET</b>	1.6 20 128.36	-0.48				
10.67 179.85 130.48 <b>AffiliatedMgrs</b>	<b>AMG</b>	0.5 19 16.81	0.01				
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15.98 54.82 39.34 <b>AgilentTechs</b>	<b>A</b>	1.0 34 52.84	-0.31				
6.17 60.10 35.05 <b>AgnicoEagle</b>	<b>AGC</b>	0.9 47 44.59	-0.33				
6.74 111.88 81.17 <b>Agricultr</b>	<b>AGU</b>	3.7 17 93.77	-0.16				
6.13 150.45 124.02 <b>AutoProducts</b>	<b>APP</b>	2.8 20 135.01	-0.18				
-11.57 6.09 3.36 <b>Aeron</b>	<b>AER</b>	0.9 32 19.76	-0.01				
4.29 44.66 31.45 <b>AerCap</b>	<b>AER</b>	... 9 43.78	-0.28				
3.51 136.50 104.59 <b>Aetna</b>	<b>AET</b>	1.6 20 128.36	-0.48				
10.67 179.85 130.48 <b>AffiliatedMgrs</b>	<b>AMG</b>	0.5 19 16.81	0.01				
15.98 54.82 39.34 <b>AgilentTechs</b>	<b>A</b>	1.0 34 52.84	-0.31				
6.17 60.10 35.05 <b>AgnicoEagle</b>	<b>AGC</b>	0.9 47 44.59	-0.33				
6.74 111.88 81.17 <b>Agricultr</b>	<b>AGU</b>	3.7 17 93.77	-0.16				
6.13 150.45 124.02 <b>AutoProducts</b>	<b>APP</b>	2.8 20 135.01	-0.18				
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4.29 44.66 31.45 <b>AerCap</b>	<b>AER</b>	... 9 43.78	-0.28				
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15.98 54.82 39.34 <b>AgilentTechs</b>	<b>A</b>	1.0 34 52.84	-0.31				
6.17 60.10 35.05 <b>AgnicoEagle</b>	<b>AGC</b>	0.9 47 44.59	-0.33				
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6.74 111.88 81.17 <b>Agricultr</b>	<b>AGU</b>	3.7 17 93.77	-0.16				
6.13 150.45 124.02 <b>AutoProducts</b>	<b>APP</b>	2.8 20 135.01	-0.18				
-11.57 6.09 3.36 <b>Aeron</b>	<b>AER</b>	0.9 32 19.76	-0.01				
4.29 44.66 31.45 <b>AerCap</b>	<b>AER</b>	... 9 43.78	-0.28				
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15.98 54.82 39.34 <b>AgilentTechs</b>	<b>A</b>	1.0 34 52.84	-0.31				
6.17 60.10 35.05 <b>AgnicoEagle</b>	<b>AGC</b> </						

## MARKETS DIGEST

### EQUITIES

#### Dow Jones Industrial Average

**20656.10** ▼6.85, or 0.03%  
High, low, open and close for each trading day of the past three months.



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

#### S&P 500 Index

**2355.54** ▼1.95, or 0.08%  
High, low, open and close for each trading day of the past three months.



#### Nasdaq Composite Index

**5877.81** ▼1.14, or 0.02%  
High, low, open and close for each trading day of the past three months.



#### Major U.S. Stock-Market Indexes

	Dow Jones		Latest		52-Week		YTD		% chg	
	High	Low	Close	Net chg	% chg	High	Low	% chg	3-yr. ann.	
Industrial Average	20726.07	20606.95	<b>20656.10</b>	-6.85	-0.03	21115.55	17140.24	17.5	4.5	8.3
Transportation Avg	9139.69	9075.76	<b>9104.81</b>	-29.36	-0.32	9593.95	7093.40	17.7	0.7	6.8
Utility Average	706.06	698.98	<b>699.22</b>	-3.81	-0.54	720.45	625.44	5.9	6.0	9.7
Total Stock Market	24482.90	24345.96	<b>24403.22</b>	-18.00	-0.07	24868.78	20583.16	16.0	4.8	8.0
Barron's 400	620.85	617.23	<b>619.35</b>	-0.41	-0.07	635.07	491.89	21.4	2.9	6.9

#### Nasdaq Stock Market

Nasdaq Composite	5892.07	5855.51	<b>5877.81</b>	-1.14	-0.02	5914.34	4594.44	21.2	9.2	12.9
Nasdaq 100	5434.18	5400.08	<b>5418.37</b>	-2.51	-0.05	5440.41	4201.05	21.1	11.4	15.6

#### Standard & Poor's

500 Index	2363.76	2350.74	<b>2355.54</b>	-1.95	-0.08	2395.96	2000.54	15.0	5.2	8.5
MidCap 400	1712.02	1700.67	<b>1706.38</b>	-1.67	-0.10	1758.27	1416.66	19.6	2.8	8.3
SmallCap 600	829.34	822.98	<b>827.49</b>	-0.38	-0.05	862.21	670.90	23.1	-1.2	8.1

#### Other Indexes

Russell 2000	1367.50	1358.01	<b>1364.56</b>	0.14	0.01	1413.64	1089.65	24.4	0.5	6.3
NYSE Composite	11483.72	11428.36	<b>11445.58</b>	-11.71	-0.10	11661.22	9973.54	13.1	3.5	3.2
Value Line	516.25	513.76	<b>514.90</b>	-0.59	-0.11	529.13	435.06	15.6	1.7	2.1
NYSE Arca Biotech	3483.04	3435.70	<b>3477.34</b>	19.02	0.55	3642.30	2818.70	10.2	13.1	11.5
NYSE Arca Pharma	508.82	505.67	<b>507.21</b>	-0.20	-0.04	554.66	463.78	-0.3	5.3	1.2
KBW Bank	91.52	90.28	<b>90.91</b>	-0.44	-0.48	99.33	60.27	45.8	-1.0	8.8
PHLX® Gold/Silver	88.19	85.32	<b>86.12</b>	-0.16	-0.18	112.86	73.03	16.4	9.2	-2.5
PHLX® Oil Service	171.22	168.19	<b>168.58</b>	-2.06	-1.21	192.66	148.37	9.1	-8.3	-16.0
PHLX® Semiconductor	1002.33	992.87	<b>999.35</b>	4.66	0.47	1012.29	630.77	48.9	10.2	20.3
CBOE Volatility	13.43	12.23	<b>12.87</b>	0.48	3.87	25.76	10.58	-16.2	-8.3	-6.2

\$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	After Hours % chg	High	Low
SPDR S&P 500	SPY	13,348.7	235.20	...	unch.	235.82	235.10
Innoviva	INVA	8,032.3	13.63	...	unch.	13.63	13.60
Utilities Sel Sector SPDR	XLU	4,024.5	51.35	-0.05	-0.10	51.42	51.35
Freeport-McMoRan	FCX	3,574.4	13.38	0.01	0.07	13.44	13.33
Oracle	ORCL	3,488.0	44.29	...	unch.	44.35	44.29
Xerox	XRX	2,566.0	7.12	...	unch.	7.12	7.11
Frontier Communications	FTR	2,140.4	2.08	0.02	0.97	2.08	2.06
Van Eck Vectors Russia ETF	RSX	1,953.6	20.65	0.05	0.24	20.69	20.60

#### Percentage gainers...

Akorn	AKRX	364.5	33.16	3.39	<b>11.39</b>	33.49	28.98
Envision Healthcare	EVHC	7.5	64.48	4.34	<b>7.22</b>	64.48	60.14
Asanko Gold	AKG	5.3	2.74	0.11	<b>4.18</b>	2.76	2.62
Loews Corp	L	9.7	48.50	1.26	<b>2.67</b>	48.50	47.20
Endeavour Silver	EXK	6.9	3.52	0.09	<b>2.64</b>	3.52	3.52

#### ...And losers

Rocket Fuel	FUEL	39.0	4.35	-0.11	<b>-2.47</b>	4.46	4.34
Key Energy Services	KEG	6.3	24.54	-0.60	<b>-2.37</b>	25.14	24.54
Juno Therapeutics	JUNO	58.2	23.25	-0.55	<b>-2.31</b>	23.81	23.00
Finish Line Cl A	FINL	59.8	14.55	-0.34	<b>-2.28</b>	14.90	14.55
Silver Standard Resources	SSRI	30.6	10.87	-0.24	<b>-2.16</b>	11.18	10.87

## WEEKEND INVESTOR: RETIREMENT

# How to Use a Phone to Spend Less and Save

An app can help you order a pizza, find a parking spot—or plan your retirement.

In more than a dozen recent experiments, Duke University behavioral economist Dan Ariely used mobile apps

and simple tenets of psychology to help people save more money, pay down more debt and devise and stick to budgets.

Overall, Dr. Ariely's research at the university's Common Cents Lab shows that people enrolled in the behavioral interventions spent less and saved more than those who weren't.

We face "more temptation now than ever" to spend money, he says. "While very few forces help us plan for the long term, lots of forces want something from us right now," including text messages and apps that market products including games and music.

Here's how to replicate some of the results in your own life.

### Round Up to Budget

Few people like to budget. The task becomes more tedious when expenses are difficult to add quickly in your head—like a \$1,024.71 monthly mortgage and a \$354.43 student-loan payment.

To test ways to make budgeting easier, Common Cents sent emails to 3,000 randomly selected users of EarnUp, an app that helps people pay off debt earlier by automating their payments, among other things.

The researchers asked half the participants to consider rounding up their mortgage payments, for example, to \$1,050 from \$1,024.71. They urged the rest to overpay by the same amount, \$25.29.

The roundup group had 37% more takers than the group asked to overpay, according to Common Cents co-founder Kristen Berman. She



Behavioral interventions can help people save more money.

### Four Apps to Help You Fight Inaction

Without a budget, it is almost impossible to build savings and get rid of debt. Here are four apps that can help you overcome inertia to establish better financial habits:

**Digit:** Studies your past spending and income and calculates the amount you ideally should be saving, though you can instruct it to set a higher or lower goal.

**How it works:** Looks for opportunities to funnel small sums—typically, between \$30 and \$90 a week—into your Digit account held at a federally insured savings bank, says Chief Executive Ethan Bloch. If you need the money back, you can tell Digit to return it to your checking account. Digit can also shift into subaccounts funds that you will need to achieve savings goals and cover recurring expenses, such as groceries and rent.

**Cool function:** Just before a bill is due, the app sends the money from the subaccount to

your checking account and reminds you to pay the bill.

**Cost:** Free.

**EarnUp:** Allows users to automate loan payments in one place for everything from a mortgage to credit cards.

**How it works:** Debits the user's account on the same day his or her paycheck arrives to remove any temptation to spend the money. It also urges users to get out of debt faster by making extra debt payments on an ad hoc basis or by rounding up each payment.

**Coming attractions:** Making rent payments and, starting this summer, adopting rounding up as an automatic feature, says Chief Executive Matthew Cooper, who says users can always opt out.

**Cost:** Free to consumers whose banks or lenders pay for the service. Otherwise, it costs \$9.95 a month.

**Capital:** Helps users with saving.

**How it works:** Connects a user's checking, savings or investment account to a federally insured Capital account. The app lets users set rules to pro-

mote saving. For example, you can set a \$50 limit on your monthly Starbucks purchases and tell the app to transfer anything you didn't spend on coffee to your vacation fund.

**Coming attraction:** A debit card allowing users to track weekly spending and savings, create a weekly budget, and set up reserves for expenses such as car repairs.

**Cost:** Free.

**Simple:** Gives you a checking account that calculates how much you can safely spend each month after paying bills and allocating money to your savings goals.

**How it works:** Allows you to subdivide your money into envelopes earmarked for specific goals—such as birthday gifts or a house down payment. Customers get the most out of the app when they use their Simple account and debit card for all of their spending and nonretirement saving, a company spokeswoman says.

**Cool function:** A new feature allows couples to share the same Simple account.

**Cost:** Free.

—Anne Tergesen

says the approach simplifies "mental accounting" and reduces debt sooner, while overpaying only accomplishes the latter.

By paying an extra \$25 a month, someone with a \$310,000, 30-year mortgage at 3.76% can save more than \$7,000 in interest and extinguish the debt a year early.

### Stick to Weekly Budget

People with a budget tend to adhere to a monthly time frame. But using weekly spending targets can better prevent overspending and undersaving.

Consider an experiment Common Cents conducted among food-stamp recipients. Those given a weekly spending budget stretched the benefits three days longer, on average.

"A shorter

time frame allows us to better understand trade-offs," says Ms. Berman.

A \$20 grocery bill may feel like no big deal to a person who has just received an average household's monthly food-stamp allowance of about \$250. But when considered in the context of a \$62-a-week spending goal, \$20 feels significant, says Ms. Berman.

To keep from overspending, download a budgeting app like Capital or Digit, which can sync to a bank account. And select a weekly rather than monthly goal by using Capital's "spend less rule" and Digit's "goalmojis."

Dr. Ariely is on Capital's board, and he is an investor in the company, as well as a columnist for The Wall

Street Journal.

### Save Windfalls Now

It is easier to pledge to save \$1,000 next year than it is to save \$1,000 today. The problem occurs when the future becomes the present. Then it becomes harder to keep the pledge.

That's because choosing to save now means forgoing immediate gratification.

People typically see the future in less-vivid terms than the present. They gloss over future temptations they are likely to face and wrongly assume they will be able to save more than they do today. The solution can be to commit sooner rather than later to saving a portion of future windfalls. That includes raises, bonuses, tax

refunds, and those extra paychecks in months with an additional payday.

In one experiment, Common Cents found that participants who pledged to save some of their tax refunds in February chose to put away 15%, on average, versus 10% for those asked to save on the day the Internal Revenue Service sent the money.

That's a 50% increase based solely on when people were asked to save, says Ms. Berman.

Need help precommitting? Try budgeting app Digit's "goalmoji" feature.

### Use Different Accounts For Different Goals

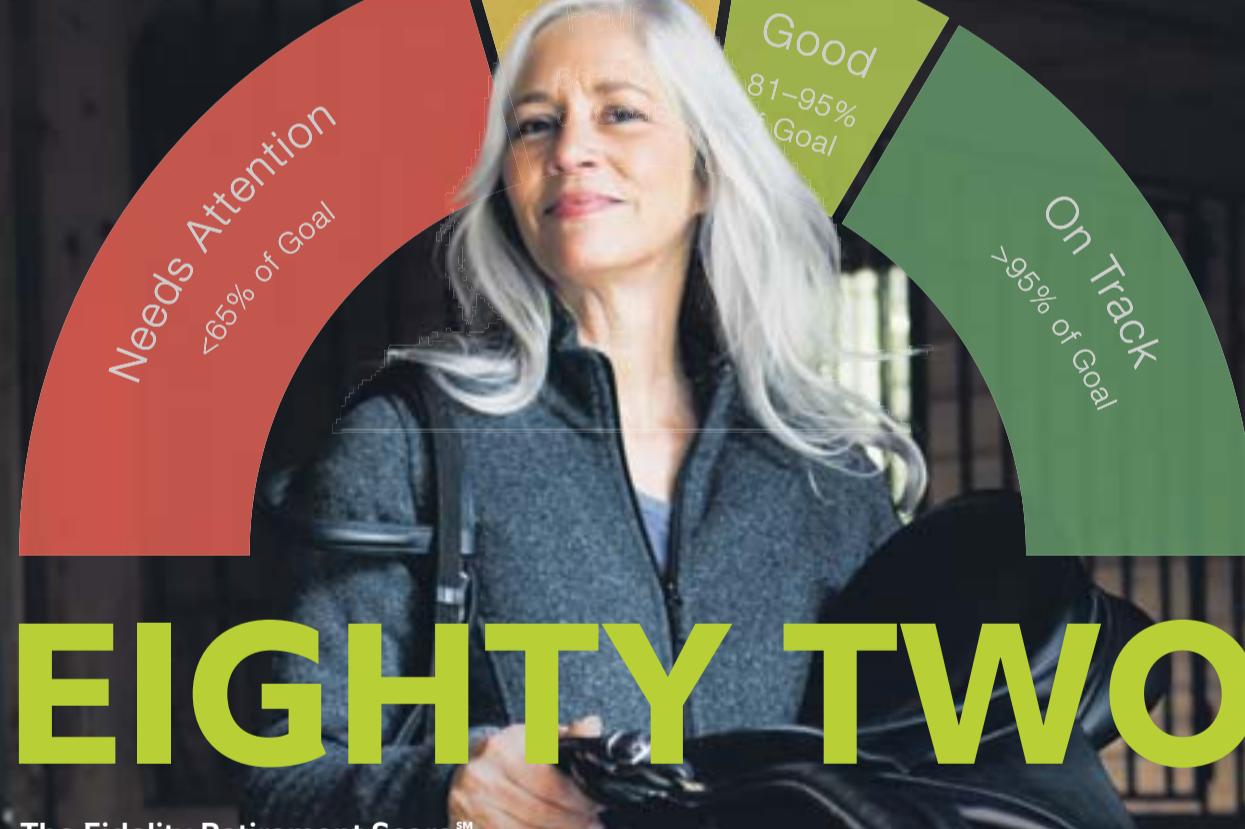
Many people deposit all of their nonretirement savings into one all-purpose bank account. But the tactic can make it psy-

chologically easier to justify using the money for luxuries (a fancy new TV) or unplanned expenditures (new tires).

The trade-off becomes clearer if buying that TV means raiding savings earmarked for a specific purpose, such as early retirement or a Hawaii vacation.

Several programs, including Simple, Capital and Digit, make it easy to save in separate subaccounts, often called envelopes. Envelopes can be added for often-overlooked current expenses, such as car repairs.

Common Cents is helping customers of a credit union use envelopes to encourage them to create "rainy day" funds. "Don't just label your envelope 'car,'" says Capital Chief Executive George Friedman. To motivate yourself, "say what kind of car you want, attach a picture, and share it with a friend."



# EIGHTY TWO

### The Fidelity Retirement Score.™

Another way we're making retirement planning clearer.

We introduced the Fidelity Retirement Score to make it easy to know where you stand. But getting your score is just the beginning. If you move your old 401(k) to a Fidelity Rollover IRA, you'll get:

- Clear, transparent language to help you understand your options
- A one-on-one assessment of your plan to help you determine what to do next, and why
- Simple, straightforward pricing with no fees to open or maintain your account

It's your retirement. Know where you stand.

Be sure to consider all your available options, including staying in plan, and the applicable fees and features of each before moving your retirement assets.

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## MARKETS

## Exchange-Traded Portfolios | WSJ.com/ETFresearch

Largest 100 exchange-traded funds, latest session										
	Friday, April 7, 2017	Closing	Chg	YTD	Symbol	Closing	Chg	%	%	
ETF	Symbol	Price	(%)	(%)		Price	(%)	(%)	(%)	
AlerianMLPETF	AMLP	12.78	-0.16	1.4		IVE	103.66	-0.16	2.2	
CnsmrDiscSelSector	XLY	87.26	-0.30	7.2		IJJ	147.11	-0.23	1.3	
CnsStapleSelSector	XLP	54.70	0.27	5.8		PFF	38.71	-0.13	4.0	
DBGGoldDoubleLgETN	DGP	23.64	0.49	17.6		TIP	114.35	-0.39	1.0	
DBGGoldDoubleShort	ZLG	5.74	-0.52	-16.3		SHY	84.42	-0.13	-0.0	
DeutscheXMSCLIEAFE	DBEF	29.58	0.44	5.4		IEF	105.61	-0.30	0.8	
EnSelectSectorSPDR	XLE	70.36	-0.38	-6.6		ISHs&P500ValueETF	IVP	102.77	-0.01	2.2
FinSelSectorSPDR	XLF	23.52	-0.42	1.2		PIMCOEnHshMaturity	MINT	101.55	... 0.2	
Guggs&P500EW	RSP	90.50	-0.09	4.5		PowerSharesQQQ	QQQ	131.97	-0.05	11.4
HealthCareSelSector	XLV	74.41	0.18	7.9		SPDR&P500LoVol	SPLV	43.39	-0.07	4.4
IndSelSectorSPDR	XLI	65.13	0.11	4.7		SPDR&P500Treasury	BKLN	23.29	-0.09	1.2
ISHInternCredBd	CIU	108.84	-0.28	0.6		SPDR&PBarclYHd	JNK	36.76	0.09	0.9
ISH-3YCreditBond	CSJ	105.07	-0.10	0.1		SchwabIntEquity	SCHF	29.68	... 7.2	
ISH-7YTreasuryBd	IEI	122.97	-0.25	0.4		SPDR&P500	MDY	31.08	-0.14	2.8
ISHCoreHldDividend	HDV	83.85	0.05	1.9		SPDR&P500	SPY	235.20	-0.10	5.2
ISHCoreMSCIEAEEFT	IEFA	57.57	-0.09	7.3		SPDR&P500	SPY	87.77	-0.06	2.6
ISHCoreMSCImgMk	IEMG	47.86	-0.15	12.7		SPDR&P500	SPY	235.20	-0.10	5.2
ISHCoreS&P500ETF	IVV	236.68	-0.09	5.2		SPDR&P500	SPY	87.77	-0.06	2.6
ISHCoreS&P500F	IEH	170.03	-0.09	2.8		SPDR&P500	SPY	87.77	-0.06	2.6
ISHCoreS&P500G	IEH	67.84	-0.01	-1.3		SPDR&P500	SPY	87.77	-0.06	2.6
ISHs&PTotLIStMkt	ITOT	53.85	-0.07	5.0		SPDR&P500	SPY	87.77	-0.06	2.6
ISHCoreUSAvgBd	AGG	105.44	-0.22	0.4		SPDR&P500	SPY	87.77	-0.06	2.6
ISHSelectDividend	DVY	90.88	-0.26	2.6		SPDR&P500	SPY	87.77	-0.06	2.6
ISHedgeMSCIMinRE	IEFAV	65.94	-0.09	7.7		SPDR&P500	SPY	87.77	-0.06	2.6
ISHedgeMSCIMinUSA	USMV	47.65	-0.06	5.4		SPDR&P500	SPY	87.77	-0.06	2.6
ISHGold	IAU	12.08	0.25	9.0		SPDR&P500	SPY	87.77	-0.06	2.6
ISHBoxxInvGrpBd	LQD	117.78	-0.25	0.5		SPDR&P500	SPY	87.77	-0.06	2.6
ISHBoxxSYCpBd	HYG	87.39	-0.05	1.0		SPDR&P500	SPY	87.77	-0.06	2.6
ISHPMUSDEmgBd	EMB	113.65	-0.06	3.1		SPDR&P500	SPY	87.77	-0.06	2.6
ISHMBSetf	MBB	106.38	-0.22	0.0		SPDR&P500	SPY	87.77	-0.06	2.6
ISHMSCIACWIETF	ACWI	63.10	-0.09	6.6		SPDR&P500	SPY	87.77	-0.06	2.6
ISHMSCIEAFE	EFA	61.82	-0.06	7.1		SPDR&P500	SPY	87.77	-0.06	2.6
ISHMSCIEAFE	SCZ	53.80	-0.02	7.9		SPDR&P500	SPY	87.77	-0.06	2.6
ISHMSCIEmgsMarkets	EEM	39.37	-0.18	12.5		SPDR&P500	SPY	87.77	-0.06	2.6
ISHMSCIEurozone	EZU	37.39	-0.21	8.1		SPDR&P500	SPY	87.77	-0.06	2.6
ISHMSCIJapanETF	JPV	51.07	0.22	4.5		SPDR&P500	SPY	87.77	-0.06	2.6
ISHNasdaqBiote	IBB	290.52	0.84	9.5		SPDR&P500	SPY	87.77	-0.06	2.6
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ISHMSCIEurozone										

## MARKETS

# A View From the Floor: Odd Case of Calm Trading

By JON SINDREU  
AND CHRISTOPHER WHITTALL

What if selling insurance against tornadoes made tornadoes occur less frequently? Something like that may be behind the incredible calm in global financial markets.

The theory, advanced by several money managers, bankers and analysts, describes a type of feedback loop in which calm markets make selling insurance against sharp swings in asset prices profitable, which makes the markets more calm, which then makes selling insurance yet more attractive. And on and on.

Behind the loop is a danger: If a giant shock—a big tornado—does materialize, the loop could suddenly run in the other direction, amplifying big moves rather than damping them.

The feedback loop is one explanation for a perplexing moment in finance right now: Despite vast uncertainty—an unpredictable and untested new American president, rising populism in Europe and the twilight of a long era of low interest rates—markets are eerily calm.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which popped above 20,000 earlier this year, has spent much of the past two months treading water. The average level of the CBOE Volatility Index—or VIX, which tracks S&P 500 options prices—reached a record first-quarter low in the first three months of the year, according to Goldman Sachs Group Inc. VIX equivalents for eurozone stocks and Treasurys also remain close to historic lows.

The slump in volatility has forced big money managers to change their approach to insurance. They used to buy insurance in the form of options contracts to protect portfolios against sharp moves. Now, they are selling it.

GAM Holding AG was a buyer last year: It tried to shield against the risk of political events by betting on volatility. But despite the U.K.'s decision to leave the European Union, Donald Trump's election and the failure of Italy's constitutional overhaul, such insurance failed to pay off. The firm has stopped buying it, said Larry Hatheway, GAM's chief economist.

## A Bit Too Quiet?

Wall Street's 'fear gauge' has remained low...



...in the face of growing political uncertainty...



.which may explain why stock-market moves remain subdued.



\*The index measures policy uncertainty in 18 countries, weighted by GDP, by tracking the frequency of local newspaper articles discussing economic-policy uncertainty.

Sources: FactSet (VIX); policyuncertainty.com (uncertainty); S&P Dow Jones Indices (realized volatility)

"It's like digging a hole in the ground deeper and deeper," said Aleksandar Kocic, an analyst at Deutsche Bank. "It becomes harder to get out."

But an unexpected event would shake investors out of their complacency and spark a "very, very intense reaction" in the market, he added.

In the event of a political or economic shock, banks would be sitting on huge profits from their volatility insurance. They may forgo hedging.

At that point, investors who had been selling insurance—and got burned—would likely start wanting to buy it. Investors scrambling for protection would likely push up the cost of options insurance, while some could also decide to sell stocks or other assets to cut their overall exposure.

In this situation, the smoothing mechanism becomes an amplifying one.

"At an extreme, we get events like the 1987 crash, the rest of the time we get 'market corrections,'" said Mark Tinker, head of AXA IM Framington Equities Asia.

On Oct. 19, 1987, a day that later came to be known as "Black Monday," the Dow plunged more than 20%.

To be sure, there may be more to the current patch of low volatility than the interplay between money managers and bank trading desks in the options market.

A lot of other factors seem to be pushing volatility down.

Markets are convinced that central banks will step in if moves get too disorderly. Also, investors and bankers say that political uncertainty has—counterintuitively—acted to damp market moves, because it drives money to stay on the sidelines. And if the low VIX reflects fundamental reasons for subdued volatility, it might make sense to keep selling it.

## On the Edge

The price of Venezuelan oil bonds due this month has been rising because investors expect payment. But prices of later-dated Venezuelan bonds have been falling over default concerns.



Source: Thomson Reuters

Due April 12

Due 2037

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

## Venezuela to Make A Bond Payment

By JULIE WERNAU

Venezuelan officials said late Thursday they will make a \$2.1 billion bond payment due next week, fending off fears of default for the moment.

Nevertheless, many investors think the country still looks vulnerable to default by year's end, an outcome that could inflict more pain on the country's struggling people.

Venezuela's government and its state-owned energy company owe approximately \$8 billion in debt still due this year. Next year, another \$7.9 billion of debt comes due.

With the country's foreign reserves dwindling to about \$10 billion and its options for raising cash narrowing, investors are becoming more skeptical that Venezuela will be able to service its debt much longer.

The country has a 41% probability of a default or missed payment in the next six months, according to the credit-default swap market. That's up from a 34% chance only a month ago, even though oil prices have been relatively steady.

The bonds that have a payment due on Wednesday were

issued by Petróleos de Venezuela SA, the state oil-and-gas company known as PdVSA that has suffered a cash crunch since oil prices began plunging in 2014. Venezuela has bountiful oil reserves, but under-investment has led to a sharp decline in output.

The country has spiraled into a crippling economic crisis marked by a shortage of basic goods, rising crime and soaring inflation.

Despite this, President Nicolás Maduro has prioritized debt payments to PdVSA's mostly foreign bondholders. Government officials fear that a default could cause the country to lose control of the oil giant, which provides nearly all of the foreign currency used by Venezuela to import everything from milk and medical supplies to machinery parts.

"The dollars aren't enough to pay for food and debt service," said Alejo Czerwonko, an emerging-markets investor at UBS Wealth Management. "So you need to find dollars under the couch and mattress to make ends meet."

Anatoly Kurmanov contributed to this article.

**The volatility slump has forced money managers to change their approach.**

nearly 4% this year, according to researcher Morningstar Inc., after recording returns of more than 10% in both 2015 and 2016.

Selling insurance, on the other hand, has been great business, and more money managers are piling in. "Our philosophy is always to be short volatility," said Bernhard Brunner, a fund manager at Allianz Global Investors, who thinks selling options on U.S. and eurozone stocks remains attractive.

That is where the feedback loop comes in.

Deutsche Bank AG research suggests that investors such as

Mr. Brunner are more willing to play the role of insurer than to buy insurance themselves.

When investors want to sell insurance, the buyers are typically bank trading desks. As derivatives dealers, they will generally do whatever trade their clients want.

Thus banks are pushed into betting that volatility will go up.

Banks want to hedge those bets. The main way to do that is to buy assets the options are insuring whenever the market falls and sell those assets when it rises. If, say, a falling stock continues to fall, the bank will make money because its volatility insurance pays off. But those profits will be offset by money lost due to the decline in the stock's price.

Likewise, if the falling stock quickly reverses course, the bank loses the premiums it paid for volatility insurance but wins on the stock itself.

The effect of that hedging, though, is to smooth out stock-price movements—to reduce the chances that tornadoes will develop. The lessened likelihood of tornadoes makes selling the insurance more attractive, and so on.

But if the loop is depressing volatility, investors are exposed to a sudden return of sharp swings, some warn.

## China's Reserves Increase

BEIJING—China's foreign-exchange reserves inched up for the second consecutive month in March, as a weaker dollar and strict capital controls gave Beijing a break from dipping into its currency pile to defend the yuan.

The reserves ended March at \$3.009 trillion, up \$3.96 billion from a month earlier and following a gain of \$6.92 billion in February, the People's Bank of China reported Friday. Economists polled by The Wall Street Journal had expected a \$10 billion rise in March.

The recovery suggests that after 16 months of selling foreign exchange to prop up the yuan, the central bank largely halted its intervention in March, said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics—though policy makers could feel pressure to resume if the dollar strengthens again, setting off yuan bearishness and spurring capital outflows.

In the near term, the recently tightened capital controls and a softer dollar will help steady the reserves, said Yang Zhao, an economist at Nomura Group, "except for certain times when the markets are nervous about the yuan."

Beijing's pile of foreign exchange last year shrank at an average monthly rate of \$26.65 billion.

The steadyng of the stockpile reflected more-balanced capital flows, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange said in a statement accompanying the release of Friday's data.

—Liyan Qi  
and Grace Zhu

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# MARKETS

## Dow Ends an Eventful Week Flat

Choppy trading for days winds up with little to show for it; Treasurys, gold gain

By CORRIE DRIEBUSCH  
AND CHRISTOPHER WHITTALL

Markets swung on a series of economic data and global events during the week, leaving the Dow Jones Industrial Average seven points below where it closed the previous Friday.

Weak car sales kicked off a week that included a strong report on private-sector hiring, a U.S. missile strike in Syria and a mixed March jobs report.

Stocks bounced between slight losses and gains Friday before settling lower.

The Dow industrials ticked down 6.85 points, or less than 0.1%, on Friday to 20656.10 and was also down less than 0.1% on the week. The S&P 500 dropped 1.95 points, or 0.1%, to 2355.54 on Friday and the Nasdaq Composite shed 1.14 points, or less than 0.1%, to 5877.81.

The S&P 500 fell 0.3% during the week, while the Nasdaq Composite dropped 0.6%.

Stocks opened lower Friday after the monthly jobs report. Nonfarm payrolls rose by a seasonally adjusted 98,000 in March from the prior month, the Labor Department said—below the 175,000 new jobs that economists surveyed by The Wall Street Journal had expected.

However, the data showed unemployment dropped to 4.5% even as more people joined the workforce. That led some investors to believe March would turn out to be an outlier, similar to May 2016, when 38,000 jobs were created versus the 158,000 that were expected. Job gains rebounded the following month.

"I'm not going to panic over one month, but it certainly makes you blink," said Brad McMillan, chief investment officer for Commonwealth Financial Network.

### Mixed Messages

U.S. stocks stalled and havens gained during a week packed with economic data and geopolitical events.

#### S&P 500



\*Yield falls as prices rise Note: Events outside stock-market hours are noted on previous close.

Sources: SIX Financial (S&P 500); Thomson Reuters (Treasury); CQG (gold, crude)

makes you blink," said Brad McMillan, chief investment officer for Commonwealth Financial Network.

Demand for haven assets was strong for much of the week. Government-bond prices climbed following late Thursday's missile strike, but retreated when Federal Reserve Bank of New York President William Dudley reaffirmed that the Fed was getting closer to shrinking its balance sheet.

Fed officials agreed they would likely begin shrinking a \$4.5 trillion portfolio of Treasury and mortgage securities later this year, according to the minutes from their March policy meeting released

Wednesday.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note settled at 2.375% Friday, up from 2.343% on Thursday. Still, yields remained below their previous Friday settlement of 2.396%. Yields fall as bond prices rise.

Utilities stocks, which often move in tandem with bond prices and had been some of the best performers in the S&P 500 earlier in the week, dropped the most on Friday. The sector declined 0.5% Friday, cutting its weekly advance to 0.2%.

Gold for April delivery rose Friday and posted a gain of 0.6% to \$1,254.30 an ounce

during the week.

The missile attack on Syria also sent oil prices higher, with U.S.-traded crude oil gaining 1% to \$52.24 a barrel Friday. Prices rose 3.2% on the week, boosting energy shares.

The ruble fell on concerns the strike could stoke tensions with Russia, which has used its military to back Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. The dollar rose 1.5% against the Russian currency Friday.

Defense stocks were among the biggest gainers Friday, with shares in **Raytheon**, which manufactures Tomahawk cruise missiles, rising \$2.21, or 1.5%, to \$152.96 and defense contractor **Lockheed**

**Martin** gaining 3.12, or 1.2%, to 270.23.

In Europe, stocks rose slightly as investors piled into precious-metals mining companies, with **Fresnillo** and **Randgold Resources** up 1.9% and 4.3%, respectively, in London trading. The Stoxx Europe 600 rose 0.1% Friday and was little changed on the week.

Japan's Nikkei Stock Average rose 0.4% Friday but was down 1.3% for the week.

The mixed signals from the week leave investors looking toward the coming week's retail-sales data for a fresh sign of the economy's direction, said Jeff Rosenberg, BlackRock's chief fixed income strategist.

## Dollar Gains Despite Weak Jobs

By CELSEY DULANEY

The U.S. dollar rose Friday, brushing off disappointing U.S. jobs data as investors focused on the Federal Reserve's plans to tighten policy.

The WSJ Dollar Index, measuring the U.S. currency against 16 others, rose 0.4% to 90.93 as the greenback rallied against the Japanese yen, euro and Russian ruble.

Nonfarm payrolls rose by a seasonally adjusted 98,000 in March from the prior month, the Labor Department said Friday, a sharp slowdown from the prior two months and below expectations for 175,000 additions.

"It's clearly a weak number, but we have to see if this becomes a trend," said Vassili Serebriakov, a currency strategist at Crédit Agricole. Mr. Serebriakov said other aspects of the report showed underlying strength, including wage growth and the lowest unemployment rate since May 2007.

The dollar initially fell about 0.1% after the report.

The dollar's strength intensified after Federal Reserve Bank of New York President William Dudley reaffirmed that the Fed was getting closer to shrinking its balance sheet.

Mr. Dudley also stressed that the Fed would take only a "little pause" in raising interest rates while it unwinds the balance sheet, easing concerns among investors that the central bank would put on hold its plans to raise rates multiple times in the years ahead.

The combination of higher rates and a shrinking balance sheet would bolster the dollar by making U.S. assets more attractive to yield-seeking investors.

—Jeffrey Sparshott  
and Josh Mitchell  
contributed to this article.

## HEARD ON THE STREET

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS & COMMENTARY

WSJ.com/Heard

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## Data Obscure Tight Jobs Market

### Slack Line

Difference between employer and adjusted household-survey employment, 12-month rolling average



Department's survey, and people who missed a paycheck that week weren't counted as employed in the business survey. But people who miss work because of the weather still get counted as employed in the household survey.

The two surveys' differences also may help settle the question of whether the jobs market is as tight as the unemployment rate suggests. During periods of strong employment such as the late

1990s and early 2000s, the employer survey registered far more jobs than the household survey. During the last recession, the opposite was true.

Those gaps probably reflect the jobs market's strength. During really strong periods of employment, people who might not otherwise work, such as retirees, take jobs. But call them up and ask them if they have jobs, and they might say no, because they don't

see themselves as in the workforce—they're just helping out Fred at his store. Conversely, when the economy is weak, more people work off the books—they say they are employed, but their employers don't count them.

The numbers can be choppy, but around 2015 the employer survey started registering more jobs than the adjusted household-survey figures. Over the past 12 months, the gap averaged 270,000 jobs. That isn't nearly as much as the gap of 2.5 million jobs in the early 2000s, but it is enough of an improvement to think there aren't droves of people waiting to enter the jobs market.

Two bright spots in Friday's report that reinforce the market's strength were a continued decline in long-term unemployment and a solid increase in wages. The takeaway is simple: Workers are better positioned to ask for raises, and employers need to pay up to fill jobs. The implications for inflation and profits are considerable.

—Justin Lahart

### OVERHEARD

This story doesn't improve with retelling.

**DryShips**, a Greek owner of dry bulk carriers and tankers, announced late Thursday that it will execute a reverse stock split, effective April 11. Every four shares outstanding will be combined into one share of common stock.

DryShips stock plunged more than 25% Friday morning and closed 32% lower, possibly because its maneuver should sound familiar. This will mark the second reverse split of the year and the fifth time since August 2016. Meanwhile, the latest reverse split comes less than a month after completing a \$200 million share offering, in which the company raised net proceeds of \$198 million.

DryShips shares have experienced extraordinary volatility, including a more than 1,500% rise immediately after the election. But the company is worth a small fraction of its value from several years ago.

That is enough to make investors and day traders seasick.

### Airstrikes in Syria Won't Upend Oil

Given the sensitivity of oil prices to Middle East politics, a 2% jump following U.S. missile strikes in Syria isn't a surprise. Yet unless Iran or other regional actors react in a dramatic way, the attack is unlikely to kick prices much higher for long.

The fundamental equation in oil markets remains unchanged: Strong global growth is pushing up demand, and U.S. producers are responding by ramping up supply. Periodic swings in sentiment over the past 18 months have failed to wrest oil out of its trading range of \$45 to \$60 a barrel—roughly where U.S. shale production becomes attractive. West Texas Intermediate oil closed just 1% higher on Friday in New York, at \$52.24 a barrel.

The fact that prices have been in that range for some time is a reason for skepticism about a sustained leg upward. U.S. supply is at a multimonth high, and there are few signs that drilling activity is slowing. Meanwhile, U.S. demand is rising after weakness late last year, but at a modest pace.

Across the Pacific, Chinese demand is looking wobbly. The Lunar New Year holiday complicates assessments of data from January and February, but preliminary numbers indicate demand softened after a big rise in the fourth quarter. If that trend is validated in coming months, it will be hard for oil to climb much higher.

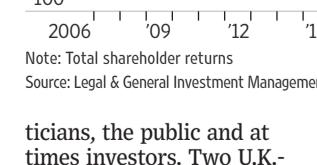
As for Syrian oil production, it amounts to only around 30,000 barrels a day, or 0.03% of global output. There may be no end in sight for the country's long tragedy, but for now its effect on oil markets should remain contained.

—Nathaniel Taplin

## Investors Are Right to Revolt Against Excess CEO Pay

### Pay Grades

Shares of U.S. companies that pay CEOs less perform better.



ticians, the public and at times investors. Two U.K.-based chiefs of global companies, Bob Dudley of oil group BP and Rakesh Kapoor of consumer-products giant **Reckitt Benckiser**, have had their

2016 awards slashed in recent days after investor protests.

U.S. proxy advisers have been active, too, this past week. Institutional Shareholder Services came out against a \$3 million 2016 pay raise for **Coca-Cola's** chief executive, Muhtar Kent, who hasn't met financial goals. Glass Lewis urged investors to reject bonuses at **Credit Suisse**, the Swiss bank that has endured two years of losses. Canada's **Bombardier** has faced a storm of protests over its executive pay, too.

Rewards for mediocrity or even failure appear common. In part this is because pay benchmarking, which sets packages purely in relation

to what other leaders get, has created a ratchet effect whereby long-term executive pay has been hoisted ever higher by its own bootstraps.

Legal & General Investment Management, which slammed ever-increasing multiples of long-term packages to executive's base salaries this past week, said arguments about executives defecting to U.S. companies, or private equity used to drive pay higher, never came true. It also noted that U.S. companies with CEOs paid above the median total of their peers have underperformed those companies whose CEOs got less than the median.

