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WSJ.com

What's News

World-Wide

Trump said U.S., British and French forces launched airstrikes targeting sites associated with Syria's chemical-weapons capabilities, a reprisal for an attack last week that killed at least 43 civilians. **A1**

◆ **A top GOP fundraiser** quit after The Wall Street Journal reported that Cohen negotiated a deal to pay \$1.6 million to a former Playboy model who said she was impregnated by the official. **A1**

◆ **FBI ex-deputy McCabe** misled investigators about his role in providing information to the Journal, the Justice Department said. **A1**

◆ **The president pardoned** Libby, a former top aide to Cheney who was convicted of lying to a grand jury and obstructing justice. **A3**

◆ **Trump blasted Comey** ahead of the publication of a book by the ex-FBI director that refers to the president as "deeply flawed." **A4**

◆ **U.S. negotiators** are hammering out a compromise with Canada and Mexico on Nafta auto-industry rules. **A5**

◆ **Palestinians clashed** with Israel's army at the fence dividing Gaza and Israel. **A6**

Business & Finance

◆ **JPMorgan, Citigroup** and Wells Fargo posted higher quarterly profit, propelled by lower tax bills and a rise in lending income. **A1**

◆ **Wells Fargo** said that it may need to restate results due to a looming regulatory settlement. **B11**

◆ **PNC's profit rose 16%**, fueled by higher rates and commercial lending. **B11**

◆ **China is slowing** reviews of deals being pursued by Qualcomm and Bain as trade tensions between the U.S. and China escalate. **A7**

◆ **WPP's board** is weighing contingency plans in the event Sorrell leaves, as the CEO deals with an allegation of misconduct. **B1**

◆ **U.S. stocks fell** Friday but notched gains for the week. The Dow industrials ended the day 122.91 points lower at 24360.14. **B11**

◆ **Volkswagen CEO Diess** pledged to speed the pace of change at the company a day after his appointment. **B4**

◆ **BlackRock's CEO** made \$27.95 million in 2017, an increase of 10%, after a banner year for the firm. **B6**

◆ **Toy maker Isaac Larian** said he has submitted a bid for Toys "R" Us. **B2**

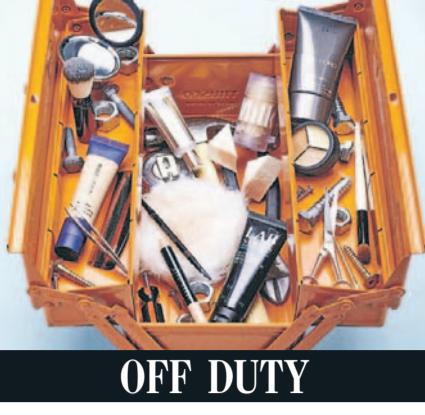
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Real Men Use
Makeup



OFF DUTY



The sky in Damascus, Syria, lights up with missile fire early Saturday local time as the U.S. and its allies respond to a suspected chemical-weapons attack last week.

HASSAN AMMAR/ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S., Allies Launch Strike in Syria

By NANCY A. YOUSSEF
AND MICHAEL C. BENDER

President Donald Trump said U.S., British and French forces launched airstrikes targeting sites associated with Syria's chemical-weapons capabilities, a reprisal for an attack last week that killed at least 43 civilians and injured hundreds more.

The decision to strike was aimed at cutting off the production and use of chemical weapons in the country, Mr.

Trump said at the White House Friday night.

"We are prepared to sustain this response until the Syrian regime stops its use of prohibited chemical agents," the president said.

In brief remarks, Mr. Trump blamed "Russia's failure" for the suspected chemical attack in Syria, saying Moscow had vowed to stop the use of such weapons in the country. He said Russia must now decide whether to continue down a "dark path" in Syria or become

a force for "stability and peace."

"Hopefully, someday, we'll get along with Russia, and maybe even Iran—but maybe not," Mr. Trump said.

Anatoly Antonov, Russia's ambassador to the U.S., said Moscow would respond to Mr. Trump.

"We warned that such actions will not be left without consequences," he said in a statement. "All responsibility for them rests with Washington, London and Paris."

Mr. Antonov said "insulting the president of Russia is unacceptable and inadmissible."

The strikes were a culmination of a weeklong international push to punish the regime of President Bashar al-Assad of Syria after images and videos emerged April 7 from the Syrian city of Douma suggesting civilians—including children—had suffered in the attack.

Syria and its chief patron, Russia, have denied any chemical weapons were used in

Douma, but assessments from nongovernmental organizations in Syria concluded at least 43 people died from a suspected chemical attack and 500 more were injured.

Mr. Trump said the operation would be "sustained" until the Syrian regime stops using chemical weapons. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Gen. Joe Dunford, chairman of the

Please see STRIKE page A6

◆ For the latest developments on Syria, go to WSJ.com

The American Ordeal Of the Boko Haram Girls

Having escaped to the U.S., some found themselves trapped all over again

VIENNA, Va.—Four years ago, on a truck barreling toward the forest hideout of Boko Haram, teenager Kauna Bitrus made a desperate

move to avoid the fate of the more than 200 other schoolgirls abducted from Chibok, Nigeria, that day.

She jumped.

When Kauna landed, months later, in the pine-shaded town of Grundy, Va., she was among the lucky few Chibok students awarded full scholarships and sanctuary at Christian

Please see ESCAPE page A10

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SHOSHANAH WHITE FOR WSJ



Kauna Bitrus, seen here in snow-covered New England, fled Boko Haram four years ago only to be retraumatized in the U.S.

Banks' Big Gains Fail to Impress

By PETER RUDEGEAR
AND TELIS DEMOS

Lower taxes, a boost in lending income and a flurry of trading activity sparked by market volatility propelled profits higher at three of the U.S. biggest banks in the first quarter.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. led the charge, reporting net income of \$8.7 billion—up 35% from a year earlier and a record for the largest U.S. bank by assets. While the performance benefited from a quarter-billion dollars in savings from a lower tax rate, Chief Executive James Dimon said the results also reflected a brightening economic and business environment.

"The global economy contin-

ues to do well, and we remain optimistic about the positive impact of tax reform in the U.S. as business sentiment remains upbeat, and consumers benefit from job and wage growth," he said in the earnings release.

Despite the strong earnings, investors sent shares lower for want of signs of stronger future loan growth, particularly from businesses, and a lack of new earnings drivers after a runup in valuations.

The brighter economic conditions also helped Citigroup Inc. It reported that net income rose 13% from a year earlier to

Please see BANKS page A2

◆ Wells Fargo's struggle with regulatory issues persists.. B11

GOP Official Resigns After Secret Payments

By JOE PALAZZOLO
AND MICHAEL ROTHFIELD

A top Republican fundraiser resigned his post Friday after The Wall Street Journal reported that President Donald Trump's personal lawyer negotiated a deal in late 2017 to pay \$1.6 million to a former Playboy model who said she was impregnated by the official, according to people familiar with the matter.

Lawyer Michael Cohen, whose office, home and hotel room were raided by federal agents this week, arranged the agreement with the woman on behalf of Elliott Brody, a deputy finance chairman of the RNC with ties to Mr. Trump, the people familiar with the matter said. Mr. Brody, a Los Angeles-based venture capitalist, worked on the Republican committee with Mr. Cohen, who is also a national deputy finance chairman.

The deal, which hadn't previously been reported, prohibits the Los Angeles woman from disclosing her alleged relationship with Mr. Brody in exchange for \$1.6 million to be paid to her over two years in quarterly installments, these people said. The first payment was due Dec. 1, according to one of the people.

"I acknowledge I had a consensual relationship with a Playboy Playmate," Mr. Brody said in a statement provided by a spokesman. "At the end of our relationship, this woman shared with me that she was

Please see COHEN page A4

Fired FBI No. 2 McCabe Misled Probe, Report Says

By BYRON TAU
AND DEL QUENTIN WILBER

The Justice Department's internal watchdog concluded in a report that former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe misled investigators who were probing his role in providing information in October 2016 to a reporter for The Wall Street Journal.

The report, which was sent to Congress on Friday, says Mr. McCabe lacked candor in conversations about the leak with top FBI officials and the bureau's internal investigators as well as those from the Justice Department's inspector general.

The report, which was reviewed by the Journal, sheds new light on the rationale of

Please see MCCABE page A4

Tip for Avoiding Budget Airline Fees: Wear All of Your Clothes

* * *

Frugal fliers take up quest to dodge charges for every extra pound and morsel

By ROB COPELAND

Low-cost airlines seem to expect that travelers have little more than a phone, a toothbrush and a change of underwear.

Then there's Ashley Hubbard. The Nashville, Tenn., office manager, 31 years old, made her approach to the airport checkpoint in Bangkok, a laptop in one hand, a camera in the other. She wore two T-

shirts, a sweatshirt, fleece, rain jacket, scarves and trekking boots. Her pockets bulged with packaged food. All of this was to keep her carry-on bag under Norwegian Air Shuttle's weight limit and avoid a \$45 penalty.

"I've forgotten about a banana before," she said. "That was not pleasant to find a week later."

Discount companies such as Spirit Airlines and Norwegian dangle rock-bottom fares, hoping to collect on a smorgasbord of add-on charges for luggage, meals, boarding order, seat assignments and in some cases, even water onboard. That's created a quest among travelers to keep the cost at the posted price and dodge, for example, the \$9.49 in-flight ba-

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President Pardons Libby

Ex-Cheney aide was convicted in a case involving the leak of a CIA officer's identity A3

Please see MCCABE page A4

Does not include food

Please see FEES page A10

U.S. NEWS

THE NUMBERS | By Jo Craven McGinty

For Athletes' Safety, Fields Get a Hard Look



Athletic fields, like boiled eggs, have a range of hardness.

Too soft, and they slow down runners. Too hard, and they increase the risk of concussion.

Because of that, the NFL, the NCAA and researchers at multiple universities are paying attention to how, and how often, playing surfaces contribute to injuries.

An analysis of 459 concussions documented in the National Football League over the 2015 and 2016 seasons found that 19% were caused when a player's head hit the ground.

An examination of 41,000 National Collegiate Athletic Association football injuries from 2004 to 2009, which wasn't limited to concussions, attributed more than 7% to contact with the field.

"We tried to look at the value across all injuries," said John Parsons, managing director of the NCAA Sport Science Institute. "It could be contusion to concussion."

Younger athletes are also susceptible.

Researchers at the Chil-

dren's Hospitals in Boston and Columbus, Ohio, found that about 15% of concussions in high-school sports happened when players hit the ground. The study of 544 concussions included a representative sample of athletes playing sports ranging from soccer to softball, in the 2008-09 school year.

To help address the problem, the NFL, under intense scrutiny for player concussions, has instituted a policy to check fields for safety and playability before every game. Within 72 hours of each home game, NFL teams must test their fields for hardness and certify that they comply with league rules. Fields that are too hard must be fixed and retested before game day.

In addition to hardness, grass fields are tested for moisture, while synthetic fields are tested for depth of infill, a substance such as crumb rubber that cushions artificial surfaces.

"If you ever watch a game played on a synthetic surface, you'll see infill flying around," said Richard Kent, deputy director of the Center for Applied Biomechanics at

the University of Virginia. "Thousands of pounds a year will walk off a well-used field. You've got to put it back."

Dry, compacted grass turf and depleted infill are characteristics that contribute to the hardness of natural and artificial fields, but the level of hardness is commonly measured with a device called the Clegg Impact Soil Tester.

"Every location on the field has to be under 100 Gmax," said Andy McNitt, director of the Penn State Center for Sports Surface Research and a member of a team that oversees the NFL field certification program.

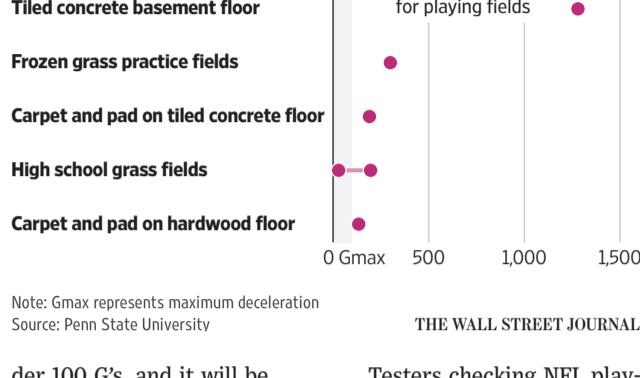
Gmax is a measure of how fast something stops on impact. The higher the number—which is recorded in gravity units, or "G's"—the harder the surface.

Because there is some debate over whether Gmax measurements correlate with injuries, Dr. McNitt said, the NFL regards the 100 G threshold as a way to gauge whether a field is properly maintained, rather than as a measure of its safety—although the two are related.

"We think if you take care of a field, you can keep it un-

Going Soft

The hardness of different surfaces as measured by the Clegg Impact Soil Tester method



Note: Gmax represents maximum deceleration

Source: Penn State University

der 100 G's, and it will be more playable and safe," Dr. McNitt said. "But that's an assumption."

To put the limit into perspective: A carpeted hardwood floor measures around 134 Gmax on the Clegg. (Other devices use a different scale.) A frozen practice field measures around 303. And a tiled concrete floor measures around 1,280.

The Clegg model used by the NFL is fitted with a 5-pound weight that is dropped through a guide tube from a height of 18 inches.

may influence trauma when a head or other body part slams into the ground.

As field-safety research progresses, Dr. Kent said, it's likely that the method will be refined.

Still, in the absence of a better measure, the information can give field managers some sense of the safety and playability of athletic surfaces—which in turn will contribute to improvements in sports equipment such as helmets and cleats.

To encourage all field managers to keep tabs on the condition of their athletic surfaces, the Sports Turf Managers Association offers its members a questionnaire to help them conduct a thorough assessment of field conditions.

"If there are red flags going up, they can take the appropriate steps to change up fields," said Brad Fresenborg, a field-management expert who helped design the latest version of the questionnaire, which can be filled out electronically.

The hope is that when athletes do go down, they're less likely to be sidelined by the turf.

Testers checking NFL playing fields must report the results from 40 different locations, but they might test as many as 150 locations, including areas in the sidelines.

The method grew out of Ford and General Motors crash-test research from the 1960s and from data collected in 1971 on the impact of blows to the head during a football game. But the approach, which measures the impact of a flat-faced weight dropped straight down, doesn't account for torque or other elements that

A Deported Veteran's Long Road to U.S. Citizenship



SWEARING IN: Hector Barajas shared a moment with his mother, Margarita Barajas, at the immigration office in San Diego on Friday. Mr. Barajas, a U.S. Army veteran, has been living in Tijuana Mexico and seeking U.S. residency after being deported eight years ago.

BANKS

Continued from Page One

\$4.62 billion, while its return on equity, a closely watched measure of bank profitability, was at its highest level in five years.

Wells Fargo & Co. said its first-quarter profit rose 5% to \$5.9 billion, although it cautioned that it might need to restate results because of a looming regulatory settlement that could be as high as \$1 billion.

PNC Financial Services Group Inc., the nation's eighth-largest bank by assets, reported a 16% rise in earnings thanks to rising interest rates and commercial-lending growth.

While the banks largely met, or in some cases exceeded expectations, shares of JPMorgan fell more than 2% and Wells Fargo was down by more than 3%.

Bank stocks have outperformed the broader market since the November 2016 presidential election. Now, investors are looking for reasons for them to rise further, something that was lacking in the most-recent results.

"Bank stocks are at a point now where valuations are similar to 2007," said James Shanahan, senior equity research analyst at retail brokerage Edward Jones. "It feels like there needs to be a really strong catalyst to propel them higher from here."

Investors, for instance, are anticipating an acceleration in industry loan growth as the year progresses, said Jason Benowitz, senior portfolio manager at Roosevelt Investment Group Inc. and an investor in JPMorgan. "But this was not the tone" on bank earnings calls, he added.

Loan volume, especially for

businesses, was on the rise at JPMorgan, Citigroup and PNC. But growth remained below levels of a few years ago. Bank executives said the tax overhaul hasn't yet had a pronounced effect on companies' willingness to borrow.

"I think we have to recognize that tax reform is in its early stages," Marianne Lake, JPMorgan's finance chief, said on a call with reporters.

PNC CEO William Demchak said the lower tax rate may also crimp some areas of commercial lending. Companies will have more money on hand, which could reduce their need for bank loans, he added.

For the banks themselves, the tax overhaul is already flowing through to their bottom lines. JPMorgan reported an effective tax rate of 18% in the first quarter, down from 23% a year earlier. Citigroup's effective tax rate fell to 24% from 31%, and Wells Fargo's dropped to 19% from 27%.

The lower taxes helped boost banks' return on equity. At JPMorgan, this measure of profitability hit 15% in the quarter, its highest level in years. Citigroup's return of 9.7% was within striking distance of 10%, a psychologically important level for investors.

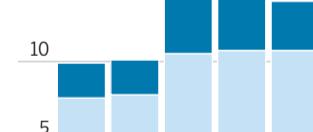
The gauge of profitability was bolstered by banks' return of capital to investors. JPMorgan said it returned \$6.7 billion during the quarter through share buybacks and dividend payments. Combined, it, Citi and Wells Fargo have returned nearly \$60 billion to investors over the past four quarters.

Besides the boost from taxes, banks' businesses mostly remained solid, even if growth isn't spectacular.

Rising interest rates have

Many Happy Returns

Total capital returns



Note: Data include share repurchases and dividends.

Source: the banks

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

will soon have to pay more for deposits to keep customers from shifting funds elsewhere, especially if the Federal Reserve continues to increase rates.

The prospect of sharply higher interest rates also sparked market gyrations during the first quarter. The ensuing volatility in stock markets was a boon for bank trading desks. Equities-trading revenue rose 38% to \$1.1 billion at Citigroup, the best in seven years, and 26% to a record \$2 billion at JPMorgan.

In bond markets, however, volatility kept money managers on the sidelines. JPMorgan's revenue for that unit was flat, excluding accounting adjustments, while Citigroup's was down 7% versus a year earlier.

Market upheaval also depressed investment-banking activity as companies were spooked by the prospect of issuing additional bonds in choppy markets. Debt-underwriting fees fell 18% at JPMorgan and 8% at Citigroup.

While markets were unsettled during the quarter, the political atmosphere was particularly tumultuous. Citigroup said, though, that things like the threat of a U.S.-China trade war hadn't so far crimped global activity. Rather, the bank has experienced higher revenue in both consumer and corporate banking, especially in Asia and Latin America.

"The volatility we see from morning tweets, or stances that vary from time to time—I won't say the world is numb or numbing to that, but the positive things happening are overwhelming that," CEO Michael Corbat told analysts.

—Christina Rexrode

Contributed to this article.

Profit Push

Return on equity, first quarter of each year



Note: Data include share repurchases and dividends.

Source: the banks

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incorrectly

said that the U.S. was considering imposing \$100 billion of tariffs.

A chart of average weekly manufacturing wages with an April 6 Page One article about Elkhart, Ind., showed changes since the end of the recession, as correctly labeled in the headline with a Business & Finance article on Friday about an ESPN streaming service.

The last name of Buster Olney was misspelled as Only in a photo caption with a Business & Technology article on Friday about an ESPN streaming service.

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In some editions Friday, the name of Zillow Group was misspelled as Zillo in a headline with a Business & Finance article about the real-estate listings company.

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U.S. NEWS

Trump Issues Pardon To Libby

BY LOUISE RADNOFSKY AND PETER NICHOLAS

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump pardoned a former top aide to Vice President Dick Cheney who was convicted in 2007 of lying to a grand jury and obstructing justice in a case that culminated in the leaking of a CIA officer's identity.

I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, now 67 years old, was sentenced to 30 months in prison. Then-President George W. Bush commuted that sentence, describing it as "excessive," but he didn't issue a pardon, despite entreaties from Mr. Cheney. Mr. Libby's conviction capped a four-year investigation by special counsel Patrick Fitzgerald into the leak of the identity of the Central Intelligence Agency officer, Valerie Plame.

"I don't know Mr. Libby," Mr. Trump said, "but for years I have heard that he has been treated unfairly. Hopefully, this full pardon will help rectify a very sad portion of his life."

The White House statement Friday praised Mr. Libby's record as a public servant and cited an earlier finding from the District of Columbia Disciplinary Counsel that Mr. Libby had presented "credible evidence" that he was innocent.

Democrats were quick to criticize the action. "This is a perversion of the pardon power and an instrument for obstruction of justice," said Rep. Gerry Connolly of Virginia. "The president is sending a clear signal to others that he will reward obstruction of justice."

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Mr. Trump had issued the pardon in part because one of the key witnesses against Mr. Libby recanted her testimony in 2015, and because before his conviction Mr. Libby had "rendered more than a decade of honorable service to the nation."

She denied that the president was trying to send any message to the current special counsel, Robert Mueller. Mr. Mueller's probe of alleged Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election has yielded guilty pleas from three former Trump campaign associates who have agreed to cooperate with his inquiry, and an indictment of Mr. Trump's onetime campaign chairman. "One thing has nothing to do with the other," she said.

Ms. Plame said, "President's Trump's pardon is not based on the truth."

Freddy Ford, chief of staff for President Bush, said Friday that Mr. Bush "is very pleased for Scooter and his family."

HHS Aids Religious Health Workers

BY STEPHANIE ARMOUR

The Trump administration is deploying civil-rights laws in new ways to defend health-industry workers who object to medical procedures on religious grounds.

Roger Severino, an administration appointee to the Department of Health and Human Services, is heading a new division at the department that will shield health-care workers who object to abortion, assisted suicide, or other procedures they say violate their conscience or deeply held religious beliefs.

HHS has proposed rules that would expand the division's enforcement ability and require many health organizations to inform workers about their federal protections regarding their personal faith or convictions.

Rather than focus on racial minorities, women or other groups typically associated with movements to ensure civil rights, Mr. Severino said his new Conscience and Religious Freedom Division would defend the rights of the deeply religious, whom he sees as an oppressed class in need of protection.

Mr. Severino, a former law-

yer with the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, compares his mission with historic battles to protect the rights of the oppressed. In a news conference announcing the new division in January, he cited Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter From Birmingham Jail" that defended his nonviolent civil-disobedience campaign against racial injustice.

Doctors, nurses and others with deeply held religious beliefs, he said, have been coerced into violating their principles on abortion or assisted suicide. "Times are changing," he said. "We are institutionalizing a change in the culture of government, beginning at HHS, to never forget that religious freedom is a primary freedom, that it is a civil right," he said.

Critics, including gay-rights and other groups, reject the notion of religious conservatives as a persecuted class, saying they are more often the perpetrators of injustice than victims of it. The Trump administration, they say, is appropriating hard-won civil-rights laws to discriminate against women, gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people by making it harder for

Matters of Belief

Since the election 17 months ago, the Office for Civil Rights has received an estimated 1,129 combined conscience and religion complaints.

■ Conscience complaints

■ Religion complaints

800 complaints

600

400

200

0

2014 15 16 17 18

Note: 2018 year to date. *Complaints before 2017 amounted to fewer than five a year.

Source: Office for Civil Rights

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HHS's Roger Severino

voices back."

Mr. Severino's new division is part of the HHS's Office for Civil Rights, which enforces federal laws protecting health-industry workers from discrimination. It has largely focused on discrimination based on gender and race.

Mr. Severino's new division largely seeks to enforce laws, already on state and federal books, that protect providers who decline to conduct procedures because of their conscience or religion.

The proposed HHS rule expanding the enforcement of civil-rights law could potentially shield practitioners who object to giving vaccines, administering hormones for gender reassignment, or referring patients for help with advance directives or abortions. The proposal, submitted for public comments, received nearly 100,000 responses.

Mr. Severino's proposal would cost health and related organizations an estimated \$312 million in aggregate new spending to comply within the first year, according to the proposal, and would require thousands of hospitals, universities and clinics, largely those that get federal funding, to abide by new requirements.

gets of discrimination—women and gays, as well as evangelicals Christians and Catholics.

Similar developments concerning religious protections are under way throughout the administration. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has issued religious-liberty guidelines that give religious groups broad protection, possibly exempting some from antidiscrimination laws.

President Donald Trump last year signed an order related to religion, saying, "We are giving our churches their

they took over. The second, she said, was a Catholic hospital with better imaging equipment, but they were restricted from helping her for religious reasons.

So she went to a third, a public hospital with no religious affiliation. But she said the Catholic hospital she had been to earlier refused to send over her required paperwork showing it was medically necessary to induce labor. So Ms. Swank went back to the first secular hospital for the rest of her care.

Nobody ever told her she could have had the procedure at a clinic that freely provides such services, Ms. Swank said.

Fearful for her health, she said she made repeated trips to the first hospital over five weeks. After repeatedly battling with doctors and nurses, she said labor was eventually induced, but only when she brought in sanitary pads soaked with blood. At that point, she said, they felt the procedure was justified. The baby didn't survive. She didn't sue but has given testimony before lawmakers about her case.

"I went through the wringer," Ms. Swank said. "We always need to respect people's consciences, but women need to know their choices. No one ever told me I could go to a clinic. I didn't realize."

Women Show Two Sides of Abortion Debate

BY STEPHANIE ARMOUR



Mindy Swank, left with family, says she couldn't persuade hospitals to induce labor after her water broke at 18 weeks. Nurse Cathy Cenzo-DeCarlo says her hospital made her assist in an abortion.

The Trump administration's health-care positions have sparked a debate over what patients can expect from their health workers, and when health workers can refuse service for reasons of conscience.

Both supporters and opponents bolster their arguments with testimonials, such as the two that follow. The first is an example of what conservative activists say is a health worker forced to assist in a procedure that ran counter to her beliefs. The second is an example of what liberal activists say are religious organizations imposing their views on others.

Cathy Cenzo-DeCarlo, a 43-year-old Catholic nurse, said she told her employer, New York's Mount Sinai Health System that she objected to assisting in abortions. But in May 2009, she said her supervisors told her she would be fired if she didn't participate in what she believed was the elective termination of a 22-week pregnancy.

"I had to take part in the dismemberment of a baby," she said. After the procedure, she said she had to reassemble the fetus to ensure no material remained in the patient, she recalled, saying, "It was very distressing. I became a nurse to put people back together."

Mount Sinai respects all employees' beliefs regarding participation in abortion procedures and routinely accommodates such beliefs," it said in a court filing.

An HHS representative on Thursday called the case "an egregious violation of con-

science."

Mindy Swank, 33, an ac-

countant in Le Claire, Iowa, said two hospitals in 2009

wouldn't induce labor after her water broke at 18 weeks

and tests showed the fetus wouldn't survive.

The first hospital, she said, was secular, but it had previously been a Catholic hospital, and the new owners had agreed to uphold Catholic health-care restrictions when

Post Office Delivers Discounts Widely

BY PAUL ZIOBRO AND LAURA STEVENS



ANDREW HARRER/BLOOMBERG NEWS

President Donald Trump's ordered review of the U.S. Postal Service's finances will likely show that **Amazon.com Inc.** isn't the only one getting a good deal on package deliveries.

Aside from Amazon, two of the largest users of the agency's parcel-delivery business are **FedEx Corp.** and **United Parcel Service Inc.** All three receive comparable rates on a service that lets them drop truckloads of packages at a local post office for the last leg of delivery.

Amazon, FedEx and UPS get about 5% to 10% off published rates for the service, known as Parcel Select, according to a person familiar with the matter. "There's no competitive advantage that Amazon has over UPS or FedEx using the exact same service," this person said.

Mr. Trump late Thursday ordered a task force to review the agency's operations, including how it competes on package deliveries.

While UPS and FedEx benefit from similar rates, the companies have long argued that the Postal Service should charge more, in part because it would drive more volume to their own networks. It would also allow UPS and FedEx to raise their own rates, given that the Postal Service's rates

been rebutted by reviews from the agency's regulator and others. Former postmaster general Patrick Donahoe, who ran the agency from late 2010 until early 2015, told UBS analysts last week that the Amazon contract was profitable for the agency.

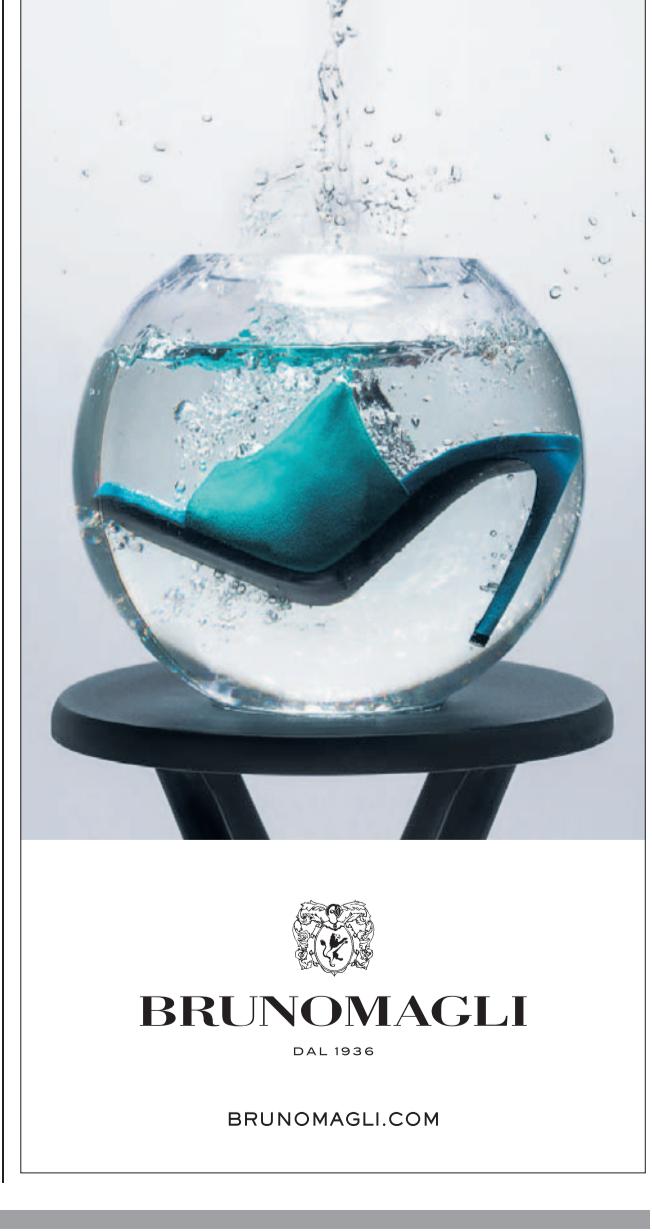
Representatives for the Postal Service and Amazon declined to comment on their relationship.

The Postal Service has relied on a growing parcel-delivery business to offset the secular decline of first-class mail volume. But the agency is losing money and weighed down by pension costs. It reported a \$2.7 billion net loss on revenue of \$69.6 billion in the year ended Sept. 30.

Amazon, meanwhile, has used the vast reach of the postal network to help create one of the most valuable U.S. corporations. Last year, North American revenue jumped 33% to \$106.1 billion, excluding its web-services business.

Amazon primarily uses Parcel Select, which requires a shipper to sort its packages by ZIP Code and postal route, and drop off the parcels at the closest post office for delivery.

Parcel Select brought in \$1.83 billion in revenue for the Postal Service in the fourth quarter, or an average of \$2.09 per package. That compares with an average ground price per package of \$8.19 at UPS and \$8.64 at FedEx.



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U.S. NEWS

Trump Lashes Out at Comey Over Book

By MICHAEL C. BENDER
AND ARUNA VISWANATHA

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump took aim at former Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey on Friday, calling him a “weak and untruthful slime ball” days ahead of the publication of a new book by Mr. Comey that refers to Mr. Trump as a “deeply flawed person and leader.”

In a pair of early-morning posts on Twitter, Mr. Trump used a series of derogatory adjectives and nouns to describe Mr. Comey, while also accusing him of lying to Congress and leaking classified information, and called for Mr. Comey to be prosecuted.

“It was my great honor to fire James Comey!” Mr. Trump wrote.

The dispute pits the president against a man who spent nearly two decades in U.S. law enforcement and worked in senior roles for three administrations, Republican and Dem-



BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Former FBI Director James Comey's new book accuses President Trump of 'leading through fear.'

ocratic. Mr. Comey also made a series of controversial decisions involving Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton

around the 2016 election that upset members of both parties, though he remained well-liked within the FBI.

Mr. Trump fired Mr. Comey in May 2017, a decision that ultimately led to the Department of Justice’s appointment of a

MCCABE

Continued from Page One

ferred for the firing last month of Mr. McCabe—a veteran Federal Bureau of Investigation agent who lost his job just a day before he was eligible to retire with full benefits.

His dismissal drew scrutiny because Mr. McCabe was a frequent target of President Donald Trump and other Republicans on Capitol Hill, raising questions about whether there was a political motivation for the firing.

Mr. Trump tweeted in March that Mr. McCabe “knew all about the lies and corruption going on at the highest levels of the FBI.”

In a statement, Mr. McCabe’s lawyer, Michael Bromwich, criticized the inspector general report and Attorney General Jeff Sessions’ decision to fire the former deputy director. “The

rush to judgment—and the rush to terminate Mr. McCabe—were unprecedented, unseemly, and cruel,” Mr. Bromwich said.

In dismissing Mr. McCabe, Mr. Sessions cited the inspector general report as well as a finding from the FBI’s Office of Professional Responsibility in concluding that Mr. McCabe made an unauthorized disclosure and lacked candor when he spoke under oath.

Many Democrats on Capitol Hill said they were concerned Mr. McCabe’s firing was part of a broad attack on the integrity and independence of the FBI and the Justice Department from a president whose closest associates are under investigation or have been criminally charged.

“The rush to fire McCabe late on a Friday night, just hours before he was to retire, casts a tremendous shadow over the integrity of this process. There’s really no way to look at McCabe’s firing other

than overtly political,” said Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, on Friday. “These events are particularly disturbing given recent reports that President Trump is considering firing other DOJ officials who he believes are failing to protect him.”

Rep. Trey Gowdy, a South Carolina Republican, said the report “confirms FBI Deputy Director McCabe’s firing was justified.”

“The second in command at our nation’s premiere law enforcement agency should be the epitome of fidelity, bravery and integrity,” he said.

The inspector general report concluded that Mr. McCabe engaged in misconduct by sanctioning the disclosure to the reporter, Devlin Barrett, of the existence of a federal investigation into the Clinton Foundation. The Journal report showed Mr. McCabe pushing back on Justice De-

partment displeasure that the FBI was continuing to pursue the investigation.

A spokesman for the Journal declined to comment. Mr. Barrett, who left the Journal for the Washington Post in February 2017, declined to comment.

The report concluded that in three conversations, Mr. McCabe denied authorizing a release of information to the Journal.

One of those conversations was with former FBI Director James Comey and wasn’t under oath. Two others were under oath. In addition, the report says that Mr. McCabe in a fourth conversation contradicted himself and later acknowledged he had given permission for facts to be shared with the newspaper.

The inspector general also “concluded that McCabe’s disclosure of the existence of an ongoing investigation in the manner described in this report violated the FBI’s and the

special counsel to look into Russia’s alleged interference in the 2016 presidential election.

That investigation, led by former FBI Director Robert Mueller, was given wide latitude to explore potential collusion between the Trump campaign and Moscow, and has been a constant source of vexation for the president for much of the past year. Russia has denied meddling in the election, and the president has denied colluding with Russia.

Mr. Trump’s Twitter posts were a response to news reports Thursday about Mr. Comey’s book, “A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies and Leadership.” In the book, which is scheduled for publication on Tuesday, Mr. Comey accuses Mr. Trump of “leading through fear” and demanding personal loyalty above all else.

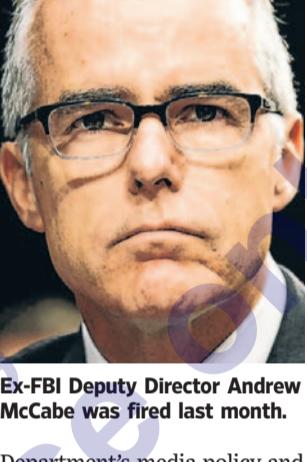
Mr. Comey provides a detailed account of his interactions with Mr. Trump, including a dinner in which Mr. Comey says Mr. Trump asked for his loyalty, and instances

when he says he felt pressured to drop an investigation of a senior adviser to Mr. Trump.

Mr. Trump has disputed Mr. Comey’s characterization of their interactions, about which Mr. Comey testified at length before Congress last year. Associates of Mr. Comey have corroborated elements of his recollections in interviews with Mr. Mueller’s office, which is investigating whether Mr. Trump sought to obstruct justice in firing Mr. Comey and taking other actions.

Mr. Comey admitted providing to reporters, through his lawyer, contemporaneous memos he wrote about his meetings with Mr. Trump, but said they amounted to his personal recollections and didn’t contain classified information.

Mr. Comey has dismissed Mr. Trump’s previous criticisms, saying on Twitter in advance of his book release that “the American people will hear my story very soon,” and “they can judge for themselves who is honorable and who is not.”

KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS
Ex-FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe was fired last month.

Department’s media policy and constituted misconduct,” the report said.

The report says that Mr. McCabe was authorized to disclose investigations to the media under certain circumstances if it fell within the “public interest.”

In a tweet, Mr. Trump said

of the report: “He LIED! LIED! LIED! McCabe was totally controlled by Comey - McCabe is Comey!! No collusion, all made up by this den of thieves and lowlives!”

Mr. McCabe rose swiftly through the ranks at the agency and was tapped by Mr. Comey in January 2016 to serve as his deputy director, putting him at the center of highly charged investigations into Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and Mr. Trump.

Mr. McCabe’s wife, Dr. Jill McCabe, had run for state office in Virginia the prior year as a Democrat with the financial help of then-Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, an ally of the Clintons, leading to criticism that he should have recused himself from the probes.

The FBI has said Mr. McCabe played no role in his wife’s campaign, and Mr. McCabe received clearance from the FBI’s ethics office to oversee the investigation into Mrs. Clinton.

COHEN

Continued from Page One

pregnant. She alone decided that she did not want to continue with the pregnancy and I offered to help her financially during this difficult period.”

Mr. Cohen didn’t respond to requests to comment. A spokesman for the woman’s lawyer at the time, Keith Davidson, said he couldn’t confirm or deny the existence of the agreement.

The disclosure of the agreement provides a more detailed picture of Mr. Cohen, 51 years old, a self-described fixer for Mr. Trump, and his legal work. Federal prosecutors are planning to comb through documents they seized during the raids to look for evidence of bank fraud, among other things, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Investigators are seeking records related to payments to two women who say they had sexual relationships with Mr. Trump, as well as files connected to Mr. Cohen’s taxi business, people familiar with the matter have said. In a court filing Friday, prosecutors with the U.S. attorney’s office in Manhattan said they had undertaken a monthslong investigation of Mr. Cohen for “criminal conduct.”

Mr. Cohen’s lawyer, Stephen Ryan, this week called the use of search warrants “completely inappropriate and unnecessary.” President Trump called the raids a “disgrace” and a “witch hunt.”

Mr. Broidy, 60, and Mr. Cohen were appointed to the posts of RNC national deputy finance chairman in April 2017. Mr. Broidy was a vice chairman for the Trump campaign’s joint fund with the Republican Party during the 2016 presidential campaign, helping it raise more than \$108 million. He gave more than \$160,000 last year to the Republican National Committee, the Journal previously reported.

Since Mr. Trump’s inauguration, Mr. Broidy has often met with the president at the White House and at Mr. Trump’s Florida resort, Mar-a-Lago, according to people familiar with the matter. He helped organize a fundraiser in Los Angeles last month that Mr. Trump attended, the people said.

The nondisclosure agree-

ment involving Mr. Broidy resembles an October 2016 pact in which Mr. Cohen agreed to pay \$130,000 to former adult-film actress Stephanie Clifford to prevent her from publicly discussing an alleged sexual encounter with Mr. Trump in 2006, one of the people familiar with the matter said. The White House and Mr. Cohen have denied any encounter took place.

Ms. Clifford, known professionally as Stormy Daniels, is engaged in a legal battle with Messrs. Cohen and Trump over the validity of that contract.

Mr. Broidy’s deal involved Shera Bechard, Playboy’s Miss November 2010, according to a person familiar with the matter. After the Journal contacted Ms. Bechard’s representatives seeking comment, Peter Stris, her current lawyer, said in an emailed statement that “Ms. Bechard is deeply distressed that someone has revealed information regarding her and Elliott Broidy.”

Ms. Bechard had “no intention of making this painful information public, and requests respect for her privacy at this

ment in August 2016 for Karen McDougal, another former Playboy model, from American Media Inc., the publisher of the National Enquirer, for the rights to her story of an affair with Mr. Trump. Mr. Cohen discussed that deal with American Media as the company negotiated with Ms. McDougal, according to people familiar with the matter.

American Media, run by Trump friend David Pecker, declined to run the story, the Journal reported in November 2016, a practice known in the tabloid world as “catch and kill.” American Media said it paid Ms. McDougal for fitness columns and magazine covers and has denied it paid people to kill damaging stories about Mr. Trump.

Ms. McDougal and Ms. Clifford have hired new lawyers as they wage legal battles to nullify those agreements. The White House has denied Mr. Trump had any relationship with Ms. McDougal.

As part of the contract, Ms. Bechard agreed not to pursue what she said were potential legal claims against Mr. Broidy, according to the person familiar with the matter.

In the contract, Mr. Broidy denied the allegations and agreed not to make any legal claims against Ms. Bechard in return for her signing the contract, the person said.

Ms. Bechard claimed that she became pregnant and that Mr. Broidy was the father, but the contract states that matters relating to the alleged pregnancy and paternity of the alleged child are excluded from the claims resolved in the agreement, the person familiar with the matter said. Ms. Bechard declined to provide proof that she was pregnant with Mr. Broidy’s child, the contract says, according to the person familiar with the matter.

The contract said Ms. Bechard reserved the right to seek child support in the future, but she has told Mr. Broidy’s camp that she had an abortion, the people familiar with the matter said.

Ms. Bechard alleged that Mr. Broidy, prior to the settlement, had been paying her for an exclusive sexual relationship that lasted one to two years, one of the people said.

—Rebecca Ballhaus contributed to this article.

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difficult time,” he said. The Broidy agreement uses the same pseudonyms for Mr. Broidy and Ms. Bechard—David Dennison and Peggy Peterson—as the earlier agreement used for Mr. Trump and Ms. Clifford, respectively, the person familiar with the matter said. Both agreements had separate side letters that listed the real names of the parties, this person said.

In the Broidy agreement, Mr. Cohen, who represented Mr. Broidy, is referred to as Dennis Donohue; Mr. David Dennison, the Los Angeles lawyer who represented Ms. Bechard, is referred to as Paul Patterson, according to the person familiar with the matter.

Mr. David Dennison also represented Ms. Clifford in her deal with Mr. Cohen less than two weeks before the 2016 election. He negotiated a \$150,000 pay-

U.S. NEWS

Conservative Mulls Bid for Speaker

By NATALIE ANDREWS

AND SIOBHAN HUGHES

WASHINGTON—A leader of a group of the most conservative House members said Friday he is exploring a run to succeed outgoing Speaker Paul Ryan, adding a new dimension to what so far has been a two-way race.

"I've had colleagues encourage me to consider it and I'm open to that," said Jim Jordan, an Ohio Republican and a founder of the House Freedom Caucus, in an interview. The two-time NCAA wrestling champion and conservative firebrand co-founded the caucus in January 2015 as a way for the conservative members to push an agenda of limited government and spending.

The two current front-runners to succeed Mr. Ryan (R., Wis.)—Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R., Calif.) and Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R., La.)—are the top two lieutenants to Mr. Ryan in the current House leadership.



'I'm open' to running for House speaker, Rep. Jim Jordan said.

It could be difficult for Mr. Jordan to accrue enough votes to become speaker because of his conservative position in the GOP conference, but he could use his candidacy as leverage.

Three years ago the Freedom Caucus essentially blocked Mr. McCarthy from succeeding John Boehner (R., Ohio) as speaker because members considered him a Washington insider who wouldn't

fight hard enough for conservative causes. If the group replayed that strategy, Mr. Scalise could become the favorite.

House Republicans will choose their leader after the midterm elections, if Mr. Ryan remains in his post until January. The winner of that vote will either be the GOP's choice for House speaker, should the Republicans retain their majority, or be the minority

leader if the GOP loses control of the chamber. The speaker is elected by the entire House in January after the new Congress is sworn in.

Mr. Jordan has been sounding out his colleagues about a possible run.

"He asked my thoughts on it," Rep. Warren Davidson (R., Ohio), a Freedom Caucus member, "I think Jim could do a good job, and we're fortunate to have a number of people who could do a good job as well."

Assuming Republicans maintain control of the House, and assuming all Democrats vote as a bloc, the successful GOP speaker candidate will need to win a majority of the House's 435 members—or 218 votes—to win in January.

Mr. Jordan's possible entrance into the race "makes it more difficult for Kevin to get to 218, but Jim Jordan can't get to 218," said Rep. Kevin Cramer (R., N.D.), who is leaving the House to run for the Senate and won't be able to vote in a leadership election

Ryan Endorses His No. 2 as Successor

WASHINGTON—House Speaker Paul Ryan endorsed Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy to succeed him as leader of the House Republicans when he retires.

"I think we all believe that Kevin is the right person," Mr. Ryan, a Wisconsin Republican, said in an excerpt from an interview with NBC News that was released on Friday.

Mr. Ryan said Wednesday he was leaving Congress at the end of the term, setting off an intraparty battle to succeed him and rattling Republicans who anticipate a struggle to maintain their majority in the November midterm elections.

The two front-runners are Mr. McCarthy (R., Calif.) and Majority Whip Steve Scalise

(R., La.), though conservative firebrand Rep. Jim Jordan (R., Ohio) is also exploring a run.

Mr. McCarthy, 53 years old, withdrew from the race three years ago to succeed John Boehner (R., Ohio) as House speaker. His allies said he has worked harder and built stronger relationships with House Republicans since then. But it isn't clear whether enough conservatives, who were skeptical of him in the past, will coalesce around him now. Mr. Scalise's spokesman, Chris Bond, said Friday that "when a speaker's race is called," Mr. Scalise will "be supporting Leader McCarthy."

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Friday that President Donald Trump "has a great relationship" with Mr. McCarthy. She said she didn't have an announcement about whom the Republican president planned to support for speaker.

—Natalie Andrews

in the world of politics," said Rep. Mark Sanford (R., S.C.) "More than six months is an eternity in the world of politics, and a lot of things can change."

Compromise Appears Possible On Nafta Auto-Industry Rules

By WILLIAM MAULDIN

AND SIOBHAN HUGHES

WASHINGTON—The Trump administration is hammering out a compromise on auto-industry rules at the center of the North American Free Trade Agreement, increasing the chances that the U.S., Mexico and Canada can reach a deal this spring to revise the pact.

Canadian and Mexican officials have complained in recent weeks that the Trump administration has pushed for a quick resolution to Nafta talks—without showing flexibility on contested U.S. proposals designed to protect American jobs and balance trade within the bloc.

But U.S. officials, working quietly with Canadian and

Mexican counterparts in Washington this past week, have advanced a complex proposal to address disagreements over the auto rules, lawmakers and industry officials say.

"It looks like Canada, Mexico and the U.S. are really trying to find some common ground on that," said Rep. Kevin Brady (R., Texas), who follows the talks closely as chairman of the House committee that oversees trade.

While the countries are divided on a handful of Nafta provisions, including the agreement's systems for resolving disputes, the autos question has dominated the talks because cars and auto parts are central to North American trade.

The latest proposal would scale back some U.S. demands

on the proportion of cars and auto components required to be made in North America. Mexico and Canada had complained the original U.S. proposal was too strict, and Detroit worried it could damage the industry.

"I think it's moving in the right direction," said Ann Wilson, senior vice president at the Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association, which includes major auto-industry suppliers and parts producers active internationally. "We have a few technical things to work out."

President Donald Trump has threatened to pull the U.S. out of Nafta if the North American partners don't agree on a deal that benefits the U.S. On Thursday, the president expressed optimism over the progress of the negotiations.



Autos have dominated Nafta talks because cars and parts are central to North American trade.

"We're getting pretty close to a deal," Mr. Trump said. "It could be three or four weeks. It could be two months; it could be five months."

A Nafta deal this spring would allow U.S. lawmakers to

vote on the agreement in 2018, before a new Congress arrives next year. U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer appears to have led a charm offensive on Capitol Hill in recent days, briefing lawmakers individually and reassuring them

on the prospects for a new version of Nafta. Any overhaul of the agreement would need a majority vote in the House and Senate to be enacted under 2015 trade legislation.

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WORLD NEWS

Gaza Protesters, Israeli Military Clash

One killed, hundreds treated for injuries along disputed border, Palestinians say

Palestinians clashed with Israel's military on Friday, throwing Molotov cocktails and allegedly planting explosive devices at the fence dividing the Gaza Strip and Israel as thousands gathered again despite the past two demonstrations turning deadly.

By *Rory Jones in Tel Aviv and Abu Bakr Bashir in Gaza City*

One person was killed and some 700 Gazans were treated for injuries, including 163 from live fire, Palestinian authorities said.

The Israeli army, which responded with gunfire and riot-dispersal means, said about 10,000 Palestinians protested Friday, compared with some 20,000 last week. About 30,000 demonstrated the Friday before.

The organizers this week didn't actively encourage Gazans to come out en masse, instead looking to next month, when they plan a big march on May 15 for what Palestinians call "Nakba Day," or "Day of the Catastrophe," marking the day after the anniversary of Israel's founding.

The demonstrations have presented Israel with a new military and political challenge as it aims to avoid a mass breach of the fence while also responding to international calls to show restraint and avoid a wider conflict with Gaza rulers Hamas.

Demonstrators are calling for the right to return to their ancestors' villages and towns in what is now Israel, a demand Israeli officials reject because they say it would put the country's Jewish majority at risk.

Israel has said the demonstrations are being used by Hamas, which is considered a terrorist organization by the U.S. and Israel, as a pretext to



The Israeli army said about 10,000 Palestinians demonstrated Friday. Protesters are calling for the right to return to their ancestors' villages and towns in what is now Israel.

attack Israeli soldiers. Israeli officials have said they have had to use live fire to avoid a fence breach.

Hamas has said demonstrators have a legitimate right to protest. The organizers have said Hamas is involved in running the protests but isn't leading them. This week they encouraged Gazans to fly Palestinian banners and burn Israeli flags.

The Israeli army said militants on Thursday left a device on the border fence that exploded on a military vehicle, prompting it to mount airstrikes on Hamas targets. One Hamas operative died in the

strikes, Hamas-affiliated media reported.

Gaza's economy is in dire condition, and Palestinian Au-

The demonstrations have posed a public-relations challenge for Israel.

thority President Mahmoud Abbas, who governs in the West Bank, has put financial pressure on the strip to encourage Hamas to cede control.

The protests have also posed a public-relations challenge for Israel. Israeli officials have tried to characterize the demonstrators as members of Hamas and the Islamist movement as a government that exploits its subjects.

But videos posted online that purported to show unarmed protesters being shot have prompted criticism of the Israeli army from rights groups and raised questions about whether the demonstrators are all violent.

The Israeli military this week said it had launched an investigation into a video in which Israeli soldiers are

heard cheering as a Palestinian appears to be shot at a demonstration in the Gaza Strip. The military said the video was filmed at a demonstration that took place in December after the White House announced it would recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and move the U.S. Embassy there from Tel Aviv.

The video was widely circulated on social media this week and came as the Israeli military already faced international calls for an investigation into whether it used unlawful force in recent weeks in dealing with Palestinians at the Gaza fence.

In total, Palestinian authorities have said at least 30 people, including a journalist with a flak jacket marked "Press," have been killed in demonstrations since March 30 and more than 2,500 injured, with roughly 1,000 from gunfire.

Israel faced criticism this week for shooting dead the purported journalist and later saying the Palestinian was a captain in the Hamas military leadership. The journalist's family denied the accusation and said the U.S. Agency for International Development had recently vetted his media company and offered it a grant only last month.

STRIKE

Continued from Page One
Joint Chiefs of Staff, said at a Pentagon news briefing it was a single wave of strikes that for now is complete.

"This is a one-time shot," Mr. Mattis said. "Right now, we have no additional strikes planned."

Gen. Dunford said manned aircraft were used in the attack on targets, including a Damascus scientific research center and a chemical weapons storage facility. The strikes would set back Syria's chemical weapons program for years, Gen. Dunford said.

U.S. and British submarines armed with missiles moved within strike range of Syria. A U.S. destroyer, the USS Donald Cook, and the French frigate Aquitaine were in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, and three more U.S. cruisers and destroyers were deployed in the Middle East.

The coalition used twice the number of weapons than were used last year in Mr. Trump's first airstrike against a Syrian air base, Mr. Mattis said.

The 2017 strike was intended to be a one-time action to dissuade Syrian forces from using chemical weapons. Mr. Trump has said that nearly 20% of the Syrian air force was destroyed in that strike.

The U.S. took pains, Mr. Mattis said, to avoid civilian casualties and any targets with foreign personnel. Mr. Mattis has expressed concerns that any airstrike operation not escalate the conflict in Syria with Russia or Iran.

Gen. Dunford said the U.S. didn't coordinate targets with the Russians.

Syrian state media reported that 13 rockets were intercepted. It posted a photo showing red tracers in the sky above a city.

"The American, British and French enemies have targeted more than one area around Damascus and the air defenses thwarted several of these targetings," according to a report.

Prime Minister Theresa May of the U.K. issued a statement, saying that world pow-



President Donald Trump addressed the nation Friday night, announcing that U.S., British and French forces had launched airstrikes on Syria.

ers had sought to avoid military action but Russia had thwarted diplomatic efforts at the United Nations.

"This is not about intervening in a civil war. It is not about regime change," Mrs. May said. "It is about a limited and targeted strike that does not further escalate tensions in the region and that does everything possible to prevent civilian casualties."

President Emmanuel Ma-

cron of France said: "We cannot tolerate the normalization of the employment of chemical weapons, which is an immediate danger to the Syrian people and to our collective security."

On Saturday morning in Syria, state media reported the start of hostilities on its Telegram account, saying Syrian air defenses were confronting the U.S., French and British action.

Mr. Trump has followed a shifting course in his policy on Syria. Last week, he said the U.S. would be leaving Syria as soon as the coalition had defeated Islamic State, pockets of which remain in the Middle Euphrates River Valley. Within

days, the chemical attack hap-

pened.

He returned to the issue of the U.S. troops in Syria on Friday but didn't call for their quick removal.

"America does not seek an indefinite presence in Syria, under no circumstances," Mr. Trump said. "As other nations step up their contributions, we look forward to the day when we can bring our warriors home."

Leading up to the strikes, the U.S. and France engaged in a series of talks beginning within a day of the suspected chemical-weapons attack, later joined by the U.K.

Mr. Assad had sought to limit the impact of an expected attack by moving warplanes under the protection of Russian air defenses.

Unlike last year's chemical attack in Syria, evidence that the regime was behind the most recent attack wasn't immediately evident.

—Louise Radnofsky and Gordon Lubold

in Washington and Sune Engel Rasmussen and Raja Abdulrahim in Beirut contributed to this article.

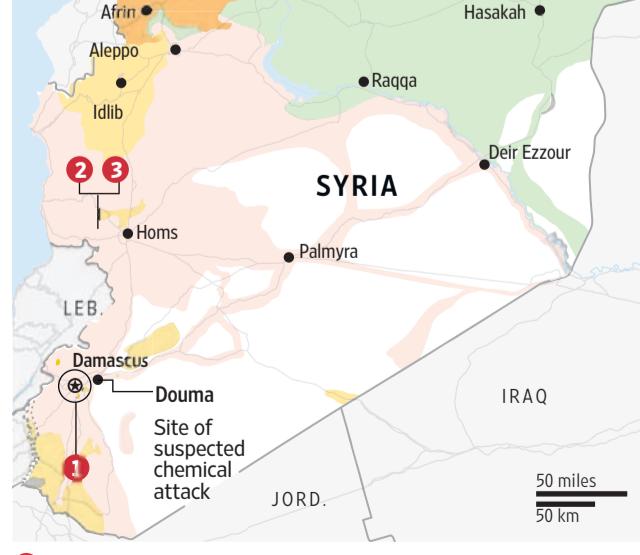
Under Fire

Beginning at 9 p.m. ET, U.S., British and French forces struck three targets associated with chemical weapons in Syria:

Areas of control

Russia/Iran/ Syrian Kurds Opposition Islamic State

Syrian regime Opposition/Turkey



1 Greater Damascus area: Chemical weapons scientific research center

2, 3 Area west of Homs: Chemical-weapons storage site and command post

Sources: Institute for the Study of War (control areas as of April 2); Defense Department (strike locations)

Russian Lawmakers Consider Sanctions

By THOMAS GROVE

MOSCOW—Russian lawmakers on Friday laid out a wide range of potential measures in response to Washington's latest round of sanctions, threatening to up the ante between the two countries.

Russia's upper house of parliament planned an emergency session Monday to discuss sanctions that could limit imports of U.S. goods, cut Russian export of titanium, and cut the number of U.S. citizens working in the country.

If imposed, the measures would be Russia's first bid to use its limited economic clout on the U.S. amid rising tensions between the countries. Russia faces a host of accusations it denies, including that it meddled in the 2016 U.S. election.

"During the course of numerous discussions regarding the hostile actions taken against our country, we have spoken about the necessity to respond to the U.S.'s impudent behavior," said Duma speaker Vyacheslav Volodin.

Until recently, sanctions over the past year have focused on symbolic measures, like the expulsion of diplomats. But the U.S. Treasury's latest round were the most painful in years, targeting individual companies and businessmen.

Timothy Ash, senior strategist at BlueBay Asset Management in London, said the lengthy discussion appeared to be more threat than promise for now given the power Russian President Vladimir Putin has to impose such measures. "If they wanted to have sanctions they could have them tomorrow," he said.

"They want to signal to the domestic audience that they have some leverage and they're hopeful it would make the Americans think twice as well," he said.

WORLD NEWS

Top U.S. Adviser Hopeful On China

BY NICK TIMIRASOS AND MICHAEL C. BENDER

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump's top economic adviser said he is optimistic the U.S. can avoid a broader trade fight with China and said the White House was close to securing a renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico.

Lawrence Kudlow, the director of the White House National Economic Council, said Mr. Trump's trade dispute with China is "high risk, high return," in an interview. He acknowledged he wasn't sure how the standoff would end, but said he believed "calmer heads would prevail."

"I'm going to stay bullish on this," he said. "I hope it works out. I believe it can work out."

Mr. Kudlow said he was disappointed the White House's trade actions had been criticized by

Lawrence Kudlow said he believed 'calmer heads would prevail' in standoff over trade.

policy makers and business leaders in the U.S. and abroad because a more aggressive stance against China was long overdue.

He accused Beijing of stealing U.S. technology and intellectual property and said those practices needed to stop. But he said he had turned optimistic in part because Chinese President Xi Jinping in a speech this week promised greater access for foreign companies to China's financial and manufacturing sectors.

On renegotiation of Nafta, Mr. Kudlow said, "hopefully, we'll have some positive announcements in the near future."

China Slows Down U.S. Chip Deals

Reviews of Qualcomm, Bain transactions are stalled by Beijing amid trade tensions

BEIJING—China is slowing reviews of multibillion-dollar takeover deals pursued by **Qualcomm Inc.** and **Bain Capital**, people familiar with the matter say, as U.S.-China trade tensions escalate.

The delay could end up quashing Qualcomm's planned \$44 billion purchase of Dutch semiconductor company **NXP Semiconductors NV**—a deal widely seen as critical to Qualcomm's future—according to a person familiar with the matter.

China is the only country that hasn't yet signed off on the Qualcomm deal and on **Toshiba Corp.'s** planned \$19 billion sale of its chip unit to a consortium led by U.S. private-equity firm Bain Capital.

Neither deal is likely to move forward amid the looming trade war, the people said.

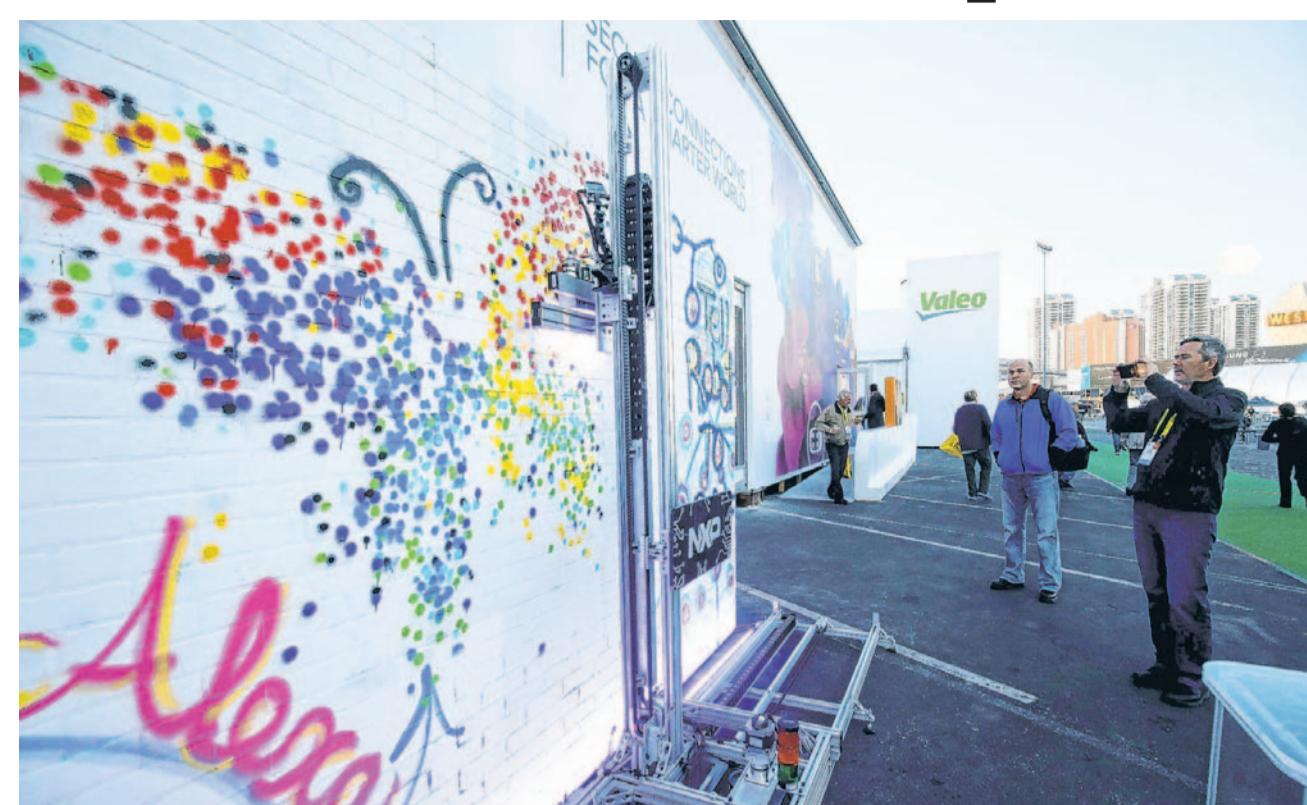
"The review process is basically on pause because of the trade tension," a senior Toshiba official said.

Stalling is a possible leverage point for China as it seeks to fend off the Trump administration's plans to impose tariffs on up to \$150 billion in Chinese goods in response to what the administration says are unfair trade practices.

China has denied acting improperly and responded with threats of "teeth-to-teeth" retaliatory measures, including higher levies on \$50 billion in U.S. imports.

China has a say on the Qualcomm-NXP deal as one of several countries where the companies have substantial sales or assets. The deal is considered critical for Qualcomm's competitiveness, by broadening its reach beyond its stronghold in the handset business, which has reached a plateau.

Qualcomm has said adding NXP would help it reach combined markets, such as connected cars, that it expects to



A delay in Beijing's review could end up quashing the purchase of NXP Semiconductors by Qualcomm.

be worth \$77 billion by 2020.

Worried that Beijing might scuttle the deal, Qualcomm Chief Executive Steve Mollenkopf raised the issue with China's vice president, Wang Qishan, in a March 27 meeting, people with knowledge of the event said.

Mr. Wang sought to offer some assurances, the people said. He told Mr. Mollenkopf that regulators would review the deal through a "science-based process" and that politics would have nothing to do with it.

People familiar with the matter say the deal is still facing resistance from China's commerce ministry, which has indicated it is likely to seek more information from San Diego-based Qualcomm. The ministry faces a deadline next week to make a decision, according to one of the people. To keep the review alive, Qualcomm and NXP could withdraw the current application and refile for an extension.

Qualcomm faces its own deadline to complete the NXP deal. The companies' merger agreement provides for two automatic extensions of the deal's deadline, and the second was triggered in January, extending it to April 25. The companies

plan for revenue growth, after the Trump administration last month quashed a \$120 billion proposed acquisition of Qualcomm by Broadcom Ltd.—an outcome Qualcomm wanted.

Qualcomm also faces a long-shot attempt by its former chairman and CEO, Paul Jacobs, to marshal support to buy Qualcomm, which he has said would be better off under private ownership.

As for Toshiba, the longer it holds on to its chip business, the greater its risk of losing its technological edge: To remain competitive in chips, it would have to make frequent multibillion-dollar investments, which would be a challenge for Toshiba with its unsteady finances.

As of April 1, Toshiba gained the right to cancel the deal with the Bain-led consortium under the original sale contract. Toshiba executives have said they want the deal to go through, but some shareholders have said it should be

scrapped. A lengthy delay in China would increase that likelihood.

Washington and Beijing have been embroiled in a trade spat that has become a source of financial-market turmoil in recent weeks and raised concerns that a full-bore trade war could drag down the global economy.

So far, China has threatened to impose stiff levies on U.S.-made soybeans, sorghum and other products. And it is looking for retaliatory options beyond tariffs, government advisers and China analysts say, such as stepped-up regulation of U.S. companies in China.

"Merger reviews and decisions should be based on consistent, scientific, market-based calculations and never the politics of U.S.-China relations," said Jacob Parker, vice president of China operations at the U.S.-China Business Council.

—Kosaku Narioka in Tokyo contributed to this article.

TECH'S
MOST
AMBITIOUS
MINDS,
ON STAGE
AND
ON THE
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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.
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WORLD NEWS

Boom Spurs Lithium Rush In Europe

BY WILLIAM WILKES

BERLIN—Rocketing demand and prices for lithium, coupled with China's stranglehold on supply, are reviving interest in mining Europe's reserves of the coveted metal some call white petroleum.

Prices for lithium used in the batteries that power anything from mobile phones to Teslas more than doubled to \$21,000 per ton in the past two years. Analysts expect the lithium-ion battery market to surpass \$90 billion by 2025 as electric vehicles become commonplace and growing use of wind and sun power forces

dates for lithium are in Germany and the Czech Republic where companies have successfully mined and produced battery-grade lithium and hope to sell it to car manufacturing plants dotted around Central Europe. And in the U.K., Portugal and Sweden, companies are drilling bore holes and building 3-D maps of underground lithium deposits.