Norway's preference to

have executives hold lots of shares is no guarantee they will make sound long-term decisions. Lehman Brothers in 2008 blew that argument up.

The time scale for awards is a more difficult question: A fashion retailer lives or dies far faster than a life insurer. However, keeping executives exposed to a company's performance for several years after they leave should help to ensure that they don't tune performance to peak just as they cash out.

In an age of populism, pay is political. Investors and boards should use their powers for change before someone else does it for them.

—Paul J. Davies

Harold Bloom  
on Falstaff's joy  
and the current  
woes of the  
humanities



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# REVIEW



Spring into  
books on owls,  
Prince Charles  
and dystopias.  
A special section

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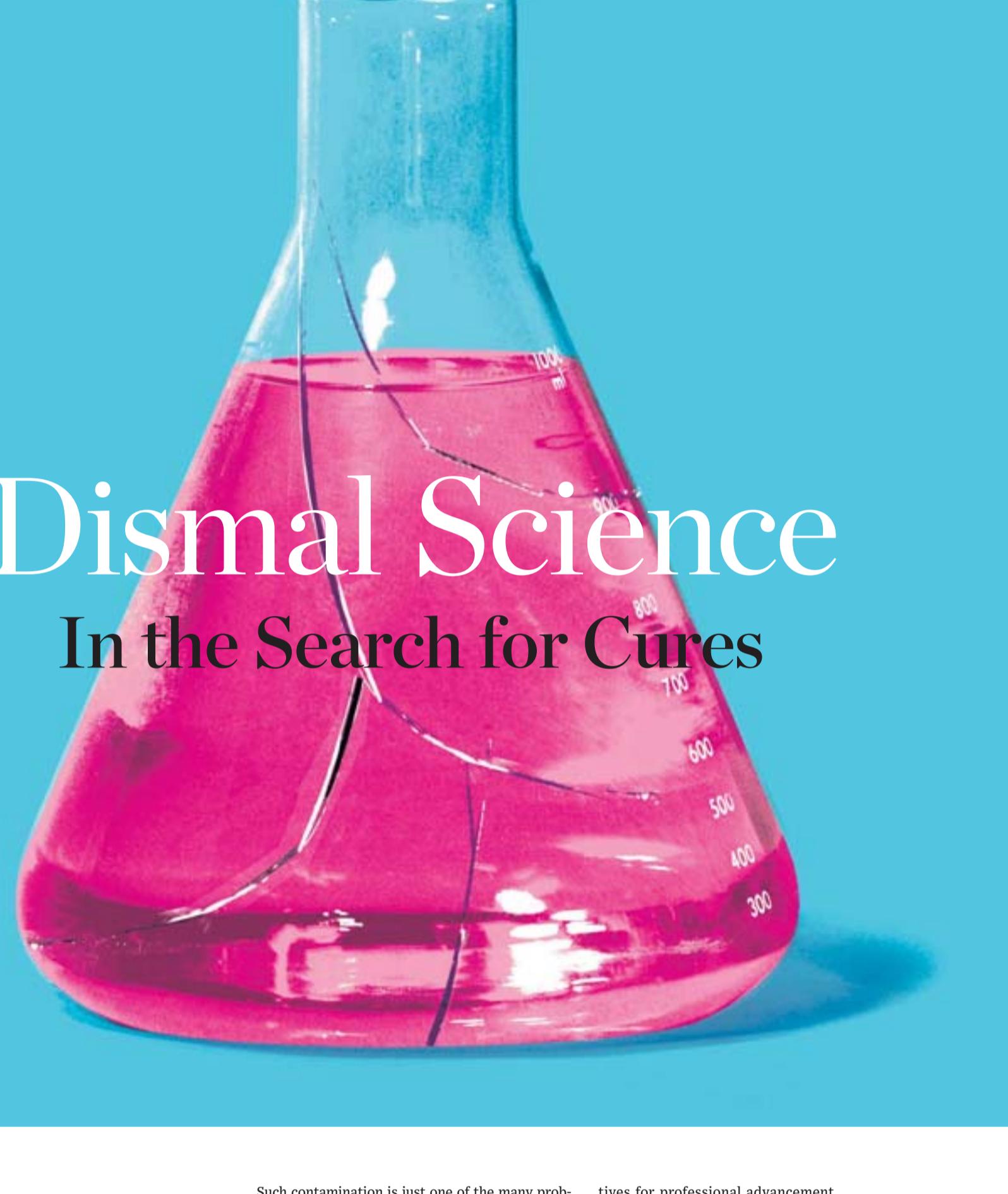
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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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## Dismal Science In the Search for Cures



BY RICHARD HARRIS

**L**ATER THIS MONTH, HBO will air a movie starring Oprah Winfrey about the story of Henrietta Lacks, an African-American woman who died of cervical cancer in 1951 but whose cells live on today in laboratories around the world. The film, based on Rebecca Skloot's best-selling book "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks," explores the Lacks family's struggle to get recognition for the crucial contribution that the Maryland woman inadvertently made to science. Her cancerous cells, dubbed HeLa, were extracted and cultured at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and became the first perpetual supply of cancer cells to be used in medical research.

But there is more to the story of HeLa than this compelling personal angle. The cells neatly illustrate a serious problem in biomedical research: Because they reproduce so quickly and have been mishandled so frequently over the years, HeLa cells have proved to be a serious contaminant. They have ruined countless experiments, fooling generations of scientists who hadn't realized that the cells had crept into their flasks. One careless moment in the lab can let HeLa overtake and crowd out other cells, so that scientists who think they are studying liver cancer, for example, are in fact doing nothing of the sort.

Such contamination is just one of the many problems now confronting biomedical research. Scientists point to what they call the "reproducibility crisis"—that is, studies whose results can't be duplicated and are untrustworthy if not invalid. The issue isn't just wasted time and money. Many observers now think that biomedical research worldwide has been so compromised that it is slowing and

Contaminated samples, faulty studies and poor training have created a crisis in labs and industry, slowing the quest for new treatments.

diverting the search for new treatments and cures. Dealing with the crisis, which has been in evidence for more than a decade now, has become a priority in the field. The first step, however, is to understand its origins, which are manifold, ranging from inadequate training and poor lab techniques to a funding squeeze that creates perverse incen-

tives for professional advancement.

Failure is an essential part of science, and no one expects researchers to get everything right on the first try. Scientific discovery is usually self-correcting in the long run, with useful information, treatments and drugs emerging even from experiments that don't work out. But false starts can slow progress.

How much of biomedical research is actually wrong? John Ioannidis, an epidemiologist and health-policy researcher at Stanford, was among the first to sound the alarm with a 2005 article in the journal PLOS Medicine. He showed that small sample sizes and bias in study design were chronic problems in the field and served to grossly overestimate positive results. His dramatic bottom line was that "most published research findings are false."

The problem is especially acute in laboratory studies with animals, in which scientists often use just a few animals and fail to select them randomly. Such errors inevitably introduce bias. Large-scale human studies, of the sort used in drug testing, are less likely to be compromised in this way, but they have their own failings: It's tempting for scientists (like everyone else)

*Please turn to the next page*

*Mr. Harris is a longtime science correspondent at NPR News. This piece is adapted from his new book, "Rigor Mortis: How Sloppy Science Creates Worthless Cures, Crushes Hope and Wastes Billions," published by Basic Books.*

## INSIDE



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## REVIEW

# Research That's False and Misleading

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to see what they want to see in their findings, and data may be cherry-picked or massaged to arrive at a desired conclusion.

A paper published in February in the journal PLOS One by Estelle Dumas-Mallet and colleagues at the University of Bordeaux tracked 156 biomedical studies that had been the subject of stories in major English-language newspapers. Follow-up studies, they showed, overturned half of those initial positive results (though such disconfirmation rarely got follow-up news coverage). The studies dealt with a wide range of issues, including the biology of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, new breast-cancer susceptibility genes, a reported link between pesticide exposure and Parkinson's disease, and the role of a virus in autism.

Reviews by pharmaceutical companies have delivered equally grim numbers. In 2011, scientists at Bayer published a paper in the journal *Nature Reviews Drug Discovery* showing that they could replicate only 25% of the findings of various studies. The following year, C. Glenn Begley, the head of cancer research at Amgen, reported in the journal *Nature* that he and his colleagues could reproduce only six of 53 seemingly promising studies, even after enlisting help from some of the original scientists.

With millions of dollars on the line, industry scientists overseeing clinical trials with human subjects have a stronger incentive to follow high standards. Such studies are often designed in cooperation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which ultimately reviews the findings. Still, most clinical trials produce disappointing results, often because the lab studies on which they are based were themselves flawed.

There are many different reasons for this crisis, but as the case of the HeLa cells suggests, contaminated research materials are a prime culprit. The International Cell Line Authentication Committee, a volunteer group of about 20 scientists, has been keeping tabs on the number of misidentified cell lines. Their count is now over 450. HeLa is the contaminant in 113 of those cases, but it is hardly alone.

For many years, a cell line called MDA-MB-425—isolated in 1976 at Houston's MD Anderson Cancer Hospital and Tumor Institute (as it was known at the time) from a woman with breast cancer—was considered one of the most important tools for studying breast tumors. In 2000, scientists ran a genetic fingerprint of this cell and discovered that it was, in fact, a melanoma. That information has been widely disseminated, but even so, scientists have since published more than 900 "breast cancer" reports involving this cell line.

Another key source of error is bad research design: Too many scientists conduct poorly conceived experiments or fail to analyze them properly. They often use too few animals and don't take all the steps necessary to reduce the risk of bias.

Consider the trail of failures in the search for drugs to treat amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Scientists have spent millions of taxpayer dollars over the past few decades to test out seemingly promising drugs to treat this unstoppable neuromuscular disease, which gradually robs people of the ability to move and breathe.

But no effective treatments have been developed. Scientists at the ALS Therapy Development Institute in Cambridge, Mass., set out to discover why. As they reported in 2008 in the journal *Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis*, they found serious defects in almost all of the underlying research. The studies often used fewer than a dozen mice per experiment and didn't take care to avoid significant sources of bias, such as genetic variability in the animals. The ALS institute redid the studies with proper controls and found that none of the dozen or so

asking for suggestions but found essentially nothing. The NIH has since funded efforts to develop methodology courses.

Exacerbating the problem of poor training is the professional pressure to get splashy results. Biomedical research is a hyper-competitive environment, driven in large measure by the competition for funding. The federal government now supports 58% of biomedical research at universities, according to 2014 data from the National Science Foundation, with just 4% from state and local governments and the remainder from university endowments, companies and nonprofits.

Public support for biomedical research, however, has been in sharp decline for some time now. According to the federal government, funding by the NIH declined by 22% between 2003 and 2015, as measured in real dollars. The Trump administration's budget plan would immediately reduce the NIH budget by another 18.3%, though Congress is unlikely to accept such a steep cut.

Funding is so tight these days, according to the NIH, that someone running a lab must write, on average, five grant proposals to get funding for one project. The pressure is intense. Scientists who lose their grants may eventually lose their employees, labs and careers.

"Most people who work in science are working as hard as they can," says Brian Martinson, a sociologist at HealthPartners Institute, a nonprofit research agency in Minnesota. So what's left, he asks, "to get an edge, to get ahead, to be the person who crosses the finish line first? All you can do is cut corners. That's the only option left you."

Scientists hoping to land good jobs or university tenure also need to have their studies published in one of a handful of top journals. No paper in the prestigious journal *Nature*? No job interview. That provides further incentive to pretty up one's work by leaving out inconvenient findings, enhancing images or even avoiding experiments that could undercut a surprising conclusion.

Scientists and science administrators have come to realize that they can no longer afford to ignore this complicated set of interlocking problems. A few researchers, including Dr. Ioannidis and his colleague Steven Goodman, are focusing their work on efforts to improve the practice of biomedical research. At Stanford, they have created the Meta-Research Innovation Center, which aims to find ways to transform work in the field.

"I would be the last to say we've solved all the problems of clinical research," Dr. Goodman says. "But at least we have a decent template of what needs to be done." A crucial first step, he argues, would be to increase transparency throughout the research process.

Brian Nosek, executive director of the Center for Open Science and a psychology professor at the University of Virginia, also believes that researchers should

make all of their methods and data freely available. This would allow the more rapid correction of faulty work—and would also encourage researchers to be more careful in the first place. Dr. Nosek has created the Open Science Framework that is designed to allow scientists to make their hypotheses, methods, computer code and data freely available. For its part, Johns Hopkins University is pioneering a program that verifies exciting results from lab studies before those findings get passed along to biopharma companies.

Some companies also have stepped into the gap. Protocols.io, in Berkeley, Calif., is a repository of research methods, so scientists can record exactly what they've done and use the same formula the next time that they run a study, or share those detailed methods with someone else. Ryffin in Oakland, Calif., is another specialized firm in this niche, with software that helps scientists to map out their experiments, manage scattered data sets, pull it all together for analysis and share it with colleagues.

University deans and departments also could change the perverse incentive system that distorts so much research. Instead of asking professors up for promotion to hand in a stack of all their published work, they could tell scientists at the outset that they will be judged on only two or three important findings. That would encourage them to strive for quality over quantity.

Some simple technological fixes also can help. As of January 2016, the NIH requires scientists getting federal grants to check the cell lines for their studies to make sure that they aren't inadvertently using HeLa or other impostors. An inexpensive test is readily available and could solve the problem of contamination. Researchers have to include the test in their research plan, but it isn't yet clear how the NIH will verify compliance or penalize infractions.

There is no easy solution for the mismatch between funds available for research and the number of scientific mouths to feed. The ecosystem is fundamentally out of balance. Slashing funding wouldn't simply cut out the waste. Peer review already weeds out 80% of grant proposals before research



**A chief culprit in contaminated research materials: the famed HeLa cells.**



HENRIETTA LACKS'S CELLS became the first perpetual supply of cancer cells to be used in medical research. Above, a colored scanning electron micrograph of a 'HeLa' cell growing in culture.

drugs, despite the initial findings, showed any real promise.

The ALS institute now conducts its own lab studies on promising therapies, typically with 32 mice in the testing group and 32 in a control group. Doing it right costs more than \$100,000 per experiment, a sum that most academic researchers are unable to raise for a single study.

But the issue isn't just money. Researchers often don't have the training to design rigorous studies in the first place. Young scientists may take a statistics class or two, but they tend to learn about experimental design in a very ad hoc way, primarily by working as cheap labor in their mentors' labs. In 2014, in an attempt to improve training, Jon Lorsch, who directs the National Institute of General Medical Sciences at the NIH, sought to replicate the best methodology classes he could find. He put out a call to universities

has even begun, including those with weak methods.

There's no formula, of course, for predicting which research program will yield the next wonder drug. If we knew that, there would be no need to run the experiments. But standards and rules, more rigorously applied, can at least eliminate many needless errors. And transparency can help to bring the inevitable errors to light more quickly.

Reforming the professional habits and culture of biomedical research won't be easy, and it's still smart to cast a wary eye on sensational results from the latest study. But real change is starting to take shape. It has the potential to accelerate progress toward the new drugs and improved treatments that everyone wants but that science, over the past several decades, has been struggling to deliver.



## MIND & MATTER: MELVIN KONNER

### In Domestic Abuse, a Gauge of Words and Deeds

**A PERSISTENT CLAIM** about domestic conflict, discussed in publications such as *Scientific American*, is that women can be just as belligerent as men, if not as dangerous. But sharp words and a slap are not slaughter.

The FBI reports that a third of female homicide victims in the U.S. are killed by an intimate male partner, while the reverse accounts for only a fraction of male victims. Husbands are five times more likely to kill wives than vice versa. In England and Wales, which have vastly lower homicide rates, partners or ex-partners killed 44% of female victims and just 6% of male victims.

For families and courts dealing with these issues, a key question concerns the relationship between threats and actual violence. How can you tell when words signal impending danger?

A new study by TK Logan of the University of Kentucky School of Medicine provides some answers. "If I Can't Have You Nobody Will": Explicit Threats in the Context of Coercive Control," published in February in the journal *Violence and Victims*, looks at 210 American women who received protective orders against men in 2006 and 2007. Dr. Logan interviewed all of them within six weeks of a court's issuing the order.

The study covered five unidentified jurisdictions, four rural and one urban. The women were age 33 on average, six out of seven were white, and four out of five were mothers. Dr. Logan gathered information from them covering the six months prior to the protective order and did a follow-up with each of them six months later.

She found that threats mattered. Her study's title, "If I Can't Have You, Nobody Will," comes from a typical threat used by men to achieve coercive control. Others include "I will mess you up" and "You will just disappear."

Women who were threatened very frequently (an average of 99 days over the prior six months) were 10 times more likely to experience severe violence and five times more likely to be raped than women who had received a moderate level of threats (6.5 days over six months). The men in the worst cases were also busy threatening others—family and friends of the victim, children, even pets.

Why is such behavior so common? Some scientists, though not justifying the violence, point to deep evolutionary tendencies. Decades ago, in a study published in *Violence and Victims*, the evolutionary psychologists Martin Daly and Margo Wilson used cross-national data to show that women are at highest risk from their abusers when trying to get away from them.

The researchers saw this in the light of Darwin's theory of sexual selection. Across many species, they pointed out, males exploit strength and aggressiveness against other males to ensure reproductive success. Once they secure a sought-after female, however, the strategy changes. Males must entreat or cajole females into accepting their own small contribution to the process of reproduction.

But what if these efforts fail? Unfortunately, as primatologist Barbara Smuts and her father Robert W. Smuts have shown in the periodical *Advances in the Study of Behavior*, male primates may resort to threats and then force.

The good news in Dr. Logan's research is that threats of harm or death went down dramatically under the protective orders, from 83% of women experiencing them before the orders to 19% after.

Rates of rape and other violence against women have declined over time, but the problem is still enormous. Dr. Logan's research points to possible improvements in intervention. When protective orders are issued, for example, authorities could identify the women at highest risk and monitor their situation more.

"To me, threats are clues," Dr. Logan said.

"We tend to dismiss them because there are so many. We should hone in, not tune out."

## REVIEW

**THE DALAI LAMA**  
(center) after  
delivering teachings  
Thursday at a  
monastery in  
Dirang, India.



TENZIN CHOEJOR/ASSOCIATED PRESS

# High Stakes in the Dalai Lama's Rebirth

The Tibetan leader hints at a reincarnation outside China

BY GORDON FAIRCLOUGH  
AND NIHARIKA MANDHANA

**TENS OF THOUSANDS** of Buddhist faithful poured into the remote Himalayan monastery town of Tawang in northeast India this week—many traveling days over rough roads from distant mountain valleys—for a chance to see and hear a man they consider an embodiment of the divine: the Dalai Lama.

Defying repeated protests from China—which claims Tawang as part of its territory and decries the Tibetan spiritual leader as “a wolf in monk’s clothing” bent on fueling separatist unrest—the Dalai Lama was due to begin three days of public religious teachings there on Saturday.

Beyond the lessons on meditation and Buddhist belief, some see a larger aim in the visit of the increasingly frail, 81-year-old Dalai Lama. Anticipating his own death, he may wish to signal that he could choose, as Tibetan tradition allows, to be reborn in Tawang—still part of the Tibetan cultural sphere but safely outside China.

“It’s a way of subtly sending the message on reincarnation,” says Jayadeva Ranade, a former Indian government official and an expert on China and Tibet. “That’s why the Chinese are so anxious.”

Reincarnation is the traditional means of determining the succession for Tibet’s most important sacred and secular leaders. The Dalai Lama’s rebirth represents a high-stakes collision of the metaphysical and the geopolitical.

The Nobel Peace Prize-winning monk, who lives in exile in India, is a global celebrity and a forceful advocate for Tibetans in China, campaigning for autonomy, religious freedom and human rights.

China, which sees Tibet as strategically critical, is determined to control the reincarnation process. Beijing fears agitation against its control of Tibet, and China’s officially atheist leadership says that the choice of the next Dalai Lama is theirs to make.

But in a March interview with John Oliver on his HBO show “Last Week Tonight,” the Dalai Lama said, “As far as my own rebirth is concerned, the final authority is my say, no one else’s. And obviously not Chinese communists.”

The Dalai Lama—the 14th in his lineage—has indicated that he won’t be reborn in any place under Chinese control. He has also hinted that he might opt not to be reincarnated at all. Asked by Mr. Oliver if he might be the last Dalai Lama, the monk replied that it was “very possible.”

### A visit to an Indian town draws protests from Beijing.

Tenzin Taklha, a spokesman for the Dalai Lama, said that the religious leader was in Tawang at the invitation of devotees eager for him to teach. “There is no other message to anyone,” Mr. Taklha said. He also declined to discuss the issue of reincarnation, pointing to a statement from the Dalai Lama that refers to

Chinese efforts to direct the selection of reincarnate lamas as “brazen meddling.”

In recent months, the Dalai Lama has traveled to the two spots on China’s periphery where the only previous non-Tibetan incarnations of the Dalai Lama originated. In November, he visited Mongolia, where the fourth Dalai Lama—the grandson of a Mongol ruler—was born in 1589. The trip drew a sharp response from the Chinese. Under pressure, Mongolian officials apologized and pledged not to invite the Tibetan leader back.

This week, the Dalai Lama made the arduous journey to Tawang, less than 25 miles from India’s disputed frontier with China, where the sixth Dalai Lama—a child of a local nobleman—was discovered in the late 1600s. He is planning to visit a small monastery at his predecessor’s birthplace.

When the current Dalai Lama fled China in 1959, he passed through Tawang. He has visited several times over the years, most recently in 2009. The town now has a population of around 50,000, most of them Monpa, who speak a language closely related to Tibetan.

Tawang has had close ties to Tibet for centuries. The town’s monastery, part of the Dalai Lama’s Gelug school of Buddhism, houses

more than 500 monks.

Some locals say that they are impressed by Beijing’s infrastructure-building spree in Tibet. In Tawang, the roads are abysmal, power outages are a daily occurrence, and phone connectivity is spotty. But they also talk about Tibet’s lack of democratic and religious rights and the fact that scores of Tibetans have set themselves on fire to protest the Chinese government’s domination.

“The Dalai Lama is the face of Tibetan struggle,” said Chombay Kee, the president of Yuva Arunachal, a local NGO assisting youth. “If the Dalai Lama is reborn in Tibet or China, they can install a fake one,” he said. “But if he is reborn outside China, outside Tibet, how is it possible for them to control him?”

China asserts that Tawang and other parts of the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh rightfully belong to it—claims dating back decades that India rejects. Beijing reacted angrily to the Dalai Lama’s visit.

“Do you seriously believe that Dalai is only a religious leader?” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters in Beijing this week. “We demand that India stop this move of undermining Chinese interests.” Kiren Rijiju, India’s minister of state for home affairs, said that India “is a democratic country” in which people are free to travel and worship as they please.

Foreign-policy experts see the

quarrel over the Dalai Lama’s visit as a sign of increasingly strained ties between the two Asian giants. India objects to a Chinese project in Pakistan, its longtime rival, that would (among other things) build infrastructure on lands claimed by India. India also blames China for obstructing its entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group, which controls trade in nuclear technology. Meanwhile, China is unhappy with India’s deepening defense ties with the U.S. and Japan.

“The message is—if China doesn’t show sensitivity toward issues that matter to India, India is going to return the favor,” said Srikanth Kondapalli, a professor of Chinese studies at New Delhi’s Jawaharlal Nehru University.

In 2007, China’s State Religious Affairs Bureau issued new regulations, which it termed “management measures for reincarnation,” that laid out a system of government approval and permits for rebirths. Reincarnations of key religious figures must be approved by China’s cabinet. In a swipe at Tibet’s exiled establishment, China’s rules forbid any “disruption or control” of reincarnation by “any foreign organizations or individuals.”

In 1995, the Dalai Lama recognized a young Tibetan boy as the reincarnation of the Panchen Lama, No. 2 in the hierarchy of his school of Buddhism. Soon after, Chinese security forces detained the child and his family. They haven’t been seen publicly since.

China then chose a different Panchen Lama, a boy named Gyaincain Norbu. Now an adult, he supports Beijing and urges Tibetan Buddhism to adapt “to socialist society with Chinese characteristics.” But he hasn’t found much of a following among believers in China or outside. “We don’t believe in their Panchen Lama, we don’t carry his photographs,” said Mr. Kee in Tawang.

## A \$1 BILLION EXPERIMENT IN PHILANTHROPIC INVESTING

BY DARREN WALKER

**SINCE 1969**, U.S. law has mandated that foundations, like the one I lead, pay out at least 5% of their total assets each year to maintain their tax-exempt status. Meanwhile, we put the other 95% of our assets to work in the market, with the objective of earning financial returns that sustain our grant-making capacity over the long haul. This is no easy task—which is why most philanthropic institutions maintain a wall of separation between program work and investment-management operations.

Since becoming president of the Ford Foundation three years ago, however, I’ve been asking what more we can do with our endowment. Why not start deploying it for both financial returns and mission-driven, philanthropic ends? Why not experiment with investing directly in projects and programs that will have a social impact?

This week, we announced that the Ford Foundation will devote up to \$1 billion of its \$12 billion endowment over the next decade to “mission-related investments,” or MRIs. Other philanthropies—such as the Heron and McKnight foundations and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund—are the pioneers in this movement, and pension funds and other institutional investors are making moves in the same direction.

The potential investment pool is enormous. The Foundation Center estimates that American grant-making foundations hold some \$865 billion in assets. The Global Impact Investing Network notes that the pool is much larger when we include other types of institutional investors, family offices and wealthy individuals seeking “double-bottom-line” investments.

The push toward impact investing is viewed

COURTESY OF GRANDEEN FOUNDATION



A VILLAGE SAVINGS and Loan Group in Uganda meets to disburse microloans, 2013.

philanthropic sectors believe that investing should focus exclusively on the financial bottom line, and MRIs have yet to prove that they can provide a reliable rate of return. It is a nascent field, and we still need large, pooled studies of varied asset classes over long time horizons.

Social “returns” have proved even more challenging to measure than financial returns. After all, investors can target so many different kinds of impact: creating good jobs for the disadvantaged, supporting entrepreneurs from underrepresented backgrounds, banking the unbanked, improving public health or promoting a more sustainable environment.

Several institutions that we have supported

with grants—such as the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board—have developed metrics and standards that companies and investment professionals can adopt or adapt to suit their needs. Over the next decade, we expect that the field’s capacity to measure and report on social risks and returns will evolve dramatically, thanks to greater investments of intellectual and financial capital.

We have spent decades shaping and shepherding efforts to generate social impacts and measure them. As part of scaling up the microfinance industry in the developing world, for instance, we have supported the creation of “social-performance standards” that help donors

and lenders hold themselves accountable for getting capital into the hands of the poor, not just more profitable customers.

For us, mission-related investing will demand the same hardheaded pragmatism that we bring to managing all of our endowment assets. We must ask whether the potential returns—in a diversified affordable housing preservation fund, for example, or in an equity fund for tech startups that deliver financial services to the unbanked—are compelling enough to warrant the risks. And are the financial returns attractive enough, given other ways we might invest to generate social impact?

Fortunately, the philanthropic sector isn’t alone in these ambitions. Ordinary investors are also increasingly demanding options that include a social return. “Clients are telling us they want their portfolios to reflect their values and help improve the world they live in,” said Andy Sieg of Merrill Lynch in 2015.

Antony Bugg-Levine, the CEO of the Non-profit Finance Fund, helped to name and establish the impact-investment movement when we served together at the Rockefeller Foundation a decade ago. He argues that our social challenges and social capital should be seen as a kind of figurative balance sheet, with liabilities on one side and assets on the other. We face trillions of dollars in risks and liabilities—from education to infrastructure, from housing to health care—compared with mere billions of philanthropic giving. The challenge is to close that gap.

The Ford Foundation’s \$1 billion is not going to change the world by itself. The trillions of dollars that could follow just might.

Mr. Walker is the president of the Ford Foundation.

## REVIEW

### WORD ON THE STREET: BEN ZIMMER

## Nuclear Escalation on Capitol Hill

**THE SHOWDOWN** in the Senate over the Supreme Court nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch has brought an apocalyptic expression back to the headlines. On Thursday, Senate Republicans finally invoked the "nuclear option," a change of congressional rules intended to override the Democrats' filibuster of the nomination. Judge Gorsuch was confirmed on Friday.

As The Wall Street Journal reported earlier this week, the rules move left "the minority party without any ability to block nominees and enable the president to cater to his party's ideological extremes when his party controls the Senate."

Credit for use of the phrase in this context is generally given to former Mississippi Sen. Trent Lott. In March 2003, when the Senate was wrangling over President George W. Bush's appeals-court nominee Miguel Estrada, Mr. Lott hinted to the Washington Times about a parliamentary strategy that would allow the Republican majority to confirm judges with just 51 votes rather than the 60 needed to sidestep a filibuster from the Democrats.

Mr. Lott "declined to elaborate," the Washington Times reported, "warning that his idea is 'nuclear.' That led to widespread speculation about what the 'nuclear option' might entail. Mr. Lott and other Republicans continued to discuss the rule change, giving it the more palatable label of "the constitutional option." (It was actually Senate Democrats under Harry Reid who would first pull the trigger in 2013, allowing a simple-majority vote for presidential nominees, with an exception made for the Supreme Court.)

The original Cold War usage of "nuclear option" could refer to the threat of triggering nuclear warfare or to the possibility of a country acquiring nuclear weapons. A 1962 article in the American Political Science Review analyzed the defense policies of the U.K. in the late 1950s, when "the strategic nuclear option was a policy for which both the weapons and a doctrine existed."

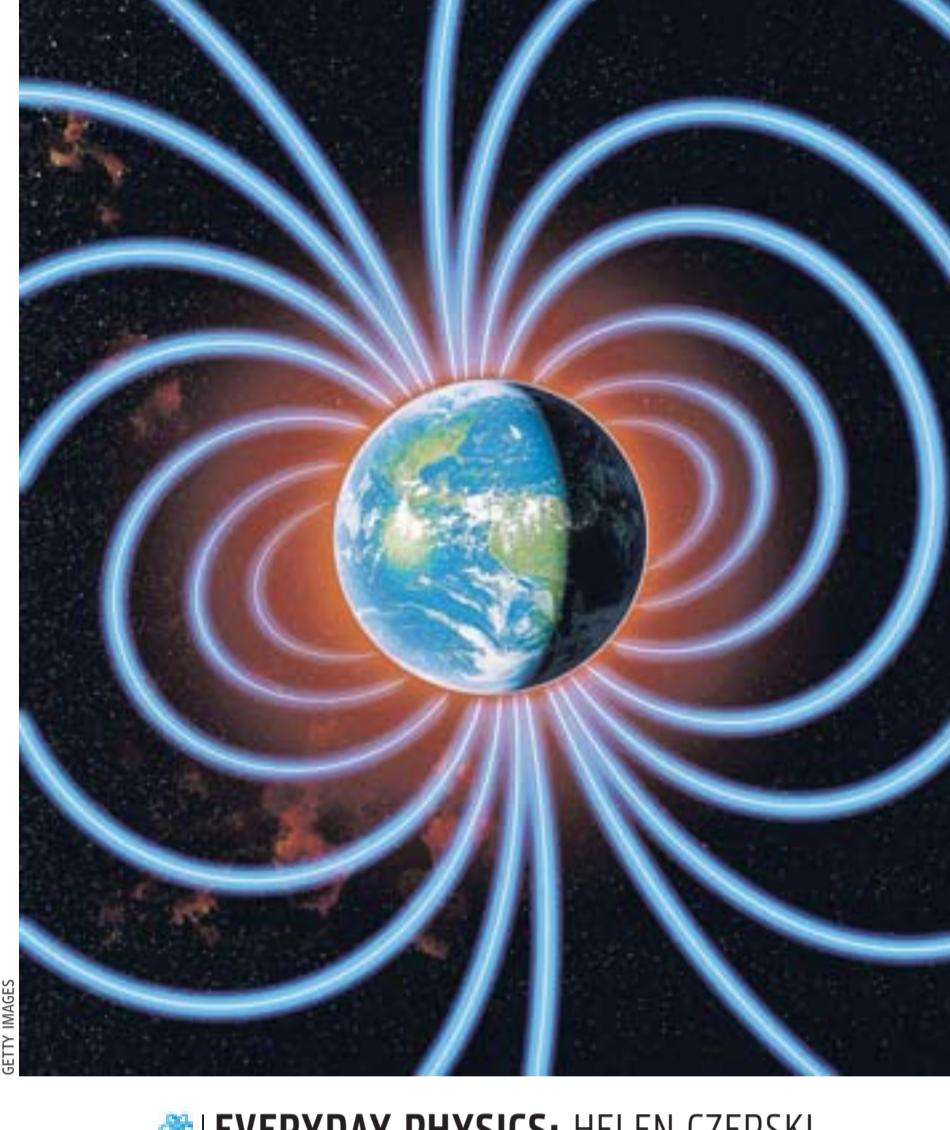
By the 1980s, the phrase was popping up in politics, extended far beyond the actual risks of thermonuclear destruction. A 1989 article in the St. Petersburg Times discussed the

### From Cold War jargon to the high court.

hard choices that incoming President George H.W. Bush would have to make about raising revenue. One drastic possibility was the enforcement of a national consumption tax. "Among tax-watchers, this is sometimes called the 'nuclear option,'" the article stated.

Even in the Senate, "nuclear option" has had a variety of uses. In 2002, just a year before Mr. Lott floated the idea of changing the Senate's filibuster rules, he used the phrase in a different way. At the time, the Democrats were in the majority, and as minority leader, Mr. Lott had a different "nuclear option" in mind. As Roll Call reported, Mr. Lott's threatened "nuclear option" involved the Republican minority "using parliamentary procedure to completely block all work on the floor and in committees to protest alleged mistreatment of their nominees."

When the Republicans won the majority the following year, the new sense of "nuclear option" took over. But while some senators might see the rule change as the equivalent of nuclear armageddon, we can be thankful that the fallout from such infighting is strictly political.



### EVERYDAY PHYSICS: HELEN CZERSKI

## The Sheer Magnetism of It All

ON THE ROCKY, windswept coast of Iceland, the puffins are returning. These stout and comical avian adventurers have spent the winter at sea, swimming, floating and fishing, and now it's time for them to breed.

Surviving the harsh winter at sea is one thing, but what really impresses me is their navigational ability. They don't have a fixed migration pattern—each bird covers hundreds of miles on its own route around the North Atlantic—but they manage to return to the same breeding ground each year.

We're still not entirely sure how they do it, but scientists think that one item in their navigational tool kit may be the ability to sense the Earth's magnetic field. Many bird species have been shown to have this sense, and I envy them, because we humans are completely blind to the magnetic world around us. But a bit of human ingenuity can make up for our lack of a built-in magnetic detector.

A compass needle is a familiar sight: a slender spear suspended in a transparent capsule, aimed at the frigid north. Now imagine another one laid on the table beside the first, and another, and another, with companions in the cupboards, under your bed and perched in the trees outside.

Almost every fluttering needle would point in the same direction, because Earth's magnetic field extends through all of those places and far beyond. Most of the time, a compass will point toward magnetic north: a target that wanders slowly around the Arctic and is currently about 4 degrees away from the spin axis of the Earth.

But there are other magnetic fields around us. Even a small refrigerator magnet will cause a local field about 200 times as strong as Earth's. The smooth flow of northward-pointing needles will also be rudely interrupted by the small knots surrounding our purse clasps, electric motors and loudspeakers. Materials like iron and nickel will gather the local field lines inside them, skewing the magnetic orientation nearby.

As for our electronic devices, they are surrounded, when operating, by a pulsating magnetic jacket, albeit one with an intensity that's dwarfed by the static planetary field around them. Even the biggest beasts in our magnetic repertoire—the field inside an MRI scanner is perhaps 100,000 times as intense as Earth's field—fade into insignificance once we're a few yards away from them. We humans are oblivious to all this subtlety.

Our faithful compass lets us detect some of this world, but it also shortchanges us in a couple of ways. First, it only allows us to see the horizontal part of these magnetic fields. The needle of a 3-D compass would sit flat only at the equator. As you progressed north, it would angle downward, becoming fully vertical at the north magnetic pole.

This angle is an indication of latitude, and evidence suggests that some birds and newly hatched loggerhead turtles may use it in exactly this way as a navigation aid. But even these animals can't perceive the really big picture: magnetic field lines leaving the Earth's surface, soaring out into space and back again in majestic loops that cross the equator, and then tucking themselves back inside the planet on the opposite side.

The other feature that the compass hides is the varying intensity of the Earth's magnetic field at different points on the globe. South America, curiously, is home to a thinning of Earth's magnetic field, a huge blotch on the magnetic map where the intensity is half the typical value in North America.

The ever-present background of Earth's swooping magnetic-field lines is constantly being tweaked and twisted by our own technology, a vast natural structure adorned with humanity's magnetic fingerprints.

I love the idea of this invisible architecture running right through my world. But maybe, for the puffins, it isn't invisible. Maybe for them, it points the way home.

### PHOTO OF THE WEEK



VIRGINIA MAYO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

### R&D: DANIEL AKST

## A Frigid Solution For E-Waste

**THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION** may or may not be televised, but sooner or later, any TV that might have shown it will be obsolete.

Despite advances in miniaturization and recycling, millions of tons of electronic waste still end up in landfills—and reusable materials go to waste for want of cost-effective ways to recover them. More than 46 million tons of e-waste were produced world-wide in 2014, but only 15% was formally collected for recycling and safe disposal, says the Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, a U.N. think tank.

So scientists at Rice University and the Indian Institute of Science, or IIS, have come up with a new technology aimed at improving the economics of reclaiming valuable metals and other materials used to make circuit boards. The scientists hope that their lab technique, which IIS has patented in India, can be scaled up commercially into an industrial process that makes e-waste recycling more profitable.

Their idea, in a nutshell, is to make the stuff really cold and then to pulverize it.

In lab experiments, the scientists put circuit boards from optical computer mice into an argon-filled steel box of about 10 inches on each side, along with a hardened steel ball weighing about a pound. The box was cooled by a stream of liquid nitrogen to a temperature of -182 degrees Fahrenheit. The scientists found that vibrating the box for up to three hours produced a jackhammer effect, smashing its contents into nanoscale bits—particles so small that they are measured in nanometers (one nanometer is a billionth of a meter). Such particles are invisible to the naked eye.

This approach is very different from the techniques currently used for harvesting metals and other materials from circuit boards.

These mostly rely on chemicals or heat, says Chandra Sekhar Tiwary, one of the scientists, who says that the pulverizing method (if it can be scaled up) is likely to be more affordable and energy-efficient and also free of toxic emissions.

It would also harvest more of the reusable products in circuit boards, which can include aluminum, copper, gold, nickel, lead, silver and tin, to cite just the metals. Says Dr. Tiwary: "Burning or using chemicals takes a lot of energy while still leaving waste."

Cold makes things brittle and easier to smash to bits. And unlike heat, which makes things easier to combine, cold makes them more prone to separate. The special characteristics of nanoscale particles can be exploited in sifting them by type and putting them to use. "The settled nanoparticles of metals can be recovered using conventional separation methods," the scientists write, such as a wet shaking table or other techniques employing gravity or magnetism.

One simple approach is immersing the particles in water and relying on sedimentation, says Dr. Tiwary. The polymers, for example, are the least dense and tend to float, while denser materials are more likely to sink to the bottom. The water can be reused once recovery is complete, as can the chilling nitrogen.

Another virtue of the new approach, Dr. Tiwary adds, is that the makeup of circuit boards varies widely from product to product. The new technique, he says, is flexible enough to work on any type of circuit board and still recover all the reusable parts. The next step, he notes, is to secure funding to use the technology on a scale larger than a few mouse-boards but smaller than an industrial facility.