One German firm, Deutsche Lithium GmbH, was recently granted a 30-year mining license and has already scooped out 100 tons of lithium-yielding rock as it fine-tunes its extraction processes. The company said it could eventually mine 15,000 tons a year.

Meanwhile, Australian mining company European Metals Ltd. has extracted battery-grade lithium from its mine in the Czech Republic and is finalizing a \$400 million pitch to investors to scale up production.

Geologists at Cornish Lithium Ltd., a startup scouring for lithium in the U.K.'s historic tin-mining region of Cornwall, are using satellite images to search for rock formations and vegetation patterns typical of lithium-rich grounds. They are even poring over yellowing diaries of long-dead tin miners for clues as to where lithium-rich underground springs may be hidden.

"It's a fascinating moment in the history of mining," said Richard Shaw, geologist at the British Geological Survey.

Chinese companies dominate global lithium supply. Last year, auto maker Great Wall Motor bought a \$28 million stake in Pilbara Mineral, an Australian lithium mine and signed a contract for delivery of 150,000 tons of lithium-yielding spodumene from the company's mine in Western Australia.

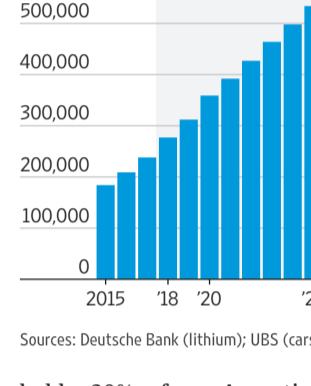
China's Ganfeng Lithium



European speculators think they can profitably tease lithium from Zinnwaldite, a mineral often found encased in granite-like rocks.

Power Surge

Global demand for lithium carbonate is set to soar...



Sources: Deutsche Bank (lithium); UBS (cars)

...as demand for battery-powered vehicles is projected to increase.



SOURCES: THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Finding the Metal Is the Easy Part

Lithium's light weight makes it perfect for use in batteries, which generate more electricity per unit of weight than any other conceivable chemistry, according to researchers.

Invented by Exxon in the 1970s and now manufactured cheaper and safer, lithium-ion batteries have become ubiquitous.

The metal used in the batteries is easy to find. But only

the richer seams or brines will yield enough to make mining it profitable.

"Using historic mines saves a huge amount of time and money compared to digging a new mine," said Keith Coughlan, director of European Metals Ltd., an Australian-Czech firm.

If enough dense deposits can be found, Europe could produce lithium for around \$4,000 per metric ton, according to Martin Bertau, professor of mining and geology at the University of Freiberg.

That is well below last year's peak price of \$21,000 per metric ton.

critical mass without the help of deep-pocketed mining giants like Rio Tinto or Glencore.

But Armin Müller, founder of Deutsche Lithium, thinks German auto makers, late to the electric-car revolution, might want a local source of lithium if tweaks to Germany's capricious energy policies mean car makers must account for the carbon footprint of sourcing raw materials.

\$90B

The size the Lithium-ion battery market is expected to hit by 2025

utilities to invest in large electricity storage facilities.

But while European businesses use 25% of the world's lithium, a group of Chinese companies has secured a potential stranglehold on the Australian and South American mines that produce almost all of the world's battery-grade metal. That has sent a small group of pioneers on a race to reopen European mines where the conditions that gave rise to such metals as tin have left lithium-rich rocks and hot brines.

The race for European lithium echoes similar efforts in Japan to track down metals for use in batteries amid concern about China's hegemony over other minerals used in batteries and electric vehicles.

For now, the best candi-

holds 20% of an Argentine project. Chinese firm Tianqi Lithium's has attracted regulator attention in Chile due to its \$4 billion bid to buy a stake in SQM, the world's second-biggest lithium producer. Combined, the companies would control 70% of the world lithium market.

With Europe's car makers now set on mass-producing electric vehicles, the need for

the continent to secure its own lithium reserves is gaining urgency.

"We hope to sell into the up-swing in European electric car manufacturing that'll take place in the mid-2020s," said Keith Coughlan, director of European Metals Ltd., an Australian-Czech firm looking for lithium on the Czech side of the border.

Speculators probing the ground on either side of the

German-Czech border think they can profitably tease lithium from Zinnwaldite, a mineral often found encased in granite-like rocks.

Gerard Reid, a founding partner at Alexa Capital, a London-based corporate finance firm specializing in energy technology and infrastructure, said the small outfit would struggle to gain

Models Wear Modest Styles For Show in Saudi Arabia

BY DONNA ABDULAZIZ

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia—At this catwalk show, only women are allowed to watch, skirts can't show off the knees and cleavage is strictly forbidden.

Welcome to Fashion Week, Saudi-style.

Saudi Arabia is hosting its first-ever Arab Fashion Week, an event that is testing the limits of what is acceptable in a profoundly religious country where women in public must wear abayas—typically all-black full-length gowns.

Billed as part of the social change rippling through Saudi Arabia, the event drew big Western fashion lines, such as Roberto Cavalli and French designer Jean Paul Gaultier, giving them an opportunity to show off to deep-pocketed Saudis as the country cracks the door open further to Western brands.

"This is a celebratory moment, not only for fashion but for the kingdom," said Arwa Al-Banawi, the first Saudi designer in the show's lineup.

The idea of a fashion week in Saudi Arabia, which doesn't

have an industry of its own to speak of, would have been unimaginable until recently. The country is undergoing changes pushed by Prince Mohammed bin Salman, including lifting the ban on women driving and the opening of the first cinemas in decades.

But still it remains one of the world's most conservative and opaque countries. The event kicked off Thursday at Riyadh's Ritz-Carlton hotel—which until just a few months ago was operating as a makeshift prison for hundreds of wealthy Saudis rounded up in what authorities called a sweeping corruption crackdown.

When a beauty event opened to a male and female audience in Riyadh a few months ago, hard-line conservatives vented their anger on Twitter, and days later, King Salman fired a government official who had publicly endorsed it.



Clothing that showed knees and cleavage wasn't allowed.



KRISTY SPAROW/ARAB FASHION COUNCIL (2)



ESTEBAN FELIX/ASSOCIATED PRESS
After the U.S. dropped out of the accord, the remaining 11 nations struck their own TPP deal.

Wariness Over TPP Shift

President Donald Trump is talking again about getting the U.S. into a Pacific Rim trade agreement. But any serious effort to do so would be fraught with difficulty, not least because Mr. Trump is demanding a "substantially better" deal than what Washington got two years ago.

By Rob Taylor
in Canberra, Australia,
Chieko Tsuneoka
in Tokyo and Jake
Maxwell Watts
in Singapore

After the U.S. dropped out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership last year, the remaining 11 nations struck their own TPP deal and sealed it at a March ceremony in Chile. Each country is now moving ahead with ratification. Mr. Trump's suggestion Thursday that the U.S. might want to join after all left many nations concerned the process could get disrupted.

"We've got a deal. It's a good deal. Eleven countries have signed up, and we're firm on the deal," Australian Trade Minister Steve Ciobo said. "I can't see all that being thrown open now to appease the United States, but we would welcome the U.S. coming back to the table."

Japan's top government spokesman, Yoshihide Suga, compared the TPP deal to a

piece of "delicate glasswork" and added: "To take out one part and renegotiate would be extremely difficult."

U.S. participation in the TPP is still an attractive prospect for many of its members because it would lead to lower tariffs in the huge American market for products like Malaysian palm oil and Vietnamese apparel. Some members, particularly Japan, like the idea of cementing the U.S. economic presence in the region as a bulwark against China.

An October 2017 paper from the Peterson Institute for International Economics estimated that real income in Vietnam and Malaysia would rise by about 8% by 2030 from the 2015 level if the nations were in a TPP deal that included the U.S. The expected gain from an 11-nation TPP without the U.S. was less than half as big.

The original TPP deal, signed in February 2016 in New Zealand, was led by the U.S. under the Obama administration and, at Washington's insistence, included some provisions sought by U.S. pharmaceutical and movie companies.

One generally required eight years of patent protection for biotechnology drugs—a provision that Australia in particular fought against. Other provisions, opposed by Canada and New Zealand, would have extended copy-

right protection to 70 years after the death of an author from 50 years.

Once the U.S. dropped out, the remaining 11 countries froze those provisions.

The TPP members, led by Japan, have urged Mr. Trump over the past year to reconsider joining the group. Officials in Tokyo have generally recognized that if the U.S. came back, it would insist on the frozen provisions being restored.

But a tweet by Mr. Trump suggested that wouldn't be nearly enough. "Would only join TPP if the deal were substantially better than the deal offered to Pres. Obama," Mr. Trump tweeted. He threw in a jab at Japan as well, saying it "has hit us hard on trade for years!"

Yorizumi Watanabe, a former Japanese trade negotiator now at Keio University, said allowing the U.S. to put new issues on the table was "ridiculous."

"The U.S. had agreed with TPP-12 and then left, and says it wants more on its return. That is not acceptable—it is against negotiation rules," Mr. Watanabe said.

He said if the U.S. makes new demands, one might be to extend the exclusivity on biologic drugs to 12 years, as the Obama administration initially wanted before compromising with Australia on an eight-year period.

But still it remains one of the world's most conservative and opaque countries. The event kicked off Thursday at Riyadh's Ritz-Carlton hotel—which until just a few months ago was operating as a makeshift prison for hundreds of wealthy Saudis rounded up in what authorities called a sweeping corruption crackdown.

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So any Saudi fashion week was destined to stand apart from established events in New York, Paris, Milan and London. Organizers said the event happening at all was a triumph.

Designers were given a host of restrictions: No cleavage, no transparent fabrics and nothing showing the knees. Some said they altered some clothing to show less skin. None of the models were Saudi.

This is a celebratory moment, not only for fashion but for the kingdom.'

A couple of the models in Mr. Gaultier's show wore sheer and loose headscarves, long-sleeved gowns and opaque leggings under shorts and mini-skirts. Maison Alexandre, a Brazilian fashion house, kicked off its collection with abayas with embroidered necklines and sleeves.

"We are not doing this to break rules," said Princess Noura bint Faisal Al-Saud, the executive president of the Arab Fashion Council, which organized Riyadh's fashion week. "We are doing this hand-in-hand with the culture and our tradition and culture."

Prince Mohammed has suggested that women aren't required to wear abayas under Islamic law, though no official decrees have been made on the subject.

Women at the show were allowed to abandon them. To prevent photographs of uncovered women, only a handful of photographers were allowed. The government approved all photographs distributed to the press, and the typical media blitz accompanying fashion weeks elsewhere was absent.

Princess Noura said this fashion week, which also featured a roster of Arab designers who have long catered to Saudi clients but have never shown their work in the kingdom before, was just the beginning of a series of fashion-related moves for the kingdom.

OBITUARIES

BURTON SMITH
1941 – 2018

Supercomputer Race's Loser Won Respect

BY JAMES R. HAGERTY

In the late 1980s, Burton Smith vowed to build the world's fastest computer. By the time his Tera MTA machine surfaced nearly a decade later, though, computer technology and customer preferences had moved on.

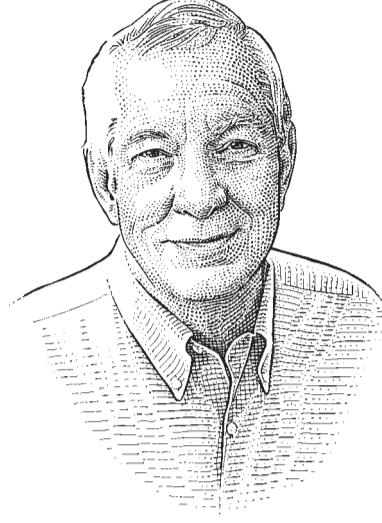
Remarkably, that failure didn't dim his standing in the fraternity of computer architects. He remains celebrated as a pioneer in multi-threading architecture, involving ways to make computers work more efficiently by running many tasks simultaneously so that processors aren't left idle while waiting for data to be retrieved from the machine's memory.

Although the supercomputers Dr. Smith designed had little commercial success, his insights influenced other computer scientists and the design of microprocessors. In recent years, he worked at Microsoft Corp. on projects including quantum computing, one of the hottest areas in computer research.

Dr. Smith died April 2 of heart disease at a hospital near his home in Seattle. He was 77.

"In a lot of ways what I did was take a bunch of stuff everybody knew and applied it to [computer] hardware," he said in a 2010 interview. Citing his "ingenious and sustained contributions" to high-performance computing, his peers in 2003 honored him with the Seymour Cray Award, named after a more famous computer designer.

Burton Jordan Smith was born March 21, 1941, in Chapel Hill, N.C., and grew up in Albuquerque, N.M. His father, Sherman Smith, was chairman of the chemistry department and an administrator at the University of New Mexico. To cope with his boredom at school, Burton crafted a contraption to fire spitballs across a classroom, according



to the 1995 book "Out of Their Minds" by Dennis Shasha and Cathy Lazere.

At 16 or 17, he had what he later described as his precocious midlife crisis. "It was the usual stuff," he said in the 2010 video interview. "What is the meaning of life? Why am I here?"

He dropped out of college with failing grades after two semesters. Then came four years in the Navy in the early 1960s, working as a technician on nuclear submarines. That sparked a fascination with computers and spurred him to earn an electrical engineering degree at the University of New Mexico and a doctorate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

After completing his studies, Dr. Smith taught electrical engineering at the University of Colorado. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, he worked at Denelcor Inc., where he designed a supercomputer dubbed the Heterogeneous Element Processor, or HEP. Sales were disappointing, the company collapsed, and Dr. Smith moved to a government-backed research lab.

In late 1987, he helped found Tera Computer Co. in Seattle, where he led the design of another supercomputer. Tera was taking on International Business Machines Corp., Cray Research Inc. and Japanese rivals.

"We will win," Dr. Burton said, "because ours will be easier to program than the competitors. It will also be faster, no doubt."

Rather than relying on established technology, his small team initially designed processors made of gallium arsenide, a trickier semiconductor material than silicon.

In retrospect, use of gallium arsenide "resulted in a system devilishly difficult to manufacture," said James Rottolk, who founded Tera with Dr. Smith.

In 1996, Tera sold its first machine, to the government-financed San Diego Supercomputer Center. But there was no stampede by others to buy the balky machine.

By the late 1990s, customers needing huge amounts of computer power generally had embraced an approach known as massively parallel processing, which involves bundling thousands of mass-market microprocessors of the sort used in desktop computers. Tiny, cash-starved companies like Tera building custom machines couldn't keep up.

In 2000, Tera acquired the Cray business once headed by Seymour Cray. Tera changed its name to Cray Inc. and pursued other supercomputer formats. Dr. Smith left Tera in late 2005 to join Microsoft as a technical fellow.

Dr. Smith's survivors include a brother, two daughters, a son-in-law and a granddaughter. His wife, the former Dorothy Duncan, who worked as a university librarian, died in 2015.

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

DRUE HEINZ
1915 – 2018

Her Scottish Castle Was a Writers' Refuge

Drue Heinz's insomnia was a blessing for struggling writers. When the wife of Henry John "Jack" Heinz II couldn't sleep, she read novels, cultivating a devotion to the written word that made her a benefactor of novelists and poets.

She sponsored literary awards to encourage little-known authors, co-founded the Ecco publishing firm and was publisher of the Paris Review from 1993 to 2008. Ecco—now part of HarperCollins, owned by News Corp., publisher of The Wall Street Journal—made its initial mark by publishing reissued works by writers including Elizabeth Hardwick and Ford Madox Ford.

Born in England to parents of

Irish descent, she liked to quip that she was "F.B.I." or foreign-born Irish. Under the stage name of Drue Mallory, she had bit parts in several movies in 1950, three years before she married Mr. Heinz, heir to a ketchup and canned-bean fortune. She shuttled between homes in England, Italy and the U.S.

In the 1980s, she bought Hawthornden Castle, near Edinburgh, Scotland, and turned it into a retreat for writers.

Guests at her many parties ranged from Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones to Gore Vidal and Winston Churchill.

Ms. Heinz died March 30 at Hawthornden. She was 103.

—James R. Hagerty

WILLIAM BEINECKE

1914 – 2018

Heir Worked in Cafeteria During Depression

William Beinecke was an heir to the S&H Green Stamps company, and one of his grandfathers owned New York's Plaza Hotel, but he found himself working part time at a cafeteria in the early 1930s after his father's stock-brokerage firm collapsed.

Although young Bill failed to graduate at Phillips Academy Andover, he made his way through Yale University, partly by working for meals at the YWCA cafeteria in New Haven. Then, after touring the world, he earned a law degree at Columbia University and served as a Navy officer during World War II.

He headed the family-controlled Sperry & Hutchinson Co. in

the 1960s and 1970s during the golden age of trading stamps. Grocery shoppers earned S&H Green Stamps as rewards, pasted them into books and converted them into toys, small appliances and other prizes. As the stamp boom faded, Mr. Beinecke diversified S&H into furniture making and commercial insurance brokerage, but growth stalled in the 1970s. He retired in 1980, and the family sold its shares a year later.

As the first chairman of the Central Park Conservancy in the early 1980s, he helped rescue New York's green refuge from squalor. He played golf until his mid-90s.

He died April 8 at home in Manhattan. He was 103.

—James R. Hagerty

WORLD WATCH

South Africa Bids Farewell to Madikizela-Mandela



PAYING RESPECTS: Crowds in Soweto on Friday watched as relatives carried the coffin of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. A funeral for the antiapartheid activist, who died April 2 at 81, is Saturday.

NORTH KOREA

U.N. Appeals for Aid As Donors Shy Away

The United Nations issued an urgent call for humanitarian aid in North Korea, as international donors to the country shy away in response to concerns about Pyongyang's spending on its nuclear-weapons program.

The Office of the U.N. Resident Coordinator in North Korea said it desperately needs \$111 million to provide for the basic food, health and sanitation needs of about six million people.

While North Korea has struggled with food security for years, international aid organizations have had to battle the idea that Pyongyang has prioritized its nuclear and missile programs over its people's welfare.

Donors shouldn't "let political considerations get in the way of providing continued support for humanitarian assistance," said the statement from Tapan Mishra, the U.N. resident coordinator in Pyongyang. The U.N. appeal follows warnings in years past about falling donations.

—Jonathan Cheng

EUROZONE

Bloc's Trade Surplus Widened in February

The eurozone's trade surplus with the rest of the world widened in February as a sharp drop in imports chimed with other recent signs of weakening domestic demand.

The European Union's statistics agency Friday said that when adjusted for seasonal variations, exports of goods from the currency area fell 2.3% from January, the second straight month of decline. However, imports of goods fell more rapidly—by 3.1%—leaving the eurozone with a surplus of €21 billion (\$25.9 billion), up from €20.2 billion in January.

Without seasonal adjustment, the surplus widened to €18.9 billion from €16.1 billion a year earlier.

The widening surplus is a mixed blessing for the currency area. While it suggests trade contributed to economic growth during the month, it also points to weaker demand from eurozone households and businesses.

—Paul Hannon

CONGO

Government Boycotts Pledge Conference

The Congolese government boycotted an international conference held Friday to raise donations for an estimated 13 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in the country, calling it a "joke" based on manipulated figures.

The United Nations, the U.S. and the European Union say escalating conflicts in central and eastern Congo have left 7.7 million people without sufficient food, while some 2.2 million children are at risk of starvation.

The government of President Joseph Kabila didn't take part in Friday's pledging conference in Geneva, saying Western nations and international organizations are exaggerating the crisis.

Despite repeated calls for more support, the U.N. last year raised just half of the \$812.5 million it said was needed for humanitarian aid in Congo. Pledges at Friday's conference were also likely to fall short of the \$2.2 billion goal.

—Gabriele Steinhauser



CAPTIVATING COUTURE VAN CLEEF & ARPELS

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IN DEPTH

ESCAPE

Continued from Page One
academies in rural America.

But here too, Ms. Bitrus and six of her classmates found themselves hostage to forces they couldn't control. Thrust into the media spotlight by a prominent Nigerian human-rights lawyer, they say they were forced to relive their trauma to raise money and further political agendas in Washington. Eventually, they passed word in secret to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security with an urgent plea: We are Chibok students, held captive again. Get us out of here.

By now, the story of the schoolgirls abducted by the Islamist insurgency in Northern Nigeria on April 14, 2014, has passed into the realm of legend. Millions of people, Michelle Obama and Pope Francis among them, joined the #BringBackOurGirls cause. There are still 112 missing.

Meanwhile, a dozen young Nigerians found themselves in small-town America, shadowed by the celebrity of a night they wanted only to forget.

The experience of the Chibok students who made it to the U.S., never fully reported, featured a former White House adviser, evangelical lobby groups and a cowboy hat-wearing congresswoman. Along the way, say many of those involved, the truth of what really happened became embellished as they fell into the custody of a local sponsor, Emmanuel Ogebe, a Nigerian human-rights lawyer and authority on what he termed a "Christian genocide" in his home country. The young women say he told them they could be shipped back there—and harmed—if they didn't do what he said.

"There were too many lies," says Ms. Bitrus, who shuttled through schools in Virginia, Oregon and the Bronx before settling in a snow-covered New England town. "It's like we were prisoners again."

The Wall Street Journal spoke to several of the Chibok students in America, as well as their teachers, counselors, and families, along with officials from the DHS and Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Journal reviewed two reports written by the American schools they attended, as well as two undisclosed Nigerian governmental investigations that allege Mr. Ogebe and his Nigerian associates fraudulently exploited the ex-hostages for tens of thousands of dollars.

"Mr. Ogebe generated a lot of money through these activities and never spent a dime to care for their well-being," said one of two undisclosed Nigerian government reports accusing him of fraud. "The girls...accused him of using them as money minting machines."

Mr. Ogebe denies the accusations against him and says the young Nigerians have been turned against him by other actors eager to exploit them, ranging from Nigeria's government, biographers looking to publish their story and a former adviser to George H.W. Bush who took two of them to meet President Donald Trump. He says the Chibok saga ultimately left him poorer.

"This was a dirty operation and they did a lot of havoc and subterfuge," he said in an interview. "It's heartbreaking to a philanthropist and humanitarian when you see how heartless people can be."



SHOSHANAH WHITE FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

'It's like we were prisoners again.'

Kauna Bitrus

Mr. Ogebe hasn't been charged with any crime. The FBI in 2016 probed allegations he committed financial fraud, but didn't pursue charges. Investigators found he had likely been keeping or misappropriating money he raised in the name of the Chibok students, but that he also spent some fraction of that money housing and transporting them, according to people familiar with the inquiry. That made it difficult to prosecute the case, the people said.

All told, Ms. Bitrus and nine others flew to Virginia where they were meant to study at the Mountain Mission School, a boarding school in Appalachia.

After a few days, Mr. Ogebe drove her to Manhattan. "He told us 'We are going to New York, to see New York because New York

people would lose interest if they didn't shop their story to filmmakers soon.

Ms. Bitrus's group studied in Virginia, returning to high school for the first time since the night of their escape.

Within days of the students' arrival, Mr. Ogebe took some of them for speaking engagements around the U.S., and later, abroad. He was their guardian, he said, even though their visas showed the schools were responsible for them. On Sundays, Mr. Ogebe would often bring one set of Chibok students or another to a church, where donations poured in for their education.

The women cycled through reams of journalists, retelling what they say were coached versions of their harrowing escape. Nearly each time, they wore face-obscuring sunglasses.

Photos and videos of the interviews showed many of the young women slouched over in obvious discomfort.

Ms. Bitrus said Mr. Ogebe wanted one of the students to become a star "like Malala," the Nobel laureate who became famous after being shot by the Pakistani Taliban on her way home from school, she says.

Mr. Ogebe says the media appearances were necessary to make people understand the evil of Boko Haram. "When people say you put them in the media too much, that's the kind of thing dictatorial or autocratic rulers do, they shut down access to information," he says, "Why do they not want this message out, about this abduction?"

Legally, because the students were 18, Mr. Ogebe had no authority over them. Their visas were sponsored by their U.S. boarding schools, the schools say.

But they'd been transplanted into America from conservative northeastern Nigeria, where men customarily made decisions for female relatives late into life. Their parents were cut off by war, and Nigeria's weak cell reception. Only 200,000 people on earth speak their native language, Kibaku.

"We don't know, what is the rules in the U.S. and what we can do?" said Ms. Bitrus, eating a pepperoni slice at a small-town pizzeria. "We felt that it was the same as in Nigeria."

When the young women complained, Mr. Ogebe told them they were shaming their families, they say. He told them he brought them to America and could send them back, and that Boko Haram, who had seen them on television, could come



Emmanuel Ogebe, left, on Capitol Hill in 2016, brought the Chibok girls to the U.S.

is beautiful, it's like the biggest city in America,' she said.

On arrival, he brought them to a conference room full of journalists. Before a phalanx of cameras, she and another student stuttered through a retelling of their escape.

The students split up into two groups, both sent to Christian boarding schools in rural America: the Canyonville Christian Academy, a Canyonville, Ore., school run by Doug Wead, the former White House adviser; and Virginia's Mountain Mission.

In the months to come, Mr. Ogebe and Mr. Wead would repeatedly clash, accusing each other of using the young women for personal and political gain.

Mr. Wead says he never pressed the young women to tell their story, but did tell them

cation, the young Nigerians say.

One online fundraiser alone—by the Jubilee Campaign, a Virginia NGO to help religious minorities—raised about \$66,000 in the first five months of their time in the U.S., according to the Nigerian government investigation.

The Jubilee Campaign declined to comment.

Mr. Ogebe insisted he be the custodian of that money—a request the Jubilee Campaign felt breached financial reporting rules for nonprofit organizations, according to a Nigerian government report.

Mr. Ogebe, who didn't work for Jubilee, was also raising funds for himself, Jubilee complained, according to the Nigerian government report.

Mr. Ogebe denies he wanted to control the funds.

By January 2015, the charity

had 100 students in America, mostly Chibok survivors.

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after them, the young women, their handlers and the Nigerian government said.

"They were very scared," said Jamila Fagge, a Nigerian-American Voice of America reporter whom the students confided in. "It was an ordeal that made them trust no one except him."

In March of 2015, Mr. Ogebe showed up to the school in Oregon with bad news: One of the students' parents had died, and he needed to take them all out of school to grieve.

"Instead of comforting them Emmanuel took them around the mid-Atlantic giving talks and using them as props," an internal report by the school said. He kept them out for another two weeks of media engagements after spring break, bringing them to the annual White House Easter Egg Roll.

Rep. Wilson, who helped get them in, said she didn't see any signs of fraudulent activity by Mr. Ogebe against the young women. "The only thing I saw him trying to do is help them," she said. Messrs. Chaffetz and Smith didn't respond to calls and emails seeking comment.

By the end of 2015, Nigerian diplomats asked Mr. Ogebe to come to the embassy in Washington, "providing Headquarters with definitive proof that ten kidnapped but escaped Chibok schoolgirls are well and alive in the United States pursuing their education," including contact information for their parents.

He consistently brought documentation for only five of the students: "In conversations and email exchanges, Mr. Ogebe has been evasive, always making excuses," said the report.

In time, the young Nigerians themselves began to doubt each others' survival stories. The accounts had changed so much in repeat tellings they became dissociated from the actual ordeal, one of the young women said.

"We know that they are lies," one of the students said, adding that Mr. Ogebe and his associates encouraged them to embellish their accounts. "It's to make the story interesting so that people will like it so much."

The Second Escape

By late 2015, Ms. Bitrus wanted out. She hadn't seen her family in two years. She began contacting people she'd met—journalists, caregivers, and a counselor—over the WhatsApp messaging system, plotting her next escape.

For weeks, DHS wondered when to pull the trigger, according to the agency.

Then, on Field Day, the last day of school in May 2016, DHS agents deployed to the campus in Vienna, Va., where Mr. Ogebe had enrolled several of the young women. A simultaneous operation took place in Grundy.

Mr. Ogebe was present, and emotional, according to people who witnessed the scene: "You are wicked, wicked girls," he screamed at them. "Do you want to see me go to jail?"

Within days of their rescue, seven of the young women signed documents saying they no longer wished to be associated with Mr. Ogebe. They also signed an open letter to their families described to the Journal, saying they were no longer "kidnapped."

"All the things that have been said about our Uncle Emmanuel are true," said one of the students, speaking in a video made for distribution to the media. "For those of you who gave money to him, we are sorry. There is nothing we can do about it. We forgive him."

who showed up at the airport wearing 10 shirts and eight pairs of pants. When he refused to leave the airport, he was pepper-sprayed by police, local news reports said.

"We explained our policy to our customer, and offered him an alternative flight to London," British Airways spokesman Richard Goodfellow said.

Ashley Brown knows how to wing it. Mr. Brown was hoping to bring a free second backpack aboard an EasyJet PLC flight from London to Copenhagen in January, which isn't allowed. He noticed a scrum of passengers with several bags getting questioned at the gate.

Mr. Brown, a sports agent, stood back as gate agents and the passengers quarreled over carry-on fees. At the last possible moment, Mr. Brown made his move. With the plane in danger of a late departure, he and his backpacks—one ferried a \$1,200 drone—were waved through the gate without paying EasyJet's \$70 bag penalty.

"That's a lot of money," he said.

FEES

Continued from Page One
quette on a \$69 trans-Atlantic trip aboard Iceland's WOW air.

Jason Francisco of Camarillo, Calif., figured out that on airlines that charge for cold water, flight attendants often pour hot water from the onboard tea kettle at no cost. To help feed his family of six, Mr. Francisco—a logistics supervisor, no less—brings aboard budget flights several packets of instant miso soup, bowls of dry ramen noodles and reusable dinnerware.

"This was a dirty operation and they did a lot of havoc and subterfuge," he said in an interview. "It's heartbreaking to a philanthropist and humanitarian when you see how heartless people can be."

Mr. Ogebe denies the accusations against him and says the young Nigerians have been turned against him by other actors eager to exploit them, ranging from Nigeria's government, biographers looking to publish their story and a former adviser to George H.W. Bush who took two of them to meet President Donald Trump. He says the Chibok saga ultimately left him poorer.

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Now, Mr. Ogebe was in Nigeria and in a hurry, said two people who met him at the en-

where his seat was located.

Mr. Gustafson, the co-founder of an electric bike company, handed over the chocolates, along with a prepared pitch and his best smile:

"I know you guys have a long flight today...I just wanted to get you a little something."

After takeoff, the flight attendant slipped Mr. Gustafson a free steak dinner from first class. She returned several times for what amounted to all-you-can-drink red wine service, he said, which "led to a nice nap the rest of the way."

Jason Fineis made it past WOW's gate agents at Keflavik International Airport in Iceland with four pairs of underwear, a ball of socks, granola bars and fistfuls of beef jerky stuffed into his Gap winter jacket.

He left behind only his pride.

"You're not going to get treated like royalty for \$280 round trip," said Mr. Fineis, 40, a Los Angeles audio mixer returning home from vacation.

"I opened up the packs and rolled them the way we were taught in ROTC," said Mr.

Smith, 74.

Roughly a third of passenger flights in North America are on low-cost carriers, according to the International Air Transport Association, up about 25% from a decade ago.

Even old-school carriers have grounded perks with so-called basic economy fares that charge for carry-on bags.

American Airlines has intro-

duced planes that in economy have 30 inches of "pitch," the space between seats, four fewer inches than in the past.

The legroom now approaches the 28-inch knee-squeezers on low-cost Spirit.

The cost-cutting policies have spurred customer ingenuity, but there are risks.

British Airways in January denied boarding to a passenger

PHOTO: F. MARTIN RAINIER/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

who showed up at the airport wearing 10 shirts and eight pairs of pants. When he refused to leave the airport, he was pepper-sprayed by police, local news reports said.

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OPINION

THE WEEKEND INTERVIEW with Bryan Caplan | By James Taranto

School Is Expensive. Is It Worth It?

Fairfax, Va.

If America listened to Bryan Caplan, he'd probably have to find another job. And he loves his job.

Mr. Caplan, 47, is a professor of economics at George Mason University, a public institution in the Washington suburbs. He enjoys exploring against-the-grain ideas, as evidenced by the titles of his books: "The Myth of the Rational Voter," "Selfish Reasons to Have More Kids" and the one I've come to discuss, "The Case Against Education."

The new volume's subtitle is "Why the Education System Is a Waste of Time and Money." But if you're hoping for permission to raid your kids' college fund, forget it. Mr. Caplan doesn't mean schooling is a waste of *your* money—or his, for that matter. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and a doctorate from Princeton. He's home-schooling his twin sons, gifted 15-year-olds who study quietly in his office when I drop by. Before he took them out of public school, he looked into college admission practices and found that home-schooled applicants these days face what he calls "only mild discrimination."

For your kids, yes—at least assuming they graduate. But the author of 'The Case Against Education' says the benefits to society are vastly overstated.

Thus Mr. Caplan's case against education begins by acknowledging the case in favor of getting one. "It is individually very fruitful, and individually lucrative," he says. Full-time workers with a bachelor's degree, on average, "are making 73% more than high-school graduates." Workers who finished high school but not college earn 30% more than high-school dropouts. Part of the difference is mere correlation: Mr. Caplan says if you adjust for pre-existing advantages like intelligence and family background, one-fifth to two-fifths of the education premium goes away. Even so, it really does pay to finish school.