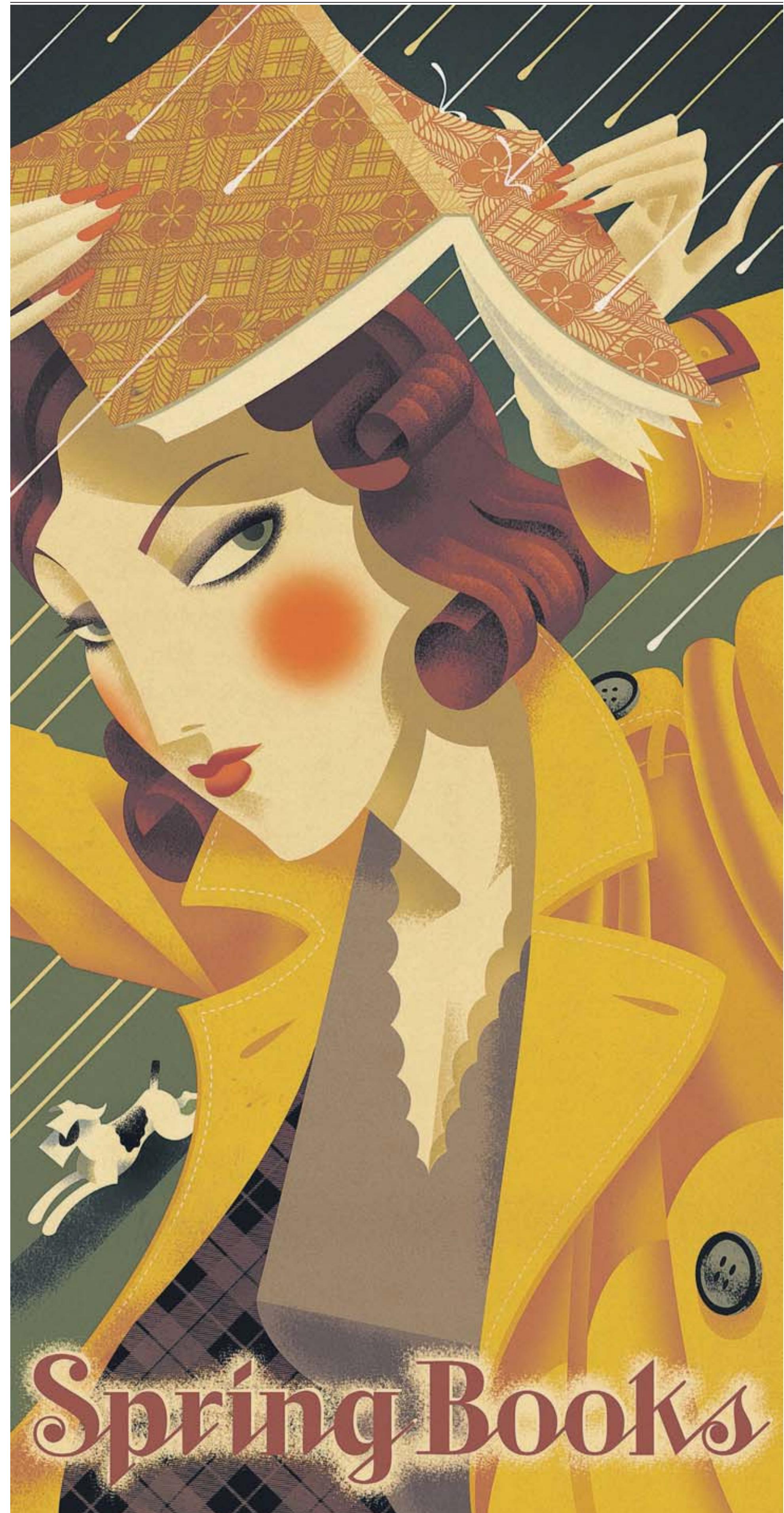
"Electronic waste recycling via cryo-milling and nanoparticle beneficiation," C.S. Tiwary, S. Kishore, R. Vasireddi, D.R. Mahapatra, P.M. Ajayan and K. Chattopadhyay, *Materials Today* (March 20)

### A Solemn Centenary

Royal Canadian Mounted Police marched Friday in front of boots representing the fallen of Vimy Ridge, a harrowing World War I battle fought in April 1917.

**Answers**  
To the News Quiz  
on page C13:

1.C, 2.C, 3.B, 4.D,  
5.B, 6.C, 7.B, 8.A



## BOOKS

'As long as I do not take myself too seriously I should not be too badly off.' —Prince Charles

# The Son Never Rises

### Prince Charles

By Sally Bedell Smith

Random House, 596 pages, \$32

BY QUENTIN LETTS

**HERE IS A CHUNKY BIOGRAPHY** of a 68-year-old who has yet to begin the job for which he was bred and trained. The sexagenarian apprentice: it could almost be one of those Mittel-European fables from children's fiction.

But the central character is not some stooped old cobbler in the back streets of Prague waiting to hammer his first pair of shoes. He is Charles Philip Arthur George Mountbatten-Windsor, Prince of Wales, Earl of Chester, Duke of Cornwall, Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick and Baron of Renfrew, Lord of the Isles and Great Steward of Scotland.

Those ornate titles evoke the lineage of this longstanding heir to the British throne. But it was Charles's marriage to doe-eyed Lady Diana Spencer in 1981 that brought him the most attention. The pair were instantly unhappy, making them only more newsworthy, which in turn accentuated their anguish. Had the marriage been a success, Charles and Di would by now have been aging frumps of negligible interest. As it was, their tale became one of the tragic sagas of our age, lovelessness lit up by palace chandeliers and paparazzi flashbulbs.

No book about Prince Charles can neglect that mismatch—fastidious, foxyish Charles with the younger, more ditzy Diana. But Sally Bedell Smith, in her stately and largely chronological account, sets it in the context of the prince's melancholic disposition and his social projects. These have ranged from helping many thousands of disadvantaged youngsters start businesses, to the more eccentric campaign to save the red squirrel from the depredations of its gray cousin (a rare example of Charles not supporting multiculturalism.)

Unlike some earlier sensation-seeking biographers, who have dwelt on the Diana disaster above all else, Ms. Bedell Smith, who has previously written biographies of the Kennedys and the Clintons, resists any temptation to take sides. During his engagement to Diana, Charles continued to coo down the telephone line to his mistress, Camilla Parker Bowles, whom he had dated discreetly, on and off, almost to his engagement. For her part, the newlywed Diana, an earl's daughter from a broken (if stately) home, was a



GOOD BOY Charles with pet labrador Harvey at the Fernie Hunt Cross Country Team Event in 1979.

quivering tower of melodramas, hurling herself down a grand staircase at Sandringham, the queen's country home, in a bid for attention.

The "Queen of People's Hearts," as she told the BBC she'd hoped to become, mocked her husband's ways: his nightly bedtime prayers, the retention of his childhood teddy-bear and the fact that he allowed a valet to pick his clothes. She quickly came to hate Charles so much that she banished Harvey from the royal court. Was Harvey some simpering sycophant or political aide? No. Harvey was Charles's yellow Labrador. Diana loathed Charles's "wretched dogs." Had that been more widely known, she might not have been so adored by the British, a nation of dog-lovers. Harvey's absence may have only accentuated Charles's habitual glumness.

From childhood, Charles had a solemn side. When Sir Winston Churchill said of the prince shortly before he

turned four that "he is young to think so much," it may not have been a compliment. Charles had difficulty making chums at school, perhaps because they bowed to him. Charles was a shy, diligent pupil—and stoic when taunted on account of his jug ears. On the rugby field he was regularly pummeled by his opponents but would not retaliate.

From such wet beginnings, a playboy was somehow born. He turned into someone who, by his 20s, when not having earnest intellectual debates with his tutors at Cambridge, spent his time "hunting, shooting, polo and fornicating." His Great-Uncle Dickie (Earl Mountbatten) told Time magazine that Charles was forever "popping in and out of bed with girls." In cold print we cannot be sure how much emphasis Mountbatten placed on the word "girls." Such were the hypocrisies of the royal coterie, there was pressure on Charles to find a vir-

gin for his bride. It rather narrowed the field. Another Uncle Dickie hoped his daughter Tricia might be just that ripe Cinderella; nothing came of President Nixon's match-making.

There was pressure on the young prince to find a virgin for his bride. This rather narrowed the field.

British royals are supposed to abjure party politics but Charles surged with anti-modernist opinions on such topics as agriculture, alternative medicine (he's a fan of homeopathy) and even 16th-century Anglican liturgy. He is an enthusiast for the beautiful Book of Common Prayer, an attachment the author unfortunately mentions only briefly. For decades he

has campaigned on these and other matters like a politician, lobbying government ministers with his "black spider" letters—so called for their distinctive, inky script. Yet his fondness for antiquity has not deterred him from employing spin-doctors and harnessing the modern media to help him take on issues he cares about, like genetically modified crops and climate change. He may be conservative, but he is not right-wing.

There have been repeated sallies against the modern architectural profession. The reader may be tempted to cheer as the prince hijacks a snooty architectural awards dinner to tell them their skyscrapers and extensions are hideous "carbuncles." The boy on the rugby field has learned to punch back.

Here is one of the paradoxes of Charles evident from Ms. Bedell Smith's masterly account: encased in his own glass box of privilege, he is sometimes quicker than elected politicians to voice popular dissent. Having seen where narrow duty can lead, he follows his instinct, sometimes naively. In November 2001 he urged the U.S. ambassador to London, William Farish, to delay any bombing of Afghanistan until the monthlong Muslim festival of Ramadan was finished. "Sir, are you really serious?" asked Mr. Farish. "Yes I am," said Charles. Ms. Bedell Smith notes with dry understatement: "The American bombing proceeded as planned."

The political elite's patience with the constitutional monarchy could fray if a king started interfering in such a manner. Might Charles's impetuous honesty yet cost him the crown he has waited so long to wear? Ms. Bedell Smith does not go in for some of the wilder theories, occasionally heard, that Charles should stand aside and let his son William reign in his place.

More than the vicious squabbles with Diana or his happy second marriage in 2005 to Mrs. Parker Bowles—who emerges here as a figure of cagy-voiced stability—it is his cultural and political activism that defines Charles. That activism flows from a desire for the familiar. That same tendency to established ways may be the natural instinct of the British people. The longer Prince Charles has waited to be their king, the more his people have become used to his quirks—and the more, I suspect, they have learned to love him.

Mr. Letts is parliamentary sketch-writer and theater critic of the London Daily Mail.

### POLITICAL BOOKS: BARTON SWAIM

## All Political Lives End in Failure

**IF YOU'RE** a political journalist and have just covered a U.S. presidential campaign, you've just witnessed a drama both terrible and ludicrous: a yearlong pageant of grown men and women pretending to be and believe different things to assorted audiences, a relentless exchange of absurd claims, nonsense accusations and, inevitably, lies. The urge to record the whole tale, and perhaps make a little money on it, must be powerful—and doubtlessly encouraged by all those friends and acquaintances who, hearing your anecdotes at parties, tell you what you believe already: "You should write a book!"

The premise of Scott Conroy's "Vote First or Die" (Public Affairs, 294 pages, \$28) is attractive enough. The New Hampshire primary remains a powerful instance of raw old-fashioned campaigning; "a singular force of participatory democracy in its purest form," as Mr. Conroy puts it. Every four years, candidates of one party or the other, and sometimes both, converge on the state to shake hands and schmooze and debate and generally make nuisances of themselves. While presidential campaigns rely increasingly on expensive ads and large venue rallies to reach much of the rest of the country, for those few months in the tiny state of New Hampshire candidates have to wade in among the natives and speak to them, often in small gatherings.

As a journalist Mr. Conroy has covered the New Hampshire primary at least three times, in 2008, 2012 and 2016, and he knows plenty about its history and traditions. But what was so important about what Mr. Conroy saw on his journalistic ram-

bles chasing candidates? Here he can't find much to say beyond what a thousand reporters and commentators have said already. Nobody needs to be told that Mitt Romney often seems stiff and ill at ease around ordinary people, or that Donald Trump appeals to people's worst instincts. We know already that Ben Carson has some strange beliefs, and Mr. Conroy's dismissive references to him—a "nutty brain surgeon" with "real-deal madness"—are both mean and, less pardonably, unfunny.

There's probably something to learn from Mr. Conroy's chronicle—

caine from an undercover federal agent. At the time, Mr. Radel attributed his poor decision to alcoholism, and he explains the story at length in "Democrazy" (Blue Rider, 304 pages, \$27). "Deep into multiple drinks with my logic and sound judgment long gone," he writes on page 243, "I lost every street smart I had ever picked up." He doesn't know why he tried to buy the coke; he just did. "Sober Trey has a million questions for drunk Trey. Why were you even doing this? Why did you buy it? How did you get that out of control?"

Long before you get to the night of Mr. Radel's arrest, however, you

with unthoughtful and irresponsible politicos like Mr. Radel.

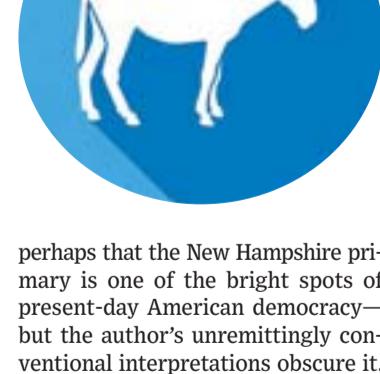
His most enlightening confessions are unintentional ones. In his primary campaign in 2012, for instance, he recalls the news media's discovery that he had been a prolific purchaser of internet domain names, including some likely to be purchased by pornographic websites. His opponents were ready to pounce. What would he do? Mr. Radel's consultant, seeing that the liberal Mother Jones magazine was inquiring about the story, helps him spin it as an attack by left-wingers. "This is an ultraleftist com-

Mastromonaco was candidate Barack Obama's scheduler in 2008 and later the president's deputy chief of staff for operations. "Who Thought This Was a Good Idea?" (Twelve, 256 pages \$27) is the story of a young woman who lands a job in the White House but works so hard she drives herself into bad health and depression.

I readily concede that my own political views predisposed me to dislike Ms. Mastromonaco's book—her admiration for President Obama is boundless, whereas mine, let's say, isn't—but I suspect most readers, even ideologically sympathetic ones, will wonder what the point is. She seems confused on that question herself. There is quite a lot in the book about the author's history—boyfriends, college experiences—and a good bit about the comparatively unglamorous job of running ops in the White House. But why a memoir?

There are some touching moments, for sure. Ms. Mastromonaco, beginning to feel the effects of sleep deprivation and constant work, finds herself unaccountably enraged by a New York Times story that doesn't describe her position with sufficient import. "My temper was getting worse, and my fuse shorter and shorter," she writes. Eventually she finds herself on her bathroom floor drinking wine.

Aside from the impressiveness of the job and fame of its characters, Ms. Mastromonaco's story isn't markedly different from what most young ambitious people experience in their late 20s and 30s: You anticipate an upward trajectory, your life heads nowhere or downward, and eventually, your former self-importance in tatters, you figure out the way forward. These days, that often means writing an aimless memoir.



Chasing history in New Hampshire, running ops in the White House, doing coke in Congress.

perhaps that the New Hampshire primary is one of the bright spots of present-day American democracy—but the author's unremittingly conventional interpretations obscure it. The book's problem is the same as many other campaign diaries: Most of what he saw and heard, the rest of the country saw and heard, too. So he ends up telling us more or less what we knew already.

Trey Radel had a rather more distinctive experience in politics. A former congressman for Florida's 19th district, he will be remembered for exactly one thing, and it might have had the makings of a book: In October 2013, less than a year into his first term, he attempted to buy co-

have to read a great deal about Mr. Radel himself—his wanderings in Mexico and Cambodia as a recent college grad, his career in television news and talk radio, the reasons for his decision to run for Congress, his opinions on the Iraq war and Obamacare and Syria, and on and on.

Indeed, the book's premise, as its unpronounceable title suggests, is as much about the author's personal unraveling as it is about Washington's dysfunction. But you don't need to read Mr. Radel's breezy memoir to know that special interests twist federal legislation for their own benefit or that Congress routinely passes complicated bills its members haven't read. What you may learn from "Democrazy," however, is that Washington is dysfunctional precisely because it's filled

with unthoughtful and irresponsible politicos like Mr. Radel.

Allyssa Mastromonaco is a more likable memoirist than Trey Radel but makes the same mistaken assumption that her readers will care about her quite conventional story simply because it took place in proximity to important people. Ms.



## BOOKS

'Indians who don't dance, who don't believe in this word, will grow little, just about a foot high, and stay that way.' —Wovoka

# The Road to Wounded Knee

### God's Red Son

By Louis S. Warren  
*Basic Books*, 480 pages, \$35

BY FERGUS M. BORDEWICH

**FOR CENTURIES**, Native Americans have been seen through one or another distorting lens of the Anglo-American imagination: as archetypal savages, as the hapless victims of the white man's barbarism, as avatars of ecological rectitude. Even the most sympathetic accounts of Indian history are too often burdened by a facile romanticism that obscures the diversity of native peoples and the complexity of their lived experience. In "God's Red Son," however, Louis Warren, a professor of history at the University of California, offers an original, compellingly written and clear-eyed chronicle of native cultural transformation and ordeal.

Mr. Warren's story focuses on the Ghost Dance, an ecstatic religious movement that swept through western Indian reservations in 1889 and 1890. The Ghost Dance movement presented an amalgam of traditional and newly invented devotional practices, some of them Christian-influenced. It promoted the belief in a redeeming savior and offered a personal guide to peaceful moral action. In practice, it inspired countless men and women to new hope and encouraged the renewal of entire native communities shattered by the onrush of Anglo-American civilization. It also led inadvertently to the massacre of hundreds of helpless Sioux, in December 1890, at Wounded Knee in South Dakota.

Most historians long viewed the Ghost Dance as a tragic sideshow in the epic collapse of native societies during the settling of the West. Mr. Warren asserts that it was in fact a profound religious movement whose influence extended for decades after its seeming disappearance in the aftermath of Wounded Knee. In the course of his narrative, he illuminates the proliferation of ecstatic



WARRIORS OF PEACE A Dakota Sioux Ghost Dance shield.

ish Ghost Dancers to embrace an earthly life of rigorous honesty, to cooperate with the Americans and with other Indians, to send their children to school, and to work for wages or acquire farms. He did not discourage them from attending Christian churches if they wished to.

"Through the Ghost Dance, believers expressed an understandable sense of powerlessness," writes Mr. Warren. "But Ghost Dance teachings also helped them imagine solutions to their predicament. Schooling, wage work, and farming—the commandments of the Messiah—offered paths not only to survival but also to a kind of empowerment. Following the commandments would enable Indians to read and write their own legal documents, challenge land cessions, and assert greater control over their relations not only with Washington but with Americans generally, and even with one another."

Pilgrims from many tribes flocked to meet Wovoka—usually traveling by the white man's railroad—and returned home to their far-flung communities as evangelists. The new religion spread with extraordinary speed from its point of origin in Nevada north to Idaho, eastward across Wyoming and the Dakotas, and southward into Oklahoma, eventually making itself felt on about 30 reservations. "All that fall, Indians danced," writes Mr. Warren, referring to 1890. "They danced from the deep South-west to the Canadian border."

White officials on most reservations tolerated the Ghost Dance and sometimes praised its message of peace as well as its Christian overtones. Not so in the Dakotas, where, Mr. Warren says, Ghost Dance "teachings had a particularly enthusiastic following." Indian agents in the Dakotas panicked, mistakenly believing that the impassioned dancing portended a mass "breakout" from the reservations and a war of extermination against settlers. "The Indians are dancing in the snow and are wild and crazy," a frightened agent told his superiors; another urged that "steps should be taken to stop it."

In the Sioux country, the real causes of unrest were the confiscation of Indian property, the presence of troops who believed they had been mobilized to quell an insurrection, and the threat of starvation. Less than a year before, the federal government had forced a harshly unfair (and fraudulently approved) treaty upon the Sioux tribes, radically fragmenting the Great Sioux Reservation, which had encompassed most of western South Dakota. The treaty curtailed rations to recalcitrant bands and pushed many Sioux to the brink of death as winter set in.

The Sioux bitterly resented such treatment, but there was no sign that they intended to revolt. The threat existed only in the columns of the yellow press and in the imagina-

tions of panicky whites. The "battle" of Wounded Knee, as it was termed at the time, was pure butchery. A surrounded band of about 400 be-draggled Hunkpapa Sioux—some Ghost Dancers and others not—was in the process of handing over their weapons to cavalry troops when a

gun went off, triggering volleys of gunfire from the soldiers. (The colonel in command had shouted: "Fire! Fire on them!") The soldiers chased down all who tried to run away. "A few survivors managed to straggle out of the fight and flee, escaping the soldiers who stood watch and

shot anything that moved, any body that breathed, twitched, or raised a hand to surrender," Mr. Warren writes. As many as 300 Sioux may have been killed, about half of them women and children.

Because the supposed agitation of the Ghost Dance had primed the Army for bloodshed, the massacre at Wounded Knee might have ended the movement entirely, but it did not, as Mr. Warren shows. Wovoka lived on quietly in Nevada, meeting with pilgrims, presiding over dances, performing seeming miracles (such as rain-making), consulting on medical cases and, in 1924, even speaking to the cast of a Hollywood western. He also kept working as a ranch hand whose work ethic and sense of responsibility were praised by all who knew him. He died in 1932.

It is true that the Ghost Dance movement lost momentum and followers, but the dance itself continued to be performed in some native communities well into the 20th century and exerted a lasting, if indirect, influence on generations of Indians searching for a way to be American without ceasing to be Indian. Mr. Warren suggests, without unduly laboring the point, that Wovoka foreshadowed the world we live in today in his vision of a "multicultural America" very different from 19th-century whites' ideal of a monolithic, English-speaking Protestant country. "In a sense, modern Americans who espouse pluralism as a social virtue carry on [his] teachings," Mr. Warren says.

Well, perhaps. But there is no evidence that Wovoka and his Ghost Dance disciples envisioned anything close to the present-day United States, in which resurgent native traditions exist alongside tribal casinos, tribal colleges and re-invented tribal sovereignty. But they might have approved.

Mr. Bordewich's most recent book is "*The First Congress: How James Madison, George Washington, and a Group of Extraordinary Men Invented the Government*."

Indian agents in the Dakotas panicked, taking the impassioned Ghost Dance as a sign of a mass 'breakout' from the reservations.

religious revivals among white Americans, the birth of modern anthropology, the struggle of native communities to adapt to the white man's market economy, and even the role of IBM's precursor in the tabulation of the 1890 census: The numerical result would be applied to the distribution of rations to the Sioux, in effect determining which bands would thrive or starve.

The Ghost Dance originated with a Paiute ranch hand named Wovoka—known as Jack Wilson to his white employers—living in western Nevada. The son of a traditional healer, Wovoka experienced a revelatory vision in which he met with God and was enjoined by him to end his people's troubles and both spiritually and physically re-create the earth by means of a trance-inducing dance. Word of Wovoka's vision quickly spread at a time when the Western tribes were in crisis: White settlement was destroying traditional food sources and disrupting ancient lifeways. Meanwhile, missionaries were challenging traditional native religion, and European diseases were wreaking havoc on once healthy populations. Ghost Dancers, Mr. Warren writes, were "seeking to restore an intimacy with the Creator" as well as to "worship in a form that reconstituted Indians as a community and expressed their history, families, and identity—in a word, their Indianness."

The core ritual of the Ghost Dance religion was a communal gathering that brought together men and women who danced for hours on end until they experienced visions of a future world in which the dead were resurrected, food was plentiful, whites no longer existed and Indians were united with a messiah, who appeared to some as an Indian and to others as Jesus. One Cheyenne participant reported that Christ had appeared and said that God had told him "the earth was getting old and worn out, and the people getting bad, and that I was to renew everything as it used to be, and make it better." Wovoka admon-

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## BOOKS

'My child came home, / The sea-wind tangled in his hair, / His gait still rocks / With conquered fears and young desire for quest.' —Stefan George

# The Land of In Between

### Heligoland

By Jan Rüger

Oxford, 370 pages, \$34.95

BY IAN BRUNSKILL

THIRTY MILES off the German coast, five hours by ship from Hamburg, a triangle of steep red cliffs rises dramatically from the North Sea. It supports a patch of land less than a square mile in area, with a population of just over 1,300. Heligoland, Germany's only offshore island, seems an unpromising sort of place. For Jan Rüger, however, the author of "Heligoland: Britain, Germany, and the Struggle for the North Sea," it has long been "an island of the mind as much as an island of rock and stone."

Mr. Rüger, a London University history professor, sees the story of Heligoland as the story of Germany's changing understanding of itself and its national identity and as a unique prism through which to view the Germans' turbulent relations with the British, their neighbors across the North Sea.

It's a surprising tale. A Danish possession in the 18th century, Heligoland was seized in 1807 by the British, who feared that Denmark's neutrality in the Napoleonic Wars was unlikely to withstand Bonaparte's advance through northern Germany. As a lone British outpost at the edge of occupied Europe, the island offered a vital base from which to protect Britain's interests. In 1808 a diplomat was sent out from London to take "charge of all correspondence with the Continent." For the next four years, he ran an intelligence operation of remarkable effectiveness and scope. As well as espionage there was smuggling, to circumvent the French blockade of British trade with the Continent. Exotic produce from Britain's colonies—coffee, sugar, spices, raisins, rum—found its way to mainland Europe in staggering quantities via Heligoland.



NORTHERN ROCK A 1930s passenger-line ad showing Heligoland.

Once Bonaparte was out of the way, smuggling and espionage gave way to tourism. By 1848, Heligoland was one of Northern Europe's most fashionable resorts. Almost pollen-free, the island became a refuge for those afflicted with hay fever. A distinguished 20th-century sufferer, the physicist Werner Heisenberg, would credit the discovery of quantum mechanics to his therapeutic stay. But the island offered fresh air in a more important sense, too.

As Mr. Rüger observes, "seaside tourism and revolutionary exile"

went "hand in hand." For liberal-minded artists and intellectuals at odds with the local regimes that governed Germany before its unification in 1871, Heligoland brought respite from petty autocracy and political oppression. The poet Heinrich Heine, whose uncle Salomon had made a fortune in the Heligoland trade, was one of the first young radicals to visit, fleeing Prussian censorship and surveillance. Another was the poet August Heinrich Hoffmann von Fallersleben. Hoffmann's "Das Lied der Deutschen"—whose text would join

Haydn's music to become the German national anthem—was written on Heligoland in 1841.

For much of the 19th century, on a small island in the North Sea as in the wider world, the British and the Germans rubbed along quite happily, "neither joined in comprehensive alliance, nor locked in conflict," as Mr. Rüger writes. Heligoland's native Frisian population was content to play one nation off against another

The rocky fate of a small island in the North Sea: coveted, fortified, fought over and nearly destroyed.

in pursuit of its own interests. As long as the islanders' rights and privileges were preserved—particularly when it came to paying (or not paying) tax—they didn't much mind who was in charge. But as the century wore on, Heligoland became in most respects more German. What Mr. Rüger describes as "the symbiosis of British colonialism and German nationalism" came increasingly to seem unsustainable.

In 1890, Heligoland was finally ceded to Germany. In exchange, Britain acquired important territories in East Africa. The British surrendered the island partly because its strategic value was felt to have diminished. The development of modern naval vessels meant that a blockade like Napoleon's could now be broken without the need for an offshore base. But as Anglo-German relations worsened in the run-up to World War I, the Germans turned Heligoland into an armored fortress and naval base. It became—to both sides—a symbol of growing German might.

During the war itself, as it turned out, with the British and German fleets facing off in a stalemate in the North Sea, Heligoland's significance

remained more symbolic than strategic. But few symbols can have been more vivid, and more keenly contested, than the craggy fortress standing sentinel off Germany's coast. Recognizing this, the British demolished the Kaiser's fortifications after the war. In doing so, they turned Heligoland into an embodiment of Germany's humiliation and, in Goebbels's words, "a silent warning" demanding revenge. The symbolism endured.

The Nazis fortified the island once again, and again the significance was more symbolic than actual; the growth of air power had reduced yet further the military value of an island base in the North Sea. It was air power that brought this war of symbols to a brutal end in April 1945, when almost 1,000 bombers of the Royal Air Force dropped 5,000 tons of explosives on Heligoland. The island was left uninhabitable. Its utter devastation was completed two years later, when the British detonated almost 7,000 tons of high explosive. The 1947 blast destroyed what little the RAF had left standing and even changed the island's physical shape.

When the territory was finally returned to Germany in 1952, it was in optimistic acknowledgment of yet another stage in Anglo-German relations. Taking possession of what was left, the German premier, Konrad Adenauer, promised that the island, when rebuilt, would show how Germany had changed: "Peaceful Heligoland . . . will be in future a symbol of the will to peace and friendship of both nations."

Visitors today may be quite unaware of Heligoland's curious history or of the weight of symbolism it once bore. That in itself no doubt shows how Anglo-German relations have improved. Day trippers come now to enjoy the bird watching, the 1950s architecture, the duty-free cigarettes. Before setting out, they should read Mr. Rüger's fascinating book.

Mr. Brunsell is assistant editor of *The Times of London*.

# The Man Who Would Behold Kings

### Ernst Kantorowicz: A Life

By Robert E. Lerner

Princeton, 400 pages, \$39.95

BY BRENDAN SIMMS

THE LITTLE THAT is generally known today about Ernst Kantorowicz—a German-Jewish refugee who ended his days at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J.—is that he was a distinguished medievalist with dangerously right-wing views. In a notorious hatchet job written nearly 30 years after Kantorowicz's death in 1963, Norman Cantor, in a book titled "Inventing the Middle Ages," portrayed Kantorowicz as a man who had failed to become a Nazi only because of "his race."

Not so, says Robert E. Lerner in "Ernst Kantorowicz: A Life." To be

The medievalist who won the Iron Cross at Verdun, fought communists in Munich and left Berkeley over the 1950 loyalty oath.

sure, Kantorowicz was a great historian, but a Nazi he was not, not even a frustrated one. Mr. Lerner bases his case—not to mention his broader biographical narrative—on a wide range of texts, archival sources, interviews and even personal experience, having met Kantorowicz when Mr. Lerner was a graduate student in Princeton. The result is a thorough and fascinating chronicle with the added purpose, only partly realized, of removing the stain of a largely spurious charge.

It could be said that Kantorowicz was born at the wrong time, in the wrong place, to the wrong parents. He came into the world in 1895 and thus was a member of the generation that would fight in World War I and adopt strongly nationalist sentiments in defeat; his birthplace was Posen, a Prussian city that would be ceded to the reconstituted Polish state after the war; and he was a Jew in an age when that identity meant intermittent discrimination at best and extermination at worst. Even so, Kantorowicz survived and even flourished while many

lines explicitly look forward to, if not the return of an emperor, then at least an imperial destiny for the German people.

Published in 1927, Kantorowicz's biography of Frederick was written with verve and passion and proved to be an instant success. Drawing on literary sources, legends and images, as well as on traditional texts, it aimed to restore Frederick to his rightful Germanness and to establish him as a proto-Renaissance prince. The book made Kantorowicz's public reputation and was translated into English.

Not everybody was persuaded,



COLLEAGUES Kantorowicz and Michael Cherniavsky, ca. 1950.

however. Some scholars complained about the book's missing footnotes and the author's sweeping statements, some of them based on thin, even very thin, evidence. And the book too often wandered from biography into a visionary mode. In Peterhouse's college library in Cambridge, England, one can find, about halfway through a well-thumbed copy of "Frederick II," the scribbling of an exasperated undergraduate: "Most of this chapter is mystical rubbish, typical of a 'deep' German." It is a fair comment. Today English-speaking medievalists are much more likely to turn to David Abulafia's 1988 biography, which places Frederick firmly back in his time and place.

Despite his renown, Kantorowicz struggled to find a permanent aca-

demic position in Weimar Germany, partly because he was Jewish and partly because he was considered methodologically unsound. When he did win an appointment to a chair at the University of Frankfurt, his prospects were soon blighted by Hitler's seizure of power. Here Mr. Lerner pauses to refute the claim that Kantorowicz was a Nazi in all but race and dispels the legend that he was a personal friend of Hermann Goering. In fact, Kantorowicz showed no interest in the party before 1933 and, after that, spoke out against the regime, although with circumspection, until

he was effectively forced into exile in 1938, eventually settling in the United States. Members of his family, including his mother, were murdered in the Holocaust.

It took Kantorowicz several years to secure tenure at the University of California at Berkeley, an affiliation that ended when he refused to sign a McCarthy-era loyalty oath. He moved on to the prestigious institute in Princeton.

Mr. Lerner reconstructs the bureaucratic politics, gossip and bed-hopping of these campus worlds in diverting detail. At times, indeed, his narrative reads like a blend of Mary McCarthy's "The Groves of Academe" and John Updike's "Couples." It was during this time, for all its busy hedonism and infighting, that Kantorowicz wrote the magnum opus that established his scholarly reputation and endures to this day: "The King's Two Bodies" (1957).

It is a book that is much praised but hard to read and harder still to summarize. Its thesis is grounded in a medieval legal text that distinguishes between "the Body natural" and "the Body politic": that is, between the mortal man who occupies the throne and kingship itself, a realm free of the flaws that vex rulers in the temporal world. In the 13th century, Kantorowicz wrote, the influence of Aristotle had caused the body politic to be seen

as a "mystical body." The state was thus "an institution which had its moral ends in itself and had its own ethical code." Political writers, he added, "gained a new possibility to compare the state as a *corpus morale et politicum* with, or to set it over against, the *corpus mysticum et spirituale* of the Church."

Most reviewers agreed that the book, whatever its difficulty, broke the bounds of hitherto rigid disciplines, drawing on history, art, law and numismatics to explore a central division in medieval and early-modern thought. Mr. Lerner gives "The King's Two Bodies" the right amount of attention, stopping short of the kind of exegesis that might derail his own project. Kantorowicz finished out his scholarly life writing articles and reviews. He died of a ruptured aneurysm at the age of 68.

As impressive as "Ernst Kantorowicz: A Life" may be, its attempt to redress Norman Cantor's excessive charges, though welcome, is only a mixed success. Mr. Lerner persuasively debunks the "Nazi" claims while conceding that Kantorowicz's biography of Frederick II can be seen as a "celebration of authoritarianism" and as "virtually a treasury of antiliberal expressions."

But more could be said on this score. Martin Ruehl, a historian at Cambridge University (and a colleague of mine), has highlighted more problematic elements in Kantorowicz's analysis of Frederick—for example, passages where Kantorowicz speaks of the "blood community" linking emperor and people, whose "blood forces" had been diluted by alien elements and needed to be restored through "breeding." One of the ways in which Frederick did this, Kantorowicz records approvingly, was by "eliminating" people like "gamblers, blasphemers, Jews, whores and minstrels."

Of course, many people wrote in such a way in the 1920s, and few thought much of it. What is more, the mystical yearnings of the Stefan George Circle, which meant so much to Kantorowicz at a certain point in his life, are difficult to judge fairly today, given all that happened a decade later. Still, if Cantor overstepped the mark, he was onto something.

Mr. Simms is the author of "Europe: The Struggle for Supremacy, From 1453 to the Present."

## BOOKS

'We need to substitute for the book a device that will make it easy to transmit information without transporting material.' —J.C.R. Licklider

# The Problem-Solvers

### The Imagineers of War

By Sharon Weinberger

Knopf, 475 pages, \$32.50

BY JON GERTNER

**THE AURA OF** wizardly ingenuity that surrounds the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency—better known by its acronym, Darpa—tends to shroud the actual work that goes on behind its curtains. This is partly a result of how dazzling the agency's successes have been. Darpa (known as ARPA until the early 1970s) is the government agency where J.C.R. Licklider was hired in 1962 to work on "man-computer symbiosis"—that is, the computer-networking ideas that eventually became the Arpanet, the precursor of the internet.

Many of the notions for stealth aircraft began on Darpa's blackboards; so too did the first drones, which in recent years have revolutionized combat. The list goes on: Darpa played a part in nurturing the seismic detection of distant nuclear explosions; the early research behind the Saturn V rocket that took astronauts to the moon; and even self-driving cars. Though we usually refrain from using the words "innovation" and "government" together, in this case we really should. If you can even imagine something that seems novel in the military arena—the potential for brainwave-controlled weapons; a nifty airplane that can soar above the stratosphere into space; the possibility that biofeedback can help soldiers control bleeding from an injury—Darpa's scientists were probably thinking of it years before it even crossed your mind.

In a new history of the agency, "The Imagineers of War," Sharon Weinberger explores the stories behind a slew of Darpa's fabled research projects. Her chronicle is a more complex portrait of the agency than the admiring caricature of it that currently holds sway in the media. As she recounts, the origins of the organization date back to the earliest days of the space race, to 1958, when it was formed in the panic that began to build within the U.S. government a few weeks after the U.S.S.R. launched its Sputnik satellite. Originally, Darpa's mission was to focus on rockets, satellites and ballistic-missile defense. But in the early 1960s the agency was drawn into the conflicts in Southeast Asia.

One of Ms. Weinberger's main characters is an enigmatic figure named William Godel, who, she tells us, established a facility in Saigon "that would



GETTY IMAGES

be used to experiment with techniques and technologies to fight against guerrillas in the jungles of Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines." You can picture what came next: briefcases full of cash; stealth meetings in sticky heat with capricious militants; and field "laboratories" for what were soon termed "counterinsurgency" measures. There was even the gift of a cigarette lighter, given by Godel to Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem, which was also—to Diem's delight—a functional camera. Most important, under Godel, Darpa brought to the battlefield technologies that cast a long shadow: the chemical defoliant Agent Orange and a lightweight rifle, the AR-15.

Project Agile, as the Vietnam work was called, ended in failure—and Godel later served time in prison for filing false expense-account statements. But Ms. Weinberger astutely connects this episode in Darpa's history to the U.S. military's more recent involvement in the Middle East, and especially Gen. David Petraeus's approach to counterinsurgency, influenced at least in part by old Darpa analyses. Not surprisingly,

the agency had perceived the future long before most people: As far back as 1971 its scientists had contemplated the elusive threat of what we now call improvised explosive devices, or IEDs. In an effort to identify a set of techniques for disabling these weapons, the agency hired a contractor to look at the problem. Ultimately, a Darpa paper concluded that there were limited ways to detect and destroy the crude explosives. Ms. Weinberger finds the old report gathering dust in the National Archives in College Park, Md., knowing full well that 40 years later, in the wake of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. Government would spend \$20 billion to come to a similar conclusion—that the best method that the Pentagon had for detecting IEDs was: a dog. Somebody should have listened the first time.

Darpa's prescience is not always easy to explain. Even at its peak, this was a small agency with fewer than 100 core employees who didn't have an actual laboratory. Mostly Darpa employed far-thinking project managers who came on board with the under-

standing that they would stay only a few years. It seems fair to say that much of the agency's success can be attributed to its ample funding and

**Darpa dreams:** Agent Orange, self-driving cars, a mechanical elephant and, oh yes, the Internet.

ability to move fast. Its general mission was to think of a new technology that solved a military problem and then find someone, or some outside company, to make it happen. Cash and contracts could be mobilized quickly; the conversation that led to the authorization of the Arpanet project apparently only took 15 minutes. "If you had an idea," one agency hand tells Ms. Weinberger, "you didn't have to go through two years of getting permission and three years of getting the contract people to make a mess of it." That the agency was embedded within the vast bureaucracy of the Defense

Department makes its creative, free-wheeling ways all the more surprising.

Many Darpa staffers subscribed to a belief you still hear in Silicon Valley today. Take big risks. Try something new. And if something new doesn't work (it usually doesn't), try something else new. There were big failures as a result: The author relates how, in the wake of the Kennedy assassination, agency scientists working on Project Star theorized that having a constant stream of air flowing in front of the U.S. president's lectern might protect him from bullets and assassination attempts—until it was demonstrated that the airstream wouldn't deflect anything except tomatoes. Then there was an effort to design a mechanical elephant for Vietnam. That project blew \$1 million, but it would have been worse if a high-level manager hadn't quickly shut it down.

By the late 1970s and 1980s, Darpa had pivoted from its Vietnam-era work, and during the Reagan and Bush years it logged successes with its stealth aircraft and various kinds of military gear. But in the wake of 9/11 it embarked on a controversial, ill-fated "Total Information Awareness" program to combat terrorism through data gathering and data mining. It wasn't until a few years later, when the agency funded a popular "grand challenge" competition to reward the builders of completely autonomous vehicles, that its reputation recovered.

If you're looking for coherence in Darpa's innovative model or project portfolio, you probably won't find it. One director of the agency described her mission as being "to prevent and create technological surprise," which I suppose is as good a summary as any. A striking aspect of Ms. Weinberger's book is how Darpa's successes can seem serendipitous and, at times, unrelated to one another. Unfortunately, this lack of consistency inflicts a fair amount of collateral damage on this nonfiction work. "The Imagineers of War" gives us an interesting perspective on Darpa's tangled history, and Ms. Weinberger should be admired for her impressive reporting and attention to detail, but this is a difficult book to enjoy. Amid a blizzard of acronyms and changes in leadership, rooting for this eccentric government agency as a protagonist in the epic battle for national security becomes a challenge, even when the agency can—and often does—create the future.

*Mr. Gertner is the author of "The Idea Factory: Bell Labs and the Great Age of American Innovation."*

# A Little Knowledge

### Pandora's Lab

By Paul A. Offit

National Geographic, 287 pages, \$26

BY NICHOLAS WADE

**RACHEL CARSON** rightly complained in "Silent Spring" that farmers were sloshing far too many harmful pesticides into the environment. But she took aim at the wrong one. DDT, a mild and enormously effective pesticide, helped rid the United States of malaria and its benefits, if more indiscriminately pursued, could have outweighed its costs.

The overstrict verdict against DDT is an instance of the harms that can ensue when scientific evidence is ignored. This and other cases described by Paul A. Offit in "Pandora's Lab: Seven Stories of Science Gone Wrong" raise provocative questions about the reasons that science is misused in modern society.

Dr. Offit is co-inventor of a rotavirus vaccine and, presumably, all too well acquainted with the folly of overeducated parents who refuse to let their children be immunized. His case studies here include the epidemic of drug addiction from the misuse of opiates; the decades of erroneous dietary advice about fat; the barbaric and pointless practice of lobotomy; the bogus claims of the megavitamin industry; and the rise of eugenics. A less compelling case of science gone wrong is Fritz Haber's invention of chemical fertilizer, strangely condemned because it will lead to overpopulation.

Dr. Offit argues that failure to apply the standard scientific checking mechanisms of peer review and replication could have prevented many cases of error. Lobotomy became popular as a treatment for mental disease

because doctors failed to insist the procedure be adequately tested before widespread use. Taking excessive doses of vitamins became the rage because the distinguished chemist Linus Pauling promoted massive doses of vitamin C, though without any good evidence for their efficacy. Many studies have shown the uselessness, sometimes outright harm, of taking large doses of vitamins. "All scientists—no matter how accomplished or well known—should have unassailable data to support their claims, not just a compelling personality, an impressive shelf of awards, or a poetic writing style," Dr. Offit says.