The prevailing view among labor economists—Mr. Caplan disdains them as "human-capital purists"—is that education works "by pouring useful skills into you, which you then go and use on the job." That's true to a point, he allows. School teaches basic "literacy and numeracy," essential in almost any workplace. Specialized skills carry their own premium, so that a degree in engineering is worth more than one in philosophy or fine arts. But that 73% college premium is an average,

As for conformity, Mr. Caplan puts the signal into words: "I understand what society expects of me. I'm willing to do it; I'm not going to complain about it; I'm just going to comply. I'm not going to sit around saying, 'Why do we have to do this stuff? Can't we do it some other way? I don't feel like it!'" It's easy to gainsay the value of conformity, a trait the spectacularly successful often lack. Think Mark Zuckerberg. But then imagine

King Cove, Alaska

I watched my daughter nearly die in a plane crash—because of a misguided view of how best to protect nesting swans and foraging bears. She was in a single-engine plane with four others in 2010, when it was forced

to the ground by a sudden downdraft while approaching our town's little airstrip. Imagine standing by helplessly as your child's plane collides with the runway. Thankfully, the pilot was able to pull the nose up at the last moment, which prevented a catastrophe and saved all on board.

In a remote Alaska village, 18 people have died in plane crashes while we wait for a road out.

Almost every family here has a similar tale of a close call or tragedy. There are no roads leading to King Cove, a fishing village of about 1,000 people 625 miles southwest of Anchorage, so frequent flying is a must. But the village's short, 3,000-foot gravel runway sits in a wind tunnel between volcanic mountains. Even worse, the airstrip is closed for an average of more than 100 days each year because of poor weather. That's dangerous when someone has a serious medical need—a heart attack or childbirth—and needs to get to Anchorage.

The Cold Bay Airport, 18 miles away, has a 10,000-foot paved runway built to accommodate jet fighters.

which includes workers who studied soft or esoteric subjects.

Break it down, Mr. Caplan says, and "there is no known college major where the average earnings are not noticeably higher than just an average high-school graduate." Yet there aren't many jobs in which you can apply your knowledge of philosophy or fine arts—or many other subjects from high school or college. He goes through a list: "history, social studies, art, music, higher mathematics for most people, Latin, a foreign language." That is the sense in which education is a waste of time.

"Whenever I talk to people about my book," Mr. Caplan says, "as long as I don't mention policy, as long as I just describe what it's like to be a student, almost no one disagrees. Almost everyone says, 'Yeah, my God, I wasted all of those years in trigonometry—what a waste of time that was.' Or, 'I had to do Latin for four years—what a waste of time that was.'

Which leads him to ask: "Why is it that employers would pay all of this extra money for you to go and study a bunch of subjects that they don't actually need you to know?"

The answer is "signaling," an economic concept Mr. Caplan explains with an analogy: "There's two ways to raise the value of a diamond. One of them is, you get an expert gemsmith to cut the diamond perfectly, to make it a wonderful diamond." That adds value by making the stone objectively better—like human capital in the education context. The other way: "You get a guy with an eyepiece to look at it and go, 'Oh yeah, yeah, this is great—it's wonderful, flawless.' Then he puts a little sticker on it saying 'triple-A diamond.'" That's signaling. The jewel is the same, but it's certified.

Suppose you have a bachelor's in philosophy from Mr. Caplan's doctoral alma mater, and you're applying for a job somewhere other than a college philosophy department. What does the sheepskin signal? His answer is threefold: intelligence, work ethic and conformity. "Finishing a philosophy degree from Princeton—most people are not smart enough to do that," he says. At the same time, "you could be very smart and still fail philosophy at Princeton, because you don't put in the time and effort to go and pass your classes."

As for conformity, Mr. Caplan puts the signal into words: "I understand what society expects of me. I'm willing to do it; I'm not going to complain about it; I'm just going to comply. I'm not going to sit around saying, 'Why do we have to do this stuff? Can't we do it some other way? I don't feel like it!'" It's easy to gainsay the value of conformity, a trait the spectacularly successful often lack. Think Mark Zuckerberg. But then imagine



only a viable competitor if you think that the main thing going on in schools is teaching useful skills," Mr. Caplan says. He doubts that any internet certificate can supplant the signaling function, especially when it comes to conformity: "If your new, weird signal of conformity attracts a bunch of nonconformists, it fails as a signal of conformity." One more analogy: The men's business suit "has lasted for a couple of centuries now—what a stupid uniform for working in a hot, humid city," Mr. Caplan says. It endures "because it signals conformity." Mr. Zuckerberg goes to Washington.

The irrational actor in this whole drama, Mr. Caplan says, is the voter, who almost without exception wants to keep the tax money flowing. "Only about 5% of Americans say that we should spend less on education," he says. Even among self-identified "strong Republicans," the figure is a mere 12%. In this regard, Mr. Caplan is quite the nonconformist. In the new book, he says his ideal would be a complete "separation of school and state," a position he describes as "crazy extremism."

He's more modest in our conversation, suggesting a 2% spending cut. Even that, he admits, is "a very unpopular view"—and one that invariably meets resistance: "When someone says that we need more money for education, people don't then fold their arms and say, 'Well, how exactly do you propose to spend this money?'" But whenever he suggests cutting it, they demand specifics: "How could we possibly even take this idea remotely seriously unless you tell us exactly how?"

He does throw out one idea, when I ask about vocational education: Why not "take the money that we put on foreign-language programs and put it into welding or plumbing"? Don't hold your breath waiting for a politician to support that. The idea of vocational school may be fashionable, but there's still a widespread assumption that it carries a stigma.

"This means that for society, maybe it's even better than it looks," Mr. Caplan says. "People are not primarily there to look good; they're there to learn something and learn how to do something."

That's true of some college students, too—and Mr. Caplan acknowledges that learning has intrinsic value for those who have the passion. "I'm not one of these professors that resents teaching or dislikes teaching. I love it," he says. "Maybe most of the students aren't that interested," but if "there's one person in the room that cares, that person to me is the center of the universe."

Mr. Taranto is the Journal's editorial features editor.

The Government Shouldn't Value Bears Over People



CROSS COUNTRY
By Della Trumble

I watched my daughter nearly die in a plane crash—because of a misguided view of how best to protect nesting swans and foraging bears. She was in a single-engine plane with four others in 2010, when it was forced

to the ground by a sudden downdraft while approaching our town's little airstrip. Imagine standing by helplessly as your child's plane collides with the runway. Thankfully, the pilot was able to pull the nose up at the last moment, which prevented a catastrophe and saved all on board.

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The Cold Bay Airport, 18 miles away, has a 10,000-foot paved runway built to accommodate jet fighters.

It is closed fewer than 10 days a year. The trouble is getting from King Cove to Cold Bay.

When weather makes it dangerous to fly by small plane or go by boat, the only lifeline available is the helicopter rescue crews at U.S. Coast Guard Station Kodiak. For years they have been our guardian angels, descending in all conditions, and at great personal risk, to ferry the sick and injured to Cold Bay—at a cost to federal taxpayers of up to \$210,000 a mission.

A few miles of road—single-lane, gravel, restricted use—could change that. For years the residents of King Cove have been fighting for a way to drive to Cold Bay. But the route would pass through lands protected by the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, and the environmental groups that oppose the project haven't budged.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is trying to correct this. In January he signed an agreement with King Cove's Alaska Native corporation—whose shareholders come from two federally recognized Aleut tribes—that would swap some of their land for the area needed to construct the road. The trade would involve no more than 500 acres from the refuge in exchange for private lands of equal value.

That agreement was immediately challenged in court by national environmental groups, such as the Wilderness Society, the Center for Biological Diversity, and Defenders of Wildlife. Last week the federal government filed its response and asked for the lawsuit's dismissal. The government argues that environmental groups haven't been harmed by its attempt to uphold its duty to King Cove's Aleut residents.

To the contrary, the land swap would correct an injustice that

originated in 1980, when President Jimmy Carter oversaw the designation of about 300,000 acres of wilderness within the Izembek refuge and cut off the traditional land route to Cold Bay—all without consulting local residents.

King Cove's effort to re-establish a safe connection to the Cold Bay Airport began that same year, when 10 people died in two plane crashes within seven months of each other. The first incident involved a medevac plane trying to evacuate a fisherman whose leg had been severed in a boating accident. When the plane crashed on takeoff, four people died, including the pilot and a local nurse. Six more died the following year when their plane, flying in the heavy

fog and rain typical of King Cove summers, crashed into the side of a nearby mountain.

As the years passed and King Cove's pleas for a safe link to the outside world went unanswered, there were more accidents. Since the creation of the wildlife refuge, 18 people have died in plane crashes. Some might have been saved with quicker access to emergency services.

Environmentalists complain that the land swap would do irreparable harm and set a bad precedent. The Audubon Society's chief executive, David Yarnold, has led the protests, hailing the Izembek refuge as "a place where birds and other wildlife can raise their young and live the way nature intended."

Those of us who make our homes in the Alaska Peninsula and adjacent Aleutian Islands are fully aware of the region's unique beauty. The Aleut have been good stewards of it for thousands of years—long before the refuge was established.

To us, this land is sacred. It is our history and our future. To say that we would purposely destroy it shows a willful ignorance of our Native values.

Protecting nature isn't an either-or proposition. Yes, birds and bears should have a safe home—but so should my daughter.

Mrs. Trumble is a lifelong resident of King Cove and spokeswoman for the King Cove Corporation.

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OPINION

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Justice for Scooter Libby

On April 7, 2015, these columns said the next Republican President should pardon I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby "in his first week in office." President Trump waited a little longer, but in pardoning the former chief of staff to Dick Cheney on Friday Mr. Trump rectified a legal injustice and corrected one of George W. Bush's worst decisions.

Above all, Mr. Trump pardoned an innocent man. In an op-ed nearby, David Rivkin and Lee Casey recount the story of Mr. Libby's unjust prosecution amid the political uproar over the leak of the name of CIA employee Valerie Plame. Special counsel Patrick Fitzgerald never did prosecute the leaker, who was Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage. But in his zealous pursuit of Mr. Cheney, Mr. Fitzgerald railroaded Mr. Libby for lying to the FBI based in large part on the testimony of former New York Times reporter Judith Miller.

Ms. Miller says she testified truthfully at the time, but she later concluded based on new information that she had been led into false testimony by Mr. Fitzgerald. As the White House press secretary said Friday in a pardon statement: "In 2015, one of the key witnesses against Mr. Libby recanted her testimony, stating publicly that she believes the prosecutor withheld relevant information from her during interviews that would have altered significantly what she said."

Mr. Fitzgerald had called her testimony "critical" to the case in his summation for the jury, and Ms. Miller says that the prosecutor twice told her lawyer that he would drop all charges against Mr. Libby if he offered evidence against Mr. Cheney. Mr. Libby had no evidence to trade, and Mr. Fitzgerald then set out to ruin Mr. Libby for supposedly lying about a non-crime.

Mr. Bush commuted Mr. Libby's sentence so he didn't go to prison. But Mr. Bush refused to issue a full pardon on the basis of bad legal advice, a betrayal of a loyal aide that understandably infuriated Mr. Cheney.

Trump pardons a man Bush left behind on the battlefield.

In 2016 the District of Columbia Court of Appeals reinstated Mr. Libby to the D.C. bar after it said a legal disciplinary counsel had presented "credible evidence" in support of his innocence. Mr. Trump's pardon should now restore his reputation in full.

We recount this history because almost none of it appears in the press accounts about the pardon. The stories read as if history stopped with Mr. Libby's conviction. The media implications are that Mr. Trump pardoned Mr. Libby as a way to send a message to potential witnesses in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of Mr. Trump. But it's hardly news to witnesses, or anyone else, that a President's pardon power is nearly absolute, and the issue that matters is whether a pardon is justified on the merits.

"I don't know Mr. Libby," Mr. Trump said, according to the White House statement, "but for years I have heard that he has been treated unfairly. Hopefully, this full pardon will help rectify a very sad portion of his life." His pardon is a worthy use of presidential power.

Yet there is a broader lesson in the Libby case about special counsels and zealotry. Mr. Fitzgerald knew from his first days on the job that Mr. Libby hadn't leaked Ms. Plame's name. Yet rather than close up shop, he pursued dubious obstruction of justice charges based on the flimsiest of evidence. For two years Mr. Fitzgerald also let the country think a crime may have been committed by people close to President Bush or President Cheney when he already knew better.

As it happens, Mr. Fitzgerald was appointed by his good friend, James Comey, who was then Deputy Attorney General. This is the Jim Comey who told Congress last year that his goal in leaking information to the press about his conversations with Donald Trump after he was fired was to trigger a special counsel investigation that is now led by Mr. Mueller. This special counsel's work isn't done, but the Fitzgerald episode is worth keeping in mind as it unfolds.

A 'Deterrent' Message to Syria

The military strike by the U.S., France and the United Kingdom Friday night was a necessary response to what President Trump appropriately called "barbarism" in describing the use of chemical weapons by the Bashar Assad regime in Syria. The question going forward is whether this is another one-time attempt to punish Assad or if it presages a larger strategy to counter the attempt by the Assad-Russia-Iran axis to dominate the Middle East.

"The purpose of our actions tonight is to establish a strong deterrent against the production, spread, and use of chemical weapons. Establishing this deterrent is a vital national security interest of the United States," President Trump said in a speech to the nation. He's right, but a one-time strike won't have the deterrent effect he wants. Assad, and above all his Iranian and Russian patrons, have to know that they will pay a price for supporting Assad's behavior.

The extent of the punitive action wasn't clear as we went to press, though it appeared to be more extensive than the strike a year

ago that attacked a single Syrian airfield. Mr. Trump said Friday night that the attack last year eliminated 20% of Syria's air force, but the rest was quickly up and running again.

Mr. Trump made a point Friday of asking Iran and Russia: "What kind of a nation wants to be associated with the mass murder of innocent men, women, and children?" A good question, but we hope the President doesn't expect the Kremlin or Tehran to listen based on a one-time missile attack. They have too much invested in Assad to pull back unless they believe they will pay a larger price.

Administration briefers suggested the coalition is prepared for further strikes if need be, and if not Vladimir Putin can rest easy. The Assad axis is counting on the U.S. having limited staying power. The allies will have to be on guard for Mr. Putin and Iran to look for openings to strike back—from the Mediterranean to the Baltics. But it's possible they will merely shout in protest and wait for the U.S. to lose interest. To truly deter barbarism and protect U.S. interests, Mr. Trump will need a larger strategy than one military strike.

The military response is justified but Trump needs a larger strategy.

McCabe and a Lower Loyalty

Apparently Jim Comey's FBI had in its leadership an official even more self-serving than the director. His name is Andrew McCabe, and a report released Friday from the Justice Department's inspector general confirms that Mr. McCabe was fired for leaking to a Wall Street Journal reporter to "advance his personal reputation at the expense of Department leadership"—and then lying about it.

The IG report contradicts the accounts put forward by Mr. McCabe and his wife, Jill, at the time he was sacked on March 16. In separate op-eds for the Washington Post, Andrew McCabe and Jill McCabe each played the Trump victim card. Mr. McCabe said that "divisive politics and partisan attacks" played a role in his firing. Dr. McCabe blamed "the president's wrath."

The IG report makes clear that Mr. McCabe was fired for good reason: because he leaked information to the press, and then he denied it to investigators. The IG concludes he was guilty of "lack of candor" multiple times, sometimes with a lawyer present, and at least three times under oath. And though he would later change his story, he did so only when he knew the IG was closing in on the truth.

The IG says Mr. McCabe even lied to and about Mr. Comey, who was then FBI director. He lied to him when he denied knowing who had leaked the information about an investigation into the Clinton Foundation the director had refused to confirm even to Congress. And Mr. McCabe lied when he told investigators he had told Mr. Comey what he had done.

For a man who claims to be all about the bureau, perhaps the IG's most damning line is the one noting that "no other senior FBI official corroborated McCabe's testimony that, among FBI executive leadership, 'people knew that generally' he had authorized the disclosure."

The IG report explains why the former FBI deputy was fired.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What Did the Enlightenment Really Give Us?

Yoram Hazony offers a corrective to blind faith in reason as the solution to our political differences. But he goes further than he needs to in arguing that the U.S. Constitution isn't a product of Enlightenment thinking ("The Dark Side of the Enlightenment," op-ed, April 7).

It is quite true that most of the rights laid out in the first 10 amendments trace back to pre-Enlightenment English law and process. But recall those amendments were tacked on at the end by Thomas Jefferson and others who feared James Madison's basic blueprint provided too much authority to the newly imagined central government. Madison was trying to address a basic political problem. The new country was failing, its central government was too weak. But having thrown off a divinely blessed king, where was more authority legitimately to come from? Madison stated his solution up front: "We, the people." But this radical notion required a belief that the people had enough power of reason to govern themselves. The Founders had their doubts. We all know they drastically limited the franchise.

Madison well understood that what might make sense to me could be anathema to you, each of us following our own reason, passion or interest. He would never have suggested that there was "one right answer" to most political differences. Government was the work of balancing interests. What his system required by way of enlightenment thinking was for individuals and groups to see (reason) that their larger interests were served by compromises that kept the country together. *E pluribus unum.* The Constitution is best understood as a brilliant blend of traditional and enlightenment thinking, a Madisonian compromise if ever there was one. It is fair to say that the country could use more of this enlightened if not pure Enlightenment thinking to move from warring factions to cooperating citizens.

ERIC LANE

MICHAEL ORESKES

New York

Mr. Hazony completely mischaracterizes the views of Immanuel Kant. In fact, the philosopher was certain that the most important questions in life couldn't be answered by pure reason. He defended belief in God, and he was deeply concerned with morality, ethics and law.

JOHN BALL

Huntsville, Ala.

The great Voltaire was as much of an Enlightenment figure as Rousseau, and he was a fierce critic of Descartes, Rousseau and continental rationalism/idealism (as it was known in Prussia). He fought for decades to have Newtonian and Baconian methods accepted as the scientific standard in France, not Descartes and his rationalism. He was eventually successful.

The French Revolution is held as the standard, but the American Revolution was more accurately the leading event of the Enlightenment.

RICHARD L. WISE

Salem, Mass.

Mr. Hazony states: "You can't have both Enlightenment and skepticism. You have to choose." Nothing could be more wrong. David Hume, the greatest English-speaking philosopher of the Enlightenment, was a profound skeptic and justly renowned for being so.

Hume's greatest pupil, Adam Smith,

joined him in being skeptical of many unprovable claims of dogma and superstition. Both of them understood that human beings were driven by emotion, and that emotion could only be overcome partially and with much effort by the careful exercise of reason. Neither argued that we could ever put aside our emotions, but they led the way toward the triumph of logical thought which resulted in much of today's political, economic and national institutions in the U.S. and much of Europe. The two of them drew England into a world which triumphed, at least during much of the 19th century, over the mistaken Romantic views espoused particularly in revolutionary France and nationalistic Germany. That such enlightened views were cast aside during much of the 20th century by despots (Hitler, Lenin, Stalin, Mao) only makes more evident the truths of Hume and Smith.

DAVID W. SCUDER

Ipswich, Mass.

Mr. Hazony's essay reminds me of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's 1978 Harvard address telling the West that it had not become the kind of society that others should emulate. The important point for Solzhenitsyn was that this post-Renaissance thinking turned Western humanity into materialists who saw man as the measure of all things and who were no longer able to understand the evil that lives in human souls.

Only a turning back to the spiritual, he thought, could point us away from evil and toward the moral life. Reason has given us great control over nature and material riches but has also led to moral poverty.

HERB SAPERSTEIN

Lawrenceville, N.J.

Kant's treatment of pure reason was a critique, not a paean, and the core of the thesis was that pure reason, detached from matters of experience or possible experience, was capable of leading one to "transcendental illusion" or, more plainly, dogmatism. Reason, when used in science, connects the points of data; it is the basis of theory. When applied to morality, reason makes no claim to knowledge, but allows one to consider how one ought to act.

PROF. JEFFREY M. LIPSHAW

Suffolk University Law School

Boston

Mr. Hazony's nearly wholesale rejection of the Enlightenment is an overreaction. A much more nuanced evaluation of the power and perimeters of human reason is offered in F.A. Hayek's 1945 essay "Individualism: True and False." There, Hayek distinguished what he called "Cartesian rationalism" from the correct rationalism of thinkers such as David Hume, Adam Smith and Edmund Burke.

Like Mr. Hazony, Hayek (along with Hume, Smith, et al.) understood the irrationality of failing to recognize that institutions and norms that stand the test of time often contain wisdom that no human mind, of whatever degree of genius, can fully comprehend and much less improve upon. Yet unlike Mr. Hazony, Hayek celebrated enlightened human reason that recognizes not only the wisdom of the ages but also the ever-present opportunities for the rational human mind unfettered by tribal, political and religious superstitions to improve human well-being.

PROF. DONALD J. BOUDREAU

George Mason University

Fairfax, Va.

Pepper ... And Salt

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



"Mission Control, I followed the Black Hole to the other side. You're not going to believe this!"

OPINION

Republicans Need Artists, Not Economists

**DECLARATIONS**
By Peggy Noonan

Speaker Paul Ryan's announced departure, and the unprecedented number of congressional Republicans choosing not to run this November, has me thinking, again, of where the GOP is.

Its essential problem is that it doesn't know what it stands for. It doesn't know what it is. It is philosophically and ideologically riven, almost shattered, and the one piece that still coheres—represented in the House by the Freedom Caucus—is least reflective of the broader base, and the country.

An old order ended in 2016. To help the new one take shape requires an ability to see things whole.

Senators and representatives still have not reckoned with the shock of 2016. They're repeating what's been said and following an old playbook. They remind me of what Tallyrand is supposed to have said of the Bourbons, that they had learned nothing and forgotten nothing. Some know an old order has been swept away, but what will replace it is not fully formed, so they're not placing bets.

It isn't all about Donald Trump. Mr. Trump came from the chaos, he didn't cause it. He just makes it worse each day by adding his own special incoherence. The party's intellectual disarray both preceded and produced him. He happened after 20 years of carelessness and the rise of the enraged intersectional left. He was the

magic pony who was *not* like the other Republicans. But he can't capitalize on this moment—he *can't help what is formless to find form*—because he's not a serious man.

Republicans will have to figure it out on their own. After they lose the House, they will have time!

Here's what they should do: They should start to think not like economists but like artists.

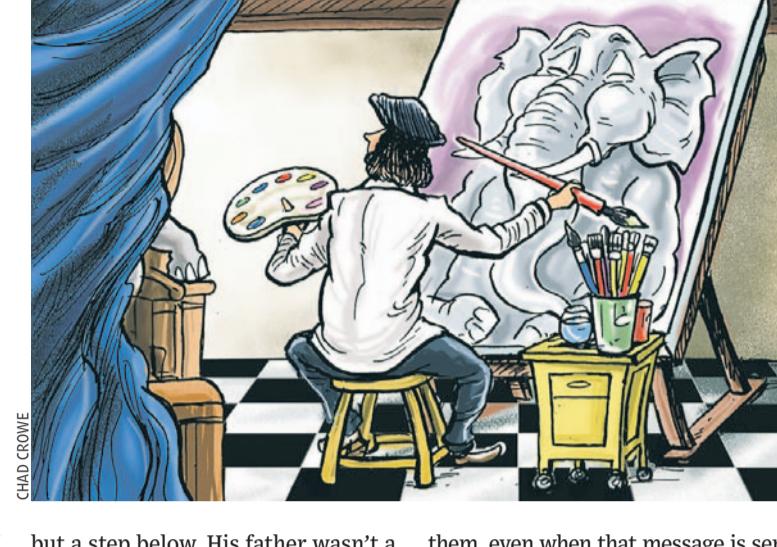
Often when I speak people ask, at the end, about Ronald Reagan. I often say what I've written, that a key to understanding him was that he saw himself in the first 40 years of his life—the years in which you become yourself—as an artist. As a young man he wrote short stories, drew, was attracted to plays, acted in college, went into radio, and then became a professional actor. He came to maturity in Hollywood, a town of craftsmen and artists. He fully identified with them.

The thing about artists is that they try to see the real shape of things. They don't get lost in factoids and facets of problems, they try to see the thing whole. They try to capture reality. They're creative, intuitive; they make leaps, study human nature. It has been said that a great leader has more in common with an artist than with an economist, and it's true.

The GOP needs artists.

If an artist of Reagan's era were looking around America in 2018, what would she or he see? Marvels, miracles and wonders. A church the other day noted on Twitter that all of us now download data from a cloud onto tablets, like Moses.

But think what would startle the artist unhappily. She or he would see broad swaths of the American middle and working class addicted and lethargic. A Reagan-era person would think: But they are the backbone! They built our roads, fought our wars, worked on the assembly line making the cars that transformed our lives. Reagan came from those people



but a step below. His father wasn't a factory worker with a union card but a somewhat itinerant shoe store salesmen who was an alcoholic. Reagan's family was not fully stable, but America was, and he could rise within it. He became not only a union member but a union president.

He believed passionately in—he defended and advanced—the free-market system. Freedom, he well knew, yields unequal results. Jack Warner had a grand estate and the day workers at Warner Bros. shared a walk-up on Sunset and slept in shifts. But that's no cause for bitterness as long as the day workers know they can rise—and the system allows them to rise.

Today something seems stuck. Free trade, global trade—yes! But you can't invest totally in abstractions because life is not abstract. People need jobs, men especially, and a nation that can't make things is too vulnerable in the world.

A Reagan-era artist would be shocked by our culture, by its knuckle dragging nihilism. She or he might note that constantly telling our children that the deck is stacked against

them, even when that message is sent in the name of equality and justice, may leave them demoralized, driven not by hunger and joy but by unearned bitterness. The artist would be shocked that "the American dream" has been transmuted from something aspirational and lighted by an egalitarian spirit to something weirdly flat—a house, a car, possessions—and weirdly abstract.

In foreign affairs the people of that era knew why they were anti-communist. It was not only a totalitarian system that was by its nature brutal and a killer of freedoms; it was expansionist (even to Cuba, 90 miles from our shore) and atheistic. Whenever it went the churches were closed and the religious hounded. So: resist communism! But you go forward accepting the simple tragedy at the heart of life, that this isn't Heaven, it's earth, and man is crooked timber. You wouldn't invade the Warsaw Pact countries even though they've been turned into outposts of evil.

What might an artist see as the major need and priority for America right now? *Keep this country together.* Keep it up and operating and

give it a sense of peace with itself. The crisis is our increasing disunity, and the thinning of a shared sense of the national dream.

What should the GOP be thinking of now, as a political priority? Be more human. Show a felt sympathy for those trying to rise. Align yourself with the culturally disheartened. Be on the side—as the party was since its inception, and now seems not to be—of Main Street, not Wall Street. Take a new and honest look at impediments to the American Dream. Figure out why people don't feel so upwardly mobile anymore. Be for populism without the bitterness, and patriotism minus mindless nationalism. And show respect—more than that, protectiveness—toward the economic system that made America rich. Republicans always think everyone favors economic freedom. But an entire generation has risen since the crash of 2008. They've never even heard a defense of capitalism. They've never heard anyone speak well of it.

And think twice about your saviors. Those NeverTrump folks trying to take back authority within the party—having apparently decided recently not to start a third one—are the very people who made the current mess. They bought into open-borders ideology. They cooked up Iraq. They allied with big donors. They invented Sarah Palin, who as much as anyone ushered in the age of Trump. They detached the Republican Party from the people.

Republicans now should be trying to see the big picture and the true shape of things.

Don't see your country through your ideological imaginings, see your country as it is. Recognize reality, respect it, and see what you can do with it, with an eye to trying to persuade. Bend when needed. Define and then defend essential principles. Say what you stand for and stand there proudly. See and speak clearly. Be an artist, not an economist.

Trump Is Right to Pardon Scooter Libby, an Innocent Man

**By David B. Rivkin Jr.
And Lee A. Casey**

President Trump has pardoned I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, convicted in 2007 of perjury and obstruction of justice. The president was right to do so. Mr. Libby's conviction was a travesty.

Mr. Libby, who served as Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, got caught up in a special counsel's investigation about the disclosure to the press of a CIA agent's identity. It appears Mr. Cheney was the investigation's real target. Mr. Libby's lawyers have said prosecutors offered to

The target of an out-of-control special counsel, he was convicted on the basis of now-discredited facts.

drop the charges against Mr. Libby if he would incriminate his boss. But, there was "no there, there." Neither Mr. Libby nor Mr. Cheney had anything to do with the "leak" or with covering it up. No one was charged with a crime in the "outing" of the agent, Valerie Plame, and it's not clear it was a crime.

The Intelligence Identities Protection Act of 1982 makes it a crime to reveal the identity of a "covert" intelligence agent. Ms. Plame was a midlevel employee stationed at Central Intelligence Agency headquarters. In early 2002, she urged her superiors to tap her husband, retired diplomat Joe Wilson, to investigate claims that Saddam Hussein had tried to buy processed uranium in Niger. The CIA interpreted Mr. Wilson's report as supporting that claim, but a year later he publicly declared the evidence was dubious and became a vocal critic of President Bush's Iraq policy.

The late Robert Novak wrote a column revealing that Mr. Wilson had

gone to Niger at Ms. Plame's urging. Mr. Wilson asserted that the revelation of his wife's CIA employment was meant to punish him. But her identity was well-known around Washington, suggesting that she had not taken "affirmative measures" to conceal her "intelligence relationship to the United States," a necessary element of the crime.

Special counsel Patrick Fitzgerald was appointed by his friend James Comey, then deputy attorney general. From the start, Mr. Fitzgerald knew that the critical "leak" to Novak had come from then-Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage. He nevertheless commenced an extensive investigation to "discover" what had happened.

The charges against Mr. Libby were based on his description of various conversations he had with journalists at the time, including the New York Times's Judith Miller. Based on notes she had made containing the word "bureau" in association with Ms. Plame's job, Ms. Miller became the only reporter to testify that Mr. Libby had discussed Ms. Plame's CIA connection with her. Mr. Fitzgerald called her testimony "critical" in his closing argument to the jury, which found Mr. Libby guilty on four of five counts.

But Ms. Miller later realized her testimony had been mistaken. Ms. Plame published a memoir in late 2007, months after Libby's trial. In Ms. Miller's 2015 book, "A Reporter's Story," she writes that one particular point in Ms. Plame's account immediately caught her eye: Ms. Plame's CIA "cover" had been as an employee of a State Department bureau. Mr. Libby would have known the CIA has "divisions," not "bureaus." He could not, therefore, have been the person who revealed Ms. Plame's CIA connection to Ms. Miller.

Ms. Miller did not recognize her mistake when preparing her trial testimony, because she did not know that Ms. Plame had a State Department cover. Had she known, she

would not have claimed she and Mr. Libby had discussed Ms. Plame's CIA status. But Mr. Fitzgerald knew, and Ms. Miller believes he deliberately led her away from the truth.

All this means that Mr. Libby was telling the truth about his conversations with Ms. Miller, and that he did not deliberately mislead Mr. Fitzgerald's grand jury or the FBI. For her part, Ms. Miller had not lied at Mr. Libby's trial; she had given false testimony in good faith. "With the information about Plame's cover that Fitzgerald had withheld, it was hard not to conclude that my testimony had been wrong," she writes. "Had I helped convict an innocent man?"

She had. It is now established that Mr. Libby never told any reporter about Ms. Plame, never knew that she had any special status, and had

no reason to lie about any of this—and that the "leak" had caused no harm to the CIA, its personnel or operations. But the time for Mr. Libby's appeals has long passed.

One court partially righted the wrong Mr. Libby suffered. In 2016, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, a local tribunal, restored Mr. Libby's license to practice law in the nation's capital. This action was based on a report by the D.C. Bar's Office of Disciplinary Counsel, which specifically noted that Mr. Libby had consistently maintained his innocence, that he never denied the seriousness of the offenses of which he was convicted, and that Ms. Miller, as a "key prosecution witness . . . has changed her recollection of the events in question."

Long ago, Hillary Clinton's friend

and law partner Vince Foster wrote that Washington was a place where "ruining people is considered sport." He left those words in a note found after his 1993 suicide. Foster's observation is undeniably true—but should not be. Mr. Trump promised to change the way Washington works, and has himself experienced the full force of this detestable Washington pastime since before he took office. By granting Scooter Libby a full pardon, he has taken a step toward changing Washington's culture, and he has righted a grievous wrong.

Messrs. Rivkin and Casey practice appellate and constitutional law in Washington. They served in the White House Counsel's Office and Justice Department in the Reagan and George H.W. Bush administrations.

'Trust but Verify' Applies to the FBI



Federal law enforcement did not cover itself in glory—again—in the just-concluded trial of Noor Salman, wife of the Pulse nightclub mass murderer in Orlando, Fla.

A judge scolded prosecutors during the trial for withholding exculpatory evidence. At her original bail hearing, the FBI had relied on a confession, extracted from Ms. Salman in an 11-hour interrogation, that she had helped Omar Mateen scope out the gay nightclub in advance of the shooting. As was subsequently revealed, the FBI was already in possession of cellphone location data that contradicted her claim. Other evidence also cast doubt on the confession, which the FBI failed to record or sustain with circumstantial proof. Ms. Salman was acquitted.

The malpractice here was much less than in the thrown-out corruption conviction of the late Sen. Ted Stevens or other brazen examples: the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's manufacture of fake statistical evidence of racial bias in auto lending; various corrupt federal and state asset seizures that keep coming to light.

The Noor outcome may not be flattering to the FBI, but it should be flattering to America. Holding law enforcement accountable is the best refutation of the authoritarian temptation, with its mocking of our insistence on due process, elections and respect for individual rights.

At the same time, not every culpable police action is motivated by careerism or dishonesty of purpose. Murders are down in New York City. Policing is a reason. Yet two of the city's most productive detectives were recently charged with manufacturing evidence to support an otherwise legitimate seizure of an illegal gun. Now

under way is a spreading crackdown on police "testifying" in court.

So skepticism, leavened with a certain understanding, is required in the clash between individual rights and the police. This is about to become especially true in the mother of all cases, the FBI's role in the 2016 election.