Another case of medical advice based on insufficient data is that of

Chemists keep trying to make nonaddictive morphine derivatives. Patients still get hooked.

dietary fat. As Dr. Offit tells the story, in the 1970s the government advised cutting down on fat consumption. In the 1980s the message changed. Unsaturated fats were good; only saturated fats were bad: Eat margarine, not butter. But then it turned out that unsaturated fats came in two forms, known to chemists as "cis" and "trans," and that "trans fats" were appallingly active promoters of heart disease. Margarine and hydrogenated vegetable cooking oils, whose use had been encouraged, were rich in trans fats. After 40 years of seriously incorrect advice, trans fats were mostly eliminated from the American diet only in 2012.

Dr. Offit draws from this episode the moral that people shouldn't give dietary advice based on incomplete

data. Fair enough, but it's also true that science doesn't provide instant answers. Missteps are inevitable before settled truths emerge. A possible weakness of Dr. Offit's analysis is that he sees salvation in greater reliance on the standard checking mechanisms of science, such as peer review and replication of experiments. But these routinely fail to detect even outright fraud, let alone mere error. Peer review is just the eyeballing of a paper by fellow experts before publication. Replication fails for

Besides his overconfidence in the checking mechanisms of science, Dr. Offit goes too easy on the motives of those who abuse science. Environmentalists, for instance, are interested in achieving political results, not in distracting scientific caveats and uncertainties, which they do their best to suppress. It is their propensity to take everything to excess that leads to obscurantist positions, such as irrational fear of genetically modified crops.

Some of the worst misuses of science come from the frailty of the hu-

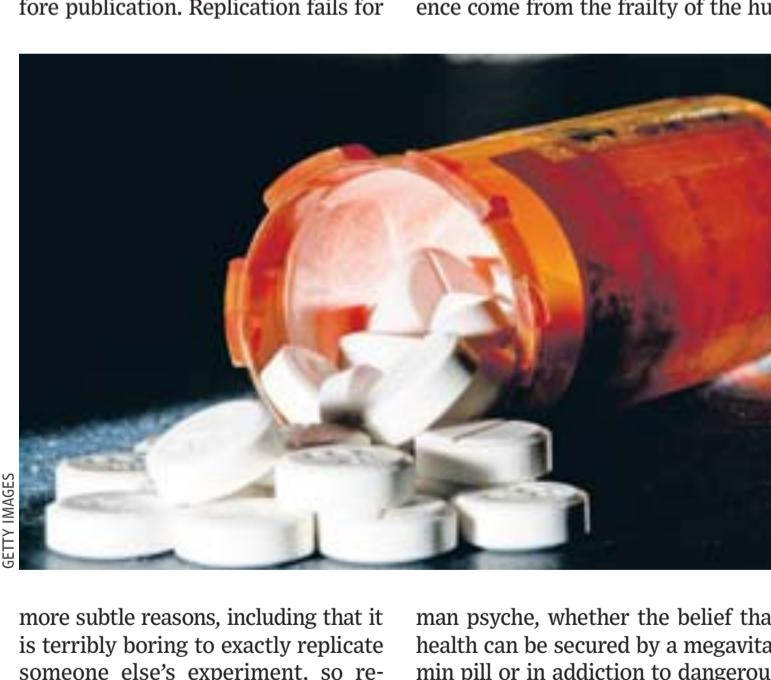
man psyche, whether the belief that health can be secured by a megavitamin pill or in addiction to dangerous drugs. In the case of opiates, chemists have repeatedly deluded themselves that they could create derivatives of morphine, the principal active ingredient of opium, that would preserve its pain-killing powers while escaping its addictive effects. A Scottish doctor in the 19th century learned how to inject morphine into the bloodstream, making it the first intravenous drug; he assumed that this mode of delivery wouldn't be addictive. Alas, not so.

More than a century later, having learned nothing from experience, chemists repeated the sorry cycle with another morphine derivative, oxycodone, marketed in 1996 as pain medication under the name Oxycontin. A black market developed. By 2014 some 2.5 million Americans were addicted to opioid pain relievers.

Dr. Offit sometimes seems to suggest that science is inherently dangerous, independently of the people who abuse it. "Everything has a price; the only question is how big," he warns, arguing that even the most benevolent technologies have side effects. Anesthetics may cause lasting problems with attention and memory, he warns. Even antibiotics may have a downside by disrupting the body's microbiome.

So should Prometheus never have entrusted mortals with fire? The author says that he was inspired to write "Pandora's Lab" after visiting an exhibit at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia called "101 Inventions That Changed the World." He was so dismayed to see that gunpowder and the atomic bomb had made the list that he thought of itemizing 101 inventions that had changed the world for the worse. That his book lists only seven such candidates, probably only four of which are decisive, suggests that humankind has not done too terrible a job of gaining the benefits of science and technology while mostly avoiding the downsides.

*Mr. Wade is the author of "A Troublesome Inheritance: Genes, Race and Human History."*



more subtle reasons, including that it is terribly boring to exactly replicate someone else's experiment, so researchers rarely do so.

The true test of science is time, not its official checking mechanisms. And many years can elapse before frontier science—that is, the claims made in scientific journals today—becomes textbook science, the kind you can take to the bank. During this danger period, much false science can persist, as happened during the many years of incorrect government advice on dietary fat.

## BOOKS

'Las Vegas is sort of like how God would do it if he had money.' —Steve Wynn

# A Window on America

### The Strip

By Stefan Al  
MIT, 254 pages, \$34.95

BY CHRISTINE CIPRIANI

**IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY,** Prague-born New York architect Leopold Eidlitz called American architecture "the art of covering one thing with another thing to imitate a third thing, which, if genuine, would not be desirable." The line applies uncannily well to Las Vegas, that garish palimpsest of shrines to vice and Mammon. We think of it as an outpost, yet the history of building design in Las Vegas, argues Stefan Al in "The Strip: Las Vegas and the Architecture of the American Dream," is "more representative of American architectural trends than we would like to admit." And far from being an indiscriminate mess of bad taste, the Strip has long been a seedbed for "extraordinary design experimentation."

Mr. Al, a Dutch architect who teaches urban design at the University of Pennsylvania, is not the first in his field to engage with Las Vegas. But in this entertaining book he creates a taxonomy, identifying seven aesthetic waves in the city's history of tourist-driven architecture, and showing how each was driven by shifts in popular culture, lifestyle and construction methods.

Founded in 1905 with an auction of lots owned by Montana senator and railroad baron William Clark, Las Vegas was never home to cowboys. But the tourist industry's first conscious building style—what Mr. Al calls the Wild West—pushed the frontier metaphor hard in the 1940s, both to suggest a rich local history where none existed and to broadcast the area's freedom from regulation. The Strip's first resorts, El Rancho and the Last Frontier, were faux-19th-century dreamscapes that blended Spanish missions with Hollywood's idea of a Western village. Interiors were furnished with Texas steer horns and saddle-topped bar stools. As one architect copied false-fronted saloons from old movies for want of real examples, Mr. Al writes, "he got to the essence of Western architecture, which was all about faking it."

The groovy Sunbelt Modern phase created the Strip as we know it. From the late 1940s through the 1950s, fevered competition among developers, fueled by Mafia cash, filled the Strip with resorts that moved the "center" of Las Vegas outside downtown. From the Flamingo and Thunderbird to the higher-end Tropicana, these buildings had long, low profiles, walls of glass, and pools in sensuous shapes. Borrowing shamelessly from "Los Angeles's



SKY-LYIN' The New York-New York hotel and casino, Las Vegas.

modern drive-in coffee shops, Palm Springs's resorts, Miami's hotels, and Frank Lloyd Wright's ranch houses," many had the "clean lines and curvaceous forms" of the automobile in its golden age and parking to match.

But "while the Strip pretended to be an escape from everyday life," Mr. Al argues, all it did was reflect that life at a massive scale: ranch house, car, driveway, backyard. "By framing gambling within images of suburbia," he shrewdly observes, "casino developers embedded a practice considered immoral deep into the American dream."

The book's most exciting chapter, Pop City, examines the triumph of the neon resort sign as architecture in its own right during the 1960s. Starting at the Stardust and the Dunes, Strip signs rose 20 blinking stories and lights "crept up buildings until there was no surface left to occupy," Mr. Al writes. "In contrast to architects' more austere concrete boxes," he explains, lighting designers forged "a skyline of eccentric neon spires" and Jet Age swoops that represented real innovation in both graphics and technology.

Some developers skipped architects altogether, throwing up cheap hotels with "as much personality as a warehouse" and putting their money into lights. Downtown, where pedestrians

could appreciate such subtleties, three-dimensional signs such as the Golden Nugget's bullnose and the Mint's elegant eyebrow reshaped the streetscape.

Howard Hughes, having sealed himself into a Desert Inn penthouse, led a movement in the 1970s—soon joined by competitors Kirk Kerkorian, the Hilton chain and MGM—to clean up the Strip with sleeker, less seedy facilities. Nevada's 1967 Corporate Gaming Act had made it easier for corporations to build casinos. And what did they build? "Stodgy and conservative boxes that matched their properties elsewhere," making "a more proper, James Bond type of Las Vegas" that Mr. Al calls Corporate Modern. At the International and MGM Grand, towers of glass and concrete ballooned to a new norm—dozens of stories high and several blocks long—allowing guests to "eat, drink, meet, sleep, swim, and gamble inside a megastructure."

In the Disneyland phase, starting in the late 1980s, developers chased families, pushing fantasy, experience and spectacle: Think Excalibur, Treasure Island and the game-changing Mirage. Although Walt Disney would never build a casino, Mr. Al writes, resort owners "emulated Disney's design

principles, immersing visitors in a story." Once again, architects were sidelined, reduced to drawing up floor and construction plans while professional set designers dreamed up whimsical interiors and splashy theme

Las Vegas's first resorts were 19th-century Old West dreamscapes. One architect copied saloons from old movies.

parks. But when gaming analysts found that "families were spending more time at the Disney attractions than at the gambling tables," the "backlash was swift and brutal." The Luxor filled in its Nile, and MGM Grand, just three years after building an indoor Emerald City, "spent a quarter of a billion dollars to remove all associations with the Wizard of Oz."

The back-to-Earth wave that Mr. Al dubs Sim City was an outgrowth of architecture's postmodern movement, which played with historic and decorative elements on otherwise modern buildings. Rising now were giant repli-

cas of the world's most romantic places: the Monte Carlo, Paris, Bellagio, Venetian, and the absurdist hodgepodge known as New York New York, its 10 skyscrapers "congealed into a single mass like a souvenir snow globe." The power of these fakes, the author explains, was their polished fealty to the originals: Each was "a representation . . . that is so hyperrealistic, it is preferred to the real." After 9/11, the ersatz Statue of Liberty became a shrine, and the Aladdin resort was shunned to the point of bankruptcy—showing that "even simulacra could be imbued with deep social meanings."

Of course, 21st-century travelers want authentic authenticity. "No plastic theme-park bullshit," said Steve Wynn, recovered theme-park casino magnate, in 2005. Chasing the Bilbao effect in what Mr. Al calls the Starchitecture phase, developers have lured some of the world's best-known architects, interior designers, and artists to leave their mark on the Mojave. Rem Koolhaas and Frank Gehry designed art galleries, and MGM Mirage built its CityCenter complex with an all-star team including Helmut Jahn, Daniel Libeskind, César Pelli, Rafael Viñoly, Maya Lin and Jenny Holzer. The 2009 project failed as a walkable urban enclave, but the skyline got its first contemporary silhouettes in a generation.

Mr. Al has commendably turned his dissertation into a muscular, often funny book accessible to any lay reader. Sometimes he succeeds too well; quoting architecture critics' reactions, he often avoids naming them, sending enthusiasts to the endnotes. In a similar vein, the prose is occasionally imprecise ("Las Vegas still consumed a ton of energy") or flippant. Mr. Al rightly points out that the progenitors of modern architecture would not have cheered the contortion of their idealistic tenets into gaudy casinos. But the statement "If any moment represented the dead end of modernism, it was the 1969 International casino, when Bauhaus inspired a gambling house," while amusing, is slippery.

The Strip's tales of developers' overcooked ideas, extreme fabrication efforts, and blithe demolitions form a bracing portrait of Las Vegas's architectural arms race. The ongoing quest for the largest, most dazzling, or most luxurious building has left a parade of styles that swings drunkenly between looking forward in time and looking back. As a whole, it is exuberant, embarrassing, sometimes hideous, sometimes fabulous . . . as American as apple pie.

Ms. Cipriani, co-author of "Cape Cod Modern: Midcentury Architecture and Community on the Outer Cape," is writing a biography of Ada Louise Huxtable.

# Trickle-Down Politics

### Where the Water Goes

By David Owen  
Riverhead, 274 pages, \$28

BY BILL STREEVER

**ON THE FIRST PAGE** of "Where the Water Goes," David Owen takes us aloft in a single-engine aircraft over barren cliffs and snow-covered slopes near the headwaters of the Colorado River. Airborne, he interviews Jennifer Pitt of the Environmental Defense Fund. "Even people who describe themselves as worried environmentalists," she tells him, "usually have no idea where their water comes from."

From those first lines, Mr. Owen owns our attention. We have a lot to learn, but this is not a textbook. What Mr. Owen offers is a detail-rich travelogue, an amalgam of memoir and journalism and history, moving across a watershed that sustains 36 million people from Wyoming to Mexico.

The Colorado River is far more than a river. It is a man-made system of channels and flooded tunnels and irrigation ditches, a series of dams and dikes, power plants and pumping stations, a place filled with birds both living and dead, houseboats, minerals like selenium, the breakdown products of DDT, and, importantly, shiploads of lawyers. But Mr. Owen's book is no environmental manifesto. He makes room for nature and advocacy but embraces complexity and conflicting needs.

Along the Colorado River, Mr. Owen explains, "the legal right to use every gallon is owned or claimed by someone—in fact, more than every

gallon, since theoretical rights to the Colorado's flow, known to water lawyers as 'paper water,' greatly exceed its actual flow, known as 'wet water.'

The volume of wet water waxes and wanes, depending largely on snowfall. The paper water to which different states along the river are entitled is set in legal ink. The flood of laws and agreements governing water use date back to the days of pickax mining, of prospectors working from burros. Ever since, water has been allocated not as a portion of annual flow but by volume, by the gallon, as if nature were a reliable business partner.

The Colorado's water is allocated under a scheme best described as 'first come, first served, forever.'

But lawyers have seen rivers. Nature, they know, has no regard for the law. Water levels fluctuate. And so there came "prior appropriation," a scheme best described as "first come, first served, forever." If you were fortunate enough to claim water rights long ago, your rights, in perpetuity, take precedence over the rights and needs of thousands of later arrivals. "Prior appropriation," Mr. Owen writes, "allocating a variable resource by fixed amounts, turning states into competing antagonists . . . it all seems absurd."

Mr. Owen wets our feet in water law, but he does not drown us. His story flows in back eddies and down

side channels, one moment explaining water allotments, the next describing a hotel room near Carbondale, Colo., moving on to a conversation with an engineer or a couple living in a recreational vehicle, and then providing a few pages of essential background, reminding us throughout that the issues explored in Marc Reisner's "Cadillac Desert" more than three decades ago remain alive and well.



DRAINED The bottom of Lake Powell, a reservoir on the Colorado.

Along the way, Mr. Owen offers lessons in the flow of goods and services in America and their reliance on the Colorado River. There are the economics of farming and golf courses. There are the seemingly wasteful fountains of the Bellagio Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, drawing in tourists. There are oil-and-gas companies that inject water down holes to frac-

turing underlying rocks, sometimes degrading the environment but also dropping fossil-fuel prices to levels not seen in decades. There are homeowners who stop watering lawns with the hope of lowering water bills, only to watch their shade trees die and their air-conditioning bills skyrocket.

"Water problems in the western United States," he writes, "when viewed from afar, can seem tantaliz-

ingly easy to solve: all we need to do is turn off the fountains at the Bellagio, stop selling hay to China, ban golf, cut down the almond trees, and kill all the lawyers." But viewed at a finer scale, the challenges become obvious. "Every new solution," Mr. Owen laments, "creates additional problems."

Take, for example, water-conservation efforts in agriculture. "On an in-

dividual field," one expert tells Mr. Owen, conservation efforts "make it look like we are using water better, but they actually move us in exactly the wrong direction." The saved water, rather than returning to the river through drainage tiles for further use downstream, goes to new fields. Someone downstream goes without.

But all is not lost. Mr. Owen points hopefully to the success of recent negotiations between the U.S. and Mexico, where the mouth of the Colorado lies not only dry but dusty, the river's water legally removed upstream. In 2010 and 2012, the countries agreed on two modifications, known as Minutes 318 and 319, to their 1944 water treaty. In an "unprecedented concession" by the U.S., Minute 318 allowed Mexico to temporarily store some of its share of the water upstream in Lake Mead. The countries' accords, Mr. Owen writes, show "that traditional antagonists are capable of negotiating complex agreements in which all parties acquire something they want."

This wonderfully written book covers issues that will, or should, give you a headache. But it is a good headache, one that makes you a more informed person. Mr. Owen writes about water, but in these polarized times the lessons he shares spill into other arenas. The world of water rights and wrongs along the Colorado River offers hope for other problems. We all want our fair share of water, but maybe, just maybe, we can get it without draining our neighbor's pipes.

Mr. Streever is the author of "Cold," "Heat" and "And Soon I Heard a Roaring Wind."

## BOOKS

'It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.' —George Orwell

FICTION CHRONICLE: SAM SACKS

# The Post-Apocalyptic Vogue

  
**IT'S ALARMING** to find books like "1984" and "The Handmaid's Tale" appearing on best-seller lists—the result of panicked herd-reading after the presidential election. But vogues for dystopian literature are usually a sign of national health.

If this sounds counterintuitive, consider the apocalypse boom of the late '50s and early '60s, which brought us "Alas, Babylon," "On the Beach" and "A Canticle for Leibowitz." These were responses to anxieties about nuclear weapons and the Cold War, but they were also the fruits of widespread prosperity. Likewise, as the middle class expands in China, dystopian fantasies are dominating its best-seller lists. The more people have, the more frightened they are of losing it all.

And so America's swelling ranks of declinist fantasias are less about any real-world problems than about a general fear of disruption. In Emily St. John Mandel's "Station Eleven," a troupe of actors roams through Midwestern towns that have been all but wiped out by a swine-flu epidemic. In Edan Lepucki's "California," some unnamed climate catastrophe has dispersed the population into gated communities, cult compounds and wilderness hideaways. It's much the same in the Los Angeles of Michael Tolkin's "NK3," though here it's a North Korean bio-weapon gone awry that has robbed much of the population of their memories and turned them into survivalists. These novels are what happens when a comfortable culture has a midlife crisis.

Omar El Akkad's "American War" (Knopf, 333 pages, \$26.95) mines the dystopian trend for somewhat different purposes, crafting a vision of approaching ruin that doubles as a sharp critique of current American foreign policy. It imagines a second American Civil War between North and South from the years 2074 to 2095. The contemporary doomsday staples are present and accounted for. Following an environmental collapse that leaves swaths of the country underwater, the U.S. government imposes a ban on fossil fuels, prompting the Southern states to secede. Despite the Union's decisive military advantage, the South is able to prolong the fighting through guerrilla tactics, particularly suicide bombings.

Mr. El Akkad depicts the war by splicing futuristic "historical" documents into an account of the life of Sarat Chestnut, a native Louisianian



who becomes central to the insurrection. Sarat grows up in a refugee camp in Mississippi and as a teenager is recruited to the rebel cause by a sinister true believer who specializes in radicalizing vulnerable youths. Brash and fearless, Sarat matures into the sort of character you might have had if Scarlett O'Hara were a terrorist mastermind: "For Sarat Chestnut, the calculus was simple: the enemy had violated her people, and for that she would violate the enemy. There could be no other way, she knew it. Blood can never be unspilled."

"American War" is not a subtle book, and Mr. El Akkad is using the future to make a blunt point about the present. By substituting defiant Southerners for Muslim fundamentalists, he seeks to make the victims of the "War on Terror" more recognizable and the blowback more coherent. The parallels are explicit. The North uses "Birds," or drone attacks, to eliminate Southern targets, causing immense collateral damage. Southern prisoners are tortured and held indefinitely on an island known as Sugarloaf. "I always said the camps at Sugarloaf were the best recruiters the South ever had," recalls a war diarist.

Yet the parallels only stretch so far. Somehow neither race nor religion

figures into this civil war, which makes the implied connections between Confederate rebels and jihadist insurgents superficial at best. And some of the speculative embellishments, like the tangents about the South's major ally, a newly established Middle Eastern caliphate called the Bouazizi Empire, serve only to pad out the conceit. Even so, "American War" is a provocative thought experiment and a rewarding conversation piece. I found one detail especially unsettling. We learn in an aside that on the day of the armistice, a Southern diehard unleashed a biological agent that went on to kill over 100 million people. As the novel moves toward this decisive event, it reinforces a chilling warning about asymmetric warfare against a desperate, committed people: Peace, when it comes, might be more terrible than the fighting.

Epidemics and environmental catastrophe are also part of the unspecified future of Zachary Mason's "Void Star" (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 385 pages, \$27). Society has collapsed, and the population is divided between refugees who reside in sprawling slums (called favelas) and elites who extend their lives with expensive longevity treatments and command armies of gangsters.

As Mr. Mason moves us among San Francisco, Greece, Thailand and Japan, he depicts a world of technological explosion, overrun by drones and artificial intelligence. The main characters are Kern, a "favelino street fighter" who steals a phone containing valuable data, and Irina, who has a special grasp of AIs—her job is to diagnose their malfunctions—because she possesses a cranial implant that allows her to upload and save memories the way a computer does.

Bringing them together are the machinations of a zillionaire software baron named Cromwell, who is on a mad quest to harness the AIs' immortality and omniscience. As Mr. Mason spins out an elaborate and highly confusing techno-thriller, he explores a future in which humanity has increasingly subordinated itself to machines it doesn't understand. Even to Irina, the scrolling code of the AIs' "thoughts" is essentially inscrutable: "The glyphs are intricate, radiant with significance that she can't quite articulate. Like rain, she thinks, on a clear day, seen over miles of ocean. Like ideograms distended in a black hole's gravity."

Mr. Mason, whose previous novel was the ingenious Homeric pastiche "The Lost Books of the Odyssey"

(2007), writes with a mathematical precision that often crystallizes into lines of clean, poetic beauty: "The breeze catches the awning above him, its shadow undulating over the Cartesian grid of the black basalt tiles." But the whole feels recondite and detached, as if it were intended to evoke the "opaque complexity" of artificial minds. As the story merges the physical world with virtual

Dystopian novels are what happens when a comfortable culture has a midlife crisis.

realms it becomes difficult to grasp just what is going on. One puzzled character sums it all up: "There's a pattern but I can't quite see it."

The stories in the remarkable collection "The Accusation" (Grove Press, 247 pages, \$25) were smuggled from North Korea in 2013, making this the first dissident work ever published by a writer still living in North Korea. The author, who takes the pseudonym Bandi ("Firefly" in Korean), wrote most of them in the early 1990s, during the famine-ridden final years of Kim Il Sung's dictatorship. In an unfussy translation by Deborah Smith, their power is in the plain-spoken, almost artless way they convey daily life under an ever-watchful, whimsically cruel regime.

Arbitrary punishment is a constant. In "City of Specters," a propaganda supervisor is banished from the capital because her baby develops a fear of Karl Marx's portrait. In "So Near, Yet So Far" a mine worker is denied a travel permit to see his dying mother and must grin and bear it: "He knew even crying could be construed as an act of rebellion, for which, in this country, there was only one outcome—a swift and ruthless death. And so it was the law of the land to smile even when you were racked with pain."

Bandi dubs this kind of enforced public performance "stage truth." In an unforgettable story about a deadly train-station stampede caused by Kim Il Sung's entourage, "Pandemonium," an old woman marvels at the nonstop acting. Where else, she wonders, are cries of suffering "wrenched from the mouths of its people and distorted into laughter?" This courageous book offers an important reminder that not all dystopias are invented.

# The First Digital Revolution

## Numbers and the Making of Us

By Caleb Everett  
Harvard, 297 pages, \$27.95

BY AMIR ALEXANDER

**WHEN CALEB EVERETT** was a child, he would sometimes wake up in the middle of the night to the sound of people telling stories. The son of missionaries turned researchers, Mr. Everett spent months living among the Pirahã people in a tiny village in the Amazon jungle in Brazil. At any hour of the night, he recalls, the villagers might rise and engage their neighbors in a lively discussion of their dreams, their voices carrying easily through the thin walls of his family's hut.

The Pirahã are a small indigenous group of less than a thousand members, but they are remarkable for a reason quite apart from their night-talking habit: Their language has no words for numbers. This, as Mr. Everett, an anthropologist at the University of Miami, recounts in "Numbers and the Making of Us," is extraordinary, for numbers, or representations of quantity, are both ancient and ubiquitous. Wherever humans have ever lived, they have made use of some form of numbers.

Numbers, Mr. Everett points out, are powerful tools in humans' struggle for survival. They are useful to hunter-gatherer societies, for example, because they make it possible to keep track of the cycles of the moon and determine the best nights for a hunt. But they are absolutely essential for agricultural societies—for keeping track of the seasons, measuring the size of fields, quantifying the

yields, trading with neighbors and paying taxes. The use of numbers, in other words, was a precondition for the emergence of complex societies from Mesopotamia to China to the Americas. Simply put, they are a big part of what makes us human.

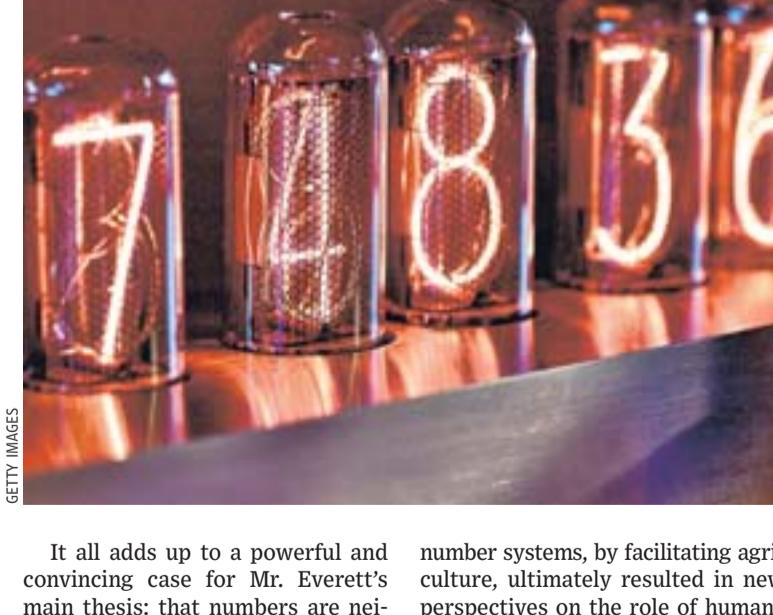
And yet, as the case of the Pirahã makes clear, numbers are not innate to our species. It's not that the human brain is incapable of assessing quantities: To the contrary, studies show that humans are very good at grasping small quantities without any instruction. It's just that things get fuzzier above the quantity of three, leaving us to rely on crude guesstimates.

Without the invention of numbers, we wouldn't have large-scale agriculture—or civilization.

This is where numbers come in: They make it possible for us to extend the accuracy that we already have for small quantities and apply it to larger ones. Without numbers we would still be able to recognize that we have two arms and two legs, but there is little we could say about the legs of an insect or the arms of an octopus, except that there are more of them. It is only the acquisition of numbers that makes such quantities accessible to humans.

Mr. Everett buttresses his argument with an impressive array of studies from different fields. Animal researchers have found that other species, particularly our closer relations, have innate capacities similar to our own. Child psychologists have

demonstrated that even pre-verbal infants are capable of grasping small quantities. Older children then acquire numbers only through a slow and laborious process. Anthropologists, meanwhile, have conducted studies on the Pirahã and a few other known "anumeric" groups, confirming that, lacking numbers, they have only a vague sense of quantities greater than three.



It all adds up to a powerful and convincing case for Mr. Everett's main thesis: that numbers are neither natural nor innate to humans but "a creation of the human mind, a cognitive invention that has altered forever how we see and distinguish quantities." His argument that numbers played a crucial role in the development of agriculture and the complex societies it supported is equally persuasive.

But Mr. Everett seems on shakier ground when he tries to extend his

argument to later phenomena, such as the emergence of higher mathematics, the Industrial Revolution and even the establishment of organized religions with a moral focus. Since none of these developments would have been possible without number-based agricultural societies, Mr. Everett argues, it follows that numbers are indirectly responsible for all of them: "The innovation of complex

place in China, the Middle East or anywhere else. If it had an indirect role in the development of morally focused religions like Christianity, it had an equal role in the emergence of the comparatively amoral pantheon of the Greek and Roman gods. In other words, once we move beyond early agricultural societies, the simple presence of numbers explains little about further developments.

To understand the true role of numbers in the rise of modern societies we must move beyond their usefulness, so emphasized by Mr. Everett, and look to the world of ideas and beliefs. We need to listen to the ancient Pythagoreans, who claimed that the world is made of numbers, but also to the Aristotelians, who believed that numbers have little to teach us about the world; to Francis Bacon, who warned early modern scientists against overreliance on mathematics, but also to Galileo, who believed that the world is written in the language of mathematics. All of these ideas, and many others, played a role in creating the modern world, where numbers and mathematics surround us at every turn; yet none of them follows directly from the mastery of numbers. In the final reckoning, our views of numbers are shaped not by their immediate utility but by the stories we tell about them and their place in our lives.

The Pirahã people of the Brazilian Amazon do not possess numbers to this very day, but their nocturnal habits leave no doubt that they know the value of a good story. Perhaps they are on to something after all.

Mr. Alexander is the author of "Infinitesimal: How a Dangerous Mathematical Theory Shaped the Modern World."

## BOOKS

'It was the owl that shriek'd, the fatal bellman, / Which gives the stern'st good night.' —William Shakespeare



SILENT KILLER  
A Great Gray Owl.

SHUTTERSTOCK

### The Enigma of the Owl

By Mike Unwin & David Tipling  
Yale, 288 pages, \$40

#### Owls

By Marianne Taylor  
HarperDesign, 256 pages, \$50

BY JONATHAN ROSEN

**NOT MANY CREATURES** associated with wisdom, death and magic are more exciting in person than legend, but a Great Gray Owl can hear a mouse stirring under a blanket of snow 30 feet away and catch it in darkness, making no sound until it breaks through the frozen crust with its talons. Even a burrowing owl standing near an appropriated prairie dog house on comically long legs, glaring as if you owe it money, has rare charisma. Watching birds is a pleasure; seeing an owl is an event.

But when was the last time you actually saw an owl? Not delivering the mail to wizards, not counting the licks of a Tootsie Pop, or staring out of a Hooters tee shirt with double-entendre eyes, but an actual owl in the flesh and feathers. They need to be seen to be believed.

The hard part is finding them. Although owls live on every continent but Antarctica, they famously fly at dusk (though not always) and their cryptic plumage lets them vanish even when perched at noon while you stare straight at them. Like the ability to fly in silence—owls can be feathered down to their toes—their ability to disappear is part of their mythic allure. It also helps explain why there are still more than 200 species.

How exciting is it to see an owl? After the pioneering British nature

photographer Eric Hosking got too close to a nesting Tawny Owl in the 1930s and lost an eye to its talons, he was back at the nest 24 hours after getting out of the hospital—wearing a fencing mask.

Though Hosking was unusually unflappable (he called his memoir "An Eye for a Bird"), owls have undeniable charisma, and you do not need a fencing mask to see most of them. Especially if you start with "The Enigma of the Owl: An Illustrated Natural History" or "Owls: A Guide to Every Species in the World." Both books are excellent for armchair owling, general reference and the pleasure of looking at photographs of birds that manage uncannily to look like old friends transfigured by feathers—even with mice, frogs or snakes dangling from their beaks.

Written with lively, unforced erudition by nature writer Mike Unwin, "The Enigma of the Owl" is a beautiful book, with 200 extraordinary images of hunting, nesting, flying and perching owls. The superb photographs were either taken or collected by the renowned nature photographer David Tipling. Organized by bioregion, the book focuses on 53 species, from the tiny bug-catching Elf Owl—a "pocket predator" peeping out of a hole in a saguaro cactus—to the hulking Eurasian Eagle Owl, which can swallow a rabbit whole and has been known to kill a young deer. Biggest of all is Blakiston's Fish Owl, which has a six-foot wingspan, weighs up to 10 pounds (a lot for a bird with hollow bones) and can carry a fish twice its own weight. Owls are extraordinary hunters, "with the smallest owls punching well above their weight."

Many are also "intraguild predators," which is a polite way of saying they eat other owls.

In "Owls: A Guide to Every Species in the World," Marianne Taylor, who is also the author of "Beautiful Owls" (2013), sets out to give every owl its due. She puts the number of species at "220 or so." Mr. Unwin's number is somewhat higher but there is room for disagreement; as Ms. Taylor notes in her excellent introduction, "many are still virtually unknown and have only ever been glimpsed by a lucky handful of people,"

In "Owls," Ms. Taylor gives every owl its due. She puts the number of species at "220 or so." Mr. Unwin's number is somewhat higher but there is room for disagreement; as Ms. Taylor notes in her excellent introduction, "many are still virtually unknown and have only ever been glimpsed by a lucky handful of people,"

A Great Gray Owl can hear a mouse stirring under a blanket of snow 30 feet away and silently catch it in darkness.

ple, much less properly observed and studied." Ms. Taylor shares many of Mr. Unwin's enthusiasms for the owl's "art of invisibility" and the more flamboyant features of their predatory prowess, along with his book's concern for threatened habitat. The books even share a photograph of a Snowy Owl vomiting up an "owl pellet," those hockey pucks of compressed fur, feathers and bones made of the indigestible parts of an owl's diet that exit the way they entered.

The bulk of "Owls" consists of an "Owl Directory"—a page of description and vital statistics for each species sharing space with a large color photograph of the owl silhouetted onto the page. All guidebooks bow to utility; the absence of background facilitates identification but the

birds, shorn of the trees, snow and sky that are so much a part of their patterning, look oddly denatured. But in size and tone, "Owls" aims as much for the celebratory as the encyclopedic; this is not the sort of field guide you bring into the field unless you also carry a coffee table.

The book is big enough, and fun-sized enough, to come wrapped in a life-size poster of a Great Gray Owl, a bird that stands more than two and a half feet tall. Much of its bulk is a fluffy illusion—they typically weigh less than three pounds. Still, a Great Gray Owl has been observed driving a bear from its nest. (Do not mess with nesting owls.)

Both authors write eloquently about the most salient feature of owls: Like silent movie stars, they have "faces." While most birds seem always in profile, owls have forward-facing eyes like our own. True, their eyeballs are fixed in bony sheaths, and they can turn their necks 270 degrees (which helps if you can't move your eyes), but they look at you. The familiar eloquence of their faces derives from something called a "facial disc," the smooth, feathered, slightly concave surface that makes barn owls look like Marcel Marceau and gives Great Gray Owls big hollow rings around their eyes, as if they've been reading all night.

As both books detail, the anthropomorphic effect of the facial disc is an accident of evolution that has sculpted owl faces into satellite dishes that direct sound waves to their ears. The ears, by the way, are not the fluffy "horns" some owls have on their heads but openings on the sides of the skull, hidden by feathers. Hidden too is the fact that one owl ear is higher than the other,

which allows them to parse sounds and locations in subtle ways.

Part of the paradox of our relationship to owls is that the features that make them seem so human, and that we mistake for poetic expressiveness, are the very things that make them so good at killing. This is not the owls' fault, though we have a habit of assigning our worst and best attributes to animals and punishing them accordingly.

One has only to look at the hovering photograph of a Barn Owl in "The Enigma of the Owl," with its white wings to see why the birds, which like to hunt in cemeteries, were frequently mistaken for ghosts. And though a Barn Owl can easily kill a rodent a night, a great boon to a farmer, Mr. Unwin reports that, "as late as the 1950s, rural folk in the United Kingdom would nail a spread-eagled Barn Owl to a door in an effort to ward off thunder and lightning."

The Greeks matched Athena, goddess of wisdom, with the Little Owl, and the association stuck; the bird's Latin name, *Athena Noctua*, means Athena of the Night. But a nearly identical subspecies found in the Middle East—*Athena Noctua Lilith*—was identified with a child-stealing demon.

We are better off leaving extremes of good and evil to the human realm, and letting owls be owls. According to Mr. Unwin, the Little Owl was brought to England in the 1700s, not because it resembled Athena or Lilith but because it was remarkably good at killing cockroaches. Now that is wisdom.

Mr. Rosen is the author of *"The Life of the Skies: Birding at the End of Nature,"* among other books.

## The Best Portion of a Good Life

### Personalities on the Plate

By Barbara J. King  
Chicago, 229 pages, \$25

BY MICHAEL O'DONNELL

**THE DEBATE** over eating animals has become as toxic as our politics, with even more fake blood. The positions of both sides are best understood in the context of reaction. Carnivores unsurprisingly dislike vegetarian finger-wagging and want to enjoy their suppers in peace. Animal-welfare advocates, for their part, see such an acute ethical crisis that they are willing to try anything to reduce animal suffering. The result is a lopsided draw: Meat consumption is up, yet so is veganism. Rather than reaching common ground, both sides have retreated to their corners, angrily peering around the referee for someone to slug.

Into this overheated grudge match steps a voice of reason: a retired college professor with a fondness for animal videos on YouTube and a child's sense of wonder about the natural world. Barbara J. King taught anthropology at the College of William & Mary for 28 years, focusing on primate behavior. In "Personalities on the Plate," she popularizes a fairly new term: She is a "reducetarian." Rather than prescribing a vegetarian lifestyle, she urges her readers simply to eat less meat and fewer animal products. And, incidentally, more bugs.

In tone, the book recalls Michael Pollan's "The Omnivore's Dilemma" (2006), which Ms. King cites approvingly: open to persuasion, wary of dogma, concerned about animal welfare but not that issue alone. Yet Ms.

King offers the refreshing perspective of a clear-eyed scientist rather than a fussy gourmet. She proceeds from a key assumption: "We have trained our minds to notice certain animals and not others." Humans live with dogs and cats as companions and harbor an endless curiosity over their emotional lives. Yet we have equally intimate relationships with the animals we eat, with far less understanding. Organizing her book around eight groups of animals that are consumed as food in various parts of the world, she writes, "we owe it to all of these animals to become aware of their sentience and to use our intelligence to acknowledge and act on behalf of theirs."

Pigs can use mirrors, unlock doors and recognize symbols. Yet bacon is trendy.

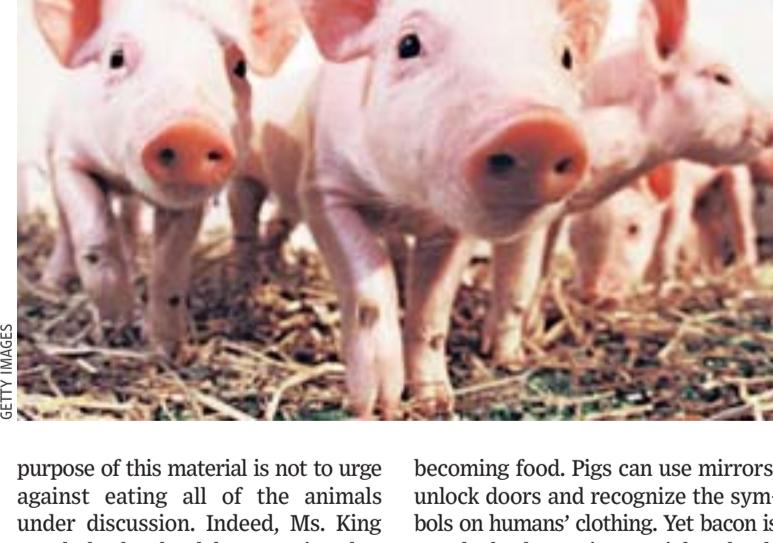
Ms. King explains that sentience is the ability to feel sensations like pleasure and pain. But many seemingly simple animals display far more than sentience: They have intelligence. The octopus, for instance, features in the cuisines of Greece, Spain, Italy and Japan. Yet octopuses—"hands down, the most intelligent invertebrates on the planet"—are strategic problem solvers and tool users that carry around coconut shells for later use in building shelters. They engage in social signaling, and females protect their eggs with vigilance. In captivity, octopuses demonstrate preference and even personality. Ms. King recounts the story of an octopus at the New England Aquarium that, for unknown reasons, took a dislike to a

certain volunteer, shooting her, and only her, with jets of water. After leaving for college, the volunteer returned after several months and got the same treatment. The octopus not only could distinguish between humans and form preferences about them; it could hold a grudge.

Much of "Personalities on the Plate" reads like a fascinating zoological primer, exploring the social and emotional intelligence of animals. The

sort of gonzo cuisine or the possibility of octopus farming to keep up with culinary demand. After learning more about these remarkable animals, it is hard to see either practice being worth its ethical costs.