We've already learned a few unsettling things. Trump associates Michael Flynn and George Papadopoulos were treated in unforgiving fashion for lies that may not have been lies, whereas the FBI practically

We refute tyranny when we hold law enforcement accountable.

conspired with Hillary Clinton and her aides to make sure their truth-shading was overlooked. The FBI's use of evidence to win a Carter Page surveillance order appears to have been every bit as disingenuous as that used by prosecutors in the Noor Salman bail hearing.

Political bias or simply toadying to the party in power may turn out to have been a factor, but we are likely to hear a great deal about what top law-enforcement officials believed, rather than knew, about Donald Trump.

The autobiography of FBI chief James Comey is due next week. The chances are nil that it will deal honestly and completely with the 2016 race, especially the role of U.S. intelligence agencies in influencing some of the FBI's actions. But as leaks already reveal, the book is accurately redolent of the contempt and distrust top officials felt for Candidate Trump, leading to actions that are hard to defend in hindsight.

Coming next will be a Justice Department inspector general's report on Mr. Comey's anomalous exculpation of Mr. Trump's Democratic rival

in the 2016 race. If, as we suspect, Robert Mueller is framing his own investigation partly to justify the pre-election actions of the FBI, then we will doubly need the recently launched investigation by U.S. Attorney John Huber, which doesn't start from the assumption that the one thing that doesn't need investigating is the investigators.

Then there's the Stormy Daniels matter, in which a seamy but not illegal payment might, in theory, be illegal under campaign-finance rules.

At least efforts at suppressing Mr. Trump's sexual history are a gentlemanly improvement on those of the Bill Clinton campaign 24 years earlier. If Trump lawyer Michael Cohen made an "in-kind" donation by paying off Ms. Daniels, didn't Ms. Daniels make an in-kind donation when she agreed not to speak? Weren't those Clinton women who didn't come forward because they didn't want to be savaged by the Clinton machine making in-kind contributions to the Clinton campaign?

The questions are absurd because the law is absurd. What should be a personal and political embarrassment for Mr. Trump has become another superfluous legal jeopardy for the man 46% of American voters wanted for their president. When we metastasize laws for criminalizing politics, we become more like Vladimir Putin's Russia, not less so. Witness the liberal group Common Cause, which can't get enough campaign regulation, rushing out Stormy-related federal complaints against the Trump campaign on Thursday.

But another lesson also applies in such a world. All presidents face opponents who seek to make sure they deliver as little as possible even when delivering would be good for the country. Mr. Trump came to the presidency with too much baggage that his opposition could use against him. That's something Mr. Trump's voters and party should have thought about before nominating him.

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Markets Flash Caution for Stocks

Stability in other assets suggests there is more than trade unease rattling shares

By RIVA GOLD AND MIKE BIRD

U.S. stocks have been on a roller coaster since trade tensions between Washington and Beijing began to escalate in early March. But plenty of other markets have been placid, suggesting there is more to the recent stock vola-

tility than worries over tariffs alone.

Currencies of high-export countries, stock markets of developing nations that rely on trade, and government bonds have barely moved in the past few weeks. That's unexpected if a global trade war really was widely anticipated by investors, some observers say.

An alternative explanation for the stock market's weakness could be crowded positioning, elevated valuations and fears that growth may be losing momentum, they say.

"It's not a uniform message

from markets that everything is about trade," said Valentijn van Nieuwenhuijsen, chief investment officer at NN Investment Partners. With recent signs of waning momentum in leading indicators of economic growth, "a crucial support which helped equity markets rally through political uncertainty is fading," he said.

The S&P 500 has fallen roughly 3% since President Donald Trump signed steel and aluminum tariffs on March 8, while the Cboe Volatility Index—known as Wall Street's fear gauge, which

measures the expected volatility of the S&P 500 based on options prices—is up 5% since then after rising as much as 58% in late March.

Currencies, meanwhile, have been comparatively unmoved. The Deutsche Bank Currency Volatility Index, a benchmark for expected future swings in foreign-exchange markets, fell below 7 on Monday, its lowest level in three months. That leaves it about two points below its average over the past five years.

Likewise, the Merrill Lynch Option Volatility Estimate In-

dex—the bond volatility gauge known as the Move Index—has declined since the tariffs were signed, while the 10-year U.S. Treasury yield has barely moved, edging down to 2.8% from 2.9%.

Recent excitement over a period of synchronized global growth helped to buoy markets late in 2017 and early this year, but that perception has dimmed. Disappointing economic data in Japan and the eurozone more recently has sent the Citigroup developed markets economic surprise in-

Please see MARKETS page B2

WPP Readies Plan If CEO Goes

By NICK KOSTOV AND SUZANNE VRANICA

The board of WPP PLC is weighing contingency plans in the event Chief Executive Martin Sorrell leaves the company, people familiar with the matter said, as the advertising giant's longtime leader deals with an allegation of misconduct.

If Mr. Sorrell departs, the board is considering tapping WPP veterans Mark Read and Andrew Scott to be co-CEOs, the people said. The appointments would likely be on an interim basis, one of the people said.

The board is set to convene early in the week for a meeting that was planned months ago, according to people familiar with the matter.

On April 3, WPP said an independent counsel has been appointed to look into "an allegation of personal misconduct" after The Wall Street Journal reported on the probe. The

Martin Sorrell's fate at the advertising company has yet to be decided.

Journal reported that the board was also looking into whether Mr. Sorrell misused company assets. WPP said any possible misconduct did not involve sums that were material to the company.

Mr. Sorrell, who previously denied any financial impropriety, didn't respond to a request for comment Friday.

The investigation is expected to be completed as soon as the coming week, two of the people said. Mr. Sorrell's fate at the company has yet to be decided, and the situation is fluid, they said.

The idea of WPP without Mr. Sorrell atop the organization was almost unfathomable not so long ago. The British executive has been at the helm of WPP for more than three decades, building the company into the world's largest advertising company by acquiring an alphabet soup of Madison Avenue agencies.

Shareholders have long criticized WPP for not publicly disclosing a succession plan in the event of an exit by Mr. Sorrell, who is 73 years old. The probe into Mr. Sorrell's conduct has now brought those concerns to a head.

Mr. Read, the global chief of WPP unit Wunderman since 2015, is known for his strategy and investment prowess. Mr. Scott has had a lower profile at WPP, but behind the scenes he has played a leading role in the company's aggressive acquisition strategy for more than a decade. Mr. Scott declined to comment, and Mr. Read didn't respond to a request for comment.

—Alexandra Bruell contributed to this article.

China Turns Up Its Nose to Junk From U.S.

By BOB TITA

Chinese trade barriers are compounding the problems faced by U.S. companies that recycle scrap paper, plastic and metal.

In response to Trump administration trade action, Beijing recently imposed a 25% tariff on U.S. scrap aluminum, making reusable metal from other countries more appealing. That followed China's imposition this year of tough quality standards on imported recyclables.

The measures have the U.S. recycling industry on the ropes. The U.S. generates more recyclable waste than any other country, and China has been the top customer for that scrap.

Last year, the country took in 13 million metric tons of cast-off American packaging, periodicals and shredded car bodies, accounting for two-thirds of the used paper and half the scrap aluminum that the U.S. sold overseas, according to the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries Inc.

Please see SCRAP page B2



Workers at a recycling center in New Jersey remove plastic contaminants that China now subjects to a limit in imported material.

THE INTELLIGENT INVESTOR | By Jason Zweig

Don't Become Charmed By an Alluring Come-On



Just about every investor wants safety, income and growth.

A small real-estate investment trust—Safety, Income & Growth Inc.—claims to offer exactly that. Its ticker symbol? SAFE.

Yet, investing nirvana is never within easy reach, and financial labels don't always mean exactly what they say.

SAFE buys the land beneath a building and then leases it to the operators or tenants of that property. It ends up with an asset that should increase in value and a stream of steady income expected to rise over time.

SAFE has a total market value of only about \$300 million. The company lost \$1.8 million on \$23 million in revenue last year. Its two largest tenants accounted for roughly 68% of its total revenue.

None of that means that investing in SAFE is a terrible idea. Every big company once was small, and early losses are common and SAFE says its revenue should become more diversified as time passes.

But if, as many investors do, you define "safe" as "I can't lose any money on this thing," then SAFE has so far been a little risky.

The company sold shares to the public for the first time last June. It has lost nearly 9% since then, slightly worse than the Vanguard REIT Index ETF, a fund that reflects the performance of real-estate securities as a whole. Meanwhile, the S&P 500 index of U.S. stocks gained 10%.

Chief Executive Jay Sugarman, a veteran real-estate manager, says the name came to him a couple of years ago.

"What the world needs

Please see INVEST page B5

Overtime Pay Becomes Costly

BY RACHEL FEINTZEIG AND LAUREN WEBER

Companies are paying millions more dollars in overtime wages as they struggle to find new hires in an economy that is near full employment.

Sales at Weifield Group Contracting Inc. were up 15% in February compared with the prior year, but applications for open jobs at the electrical-systems installer are dwindling. To fill the labor gap, the Centennial, Colo., company asked workers to put in 4,500 hours of overtime in January and February, 50% more than in the same period a year earlier. In all, Weifield spent \$588,000 on overtime for its 400-odd employees last year.

Seth Anderson, chief executive of Weifield, said overtime has diminishing benefits. After a couple of 50-hour weeks, workers don't install wires and fixtures as fast, and some people start refusing extra shifts.

"There are some guys that will not work overtime. You can't pay 'em enough to work overtime," Mr. Anderson said.

For companies shelling out more pay at time-and-a-half

Extra Hours, Not Workers

Employers are relying on overtime work in a strong economy where new hires are hard to find.

Average weekly overtime in manufacturing*



*For production and non-supervisory workers

Source: Labor Department

rates, the wage drain cuts into profits and can affect new investments. For workers who qualify for overtime, the extra hours can be a boon and a burden.

Randy Green, a foreman at

Saunders Construction Inc.,

has been working 55 to 60 hours a week to help build a 24-story apartment building in Denver. He says it has been hard to balance his work schedule and time with his family, including his 11-month-old son.

Please see PAY page B2

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Toy Rivals Work Differently

Pay disparity between Hasbro and Mattel reflects contrast in manufacturing

BY THEO FRANCIS

To see why global-supply chains have supplanted domestic manufacturing, look no further than Transformers action figures and Barbie dolls—and employee-pay figures publicly traded companies are disclosing for the first time.

Hasbro Inc., which sells Transformers, as well as Star Wars and My Little Pony figures and many other toys and games, paid a typical worker about \$74,000 last year.

Meantime, at rival **Mattel** Inc., which sells American Girl dolls and Ghostbusters action figures in addition to Barbies and other playthings, the figure was closer to \$6,300.

Those figures come courtesy of new public-company disclosures this spring that reveal median pay for employees. Companies have some leeway in how they report the figure, which identifies the worker who is paid at the midpoint for all employees. But the numbers for Hasbro and Mattel highlight two distinct business models, at least for now.

More than three-quarters of the 35,280 people who work for Mattel are employed outside the U.S. Most work in manufacturing plants, many of them in low-wage regions in Asia, including China. Indeed, Mattel said in its proxy filing that its median employee is a factory worker in Malaysia.

Mattel, which is based in El Segundo, Calif., didn't disclose



One company makes most of the toys it sells, while the other relies on third-party manufacturers.

the median wage for its U.S. employees, but did note the pay is more than quadruple the global figure it is required to disclose under new Securities and Exchange Commission rules. By contrast, Hasbro, which is based in Pawtucket, R.I., said it employed about 5,400 people on Dec. 31, or not quite a sixth of Mattel's head count. A little more than half worked in the U.S.

Both firms had roughly \$5 billion in revenue last year.

Why the stark contrasts in two such similar companies? Mattel makes many of the toys and games it sells, and so owns or operates its own factories, and employs the people working in them. Over the years, Mattel has said it does so to maintain better control over

quality and because managers have felt it was more efficient than contracting out.

Hasbro makes little itself. In its most recent annual report, the company said it shed its last two manufacturing facilities, in Ireland and Massachusetts, in 2015. "Sourcing for our other production is done through unrelated third party manufacturers in various Far East countries, principally China," the company noted.

As a result, Hasbro doesn't own the factories that make its toys and doesn't employ the workers operating those factories, even if it pays them indirectly through its contract manufacturers. That means the lower-wage factory employees don't pull Hasbro's median corporate wage down.

Representatives for both companies say they pay competitive wages in every market in which they operate. They just directly employ workers in different job markets.

That may soon change.

Mattel has been struggling with slumping sales, and its weak financial results have pushed down its shares by nearly 50% over the past year. Its market value is now roughly half of its rival. Mattel said it plans to cut \$650 million in costs over two years. In a Feb. 1 conference call, Mattel finance chief Joe Euteneuer told investors the company expects to make more of its structural changes in 2019—including to its "manufacturing footprint."

—Paul Ziobro
contributed to this article.

4.1% in March.

"Full employment" doesn't necessarily mean every American who wants a job has one. Economists use the term to describe the point where unemployment can't go lower without generating price and wage pressures. They are split on where that exact unemployment rate is, but earlier this year nine in 10 forecasters said the U.S. economy was at or close to full employment.

Some employers are trying to mitigate worker shortages by putting money into labor-saving equipment.

Wabash National Corp. makes commercial trucking equipment at one of its plants in Lafayette, Ind., where overtime pay pinched the bottom line in the third quarter last year.

Wabash is investing in automation in part to reduce demand for labor. It expects to save 560 labor hours a day when more of its operations are automated by year-end. The company will "get the productivity savings and then redeploy those workers to reduce

overtime within the business," Chief Operating Officer Brent Yeagy told investors in November last year, noting overtime pay had led to higher costs per unit in its commercial-trailer products division.

New machinery and software can take six months to three years to deploy, making such investments a risky proposition this far along in the

Companies are supplementing their workforces with temporary employees.

economic recovery, according to Mr. Baumohl. If demand drops, the investments may not pay off, the economist said.

Paying overtime to existing employees may be a safer route for now, Mr. Baumohl says, even though it puts a strain on employers as well as workers.

Employers also sometimes prefer overtime to adding more

workers because while they pay more per hour for the extra labor, costs for benefits remain steady. Benefits such as health insurance accounted for about 30% of total compensation costs in December, according to the Labor Department.

Companies are supplementing their workforces with temporary employees—but even they have been asked to work overtime, said Becky Frankiewicz, president of staffing company ManpowerGroup's North America division. Overtime for Manpower workers rose 10% in March compared with a year earlier.

The overtime surge in the U.S. would have entailed even higher costs for companies, and extra earnings for millions more workers, if an Obama-era plan to boost the salary threshold for overtime exemption hadn't been ruled invalid by a federal judge in Texas. Under the proposed regulation, nearly all workers earning less than \$47,476 a year would qualify for extra pay when they clocked in more than 40 hours in a week.

Billionaire Bids For Toys 'R' Us

By AUSTEN HUFFORD AND PAUL ZIOBRO

wouldn't be involved in day-to-day operations at Toys "R" Us were his bid to succeed.

A billionaire toy maker said he had submitted a bid for Toys "R" Us, even after his public crowdfunding campaign to salvage parts of the retail chain failed to gain much traction.

Isaac Larian, founder of Bratz dolls maker **MGA Entertainment** Inc., said he offered \$675 million for the U.S. stores of Toys "R" Us, as well as \$215 million to buy its Canadian stores. Toys "R" Us is winding down its U.S. business while bankruptcy proceedings continue.

In an interview, Mr. Larian dismissed suggestions that the bid was a publicity stunt and said **Bank of America** Corp. and **UBS Group** AG are lining up financing for his bid. "I'm making a cash deposit today and have a letter from my banks that I have the funds to do this," Mr. Larian said.

A Toys "R" Us spokeswoman declined to comment on the matter. A UBS spokeswoman and a Bank of America spokesman declined to comment.

It is unclear if other parties are interested in the assets. Separately, the toy retailer's bankruptcy attorney said in court Wednesday that the firm had received multiple bids of more than \$1 billion for a majority stake in its Asian business.

Mr. Larian's bid faces hurdles, including whether other toy companies would want to work directly with a retailer controlled by a competitor, in what is a notoriously secretive and competitive industry. Mr. Larian said Friday that he



Isaac Larian is the founder of MGA Entertainment.

SCRAP

Continued from the prior page

Now prices for discarded newspaper, office paper and magazines have fallen to zero in the U.S. Inventories of paper, crushed milk jugs and old cardboard are swelling. No other country wants to buy as much U.S. junk as China did in the past several years.

"It's really been a jolt to the entire industry," said Joel Litman, co-owner of Texas Recycling Inc. in Dallas, which recycles paper and cardboard. "If China doesn't take it, you can ship it to other places, but nobody has the capacity that China has."

Castoff paper, cardboard and plastic is sorted into bales in the U.S. that typically contain bits of food waste, glass and other contaminants. In China, those bales are unbundled and often further sorted by hand to remove unwanted items and segregate recyclable materials.

Analysts say the contamination rate of up to 10% of a bale's contents became a disposal headache for the Chinese and a health hazard to the workers that sift through them.

China imposed a 0.5% waste limit on imported recyclables from any country at the beginning of the year. That is roughly 9 pounds of waste in a 1,850-pound bale of paper. As exporters reacted to China's new quality standards, U.S. exports of scrap plastic to China dropped 80% from October's total to 5,000 metric tons in January.

William Winchester, chief operating officer for Berg Mill Supply Co., a scrap broker in Los Angeles, said most U.S. sorting centers for paper and plastic collected from homes aren't capable of reducing food waste and other contaminants by enough to comply with China's new levels.

"It's basically an impossible standard," he said. "There are

very few sorting facilities that are even going to try it. You're losing money sorting it out."

Trash haulers have expanded the list of materials they will recycle over the years to reduce their payments to landfills to take trash. Now that higher volume of recyclable material is becoming a burden, and some trash collectors may give up on recyclables if they can't find other buyers.

"The concern is that China is buying so much less recyclable material that it's going to end up in landfills," said Joe Pickard, an economist for the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries.

The 25% tariff on U.S. scrap aluminum that Chinese officials imposed in retaliation for duties the Trump administration placed on foreign-made steel and aluminum in March has pushed down prices for mixed aluminum scrap by about 15% in the past month, to 60 cents a pound. That effectively wipes out the profit margin for processors and brokers that sell scrap aluminum to China.

"It hurts and it stings and it will continue to," said Randy Goodman, vice president for Greenland America Inc., an Atlanta-based scrap-metal trading company. "China has the ability to crank up the pressure in the scrap market."

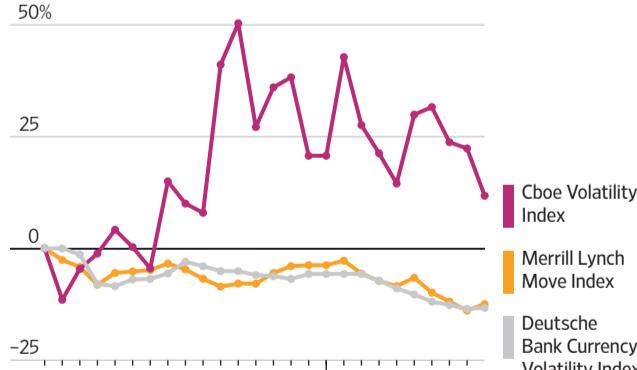
If China buys less scrap aluminum, U.S. dealers will likely try to sell more domestically to processors that melt scrap into new aluminum. That could drive down demand for raw aluminum from domestic smelters that have benefited the most from the Trump administration's 10% tariff.

But finding a new home in the U.S. for aluminum scrap dislocated from China will require aluminum processors to invest in more scrap-melting capacity, said Bruce Keizler, a vice president for SA Recycling LLC, a California-based processor and exporter of scrap aluminum to China.

Dislocation

The climb in volatility driven by recent headlines on trade has been largely focused on stock markets.

Three-month asset volatility indexes, change since March 8



Note: Data are as of Thursday.
Source: FactSet (bonds); Deutsche Bank (currency); Cboe (stocks)

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Currencies have been comparatively unmoved by geopolitical tensions. A currency exchange in Moscow this past week.

MARKETS

Continued from the prior page
dex into negative territory, from its highest levels in over seven years as recently as December.

Stock markets may also be more sensitive to headline news on trade because investor positioning in stocks is closer to extreme levels than in other markets, according to some investors.

Bank of America Merrill Lynch's regular fund manager survey showed investors in January were positioned most heavily in favor of stocks compared with bonds since 2014, and hedge-fund stock market exposure was at its highest

level since 2006.

"This is headline risk and volatility-driven removal of positions rather than a rational increase in the probability of trade wars," said James Athey, senior investment manager at Aberdeen Standard Investments.

Crude-oil prices have seen a greater increase in volatility over the past month than stocks or bonds, but analysts attribute the swings to rising geopolitical tension in the Middle East, rather than the trade dispute.

Unlike in stock markets, in which many analysts and investors have fretted about steep valuations, the fact that some major currencies are now closer to fair-value esti-

mates may have been a factor in their relative stability.

"The most traded currency pairs drive the overall volatility, which means euro-dollar and dollar-yen," said Kit Juckes, global macro strategist at Société Générale SA. "What we've seen in both is a move much closer to long-term fair value."

Meanwhile, for the government-bond market, the implications of a trade war on asset prices are less clear, some investors say. "There's a tension between the negative growth effects [which should suppress bond yields] and the inflation boosting effect [which should make them rise]," said Abi Oladimeji, chief investment officer at Thomas Miller Invest-

ment. "Balancing those two has been difficult."

Emerging-market stocks and bonds, which analysts have long argued would be particularly at risk in the event of a trade war due to their ties to the Chinese economy and sensitivity to global growth, have shown resilience during the recent turbulence.

As trade tensions mounted in March, emerging-market stocks drew inflows of \$7 billion, equivalent to 70% of total inflows to global stock funds, according to Institute of International Finance data. Meanwhile, cumulative flows into emerging-market stocks and bonds reached a high last week, according to Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

Continued from the prior page
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BUSINESS NEWS



A Lanvin shop in Paris, and, right, a Wolford plant in Austria. The two brands have attracted Chinese investors looking to capitalize on strong domestic demand.

Electric 'Hypercar' To Sell for Millions

BY JOHN D. STOLL

Pininfarina SpA has spent nine decades designing Ferraris, Cadillacs, Alfa Romeos and Maseratis. It now plans to build its own electric "hypercar" that only a sliver of the world's population can afford.

The storied Italian design firm will put a multimillion-dollar car on sale in 2020 as other brands—including **Porsche** and **Aston Martin**—flock to the electric-vehicle segment. Anand Mahindra, chairman of the company that owns Pininfarina, said the battery-powered car fits in a broader "sustainable luxury" market and will target buyers who tend to be collectors.

It isn't a sure bet. Pininfarina is a revered design house that dabbles in several disciplines, ranging from office buildings to fountain-beverage dispensers to video projectors. While it is most known for its automotive design work, the company will be wading into riskier territory of building cars.

Tesla Inc.'s struggle to ramp up output of its premium sports sedans has been notable.

Mr. Mahindra said Pininfarina's parent, India-based **Mahindra & Mahindra** Ltd., builds hundreds of cars a year and will buy batteries rather than copy Tesla's more vertical approach.

Mahindra & Mahindra bought Pininfarina earlier this decade, dishing out about €25 million, or roughly \$31 million, for control. The deal was aimed at boosting the Indian automotive, information-technology and tractor company's credentials.

In an interview, Mr. Mahindra indicated Pininfarina's car could carry a price tag of about \$2.5 million with production limited to double-digit volumes.

Chinese Wade Into Luxury Market

BY MATTHEW DALTON

PARIS—Lanvin, France's oldest surviving fashion house, is beset by plunging sales, mounting losses and management upheaval. That didn't deter Chinese conglomerate **Fosun International** Ltd. from paying €100 million (\$123 million) for a majority stake in the company earlier this year.

Chinese investors shopping for luxury companies appear ready to pay up—even if the brands are showing losses or stagnant revenue. Whether it's Swiss shoemaker Bally, French crystal maker Baccarat or Austrian lingerie company Wolford, many of Europe's high-end labels have been attracting investments, sometimes at premium prices, from Chinese firms.

For these investors, that is the price of admission to a sector still largely dominated by a select group of European families, according to people involved in the transactions.

China still lacks a roster of homegrown labels that can compete with the savvy of Louis Vuitton and Gucci. But China's manufacturing has

Glamour Seekers

Chinese consumers have become a huge market for luxury goods, prompting Chinese companies to invest in the sector.

Personal luxury-goods purchases by Chinese nationals*



gained sophistication as more fashion brands have shifted production to factories there.

These deals allow Chinese companies to acquire industry expertise that can be used to boost sales to Chinese consumers, who already account for a third of all global luxury-goods purchases.

Last year, **Gansu Gangtai**

didn't respond to a request for comment.

These high-end acquisitions can saddle Chinese investors with challenging turnaround projects in a sector where they generally have little experience with crucial functions like marketing, communications and stores.

Lanvin's financial troubles

were so deep that the fashion house was having trouble paying employees under its previous ownership, which included majority investor Shaw-Lan Wang, of Taiwan, according to people familiar with the company's situation. Lanvin lost \$22 million in 2016, the most recent year for which figures are available, and even more in 2017, these people said.

Fosun bought its controlling stake in February and in March dismissed the label's top designer, Olivier Lapidus, marking the most recent in a series of management shakeups at the label. In all, Lanvin has gone through three designers in three years, the kind of upheaval that can destroy the cachet of a couture brand.

Fosun and Lanvin didn't respond to requests for comment.

Fosun's other fashion brands include retailers Tom Tailor and Folli Follie, and a high-end Italian menswear label, Raffaele Caruso. When Fosun invested in Caruso in 2013, paying \$18 million for a 35% stake, it said the plan was to introduce the brand to luxury-crazed consumers in China.

Five years later, however, Caruso does almost no business in China. Fosun has paid little attention to the label as it has grappled with executive turnover in its own fashion group, a person close to Caruso said.

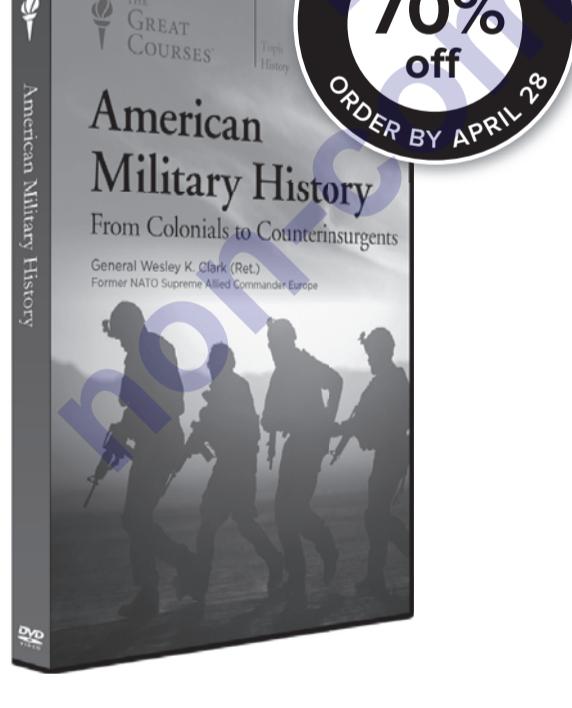
Caruso Chief Executive Marco Angeloni said the brand's presence in China is "very limited, at the moment but we are now drawing plans to expand Caruso's presence in this strategic market."

In November, Fosun injected more capital into Caruso and now owns a 75% stake, according to the person close to the company. Without that infusion and a restructuring of its bank debt, the brand risked running out of cash, this person said.

The decision to sell can present a dilemma for families that have built a luxury brand over decades. Some worry that a Chinese investor could start producing their brand more cheaply in China, diluting its heritage in Europe's ateliers. Yet some families decide the Chinese premium is incentive enough to sell, particularly for a business that has become a financial albatross.

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BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

Volkswagen CEO Sets His Course

New leader commits to 'evolution'—but at a faster pace to cut costs, boost brands

BY WILLIAM BOSTON

WOLFSBURG, Germany—A day after being elevated to the top job at Volkswagen AG, Chief Executive Herbert Diess pledged to accelerate the pace of change at the company.

Mr. Diess, a former BMW AG executive who joined Volkswagen three years ago, told reporters at the company's iconic VW brick-clad tower on Friday that he would make few changes to his predecessor's overall strategy—cut costs, boost productivity, and push aggressively into electric cars and new auto technology.

But he said he would turn up the pressure, move faster, and more closely align the company's big volume brands—Volkswagen, Skoda and Seat—to generate savings.

"This is an evolution and not a revolution," Mr. Diess, 59, told reporters. "We want

to create a slimmed down company with strong brands."

Mr. Diess succeeds Matthias Müller, a veteran Volkswagen executive who had been steering the company out of the diesel emissions-cheating crisis since 2015. Mr. Müller gained plaudits for returning the company to profits and pushing up its share price, but he fell out with Volkswagen's powerful family shareholders who felt that momentum had slowed.

With understated diplomacy, Mr. Diess appeared to be trying to soothe the concerns of the auto maker's global workforce of more than 640,000 people, unnerved by the unexpected changing of the guard in Wolfsburg, even as he made clear to investors that he intended to accelerate efforts to boost profits and investor returns.

Bernd Osterloh, the labor boss whose support is essential if Mr. Diess is to succeed, held out an olive branch to his onetime foe, saying in an open letter to the workforce on Friday: "We are convinced that, with Diess, we have the right man on board."



Herbert Diess held a press conference a day after his appointment.

KRISTJAN BOCS/BLOOMBERG NEWS

A year ago, Mr. Diess's future at Volkswagen was uncertain because of a conflict with Mr. Osterloh that had become public. The labor chief, one of the company's most influential directors, accused Mr. Diess of breaking promises and trying to use the diesel scandal as a pretext to slash jobs.

"Back then, we were not immediately on the same page," Mr. Osterloh wrote on Friday. "That issue was laid to rest a long time ago."

Mr. Diess, who was new to Volkswagen's culture in which labor has a strong voice in management, confessed that it took time for him to settle in.

"The labor representatives here are strong," Mr. Diess said. "I had to get used to that, but it also has its advantages."

Mr. Diess couldn't have become CEO without labor's votes on the board, where they hold half of the 20 seats.

The market appeared to back Mr. Diess's plan to reorganize the company's automotive brands into three distinct groups: mass-volume brands VW, Skoda and Seat, and light trucks; Audi premium-brand cars; and what the company calls superpremium brands like Porsche, Bentley, Lamborghini and Bugatti.

Shares in Volkswagen have risen nearly 8% since reports emerged earlier in the week that Mr. Diess would replace Mr. Müller as CEO.

"Volkswagen used to trade at a big, big discount, and I think Herbert Diess is really the CEO who will drive efficiency at Volkswagen, he will take the company to the next level," Arndt Ellinghorst, automotive analyst at Evercore ISI, a London-based brokerage, told CNBC's "Squawk Box Europe" Friday.

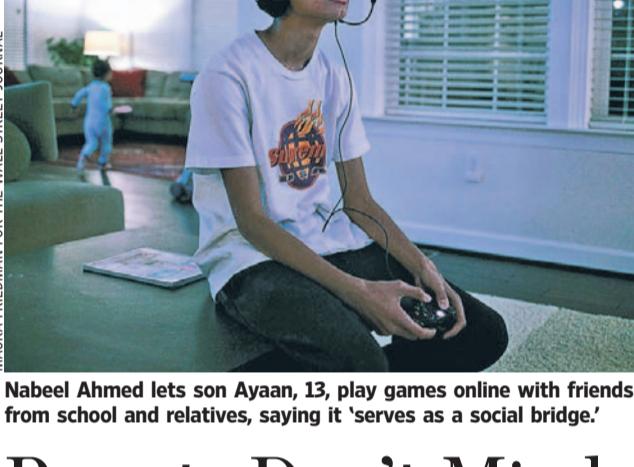
Ferro Sells His 25.4% Stake in Tronc

BY LUKAS I. ALPERT

Tronc Inc.'s largest shareholder, Michael Ferro, has agreed to sell his stake to a relative of the McCormick family that built the company's flagship newspaper, the Chicago Tribune, into a media powerhouse in the early 20th century, the company said.

A person close to Mr. Ferro said he was approached by a member of the McCormick family offering to buy out his 25.4% stake. Sargent McCormick, who is listed on the regulatory filing as the manager of McCormick Media, is a descendant of Robert R. McCormick, the longtime editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune. Mr. McCormick declined to comment.

He agreed to sell his 9.07 million shares for \$23 a piece, according to the filing, a premium to Tronc's closing price of \$17.15 a share on Friday.



Nabeel Ahmed lets son Ayaan, 13, play games online with friends from school and relatives, saying it 'serves as a social bridge.'

Parents Don't Mind Gamer Play Groups

BY SARAH E. NEEDLEMAN

When Lara Wechsler was a teenager, she used to spend hours gabbing with her friends on the phone. Now, she sees her 14-year-old son Shane doing the same thing—only instead of a phone, he is chatting through a videogame machine.

"I like that he's always talking to someone rather than playing on his own," said Ms. Wechsler, a 50-year-old court reporter in Brooklyn, N.Y., whose ninth-grader uses a headset to chat with gamers about school and sports while racking up kills.

For decades, parents worried videogames would transform their children into zombies spending hours alone with a controller in hand. These days, teens and tweens are obsessing more than ever over popular games, such as "Fortnite." But since many current games are online, where dozens of people can play simultaneously, children have social interactions, too.

That is changing some parents' perception of games from the lonely experience they remember growing up to social outlets.

Nabeel Ahmed lets his 13-year-old son Ayaan play games online only with friends from school and relatives. Since most of Ayaan's friends don't live in his neighborhood in a suburb of Washington, D.C., Mr. Ahmed said the arrangement makes both of them happy. "The online-gaming environment serves as a virtual social bridge," the 43-year-old marketing executive said.

Without it, Ayaan "wouldn't be socializing a whole lot with anyone, and that could potentially become a problem."

There can be hazards to in-game chitchat, such as bullying and exposure to harmful language. In addition, players can't always be sure someone they meet in a game is the person he or she claims to be.

"What's changed dramatically is kids today can play with total strangers," said Dr. Catherine Steiner-Adair, a clinical psychologist. "Many kids are playing with people they've never met."

Still, she said, voice communication is a more effective way for children to converse than typing out text messages. "Children are learning how to

Game Time

Average hours spent playing videogames per week by gamers ages 13 and up



Note: Across PC, console and mobile
Source: Nielsen

Truckers Vie for 'Last-Mile' Deliveries

BY JENNIFER SMITH

More big trucking companies are looking to cash in on home delivery of bulky items as consumers grow more comfortable shopping online for furniture and other goods too big for conventional parcel networks.

Ryder System Inc. is the latest operator to jump into the business, paying \$120 million this month to buy **MXD Group**, a logistics firm that specializes in "final mile" delivery of big items to consumers' doorsteps.

The deal extends Ryder's bid to move into areas beyond its well-known truck-leasing business, and reflects the growing attraction of a sector that has been transformed by e-commerce.

Shoppers accustomed to getting online purchases in days, not weeks, and tracking those packages, now look for similar service when they buy big items such as couches, washing machines and exercise equipment. Such objects often require installation or special handling, and may not fit in the highly automated

systems that carriers such as **United Parcel Service** Inc. and **FedEx** Corp. use to sort millions of packages each day.

That has drawn in large trucking operators who want to use their scale to lure large retailers as customers for home-delivery services.

Furniture is one of the fastest-growing segments of U.S. online retail, with **Amazon.com** Inc., **Wayfair** Inc. and other e-commerce firms competing for market share with big-box stores and furniture chains such as Crate and Barrel.

"Last-mile has taken off like crazy," says Daniel Sayne, director of sales at Fidelitone Inc., which delivers furniture for Amazon, Wayfair, and others. Newer entrants to the segment include Green Bay, Wis.-based Schneider National Inc., one of the largest U.S. truckload operators, as well as Richmond, Va.-based less-than-truckload carrier Estes Express Lines.

Home delivery poses big challenges for trucking companies, however.

Operators with business models built on delivering

goods by the pallet or truckload to industrial loading docks must send drivers on irregular routes down residential streets to hit specific delivery times. Workers may have to enter homes and take the time to install products.

"Home delivery is more finicky, more risk and more costly," said Paul Thompson,

Trucking operators use their scale to deliver online orders for big items.

national network of 109 e-commerce fulfillment facilities, including 21 cross-docking hubs. The carrier also inherits MXD's customers—retailers selling furniture and appliances online and by catalog—providing an opportunity for selling those companies other Ryder services.

"Customers that we are currently running distribution centers for, customers where we're doing delivery to retail stores, this is another piece of that puzzle," Ryder Chief Executive Robert Sanchez said in an interview.

Carriers that invest in the last-mile segment based on anticipated growth may have to wait for those bets to pay off, said Noël Perry, a transportation economist and principal at consulting firm Transport Futures.

"It's too early for this kind of thing to have the kind of growth or profitability that acquirers are expecting," said Mr. Perry. He estimates the final-mile market for bulky items, currently about \$3.7 billion to \$4 billion, will expand to about \$12 billion over the next decade.

BUSINESS WATCH

CABLE TV

Comcast to Bundle Netflix in Its Plans

Netflix Inc. and **Comcast** Corp., once bitter rivals, are more closely binding their fortunes together after a couple of years of detente.

The companies said Friday that Comcast will begin bundling Netflix with plans for cable TV, phone and internet starting this month. The integration effectively allows customers to pay for both Netflix and Comcast services on one bill, through Comcast.

The deal marks Netflix's first billing integration with a U.S. cable operator, a move that will make it easier for Comcast customers to sign up and pay for the streaming service as Netflix's U.S. market matures.

The pact also marks a milestone in a gradual shift in strategy for Comcast, the nation's largest cable company by subscribers, which for years viewed Netflix as a competitor.

Several years ago, Comcast sought to create its own Netflix competitor, Streampix. That service sputtered and failed to attract many subscribers.

—Shalini Ramachandran

GENERAL ELECTRIC

Company Restates Two Years of Results

General Electric Co. restated its financial results for the past two years to conform to newly adopted revenue recognition rules around its long-term service contracts.

GE's restated financial results come as the industrial giant is facing scrutiny about its accounting and facing a Securities and Exchange Commission probe into how it treats some of

its service contracts. The restatement cuts the value of the service contract assets by almost \$9 billion, but is separate from that inquiry and isn't related to accounting errors or other reporting problems, GE has said.

The required change to earnings per share was largely as expected and retained earnings were reduced by more than \$8 billion as of the end of 2018.

The new standard better matches the recognition of related revenue with the actual cash received, a mismatch that has been a target for critics of the company's accounting.

The changes won't alter expected future cash flows from the contracts or the company's financial projections.

GE is scheduled to report its first-quarter financial results on Friday.

—Thomas Gryta

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WEEKEND INVESTOR

TAX REPORT | By Laura Saunders

Love, Royals, Marriage and the IRS

 Dear Meghan,
Congratulations on finding your Prince Charming! I don't want to be the bad fairy at the festivities, but we need to have a serious talk about taxes.

Meghan, I know you lived as a U.S. citizen in Canada and may be aware of tax issues faced by the seven million or so Americans living abroad. And I know you're committed to Harry, because you've given up a lot since you two became serious, including your lucrative acting career and your lifestyle website.

But I don't think you know the tax torment many American expats face when they marry non-U.S. citizens, as you're about to do. Nearly every financial move they make, and other moves they don't think of as financial, raises a U.S. tax issue.

In your case, this means that if Queen Elizabeth II gives—or merely lends—you a tiara or a diamond bracelet, you may need to tell the Internal Revenue Service about it. Your share of the free rent for that cute cottage at Kensington Palace where you and Harry will live? Its value could be reportable to the IRS as well. If you have a credit or debit card tied to Harry's bank account and it has more than \$10,000, his account has to be reported to U.S. authorities.

To be sure, wearing the tiaras and living at the palace won't necessarily raise your U.S. tax bill. But the penalties for not making the proper reports to U.S. authorities are often severe and can be as much as half the total assets in an account.

"IRS agents are highly aware of these rules," says Dianne Mehany, a tax lawyer



Meghan Markle's marriage to Prince Harry has U.S. tax consequences tied to financial and other moves.

with Caplin & Drysdale who advises international private clients.

And you would actually owe tax on the value of benefits from assets that are held in a certain type of trust, at rates up to 37%. Lots of royal assets are held in trust, so Ms. Mehany thinks the royal family will need U.S. tax experts to comb through the trusts to deal with these issues.

Now, you may be wondering why the U.S. tax system intrudes so far into expats' lives. There are many reasons, but a big one is that the U.S., unlike most countries, taxes citizens on their world-wide income even if they live abroad. Therefore, almost no income is out-of-bounds.

Another is that U.S. tax laws on foreign income and assets are a crazy quilt of provisions that have accrued over the years, often in reaction to abuses.

"It's almost as if the government assumes that Amer-

icans abroad are guilty until proven innocent," says Philip Hodgen, a tax lawyer in Pasadena, Calif., who also advises international private clients.

These laws are also why gifts or loans of jewelry from the queen could present U.S. tax problems. Unless an exception applies, the fair-market value of loans or gifts to a U.S. citizen from a foreigner needs to be reported to the IRS when the total exceeds \$100,000 per giver annually.

If the queen provides benefits to you via Harry—such as a vacation at a castle—the IRS can attribute them to her.

Is this frightful complexity prompting you to consider renouncing your U.S. citizenship? Thousands of expats have done so since 2009, when revelations about U.S. citizens holding secret Swiss accounts prompted a crackdown by Congress and the IRS.

But a royal spokeswoman

told me you won't receive U.K. citizenship for "a number of years," so you will have to deal with the U.S. tax rules at least that long.

Renouncing U.S. citizenship also comes with a price. Renouncers who have more than \$2 million of assets, as you seem to have, owe an exit tax on their net capital gains in assets such as a house or stock portfolio, even if they don't sell the assets.

You would also owe tax on the amount in a traditional IRA at the rates imposed on ordinary income.

What's more, your name would be published on a list of renouncers.

Once you have given up U.S. citizenship, it's hard to get it again.

The upshot: You and Harry may soon feel the IRS is a third partner in your marriage. Well, marriage is always an adventure. Good luck and all happiness!

Yours sincerely,
Laura Saunders

INVEST

Continued from page B1
right now is something very tangible," he recalls saying: "Safety of principal, income and income growth, and the chance for big capital appreciation. Why try to find a new name? Let's just name it exactly what it does: safety, income and growth."

The success of SAFE's approach will take time to prove itself, says Mr. Sugarman. He predicts the company will "create significant value for shareholders in the long run, and that's what we should be judged on."

The long run is exactly what should matter in the stock market. Investors do have short attention spans, however, and "your ticker symbol is a free opportunity to tell your story and set yourself apart from the crowd," says Mr. Sugarman.

Should regulators pass judgment on whether a name like "Safety, Income & Growth Inc." or a ticker symbol like SAFE might lead some investors to believe that they can't lose money? Perhaps, but they don't.

Under a Securities and Exchange Commission rule, mutual funds can't have names that are misleading. So investment companies don't sell their wares under names like the Get Rich Quick Fund.

REITs and other companies, not to mention cryptocurrencies, are generally free to name themselves as they see fit. They can also pick pretty much any ticker symbol they like.

Ticker symbols began a century-and-a-half ago to feed the ticker machines that transmitted market prices. To prevent the stream of prices on the paper ticker tape from falling too far behind in reporting the trades, the ticker operators abbreviated stock names with a few letters. Originally, single-letter tickers were the most prestigious. Now, ETFs want tickers that spell out an evocative word. Many such

tickers are harmlessly amusing, like WOOD (the iShares Global Timber & Forestry ETF) or MOO (VanEck Vectors Agribusiness ETF).

Others, though, might seem to imply safety or durability, such as AOK (iShares Core Conservative Allocation ETF) or MINT (Pimco Enhanced Short Maturity Active ETF).

AOK, originally launched in 2008 under a different name and ticker, was redesigned in 2015 as part of a group of four funds. The other three funds' new tickers all began with the letters AO, but AOC (for Conservative) wasn't available at the time, so the firm chose AOK instead, says a spokeswoman for BlackRock Inc., which runs iShares.

No matter how much you like a business, a catchy name or ticker can still sway you.

A spokesman for Pimco declined to comment.

Although obscene four-letter words can't be used as tickers, stock exchanges generally don't impose other limits, and regulators don't police tickers.

Years ago, meeting with one of the largest asset-management firms in Europe, I discussed some research on how investors may be overly attracted to companies with familiar-sounding names or tickers. The firm's chief investment officer suddenly blanched. He had just realized that one of his favorite holdings had the same ticker as the firm's own initials.

No matter how much you like a business or have studied a strategy, a catchy name or ticker can still sway you.

So, after you've done the homework, reframe the problem: Change a company's name with words like Danger or Risk. Transform a positive ticker to PAIN or LOSS. If you still like it after that, buy it.

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WEEKEND INVESTOR

RETIREMENT REPORT | By Anne Tergesen

Plan Ahead to Protect Collectibles



Many retirees put their money where their passions are—by collecting. But whether you are a neophyte or have been at it for years, it is important to avoid common pitfalls.

According to a recent UBS survey, 25% of Americans with \$1 million or more to invest collect items including art, old movie posters and sports memorabilia. Most have spent 20 or more years amassing their collections, which they estimate represent 10% or more of their wealth, on average.

Still, many fail to protect and plan for their collections, said Michael Crook, head of ultrahigh net worth strategy at UBS. For example, 51% have never had their acquisitions appraised and 44% lack insurance. While 80% say they intend to leave their collections to heirs, only 35% of those who have inherited collections say they wanted them.

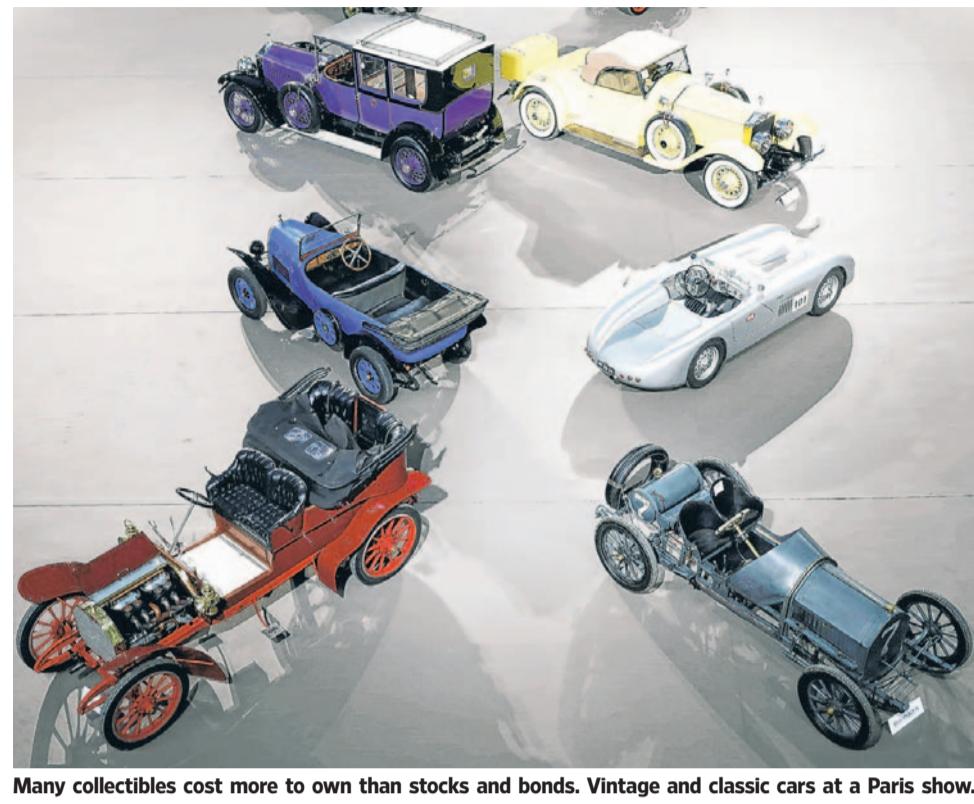
Here are three things collectors should keep in mind.

◆ Don't assume you will make money: Some financial advisers say investing a small percentage of a portfolio in collectibles can enhance returns or reduce risk. Other advisers and appraisers say this is a bad idea.

"I always cringe when I hear people say collectibles are a great investment," said Laura Woolley, an appraiser who specializes in entertainment memorabilia.

Many types of collectibles cost more to own than stocks, bonds and mutual funds. Wine collectors, for instance, usually pay for storage, insurance, shipping and appraisals.

Transaction fees can be high. At vintage car auctions, commissions often to-



Many collectibles cost more to own than stocks and bonds. Vintage and classic cars at a Paris show.

The two agreed Ms. Costa would take one box and help her aunt sell the rest on eBay.

James Kyle, a collector of colored gemstones, said he has "come to the realization that no one in my family has the same passion."

The financial adviser at Savant Capital Management in Rockford, Ill., said he may sell some of his collection. But first, he plans to compile a computerized inventory with photographs and sales receipts.

To get a preliminary idea of the value of a collectible, you can use Google or eBay.

But for something more precise, hire an appraiser—typical costs range from \$100 to \$500 an hour—from one of three professional groups: the Appraisers Association of America, the International Society of Appraisers, and the American Society of Appraisers, said Leila Dunbar, an appraiser of wine and sports and entertainment memorabilia.

An appraisal can help a collector divide possessions fairly among heirs. It can also help sellers assess offers from dealers or auction houses.

If an item is valuable, the family may come out ahead if the heirs sell it—not the collector. That is because the collector will owe up to a 28% federal tax on net profits (plus a 3.8% surtax in some cases.)

But if the heirs sell after the collector dies, they can increase the item's cost basis to fair market value on the date of death. This can eliminate much or all capital-gains tax due.

A "qualified" appraisal, which meets Internal Revenue Service requirements, can also establish the value of items you may wish to donate to a nonprofit in return for a tax deduction.

BlackRock CEO Gets 10% Rise In '17 Pay

BY SARAH KROUSE

The boss of the world's largest money manager made \$27.95 million for his 2017 performance, a rise of 10%, after a banner year for the firm.

BlackRock Inc. Chief Executive Laurence Fink was awarded a \$10 million cash bonus and stock compensation of \$17.05 million in 2017, according to a regulatory filing Friday. His base salary was \$900,000, the same as the prior year.

Last year was strong both for new client cash at BlackRock and the firm's stock as markets rose. It had record net inflows of \$367.3 billion, 67% of which went to its iShares exchange-traded fund business. BlackRock shares rose 35% in 2017 to \$513.71, breaking the \$500 mark for the first time.

The board cited the company's strong net inflows and financial performance under Mr. Fink's leadership, as well as his work on the firm's culture, technology and investment lineup.

Mr. Fink earned 195 times as much as the median BlackRock employee, the firm also disclosed Friday, based on the Securities and Exchange Commission's standards for disclosing executive pay. U.S. companies are this year laying out for the first time their "pay ratios"—the CEO's annual compensation divided by the median employee's pay. Disclosing that ratio, a requirement of the Dodd-Frank Act of 2010, gives companies flexibility in how they identify the median worker.

Publicly traded money managers broadly bumped up pay for their chief executives last year. Many of those firms got a boost in the period by rising markets that helped lift their assets under management.

tal 10% to 25% of the purchase price and are divided between buyer and seller, said Jonathan Klinger, vice president of public relations at Hagerty Group LLC, which sells insurance for classic cars.

Changes in taste can quickly destroy a collection's value. "Millennials don't want the antiques people have been collecting for generations," says Gayle Skluzacek, president of Abigail Hartmann Associates in New York and an appraiser of antiques, fine art and wine.

◆ Collect smart: Before starting or resuming a collection, get educated. "That's half the fun," said Ms. Skluzacek. "Going to art shows, reading biographies of artists, talking to dealers—that's the passion a good collector would have."

Thanks to the internet,

there are more resources for collectors than in the past, said Ms. Skluzacek, who recommends websites including liveauctioneers.com, winespectator.com, art-net.com and bookpricescurrent.com.

When buying collectibles, "condition is paramount," she added. "Buy the best condition you can possibly buy."

Other qualities to consider include historical significance and rarity. With books, for example, "buy first editions, not second," said Ms. Woolley.

Keep invoices, including receipts for framing and conserving art, to calculate the capital-gains tax you may owe if you sell for a profit, said Nancy Harrison, a senior fine art specialist at Fine Art Asset Management in New York.

You should also obtain

and authenticate documents, including titles, that prove an object's ownership history. (With art, a good resource is the Art Loss Register.)

Because fraud and theft can be problems, walk away if a seller balks at providing documentation, said Ms. Skluzacek.

◆ Plan for the future: It is important to plan for your collection.

Quentara Costa, a financial planner in North Andover, Mass., recommends having a conversation with heirs to ascertain their interest.

Ms. Costa said she recently had such a conversation with her aunt about the latter's Christopher Radko Christmas ornaments. "They are gorgeous," Ms. Costa said. "But I would have had enough for four Christmas trees."

I AM A VETERAN
AND THIS
IS MY VICTORY.

Wade Spann

"My victory was admitting I had a traumatic brain injury and getting help." While on patrol in Iraq, Wade's Humvee struck an IED. With DAV, he's found the support he needs to overcome his injuries. DAV helps veterans get the benefits they've earned—helping more than a million veterans each year in life-changing ways. Support more victories for veterans. Go to DAV.org.



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

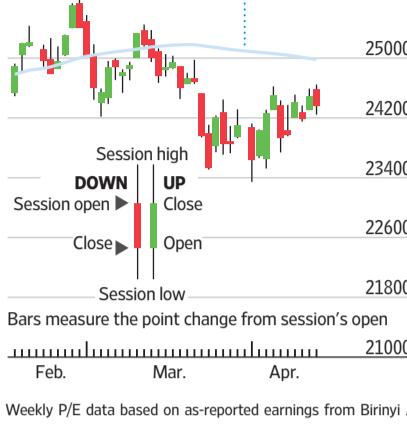
MARKETS DIGEST

Dow Jones Industrial Average

Last 25.59
Year ago 20.82
P/E estimate^{*} 16.52
Dividend yield 2.19
or 0.50%
All-time high 26616.71, 01/26/18

Trailing P/E ratio 24.92
P/E estimate^{*} 16.98
Dividend yield 1.95
or 0.29%
All-time high 2872.87, 01/26/18

Current divisor 0.14523396877348



S&P 500 Index

Last 2656.30
Year ago 24.92
P/E estimate^{*} 16.98
Dividend yield 1.95
or 0.29%
All-time high 2872.87, 01/26/18

Trailing P/E ratio 24.45
P/E estimate^{*} 18.25
Dividend yield 1.98
or 0.47%
All-time high 7588.32, 03/12/18



Nasdaq Composite Index

Last 7106.65
Year ago 25.75
P/E estimate^{*} 20.07
Dividend yield 1.04
or 1.11%
All-time high 7588.32, 03/12/18

Track the Markets: Winners and Losers

A look at how selected global stock indexes, bond ETFs, currencies and commodities performed around the world for the week.

Stock Index	Currency, vs U.S. dollar	Commodity, traded in U.S. [*]	ETF
Nymex Crude			8.59%
Nymex ULSD			7.27
S&P 500 Energy			6.02
Nymex Rbob Gasoline			5.66
S&P GSCI GFI			5.48
S&P 500 Information Tech			3.73
Lean Hogs			3.26
Hang Seng			3.23
Nasdaq 100			3.03
S&P 500 Materials			2.79
Nasdaq Composite			2.77
Russell 2000			2.39
S&P 500 Health Care			2.37
Dow Jones Transportation Average			2.20
S&P 500			1.99
Soybeans			1.98
S&P SmallCap 600			1.98
Comex Silver			1.81
Dow Jones Industrial Average			1.79
IPC All-Share			1.76
FTSE MIB			1.75
S&P BSE Sensex			1.68
DAX			1.64
S&P 500 Industrials			1.63
S&P MidCap 400			1.61
Australian dollar			1.40
Mexico peso			1.38
Canada dollar			1.35
Nymex Natural Gas			1.26
iShiBoxx\$HYCp			1.20
Euro Stoxx			1.18
Stoxx Europe 600			1.17
FTSE 100			1.13
CAC-40			1.08
UK pound			1.06
Kospi Composite			1.05
S&P 500 Financials Sector			1.03
Nikkei 225			0.98
Comex Gold			0.97
Shanghai Composite			0.89
IBEX 35			0.87
S&P/ASX 200			0.70
Norwegian Krone			0.68
S&P 500 Consumer Discr			0.51
Comex Copper			0.44
S&P/TSX Comp			0.44
Chinese Yuan			0.41
Euro area euro			0.39
S&P 500 Consumer Staples			0.24
iSh TIPS Bond			0.21
Indonesian Rupiah			0.07
Wheat			0.05
-0.05 VangdTotalIntlBd			
-0.06 iShNatlMuniBd			
-0.09 South Korean Won			
-0.09 iShiBoxx\$InvGrdCp			
-0.11 VangdTotalBd			
-0.14 iShJPMUSEmgBd			
-0.14 iSh 1-3 Treasury			
-0.17 iSh 20+ Treasury			
-0.22 WSJ Dollar Index			
-0.32 Swiss Franc			
-0.33 iSh 7-10 Treasury			
-0.40 Japan yen			
-0.45 Indian Rupee			
-0.56 S&P 500 Telecom Svcs			
-0.57 Sao Paulo Bovespa			
-0.58 Corn			
-0.96 South African Rand			
-1.22 S&P 500 Real Estate			
-1.35 S&P 500 Utilities			
-6.83 Russian Ruble			

Major U.S. Stock-Market Indexes

	High	Low	Close	Net chg	% chg	52-Week High	Low	% chg	YTD	3-yr ann.
Dow Jones										
Industrial Average	24646.45	24243.74	24360.14	-122.91	-0.50	26616.71	20404.49	19.1	-1.5	10.7
Transportation Avg	10467.65	10334.93	10369.49	9.08	0.09	11373.38	8783.74	16.8	-2.3	6.0
Utility Average	686.05	680.26	682.78	4.62	0.68	774.47	647.90	-2.9	-5.6	5.3
Total Stock Market	27787.98	27434.74	27544.31	-88.13	-0.32	29630.47	24125.20	14.2	-0.5	7.9
Barron's 400	720.32	711.68	713.82	-3.58	-0.50	757.37	610.89	16.8	0.4	7.3

Nasdaq Stock Market

	High	Low	Close	Net chg	% chg	52-Week High	Low	% chg	YTD	3-yr ann.
Nasdaq Composite	7183.62	7078.14	7106.65	-33.60	-0.47	7588.32	5805.15	22.4	2.9	12.5
Nasdaq 100	6703.31	6598.34	6628.34	-27.91	-0.42	7131.12	5353.59	23.8	3.6	14.6

S&P

	High	Low	Close	Net chg	% chg	52-Week High	Low	% chg	YTD	3-yr ann.
500 Index	2680.26	2645.05	2656.30	-7.69	-0.29	2872.87	2328.95	14.1	-0.6	8.3
MidCap 400	1898.75	1877.78	1883.86	-6.14	-0.32	1995.23	1681.04	12.1	-0.9	7.2
SmallCap 600	960.12	950.14	952.77	-3.75	-0.39	979.57	815.62	16.8	1.8	9.6

Other Indexes

	High	Low	Close	Net chg	% chg	52-Week High	Low	% chg	YTD	3-yr ann.
Russell 2000	1563.75	1545.06	1549.51	-7.82	-0.50	1610.71	1345.24	15.2	0.9	7.0
NYSE Composite	12640.88	12503.67	12546.05	-34.17	-0.27	13637.02	11324.53	10.8	-2.1	4.3
Value Line	555.88	550.24	551.73	-1.68	-0.30	589.69	503.24	8.5	-1.9	2.2
NYSE Arca Biotech	4680.26	4603.04	4624.11	-26.20	-0.56	4939.86	3480.26	31.2	9.5	4.1
NYSE Arca Pharma	535.48	530.15	532.67	-1.57	-0.29	593.12	498.46	5.4	-2.3	
KBW Bank	109.27	105.81	106.38	-2.22	-2.05	116.52	88.02	20.9	-0.3	13.2</b

MARKET DATA

Futures Contracts

Metal & Petroleum Futures

Contract Open High hilo Low Settle Chg interest

Copper-High (CMX)-25,000 lbs.; \$ per lb.

April 3,0645 3,0675 3,0600 3,0675 0.0075 1,040

May 3,0620 3,0925 3,0525 3,0710 0.0075 85,873

Gold (CMX)-100 troy oz.; \$ per troy oz.

April 1335.90 1346.00 1335.90 1344.80 6.40 1,339

June 1337.60 1350.30 1335.50 1347.90 6.00 387,919

Aug 1345.30 1356.30 1341.70 1354.10 6.10 49,598

Oct 1353.90 1361.80 1349.00 1360.30 6.20 8,349

Dec 1358.30 1369.00 1356.00 1366.90 6.20 52,773

Feb'19 1368.30 1373.60 1367.50 1373.30 6.20 2,593

Palladium (NYM)-50 troy oz.; \$ per troy oz.

June 958.45 984.35 956.80 980.95 21.80 20,510

Sept 952.50 979.65 952.00 976.05 21.80 2,696

Platinum (NYM)-50 troy oz.; \$ per troy oz.

May 929.60 930.60 929.60 929.70 -1.70 27

July 931.40 937.80 930.70 933.10 -1.70 71,356

Silver (CMX)-5,000 troy oz.; \$ per troy oz.

April 16,615 16,615 16,600 16,628 0.185 216

May 16,460 16,680 16,445 16,658 0.185 108,720

Crude Oil, Light Sweet (NYM)-1,000 bbls.; \$ per bbl.

May 67.15 67.76 ▲ 66.70 67.39 0.32 218,424

June 67.02 67.63 ▲ 66.59 67.33 0.38 478,931

July 66.64 67.26 ▲ 66.22 67.00 0.42 216,080

Sept 65.31 66.02 ▲ 65.02 65.85 0.45 213,411

Dec 63.65 64.27 ▲ 63.35 64.13 0.41 262,905

Dec'19 58.06 58.35 57.71 58.23 0.18 144,104

NY Harbor ULSD (NYM)-42,000 gal.; \$ per gal.

May 2,0841 2,1032 2,0630 2,1002 0.0164 85,227

June 2,0759 2,0931 2,0561 2,0905 0.0149 121,577

Gasoline-NY RBOB (NYM)-42,000 gal.; \$ per gal.

May 2,0594 2,0707 2,0360 2,0654 0.0108 96,440

June 2,0609 2,0731 2,0383 2,0686 0.0115 120,308

Natural Gas (NYM)-10,000 MMBtu.; \$ per MMBtu.

May 2,688 2,760 2,674 2,735 0.049 203,439

June 2,720 2,787 2,706 2,764 0.047 238,457

July 2,762 2,828 2,749 2,805 0.044 182,999

Sept 2,775 2,833 2,762 2,813 0.037 144,666

Oct 2,792 2,845 2,778 2,826 0.036 122,901

April'19 2,673 2,694 2,665 2,673 -0.006 80,888

Agriculture Futures**Corn (CBT)**-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.

May 388.50 389.25 385.00 386.25 -2.50 407,345

July 396.75 397.50 393.25 394.50 -2.75 656,338

Oats (CBT)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.

May 239.00 239.25 233.00 234.25 -3.25 3,302

July 245.00 245.25 239.00 241.50 -2.25 2,589

Soybeans (CBT)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.

May 1060.25 1067.25 1051.50 1054.25 -6.50 244,173

July 1071.00 1078.00 1062.50 1065.00 -6.75 382,433

Soybean Meal (CBT)-100 tons; \$ per ton.

May 383.40 387.60 380.20 382.80 -60 103,049

July 387.20 391.30 384.10 386.80 -60 217,381

Soybean Oil (CBT)-60,000 lbs.; cents per lb.

May 31.68 31.81 31.44 31.48 -15 124,777

July 31.94 32.08 31.70 31.75 -15 202,663

Rough Rice (CBT)-2,000 cwt.; \$ per cwt.

May 1290.00 1313.50 ▲ 128.00 1311.00 22.50 3,942

July 1289.00 1312.00 ▲ 128.00 1309.00 16.50 3,006

Wheat (CBT)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.

May 480.25 481.25 469.50 472.50 -8.50 115,853

July 496.75 498.50 486.25 489.25 -9.00 185,829

Wheat (KCC)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.

May 507.00 507.00 490.75 495.75 -11.75 58,600

July 525.75 525.75 509.75 515.00 -11.00 108,024

Wheat (MPLS)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.

May 621.75 622.25 609.25 617.00 -6.00 22,376

July 631.75 632.50 619.75 626.75 -5.75 24,838

Cattle-Feeder (CBT)-50,000 lbs.; cents per lb.

April 139,375 139,975 138,100 139,375 .500 3,868

Aug 145,600 146,225 144,225 145,100 .150 18,521

Cattle-Live (CBT)-40,000 lbs.; cents per lb.

April 116,250 117,075 115,850 116,550 .800 14,411

June 104,050 104,375 103,225 103,650 -.050 154,504

Corn (CBT)-3,000,000 pts; of 100%
April 98,1025 98,1025 98,1025 98,1025 -.0050 4,095**Eurodollar (CBT)**-\$1,000,000; pts of 100%
April 97,6500 97,6500 ▼ 97,6450 97,6450 -.0050 283,534

June 97,6350 97,6400 ▼ 97,6200 97,6200 -.0100 1,781,791

Interest Rate Futures**Treasury Bonds (CBT)**-\$100,000; pts 32nds of 100%
June 145,090 145,250 145,060 145,130 1.0 789,755

Sept 144,150 144,280 144,150 144,180 2.0 2,259

Treasury Notes (CBT)-\$100,000; pts 32nds of 100%
June 120,150 120,200 120,110 120,155 .5 3,530,380

Sept 120,075 120,095 120,020 120,070 .5 2,793

5 Yr. Treasury Notes (CBT)-\$100,000; pts 32nds of 100%
June 114,000 114,027 113,285 113,307 -.7 3,487,654**2 Yr. Treasury Notes (CBT)**-\$100,000; pts 32nds of 100%
Sept 106,002 106,002 105,315 105,305 -.7 1,004**30 Day Federal Funds (CBT)**-\$5,000,000; 100- daily avg.
April 98,319 98,315 98,313 98,315 ... 343,198

Jan'19 97,820 97,830 97,810 97,810 -.010 309,445

10 Yr. Del. Int. Rate Swaps (CBT)-\$100,000; pts 32nds of 100%
June 94,125 94,266 94,031 94,172 .047 29,827**1 Month Libor (CBM)**-\$3,000,000; pts of 100%
April 98,1025 98,1025 98,1025 98,1025 -.0050 4,095**Eurodollar (CBM)**-\$1,000,000; pts of 100%
April 97,6500 97,6500 ▼ 97,6450 97,6450 -.0050 283,534

June 97,6350 97,6400 ▼ 97,6200 97,6200 -.0100 1,781,791

Currency Futures**Japanese Yen (CME)**-\$12,500,000; \$ per 100Y
April 9318 .9321 9286 .9310 -.0018 351

June 9361 .9365 9315 .9347 -.0019 147,581

Canadian Dollar (CME) CAD 100,000; \$ per CAD
April .7943 .7960 .7932 .7930 -.0018 226

June .7956 .7977 .7932 .7930 -.0018 123,716

British Pound (CME) £62,500; \$ per £
April 1,4230 1,4286 1,4230 1,4238 .0009 728

June 1,4276 1,4335 1,4259 1,4275 .0010 191,723

Swiss Franc (CME) CHF 125,000; \$ per CHF
June 1,0449 1,0472 1,0428 1,0447 -.0001 54,218**Australian Dollar (CME)** AUD 100,000; \$ per AUD
April 1,7767 .7802 .7762 .7760 .0006 899

May 1,7765 .7808 .7761 .7760 .0004 427

June .7759 .7811 .7754 .7760 .0005 101,178

Interest Rate Futures**Japanese Yen (CME)** ¥12,500,000; \$ per 100Y
April 9318 .9321 9286 .9310 -.0018 351

June 9361 .9365 9315 .9347 -.0019 147,581

Canadian Dollar (CME) CAD 100,000; \$ per CAD
April .7943 .7960 .7932 .7930 -.0018 226

June .7956 .7977 .7932 .7930 -.0018 123,716

British Pound (CME) £62,500; \$ per £
April 1,4230 1,4286 1,4230 1,4238 .0009 728

June 1,4276 1,4335 1,4259 1,4275 .0010 191,723

BIGGEST 1,000 STOCKS

How to Read the Stock Tables

The following explanations apply to NYSE Arca, NYSE MKT and Nasdaq Stock Market listed securities. Prices are composite quotations that include primary market trades as well as trades reported by Nasdaq OMX BXSM (formerly Boston), Chicago Stock Exchange, CBOE, National Stock Exchange, ISE and BATS. The list comprises the 1,000 largest companies based on market capitalization. Underlined quotations are those stocks with large changes in volume compared with their 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:

- i**-New 52-week high.
- 1**-New 52-week low.
- dd**-Indicates loss in the most recent four quarters.
- q**-Temporary exemption from Nasdaq requirements.
- FD**-First day of trading.
- t**-NYSE bankruptcy.