Pigs are an even more striking example of ethical trade-offs. Ms. King wants nothing to do with eating them, especially after examining their extraordinary intelligence and the amount of distress they endure before

GETTY IMAGES

purpose of this material is not to urge against eating all of the animals under discussion. Indeed, Ms. King concludes her book by asserting that insects—which are widely eaten in some parts of the world and catching on in others—are fair game. "My interpretation of the evidence is that there's a qualitative gulf in intelligence and sentience between insects and the other animals I consider." Acknowledging animal sentience means confronting gratuitous disregard for animal suffering. Take the Korean fad of eating live octopus as a

becoming food. Pigs can use mirrors, unlock doors and recognize the symbols on humans' clothing. Yet bacon is trendy, barbecue is a social and cultural phenomenon, and pork is the most consumed meat in the world. Its cost in suffering is high. Several haunting pages of the book contrast the open-pasture life of so-called sanctuary pigs with the 100 million animals raised annually in U.S. factory farms, which live in conditions that are brutal, terrifying and short. Adopting for a moment the language of the animal-rights movement, Ms.

King describes one rescue pig's former life: "She dwelled in feces, surrounded by corpses."

Several scenes from the book illustrate the PTSD-like symptoms of animals that found their way from industrial farms to sanctuaries. The pig described above had to be quarantined from other animals for psychological as well as medical reasons. A chimpanzee whose mother was killed by African poachers for bushmeat later refused food and water, rocking back and forth and staring blankly. Similarly affecting are Ms. King's observations of grieving animals, like a mother goat standing in place watching the road down which a truck had just taken away her two kids, or the sanctuary cow that showed signs of grief after a beloved companion died. It is not anthropomorphism, Ms. King convincingly argues, to describe animals' emotional experiences with accuracy and precision.

"The animals we have met in these pages," Ms. King writes, "demonstrate decisively that, to varying degrees, they think their way through their days and experience feelings about what they make happen and what happens to them." We, of course, determine what happens to most animals. Readers will finish the book and resolve to go forward—eating meat, abstaining from it, or consuming less of it—in a more purposeful way. The animal-welfare debate needs more thoughtful, informative and level-headed discussion—not least because it makes for effective advocacy. "Personalities on the Plate" is a good place to start.

Mr. O'Donnell is a lawyer in the Chicago area. His writing appears in the Atlantic, the Nation and the Chicago Tribune.

## BOOKS

'Elvis is the greatest cultural force in the twentieth century. He introduced the beat to everything, music, language, clothes.' —Leonard Bernstein

# It's Lonely Being King

### Being Elvis

By Ray Connolly

Liveright, 362 pages, \$27.95

BY DAVID KIRBY

**HOW MANY** Elvis biographies are there? Several hundred is a reasonable guess. Suffice it to say that there are so many that a Google search will lead you to sites listing "Five Elvis Biographies to Read," much as a traveler to France might look for and find a "Best Restaurants of Paris" site. If you were to ask me which Elvis books tell his story best, I'd urge you to go first to Peter Guralnick's two-volume biography, then Greil Marcus's three studies ("Mystery Train," "Dead Elvis" and "Double Trouble") for more depth.

Which brings us to English journalist Ray Connolly's "Being Elvis: A Lonely Life." The awkward title gives little idea of what to expect, unlike, say Mark Ribowsky's recent "Hank: The Short Life and Long Country Road of Hank Williams," which neatly nutshell the life and times of the doomed country star.

And there is no big revelation in Mr. Connolly's account, just more nuance. If you're interested mainly in the pioneering days of rock 'n' roll, you might want to spend your money instead on Rick Bragg's "Jerry Lee Lewis: His Own Story," an account of Elvis's very different contemporary. (Whereas dutiful Elvis reported for induction into the Army, Jerry Lee did something very different with his draft notice: "I waddled it up and threw it in the Black River," said the Killer.) And if you've ever thought about what it would be like to be a rock star and imagined a long and happy life for yourself in showbiz, then you might like Keith Richards's "Life" or Bruce Springsteen's "Born to Run."

But if you suspect that the pressures and pitfalls of rock stardom might not be worth all the wealth and adulation and that your present life suits you just fine, then "Being Elvis" is the book for you.

After its subject's name, the most important word in Mr. Connolly's title is "lonely." The story is already well-known: Poor boy from Tupelo, Miss., finds fame and fortune too soon, is taken advantage of by an unscrupulous manager and sycophantic friends, and dies at age 42 with a massive cocktail of drugs in his system. What Mr. Connolly does is add shadow, to the degree that the living Elvis seems dead already, trapped in a spooky hell like some unquiet spirit in Dante's underworld or a grainy Hollywood horror film.



PALACE WALK Elvis at Graceland, ca. 1957.

The darkness starts before the book does, in a sense, on page xvii of the foreword, with Elvis bored, sleepless, lonely and depressed in May 1977, just weeks away from his death in August. He was "the most loved entertainer ever," in Mr. Connolly's words, yet fearful that he'd be forgotten or, worse, ridiculed. The problem was that he was the first of his kind: not the first rock star but the first rock superstar. There were a lot of entertainers before Elvis—Sinatra, Johnnie Ray, Nat King Cole—who drove audiences wild. But "there was something about his voice, his attitude, his shy smile, his boyish beauty, the movements of his body as he sang, his sex appeal and his story" that raised Elvis above the others and led his fans and even his detractors to call him the King. Elvis was the whole

package, and neither he nor anyone else knew what to do with it.

His story starts in the two-room Mississippi shack where he was born by lamplight and ends in Graceland with his death. In monarch years, Elvis was already an old man well before his demise. By the time he was 25, at which age most people have just settled into their first jobs, Elvis was the patriarch of a fiefdom that included his grandmother, his uncles and their families, the hangers-on who lived on the property, and the staff who ran the house and cooked and cleaned for the multitude, including those who lived elsewhere but dropped by on a daily basis. Young kings learn from their fathers, but Elvis only had feckless Vernon Presley, who was never fond of work and did a stretch in the state penitentiary in Parchman when the boy was 3 for en-

hancing some figures on a check before cashing it.

No wonder Elvis couldn't sleep at night. And after everything that he went through—the premature fame, the terrible movies he starred in and hated, his mismanagement by the duplicitous Colonel Tom Parker, the shattered personal relationships and, more than anything else, the unrelenting exhaustion—it's still shocking and yet, in a way, understandable that postmortem lab reports found 14 drugs in his system, 10 of them in toxic quantities.

But Mr. Connolly argues that the drug taking had started long before Elvis's Graceland days and probably for good reason. Without saying so directly, Mr. Connolly leads one to guess that Elvis had a condition that wouldn't have been diagnosed by a backwoods doctor in the 1930s, even

if his parents, who couldn't afford indoor plumbing, had taken him to one. It could be that he had an attention-deficit disorder. Certainly he was often frustrated as a child, throwing tantrums that continued throughout his life. In a sense, his impatience jump-started his career; an early recording session at Sun Records was going south until Elvis, who "was always pretty wound up and never could abide a nervous silence," began to belt out Big Boy Crudup's "That's All Right," which became his first hit. And on stage Elvis gyrated in a way that, according to bass player Bill Black, made it look as though "something was going on inside his pants."

The problem was that he was the first of his kind: not the first rock star but the first rock superstar.

Whatever was going on in his pants and elsewhere, Elvis was soon self-medicating, principally with the amphetamines his mother used as diet pills. One drug led to another, to the codeine, Quaaludes, Demerol and Dilaudid that were part of the cocktail that killed him.

The drug dependency makes Elvis seem like a latter-day Poe, a weak-willed artist who drowned his demons and then himself in a narcotic flood. But after reading Mr. Connolly's book, I'm more inclined to see him as an American Keats: Both men were betrayed by their bodies, both died too young and both (though we'll never know) may have had their best work ahead of them.

And like the British bard, Elvis will always be with us. On Aug. 16, 1977, the lady with the Deep South accent who handed me my dry cleaning was clearly distraught, and when I asked if she was OK, she burst into tears and cried, "The Kang is dead, the Kang is dead!" Almost 40 years later, as I was reading "Being Elvis," I was on a flight that landed in Salt Lake City, which is as far culturally from Elvis's Memphis as it is geographically, and the local paper's arts section had a feature on not one but three Elvis impersonators appearing there that weekend.

It's no wonder that books about him keep appearing. He may not be on stage these days, but, really, Elvis has never left the building.

*Mr. Kirby is the author of "Crossroad: Artist, Audience, and the Making of American Music."*

# You Know His Face, but Not His Name

### There I Go Again

By William Daniels

Potomac, 207 pages, \$26.95

BY JOANNE KAUFMAN

**IT IS THE CURSE** of stars that they can't walk down the street without fans hollering their names. It is the curse of less well-known performers that they can't walk down the street without puzzled fans murmuring, "I know you. I know you. Your name is on the tip of my tongue." William Daniels, whose credits include "The Graduate," "Two for the Road," "The Parallax View" and the voice of the black Pontiac Trans-Am in "Knight Rider," belongs to the second category.

As Mr. Daniels tells us in his memoir, "There I Go Again," he stormed out of a New York party celebrating the premiere of "The Graduate" when another guest, screenwriter William Goldman, told him: "Billy, I want to write a book about you, George Grizzard, John McMartin and other really good actors who've just never 'made it.'" Mr. Daniels reports that he glared at Mr. Goldman and said: "I don't want to be in that book." But now, at last, he has his very own book, one that will find an audience in family, friends and ardent fans.

The son of a brick layer and a stage mother to rival Momma Rose in "Gypsy," Mr. Daniels grew up in Brooklyn. When, at the age of 3, he began jiggling and hopping to the music he heard on the radio, Momma Irene promptly enrolled him in dancing school. Soon Billy was doing tap routines with his younger sister, Jackie, and auditioning successfully

for "The Horn & Hardart Children's Hour," a radio show that eventually moved to television.

It was a pressure-cooker life in the studio, and even more so at home with the captious Irene always ready to pounce. "If there had been a mistake, a flubbed line or a missed cue in the last performance," Mr. Daniels writes, "it was treated like there had been a death in the family." One of few childhood bright spots was an encounter with Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. Mr. Daniels's account of that meeting is touching, the payoff of a fan letter that the young hoofer wrote to the master. In his handwritten reply, Robinson invited Mr. Daniels and his mother to his next engagement at the Cotton

University, where he met Bonnie Bartlett, a fetching co-ed. The two married right after graduation.

Mr. Daniels endured unemployment, odd jobs (he was hired to sit in the audience of the early sitcom

Parts in "A Thousand Clowns," "On a Clear Day You Can See Forever" and "1776" followed.

There was movie work too, generally of a particular stripe: way below the title. Warren Beatty "offered me a



ACT OF WAR William Daniels as John Adams in the Broadway musical '1776.'

Club. On the appointed evening, they were led to a ringside table, and when Robinson finished his set, he walked over, held out his hand to his 8-year-old fan, said "This is for you" and performed his famous slap step.

Kid sister Jackie bailed out of the business early, but Mr. Daniels pressed on, making his Broadway debut while a teenager as one of the sons in "Life With Father." The play's co-author and star Howard Lindsay became a parent figure and mentor, preaching the gospel of "leave them wanting more" and stressing the value of a college education. Mr. Daniels paid attention. After two years in the Army, he enrolled at Northwestern

"Mister Peepers" and laugh uproariously), and unprepared co-stars (Leo G. Carroll and Veronica Lake) before being cast, to great effect, in the devastating Edward Albee two-hander "The Zoo Story." If the role didn't exactly make Mr. Daniels a star, it certainly gave him a calling card.

small but important part in *Reds*," Mr. Daniels writes. "I've often joked that in films I refuse to do big parts, only small, important parts." Television provided a more enthusiastic welcome and gave Mr. Daniels his best-known roles: brusque self-regarding heart surgeon Mark Craig on the 1980s NBC

drama "St. Elsewhere" and the stern but loving teacher George Feeny on the ABC series "Boy Meets World."

"There I Go Again" has its moments, but readers may want to give a wide berth to Mr. Daniels's snits, which are frequent, and his sulks, which are many. He once withdrew from Tony Award consideration, for example, believing that he'd been nominated in the wrong category; in a fit of pique on another occasion, he took off his tux and refused to attend an Emmy Awards ceremony because he was tired of losing. Under pressure from the long-suffering Bonnie, he reconsidered, then came home with the statuette, which just goes to show you.

Only slightly less off-putting are the accounts of obscure, short-lived TV series whose casts included Mr. Daniels (e.g., "Freebie and the Bean"); the less-than-insightful observations ("I've seen the right choices made that led to a success and the wrong choices that led to failure"); and the intimate details: "Although we never used contraception, Bonnie never became pregnant again." Thanks for sharing.

There are the requisite backstage tales in "There I Go Again": about the choreographer and director Jerry Robbins (tough S.O.B.), Jason Robards (drunk and disorderly), Barbara Harris (neurotic, needy and self-indulgent) and Sandy Dennis (ditto). These vignettes, while engaging, aren't quite sufficient to compensate for Mr. Daniels's none-too-profound musings on celebrity and a monotonous "and then I did that" style. There he goes again indeed.

*Ms. Kaufman writes about the arts for the Journal.*

## BOOKS

'Concentration comes out of a combination of confidence and hunger.' —Arnold Palmer

# How to Conquer a Curse

### The Cubs Way

By Tom Verducci

Crown Archetype, 375 pages, \$28

BY JONAH KERI

**EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK** in today's game of baseball you see data. A catcher's ability to frame pitches, or make them look like strikes, was once estimated with the naked eye but now can be quantified. We can gauge the precise point in space where a pitcher releases the ball, to the inch. Our ability to measure outcomes has grown so precise that we can take a spectacular catch by an outfielder and quantify exactly how spectacular it really was.

Like any successful modern baseball team, the Chicago Cubs acquire, process, translate and implement reams of data. Yet according to Tom Verducci's "The Cubs Way," the lasting legacy of the team that last year broke the longest championship drought in baseball history might be something entirely different. To hear Cubs management tell it, the secret ingredient that teams need to win in today's Data Dome is . . . makeup. For the uninitiated, that's a catch-all baseball term that encompasses hard work, determination, leadership, a keen ability to learn and just plain not being a jerk.

Makeup is, by its nature, hard to quantify. The Cubs do their best to do so anyway. Their methods range from detailed analysis by leading sports psychologists to simply getting in a room with a prospect to assess whether he'd be someone his future teammates would want to work with for the next 10 years. "The Cubs Way" offers extraordinary access to the inner workings of the Cubs. It does so through alternating narratives, flipping back and forth between each of the seven games of the 2016 World Series and stories about Cubs president Theo Epstein, manager Joe Maddon and other figures in the front office and dugout.

Hired in 2002 at age 28 to be the general manager of the supposedly cursed Red Sox, Mr. Epstein won two World Series in Boston and built the foundation for a third. When he took the reins for Boston, building a winning team through rigorous statistical analysis was an easier task than it is today; many other ballclubs didn't know how to operate that way or were hostile toward statistical methods. By the time the Cubs hired Mr. Epstein nine years later, every team in the majors employed an analytics department. To gain an advantage over the competition, the Cubs needed new ways to acquire winning players.



**NORTH SIDE STORY** Anthony Rizzo after scoring the game-winning run in Game 7 of last year's World Series.

Mr. Epstein set a goal of finding four young stars around whom he could build a championship team. The first was Anthony Rizzo, a big first baseman that Mr. Epstein had actually drafted in 2007 for the Red Sox. The very next spring, the 18-year-old learned that he had Hodgkin's lymphoma. "Am I going to die?" Mr. Rizzo asked the doctors upon receiving the diagnosis. The doctors had caught the cancer early, so the success rate for treating it was 97%. His next question: "Can I play baseball?"

Soon after that doctor visit, Mr. Epstein invited Mr. Rizzo to Fenway Park to meet with Red Sox pitcher (and future Cubs teammate) Jon Lester, who himself had just endured a bout of lymphoma, and Mr. Rizzo impressed everyone at Fenway that day with his poise, maturity and good humor over his condition. Two years later Mr. Epstein would trade him to San Diego in a win-now blockbuster deal for star first baseman Adrian Gonzalez. But the young executive kept tabs on the young slugger even after the deal and after he took over in Chicago. When Mr. Rizzo struggled in his first cup of coffee with the Padres, Mr. Epstein

quickly snatched him up in a buy-low deal. It was one of the first and best moves Mr. Epstein made with the Cubs—Mr. Rizzo has made three All-Star games and three times has been a top-10 MVP finisher in Chicago—and it might not have happened if not for that day at Fenway.

Mr. Epstein and his right-hand man in Boston and Chicago, Jed Hoyer, hunted for the three other members of their "four pillars" plan by using similar makeup markers. Addison Russell was a quiet and humble shortstop who excelled against older competition—as a kid, in high school, in the minors and finally in the majors, after the Cubs stole him in a trade with Oakland. Third baseman Kris Bryant was the sort of guy, Mr. Epstein said, whose personality won over the team's executives immediately. "We all came out of that meeting like, 'If we have daughters, that's the guy we'd like her to marry.'" That he was 6-foot-5, 230 pounds, with light-tower power and uncommon athleticism for a man his size didn't hurt.

In Mr. Verducci's account, Mr. Epstein reserves the biggest character accolades for Kyle Schwarber. Barely 6

feet tall, with a stocky build and limited defensive ability, Mr. Schwarber scared away multiple would-be suitors in the 2014 amateur draft despite wielding a powerful bat. After a pre-draft workout, Mr. Epstein and scouting director Jason McLeod met with him to test his mettle. "Hey, some guys

**The Cubs' secrets:**  
neuroscouting, Joe  
Maddon's 'Matrix,'  
and not being jerks.

even out here in our own organization don't think you can catch," Mr. Epstein told the catcher about his iffy defense. A self-identified baseball rat, Mr. Schwarber offers an indignant reply. "Well, I look forward to proving those f---ing people wrong."

Guiding the team's four young stars, and a cast of other talented players, is Joe Maddon. Hailing from the old anthracite-mining town of Hazleton, Pa., Mr. Maddon is the

well-read, free-spirited, have-fun-at-all-times, damn-the-old-ways skipper who thrusts just one rule on his players: Respect 90, as in run hard in those 90 feet from home plate to first base. Mr. Verducci fills us in on Mr. Maddon's 13 principles for managing (including "freedom is empowering" and "wear whatever you think makes you look hot"), most of which stress the importance of makeup. For Mr. Epstein, Joe Maddon was the perfect leader to turn a painfully young team full of high-character kids into champions.

In Mr. Maddon's universe, we learn all about the old Angels cap that the manager keeps for good luck, and how retracing his formative baseball days in Colorado learning the finer points of baseball and life from his mentor, semipro manager Bauldie Moschetti, led to a middle-of-nowhere marriage proposal to his wife, Jaye. While makeup is the book's star, there's plenty of granular analysis for stat-heads to enjoy too. What is The Matrix, and how does Mr. Maddon use it to make in-game decisions in a matter of seconds? What is neuroscouting, and how do Cubs hitters use it to refine their swings?

Along the way, Mr. Verducci acknowledges some flaws in the Cubs' plans. Mr. Epstein's mistakes range from trading away a future batting champion (DJ LeMahieu) to acquiring a closer in Aroldis Chapman who just a few months earlier had been suspended for violating the league's domestic-violence policy. The Cubs president's attempts to explain the Chapman trade ring hollow when cast against the organization's obsession with makeup. Ultimately, at least in this case, Mr. Epstein chose performance over makeup. Mr. Chapman helped the Cubs win it all, and Cubs fans were left to wrestle with how to view their team's closer as he was firing 102-mph fastballs and saving games.

In the end, even analytics and makeup can't account for everything. There are moments in the Cubs' path to glory that boil down, simply, to really good luck. No team is perfect, and no champion has ever won without the help of good fortune. "The Cubs Way" is a lush accounting of one of the most thrilling championship runs in American sports history—by the numbers and by the personalities that made it happen.

*Mr. Keri, a writer for CBS Sports and Sports Illustrated, is author of "The Extra 2%" and "Up, Up, & Away" and host of The Jonah Keri Podcast.*

# The Daredevil in a Pastel Shirt

### Arnie

By Tom Callahan

Harper, 333 pages, \$27.99

BY LEIGH MONTVILLE

**THE WATER** sits on the left. The trees stand on the right. Sand-filled bunkers lie here and there—seems like everywhere. A tightly mowed paradise awaits, green and perfect, at the end of all this. A little flag in the center waves in welcome. The golfer's perpetual dilemma is how to get there.

"Don't be a fool," the first voice in the golfer's head declares. "Stay away from the trouble. Take your time. Caution. Caution. You know what can happen if you make a mistake."

"Go for it!" the second voice declares in an excited shout. "Spin the wheel. You can do it. Take the chance. Live a little."

The second voice belongs to Arnold Palmer.

From the time he arrived on the national stage, with his win at the 1958 Masters, to his death last September at the age of 87, the most famous citizen from Latrobe, Pa., was the champion of aggressiveness in all matters involving risk and reward. Life is short. Take a chance. Damn those torpedoes, yes, full speed ahead. He was a daredevil in pastel shirts and alligator shoes, a gambler supreme.

In troubled situations, he would throw his L&M cigarette to the turf, hitch up his pants, take out a club from his bag that would make weekend hackers gasp, and try for the improbable, if not the impossible. When he succeeded, the golf ball zipping past the requisite hazards and landing, plop, on the green, he would unleash a large smile and stalk forward to his prize. A goodly

portion of America would follow.

"Jack and I were just different," he once explained in talking about his rivalry with fellow legend Jack Nicklaus for the top spot on the PGA tour. "He was always slow. . . . That's just the way he played. Me, I'm the other way. I like to move in golf and in every other thing. . . . I got where I got—wherever that is—by doing it my way. I was maybe too aggressive in certain instances, and maybe it cost me some tournaments. Jack was maybe too conservative and maybe it cost him a few. But you are what you are. I never mimicked anybody. That was the real me."

Palmer's passion and its accompanying vulnerability, the qualities he displayed to make golf a TV attraction

Palmer developed a late career as a pilot, setting an around-the-world flight record to celebrate the U.S. bicentennial.

in the black-and-white early 1960s, are detailed deftly in "Arnie: The Life of Arnold Palmer" by Tom Callahan. In keeping with his subject's approach, Mr. Callahan has set up a different sort of biography and knocked it dead center down the fairway.

Rather than follow the normal tromp through history, he walks us through Palmer's life and times as if we are part of that raucous group—OK, let's call it "Arnie's Army"—that followed the fast-moving man around Augusta National, the Old Course at St. Andrews, the Olympic Club in San Francisco, and other assorted stops. The tale is told in conversation as much as narration; characters from

Palmer's life join us, comment, tell pieces of their own stories and disappear. Mr. Callahan, himself a fixture around the tour for most of his sports-writing life, also appears and disappears, then appears again with first-person anecdotes.

The birdies and bogies of Palmer's life are described under chapter headings designated by important years, but the time frame bounces everywhere. Something that happened years later or years earlier might intrude anywhere while Palmer sinks a final

Palmer loses a Masters to Gary Player that he should have won. In return, Mr. Player loses a Masters to Palmer he should have won. Arnold is Arnold.

"Arnold," fellow professional Dave Marr says after Palmer has given up cigarettes for the 900th time and shot an 82 in the first round of the 1969 PGA Championship, "you're the only guy I ever knew who gave up smoking and golf the same week."

More stories suddenly appear. Terrific stories about anything and anyone. Sam Snead talks about the dour

about a wire-service nickname early in his career that he hated: "My dad and I visited the AP offices to ask them to stop calling me 'Fat Jack,' but they wouldn't."

Mr. Callahan notes that President Dwight D. Eisenhower, a big Palmer fan, "openly and unapologetically played no fewer than 61 rounds a year and as many as 122" during his stay at the White House. (A record made to be broken by the current resident?) Democrats responded with buttons that read: "Ben Hogan for President! If we're going to have a golfer, let's have a good one!"

Back to the action.

Palmer's career, like his swing, was unorthodox. He won his last major when he was 34, his last tour victory when he was 43. Despite his relatively short period at the top of his profession, his popularity was unmatched. There was something about him—his looks, his approachability, his all-out charge through life—that registered with the paying public.

He became a rich man, successful in assorted businesses. He developed a second career as a celebrity pilot, owning a string of airplanes, setting a record of 57 hours, 25 minutes, 42 seconds in an around-the-world flight to celebrate the U.S. bicentennial. He laughed often. A sense of fun stayed close to him. That probably was what people liked most of all. "He might be the most accepting person who ever lived," fellow pro Peter Jacobsen says. "Some people walked up to him a little afraid, others not the least bit intimidated. But whoever was standing there, Arnold knew how to make it easier for them and did."

Back to the action.

*Mr. Montville is the author of "Sting Like a Bee: Muhammad Ali vs. the United States of America, 1966-1971."*



**UP AND DOWN** Palmer at the 1968 Masters, where he missed the cut.

put to win one of his four Masters green jackets in seven years, his one U.S. Open in 1960, his back-to-back British Opens in 1961-62, his 62 wins on the PGA tour. We suddenly learn his father, Pap, was demanding. Or his wife, Winnie, was his best buddy, untroubled by his womanizing. Or his business manager, Mark McCormack, was a marketing genius and a boor. Back to the action.

There is a pleasant rhythm here.

Ben Hogan. ("If you ever received a blood transfusion from Hogan, you'd die of pneumonia.") Astronaut Alan Shepard talks about the golf shots he took on the moon with a collapsible six iron that he smuggled onto Apollo 14 in a stocking. ("I was committed to the six," he replies to a comedian who asks him whether, if he had a chance to hit the shot over again, he would stick with the "soft six" or switch to a "hard seven.") Mr. Nicklaus talks

## BOOKS

'Show me a hero, and I'll write you a tragedy.' —F. Scott Fitzgerald

# From Beowulf to Batman

### The Evolution of the Costumed Avenger

By Jess Nevins

Praeger, 400 pages, \$58

BY MICHAEL DIRDA

**LONG BEFORE** 1938, when Action Comics No. 1 introduced the adopted son of Jonathan and Martha Kent, there were many stories about heroes—and heroines—with powers and abilities far beyond those of mortal men. To trace these multitudinous precursors to Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman is obviously a job that only super-researcher Jess Nevins could undertake. Disguised as a mild-mannered reference librarian at a small Texas college, he is also the formidable author of "The Encyclopedia of Fantastic Victoriana," "The Encyclopedia of Pulp Heroes" and three volumes of annotations to Alan Moore and Kevin O'Neill's graphic novel mashup, "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen."

At the beginning of "The Evolution of the Costumed Avenger," Mr. Nevins asks: What is a superhero? Rather than propose a strict definition, he lists a dozen or so traits common to Captain Marvel, Green Lantern and most, if not all, of the indomitable characters battling evil in classic comic books. These basic elements include an unusual origin story, a distinctive weapon or power, a code name or secret identity, a clear-cut view of good and evil, a refusal to kill coupled with recognition of personal mortality, and, above all, commitment to a heroic mission that must be, in Mr. Nevins's words, "selfless" and "aimed at aiding the oppressed."

To track the deep literary roots of Spider-Man and Squirrel Girl, Mr. Nevins first divides what he calls "protosuperheroes" into two main sorts: the Costumed Avenger and the Übermensch, the latter being "any character who has abilities that are impossible in our world, from various psychic abilities to greater-than-human physical abilities to magic powers." While Mr. Nevins focuses his historical study largely on European and American literature, he does argue that the first protosuperhero appears in the Middle Eastern "Epic of Gilgamesh," though it is actually kindhearted Enkidu, Gilgamesh's friend, who performs mighty deeds to combat injustice and assist the downtrodden.

Buckling down to his task, Mr. Nevins next considers Samson, Hercules, Achilles, Hector, Aeneas, Alexander the Great and Beowulf. To all of these he denies full protosuper-



GOOD GUYS WEAR BLACK TIE A page from a 1941 comic book, set amid the Blitz, introducing a hero named London.

hero status because they act primarily for their own glory or self-aggrandizement. Several chivalric figures (Roland, the Cid) also fall a bit short, though Mr. Nevins persuasively contends that King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table provide the model for future comic-book teams, such as the Justice League of America and the Avengers. He sees Robin Hood as "the single-most important protosuperhero of the premodern era." Robin possesses a dual identity (he's really the Earl of Huntington), a distinctive costume, a special weapon (his bow) and a noble purpose: to rob the corrupt rich and help the deserving poor.

While surveying the Renaissance, Mr. Nevins cleverly emphasizes the importance of Ariosto's "Orlando Furioso" and Spenser's "Faerie Queene." These epic poems prominently spotlight Bradamante and Britomart, perhaps the two most illustrious women warriors since Penthesilea, the queen of the Amazons. What's more, Spenser's Talus—who is made of "yron"—

just might be the modern era's "first superheroic android."

After a quick glance at the 18th century's bandit-heroes (the real-life highwayman Jack Sheppard, Schiller's noble robber Karl Moor) and the "hero-villains" of Gothic romance (doomed Melmoth the Wanderer, vampiric Lord Ruthven), Mr. Nevins lingers over a cadre of secret masters and colorful masterminds. These men "of extraordinary capabilities" include the fictional Count of Monte Cristo and the self-mythologizing Eugène François Vidocq (1775-1857), founder of the first private detective agency. Turning to America, Mr. Nevins points to "The Gray Champion," the ghostly protagonist of one of Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Twice-Told Tales," as this country's earliest costumed avenger. He only appears at times of serious national emergency: "His hour is one of darkness, and adversity, and peril," writes Hawthorne, adding that "should domestic tyranny oppress us, or the invader's step pollute our soil, still may the Gray Champion come."

Later in the 19th century the dime-

novel detective Nick Carter, preternaturally strong and a master of disguise, duly contributes his mite to the mythos of the superhero, as does London's Spring-Heeled Jack, a black-cloaked urban legend who can leap tall buildings in a single bound. Tales of metamorphoses, such as Stevenson's "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" and folkloric accounts of the werewolf, subtly prepared readers, Mr. Nevins says, for "the idea of the transformation of a hero from his or her mortal body to a superhuman one."

By the 20th century, Baroness Orczy's Scarlet Pimpernel and Johnston McCulley's Zorro had definitively established the now classic trope of a foppish aristocrat with a daredevil secret identity. At the same time, scientific romances, such as H.G. Wells's "The Food of the Gods" (1904) and J.D. Beresford's "The Hampdenshire Wonder" (1911), were speculating about supermen. In the 1930s the Shadow, Doc Savage and other pulp-magazine stalwarts first influenced, and then competed with, Batman and Superman.

Mr. Nevins closes his book with a data-rich precis of modern comic book history. Since the "Golden Age," which lasted from the mid-1930s to the late 1940s, our superheroes have been regularly killed off and resurrected, deconstructed and reinvented. In 1961, Marvel Comics introduced the Fantastic Four, who squabbled, pouted and showed themselves to be as neurotic as the rest of us. Under Stan Lee, Marvel gradually began to outperform the more blandly wholesome DC Comics, partly because Marvel developed an overarching "mega-narrative" in which all its superheroes coexisted and interacted with one another.

The forerunners of today's superheroes can be found in chivalric romance, legend and . . . real life.

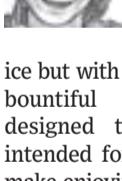
During the 1980s, Frank Miller and Klaus Janson's "Batman: The Dark Knight Returns" and Alan Moore, Dave Gibbons and John Higgins's "Watchmen" enlarged the emotional and artistic range of graphic novels by stressing complex, morally ambivalent characters. In Mr. Nevins's view, an allied dystopianism has been taken too far, so that coarseness and ultra-violence have today become a tedious norm. "The deliberately maintained innocence of the superheroes of my youth is long gone," he writes, "and has been replaced by what is too often a ghastly combination of post-9/11 ruthlessness and postmodern, even nihilistic, cynicism." There are some welcome exceptions, however, such as G. Willow Wilson and Adrian Alphona's Hugo Award-winning "Ms. Marvel," featuring Kamala Khan, a teenage Pakistani-American Muslim.

Because of the immense amount of material covered, "The Evolution of the Costumed Avenger" can sometimes seem almost too capacious, virtually a scattershot history of fantastic adventure. More seriously, Praeger has let down readers by releasing a text pockmarked with repetitions, lacunae and stylistic infelicities. Nonetheless, Jess Nevins has now mapped the DNA that links ancient Enkidu to our own Wolverine. He convincingly shows that the superheroes of today's page and screen got their start long before baby Kal-El was sent rocketing toward Earth as the planet Krypton exploded.

*Mr. Dirda is a literary journalist and the author, most recently, of "Browsings: A Year of Reading, Collecting, and Living With Books."*

### CHILDREN'S BOOKS: MEGHAN COX GURDON

## Whimsy Across the Board



**GRABBY**, grubby little hands can make fast work of delicate books, ripping pages and tearing dust jackets not with malice but with enthusiasm. This spring's bountiful board books, (most) designed to endure and (most) intended for the youngest children, make enjoying stories and concepts a less destructive experience.

Surreal proportions and vivid hues give pizzazz to Paolo Domeniconi's seasonal pictures in "Colors of Nature" (Creative Editions, 14 pages, \$8.99). Kate Riggs makes the most of the brief text with evocative words, such as "sparkles," "crackles," "creeps" and "freezes."

Carli Davidson's hilarious photographs (see right) of nine dogs for "Heads & Tails" (Chronicle, 20 pages, \$8.99) introduce the youngest readers to canine anatomy. Lillypad, an English bulldog, shows us her pugnacious teeth, while Albert, a vizsla, displays his handsome rust-colored paws.

Bold colors and witty contrasts give appeal to Jean Julian's "Before & After" (Phaidon, 40 pages, \$12.95).

On large, glossy pages, the "before" of a thicket of golden sticks becomes the "after" of a plateful of spaghetti; the "before?" of an egg precedes the "after?" of a hen; and in one foldout exception, we see the "during" of a wild roller coaster ride that "after" leaves a father stunned and his son exhilarated.

With thick brush strokes and rich colors, Georg Hallensleben creates lovely reassuring scenes of maternal closeness in "Mommy Snuggles"

(Chronicle, 14 pages, \$5.99). "Mommy tiger walks with her cub in her mouth," writes Anne Gutman; "Mommy otter floats with her pup on her belly."

Renée Treml uses animals of the antipodes to teach the numbers one to 10 in "Ten Little Owls" (Random House Australia/IPG, 24 pages, \$9.99). Monochrome drawings of playful wombats, quolls, dingoes, fruit bats and other exotic creatures are set against pale backgrounds in these calm pages.

Bright acrylic paintings with clear dark lines show the baby tending the springy, solitary thing. Apprehension at the prospect of a haircut is followed by relief: "It did not hurt!"

Archana Sreenivasan gives a South Asian twist to a European fairy tale in her pictures for "Rapunzel" (Little Simon, 24 pages, \$8.99), written by Chloe Perkins. Here the witch wears a sari, the prince is blinded by a curse (not by thorns), and the happy couple, at the ending, plays a board game beside a domed palace.

reading. In Molly Idle's wordless counting book, "Flora and the Chicks" (Chronicle, 20 pages, \$9.99), dainty pictures show a girl collecting newly hatched chicks one by one from their nest. The book's fold-out pages bend with an ease that may be dangerous for longevity. The same goes for the paper flaps to be opened out from the elegant black-and-white print tableaux of Laura Weston's "The Butterfly Garden" (Big Picture Press, 12 pages, \$14.99).

Small fingers may have to dig to reveal colorful scenes from the life cycle of the monarch butterfly. Xavier Deneux takes even greater risks with "Fly!" (Chronicle, 14 pages, \$17.99), an enchanting encounter with the life cycle of birds. Detachable pieces built into the simple illustrations can be removed and fitted into new places until they get lost.

And some board books are not really for children: In style or sensibility, they're designed to appeal to grown-ups. No child needs instruction in the making of mud pies, but adults

who esteem the avant-garde composer John Cage (1912-92) may enjoy his snug collaboration with textile designer Lois Long (1918-2005), "Mud Book: How to Make Pies and Cakes" (Princeton Architectural Press, 40 pages, \$14.95).

Created in the mid-1950s, and self-published in a small batch in 1983, the book offers fanciful lessons that are matched by illustrations in daubs of brown, black and yellow paint.

The spare graphic artwork and obscure comparisons in "Baby to Brooklyn" (Powl, 32 pages, \$6.99) may amuse urban hipsters, but they're likely to baffle toddlers. Rajiv

The anatomy of canines, the challenges of infant coiffure—so much to learn from sturdy board books.

Fernandez juxtaposes "Kindergarten," represented by a row of children facing a teacher, with a line of tap handles and the word "Biergarten." Several pages on, "Girl" is signified by the hair and clothing of an otherwise invisible child, while "Girls" depicts the similarly invisible cast of the Lena Dunham TV vehicle. Politics needn't stop at the nursery door, meanwhile, with "Feminist Baby" (Disney-Hyperion, 22 pages \$12.99), a board book by Loryn Brantz with bold lettering, intense colors and a message that will either charm or grate: "Feminist baby chooses what to wear, and if you don't like it, she doesn't CARE!"



A favorite from Maurice Sendak's 1962 Nutshell Library collection makes its board-book debut with "Alligators All Around" (Harper, 32 pages, \$7.95). In this humorous abecadary, scaly, toothy creatures act out scenes for each letter. We see them "Ordering oatmeal," "Pushing people" and being "Quite quarrelsome."

A beaming baby announces, "I have a hair!" on the first page of Leslie Patricelli's funny and comforting tale of infant coiffure, "Hair" (Candlewick, 26 pages, \$6.99).

In the pages of "Opposite Surprise" (Minedition/IPG, 20 pages, \$12.99), Agnese Baruzzi poses tricky questions. "Thin or wide?" we're asked of a pencil that, in the book, appears with a vertical fold down its middle. The answer would seem to be "thin," but when we pull the right-hand page to its full extent—aha!—what had looked like a pencil is the far sides of a wide bridge.

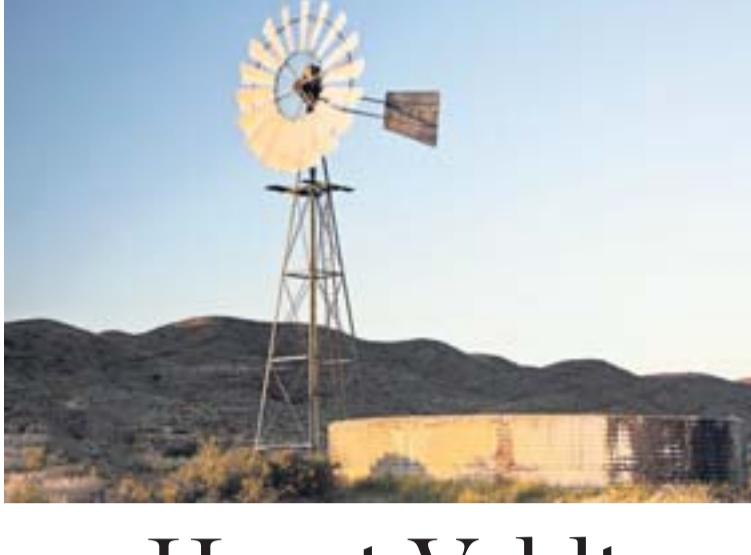
Not all board books are rugged.

Three notable newcomers may require care, lest bits get torn in the

## BOOKS

'The American is a new man, who acts upon new principles; he must therefore entertain new ideas, and form new opinions.' —Hector St. John De Crèvecoeur

### MYSTERIES: TOM NOLAN



## Heart Veldt

**I**N SOUTH African author Sally Andrew's second exotic and enchanting mystery featuring the about-50 advice columnist, terrific cook and amateur detective Tannie ("Auntie") Maria, "The Satanic Mechanic" (Ecco, 312 pages, \$26.99) is no evil schemer but a caring counselor who tries to help Maria unburden herself of the lingering guilt she carries over her abusive husband's hoped-for death. And then new fatalities catch the attention of Tannie Maria and her on-again off-again boyfriend, police detective Henk Kannemeyer.

First comes the murder by poison of a Bushman activist responsible for a court victory involving ancestral tribal lands. Then another member of Maria's PTSD therapy circle is shot dead in the middle of a group meeting. Kannemeyer doesn't want Tannie Maria to get involved investigating these crimes, for fear she'll come to harm. But Tannie Maria refuses to be told what to do—and besides, as the book's title character points out: "The murderer was one of us."

All the characters in Ms. Andrew's evocative novel of the parched Klein Karoo region ("It's hard work being a cloud in the Karoo") are finely drawn, but it's narrator Tannie Maria whom the reader comes to know best: a woman so integrated into her timeless environment, and so at home with her life's passions, that she describes people in terms of food ("He smelled like fresh bread and cinnamon," she says of Henk), talks to the dishes she makes and the animals she feeds, and sees a phantom kudu watching over her with concern. (Might the latter be a side effect, though, of those diet pills she's been taking?) It stands to reason that when the explanation to the book's entwined mysteries reveals itself to Tannie Maria, foodstuffs will be essential clues in the solution: "Suddenly all the ingredients were falling together in the bowl of my mind."

The great fire that devastated England's capital in 1666 sparks the plot that drives British author Andrew

Taylor's atmospheric historical thriller "The Ashes of London" (Harper-Collins, 482 pages, \$26.99). James Marwood, a junior government clerk, has his cloak purloined while standing in the crowd watching St. Paul's being consumed by flames: "The cathedral glowed from within like an enormous lantern." The young woman who takes his garment is the daughter of a political pariah: a regicide wanted for the part he played in the 1649 execution of King Charles. Marwood's own father, a minor player in those doings, lives at the sufferance of the new regime that employs his son, who does his best to keep a low profile, gliding through life "thin as a shadow, pale as a cloud."