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

- h**-Does not meet continued listing standards.
- v**-Trading limited by primary market.
- w**-In bankruptcy or receivership or being reorganized under the Bankruptcy Code, or securities assumed by such companies.

Friday, April 13, 2018

YTD 52-Week % Chg H Lo Stock Yld Sym % PE Last Net Chg

A B C

-14.77 28.67 21.92 ABB ABB 3.6 22 22.86 0.02 -12.51 84 60.14 CVS Health

... 13.02 7.36 ADT ADT ... 8.99 -0.11 -17.24 59.75 21.40 CabotOil

-3.04 39.90 30.15 AECOM AECM ... 14 36.02 -0.04 -10.81 46 31.20 CadenceDesign

4.71 12.05 9.87 AES AES 4.6 11 13.44 0.05 -13.04 14.50 9.45 CaesarsEnt

1.53 45.88 36.41 Aflac AFL 4.7 8 44.56 -0.06 -11.76 59.14 40.99 CampbellSoup

-7.83 22.34 17.84 AGNC Invit AGNC 11.6 9 18.61 -0.01 -6.97 13.48 10.14 FordMotor

30.11 15.77 10.24 ANGI Homeservs ANSS ... 13 16.10 -0.01 -27.81 56.53 35.44 Fortinet

6.36 171.92 104.66 Ansys ANSS ... 13 16.10 -0.01 -9.24 38.24 31.41 Fortis

18.31 21.16 126.03 ASML ASML 0.8 ... 20.65 -0.05 -3.35 80.31 59.88 FortisBHome

-9.62 40.56 32.55 AT&T T 5.7 35 14.14 -0.06 -14.74 73.62 56.59 FortisBHome

2.49 64.60 42.31 AbbottLabs ABT 1.917 58.49 -0.34 -11.14 18.66 64.90 Franco-Nevad

-5.05 125.86 63.12 AbbVieAbbV BBRV 4.2 28 91.83 -0.29 -5.75 20.25 11.05 FreeportMcM

58.34 204.28 117.36 Abomed ABMD ... 150 296.74 -0.04 -3.23 47.65 31.20 Gap

-1.93 165.58 114.88 Accenture ACN 18.6 26 159.13 -0.04 -10.33 39.23 32.51 Gaming&Leisure

-4.06 79.63 49.40 AmericanBvz ABVZ 0.5 14 19.49 -0.04 -7.03 30.93 27.00 GeneralDynamics

-17.08 88.66 74.21 AmericanDtsys ADDYE ... 20 17 65.26 -0.95 -2.22 18.80 17.93 GeneralMotors

27.82 20.32 124.91 AmericanSystems ADDYE ... 60 224.05 -0.06 -3.77 40.67 30.98 GeneralMotors

-3.44 151.72 78.61 AmericanAuto AAMC 0.7 14 19.49 -0.06 -2.08 18.73 17.93 Generali

-3.49 15.65 13.42 AmericanDevices AMD 3.9 33 99.93 -0.15 -1.39 81.91 54.66 GeneralHealth

14.81 7.53 5.68 AmericanEng AMED 3.1 17 17.47 -0.05 -12.29 119.59 92.09 Carlisle

-2.40 64.21 42.31 AbbottLabs ABT 5.7 35 14.14 -0.05 -11.29 19.59 92.09 Carlisle

-5.05 125.86 63.12 AbbVieAbbV BBRV 4.2 28 91.83 -0.29 -3.22 47.65 31.20 FranklinRsrcs

-5.75 20.25 11.05 FreeportMcM FMS 1.0 22 50.86 -0.01 -3.22 57.94 42.46 Fresenius

YTD % Chg

52-Week % Chg

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Yld

Sym

% PE

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Net Chg

YTD % Chg

52-Week % Chg

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Net Chg

YTD % Chg

52-Week % Chg

Lo Stock

BANKING & FINANCE

FINANCE WATCH

ANT FINANCIAL

Investors From U.S.
Pile Into Company

Investors outside China are helping to drive up the valuation of billionaire Jack Ma's financial-technology business.

U.S.-based private-equity firms General Atlantic and Silver Lake are planning to invest in Hangzhou-based **Ant Financial Services Group**, according to people familiar with the matter.

Ant, one of China's most valuable closely held companies, is in the process of raising at least \$9 billion from domestic and foreign investors, The Wall Street Journal reported this past week.

A capital raising of that magnitude would represent one of the single-largest private fund raisings by any company in years.

Other global investors in talks to buy shares of Ant or considering investments include hedge fund **Tiger Global Management** LLC and private-equity firm **Warburg Pincus** LLC, people familiar with the discussions said.

It isn't clear how much capital the firms are likely to commit. Some investors are looking

to buy at least \$200 million of the shares, according to a person familiar with the talks.

Private-equity firms have increasingly been taking stakes in late-stage startups as companies wait longer to go public.

The latest funding round could value Ant—a business carved out of Mr. Ma's e-commerce company Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. seven years ago—at close to \$150 billion, The Journal has reported. That would make Ant the world's most valuable closely held company.

—Julie Steinberg
and Miriam Gottfried

LSE GROUP

Goldman Veteran
To Become CEO

London Stock Exchange Group PLC appointed a 20-year veteran of Goldman Sachs Group Inc. as its new chief executive, filling a crucial leadership gap following the abrupt departure of former CEO Xavier Rolet.

David Schwimmer, who most recently headed the U.S. investment bank's market-structure group and global metals and mining investment-banking operation, is set to join LSE on Aug.

1, when he will also join the board.

The 49-year-old American takes the reins at a position of strength for LSE. Its stock price has risen steadily over the past five years, as earnings benefited from Mr. Rolet's bets on derivatives clearing and the growth of index investing. The challenge now is to prove he can maintain that momentum following disappointment among some major shareholders over his predecessor's departure.

The hiring of a seasoned investment banker signals that deal making could be a priority. Mr. Schwimmer is identified as one of the architects of the 2005 merger between New York Stock Exchange and Archipelago Group.

LSE recently missed out on a big opportunity to expand into the vast market for trading U.S. government debt after Chicago-based CME Group Inc. agreed last month to buy NEX Group PLC for about \$5.4 billion.

Mr. Schwimmer said LSE "has multiple opportunities for further attractive growth across its market leading capital formation, information services and post-trade business."

—Ben Dummett

BITCOIN

Exchange Accuses
Executive of Theft

Indian cryptocurrency exchange Coinsecure said some \$3 million in bitcoin has gone missing from a digital wallet that held its users' funds, and accused a top company official of involvement in the disappearance.

Coinsecure said its system hadn't been hacked, but that the losses had occurred as the company was extracting bitcoin to distribute to customers. "We regret to inform you that our bitcoin funds have been exposed and seem to have been siphoned out to an address that is outside our control," read a statement on Coinsecure's website.

In a letter posted on the website and addressed to police, Coinsecure Chief Executive Mohit Kalra accused chief scientific officer Amitabh Saxena of having a "role to play" in the incident, without giving further details. Mr. Kalra and Mr. Saxena were the only holders of keys to the company's wallet, the letter said. Attempts to contact Mr. Saxena were unsuccessful.

—Corinne Abrams

'Dr. Doom' Is Still
Basking in His Fame

By AMRITH RAMKUMAR

A decade after the financial crisis, The Wall Street Journal has checked in on dozens of the bankers, government officials, chief executives, hedge-fund managers and others from that period to find out what they are doing now. Today, we spotlight economist Nouriel Roubini and analyst Meredith Whitney.

Nouriel Roubini continues to delight in the celebrity status he achieved as a rare voice warning of a housing-market collapse before the 2008 financial meltdown.

He wrote a well-received book, titled "Crisis Economics." He has been in high demand on the lecture circuit. And he has amassed nearly 450,000 Twitter followers; a total, he says, that is second only to Paul Krugman among economists.

"Every day, someone on the street stops and says, 'Can I take a picture with you?'" the 60-year-old said in an interview.

Before the financial crisis, the New York University professor was little known outside academic circles. Nearly always clad in a black suit, Mr. Roubini was dubbed "Dr. Doom" after an International Monetary Fund event in September 2006, where he said a slowdown in the U.S. housing market could lead to a global recession. At a 2007 panel in Davos, he argued that a rosy "Goldilocks" economic environment was "threatened by three ugly bears"—a meltdown in the subprime-mortgage



Nouriel Roubini inside his home

market, rising oil prices, and an end to cheap credit.

As the credit crisis unfolded in 2008, the Harvard Ph.D. won sudden acclaim as a financial soothsayer. Global investors began looking to his forecasts for clues about the direction of the stock market, and tabloids luxuriated in his social gatherings.

After the crisis, Mr. Roubini stuck with his bearish views, failing to foresee the economic rebound and the stock-market rally that followed. In August 2011, he told The Wall Street Journal that the risk of a global recession was at least 50%. By 2014, he was more bullish.

Despite his sunnier view on the economy, he still frets that a slowdown in China or faster-than-expected rise in inflation could change his outlook. "If there will be another crisis, I would be the first one to warn about it," Mr. Roubini said.

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION (East) Nashik
NOTICE FOR HYBRID ANNUITY MODE [HAM] (ONLINE) TENDER
E-Tender Notice No. 13 / For 2017-2018 (1st ReCall)
NOTICE INVITING BID

E-Mail: eastnashik.ee@mahapwd.com Telephone No.: 0253-2317734
Subject: Hybrid Annuity Mode, Package No. NSK - 55

1. The Government of Maharashtra had entrusted to the Authority the development, Maintenance and Management of State Highways and Major District Roads of State of Maharashtra. The Authority had resolved to augment the existing roads in the State of Maharashtra by improvement thereof (The "Project") on "Hybrid Annuity" basis and has decided to carry out the bidding process for selection of (a private entity) as the Bidder to whom the Project may be awarded.

Brief particulars of the Project are as follows:-

Sr. No.	Hybrid Annuity Mode Package No.	Name of Work	Length (in Km)	Estimated Project Cost (Rs. in Crores)
1)	NSK-55	Improvement to Nampu- Satana-Kalwan- Vani- Pimpalgao- Niphad- Sinnar Road SH-27 Km 98/300 to 154/00 Tal- Satana, Kalwan, Dindori, Niphad, Sinnar District- Nashik (Pimpalgao to Sinnar) & Improvement to Niphad-Khadak- Malegaon- Bhoyegaon- Ganur- Chandwad Road MDR- 64 km 0/0 to 35/200 Tal- Chandwad / Niphad Dist- Nashik Taluka Place, Niphad Taluka Place- Chandwad	89.81	202.04

2. All information of e-tendering is available on the following website/ Notice Board.

i)<http://www.mahapwd.com> (informatory Notice)

ii)<http://mahatenders.gov.in>

3. The complete bid document can be viewed / downloaded from e-procurement portal from **10.04.2018 to 27.04.2018 (upto 17.45 Hrs. IST)** Bid must be submitted online only.

4. The e-procurement portal is given below.

<http://mahatenders.gov.in>

5. e-Tender Schedule is as given below.

Sr. No.	Event Description	Date
1)	Invitation of RFP (NIT) (Download period of online tender)	10.04.2018 at 10.00 Hrs. to 27.04.2018 at 17.45 Hrs.
2)	Bid Lock	27.04.2018 at 17.45 Hrs.

3)	Physical Submission of Bid Security / POA etc (as per clause 2.11.2 of RFP)	At any of the following places within 72 Hrs. after Bid Lock at office of the 1. Chief Engineer, P. W. Region, Bandhkan Bhavan Trimbak Road, Nashik.
4)	Opening of Technical Bids	On Dt. 03.05.2018 at 11.30 Hrs. in the office of the Superintending Engineer, Public Works Circle, Nashik.

5)	Declaration of Eligible / Qualified Bidders	11.05.2018
6)	Opening of Financial Bids	11.05.2018 from 11.30 Hrs. To 17.45 Hrs.

6. Note:-

a) Bid submitted through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, Bid Security, proof of online payment of cost of bid document, Power of Attorney and Joint Bidding Agreement etc. as specified in Clause 2.11.2 of the RFP shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before **02.05.2018 (at 17.00 am. IST)**. Please note that the Public Works Department reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the Bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

b) Other terms and Conditions are detailed in online e tender form. Right to reject any or all online bid of work, without assigning any reason thereof, is reserved with department.

Executive Engineer,

Public Works Division (East), Nashik

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE OF SALE AND PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the Jefferson County Housing Authority (Alabama) (the "Authority") for the purchase of not to exceed \$1,250,000 aggregate principal amount of the Authority's Promissory Note (the "Note"). The bids will be received in sealed envelopes hand delivered to the Authority at 3700 Industrial Parkway, Birmingham, Alabama 35217, at or before 10:00 a.m., Central Time on April 23, 2018. A public hearing will be held thereafter.

The Note will be dated as of the date of its initial delivery and will bear tax exempt interest from that date payable on the first day of each January and July thereafter until maturity. Principal payments will be due annually commencing on January 1, 2019. The Note will mature on January 1, 2024. No paying agent or trustee will be employed with respect to the Note. Principal of and interest on the Note will be paid to the holder of the Note directly by the Authority.

The Note will be issued as a single Note in the name of the beneficial owner and will not be in book-entry form. No CUSIP number will be available. The Note will not be subject to division.

No official statement will be prepared. Each bidder must be an "Accredited Investor" as defined in Regulation D promulgated by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Act of 1933 (the "1933 Act").

THE NOTE MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED, SOLD, OFFERED FOR SALE, PLEDGED OR HYPOTHECATED UNLESS IT IS AT THE TIME REGISTERED UNDER THE 1933 ACT OR THE SALE OR OTHER TRANSFER OR DISPOSITION THEREOF IS MADE PURSUANT TO AN EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION PROVIDED BY THE 1933 ACT OR THE RULES AND REGULATIONS THEREUNDER.

The Note will be secured by Public Housing Capital Funds, i.e., funds appropriated by Congress and granted by HUD to the Authority pursuant to capital fund programs, i.e., programs authorized by Section 9(c) of the U.S. Housing Act. The Note is subject to redemption or prepayment as described in the Loan Agreement.

Each bid must be on the Official Bid Form, a copy of which is available from the Authority upon written request. Only one interest rate will be permitted. No discount, premium or fee will be permitted. No bid will be considered for less than all the Note. The Authority reserves the right to waive any irregularities in the bids for the Note. No conditional bid will be considered except that all bids will be considered as having been conditioned upon the provisions of this notice.

Each bid must be accompanied by a bank cashier's check in the amount of \$5,000 payable to the order of the Authority and drawn on a bank having membership in the Federal Reserve System. No interest will be allowed on any such check. The checks will be cashed at the award of the Note. The check of the successful bidder will be retained (unless) by the Authority as security for the performance of its bid and will be applied on the purchase price of the Note or returned to the successful bidder at the closing, at the option of the Authority, except that in the event the successful bidder fails to comply with the terms of its bid, such check may be cashed and the proceeds therfrom retained by the Authority as full liquidated damages.

The Note will be delivered in Birmingham, Alabama, against payment therefor. In Federal or other funds immediately available to the Authority. The date of delivery is expected to be in approximately summer of 2018 after HUD review; provided however, no assurance can be given that the requisite HUD approval will be given, in which case the refinancing would not occur.

At its sole discretion, the Authority may waive any condition stated herein and may reject bids.

Copies of the Note and the Loan Agreement in substantially final form are available from the Authority upon written request. The documents are not subject to change or negotiation.

Further inquiries may be sent to the Authority at 3700 Industrial Parkway, Birmingham, Alabama 35217, Attention: Executive Director.

Jefferson County Housing Authority,
Ken Vaughn, Executive Director

NOTICE OF SALE AND PUBLIC HEARING

ELT10548-L. On 15.05.2017, the following person whose last domicile was in Zurich passed away:

Herbert Richard Axelrod, born on 07.06.1927 in Bayonne (New Jersey, USA), citizen of the United States of America and of Austria, son of Aaron Axelrod and of Edith nee Gurwitz

The following persons are summoned by public notice to report for succession:

1. any possible descendants of Todd Michael Axelrod, son of Herbert Richard Axelrod and of Ruth nee Levy, born on 25 October 1949 in Brooklyn (New York, USA), deceased on 30 June 2003 in Boynton Beach (Florida, USA).

2. any other possible descendants of the testator respectively their possible descendants.

The summoned persons are herewith requested to notify the signing authority within one year as of the publication of this public notice to heirs. In doing so, they have to submit appropriate documents which confirm their quality as heirs; otherwise they will be left out of consideration concerning the succession.

Notifications have to be effected in German (or French, English or Italian).

District Court of Zurich
Single sitting Judge Court for succession matters
P.O. Box
CH-8036 Zurich

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BANKING & MARKETS

Wells Gets Another Blow

Quarterly earnings increase, but possible settlement could mean they will be restated

By EMILY GLAZER

Wells Fargo & Co. said its first-quarter profit rose but that it may need to restate results given a looming regulatory settlement, a further sign the bank is struggling to move past a spate of investigations across its businesses.

The bank on Friday said the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency offered to resolve investigations related to the bank's risk management for \$1 billion.

The disclosure is the latest blow to Wells Fargo, which in February was slapped by the Federal Reserve with an unprecedented sanction for failing to have proper risk controls. The Fed, in an enforcement action, barred the bank from growing past the \$1.95 trillion in assets it had at the end of 2017.

Finance chief John Shrewsbury said Friday that the Fed's asset cap is likely to increase in future quarters. Yet Wells Fargo's latest results weren't enough to dispel investors' fears about the bank's ability to grow, as well as to contain costs.

Wells Fargo reported profit of \$5.94 billion, or \$1.12 a share, topping analysts' expectations of \$1.06 a share.

But revenue dropped to \$21.9 billion, down nearly 2% from a year earlier. And total loans of \$947.3 billion de-

clined compared with the prior quarter and from a year earlier.

The bank's return on equity was 12.37%, down from the prior quarter and notching only a slight improvement from a year ago. That was a marked contrast to improvements at both JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Citigroup Inc., which also reported results Friday.

In response, Wells Fargo's stock fell \$1.81, or 3.4%, to \$50.89 on Friday.

The noise around regulatory issues masked "fundamental weakness" in Wells Fargo's underlying business, Raymond James analyst David J. Long wrote in a research note.

Wells Fargo, run since late 2016 by Chief Executive Timothy Sloan, had previously been one of the most consistent big banks at growing earnings and revenue. But its shares more recently have underperformed those of its peers.

In September 2016, the San Francisco-based bank agreed to a \$185 million settlement over opening as many as 3.5 million accounts with fictitious or unauthorized information.

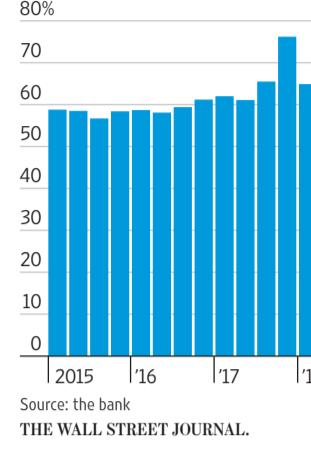
Since then, the bank has disclosed wealth-management problems and consumer-lending issues around improper auto-lending charges and mortgage fees, all of which regulators are probing.

Wells Fargo has said it plans to refund around \$145 million to hundreds of thousands of consumers related to the bank's consumer-lending problems.

The potential OCC and CFPB settlement that Wells

Cost Pressure

Wells Fargo's efficiency ratio, which shows the bank's expenses as a percentage of revenue



Source: the bank

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Fargo referenced Friday is related to those problems.

The bank said it is "unable to predict the final resolution" of that matter and "cannot reasonably estimate our related loss contingency."

Analysts pressed for more details on the impact of the looming settlement. Mr. Sloan said on the bank's earnings call that it may have more updates in its quarterly filing, which typically lands several weeks after earnings.

But he wouldn't say whether Wells Fargo had included any provisioning for the potential settlement in its first-quarter results.

Mr. Sloan added that it would take more time before the bank can move past its problems.

"In terms of declaring victory and walking ahead, we're not quite there yet," he said.

One area where that remains apparent: expenses, which remain high in part be-

cause of the bank's need to address regulatory and business issues.

Wells Fargo said noninterest expense rose 3% from a year earlier to \$14.2 billion in the quarter.

Expenses as a share of revenue in the first quarter were 64.9%, above the target of 60% to 61% set at an investor presentation in May 2017. Mr. Shrewsbury said the bank's so-called efficiency ratio will likely stay above 59% for the rest of 2018.

Meanwhile, the bank has yet to see a big benefit from rising interest rates.

Net interest income declined 1% from a year earlier, although it rose 3% after taking into account provisions for credit losses.

Wells Fargo's net interest margin, a measure of the profit the bank makes by borrowing money from depositors and lending it out, was 2.84% in the first quarter. That was unchanged from the prior quarter and down from 2.87% a year ago.

Profit at the community-banking division, which includes the unit responsible for the questionable sales tactics over the past several years, were \$2.71 billion, down nearly 4% from a year ago.

Though a period of low interest rates had been a boon for certain aspects of home lending, the all-important refinancing market has largely slowed recently.

Wells Fargo's mortgage business, one of the largest in the U.S. by volume, earned \$934 million in fees in the first quarter. That was down 24% from the \$1.23 billion it earned a year ago.

Commercial Lending Helps Lift PNC Profit

By CHRISTINA REXRODE

PNC Financial Services Group Inc. said first-quarter earnings rose 16%, fueled by higher interest rates and commercial lending.

Profit at the Pittsburgh-based bank rose to \$1.23 billion, from \$1.06 billion a year ago. Per-share earnings for the recently ended quarter were \$2.43, in line with expectations of analysts polled by Thomson Reuters.

The lender's shares closed down \$6.28, or 4.1%, at \$145.46 on a down day for the market. The bank has beaten expectations for the past seven quarters, so meeting earnings expectations may have disappointed some investors.

First-quarter revenue was slightly below what analysts had expected.

PNC is the first major regional bank to report earnings this quarter. Like other banks, it is benefiting from the corporate tax break Republicans passed in December. The bank said its effective tax rate in the first quarter was 17%, down from 23% a year ago.

The tax break is also meant to spur corporate borrowing and lending, though Chief Executive William Demchak said in an interview that the new law's effect on business lending was more nuanced. It has spurred some companies to replace old equipment and other infrastructure, he said, but the lower tax rate also means some companies have less need to borrow money.

Even so, the bank's commercial unit fueled loan growth. Revenue was up 6% from a year ago to \$4.11 billion. Average total loans grew

4% from a year ago to about \$221 billion. The bank said that loan demand is strengthening and that it continues to expect loan growth for the year.

Mr. Demchak attributed PNC's commercial-loan growth to taking business from rivals. Across the industry, commercial lending has been more plodding than bankers and analysts had hoped for when Donald Trump was elected president. "I don't see anything that will cause it to near-term accelerate," Mr. Demchak said.

Consumer lending was roughly flat. Home-equity loans were down, but credit card and auto loans were up.

The bank benefited from borrowers' credit quality. PNC had fewer bad loans, and it released some of the reserves that it had set aside for potential bad loans.

Higher interest rates, which allow banks to charge more on loans, also helped. Net interest income grew 9% from a year ago. The bank's net interest margin, a key measure of lending profitability, also grew.

Total deposits were up about 1.5%.

PNC is one of the largest regional banks in the U.S. The Senate last month passed a bill meant to ease regulations on small and midsize banks. But one of the bill's main tenets does nothing for PNC: It raises a threshold at which banks face stricter oversight to \$250 billion from \$50 billion. That frees up other regional banks but not PNC and peers such as U.S. Bancorp, which are bigger.

House lawmakers are reviewing the bill.

Treasury Yields Up On Week

By SAM GOLDFARB

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note edged down Friday but logged its second straight weekly gain, reflecting improved risk appetite among investors.

CREDIT MARKETS The Federal Reserve is confident about reaching its inflation target.

The yield on the 10-year note settled at 2.828% on Friday, down from 2.832% Thursday but up from 2.779% the previous Friday. Yields fall when bond prices rise.

Treasury yields climbed this past week as investors regained some of their taste for stocks following a rough patch highlighted by rising trade tensions and concerns about potential regulation of technology companies.

Investors often buy Treasuries during times of political or economic uncertainty because they offer steady interest payments with essentially no credit risk. Easing concerns, though, can hurt demand for bonds.

Meanwhile, minutes from the central bank's March 20-21 meeting released Wednesday showed officials gaining confidence that inflation will hit their 2% target over the coming year. Officials also unanimously agreed that the economic outlook had strengthened in recent months.

Expectations that the Fed will tighten monetary policy at a steady clip have taken a heavy toll on short-term Treasuries, which are especially sensitive to rising interest rates.

The yield on the two-year Treasury note settled at 2.368% Friday, its highest level since August 2008.

"We're clearly in a bear market here in the front end" as more investors bet the Fed could raise rates as many as three more times this year, said Ray Remy, head of fixed-income trading in New York at Daiwa Capital Markets America Inc.

At its March meeting, the central bank raised its benchmark federal-funds rate by a quarter-percentage point to a range between 1.5% and 1.75%.

U.S. Stocks Slip in Year's Quietest Session

By AKANE OTANI

AND JON SINDREU

U.S. stocks slipped Friday but notched gains for the week, buoyed by rallying energy shares and signs that a trade spat between the world's top economies was easing.

Trading was quiet for much of the day, with just 5.7 billion shares changing hands on exchanges owned by the New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq. It was the quietest full trading session so far in 2018.

Despite the day's losses, the S&P 500, Dow Jones Industrial Average and Nasdaq Composite rose for the week—up 2%, 1.8% and 2.8%, respectively—thanks to a rebound in technology shares that had been hit hard in March, as well as a jump in energy shares.

Another factor helping boost investors' optimism: a string of solid earnings reports. In the second half of the week, BlackRock, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and Citigroup posted results that beat analysts' expectations, marking an upbeat start to the first-quarter earnings season.

While bank shares fell Friday, a move some attributed to investors largely pricing in robust results ahead of the earnings reports as well as concerns over continuing investigations at Wells Fargo, the KBW Nasdaq Bank Index of large U.S. lenders ended the week up 1.2%.

Solid results should help give the stock market a lift, analysts say, even as investors contend with such risks as



Facebook shares jumped 4.7% for the week. A TV on the NYSE floor showed the firm's CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, before Congress.

shifts in trade policy, questions over the pace of inflation and the potential for escalating conflict around the world.

"If you look at what's been driving the bull market since the beginning, it's been that earnings have been performing quite well consistently, and we still think that trend is very much intact," said David Lefkowitz, senior equity strategist for the Americas at UBS Global Wealth Management.

The Dow industrials fell 122.91 points, or 0.5%, Friday to 24,360.14, while the S&P 500 lost 7.69 points, or 0.3%, to 2656.30 and the Nasdaq Composite declined 33.60 points, or 0.5%, to 7106.65.

One of the week's best-performing sectors in the S&P 500 was technology, where shares took a hit last month as backlash over Facebook's handling of user data raised investors' fears of tighter regulations.

Facebook, whose chief executive, Mark Zuckerberg, testified before Congress on Tuesday and Wednesday, rose 65 cents, or 0.4%, to \$164.52 on Friday and 4.7% for the week, its biggest one-week percentage gain since March.

Meanwhile, energy shares in the S&P 500 rose 1.1% Friday, boosted by a rally in oil prices.

Worries that an escalation of conflict in the Middle East could disrupt supply sent oil

prices higher five trading days in a row, with U.S. crude for May delivery settling at \$67.39 a barrel for a weekly gain of 8.6%, its biggest one-week gain since December 2016.

The International Energy Agency said commercial oil inventories for advanced nations were at their lowest levels since April 2015, a sign that demand is increasing. Still, the agency warned, an uptick in trade disputes could dent the world's appetite for crude.

Growing trade tensions had driven investors out of stocks last month and into assets considered havens, such as government bonds and the yen, though those moves

largely reversed this past week on signs that the Trump administration could be amenable to softening its stance.

As for tariffs on Chinese imports, "there's a good probability that the [trade] barriers are not going to be put in place," said Chris Hiorne, a fund manager at EdenTree Investment Management, who has used recent selloffs to buy shares in companies he likes. "We see this more as an opportunity than a threat."

Elsewhere, the Stoxx Europe 600 edged up 0.1% Friday for a weekly gain of 1.2%. Japan's Nikkei Stock Average rose 0.5% Friday, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index fell less than 0.1%.

Russian Assets Hold Their Own With Investors

By RIVA GOLD

Investors continued to put money into Russian stocks and bonds this week, despite fresh sanctions and escalating tensions between Washington and Moscow over Syria that have rocked the country's markets.

Net inflows into Russian stock funds hit \$96.7 million in the week ended Wednesday, the most since February, according to data from EPFR Global and Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

Over the period, Russian bonds also attracted a modest amount of fresh money in a strong week for wider flows into debt funds, adding \$3.8

million, EPFR found.

"Over the past four years or so, investors have become conditioned to viewing geopolitical events as buying opportunities," said EPFR Research Director Cameron Brandt.

Russian stocks fell about 11% on Monday, but have shown signs of stabilizing, though the RTS Index declined 1.8% on Friday. The ruble dropped 0.6% against the dollar Friday and ended the week down 6.8%.

Russian 10-year government bonds yielded about 7.4% on Friday, from as high as 7.7% earlier in the week. Yields fall when bond prices rise.

Meanwhile, oil prices have

climbed in the past few months, helping support the country's economy.

"People are drawing parallels with the Crimean annexation and sanctions put in place then, which heavily impacted the Russian market. But the macroeconomic Russian situation is very different today," Michel Wiskirski, emerging-market analyst at Carmignac, said in a note. "There are signs of stability slightly improving—that is the time to pick up over-punished assets."

Russia's RTS index of 50 stocks trades at six times its forward earnings, near its lowest level since July 2017.