But Marwood's duties include investigating crimes on behalf of his patron. When the corpse of a murdered

A South African advice columnist and amateur sleuth investigates a death in her therapy group.

servant is found in the ruins of the fire, Marwood learns the victim was employed by a rich moneylender with ties to the new king. Also living at the rich man's house is the person who stole Marwood's cloak. Might the servant's murder have something to do with those violent deeds of 1649?

As he continues his inquiries, Marwood comes to the attention of a more senior government figure who co-opts his information-gathering services. The moneylender's beautiful wife also begs Marwood's assistance in confidential family matters. The circumspect clerk has become ferret-in-the-middle: "I was involved in this business, whether I liked it or not.... It was not safe to know these facts."

"The Ashes of London" has lots of action, but its power comes in quieter passages, as when Marwood is moved by the destruction of his hometown: "In a sense I was seeing my own history going up in smoke."

### FIVE BEST: A PERSONAL CHOICE

## A. Roger Ekirch on Americanism in the early Republic

### Letters From an American Farmer

By J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur (1782)

**I** CRÈVECOEUR WAS neither born in America nor bred to agriculture. The product of a gentry family in Normandy, he fought in the Seven Years' War under Montcalm at the siege of Quebec. Later, after acquiring farmland in Orange County, N.Y., he wrote an incisive commentary on America that became immensely popular in Europe. "What, then, is the American, this new man?" Crèvecoeur asked. "He is an American, who, leaving behind him all his ancient prejudices and manners, receives new ones from the new mode of life he has embraced, the new government he obeys, and the new rank he holds." "Here," he added, "individuals of all nations are melted into a new race of men," excluding, that is, African-Americans and Indians. But rather than a melting pot, America, by the time of the Revolution, more aptly resembled a beef stew, in which the diverse ingredients, many still distinguishable, shared an intoxicating broth born of national independence.

### 'Asylum for Mankind'

By Marilyn C. Baseler (1998)

**2** WITH AMERICAN independence, the young nation's appeal became increasingly messianic. Propelled by Radical Whig ideology, a body of thought that warned of liberty's imperiled place in the world, Americans viewed the Revolution as the last best hope to protect and advance human freedom. "O! receive the fu-

gitive, and prepare in time an asylum for mankind," Thomas Paine implored. Yet as the afterglow of independence faded, notes Marilyn Baseler, members of the dominant Federalist political party grew unabashedly nativist by the mid-1790s. Not only was the French Revolution still unfolding, but in 1798 a fierce rebellion against British authority failed in Ireland, forcing thousands of dissidents to flee to the U.S. Massachusetts Rep. Garrison Gray Otis railed that he did "not wish to invite hoards of wild Irishmen, nor the turbulent and disorderly of all parts of the world, to come here with a view to disturb our tranquility."

### The Citizenship Revolution

By Douglas Bradburn (2009)

**3** AMONG THE MANY virtues of this volume count Douglas Bradburn's examination of the multiple meanings of citizenship.

Whereas most Americans in the young republic viewed this privilege as volitional, for the British, citizenship was indelible, a consequence of birth, not conviction. With Anglo-Federalists sympathizing with Britain, the lapping tide of xenophobia crested in 1798 with two alien acts that granted President Adams the power to deport émigrés without due process. Another extended the minimum period of residence from five to 14 years for citizenship.

Dead, in the view of Federalists, were visions of America's role as a beacon of liberty. But with the momentous election of 1800 and Jefferson's razor-thin triumph, Congress liberalized naturalization restrictions. "Shall we refuse to the unhappy fugitives from distress, that hospitality which the savages of the wilderness extended to our fathers in this land?" Jefferson demanded. Still, as Mr. Bradburn details, free blacks, let alone slaves, were not accorded the basic rights of citizenship and were, jibed a New Hampshire newspaper, conspicuous by their absence from the ranks of "unhappy fugitives." As were, Jefferson's rhetoric notwithstanding, Native Americans.

### In the Midst of Perpetual Fêtes

By David Waldstreicher (1997)

**4** WHILE POLITICAL leaders sought to define the American character by articulating the rights of foreign aliens and establishing criteria for citizenship, festivals, parades and holidays paid trib-



MR. EKIRCH is the author of 'American Sanctuary: Mutiny, Martyrdom, and National Identity in the Age of Revolution.'

ute to national values. David Waldstreicher reminds us that "common men" wielded political influence in the "public sphere." Especially important were newspapers, which numbered some 200 by 1800 and provided readers, as Alexis de Tocqueville later commented, with "some means of talking every day without seeing one another and of acting together without meeting." Largely excluded from public intercourse, however, were women, except when "their actual or figurative presences symbolized the nation's unity and virtue."

### Citizen Sailors

By Nathan Perl-Rosenthal (2015)

**5** NOWHERE WAS an American citizen's identity more critical than at sea, owing to Britain's policy of impressing sailors from American vessels, some of whom were deserters, into the Royal Navy. Impression, which ultimately led to the War of 1812, forcefully reminded Americans of "the fangs of British despotism." Besides tattooing American flags on their arms, seamen more commonly resorted to carrying "protection certificates" attesting to their citizenship. This system, introduced by Congress in 1796, was at best imperfect. Fraudulent documents were easy to purchase, and the British still refused to recognize naturalized American citizens. Even so, not only did protections constitute the first certificates attesting to American citizenship, they were also issued to large numbers of African-American sailors (upward of 18,000 by 1815) allowing them "to find openings to freedom and a better life"—until, that is, Southern states threatened to imprison black sailors entering their ports. At least, writes Nathan Perl-Rosenthal, "the citizenship regime that developed for American sailors offered a glimmer of a far more inclusive model of the American nation."



ROUSING From the War of 1812.

THE GRANGER COLLECTION

## Best-Selling Books | Week Ended April 2

With data from NPD BookScan

### Hardcover Nonfiction

TITLE AUTHOR / PUBLISHER	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK
<b>Old School: Life in the Sane Lane</b> Bill O'Reilly/Henry Holt & Company	1	New
<b>Hashimoto's Protocol</b> Izabella Wentz/HarperOne	2	New
<b>How to Be a Bawse</b> Lilly Singh/Ballantine Books	3	New
<b>Hillbilly Elegy</b> J.D. Vance/Harper	4	3
<b>Unshakeable</b> Tony Robbins/Simon & Schuster	5	2

### Nonfiction E-Books

TITLE AUTHOR / PUBLISHER	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK
<b>The Zookeeper's Wife</b> Diane Ackerman/W.W. Norton & Company	1	3
<b>Old School: Life in the Sane Lane</b> Bill O'Reilly/Henry Holt & Company, Inc.	2	New
<b>Hillbilly Elegy</b> J.D. Vance/HarperCollins Publishers	3	2
<b>The Reason for God</b> Timothy J. Keller/Penguin Books	4	-
<b>Instant Pot Obsession</b> Janet A. Zimmerman/Arcas Publishing	5	New
<b>On Tyranny</b> Timothy Snyder/Crown/Archetype	6	5
<b>The Last American Man</b> Elizabeth Gilbert/Penguin Publishing Group	7	-
<b>Empire Of The Summer Moon</b> S.C. Gwynne/Scribner	8	-
<b>Carry On, Warrior</b> Glenlon Doyle Melton/Scribner	9	-
<b>Flow</b> Dr. Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi/HarperCollins Publishers	10	-

### Nonfiction Combined

TITLE AUTHOR / PUBLISHER	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK
<b>Old School: Life in the Sane Lane</b> Bill O'Reilly/Henry Holt & Company	1	New
<b>The Zookeeper's Wife</b> Diane Ackerman/W.W. Norton & Company	2	1
<b>On Tyranny</b> Timothy Snyder/Tim Duggan Books	3	-
<b>Hillbilly Elegy</b> J.D. Vance/Harper	4	2
<b>Milk And Honey</b> Rupi Kaur/Andrews McMeel Publishing	5	3
<b>Hashimoto's Protocol</b> Izabella Wentz/HarperOne	6	New
<b>How to Be a Bawse</b> Lilly Singh/Ballantine Books	7	New
<b>Hidden Figures</b> Margot Lee Shetterly/William Morrow & Company	8	5
<b>You Are a Badass</b> Jen Sincero/Running Press Book Publishers	9	8
<b>Killing the Rising Sun</b> Bill O'Reilly & Martin Dugard/Henry Holt & Company	10	7

### Hardcover Fiction

TITLE AUTHOR / PUBLISHER	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK
<b>The Black Book</b> James Patterson&David Ellis/Little, Brown and Company	1	New
<b>Too Many Carrots</b> Katy Hudson/Capstone Young Readers	2	3
<b>Mississippi Blood</b> Greg Iles/William Morrow & Company	3	1
<b>Double Down (DWK #11)</b> Jeff Kinney/Amulet Books	4	10
<b>If Not for You</b> Debbie Macomber/Ballantine Books	5	2

### Fiction E-Books

TITLE AUTHOR / PUBLISHER	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK
<b>The Black Book</b> James Patterson&David Ellis/Little, Brown and Company	1	New
<b>Immortal Unchained</b> Lynsay Sands/HarperCollins Publishers	2	New
<b>The Widower</b> Fiona Barton/Penguin Publishing Group	3	-
<b>Begging for Bad Boys</b> Willow Winters/Willow Winters	4	New
<b>Silent Child</b> Sarah A. Denzil/Sarah A. Denzil	5	7
<b>The Melody Lingers On</b> Mary Higgins Clark/Simon & Schuster	6	-
<b>Big Little Lies</b> Liane Moriarty/Penguin Publishing Group	7	-
<b>Mississippi Blood</b> Greg Iles/William Morrow & Company	8	1
<b>A Man Called Ove</b> Fredrik Backman/Washington Square Press	9	6
<b>The Villa</b> Nora Roberts/Penguin Publishing Group	10	-
<b>The Obsession</b> Nora Roberts/Berkley Books	11	8
<b>Too Many Carrots</b> Katy Hudson/Capstone Young Readers	12	-
<b>The Secret Wife</b> Gill Paul/HarperCollins Publishers	13	4
<b>Say I'm Yours</b> Corinne Michaels/Everafter Romance	14	New

### 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.

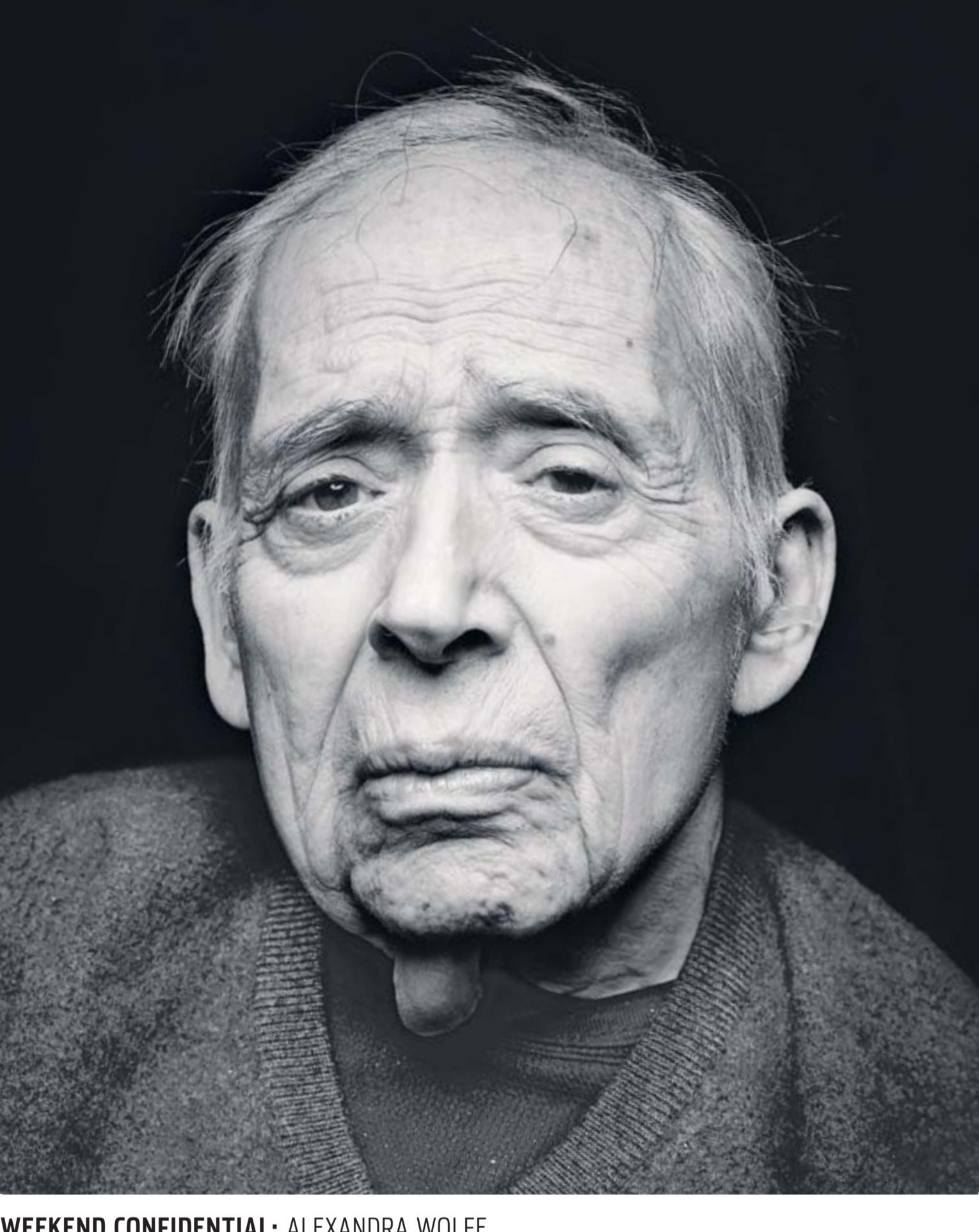
Print-book data providers include all major booksellers (now inclusive of Wal-Mart) and Web retailers, and food stores. E-book data providers include all major e-book retailers. Free e-books and those sold for less than 99 cents are excluded. The fiction and nonfiction lists in all formats include adult, 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

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## REVIEW



**'In the end there's only Shakespeare.'**

his mother was a homemaker. He once wrote that his older sisters used to take him to the library "and thus transformed my life."

He studied English at Cornell University and then at Yale, where he joined the faculty after receiving his Ph.D. Today, Mr. Bloom lives in New Haven, Conn., with his wife. They have two grown children.

In his widely discussed 1973 book "The Anxiety of Influence," he argued that poets often have a difficult time freeing themselves from their imaginative debt to earlier poets who inspired them. Their own writing can be interpreted as an anxious reaction to those predecessors.

Does he experience his own "anxiety of influence" when he studies Shakespeare? Mr. Bloom swats away any comparison to his great hero. "I'm not really a writer," he says. As a critic, he writes to appreciate, he says, adding, "I'm nothing but a teacher."

The next book in his series on Shakespearean characters will focus on Cleopatra, followed by King Lear, Iago and Macbeth. He has turned to the playwright many times over the years. In his 1998 book "Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human," he argued that Shakespeare was not just a brilliant writer but the genius who created our modern notions of human nature. His characters were the first to develop psychologically, Mr. Bloom wrote, leading to "the inauguration of personality as we have come to recognize it."

His love for the Bard is just as strong these days. "The body ages and one is not what one was, but [Shakespeare] still cheers me up because it gives me some sense of human potential as perhaps it wanes in me," he says.

He has made one change in his teaching methods to suit modern students: He no longer asks them to memorize lines from plays and poems, as he used to. With their smartphones and the internet, "it's getting harder and harder for them to possess things by memory," he says.

He likes to recite lines of literature every day. "It enhances the being," he says. When he feels anxious or has to do something he finds uncomfortable—such as going for a walk with his trainer—he silently recites poems to calm himself. When he wakes up in the middle of the night, he chants psalms or passages of Shakespeare, such as, "Thou hast nor youth nor age / But, as it were, an after-dinner sleep, / Dreaming on both" from "Measure for Measure."

Sometimes he even dreams about teaching Shakespeare. The other night, he dreamed that he couldn't find his copy of "Macbeth," and then he couldn't find the classroom where he was supposed to teach.

He says that nothing could keep him from teaching, though. "I will teach my last class until they carry me out in a body bag," he says. "And wherever I'm going, I'll go on teaching anyway."

### WEEKEND CONFIDENTIAL: ALEXANDRA WOLFE

# Harold Bloom

| The Yale scholar on Falstaff and 'the death of humanistic studies'

**THE LITERARY SCHOLAR** Harold Bloom wishes that he were a bit more like Sir John Falstaff, the convivial, indecorous knight who appears in three of Shakespeare's plays. Mr. Bloom considers Falstaff—with his good humor, playful wit and lack of inhibition—one of the playwright's most textured characters. For Mr. Bloom, Falstaff represents human freedom. "The cry of the human is most intense when it comes from him," he says.

As for Mr. Bloom, who is 86, "I was a much more Falstaffian human being in my youth and in middle age than I am now," he says. "I had, I think, something of his marvelous exuberance."

His latest book, "Falstaff," is the first in a series of short studies of Shakespeare characters planned by Mr. Bloom. Falstaff often exposes pretension in others, Mr. Bloom writes—for instance, when he slyly tells Prince Hal in "Henry IV Part 1," "Before I knew thee, Hal, I knew nothing." Mr. Bloom himself has jokingly used the line with his friends.

"Falstaff" is the 46th book by the eminent Yale professor, who even now is teaching two courses, one on Shakespeare and another on poetry. Over the years, he has won a range of distinctions, including a Fulbright fellowship (1955), a MacArthur fellowship

(1985) and a gold medal from the American Academy of Arts and Letters (1999).

But he has also been a controversial voice over his 60-plus-year career. In "The Western Canon" (1994), he argued that certain writers, including Shakespeare, Homer, Dante and Tolstoy, are essential to any real education. He also railed against what he called the "School of Resentment": scholars who promote reading texts from the point of view of feminism, Marxism and other ideologies and who advocate expanding the canon to be more multicultural. "To read in the service of any ideology is not, in my judgment,

to read at all," he wrote.

He sees political correctness as a continuing problem in universities today, but he hesitates to wade into the debate again. "I've had too many polemics in my life," he says. "For 50 years, I fought the death of humanistic studies in the universities and colleges and, in general, the failure of our intellectual education." He's tired of fighting, he says. "We lost the war," he adds. "All I can do now is a kind of guerrilla action, but in the end there's only Shakespeare."

Mr. Bloom was born in the Bronx in New York City and raised in an Orthodox Jewish family. His father was a garment worker and

### MOVING TARGETS: JOE QUEENAN

## A Sensitivity Agenda for Hidebound Toy Makers

**NEXT MONTH**, Crayola will unveil a new blue crayon color, deposing the bright yellow dandelion hue that has been a staple for years. The last time a yellowish color got the bum's rush was in 1990, when maize, lemon yellow and orange yellow all went down for the count (along with duds such as raw umber and violet blue).

Few will mourn the passing of the hideous dandelion hue, since other, less obstreperously self-involved yellowish shades remain in the 24-crayon starting lineup. My guess is that children finally had enough of the show-offy dandelion and used back channels to make their displeasure known to the powers-that-be at Crayola headquarters in Easton, Pa. Here's hoping the kids get cracking on cerulean right quick. Talk about revolting.

The demise of dandelion comes closely on the heels of Hasbro's decision to ditch the thimble-shaped playing piece from Monopoly. Pre-

sumably a symbol that young girls dreaming of homemaking would flock to, this deeply offensive relic of a misogynistic age that has now mercifully passed will join the equally sexist iron on the scrap heap. Good riddance.

These are positive developments, to be sure. Now other companies that make products aimed at youngsters also need to put tired old models out to pasture. Take Candy Land. Maybe it seemed like a good idea to introduce the dithering fatso Gramma Nutt back in 1984, but for obvious reasons it is time for her to go. A nutty senior citizen? Seriously? In this day and age? Sheesh.

Personally, I have no idea why Candy Land ditched the feisty, universally admired Plumpy a while back, while keeping the rubenesque Gramma Nutt on the payroll. She should cede the spotlight to a character less overtly stereotypical

**The chutes can stay, but the ladders foster recklessness.**



and hurtful. And maybe it's time Lord Licorice morphed into Lady Lollipop. Just thinking out loud.

The game of Risk needs work, too. Though it remains an edifying contest for world domination, the territories of Yakutsk and Kamchatka really need to get the old heave-ho. Nobody knows where these Asian lands are, not even Asians. And why would anyone think that seizing control of Alberta would lead to global conquest? Seems to me that someone was knocking back the hard stuff the day they thought up that one.

As for Chutes and Ladders, the chutes can stay, sure, as long as they have protective padding, but the ladders need to go. Their appearance harks back to an era when parents didn't care if their offspring engaged in dangerous activities like climbing. Chutes and Curbs or Chutes and Doorsteps makes a lot more sense.

I don't think I'm going out on

a limb by saying that in the military game Stratego, the six bombs and five miners that detonate them should be deep-sixed. The bombs can be replaced by puddles where the Marshal can get a bit dirty but not blown to smithereens. And the miners can be changed to comfort animals. Similarly, games requiring physical dexterity need help. Little children find Pick-Up Sticks way too hard to manipulate and end up feeling incompetent; something round and fuzzy with a Velcro surface makes a lot more sense.

Among children's card games, Old Maid, so blatantly sexist and ageist, really needs an upgrade. As for checkers, that game has been in a rut for the past 3,000 years. The last major development happened centuries ago—I have it on the best authority—when the squares on the board were changed to red and black from, you guessed it, dandelion and cerulean.

## REVIEW

### EXHIBIT

# Move It

#### The Happier Camper.

Inspired by retro trailers, this modern version, made in California, has an interior that can be customized. Cost: \$19,000 and up.



**8rad2 Solar.** This 'cargo-cycle,' designed by Nico Jungel of Germany, has a solar-powered motor that can kick in to help the cyclists transport their goods.

**Bicycle teardrop trailer.** Designer Matthew Hart of Canada used this trailer during a bike ride across British Columbia. The interior has a folding table, fridge, sleeping area and small kitchen area.

**NEVER MIND** those who say you can't take it with you. In the new book "Mobitecture: Architecture on the Move" (Phaidon, \$24.95), author Rebecca Roke showcases 250 portable projects from around the world, from retro campers to modern houseboats to lightweight shelters. The blowup, roll-up and pop-up structures provide ways to address natural disasters and environmental concerns—and also just to get away. "The reason for the enduring appeal of mobile structures is the way they free us from the usual constraints of daily life," writes Ms. Roke. Here's a look at a few projects on wheels. —Alexandra Wolfe

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: WIL SARMIENTI PUBLISHED CREDIT: WIL SARMIENTI; EMMANUELLE BAYART; CORNELIUS COMANN; PHOENIX ALEXANDER SIMON; KACEY WONG

### PLAYLIST: LORRAINE TOUSSAINT

## What Might Have Been

Carmen Lundy's version of 'Moment to Moment' embodied a romantic road not taken

Lorraine Toussaint, 56, has appeared in films and on more than 60 television series, including "Orange Is the New Black" and "Chicago Justice." She currently co-stars in Fox's "Rosewood." She spoke with Marc Myers.

In 1987, on the eve of marrying a terrific guy, I accidentally fell in love with someone else. He was married, and I don't think either of us realized how our feelings would affect our lives in the coming years. Carmen Lundy's recording of "MOMENT TO MOMENT" gave me hope.

Back in '87, my fiancé and I were cast in an Off-Broadway play. So was another actor. He and I became friends, and I remember how easy it was to talk to him, and how we made each other laugh.

At first, this other man and I had a brother-and-sister relationship. But the longer we were in the play, the more we developed feelings for each other. After the play closed, we stayed in touch by phone. He was married, and so was I by then, and the four of us were friends.

By late 1992, I was living in Los Angeles when I went to hear singer Carmen Lundy perform at a club. She sang "Moment to Moment," and I bought

her album. The ballad, by Henry Manzini and Johnny Mercer, captured what was going on in my soul.

Carmen Lundy's version opens with a pensive acoustic guitar before an upright bass and electric piano quietly join in. She sings the song so beautifully, with elation and longing.

The lyric is about being with a perfect partner and savoring the experience: "Then life will be rainbows / as I learn the secret of / the miracle that love can do / From moment to moment with you."

In 2013, I was back in New York and went to the theater. The curtain went up, and there he was—the man I had met in the 1987 show. I had no idea. We had lost touch for a little while. After the performance, I went backstage to say hello. He was now widowed, and I was divorced. We had dinner, walked and talked. Then we spent the next six weeks together. But an interesting thing happened. We had planned to get together for the holidays that year but ultimately decided not to. A deeper relationship wasn't meant to be. Our time had passed.

Recently I met a wonderful guy, and we're now happily engaged. I haven't listened to "Moment to Moment" since.

### Hopes for a deeper relationship.

**—Lorraine Toussaint, actress**

**Photo:** Getty Images

CARMEN LUNDY at the Monterey Jazz Festival in September 2013.

### HISTORICALLY SPEAKING: AMANDA FOREMAN

## The Poetry of Bold, Bawdy Wit

#### IT'S NATIONAL POETRY MONTH,

so let us praise the humble limerick, in spite of (or perhaps because of) its bawdy, silly rhymes. After all, it's the only literary form to encompass the poetic genius of both St. Thomas Aquinas and Krusty the Clown from "The Simpsons," who starts but never finishes the ditty, "There once was a man named Enis..."

Most people know the limerick's rigid meter and rhyme scheme—the first, second and fifth lines should rhyme with each other, as should the shorter third and fourth lines. But no one really knows where the limerick began or why it's named for a small Irish city rather than for Peru or Tobago, home to many an Old Man and Young Lady featured in said poems.

Some literary experts look to the ancient Greek comedic playwright Aristophanes, who was fond of writing five-line verses about men or women from Sybaris, a Sicilian city once known for its wealth, who came to absurd ends. Though hardly a bundle of ribald delight, a five-line prayer poem written in Latin by Aquinas (circa 1225-1274) begins, in English, "May my sins be eliminated"

and may have been a forerunner of the limerick, since it follows the poem's ABBA rhyme scheme.

By the 14th century the first unequivocal limerick made its appearance. While Petrarch was writing sonnets to his love Laura, an anonymous British bard was

musing about a lion: "whether he

play / or take his prey / he cannot help but slay."

For a moment the limerick threatened to turn serious. Shakespeare used the form to convey tragic madness: Ophelia, when jilted by Hamlet, rhymes suggestively about the unfaithfulness of men. Sometime around 1569, Elizabeth I poured her feelings into "The Doubt of Future Foes," a poem about her relationship with her cousin and enemy, Mary Queen of Scots, that used a limerick-like form.

But the experiment in gravity didn't take, and before long limericks had found a permanent position in the world of silliness, immortalized in collections like "Mother Goose." The limerick's popularity with children made it the perfect material for Edward Lear (1812-1888). A tortured soul—

among other things, he suffered from epilepsy, eye problems and unrequited love—he was often happiest entertaining the young. Though best known for such nonsense poems as "The Owl and the Pussy-cat," Lear wrote so many limericks that he started the Victorian craze for them.

By the 1860s, however, some people had turned



THOMAS FUCHS

### From a Greek play to Salman Rushdie.

the limerick from simple child fare to pure adult entertainment. The satirical weekly *Punch Magazine* had to cancel its popular limerick competition due to the high volume of smutty entries. In 1902 the editors of the *Princeton Tiger* unwittingly opened a Pandora's box of rude verse after publishing the first "Nantucket" limerick.

Although the 20th-century humorist Ogden Nash offered "A flea and a fly in a flue / Were imprisoned, so what could they do?" and other "clean" limericks, many contemporary writers preferred to play in the gutter. When not contemplating the stars, science-fiction writer Isaac Asimov was down in the dirt with such gems as "Cleopatra's a cute little minx / With a sex life that's loaded with kinks."

But the limerick endures. As novelist Salman Rushdie demonstrated in a 2011 Twitter post, it remains the perfect form for a witty put-down: "The marriage of poor Kim Kardashian / Was crushed like a kar in a krashian. / Her Kris cried, 'Not fair! Why can't I keep my share?' / But Kardashian fell klean outta fashian."



# PLAY

## NEWS QUIZ: Daniel Akst

From this week's  
Wall Street Journal

1. Longtime creative director Jenna Lyons is leaving which well-known brand?



- A. Anne Klein
- B. Gucci
- C. J. Crew
- D. Husqvarna

2. What is Gillette doing to cope with razor-sharp competition from online upstarts?

- A. Suing them for patent infringement
- B. Following hipsters into old-fashioned safety razors
- C. Slashing blade prices an average of 12%
- D. Rolling out a new model with 32 blades

3. Jeffrey Lacker resigned after revealing his involvement in a 2012 leak of confidential information. Of which Federal Reserve Bank was he president?

- A. Philadelphia
- B. Richmond
- C. San Francisco
- D. Anchorage

4. How do hagfish mate?

- A. Tinder
- B. Males fertilize eggs laid by females.
- C. Females eat the males to acquire their sperm.
- D. Nobody knows.

5. Pixo (pronounced "peashoe") is common in São Paulo.

What is it?

- A. An ubiquitous street-food made of beef and chickpeas
- B. Runelike graffiti that covers some skyscrapers top to bottom.
- C. A street music, originating in the 1970s, that has caught on in Denmark
- D. A unique regional dialect of Portuguese

6. Republican senators eliminated the rule allowing a filibuster for Supreme Court appointments. When was it dropped for executive branch and lower-court posts?

- A. 1813
- B. 1913
- C. 2013
- D. It's still in place for those positions.

7. After a gas attack Tuesday killed at least 85 people in Syria, the U.S. launched nearly 60 cruise missiles at a Syrian air base—near what city?

- A. Aleppo
- B. Homs
- C. Damascus
- D. Latakia

8. Reckitt Benckiser thinks it can cut the mustard. Which brand is it putting up for sale?

- A. French's
- B. Grey Poupon
- C. Gulden's
- D. Great Value



FROM TOP: TORONTO STAR/GETTY IMAGES; ISTOCK

To see answers, please turn to page C4.

## VARSITY MATH

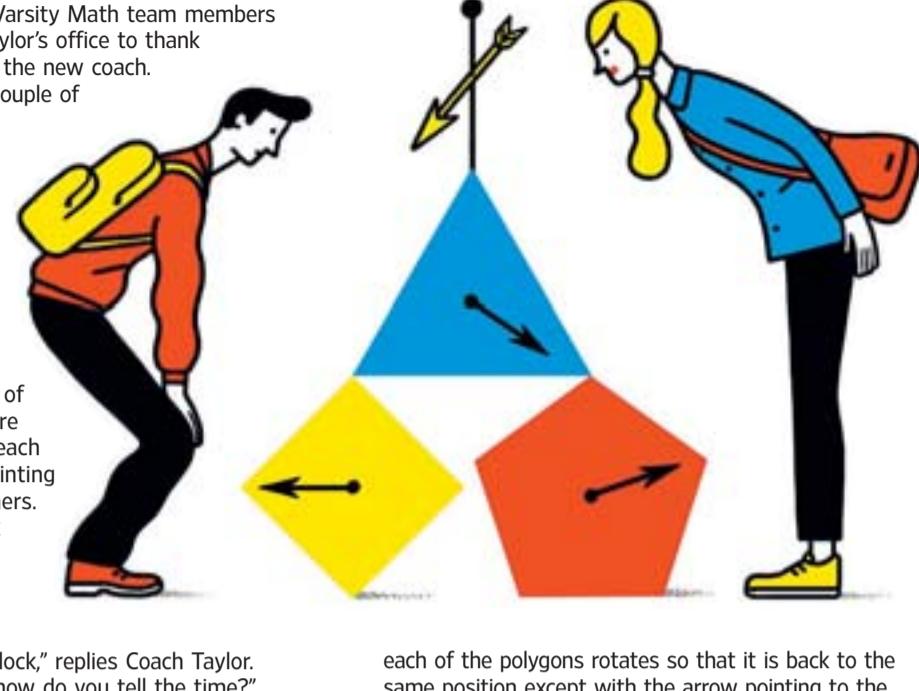
Provided by the **National Museum of Mathematics**

A couple of Varsity Math team members stop by Coach Taylor's office to thank her for becoming the new coach. They discover a couple of oddities therein.

### Curious Clock

The teammates notice a yellow weather vane pointing south on top of a sort of pyramid made of a triangle, a square and a pentagon, each with an arrow pointing to one of its corners. Before they think to say why they came, they can't help asking, "What's that?"

"Oh, it's just my clock," replies Coach Taylor. "Your clock? But how do you tell the time?" "It's simple, really. At noon and midnight each day, the weather vane is red, and it and all three arrows point due north. Each hour the weather vane changes color from red to yellow to blue to red to yellow and so on, and it rotates 90 degrees clockwise. And every minute



each of the polygons rotates so that it is back to the same position except with the arrow pointing to the next corner clockwise." The students notice that right now the triangle's arrow is pointing roughly southeast, the square's arrow is pointing due west, and the pentagon's arrow is pointing a bit north of east.

What time is it?

ILLUSTRATION BY LUCI GUTIÉRREZ

For previous weeks' puzzles, and to discuss strategies with other solvers, go to [WSJ.com/puzzle](http://WSJ.com/puzzle).

### Quadratic Triple

The students then get distracted by what's written on the board: " $(2x - 1)^2 + 4(x + 3)^2 = (2x + 7)^2$  where  $x > 0$  Eureka!" This makes them curious, and they ask, "Don't you usually

collect terms to get all of the 'x's on one side?" Coach Taylor replies, "Oh no, it's much easier to solve this way." What is  $x$ ?

+ Learn more about the National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) at [momath.org](http://momath.org)

### SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLES

#### Varsity Math

Rascal's product in **Poor Pascal** last week was 53,084,160, while the difference in **Rascal's Grid** was zero. For more on why Rascal chose his entries and how the two problems relate, go to [WSJ.com/puzzle](http://WSJ.com/puzzle).

### Two of Us

OATS	AZERA	ABATEMENTS
SHAO	POXES	TABULARASA
HOCUS	SPONES	ONEFINDAY
ATTIC	MOUNING	ANDTHIARS
BUSINESS	SASUSUAL	SOAL
HAJ	BAIN	ALIAS
ACURAS	AFLIB	COPITO
RASHA	SALONGA	FEEB
OCTET	CIRCUS	DUBS
LIBERATE	INTO	STIPON
DAE	USENET	HEARTIS
SCOTT	KENO	COSTUMER
ANHEUSER	BUSCH	SILDE
EMUS	AMOS	SAGETEA
LASTPLACE	HES	MNUET
SWEAR	ADAM	NFL
ROMULUS	ANDRE	SRO
OJO	MOT	CALORIC
SARDINE	CAN	VIOLLA
LYSISTRATA	APEAR	STAG
OZONE	HOLES	TERRA
		YOKO

### Pizza Boxes

WHAMMARTH	HASHALL
HOCKSIES	ESTALANDO
PUPATHAWA	VIATES
PETSOLD	STATHAM
ERIEROBE	WILBUR
GEOFORD	DEREDGER
NEPTUNE	PLANPUTT
TIBETCHA	DGROUSE
CITYBRIANT	QUE
STOOPTRAIN	FIEND
TROUNCE	NTIOWA
BLESSINGSKE	GER
DEFYSINGLET	THEIR
OLIVERMONKAPP	ATEOUTHESRENT

The leftover letters spell "WHAT'S TOPPING YOU?"

## THE JOURNAL WEEKEND PUZZLES Edited by Mike Shenk



### Best Bets | by Matt Skoczen

- Across**
- 1 Derby setting
  - 6 Make a crisp crust on
  - 10 Collars
  - 14 Booms, e.g.
  - 19 Literally, "ocean" in Mongolian
  - 20 America's Cup entrant
  - 22 Reading for 17-Down
  - 23 Southern dish provided to factory workers?
  - 25 Half of an African capital city
  - 26 Ability tested with Zener cards
  - 27 2016 title role for Hanks
  - 28 Bottom-of-the-barrel stuff
  - 29 La-di-da
  - 30 Comes back
  - 32 Military barracks inspection?
  - 34 Dog holder
  - 35 Eric of "Troy"
  - 36 Embedded agents
  - 37 Spa for some specialized bodybuilding?
  - 42 Foreman's announcement
  - 44 Tailoring target
  - 47 Old possessive
  - 48 Bug
- 50 Elvis's longtime label
  - 51 Cab Calloway specialty
  - 52 Kiddie explorer
  - 54 Lingus
  - 55 Manning in MetLife Stadium
  - 57 Temperaments
  - 60 Oscar nominee for "Creed"
  - 63 Son of Cain
  - 65 Sources of some organs
  - 66 Program about the polish of popular poets of the 1950s?
  - 69 Violates a treaty, perhaps
  - 71 Aren't imaginary
  - 72 Crow's-nest cry
  - 75 Mayberry resident
  - 77 End of an academic address
  - 78 Manipulate
  - 79 Wave producer
  - 80 Bugs
  - 81 Letters on many Delta boarding passes
  - 83 Orrery spheres
  - 87 Soccer's Hamm
  - 88 Figs.
  - 89 Haunt
  - 90 Piano bar covers?
  - 94 Ecologically supportive

44 City with a Peace Memorial Park

45 At least once

46 Private meal

49 Parodies

51 Ruling groups

53 Traffic app notifications

56 Senate minority leader before Daschle

58 Yemeni port

59 Tongue-flicking animal

61 Gyro meat

62 English river

63 "Idylls of the King" character

64 Emphatic denial

67 Turning jumps

68 Maker of Aleve and Alka-Seltzer

69 Ballgame stopper

70 Its symbol was inspired by the epsilon

73 Dealing with the situation

74 Supporters' answers

76 Alleviates

78 Cover ground, in a way

82 Crowded housing

84 A couple of smackers?

85 Oppressor

86 Curved blade

89 Not random

90 Gathering of hippies

91 The record for it is over 75 feet

93 Some are black

94 Ovum, e.g.

96 Separate

98 Software fix

99 Honda's luxury line

100 Charge

101 Reindeer herders

102 Faulty

103 Aarhus natives

104 Handle

105 Hanukkah fare

106 Clampett's portrayer on 1960s TV

109 South Seas sequel

112 "Wonderful" juice brand

113 Tach measure

114 Its end is commemorated on Nov. 11

1 O2 B3 C4 I 5 G6 E7 K8 P 9 V10 M11 O12 W13 J14 U15 F16 L17 Q18 H19 D20 T21 X

22 B23 124 G25 E26 S27 P28 A 29 D30 M 31 L32 O33 T 34 C35 H36 U37 J 38 E39 K40 P

41 G42 F43 B44 N 45 X46 L 47 D48 U49 M50 A 51 J52 Q53 R 54 W55 S56 C57 F 58 T59 M

60 U61 L62 D63 B64 I65 G66 R67 J68 X 69 V70 Q 71 K72 A73 E74 W75 P76 D77 O78 L79 N80 I

81 J82 X 83 B84 G85 T86 U87 S 88 Q89 K90 F 91 O92 P93 R94 X95 M96 L97 G98 W 99 B100 T

101 I102 V103 E104 C105 O106 H 107 G108 M109 X110 J 111 S112 N113 R114 W115 P117 I118 G119 D120 F

121 S122 M123 J124 A125 B 126 L127 V128 H129 I130 W131 X 132 F133 C134 O135 U136 N 137 B138 S139 G140 A

## REVIEW



### ICONS

# The Early Promise Of Alex Katz

How the maverick artist developed his signature style

BY ALEXANDRA WOLFE



**"WHAT ARE YOU** doing painting figuratives?" a young woman asked Alex Katz about his canvases featuring bold, colorful human forms in 1957. (That woman, a research biologist named Ada, later became his wife.) Back then, when Mr. Katz was in his mid-20s, such works were a daring departure from the reigning abstract expressionism. "I really was out there," says Mr. Katz, now 89. The paintings, he adds, "look a lot better to me now than they did when I did them."

A new exhibit at the Cleveland Museum of Art, "Brand-New & Terrific: Alex Katz in the 1950s," showcases the development of his signature style. Today, Mr. Katz is known for his bright, bold portraits of people, often with mysterious expressions. But it took a while for his work to find an audience.

In the early part of the decade, Mr. Katz was struggling, says curator Mark Cole—painting houses, doing carpentry and carving frames because he couldn't make a living from his artwork. By the end of the decade, Mr. Katz started simplifying his compositions and crystallizing his style. "Throughout the decade, the big development you see is he really forges an ingenious way to wed abstraction with recognizable imagery," says Mr. Cole.

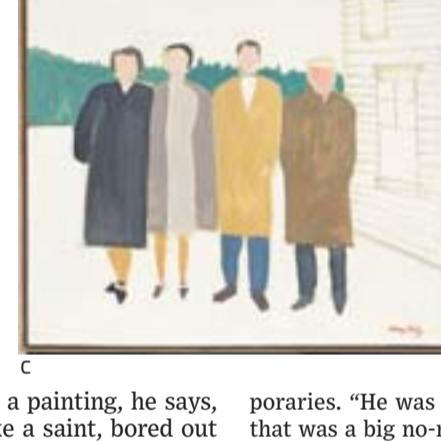
Many of the 70 pieces in the exhibit have never been shown before. Organized chrono-

logically, they trace the evolution of Mr. Katz's work from paintings of group scenes and collages to more minimal canvases.

The artist developed another habit early on: painting his wife, Ada, who would eventually be the subject of more than 250 of his works. Two in the show include "Bather" and "Ada in a Blue Sweater," both from 1959.

Mr. Katz continues to paint in the same style of those midcareer and later portraits. Every morning, he says, he goes for a run and does 300 push-ups, 200 sit-ups and 200 half-sit-ups. He and Ada live in New York and in Lincolnville Beach, Maine—where he painted her as "Bather" almost six decades ago. It takes him about an hour and a half to complete a painting, he says, and "she'd sit there like a saint, bored out her mind."

**A. 'BATHER'** (1959). Mr. Katz painted this portrait of Ada the year after they got married. "Their relationship is one of the great art-world relationships," says Mr. Cole. With wide expanses of blue that merge the sea and the sky, this painting makes a step toward his later, more reductive compositions. At the same time, the lack of a horizon line, save for



c

the thin scrim of land, points to his early collage works, says Mr. Cole, which were made up of areas of flat color with distinct edges.

**B. 'WILDFLOWERS IN A VASE'** (1954-55). In the late 1950s, Mr. Katz made collages to relax after a long day of painting, cutting up pieces of paper and assembling them into shapes. Juxtaposing defined areas of bright color became part of his aesthetic. Though the collages were small, they influenced his larger canvases, says Mr. Cole.

**C. 'FOUR PEOPLE'** (1953-54). In the early 1950s Mr. Katz often used photographs as guides for his painting—another practice frowned upon by his contemporaries. "He was doing this at a time when that was a big no-no," says Mr. Cole. "Artists were supposed to paint from their subconscious."

To paint this composition of four people, Mr. Katz started with a black-and-white photo borrowed from a friend. The blank, featureless faces are typical of his early 1950s style. "He was interested in the shape more than any extraneous detail," says Mr. Cole. "Over the decade he inserts more eyes and noses."

ALEX KATZ/VAGA, NEW YORK, NY (3)

## MASTERPIECE: 'DANIEL DERONDA' (1876), BY GEORGE ELIOT

### A NOVELIST'S VISIONARY ZIONISM

BY RUTH R. WISSE

**CAN A NOVEL** improve society? Harriet Beecher Stowe thought so when she wrote "Uncle Tom's Cabin" in order to expose the evils of slavery in America. So did George Eliot when she published the last of her novels, "Daniel Deronda," in 1876 to bare the prejudicial treatment of Jews among her Victorian contemporaries. Eliot saw in the Jews a test of whether her nation could realize its full potential without, on the one hand, imperial overreach or, on the other hand, reflexive anti-Semitism. In this, the centenary of the 1917 Balfour Declaration—the letter from the British foreign secretary stating that "His Majesty's government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people"—it is hard to deny Eliot and this novel their prophetic role.

No great novel is ever reducible to a thesis, and this work demonstrates rather than preaches its wisdom. At the heart of fiction there is often a love story between a man and woman. Mary Anne Evans adopted her masculine pen name to ensure that she would be taken seriously as a novelist of ideas. Yet as George Eliot she did not entirely abandon romance. This novel opens with tantalizing promise in a German casino where wealthy visitors from England intermingle with continental Europeans at the leveling sport of gambling.

### Sympathy, tact and uncommon insight.

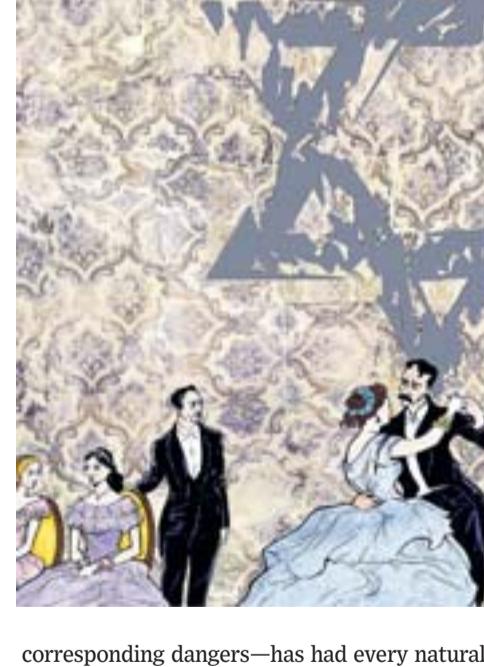
Across the crowded room, a dazzling young woman, Gwendolen Harleth, is observed winning at roulette by Daniel, our critical hero, who does not yet know that he is a Jew.

These would-be lovers would inspire such opposite feelings in readers that some wanted the novel divided: Who needs Gwendolen Harleth? Others could have done without Daniel and wanted the book called by her name. This odd reception of the novel was not unanticipated by the author, who had good reason to develop the two characters independently. After all, wholesome independence was her theme.

English literature had plenty of vile Jews, from Marlowe's Barabas and Shakespeare's Shylock through Dickens's Fagin and Trollope's Augustus Melmotte. By contrast, Daniel

Deronda is an Englishman of uncertain parentage. As he discovers his own national purpose as a Jew, so, too, Eliot believed, the English must come to recognize that strengthening their nation required honoring the same impulse in others. The antithesis of anti-Semitism is not benign assimilation—through intermarriage—but mutual respect.

Dissimilar in character and disposition, Gwendolen and Daniel have to find their way in a stratified society that is undergoing dramatic change. Gwendolen—the novel is also very much a woman's story of new opportunities and



CHRISTOPHER SERRA

corresponding dangers—has had every natural advantage. But when the unstable financial market suddenly plunges her widowed mother into genteel poverty, Gwendolen, who has been trained for nothing but salon society, realizes that she must find either lowly employment or advantageous marriage. She calculates her chances of happiness without realizing that others are more wickedly calculating than she.

Daniel's insecurity runs deeper. Raised by his guardian with every educational and social advantage, the boy does not know where he belongs in the society he is expected to join. A series of accidental encounters, and his search for what we would call "identity," introduce him to Jews and to their uncertain status as a people.

Eliot, who had started out with common

prejudices about Jews, developed an interest in them and began studying Hebrew and reading Jewish history. Daniel's discoveries parallel hers. Even as many European Jews at the time were choosing to shed their Jewishness—several appear in the novel—he gropes his way to an appreciation of his heritage and its challenge: "The idea that I am possessed with is that of restoring a political existence to my people, making them a nation again, giving them a national centre, such as the English have, though they too are scattered over the face of the globe."

Imagine, then, the visionary of modern Zionism not as a Hungarian-born Jew with a black beard but as an Englishwoman who was the most acclaimed British writer of her time. Twenty-one years before Theodor Herzl would assemble the first Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, in 1897, Eliot's book laid out the moral and political groundwork for that initiative. An outsider, she wrote so intelligently about the Jews that Jewish readers marveled, feeling for her the special gratitude of a maligned minority that suddenly finds itself both understood and championed.

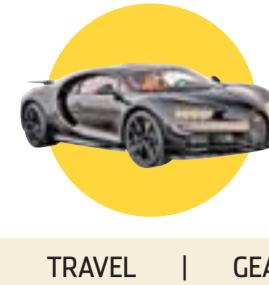
But political sympathies alone, no matter how noble, do not ensure a literary gem, and this is surely one, highlighting what is common in human nature through differentiated cultures and national dispositions. Eliot puts her extraordinary mind and learning at the service of her assorted characters with sympathy, tact and uncommon insight. The 19th century was the great age of the novel, and Eliot's generous soul made it even greater.

Ms. Wisse is a senior fellow at the Tikvah Fund. She offers an online course on Daniel Deronda at [www.danielderonda.org](http://www.danielderonda.org).

With specialty  
beer clubs, it's  
all in the  
delivery  
**D9**



# OFF DUTY



Dan Neil drives  
the Bugatti  
Chiron, the  
priciest road car  
ever built  
**D12**

EATING | DRINKING | STYLE | FASHION | DESIGN | DECORATING | ADVENTURE | TRAVEL | GEAR | GADGETS

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Saturday/Sunday, April 8 - 9, 2017 | **D1**

## A Legacy In Recipes

Holiday meals come with the weight of expectations, but do they have to be totally predictable? Here's a Passover menu that recognizes tradition and current tastes

BY CHARLOTTE DRUCKMAN

**W**HAT DOES nostalgia taste like? For you, Great Aunt Mildred's matzo ball soup may evoke her enveloping hugs, rose-scented perfume and uncanny mimicry skills, but take that soup to someone else's Passover seder and it's the disappointing substitute for the venerated bowlful from the local deli.

I bring up Passover because it's next week, and I find it one of the more fraught examples of the challenge of reconciling heritage foods with contemporary tastes. As Joan Nathan notes in her new cookbook, "King Solomon's Table: A Culinary Exploration of Jewish Cooking Around the World" (Knopf), "These traditions have held Jews together for more than two thousand years as they have journeyed throughout the world."

The narrative of Passover is one of exile. To escape the bonds of slavery, Egyptian Jews were forced to flee and wander the desert as

*Please turn to page D10*

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ALPHA SHOOT FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL FOOD STYLING BY HEATHER MELDRUM, PROP STYLING BY REBECCA DONNELLY



# STYLE & FASHION

## COMPARISON SHOPPING

# Put Some Zip In Your Step

Now that winter's history, here are four fresh men's spring jackets from four equally fresh, new brands. Which suits your style?



BY JACOB GALLAGHER

**L**AST OCTOBER, as I tore the tags off my new winter coat, I couldn't wait to show it off. Some mornings, I actively hoped the mercury would drop. Today, you couldn't pay me to stick my arms back into those sleeves. Winter coat fatigue takes its toll, whether you bury yourself in a bargain Uniqlo puffer or a cumulus-plush Loro Piana baby cashmere overcoat.

Enter the *spring jacket*. The very words evoke a hopping bunny. Both lighter in weight and less burdened with responsibility, it needn't serve nearly as many functions as a winter parka. In short, it's a piece of outerwear

Less burdened with responsibility, it needn't serve as many functions as a parka.

with which you can have a little fun—perhaps forgoing go-to labels (your J. Crew, your Brooks Brothers) to try a jacket from a brand you've never heard of. It can't hurt to bring a bit of fresh creative energy into your wardrobe.

These four jackets are from new New York brands—all founded in the past four years, all making high-quality, small-run designs mostly in America, if not the city itself. They're not aiming for downtown cool but rather reflect a new, more nuanced sensibility. Retailers, like Saager Dilawri, owner of Neighbour, a shop in Vancouver, Canada which carries two of these brands, Childs and Ddugoff, have taken notice. New York designs "are now more about tailoring and subtle details," said Mr. Dilawri, "as opposed to something loud and noticeable."

### THE EXTROVERT

#### Ddugoff

\$495, [Ddugoff](http://Ddugoff.com), 212-256-0256

**Brought to you by:** After studying to be an architect, Daniel DuGoff shifted from designing spaces to clothes three-and-a-half years ago.

**For fans of:** The whimsical patterns of Marni designs and the straight lines of Acne Studios.

**Material matters:** A Japanese rayon-and-cotton blend which delivers the best of both worlds. The rayon provides airiness while the cotton adds a bit of structure. "I love techy fabrics that don't feel too techy," said Mr. DuGoff.

**Fit 411:** A straight body loosened up a bit with a roomier dolman sleeve. You'll notice this subtle tweak when you reach out to hail a cab and the jacket doesn't ride up.

**Distinguishing details:** The tabbed throat closure helps you steel yourself against the wind. An inner chest pocket, a signature detail in all Mr. DuGoff's jackets, is designed for smartphone stowage.

**Spring-shower ready?:** Not entirely. The silky rayon will wick off a drizzle, but anything more than that will leave you damp.

**Wear it with:** A pair of classic khakis or white jeans to lighten up the jacket's slightly moody blue and olive-green pattern.

### THE MINIMALIST

#### Childs

\$1,050, [stormfashion.dk](http://stormfashion.dk)

**Brought to you by:** Robert Childs, who spent four years working for the reigning king of avant-American, Thom Browne, before launching his own label last year.

**For fans of:** The clean, urbane look of A.P.C. and Mr. Browne's eye for high-quality fabrics and subtly tweaked silhouettes.

**Material matters:** The Italian polyester is waterproof, so it has the sheen of a classic rain slicker. The bright white might lift your mood on overcast days.

**Fit 411:** Mr. Childs dubbed this "the short jacket," and he isn't kidding. It hits right at your belt. "It's not overly cropped but a bit shorter than you'd normally find."

**Distinguishing details:** A hood, which can be folded and zipped into the collar. The scooped pockets (and their distinctive oversize flaps) are prominent, but practical.

**Spring-shower ready?:** Though the jacket doesn't offer so much coverage, the material is waterproof. Said Mr. Childs, "If you wear it in the rain it will do its job."

**Wear it with:** Pants that aren't too low-rise given the jacket's cropped waistline. You want the jacket to cover up the lower part of your shirt.

### THE GOOD SPORT

#### Aimé Leon Dore

\$400, [aimeleonore.com](http://aimeleonore.com)

**Brought to you by:** Queens native Teddy Santis, who founded the label in 2014 with just 13 pieces. It has since grown into a robust direct-to-consumer business offering trousers, sneakers and sweatshirts.

**For fans of:** The sporty splash of Nautica in the '90s, minus the Biz Markie bogginess.

**Material matters:** Mr. Santis was inspired by retro windbreakers, but he wanted to avoid their dated sheen. He finally found his holy-grail fabric in Japan: a matte "oxford" nylon with a texture similar to that of a button-down shirt.

**Fit 411:** Its at-the-hip length is pretty standard, but raglan sleeves and higher armholes ensure a taut, tailored fit through the chest.

**Distinguishing details:** A soft-mesh lining that gives the jacket "a great feel on the skin if you're wearing it with a T-shirt," said Mr. Santis.

**Spring-shower ready?:** It's not technically waterproof, but the tight weave of the nylon will protect in a drizzle.

**Wear it with:** Dark denim and a solid shirt. Keep it simple. The vivid color-blocking transmits a sufficiently strong style signal.

### THE STEALTH STYLER

#### Adsum

\$308, [adsumny.com](http://adsumny.com)

**Brought to you by:** Brooklyn designer Pete Macnee, who went solo three-and-a-half years ago, after working for neo-prep godfather Mark McNairy at Woolrich Woolen Mills.

**For fans of:** Woolrich's weather-ready functionality (but not the frumpy fits) and the slim cuts (but not the preppy pastels) of Mr. McNairy's own label.

**Material matters:** The inky shell is a Japanese canvas that's hand-dyed so the fabric breaks in as you wear it. "The jackets are crispy when you get them, but they soften nicely," said Mr. Macnee.

**Fit 411:** Though it has a workwear look, the jacket is actually so slim you might want to size up.

**Distinguishing details:** Tucked underneath the pocket flaps are "hidden" button snaps to discreetly secure a phone charger.

**Spring-shower ready?:** While not waterproof, the sturdy canvas will shield you in a shower after one very important step: Give it an initial soak in the tub to get rid of the excess dye.

**Wear it with:** A hoodie layered underneath, à la Mr. Macnee. The jacket's lack of a lining and open cuffs make it an easy layering piece.

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## STYLE & FASHION

Necklace, \$670,  
[aureliebidermann.com](http://aureliebidermann.com)



Dress, \$750,  
[marcjacobs.com](http://marcjacobs.com)

"On the bank of the  
Seine, Bennecourt" by  
Claude Monet, 1868



Cucumber Trug by The  
Cuckmere Trug Company,  
\$109, [thenewcraftsmen.com](http://thenewcraftsmen.com)



Cucumber Trug by The  
Cuckmere Trug Company,  
\$109, [thenewcraftsmen.com](http://thenewcraftsmen.com)



John Derian  
and Astier de  
Villatte Pitcher,  
\$385,  
[johnderian.com](http://johnderian.com)



Skirt, \$395,  
[rebeccataylor.com](http://rebeccataylor.com)

Robert Clergerie  
Slides, \$450,  
[saksfifthavenue.com](http://saksfifthavenue.com)

Dress, \$1,390,  
[loewe.com](http://loewe.com)



The Row Bag, \$990,  
[bergdorffgoodman.com](http://bergdorffgoodman.com)

## Pastoral Report

In fashion and design, the French countryside is abloom this spring

BY REBECCA MALINSKY

**EVERY MAY 1**, French teenagers line the Paris streets selling freshly picked blooms of Lily of the Valley. The flower, France's national symbol of spring and Labor Day (both celebrated that day) is shared among friends and relations as a token of luck. "My mother has been planting lily of the valley for 40 years," said Parisian jewelry designer Aurélie Bidermann of the garden at her family's country house. "I grew up with this tradition." Her recent lily of the valley-themed collection was cre-

Jonathan Anderson displayed a fondness for old-fashioned fabrics in both collections he works on. At Loewe, he showed burlap-like linens woven to appear worn-in and a plethora of faded French blue stripes, while at J.W. Anderson, his namesake line, he favored flowing, linen peasant dresses, some with pastoral tablecloth prints.

Nine time zones away, San Francisco's Legion of Honor museum is celebrating spring with an exhibition of early paintings by Claude Monet, the impressionist who created his canvases en plein-air and shaped many Americans' ideas of what French landscapes look like. "One of the hallmarks of [the impressionists'] approach to painting was this idea that you would go to nature and you would stay there and paint," said Melissa Buron, associate curator of European Painting at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. Of course, if you have the cash and a sufficiently humane work schedule, you can hop a plane and go to those fields yourself.

Home-goods designer John Derian may have said it best when it comes to our current cultural yearning for a piece of très chic country life: "People retire and fantasize about being in the country," he said. "Why wait? Why not have it around you now?"

'People fantasize  
about being in the  
country. Why wait?'

ated while she was pregnant with her daughter, as a way to connect the three generations of women in her family.

Many of the French-country-inspired looks that walked the spring runways similarly romanticized the simple life, if not as sentimentally. Up-and-coming Paris designer Simon Porte Jacquemus's collection took its cues from santons, tiny clay figurines popularized in 18th-century Provence. His models wore lace-trimmed cotton blouses accessorized with huge straw sunhats. London-based designer

F. MARTIN RAMIN/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, STYLING BY GABRIEL RIVERA (CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES); IMAGE COURTESY THE FINE ARTS MUSEUMS OF SAN FRANCISCO/C THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO (PAINTING)

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### FRESH PICKS

## FASHION'S NEW SILHOUETTE: VOLUMES!

New York label Proenza Schouler's latest collection is a group of elegantly eccentric art and photography books



Clutch, \$1,090, Proenza Schouler, 212-420-7300; Books from left: 'The City Beautiful' by Martien Mulder, \$45; 'Hibi' by Masahisa Fukase (Mack), \$60; 'Homo Americanus' by Raymond Pettibon (David Zwirner), \$65; 'Things Here and Things Still to Come' by José Pedro Cortes (Pierre Von Kleist), \$95; 'Nude Animal Cigar' by Paul Kooiker (APE), \$125, all available at [dashwoodbooks.com](http://dashwoodbooks.com) and Proenza Schouler, 212-420-7300



BY NICK REMSEN

**PERHAPS SURPRISINGLY**, fashion designers are often very bookish sorts. Many spend hours in libraries researching their collections, poring over hefty art and photography tomes. Many also cultivate their own libraries, with walls of books lining studios and homes. And as such, the odds are high that you can trust a book recommendation from a designer you love.

That's the thinking behind Proenza Schouler's latest display in its Soho store in Manhattan: a small but interesting selection of books that are for sale alongside their plissé spring dresses and artfully printed clutch bags. The brand's designers, Jack McCollough and Lazaro Hernandez, worked with Dashwood Books, the influential downtown New York vendor renowned for photography and art editions, to curate the offerings.

This isn't the first time designers have asked Dashwood owner David Strettell if they could stock his books but, he said, Messrs. McCollough and Hernandez's choices were more eccentric than usual. There are seven volumes total, which range from "Homo Americanus," a retrospective of work by Los Angeles artist Raymond Pettibon, whose show at the New Museum in downtown Manhattan ends this weekend, to New York photographer Martien Mulder's portfolio of shots of Le Corbusier's experimental city in Chandigarh, India. For true fans, the selection, which will change each season, is a window into the designers' minds. Said Mr. Hernandez, "It's really just what we're interested in right now."

## STYLE & FASHION

# The Sneaker Spectrum

It's hard to pick kicks when you're increasingly deluged by options. Here, some guidance

BY NANCY MACDONELL

**WHEN CÉLINE DESIGNER** Phoebe Philo walked on to the runway for her post-show bow in March of 2011, her outfit—gray turtleneck, dark trousers and Adidas Stan Smith tennis shoes—punctured many women's preconceptions. Coming from Ms. Philo, then fashion's most influential designer, the idea that sneakers could be worn with office-appropriate garb suddenly seemed not lazy but inspired. It was also something of an official directive.

The stylish set obliged. Six years later, Stan Smiths are no less acceptable than Manolo Blahnik BB pumps, and sneakers in general anchor a fashionable wardrobe, along with a well-cut blazer or high-waist jeans. As a result, style options abound, from pricey designer models—like Simone Rocha's black leather high-tops, laser-cut to resemble broderie anglaise, and Common Projects minimalist white sneakers—to old-school kicks like the Nike Cortez and Adidas Gazelle. Even companies that have not normally sold sneakers have snuck into the game. J. Crew-owned label Madewell is collaborating with Vans and Saucony on exclusive styles and will increase its sneaker selection for fall. "I look around and we're all in sneakers," said Joyce Lee, Madewell's head of design.

In short: Sneakers are everywhere, and at every price point. But women are so spoiled for choice

that they can easily become overwhelmed by the onslaught of mesh and stripes. Which athletic sneakers have enough style cred to cut it as a fashion statement? Which luxe sneakers are over-designed fashion-victim fare? Which once-beckoning sneakers have crossed the line into sad ubiquity? Women like Joanna Drescher, 40, are asking themselves such niggling questions. "It's stressing me out. I don't know what to get," said Ms. Drescher, a stay-at-home mom who formerly worked in retail and needs a pair to replace her Stan Smiths. "I want something with a certain level of coolness, but not too cool because that's not me."

We might steer her toward the streamlined Common Projects Achilles as a fitting replacement. Or a pair of Gavia Biancos from fledgling label Koio, which are utterly minimal save for gold mountaineering-style eyelets that telegraph distinction with extremely modest flash.

An all-white tennis shoe like these remains great baseline option. "It works with jeans, a skirt, trousers—with everything," said Claire Distenfeld, owner of Manhattan boutique Fivestory. It can be the sporty punctuation mark on a dark, conservative look or temper a more recklessly vivid outfit. "I don't like a funky sneaker. I don't like glitter, I don't like studs," said Ms. Distenfeld, who currently stocks Koio.

But increasingly many women are going in for sneakers with more personality. Among the 30-odd pairs of sneakers in the closet of



**LACE VALUE** Sneakers from athletic brands (left, Veronika Heilbrunner in Converse) and designers (right, Tine Andrea in By Malene Birger slip-ons) both pair well with fashion statements that have nothing to do with sports.



F. MARTIN RAMM/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL STYLING BY GABRIEL RIVERA (SNEAKERS); TOMMY TON (HEILBRUNNER); GETTY IMAGES (ANDREA)

Eva Chen, head of fashion partnerships for Instagram, Gucci's floral embroidered versions rival Roger Vivier's crystal-buckled slip-ons for charisma. Both let Ms. Chen attain adequate heights of chic without backaches or bunions. "Comfort is important," said Ms. Chen. "I feel like I've been pregnant for the past three years, so I've lived in them."

Benefits of athletic shoes over designer sneaks include price and the way they offer a grounding foil

to potentially precious designer clothes. "When you're wearing a high-fashion look, it's cooler to go with a traditional athletic sneaker," said Veronika Heilbrunner, co-founder of Hey Woman!, an online magazine. Ms. Heilbrunner's collection includes Converse All-Stars and Vans Old Skools. Some stylish women staunchly oppose designer takes. "The fashion sneaker doesn't have the same appeal it once did," said Los Angeles stylist Annina Mislin.

lin. One athletic favorite of hers: a pair of custom-made, all-black Nike Flyknits. She pegs retro running shoes from brands like Saucony as the newly minted hot style.

Perplexing though it may be, the plethora of interesting options for women's sneakers is a step forward. "Until three or four years ago, you couldn't get a cool sneaker in a women's size," said Ms. Mislin. "Before that, they were all pink and pastel."

## SNEAK PEEKS // A SPECTRUM OF FASHION-APPROVED KICKS, FROM DESIGNER TO ATHLETIC

### The Definitely Designer

Tough but sweet shoes whose leather mimics broderie anglaise exemplify Simone Rocha's buzzy sensibility. Flower High-Top Sneakers, \$665, *Simone Rocha*, 646-810-4785

### The Fashionable Throwback

Care of Ms. Philo, the '70s-style plimsole is the ne plus ultra in unblinking designer-sneaker chic. Plimsole Sneakers, \$590, *Céline*, 212-535-3703

### The Baseline

The universal donor of sneakers. These may be very popular but are sleek enough to fly under the radar. Tournament Sneakers, \$388, *commonprojects.com*

### The Retro Chic

Beloved by fashionable women, the Cortez, launched in 1972, comes in a wide array of colors. Cortez 72 SI Sneakers, \$130, *nike.com*



### The Avant-Garde Remake

Maison Margiela's backless riff on the German Army sneaker, a favorite of stylish men. Deconstructed Replica Sneakers, \$495, *Maison Margiela*, 212-989-7612

### The Pleasing Print

An easy-to-wear (and buy) shoe that adds a dash of zhuzh and comfort to your summer look. Madewell and Vans Authentic Sneakers, \$60, *madewell.com*

### The Classic Runner

Now that the popularity of the court shoe is winding down, the running shoe is hitting its stride. Spalwart Sneakers, \$300, *Dover Street Market*, 646-837-7750

### The Almost Gym Bunny

Performance meets panache. You could go from the gym to dinner in these without missing a beat. Adidas by Stella McCartney Ultra Boost X Sneakers, \$200, *adidas.com*

## FÊTE ACCOMPLI A GOOD-LOOKS GUIDE TO RECENT EVENTS

Diane Kruger  
in a Roberto Cavalli top and trousers



Calligrapher Nicolas Ouchene creating guest's name cards.

Olivia Palermo  
Touriya Haoud

Nicolas Baretzki & Hugh Jackman

## A NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY

**LAST MONDAY IN** New York was a balmy spring day and, though the pale blue lights that greeted guests that evening at Montblanc and UNICEF's gala, held at the New York Public Library, were somewhat icy, the crowd was relaxed and upbeat. "I'm happy to have brought my bike out of the basement," said actress Diane Kruger, who'd spent the day riding around the city.

UNICEF and Montblanc have been partners since 2004, and the party celebrated the German luxury brand's launch of a collection of pens, leather goods and watches designed around the theme of language. Proceeds go to the children's charity.

Among the philanthropic crowd were socialite Olivia Palermo and husband Johannes Huebl as well as equestrienne Charlotte Casiraghi. Hugh Jackman, who features in the Montblanc and UNICEF campaign, looked dapper in a blue Ermengildo Zegna suit, but admitted he's cheerier when unbound by formality. "If I can do without the tie, I'm happy," he said. Mr. Jackman—who headlines the P.T. Barnum biopic, "The Greatest Showman," out this year—is currently between projects and sanguine about it. "I'm unemployed, and it feels good," he remarked. "I don't think there's an actor on the planet who's said that." —Nick Remsen

Johannes Huebl

Charlotte Casiraghi

in a Giambattista Valli dress

Rami Malek & Carly Chaikin

Miroslava Duma

Gigi Leung



He's a fan.



MANDARIN ORIENTAL  
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## ADVENTURE & TRAVEL



**WESTERN WALLS**  
Santa Elena Canyon,  
in Big Bend  
National Park.

# Lone Star Attraction

The tiny Texas town of Marfa is known for its ties to Donald Judd's art, but its real drawing power comes from nature

BY KATHRYN O'SHEA-EVANS

**IF YOU CALLED** Marfa "Nowheresville," you'd be right, to a degree. The town of fewer than 2,000 people in far west Texas has one stop-light, erratic cell service, and shop and restaurant hours that are even spottier. But for every sense in which Marfa falls short, it triumphs in another: cinematic landscapes that stretch unbroken to the horizon; cowboys presiding over art galleries; and sunsets that, at the smog-free altitude of nearly 5,000 feet, were the prettiest I'd ever seen.

People who know Marfa know it as an art hub, thanks largely to the late minimalist artist Donald Judd, who fled New York in the 1970s to set up creative camp in the Chihuahuan high-desert. It's now

home to his Chinati Foundation, a contemporary art compound where we saw a road-runner darting around Judd's aluminum sculptures in a former artillery shed. Judd kicked off a movement: Today, 23 art galleries operate in downtown Marfa, so many that one beleaguered bungalow had a sign that read

"This is NOT an art gallery, THANKS."

A Prada store, an elaborate art installation designed by Berlin-based artists Elmgreen & Dragset (and Instagrammed by Beyoncé in 2014, then legions of her followers), sits about 30 minutes outside of town, surrounded by idling jack rabbits.

But my husband, James, and I weren't looking to take in the art scene when we made the trek from New York in June; we've got plenty of art in our backyard. No, we went with three goals: to see

When we pulled up to the Paisano our first night in town, rain broke out in whipping sheets, then biblical hail. That night at sunset, as James stretched out from driving, I walked outside and watched lightning jackknife across the wide sky, and could see why location scouts are drawn here. "No Country for Old Men" filmed scenes in Marfa, "There Will Be Blood," too. In the Paisano, large-scale photos of the "Giant" stars rough-housing on set fill the open-beam lobby; you can book the cast's exact rooms (Liz stayed in No. 212, James in 223, Rock Hudson stayed during the filming of 1956's "Giant.")

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The next day, we ignored the cars making a beeline for Judd's installations and walked a few blocks north of the hotel to Mimms Unit, an 11,000-acre rangeland with trailside signs that explain the desert ecosystem. We went on the suggestion of photographer Douglas Friedman, who divides his time between New York, Los Angeles and Marfa. For over an hour, walking through rolling grasslands, we didn't see another soul. "I

came to Marfa for the first time three years ago to see the art, but I ended up seduced by the sky and the landscape," Mr. Friedman later told me. "When you're there, you're content to just kind of be."

And yet there is plenty to do beyond just exist. Mr. Friedman's favorite things: diving into the cool pools at Chinati Hot Springs—once owned by Judd—and soaring some 2,000 feet above the landscape in a two-seat sailplane with Marfa Gliders.

Nearby resorts, including Cibolo Creek Ranch, where Justice Antonin Scalia died last year, offer horseback riding and birding excursions.

The next morning we left at daybreak to drive about two hours to Big Bend National Park, which shares 118 miles of border with Mexico and was, as the front desk clerk at the Paisano told me, "hot as a firecracker." Big Bend sits on the Rio Grande

and accommodates the most diverse population of birds and butterflies found in any of our national parks, plus mountain lions and javelinas. People are relatively scarce. The annual visitor count for the 1,252-square-mile park maxed out at 388,290 in 2016, less than half of Yellowstone's head count in July alone.

Our temperature gauge hit 105 as we turned in to the parking lot at Santa Elena Canyon, where the Rio Grande cuts through 1,500-foot-high limestone cliffs—taller than the Empire State Building—with Mexico on one side and the U.S. on the other. We wandered in but I turned back early, melting. When I couldn't work the car's air-conditioning, I ran to the river to call to my husband.

"James! James!" I hollered into the canyon's mouth. "James! James!" it echoed back. When he got back to the car, he said he hadn't heard me; the chasm had swallowed my voice whole.

Our last night in Marfa, we drove up the switchback roads of the Davis Mountains to the McDonald Observatory for one of its thrice-weekly "star parties," where dozens of people collectively gape at the expanding universe.

James Dean died at 24, shortly after he wrapped "Giant," and never saw it released. He did, I was told, make it to the observatory on a Sunday off during filming, but it was closed. After the caretaker told Dean to come back during business hours, the caretaker's wife was horrified and made him give Dean a private tour.

Call me crazy but I could feel a nonconformist's spirit up there, in the blackest sky, and in all of Marfa's oxymorons: its mountains and flatlands, the parched desert and the Rio Grande. Nothing, and everything.



**ADOBE ABODE** A few rooms at Cibolo Creek Ranch are housed within old adobe forts.

MAX BURKHALTER FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (3); MAP BY JASON LEE



**CHUCKWAGON UPDATE** Texas charcuterie at the Capri.

## THE SOUVENIR

### FLY THE MINIATURE SKIES

Some travelers collect refrigerator magnets, others scaled-down versions of jumbo jets. Here's how to think shrink

**UNITED AIRLINES** may be retiring its aging Boeing 747s, but the iconic jet is not entirely obsolete. The carrier will sell you a sleek new die-cast model of the jumbo jet for \$55 at one of its airport stores in Newark, N.J., or Houston.

Model planes have grown with the industry they celebrate and promote, starting with the first pull toys made to (bumpily) honor Lindbergh's 1927 solo flight to Paris. New Jersey-based Daron Worldwide Trading Inc., a leading purveyor of aircraft collectibles, stocks some 8,000 models (representing about 100 airlines), from the workaday American Airlines 737 to the less-predictable Uzbekistan Airways Tupolev Tu-154. Made

of metal, hard plastic or resin, the geeky gewgaws conform to precise scale measurements, with paint jobs that mirror the real thing. "The road warriors tend to buy what they fly," said Eugene McKeown, Daron's vice president of sales, who noted that most collectors either work in the industry or are frequent fliers. The hottest sellers? Widebody jetliners like the Dreamliner (Boeing's 787) and Airbus's superjumbo, A380, whose mini versions can cost up to \$400, more than the price of some airline tickets. Thriftier aviation buffs can find a fleet of options for under \$60 on Daron's airplane-shop.com, which leaves plenty of cash for an actual flight. —Barbara Peterson



**JET SET** Clockwise from left: Emirates A380-800, \$58; JetBlue Embraer 190, \$54; United 787-9, \$44; Pan American DC-8-33, \$44; British Airways A380, \$11. [airplaneshop.com](http://airplaneshop.com)

## DESIGN & DECORATING

# Alcove Beds: Bliss or Bondage?

Designers and slumberers weigh in on the joys and demerits of sleeping in an architectural womb



JEFFERSON MEMORIAL Designer Katie Ridder modeled her daughter's refuge, featured in 'A House in the Country' (Vendome Press), on the bed alcoves in the early-19th-century President's Monticello home.



FIRMLY LODGED Bunks maximize space, said the designer of these ski-house guest quarters, seen in his book 'Mr. Ken Fulk's Magical World' (Abrams).

CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: ERIC PIASECKI; DOUGLAS FRIEDMAN; YORGOS KORDAKIS/THE INTERIOR ARCHIVE

BY CARA GIBBS

**THEY CONJURE** gypsy caravans, cozy Norwegian cupboard beds, festooned 18th-century French niches—all sleeping accommodations that let their inhabitants return, in a manner of speaking, to the womb.

Alcove beds have obvious allure. "Adults are usually the first to jump at the opportunity," said one of San Francisco designer Ken Fulk's clients, who provides guests built-in bunks (above, right) in a Montana ski house. "I think it brings out the kid in everyone."

That said, when you contemplate the alcove bed as an every-night arrangement for two grown ups, at least one of whom could top 6 feet, hibernation fantasies fade. Nobody wants to lose the coin toss that determines who sleeps against the wall, with the route to bathrooms and midnight snacks blocked by a slumbering body.

"Alcove beds are fun for a finite amount of time," said New York designer Marshall Watson, "but for everyday use they're just not highly practical for two adults." Is there no hope for cocoon-cravers? The

setup does have advantages beyond under-the-eaves romance, after all.

Height, for one. The medieval box bed, one of the forebears of the alcove bed (and an inspiration for some), raised the occupant high above the floor of a structure likely shared with livestock or cohabitants that made do with resting their noggin on piles of rushes. Versions built into walls, and sometimes set alongside hearths to make use of radiant heat, exemplified the coziness, not to mention efficiency, that appeals to many designers today.

"Beds are the biggest pieces of furniture in a bedroom," said New York designer Katie Ridder, "so from a practical sense, alcoves are a great way of [increasing] the space in a room." In the past, Ms. Ridder has instructed contractors to build out walls to create two closets, then economically slipped a full-size bed into the resultant nook.

And while the designer copes to some of the issues couples face in a built-in bed, her teenage daughter, Gigi, loves the alcove bed Ms. Ridder created for her in the family's Millbrook, N.Y., home (shown above, left), even when she doubles up with a friend: "It's a great place for a sleepover," said Gigi. "It's a little



NIGHT SHIFT A built-in on the Greek island of Patmos solves the problem of climbing over a bedfellow by tucking the bed in head first.

squishy, considering that my friends and I are fully grown, but I don't mind it."

Perhaps the most compelling argument for reserving built-in beds for the young and agile is Gigi's description of changing the linens: "I have to climb onto the bed to tuck the sheets in on the side of the bed

that is against the wall," she said. Portland, Ore., designer Jessica Helgerson, who dreams of designing a modern interpretation of a Chinese wedding bed, a sort of free-standing alcove bed, argued that "these spaces offer opportunity for introducing materials in more interesting ways than conventional beds

typically allow."

For her daughter's bed, Ms. Ridder, for example, covered the walls, ceiling, bed frame and head and foot boards with blue-and-white striped linen trimmed with red grosgrain ribbon, inspired by a tented bedroom by 19th-century Prussian architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel. For his client's bunk beds, Mr. Fulk combined pine framing, iron rails and bead-board interiors to create a quartet of little dens that brought back fond memories of summers at camp.

What makes an alcove bed most likely to be shared successfully? "They need plenty of ventilation, good lighting, and a place to rest a water glass and charge a phone," said Mr. Watson. The example at left illustrates not only fresh-air access but a mattress positioned in a way that obviates the need to clamber over your partner to get out.

Maybe the ultimate determinant is your feelings for your nook mate. "I lived in an alcove bed in an open loft for over 10 years," said Adam Rolston, principle of New York firm INC Architecture & Design. "Two adults and two 50-pound dogs all in a queen-size bed made for a very cozy life that I remember fondly."

### FLOWER SCHOOL

## PORTRAIT OF A JAPANESE LADY—IN BLOSSOMS

Floral designer Lindsey Taylor riffs on a springy 1917 print, 'Rain While the Sun Is Shining'



**SEARCHING FOR** a piece of art to translate into a suitably April-ish arrangement, I found my way to "New Women for a New Age: Japanese Beauties, 1890s-1930s," an exhibition of prints, illustrations and photographs at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (through Aug. 20). The piece that best captured the month's mood: "Rain While the Sun Is Shining," by Japanese artist Ito Shinsui. To me, this 1917 woodblock print, in which a woman

### THE INSPIRATION



gracefully shields herself from a sun shower, conveys the fragile beauty of gardens in early spring, when a late-season cold snap can ruin the momentum of budding plants.

Drawing on ikebana, the Japanese art of restrained and delicate floral arranging, I chose black ceramic vessels from potter Marite Acosta. The stem vases support single blossoms, which I cut to different lengths to highlight their tendency to bow. The empty vessel to the right suggests the woman's obi.

A gently bending chocolate cosmos curves as elegantly as the woman's neck. A white anemone with a dark center echoes the contrast of her skin against her hair and robe. A red fringed Gerbera daisy playfully serves as her parasol; and the petals of the red, romantic ranunculus layer like the folds in her clothing. A pale blue muscari not only picks up the lining of her robe, but like the little jonquil (or daffodil) I added at the end, it's one of the early perennial bulbs that pierce the earth and tell us spring has finally arrived.



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May 19 - 28, 2017

The pinnacle of the festival is an all-day *ho'olaule'a* (celebration) on May 27 offering coffee, food, crafts, entertainment, guided coffee tastings, and farm and mill tours.

#### IRONMAN 70.3 Hawai'i

June 3, 2017

The iconic race begins and ends with a run at the Fairmont Orchid, a swim through Hāpuna Beach State Park, and a bicycle ride along Queen Ka'ahumanu and Akoni Pule Highways.

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Experience the history, culture, and current trends of Hawai'i-style quilting.



[gobawaii.com/hawaii-island](http://gobawaii.com/hawaii-island)

Events are subject to change.

### THE ARRANGEMENT

Cosmos, Gerbera daisies and jonquil capture the fragile delicacy of 'Rain While the Sun Is Shining' (1917), by Ito Shinsui. Stem Vase, \$225, and Frog Vessel, \$75, [mariteacosta.com](http://mariteacosta.com)

## DESIGN & DECORATING



### ◀ Studied History

Carefully constructed period details like decorative moldings and herringbone floors imply period architecture, but this gentleman's library is actually a newly built addition to the home. The room was designed to accommodate the 18th-century French tapestry from which springs its disciplined color scheme of beige, green-blue and brown. The walls—in Benjamin Moore's dusky green Pacific Rim—nod to the influence of Parish-Hadley, the groundbreaking midcentury American firm where Mr. Istomin trained early in his career and which was known for its dark, glossy walls. The color not only reinforces the country setting of trees in leaf but allies with the blues and greens of the pillows and custom bookshelves to make the library's eclecticism seem more unified. A contemporizing trick: "The contrast between the dark walls and white ceiling, white doors and light upholstery and rug makes the room more modern," said the designer.

### Violet It Be ▼

According to Mr. Istomin, one piece can set a room in motion. In this bedroom, a bold 20th-century metal chandelier featuring a riot of glass grapes and pears inspired the space's color scheme and playful, feminine character. A pair of petite, clean-lined turquoise bedside tables help keep the room looking more fresh than fusty. Mr. Istomin echoes the chandelier's violet danglers with a Ukrainian cotton rug and delicate lilac wall paint (Benjamin Moore's Easter Ribbon). Showing uncharacteristic restraint, he limited wall décor to two diminutive religious icons, a small selection from the family's vast collection, whose placement reinforces the symmetry that calms down the room's fairly busy décor.



### Unfrenzied Frippery ▶

A confection of pink and lace, this formal sitting room skillfully walks the line between chaos and chic. According to Mr. Istomin, the starting point for the décor was the hand-blocked Brunschwig & Fils wall covering called Roses Pompon, a reproduction of a 19th-century pattern. "The [room's] roses and the lace could be very old ladyish, but I was determined to put a new spin on it," he explained. One piece of the solution: framing the seating with a pair of symmetrical stepped bookcases, whose 1930s-inspired lines help balance curves and frills elsewhere. "If I had put a Louis XV piece there, it would have dated the entire space," Mr. Istomin said. A narrow range of hues also helps keep intricacy from overloading the eye.



### HOUSE TOUR

# Czar Quality

In a 1990s country house outside Moscow, a designer conjures a venerable dacha that might have been there since Nicholas I

BY SARAH KARNASIEWICZ

**G**LOBE-TROTTING RUSSIAN designer Kirill Istomin has made his name with interiors that embrace old-world opulence without ignoring the needs of non-old-world occupants. Whether working in Paris or Kazakhstan, Mr. Istomin creates spaces that evoke romantic, 19th-century epics: rooms slicked with gilt, decked in china, festooned in lace and imbued with longing. In a country house outside Moscow, for a couple who work in the pharmaceuticals industry and their 20-year-old daughter, he was challenged to create that palpable sense of history in a home built only two decades ago. "I wanted it to look grand," explained the designer, who maintains offices in New York and Moscow. "Not in terms of being flamboyant or important or exquisite, but like something that had been cared for by generations."

To create a sense that the furnishings had accrued through inheritance, Mr. Istomin had to be both an aesthetic magpie and a meticulous editor—or risk veering into hoarder territory. Formulas such as keeping color palettes tight to avoid the look of clutter helped him convey a house with a past that's eminently livable today.



### Checkered Past ▲

The Chinese, English and French porcelain on the dining room's walls suggest the accumulated finds of several decades of owners. The "inherited" concept could look disorderly, Mr. Istomin explained, but he and his team arranged the china on the floor before hanging the schemes on the wall: "The symmetry of the plates, the patterns and swags create a sort of decorative architecture in the room and a very deliberate structure." A counter-point to the fanciness: the understated, rustic gingham chair-back covers. "It's a pattern we repeat in different colors in various spaces as a way of bringing the look down to earth," Mr. Istomin said. "That way, even special pieces don't scream 'Look at me!'"



### Bath Mastery ▲

Mr. Istomin takes a contrary approach to the bathroom, usually a utilitarian affair, creating an atmosphere of old-fashioned luxury with drapes and upholstery of hand-blocked Hazelton House fabrics. Note, though, that he trimmed the drapes in gingham, undercutting the fabric's floridity. His other high-drama move: layers of reflection. On the mirror above the room's vanity, he installed large, mirror-mounted three-branch sconces, an unconventional choice. "Usually you wouldn't put mirrored sconces on top of a mirror—it's a small room, and the scale feels off," he said.

## EATING & DRINKING

# Love a Rare Beer? Join the Club

Curated compilations and members-only subscriptions bring the boldest and smallest-batch brews to a select few

BY WILLIAM BOSTWICK

**I**N THE WORLD of beer, two roads diverge: a well-trod path of mass-made lager, global brands and game-day ads; and the twists and turns of the craft-brew route, marked by striking stylistic detours and disorienting trends. The latter way can lead to adventure, yet disaster lurks around those turns, too.

Fortunately, there are reliable guides to satisfaction, or at least a safer journey: beer clubs. From curated best-of compilations to deep dives into breweries' secret reserves, today's members-only subscriptions offer rewards for every kind of explorer and low-risk experimentation for breweries.

Thing-of-the-month clubs are nothing new—the venerable Book of the Month goes back over 90 years. Beer clubs have been around since the late 1990s, when beer critic Michael Jackson's Rare Beer Club offered many drinkers their first tastes of the wild world of craft brewing—harder to access back then. Nowadays your corner bottle shop likely stocks Mr. Jackson's favorite Belgians alongside Bud and might devote entire shelves to single styles. Yet some of the most sought-after beers remain white whales, super-rare catches available only to the lucky and obsessed.

The Bruery's multilayered membership was one of the first clubs of its kind when it debuted in 2008. The craft-beer world was smaller then, and the Orange County, Calif., brewery was focusing on especially exotic Belgian-style brews. So they were floored when their imperial stout—a British style created for export to Russia in the 18th century—sold out in minutes upon release. With barely any promotion, the bar-



BEN SANDERS

rel-aged and sterno-strong beer, called Black Tuesday, drew a line of would-be tasters that stretched out the door. Faced with similar crowd scenes as craft beer grew in popularity, breweries around the country began selling release-day tickets ahead of time, or keeping the big reveal of a new brew a secret, so that fans came by a taste entirely via luck. The Bruery had another plan.

"We borrowed the idea from wine societies," said the Bruery's marketing manager, Joel Kennedy. "We thought, if there's this much

demand, maybe people would be willing to subscribe for access." The Bruery's Preservation Society guarantees its members rare bottles they might otherwise have to out-wait and outwit the masses to try—or never taste at all.

A beer club lets a brewery sell directly to the die-hards, sharing the wealth with those who will appreciate it most. "When we sell our really unique beers on draft or in the store, they're just shotgunning out into the wind," said Peter Kruger, master brewer of Bear Republic in

Sonoma County. "Maybe a few people get to try them, but they might not get the full backstory. They might not understand what they're drinking. We've had sours sit on the shelves because people didn't know they're supposed to be that way."

Without the risk of unsold bottles, breweries like Bear Republic can take creative risks. Of Bear Republic's Wild Club members, Mr. Kruger said, "They allow us to flex our artistic muscle, swing for the fences."

When the Bruery wanted to make a beer featuring the same exotic

herbs as Coca-Cola, they knew their members would be game (even if the beer was "a try-it-once kind of thing," said Mr. Kennedy). When Bear Republic brewed a series of sours from wild yeast captured around Sonoma County, they could share it—and explain its unique story—to a few devoted souls. (The production was very limited.)

Pricing structures vary widely: A \$48 monthly fee might sound high until you find it gets you 12 quality beers each month; \$59 a year sounds like a steal until you realize no beer is included in that membership fee. Indeed it's a dedicated drinker who will pay for such an adventure. "In other clubs, people can choose what they want out of a portfolio. With [our club] they don't know what they're going to get," Mr. Kruger said. "And we have gotten feedback that it's too expensive." Wild Club is free to join but offers only access—members have to buy the beer, and bottle prices can be steep. "But if we're only making 75 bottles of a special beer, available only to the club, 30 bucks or so [per bottle] doesn't begin to cover our true cost." Dedicated drinkers see the value. The Bruery's upper-tier societies, called Reserve and Hoarders, have waiting lists. Hardywood's first 100 memberships to its new Family Tree club sold out in half a minute, at a cost of \$295 a year.

That might be because these clubs offer members an added benefit: friends. Though people anywhere in the country can join, most members are local and gather to share releases and private tastings. "It's like a family," Hardywood co-founder Eric McKay said. "A group that can get together and celebrate with special events, or collaborate on beers." While catching that super-rare beer is satisfying, even the obsessed prefer not to drink alone.

### EXCLUSIVE BREWS // BEER CLUBS FOR EVERY TYPE OF INTREPID TIPPLER



#### For the Trophy Hunter

**The Bruery Preservation Society** Known for Belgian-style brews with wild twists, the Bruery offers three club levels with increasing access and exclusivity. Entry-level Preservation Society members get three rare beers a quarter at a discount plus invitations to tastings, cellar sales and a jump ahead in line for higher-level memberships. \$59/year + cost of beer and shipping, [thebruery.com](http://thebruery.com)



#### For the Hop Snob

**Beer of the Month Hop-Heads Beer Club** Members get their monthly dose of 12 of the boldest IPAs, chosen from this club's vast network of participating breweries by an expert panel of brewers and beer sellers. But should you doubt their picks, you can customize your crate with your own choices, or add favorite bottles from previous shipments. \$48/month, [beermothclub.com](http://beermothclub.com)



#### For the Armchair Adventurer

**Tavour** Pack your own crate from a super-selective list of the trendiest beers, to be shipped out every month. Tavour leans toward the hopped and hoppy. Sours, IPAs and imperial stouts abound, and the small but well-chosen inventory is constantly changing. Members get daily updates and choose their brews through a handy app. Price varies per beer, [tavour.com](http://tavour.com)



#### For the Sour Seeker

**Bear Republic Wild Club** This brewery's new club sends quarterly shipments of beers made with funky fermentation methods, often aged in barrels with fruit, spice and other surprises. Fan favorites include the tongue-numbing Berlinerweisse Tartare, and super-small-batch offerings like peach-and-ginger-infused VIP, available only to members. Price varies per beer, [bearrepublic.com](http://bearrepublic.com)

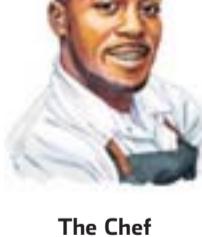


#### For the Social Drinker

**Hardywood Family Tree** Members of this Virginia brewery's tight-knit social circle get a mixed three-pack four times a year, including crowd-pleasers like warming Gingerbread Stout and beers brewed just for the club. Locals can take advantage of raucous members-only parties and brew sessions on the brewery's new small-batch pilot system. \$295/year, [hardywood.com](http://hardywood.com)

### SLOW FOOD FAST SATISFYING AND SEASONAL FOOD IN ABOUT 30 MINUTES

## Spring Quiche With Mushrooms and Asparagus



#### The Chef

**Eduardo Jordan**

#### His Restaurant

**Salare**, in Seattle,

**Wash.**

#### What He's Known For

**Big-hearted Italian cooking, classical French rigor and Southern hospitality**

**GROWING UP IN** St. Petersburg, Fla., Eduardo Jordan developed a deep affection for quiche. "My mom put dinner on the table every night," he said. "Quiche was a go-to in our house. She'd make it with broccoli, sausage and cheese. If she was feeling fancy, she'd throw in some cooked shrimp." This springtime riff, the chef's second Slow Food Fast recipe, delivers asparagus, cheddar and seared mushrooms in a custardy base. Slices are served up with a light green salad and garlic toasts.

To guard againstogginess, Mr. Jordan sautés the mushrooms to extract moisture

before stirring them into the base. And he recommends using the freshest, best eggs possible: "If they haven't been sitting around for weeks they have a richer taste. And if the chickens' feed was good, the yolks are a beautiful bright orange."

At Salare in Seattle, Mr. Jordan rolls out his own pastry dough, but at home, he said, quiche should be easy. Go ahead and use a store-bought crust and rotate ingredients as you see fit. "My mom worked," Mr. Jordan said. "She wasn't making pie dough. And she'd toss in leftovers, utilizing everything." —Kitty Greenwald

**TOTAL TIME:** 35 Minutes **SERVES:** 4

3 tablespoons olive oil	½ cup chopped asparagus	shell
1 cup morels or any spring mushrooms, and cut into bite-size pieces	¾ cup shredded sharp cheddar	¼ baguette, sliced into rounds
Salt and freshly ground black pepper	½ cup cream	½ clove garlic
¼ cup sliced yellow onions	½ cup milk	6 cups salad greens, washed and dried
	3 eggs	½ tablespoon lemon juice
	1 (9-inch) prebaked pie	

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Warm 2 tablespoons oil in a medium sauté pan over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms and cook until they release liquid and sear, about 3 minutes. Season with salt and stir in onions and asparagus. Sauté until onions soften and asparagus is bright green, about 3 minutes. Season to taste with salt.

2. Scatter half the cheese across bottom of pie crust. In a medium bowl, beat together cream, milk, eggs and a generous pinch each of salt and pepper. Pour sautéed vegetables

over cheese and top with egg mixture and remaining cheese. Bake quiche until base sets and browns slightly at edges, about 20 minutes. Before slicing, let quiche cool 5 minutes.

3. While quiche bakes, arrange bread on a baking sheet and toast in oven until browned on both sides, about 5 minutes. Rub toasts with cut side of halved garlic clove.

4. In a large bowl toss salad greens with a pinch of salt, 1 tablespoon oil and lemon juice. Serve salad and toasts alongside quiche.



**BOLD MOVE** A nice sharp cheddar perks up the rich, custardy base of this quiche.

## EATING & DRINKING

# PASSOVER RECIPES MADE OVER (AND OVER)



**FEAST REFRESHED** Orange-glazed Passover chicken with matzo stuffing, a side dish of carrot tsimis and servings of matzo "egg-drop" soup.

Continued from page D1

refugees for 40 years. When we observe the holiday we are commanded not just to repeat that story, but to experience it as though it had happened to us. You can see how the pressure to serve the "correct" food could get to you.

My own childhood Passovers tasted like bland catered food mixed with dread. My father's mother—and my namesake, Charlotte—died the year before I was born. His father remarried and thereafter seders were presided over by my step-grandmother; her family was given pride of place at the table while the rest of us were crammed at the end. I watched my dad, respectfully quiet, missing his mother, her relatives and their food. After my grandfather died, my parents began hosting. My mom cooks the meal herself but has little interest in anyone's traditional seder fare.

This year, things will be different. A few months ago, a large envelope showed up on my doorstep. It contained photocopies of the recipe archive the elder Charlotte had collected from her family members. They'd been under my mother's custodianship until recently, when my father, thinking I might appreciate them, put that packet together for me. Charlotte hosted lots of dinners, including seders, and made sure preferences were accounted for. There they were: not just the dishes my father had described, but the names of characters I'd been hearing about for years. It might be the closest I've felt to them.

If ever there were a moment to bring these dishes back, this was it.

If ever there were a moment to bring these dishes back to our family's Passover table, this was it, and clearly I'd have to be the one to do it. I started with some of the Passover options written by my great-grandmother, whom we called Bergie. The thing is, these recipes didn't look so enticing. But I saw glimmers of deliciousness in the details and potential for improvement. Her "matzo egg-drop" soup—chicken stock into which she dropped a combination of beaten eggs and matzo meal by the spoonful—particularly intrigued me. After spooning in the matzo slurry, you put a lid on the pot; in a couple of minutes, the cooked batter rises to the surface in clumps. It's like cheat matzo balls, and it's genius. To the base I added garlic, herbs, umami-rich porcini powder, sliced asparagus and, at the very end of cooking, arugula leaves, to wilt slightly in the soup and add a swirl of dark green.

Next I took on tsimis, the stew of sweet potatoes or carrots in honey—a classic side dish I don't remember eating at my mother's seders. When I asked her why, she said, "Oh no. I get nauseous think-

### Springtime Matzo 'Egg-Drop' Soup

TOTAL TIME: 1 hour  
SERVES: 4

1 quart chicken stock  
1 bay leaf  
2 fresh sage leaves  
1/4 teaspoon finely chopped fresh tarragon  
12 cloves garlic, smashed  
2 tablespoons porcini mushroom powder  
3/4 teaspoon kosher salt, plus more to taste  
1/2 pound trimmed asparagus, cut on the bias into 1-inch lengths  
2 large eggs, beaten  
2 tablespoons toasted matzo meal  
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
2 handfuls arugula

1. Combine stock, bay leaf, sage, tarragon, garlic, porcini powder and 3/4 teaspoon salt in a lidded medium saucepan. Bring to a gentle boil over medium-high heat, then decrease heat to medium-low. Simmer to concentrate flavor, 40 minutes. Use a slotted spoon to remove garlic, bay leaf and sage from soup, and discard. Season to taste with salt. Add asparagus and simmer until vegetable is bright green, 3 minutes. 2. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, use a fork to whisk together eggs with matzo meal, pepper and a generous pinch of salt. 3. Carefully drop batter into soup, a spoonful at a time. Cover pan and cook until batter rises to surface of soup, about 3 minutes. Use a spoon to break batter up. Off heat, add two generous handfuls arugula to pan and stir into soup until wilted.

### Orange-Glazed Passover Chicken With Matzo Stuffing

ACTIVE TIME: 2 hours TOTAL TIME: 2 days (includes brining) SERVES: 4

For the chicken:

1 (3 1/2-pound) chicken, giblets removed  
2 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt  
3/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
2 medium onions, cut into 1/2-inch wedges  
2 parsnips, cut into 1/2-inch pieces  
1 medium fennel bulb,

cut into 1/2-inch wedges

3 tablespoons olive oil  
2 tablespoons chopped flat-leaf parsley  
1 tablespoon chopped fresh oregano  
For the stuffing:

1/2 cup toasted slivered almonds

1 medium onion, minced

1 leek, white and light

green parts, finely chopped

1 stalk celery, finely chopped  
1/4 medium fennel bulb, finely chopped, plus fronds

1/2 cup toasted slivered almonds

1/2 cup chopped dates

2 1/2 cups broken matzo or matzo

farfel

3 large eggs  
1 cup chicken stock, plus more to taste  
3 dashes Worcestershire sauce  
1 teaspoon grated orange zest  
1 teaspoon kosher salt  
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
2 tablespoons

chopped fresh dill  
2 tablespoons chopped fresh flat leaf parsley  
For the glaze:  
1/4 cup honey  
1/4 cup duck fat  
1/4 cup chicken fat  
1 cup fresh orange juice  
1 tablespoon grated orange zest

1. Dry-brine chicken: Up to 2 days before roasting, combine 2 teaspoons salt and 1/2 teaspoon pepper in a small bowl. Pat chicken dry and set in a shallow baking dish. Rub seasoning mixture all over chicken, interior and exterior. Cover and place in refrigerator.

2. 2 1/2 hours before cooking chicken, pat dry and place on a rack set over a plate or tray. Refrigerate, uncovered, 2 hours.

3. Make stuffing: In a large skillet, heat chicken fat over medium heat. Sauté onions, leeks, celery and fennel until softened, about 8 minutes. Off heat, stir in almond and dates. Add matzo, stirring to incorporate. Transfer to a broiler pan or baking sheet.

4. Set broiler on high.

Place matzo mixture un-

der broiler and cook until the top has begun to brown, about 2 minutes, taking care not to burn.

5. In a large bowl, whisk together eggs, stock, orange zest, Worcestershire, salt and pepper. Stir in toasted matzo mixture. Stir in parsley, dill and 1 tablespoon reserved fennel fronds. Set aside.

6. Make glaze: Combine all ingredients in a bowl. Set aside.

7. 30 minutes before roasting chicken, remove from refrigerator and let come to room temperature. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 425 degrees, with a rack placed in lower third. In a roasting pan, combine onions, parsnips, fennel and olive oil, tossing to coat. Season with remaining 3/4 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper and toss to

combine. Add parsley and oregano and toss again.

8. Place chicken, breast-side down, in roasting pan. Fill cavity with stuffing mixture, avoiding packing too densely. Transfer remaining stuffing to a baking dish and set aside.

Brush exterior of chicken with a light coating of glaze.

9. Place chicken in oven. Once it begins to brown, after about 10 minutes, baste with glaze, then continue to baste every 15 minutes until surface is darkly burnished, about 30 minutes more. Flip chicken and stir vegetables in pan. Continue to cook chicken, basting every 15 minutes, until thermometer inserted 2 inches into fleshy part of thigh (avoiding bone) reads 165 degrees, about 30

minutes more. Transfer chicken to a carving board and let rest, tented under foil, 15 minutes before carving.

10. About 15 minutes before chicken is done cooking, take a couple spoonfuls of cooking liquid from roasting pan and stir into stuffing in baking dish.

Pat stuffing down in baking dish and cover with aluminum foil. Place stuffing in oven with chicken. Cook stuffing until chicken is done, 15 minutes. While chicken rests, remove foil from stuffing and return to oven to brown, 5-7 minutes.

11. Use a slotted spoon to transfer roasted vegetables to a bowl. Cover with foil to keep warm. Season with salt and pepper to taste before serving.

12. Carve and serve.

### Carrot Tsimis

TOTAL TIME: 1 1/2 hours

SERVES: 8-10

1 large, fat ginger root (at least 2 ounces), unpeeled  
6 pounds carrots, trimmed, peeled and cut on the bias into 1/2-inch-thick rounds (about 9 1/2 cups)  
4 tablespoons chicken fat, melted  
1 tablespoon plus 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, plus more to taste  
1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, plus more to taste

1 cup light brown sugar  
Juice of 2 navel oranges, plus zest of 1/2 orange

Juice of 1 lemon, plus zest of 1/2 lemon

1 cup water

32 pitted prunes, quartered

1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1 tablespoon matzo meal

1/4 cup roughly chopped flat-leaf parsley

1. Make roasted ginger purée:

Set broiler to high. Place ginger on a baking sheet. Broil ginger, flipping once halfway through, until lightly charred and tender, about 45 minutes.

2. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

In a large bowl, toss carrots with chicken fat, 1 tablespoon salt and 1 teaspoon pepper. Spread carrots over two baking sheets. Roast, stirring occasionally, until carrots start to brown and soften, about 30 minutes.

3. Combine brown sugar, citrus juices and 1 cup water in a Dutch oven or large skillet.

Bring to a simmer and continue simmering to concentrate flavors, 5 minutes.

4. Add roasted carrots and

prunes to pan with brown-sugar mixture and stir to coat. Stir in 1 tablespoon roasted ginger purée. Taste and, if desired, add another 1/2 tablespoon roasted ginger.

(Leftover roasted ginger can be used to flavor all sorts of dishes.) Stir in cinnamon and matzo meal. Continue to simmer, stirring frequently, until liquid reduces to a thick syrupy sauce and tsimis has a jam-like consistency, 10-15 minutes.

Stir in lemon and orange zest and remove from heat. Season with 1/2 teaspoon salt and a few cranks of pepper. Garnish with parsley.

ing about it." Tsimis is fragrant and typically quite treacly. Bergie prepared hers with carrots, brown sugar and a bit of matzo meal as a thickening agent. I tried roasting the vegetables to render them more complex, using schmaltz as a roasting medium for extra flavor. And I made a sauce much like Bergie's with brown sugar, matzo meal and the expected spices. In place of powdered ginger, however, I opted to roast fresh ginger and purée it. Please do this. A spoonful or two—with a soft smokiness and gut-warming heat—improves all sorts of dishes.

Then I tackled my great-grandmother's orange-glazed Passover

chicken and matzo stuffing, which my mother had made once or twice but doctored up nearly beyond recognition. I stripped it back and implemented some changes of my own. Cooking with a blend of duck and chicken fats, I got delicious results, juicy flesh and burnished skin. It also made my kitchen smell like Home, capital "H."

Finally, for dessert, I came up with my own addition to the family recipe canon. This is one for all that extra unleavened bread you have lying around: toasted-matzo ice cream with matzo brittle.

When my father tasted the chicken, he claimed Bergie and Charlotte would have approved.

Who can say, really? And though he clearly liked it, I'm sure he'd rather have his grandmother here to cook hers; had I followed her recipe to the letter, he still would have found it lacking something. And I will never know what that something is.

What I've realized about holiday recipes, for Passover or otherwise, is that the answer is not to repeat verbatim, but to engage with the archives even as you maintain them. I treasure these handwritten records, and I write in my own annotations. This way, whoever comes next has a connection to everyone who came before and—antecepedent of our nostalgia, object of our annual rituals—a sense of belonging.



► Find recipes for toasted-matzo ice cream and maple matzo toffee at [wsj.com/food](http://wsj.com/food).

## GEAR & GADGETS

# Tools to Suffer Gladly

Which tools should even the most reluctant do-it-yourselfer own? A father and son from a long line of tradesmen weigh in

BY KEITH BLANCHARD

I WAS 13 YEARS OLD when I started working with my carpenter dad. On my first day on the job, he walked me to the back of the multimillion-dollar home and pointed toward a detached double garage.

"Do you see the 2-foot trench that runs between here and the left-hand corner of that outbuilding?" he asked, squinting into the yard.

I was confused. "Um...no."

Dad handed me a shovel. "Then I guess you'd better start digging."

Five years toiling beside that hilarious jokester was both a bonding experience and an apprenticeship of sorts. I learned how to dig, how to sweep and how to staple insulation into attics. It was hard work, of the dangerous and sweaty kind, but it was rewarding.

Although I'm a writer by trade now, when life lets me I tackle projects that the VP-of-investment-strategy dads in my neighborhood can only dream of. Building a backyard hockey rink or helping my daughter turn an old door into wall art connects me with the generations of craftsmen who came before. (Not only is my father a carpenter, but his father was a stonemason, and his father was a blacksmith.)

You may never remodel a bathroom yourself, but even the most reluctant do-it-yourselfer needs a few tools. In some cases, pretty much any model will do: A 25- or 30-foot tape measure made of metal, not plastic (because you will drop it off the ladder at some point). A quick-change screwdriver with four heads (slotted and Phillips, two sizes each). A handsaw, a hacksaw and a powered circular saw if you dare. A stud finder, because you shouldn't hang anything heavier than a sandwich on a wall unless you can anchor it to a stud.

With those basic tools, it doesn't make much difference which one you get. But with other tools, features matter, and for those, my dad and I put our years of building experience to work with specific recommendations. Here, for your putting pleasure, a shopping list—along with tips for avoiding rookie mistakes.



### 1. Cordless Drill

**Bosch DDS-181-02 18-Volt Lithium-Ion Half-Inch Cordless Drill**

An 18-volt, variable speed, cordless drill is handy both as a drill and a power screwdriver. The variable speed lets you take it slow with a tricky screw. This model from Bosch is compact, lightweight and has a small-diameter grip for better control. And it comes with two high-capacity batteries, so you can keep working when one battery dies. "Get the two dollar slotted screw collar attachment so you don't slip off slotted screws and ding your project," advised Dad. \$154, [boschtools.com](http://boschtools.com)

### 2. Safety Goggles

**DeWalt DPG82-11**

Look, we all work without eye protection sometimes, but it's a lazy and stupid thing to do. One flying chunk of wood or tile chip, and you'll regret your nonchalance for a long time. DeWalt's scratch-resistant polycarbonate lenses have a fog-resistant coating and a soft rubber edge that molds the

goggles to your face to keep out dust. \$11, [deewalt.com](http://deewalt.com)

### 3. Glue Gun

**Surebonder PRO2-100**

It may be more of a craft tool than a contractor's tool, but this pro version ain't for grade-school glitter projects. With an ergonomic squeeze-trigger and 100 watts of power to melt its 7/16-inch glue sticks, it will deliver 2.5 pounds of hot glue per hour. Dad's advice: Work fast. "Don't put a drop of glue on the project until you're prepared to put it together quickly," he warned. "You might have 10 or 15 seconds before it hardens up again." \$31, [surebonder.com](http://surebonder.com)

### 4. Pliers

**ChannelLock 421 Straight-Jaw Tongue and Groove Pliers**

We live in a wide world of wrenches, from twig-like Allen wrenches to heavy iron pipe wrenches used in plumbing (and as a murder weapon in Clue). But if you only have room for one in your tool bag, go for these ChannelLock pliers, which combine the open-jawed adjustability of a set of

spanners with the torque-multiplying squeeze of pliers, pinning their prey with ridged teeth.

Forget the crescent wrench, that slick chrome dandy: "Every time you take it off the nut to get a new grip it's either loosened up or tightened, and you have to readjust it," griped Dad. "Everyone's got one; everyone hates it." \$20, [channellock.com](http://channellock.com)

### 5. Hammer

**Ettwing E3-16S**

You can still find old-school hickory-handled hammers in the store aisle, but leave them there. They crack and snap over time, and today's single-forged nail bangers, with rubberized shafts to keep your grip steady, will last a lifetime. You want a 16-ounce, which is heavy enough to drive a nail but light enough that your arm won't fall off halfway through framing the treehouse. On this model, head and handle are one: a durable solid-forged piece with good weight and balance and a great claw angle for mistake removal. A molded nylon-vinyl shock reduction grip keeps your teeth from rattling. \$22, [ettwing.com](http://ettwing.com)

### 6. Utility Knife

**Milwaukee Fastback Flip**

The Milwaukee offers tool-free, one-button blade changing in an all-metal body that hooks to your belt and has a "gut hook" to let you safely cut a string without even opening the blade. It stores eight blades in the handle. Remember to change blades more often than you think; even paper dulls the blade quickly. \$15, [milwaukeetool.com](http://milwaukeetool.com)

### 7. Putty Knife

**Red Devil 4251 Zip-a-Way Painter's 6-In-1-Tool**

Although the smallest essential tool, this may see the most action. You can use it to fill and scrape a hundred dings and poster-thumbtack holes an hour if you keep moving. Our favorite: This Swiss Army six-in-one putty knife includes a scraper, spreader, gouger, putty remover, paint-roller cleaner and nailsetter. A tip from Dad: Unused joint compound can be stored indefinitely, if it stays wet: "Smooth out the top of the unused portion, then put a quarter inch of water on top

and close the lid." \$7, [reddevil.com](http://reddevil.com)

### 8. Bubble Level

**Checkpoint O300 Pro Mag Precision Torpedo Level**

Levels come in various lengths—we used to keep a 2-, 4-, and 6-footer in our truck just for convenience. But all you really need is one 8-inch torpedo level, said Dad, because any straight board can extend its reach. Say you're hanging a shelf: Mark your height at one side and set a nail into the wall, he said. "Then set one end of your board onto the nail, squeeze the level to the middle of the board and raise or lower the height of the other side until it's level, and you can mark the whole length." With this Checkpoint level, no more will your landscape paintings slide downhill on your walls. A lightweight aluminum-alloy body holds multiple openings to view the four leveling vials from all sides; "V-groove" edges hold tight to flat walls or rounded pipes. \$27, [checkpointlevels.com](http://checkpointlevels.com)

## MANY HAPPY RETURNS

Six tools you're better off renting than buying



### ▲ Belt Sander

Before you leave the store, learn how to load and adjust the sandpaper belt—it can slowly work its way off if attached incorrectly. A tip from Tony English, Home Depot's senior merchant of tool rental:

Buy more sandpaper than you think you'll need. You can get a refund for what you don't use—and you're going back to return the unit anyway.



### ◀ Paint Sprayer

Don't leave the shop without understanding how to connect, start, clear and clean it. "This is probably one of the highest-maintenance items," said True Value rental sales manager Mike Smollock. "Even if you're going to stop for 10 minutes to take a break, you need to clean the unit out" to avoid clogging.

### Power Washer

Good for blasting away mold from bricks, paint from walls, or weathered grayness from wooden deck chairs. "Be sure to let the associate know what you're trying to wash," said Mr. English. "If you're power-washing the side of your home and it's two stories, for example, we have an extension wand."



### ◀ Wallpaper Steamer

Using this isn't difficult, but get a quick tutorial before you leave. "Steam is really dangerous," said Mr. Smollock. Also ask for a wallpaper perforator; use it to let the steam get underneath the paper.

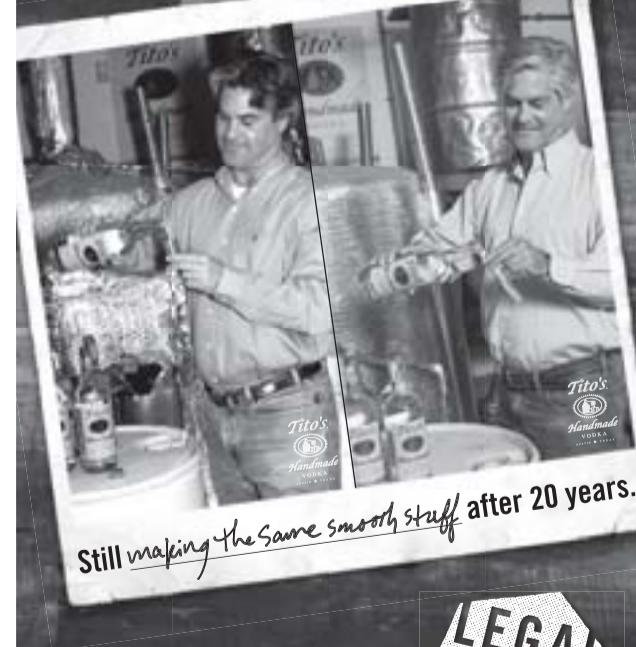


### Miter Saw ▶

You can cut wood with all manner of saws, even a hand-saw, but if you're making many small cuts, there's no substitute for an angle-adjustable tabletop miter saw. The danger is clear: "Keep hands and fingers well away from the cutting line and slowly drop the blade onto the surface with even pressure," said Ace Hardware home expert Lou Manfredini. "Let the tool do the cutting."



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## GEAR & GADGETS

### IMMODESTLY SUPERLATIVE

The \$3 million Bugatti Chiron is the most expensive—and fastest—production road car ever from a global auto maker.



BIGATTI

RUMBLE SEAT DAN NEIL



# Bugatti's Chiron: An Almost Indecent Proposal

**IF STORYTELLING** is theater of the mind, what follows is adult cinema for motorheads. You have joined me in Lisbon, Portugal, for the global press launch of Bugatti's Chiron, successor to the all-conquering Veyron 16.4 supercar. On this March evening the air is soft and the restaurants are noisy. Couples amble along the waterfront past the 16th-century Belém Tower, a frosted cake of turrets and crenelations.

The bleak, beetle-backed monster parked in the courtyard of the hotel lays claim to being the new fastest, most powerful, most expensive road car ever produced by a proper global auto maker. Those numbers, should you want to forward them to your accountant in Macau: about 285 mph; 1,500 horsepower; \$3 million.

It's so evil-looking birds won't land on it. The back half seems to be devouring the front. The full-width taillight glows like a stinging slash from a Jedi's saber. From its aero-

space-standard carbon-fiber safety cell to its titanium tailpipes, the Chiron plays out a drama of precision fabrication that will make you weak at the knees. Gawd, what an object.

And yet, we've been here before. When Ferdinand Piech, grandson of Ferdinand Porsche and then-chairman of VW's supervisory board, re-established the legendary marque in its historic home in Molsheim, France, in the 2000s, it was to build a single, matchless car. The Veyron 16.4 was conceived to deliver world-historical performance in every category—including acceleration, braking, cornering and top speed—with uncompromised refinement, safety and drivability, even at maximum speed.

Which it did. In 2005, the 16-cylinder, 1,000-hp Veyron 16.4 laid down a production-car world record of 253 mph at parent-company VW's test track in Germany. In 2010, a Veyron 16.4 Super Sport set the current record of 268 mph, ahead of a

1,200-hp pillar of fire.

Thanks to two-stage quad turbochargers that are about 50% larger, and a host of improvements to engine breathing and cooling that came with the exterior redesign, the Chiron's 8.0-liter W16 nets 25% more horsepower—now a galactic 1,500 hp at 6,750 rpm, about equal to three Corvettes—and all the torque, ever: 1,600 Newton-meters from just 2,000 rpm all the way to 6,000 rpm.

Top speed? TBD. But judging by

the arch in company president Wolfgang Dürheimer's eyebrow as he

says, "significantly higher than the

Veyron, I think people will be sur-

prised how much," I'm picking 285

mph in the office pool.

Give or take, in the winged zoomorphia of the extremely fast, Bu-

gatti will fly higher than any other

car maker has ever dared. Again.

So it's another useless road cata-

pult for ultrarich idiots? Let's not

quibble. You may also think it awk-

ward, at least, that this crown jewel

of consumption should come from

Bugatti, of the VW Group, which has

executives under indictment and bil-

lions in liabilities for cheating clean-

air rules.

But I suggest the Chiron's moral

status is more nuanced. As fate

would have it, profits from the Chir-

on will go a long way toward pay-

ing the debts to society incurred in

the Dieselgate scandal. Meanwhile,

the average Bugatti is driven less

than 800 miles annually, so these

profits' actual carbon footprint is

quite small. On that score it may be

the greenest car VW Group has ever

built.

And suddenly there I am, hands

wrapped around the leather-molded

grips, eyes gazing over the curved

carbon-fiber horizon down a long

and empty road in Portugal. My co-

driver, Le Mans-winner and Bugatti

test pilot Andy Wallace, has cleared

us for takeoff. I've turned the drive-

mode selector on the steering wheel

to Handling mode and left the gear-

box in Automatic. I'm not even both-

ering with Launch Mode. I stamp the

throttle.

It's hard to put words to the sen-

sation of a 2-ton luxury automobile's

accelerating from repose to 186 mph

(300 km/h) in 13.6 seconds—about

as long it takes most people to read

this sentence aloud. It's like getting

hit by a freight train, if Hermès

made freight trains. This is the adult

entertainment that Bugatti panders

to the jaded .1%: scarcely believable,

barely endurable blasts of acceleration,

clutching spasms of delta-v

that are both pleasure and pain,

traumatic and orgasmic.

And at the moment when the jew-

eled clock-face speedometer passes

300 km/h—a moment of tunnel vi-

sion, mild vertigo and panicky

laughter—the car is still traveling

two-thirds of its maximum speed.

"Nothing I ever drove at Le Mans

was nearly this fast," Mr. Wallace

says.

You don't like the way it looks?

You're quaint. I applaud this car's

Gallic contempt for the sterility of

supercar styling. This decorative in-

solence is best seen in the car's curls

of brightwork looping around the

cabin—C for Louis Chiron, Bugatti's

works driver from the 1930s. This

flourish is so on-the-nose, only the

French would have dared it.

An acutely Parisian taste inhabits

the couture leather-bound cabin,

where the C motif is restated in a

thin, elegant light bar descending

from the roof to the center console.

Ahead, a vertical spar of carbon-fi-

ber and aluminum transects the for-

ward bulkhead, hosting four ice-blue

rotary dials commanding first-level

functions of cabin, climate and vehi-

cle systems. The animated displays

for these functions appear in the in-

strument cluster. But the speedom-

eter, with increments up to 500 km/

h, is analogue, so admirers can see it

through the window. Peasants.

Towering over other consider-

ations are the demands of extreme

speed. Because aero resistance rises

as a square of velocity, the faster

you go, the steeper the hill. Thus the

Chiron's 1,500 horsepower, thus the

prodigious engine water pump, cir-

culating 211 gallons of coolant every minute. That's enough coolant to fill four bathtubs, not that I'd recommend it.

The energies involved are daunting. So I was reminded when a kicked-up stone ricocheted off the Chiron's rakish windshield at three-digit speed, fracturing the unspeakably expensive glass in front of Mr. Wallace's face.

The big number is Vmax, top speed. This is where angels fear to tread. Like the Veyron, the Chiron must first assume attack posture, accessed with the Top Speed key. The adaptive air suspension lowers the car to a mere 3 inches off the tarmac. This key also moves the Chiron's rear wing into low-drag position, which is also, alas, the low-downforce position.

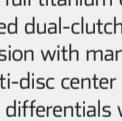
I'm not worried about the clients. Seriously. Not worried. But one day soon a test driver will strap into one of these cars and gallantly go for the record, and management will gallantly let him. No matter the precautions taken, every sortie to Vmax is a gamble, a life-or-death wager on human ingenuity.

It's like getting hit by a freight train, if Hermès made freight trains.

It's goddamn glorious. It's like the early decades of the automobile, when engineers and drivers would take life in hand to demonstrate the strength of their machines to an exclusive clientele—Duesenberg's hero of the salt flats, Ab Jenkins, for instance.

The world of luxury goods is full of inflated brand narratives. I join you in your sneering and cynicism. Bugatti plays that game, too. But as its serial rewriting of the record books proves, these machines are very real. For Bugatti, velocity equals ontology. Physics and metaphysics are the same.

THE FIXER MICHAEL HSU



## A Trick to Make Cheap Earbuds Sound Stellar

**Q** I like my earbuds, but my boyfriend insists I need to spend \$200 on headphones to get good sound. I can't see how that could possibly be true. Who's right?

**A** In my experience, expensive headphones do generally sound better than cheap earbuds—but only in quiet environments. Out in the real world, with cars whizzing past or air-conditioning units humming, both solutions sound pretty much the same: tinny and thin. (This assumes you're not cranking up the volume to unsafe levels.)

There's a reason for this: The bass that headphones work so hard to pump out is easily obliterated by the noise around you, sapping music of its satisfying punch.

Fortunately, blocking that bass-obliterating noise doesn't require expensive technology. You can vastly improve your earbuds' sound quality when you're out and about by using hearing-protection earmuffs, the kind you find at the hardware store. Here's how:

1. Start with a pair of good-enough earbuds. The kind that fit inside your ear canal work best, but any type will work.

2. Loop the cords of the earbuds up and over the

top of your ears, as shown in the illustration at right. This helps keep the cords in place. (If you find this cumbersome, just skip.)

3. Insert earbuds, then don a pair of noise-protection earmuffs over them. You might find it more comfortable to run the cords out the back of each earmuff, so the cable is pressed against your skull rather than your neck.

Look for an earmuff that has a noise-reduction rating of around 24 dB (models with a higher rating tend to be bulkier). The Peltor Sport Shotgunner II (\$26) works especially well for this. It is lightweight, folds for portability, features very comfortable padding and has a sleek color scheme that doesn't look too industrial: black and gray with a thin strip of fluorescent green.

Also consider the Howard Leight QM24+ (\$9), which comes in a bold red. It doesn't fold, but its headband can be worn either over the top of your head, like a traditional pair of headphones, or behind your neck should you want to preserve your carefully coiffed 'do.

Have a lifestyle problem that a gadget might solve?

Email us: [the\\_fixer@wsj.com](mailto:the_fixer@wsj.com)



KIERSTEN ESENPREIS