Buying the Dip

Flows into the Van Eck Vectors Russia ETF

\$80 million

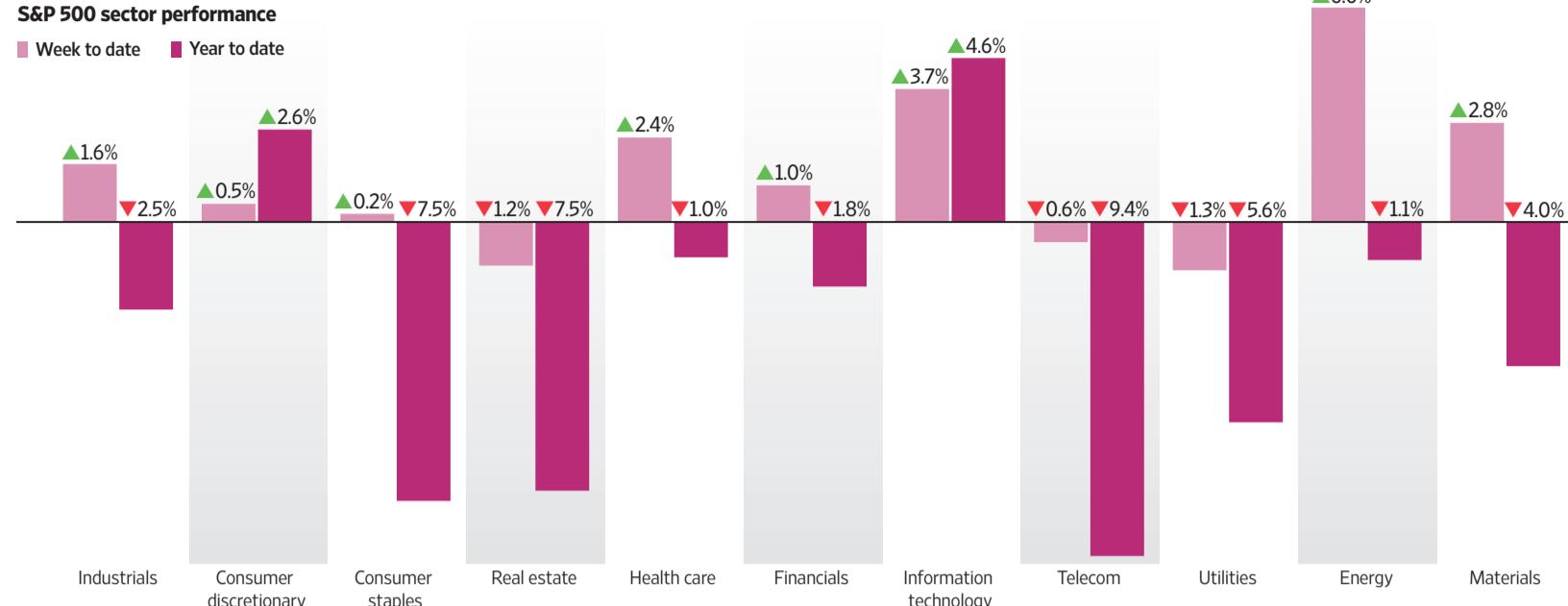
\$5 million



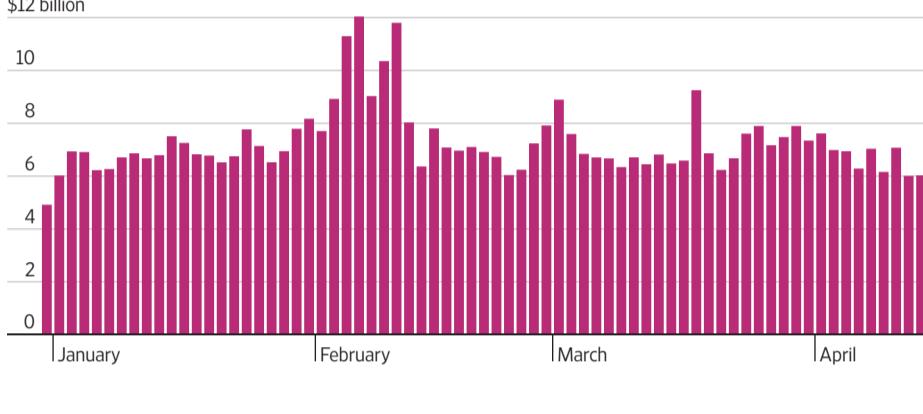
MARKETS

Stocks Regain Their Energy in Bounceback Week

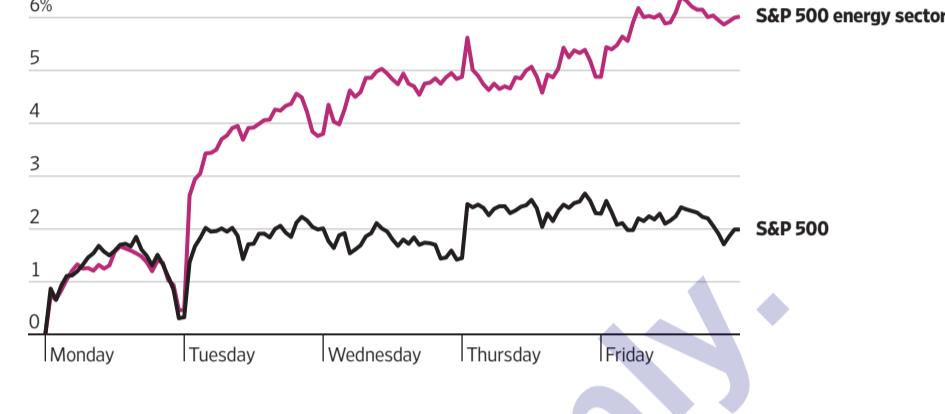
The S&P 500 rallied 2% this past week, as investors looked forward to the start of a strong earnings season while geopolitical tensions simmered. The energy and technology sectors led the way, as U.S. crude-oil prices ended the week at their highest level since Dec. 1, 2014, and tech shares bounced back after a bruising end to the first quarter. But trading volumes were light, suggesting some investors were waiting on the sidelines in anticipation of more turbulence ahead. One of the week's most notable moves was in the Russian ruble, which tumbled on new U.S. sanctions.



Total volume*



Stocks, weekly performance



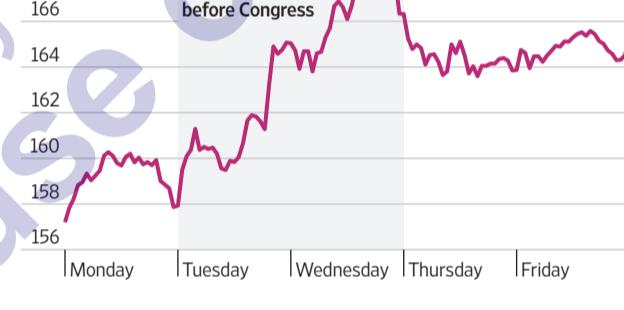
S&P 500 down days by month



How many Russian rubles one U.S. dollar buys



Facebook share-price performance



*Nasdaq Composite, New York Stock Exchange, NYSE American, NYSE Arca †As of April 13

Sources: FactSet (sectors, S&P 500, ruble, Facebook); WSJ Market Data Group (total volume, down days)

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Bank Rally Needs a Loan Boost

Stalled



"As much as we're all eager to see the benefit," said JPMorgan CFO Marianne Lake, "we have to recognize that tax reform is still in its early stages."

In fact, by providing a cash windfall to companies, the tax changes may be reducing their near-term need for loans. But if tax cuts boost corporate investment and economic growth, they should be positive for loan demand. Future bank performance depends on it.

Citigroup posted a respectable return on equity of 9.7% during the quarter, while JPMorgan put up an outstanding 15%. These levels of profitability are enough to justify their current valuations of 1 and 1.7 times book value, respectively.

But for bank shares to keep rising from here, their rosy economic expectations need to start playing out on the ground.

—Aaron Back

Equities were the highlight, as volatile stock markets during the first quarter boosted trading commissions. Equity trading revenue rose 26% from a year earlier at JPMorgan to a record \$2 billion, and increased 38% at Citigroup to \$1.1 billion. Yet, shares of both banks fell Friday.

Fixed-income trading was a slight disappointment, falling 7% from a year earlier at Citigroup and basically flat after adjusting for

tax effects at JPMorgan. But those figures are stacked against an especially strong quarter a year ago.

A bigger concern for bank earnings is slow loan growth. At JPMorgan, total loans rose 4% from a year earlier but flat from the prior quarter. At Citigroup, they advanced 7% from a year earlier but were up just

1% from the prior quarter. Bank executives have generally been bullish on the recent tax overhaul, expecting it to boost corporate demand for loans. The chief financial officers of JPMorgan and Citigroup said Friday that they haven't seen much impact, but they both expect companies' loan demand to pick up this year.

With So Many Jobs, Wages Poised to Rise

If every jobless worker in the U.S. could be matched with every available job, the unemployment rate would fall to near zero. That will never happen in reality, but the jobs are there.

On Friday, the Labor Department reported that there were 6.1 million open jobs in the U.S. at the end of February, 0.9 for every unemployed worker. That compares with 0.75 per unemployed worker a year earlier, and 0.15 when the recession ended in 2009. And,

in a sign that companies are struggling to fill positions, the share of hires per job opening is near a low.

It seems like a recipe for higher wages, and, indeed, there is plenty of anecdotal and survey evidence that wages are rising. But the increase, with average hourly earnings up 2.7% in March from a year earlier, is surprisingly low. One view is that there are lots of potential workers who aren't looking for work and, therefore, aren't counted in the unemployment rate. This hidden labor market slack is acting as a sort of pressure valve on wages.

Over the past two years, there has been an uptick in

the share of hires per job opening in the U.S. is near a low.

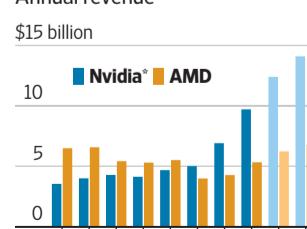
But an analysis of job flows conducted by JPMorgan economist Jesse Edgerton suggests this increase in participation has come from people staying in the workforce longer rather than workers coming into the labor market. That has kept the job market from getting so tight that wages take off.

But without that vast pool, companies will have to do something to fill those available jobs. Paying people more almost always works.

—Justin Lahart

Chip Makers Better Off Without Crypto

Stacking Up



Miners of cryptocurrencies may soon stop buying chips from Nvidia and Advanced Micro Devices. But some businesses are more trouble than they are worth.

The graphics processors that both companies make are designed primarily for rendering videogames, as well as providing artificial intelligence capabilities to data centers and automobiles. But they've also proved popular for processing cryptocurrency transactions, an activity otherwise known as mining. The rocketing value of those currencies over the past year has turned such mining into a highly profitable activity. That has sparked a rush on GPU chip cards that boosted

cryptocurrency mined with GPUs. Several analysts believe that system, which ships in July, is likely to pick up the bulk of demand from cryptocurrency miners.

Concerns about the impact of cryptocurrency mining are one of the factors that caused sharp declines in shares of both Nvidia and AMD in the past month. The latter in particular has a smaller revenue base that was likely inflated more by cryptocurrency demand.

Many analysts believe the impact of crypto to be much smaller for Nvidia, amounting to a single-digit percentage of revenue for its fiscal first quarter ending later this month. The company benefits from a robust data sales for Nvidia and AMD.

But that looks likely to end soon. A Chinese venture-backed company called Bitmain announced a new chip last week specifically designed for mining ether, which is the most popular

center business, new products for gaming and pent-up demand from gamers stymied by the recent GPU shortage.

Morgan Stanley analyst Joseph Moore cited both in upgrading Nvidia to a "buy" rating this past week, adding that he expects crypto demand to "fall towards zero" by the end of July.

Both companies have been wisely cautious about banking on crypto demand. The volatile nature of those currencies as well as potential technical changes in how they are mined have made crypto a dicey prospect for long-term bets. Nvidia and AMD have much less crypto opportunities to chase.

—Dan Gallagher

OVERHEARD

Thirteen isn't considered an unlucky number in Japan like it is in the West. So, it's perhaps fitting that Japan got a positive outlook on its credit ratings from S&P Global Ratings on Friday the 13th.

The ratings firm said the outlook change was due to healthier growth prospects for Japan. The current rating on the world's most heavily indebted government is single-A-plus.

The country's rating from S&P has been sliding slowly since 2001, when it first lost its triple-A rating.

Friday's action marks only the second time that the ratings firm had a positive outlook on Japan; the previous occasion was in 2006.

Japan's rating is worth watching precisely because it has been a one-way story for so long. A potential turning point won't just be down to lucky chance.

Weak knees and
sinuses, faulty
brains—let's
admit the human
body is a botch



C4

REVIEW



A spring fling
with cakes,
twins, plants and
baseball: a special
books section
C5-C16

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Saturday/Sunday, April 14 - 15, 2018 | **C1**



ILLUSTRATION BY TAYLOR GALLER

BY YOSSI KLEIN HALEVI

Over the past several weeks, the Palestinian "March of Return," initiated by the Islamist group Hamas, has drawn tens of thousands of protesters to the Gaza-Israel border, where they have clashed with the Israel Defense Forces. Hamas says that the marches will continue until mid-May, when Israel will celebrate its 70th anniversary and Palestinians will mourn what they call the Nakba, or catastrophe, the refugee crisis that resulted from the Arab war against Israel's creation.

In monitoring the dramatic scenes of recent weeks, the international community and media have focused on the alleged use of disproportionate force by Israeli soldiers against Palestinian demonstrators and on the economic misery of Gaza. What has been missed by most observers is the rare clarifying moment that this confrontation has offered: The March of Return is an explicit negation of a two-state solution, with a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza co-existing beside Israel.

If Palestinians living in Gaza—a part of Palestine, under Hamas rule—still see themselves as refugees intent on "returning" to the Jewish state, then the only concession that can satisfy their aspirations is Israel's national suicide. The real message of the protests is that the conflict is not about undoing the consequences of 1967, when the West Bank and Gaza came under Israeli rule in the Six-Day War, but about overturning 1948—when Israel was born. As Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh put it, the attempt to breach the border is the beginning of the return to "all of Palestine." The destination is Jerusalem, and the goal is the creation of a Palestinian state between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, erasing Israel.

The Palestinians are not alone, however, in harboring maximalist ambitions. Israel, too, has advocates for the right of return to all of the land between the river and the sea. West Bank settlers and their supporters, including the current government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, believe that this land can accommodate only a single national sovereignty: ours.

Like those Palestinians dreaming of "return" to the state of Israel, the settlement movement aims at demographic transformation. Its goal is to fill the West Bank with so many Israelis that withdrawal would become impossible. They have not yet achieved this goal. Close to a half-million Israelis live in settlements, though most are close enough to the 1967 border that a line could be drawn that would allow Israel to annex

a small part of the West Bank in exchange for granting territory to a Palestinian state from within Israel proper. But settlements deep in the West Bank are expanding, and they are intended to thwart such concessions.

Like a majority of Israelis—though the numbers are dropping, according to the polls—I support the principle of a two-state solution, for Israel's sake no less than for the Palestinians. Extricating ourselves from ruling over another people is a moral, political and demographic imperative. It is the only way to save Israel in the long term as both a Jewish and a democratic state—the two essential elements of our being. Partition is the only real alternative to a Yugoslavia-like single state in which two rival peoples devour each other.

But in order to take that frightening leap of territorial contraction—pulling back to the pre-1967 borders, when Israel was barely 9 miles wide at its narrowest point—we need some indication that a Palestinian state would be a peaceful neighbor, and not one more enemy on our doorstep. The practical expression of

that goodwill would be Palestinian agreement that the descendants of the refugees of 1948 return to a Palestinian state and not to Israel, where they would threaten its Jewish majority.

So far, despite years of negotiation, no significant Palestinian leader in any faction has agreed to that trade-off. Instead, the Palestinian precondition for a two-state solution is Israeli agreement to terms that

Please turn to the next page

Mr. Halevi is a senior fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. His book, "Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor," will be published in May by HarperCollins (which, like The Wall Street Journal, is owned by News Corp).

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REVIEW



EVERYDAY MATH:
EUGENIA CHENG

What Makes One Voice Shrill, Another Sweet?

WHENEVER I'm in a cafe, airport or other public place, there always seems to be one person whose voice I can hear over everyone else's. It can be distracting, and sometimes I try to analyze why that person's voice is sticking out. It's not necessarily that their voice is the loudest—it might just be the shrillest.

I imagine testing them with an oscilloscope, the device that detects sound and draws a graph of the sound wave. When we think of waves, we often think of sine waves, with their perfectly regular, undulating up-and-down shape. But most sound waves are not perfect sine waves. Only a computer can produce a perfect sine-shaped wave, and it will sound electronic rather than natural.

By contrast, if you sing into an oscilloscope, the sound wave will be much messier and more complicated than a sine wave. This is true even of very good singers. Different shapes correspond to different tone qualities, from pure and ringing to harsh and grating. Still, for all their messiness, these irregular waves are still built up from sine waves, as we learn from a piece of mathematics called Fourier analysis.

Analyzing how complex things are made from basic ones is a key idea in math, science and beyond. We find out how to express large numbers as products of prime numbers. We learn how substances are made of molecules of basic elements and how subtle hues emerge from the mixing of primary colors. We can then build our own versions, as in the chemical synthesis of natural substances or the blended colors on a painter's palette.

To mix sound, we can "add up" waves by looking at the values they take at any given moment and adding them together. Adding them up is much easier than splitting them apart afterward, just as it's much easier to multiply numbers than to resolve them into factors. In his research on heat, the French mathematician and physicist Joseph Fourier (1768-1830) developed the techniques for studying these processes.

Fourier analysis tells us that complicated sound waves are built from sine waves of many different frequencies, like primary colors. Different frequencies usually mean different pitches, but our brain blends them into one wave with one overall frequency and thus one pitch that we hear. The higher frequencies are called overtones, and rather than changing the

basic pitch of the note, they change its tone quality.

This is largely why we can tell the difference between a violin and a flute even if they're playing the same note: Their overtones have different strengths. And it is why some people's voices are more piercing than others. Someone with a grating voice is likely to have strong overtones in the range that humans are particularly sensitive to, around 3,000 hertz. This is more than three octaves above middle C, much higher than our basic range for speaking or singing, so it's not the pitch that is piercing but the timbre.

Fourier analysis is helpful in both directions: We can use it to analyze the sound quality of notes via their overtones, but we can reverse the process and create sounds by adding different sine waves together. As with the chemical synthesis of natural substances, this is how synthesizers create sounds that imitate different instruments.

Fourier analysis also helps us to compress data in digital sound and picture files. The full waves contain a huge quantity of information, but if we decompose the information into constituent sine waves we can work out which parts we can ignore without changing the overall effect too much.

In fact, when we're listening to music, our ears are also able to separate waves out into constituent parts sometimes, which is why we can hear more than one note at a time. We are constantly using Fourier analysis both backward and forward without realizing it, as is so often the case with the math that is all around us.

A Clash of Just Claims

Continued from the prior page

would likely end in one state, with the Jews living, at best, as a tolerated minority.

Yet for both peoples, partition would require almost unbearable sacrifices. How can a Jewish state relinquish sovereignty over Hebron, the West Bank city that is the world's oldest center of Jewish life, going back to Abraham and Sarah? How can Palestinians relinquish the aspiration to return to the sites of hundreds of destroyed Palestinian villages in what is now the state of Israel?

The truth is that, for all my political support for a two-state solution, I agree at an emotional level with the settlers. I dread the idea of partition. I believe that the whole of this little land belongs by right to my people—just as almost every Palestinian I've known believes the same on his side. Through centuries of exile, Jews never stopped longing for this land, maintaining a vicarious presence in our prayers and celebrations.

For me, the "West Bank" is the biblical region of Judea and Samaria, precisely what Jews have called it for millennia. It is the heart of our homeland and of our identity as a people and a faith. Jews are not occupiers in Judea. And we returned to it in 1967 in the most legitimate way possible—in a defensive war against yet another attempt by the Arab world to destroy us.

But unlike the settlers, that claim is my starting point, not my end point. Reluctantly, painfully, I am ready to trade parts of my homeland for a peace that would include recognition of Israel's legitimacy and of the Jewish people's indigenousness in this land—concessions that no Palestinian leader has been willing to offer.

The maximalist claims on both sides can readily lead to despair.

The state of Israel cannot be the same as the land of Israel.

agreement should frankly accept the legitimacy of each side's maximalist claims, even as it proceeds to contract them. Partition is an act of injustice against both Palestinians and Israelis. It is the recognition of the borders to our dreams: An agreement would partition not just the land but justice itself between two rightful claimants.

I deeply understand the appeal of maximalist claims. Growing up in Brooklyn in the 1960s, I was drawn to the youth movements of the nationalist Jewish right. As a teenager, I wore a necklace holding a small silver map of all of the land of Israel as defined by

right-wing Zionism of that time. It included not only the West Bank and Gaza but the territory that became the Kingdom of Jordan, which Britain severed from historic Palestine in 1922.

Eventually I came to realize that trying to reach an accommodation with the Palestinians must take precedence over asserting the totality of our just claim. My turning point came as an Israeli reservist soldier serving in the Gaza refugee camps in the 1980s. The teenage Palestinians throwing rocks at our patrols reminded me of myself as a fervent young ideologue—and of the futility of trying to suppress a people's national longings.

Neither side can or should relinquish its emotional claim to territorial wholeness. Yet not every claim must be implemented in full. The state of Israel cannot be the same as the land of Israel, the state of Palestine as the land of Palestine. Each people should exercise national sovereignty in only a part of its land. The moral argument for partition is simply this: For the sake of allowing the other side to achieve some measure of justice, each side needs to impose on itself some measure of injustice.

Such an agreement would require heartbreaking concessions. Both sides would have to accept limits to their legitimate right of return. That means no more settlement-building by Israelis in the future Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, and it means no descendants of Palestinian refugees "returning" to the state of Israel. The Jewish state would absorb those of the Jewish diaspora who want to live in their homeland, and the Palestinian state would absorb those of the Palestinian diaspora who want to live in their homeland.

In 1950, the new state of Israel passed the "Law of Return," guaranteeing automatic citizenship to any Jew coming home from any part of the world. Like Jewish immigrants from Yemen and Russia and Morocco and Ethiopia, that is how I became an Israeli: In 1982 I left my home in New York, showed up at Ben-Gurion Airport and declared myself a returning son. The Law of Return is the foundation on which the Jewish state stands, defining its moral responsibility to the Jewish people. The state of Palestine would surely enact a similar law for its diaspora.

But is any of this really relevant anymore? The hard reality is that Palestinians and Israelis are as far apart as we ever were. There is no basis of trust, let alone mutual recognition. Decades of violent Palestinian rejection of partition has created despair among young Israelis, allowing our own maximalists to prevail. And on the Palestinian side, the relentless message, conveyed to a new generation by media and schools and mosques, is that the Jews are thieves, with no historical roots in this land.

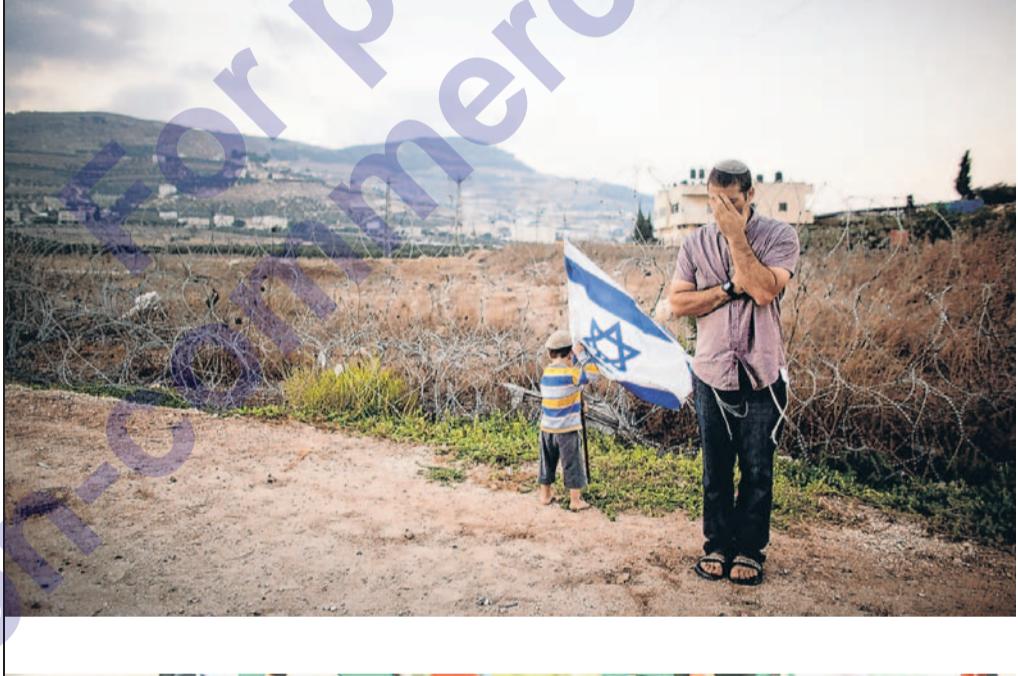
When Israelis look around at our borders, we see terror enclaves on almost every side, actively committed to our destruction. Hezbollah in the north, Hamas in the south, and most dangerous of all, Iranian Revolutionary Guards establishing bases near our border with Syria. Any of those borders may erupt at any time, threatening regional war.

That sense of impingement helps to explain why Israel is so determined to prevent even a symbolic breach of its border with Gaza. A recent poll revealed that 67% of Israelis believe that, if a Palestinian state were created tomorrow, Hamas would eventually take over, creating a radical entity in the West Bank, on our most sensitive border—just minutes from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

And yet ironically, just as the hope for an Israeli-Palestinian agreement seems to be definitively ending, unimagined opportunities may be opening for Israel in the wider Sunni world. The Obama administration's disastrous deal with Iran, which left it on the nuclear threshold while further empowering it as the regional bully, has had one positive if unintended effect: bringing together Sunni leaders with Israel in an alliance of dread, a shared loathing of the deal and a fear of an imperial Iran. The recent and unprecedented statement by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman unequivocally accepting Israel's right to exist is one consequence of that emerging relationship. It is potentially a historic turning point.

A deepening Israeli-Sunni strategic relationship could evolve into a political relationship, encouraging regional involvement in tempering if not yet solving the Palestinian conflict. One possible interim deal would be gradual Israeli concessions to the Palestinians—reversing the momentum of settlement expansion and strengthening the Palestinian economy—in exchange for gradual normalization with the Sunni world.

That scenario is still remote. And yet for the first time in many years, it is possible to imagine a different future. Even as the latest phase of the Palestinian-Israeli tragedy unfolds on the Gaza border, the hope of an unloved partition must not be allowed to die.



FROM TOP: Palestinians set tires on fire during a 'March of Return' protest in Gaza City, April 6; a man prays as Israeli settlers march in the West Bank during a protest against Palestinian statehood, Sept. 20, 2011; Palestinian children in Ramallah, West Bank, hold model keys symbolizing the houses that Palestinians left in 1948, May 15, 2017.

But by candidly acknowledging the historical and emotional reality behind them, we can also perhaps find the basis for a solution.

The cruel but essential logic of partition is that both rival claimants can make a compelling argument for why the totality of this beloved land belongs by right to them. The space between the river and the sea holds two conceptual territories: the land of Israel and the land of Palestine. How, then, to move from our mutually conflicting geographies and begin to accommodate each other's maps?

Perhaps by granting that both sides love this land in its wholeness and that both sides must do violence to that love. A peace

REVIEW



Poetry For the Pleasure of It

We shouldn't need National Poetry Month to remind us that fun is a large part of why people read and write poems

BY ADAM KIRSCH

WHOEVER DECIDED that National Poetry Month should take place in April must have had a sly sense of humor. After all, one of the most famous lines of modern poetry—the opening of T.S. Eliot's “The Waste Land”—tells us that “April is the cruelest month,” and for many people, the idea of reading poetry at all, much less for a whole month, surely sounds more like punishment than pleasure. If that weren't the case, we wouldn't need a National Poetry Month in the first place, any more than we need a month promoting music, say, or painting. Music in all its forms is omnipresent in our society, and people flock to art museums by the millions, but a new book of poetry is lucky to get a thousand readers. No wonder poetry has become a worthy cause, the kind of thing that needs to be supported by foundations and universities and public-spirited marketing campaigns.

It's strange that things have turned out this way for poetry. After all, for most of human history, poetry was just as popular as those other arts and quite a bit more popular than prose, which is a comparative newcomer in the literary world. Most of the classic books written before 1700 were written in verse, from Homer's epics to the plays of Shakespeare. This makes sense, when you consider that verse—language shaped by meter and rhyme, by the regular patterning of sound and stress—is much easier to remember than prose. Even today, the earliest pieces of language that children learn by heart are rhymes and songs. The most popular musical genre in the world, hip hop, is appealing largely because it makes brilliant use of verse techniques.

Indeed, if you're looking for virtuosic rhymes and complex meters, you're more likely to find them in a new rap album than in a new book of poetry. That is because, in the 20th century, poetry underwent the same kind of

modernist transformation that also affected the other arts. In the 1910s and 1920s, around the same time that painting was losing interest in representation and classical music was casting aside harmony, poets like Eliot, Ezra Pound and Marianne Moore were showing that great poetry could be written without the use of traditional forms like sonnets and blank verse.

The price of this experimentation, however, is that modern poetry, like modern art, is often difficult to understand and appreciate. The difficulty of these works is not simply whimsical or ornery, and it's worth learning to cope with, since on the other side of it lies new kinds of beauty. But it does present an obstacle to a reader who would like to take up National Poetry Month on its offer. If you are the kind of person who likes to read other genres—biographies, histories, novels—but thinks of poetry as a foreign country, what is the best way to start visiting it?

The best, most accessible guides are poets who are modern in thought and feeling but are still in touch with the traditional tools and pleasures of poetry, like meter and rhyme. A perfect example is A.E. Housman, whose book “A Shropshire Lad” appeared in 1896 and quickly became a classic. Housman is a master of poetic form, whose language is just elevated enough to sound classical, while remaining direct and colloquial. And he has always been particularly beloved by young people, thanks to his bittersweet treatment of themes like mortality, loneli-

What's the best way to visit this foreign country?

Mr. Kirsch is a poet and critic. His most recent book of poems is “Emblems of the Passing World.”

THE CHINESE DISSIDENT WHO WROTE IN BLOOD

BY LIAN XI

FEW IN THE WEST know of the Chinese dissident Lin Zhao, who was executed 50 years ago this month at the height of the Cultural Revolution for her fierce opposition to Mao, but she is still very much a presence in China. On the anniversary of her death in two weeks, some of her many admirers will attempt to pay their respects at her tomb, and the Chinese authorities will try to stop them—all of which suggests something of the power of her words, even after a half-century.

Born in 1932 in Suzhou, Lin Zhao attended a Methodist mission school in the 1940s, where she converted to Christianity and then to Communism. She secretly joined the party at the age of 16 to agitate for a just society with “no corrupt officials.” Her disillusionment with the revolution came in 1957–58, after Mao launched his Anti-Rightist campaign against liberal intellectuals; some 1.2 million

people were purged.

Named a Rightist herself in 1958 and designated for re-education, she attempted to kill herself, but survived. She returned to a fervent Christian faith, and her career of literary dissent began. In 1960, she was arrested.

In her cell, Lin Zhao produced a series of impassioned writings, composed in her own blood when she had no ink. She would prick her finger, drain the blood into a plastic spoon and use a straw or bamboo strip to write on clothing or a bed sheet.

When she had a pen, she would copy the texts onto paper. Prison rules required that her writings be kept as evidence against her, and no functionary dared to dispose of them.

In her poems, essays, and letters, Lin Zhao wrote about the sanctity of individual freedom and the evils of Mao's dictatorial rule. One of her poems directed at Mao, written on a shirt, said, “To the common people alone our country rightly belongs;/ how can mountains and rivers turn



IN 1951, Lin Zhao was still loyal to the party.

into an emperor's private grounds?”

She chose Bastille Day in 1965 to begin what became a five-month project: a 137-page letter to the editorial board of the People's Daily, the party mouthpiece, excoriating “Mao Zedong Thought” as the “blackened marrow

of totalitarian politics.” Democratic rights are God-given, she insisted: “Nobody has the right to tell me: In order to live, you must have chains on your neck and endure the humiliation of slavery.” She was executed three years later.

After Mao's death in 1976, she was exonerated posthumously, and in 1982 her prison writings were released to her family. In the early 2000s, Lin Zhao's former fiancé and classmates edited some of the texts, and they were digitized and posted on the internet. Her work quickly became

a rallying point for political dissent. Pilgrimages to Lin Zhao's tomb on Lingyan Hill in Suzhou have made the authorities increasingly nervous about her ideas and influence. A decade ago, on the eve of the 40th anniversary of her execution, the gov-

ernment installed a security camera at the site, and over the years, the police have increasingly engaged in a battle of wills with visitors.

The concentration of power in the hands of President Xi Jinping has given Lin Zhao's voice a new resonance and urgency for democracy advocates in China. With the 50th anniversary of her death approaching, some Chinese who tried to organize a pilgrimage to her tomb were again harassed by police. A recent government notice posted nearby led some to fear that the tomb would be destroyed, though the management of the graveyard denied this.

Either way, on April 29, there will likely be a heavy police presence on Lingyan Hill. Such fear of a young woman who was shot 50 years ago may seem paranoid, but it is actually quite rational. To borrow biblical language, she is one who, though dead, still speaks.

Mr. Lian is professor of world Christianity at Duke University Divinity School. His new book is “Blood Letters: The Untold Story of Lin Zhao, a Martyr in Mao's China,” published by Basic Books.

ness and frustrated love:

*When I was one-and-twenty
I heard a wise man say,
“Give crowns and pounds and guineas
But not your heart away;
Give pearls away and rubies
But keep your fancy free.”
But I was one-and-twenty,
No use to talk to me.*

*When I was one-and-twenty
I heard him say again,
“The heart out of the bosom
Was never given in vain;
‘Tis paid with sighs a plenty
And sold for endless rue.”
And I am two-and-twenty,
And oh, ‘tis true, ‘tis true.*

Housman believed that poetry was a matter of instinctive emotional response, not intellectual understanding. He famously said that he knew a line of poetry was good if he could think of it while shaving and it made his skin bristle. But emotion and intellect are not necessarily at odds when it comes to poetry. On the contrary, the greatest poets are able to make us think boldly and feel strongly at the same time. Emily Dickinson, who has a good claim to being the greatest American poet, was a master of this kind of writing. Dickinson used the same form—the classic meter of the hymn book—for almost all of her poems, but out of this familiar rhythm she created images and ideas that are dazzlingly strange and highly dramatic:

*I felt a Funeral, in my Brain,
And Mourners to and fro
Kept treading - treading - till it seemed
That Sense was breaking through -*

*And when they all were seated,
A Service, like a Drum -
Kept beating - beating - till I thought
My mind was going numb -*

Poems like this feel modern because they take us directly inside the consciousness of the poet. Traditionally, poetry was used for telling stories, in the form of epics or dramas. For the ancient Greeks, those were the most important kinds of poetry. But in modern literature, the rise of the novel meant that prose has largely taken over the duty of storytelling. Poetry today is usually lyric poetry—the voice of a single mind or speaker, telling us what something feels like.

It is that “like,” the drive toward metaphor and comparison, that makes a poem more than just a direct statement of feeling. It's easy to communicate information—nothing is more effective than a stop sign, which tells you everything you need to know in a single word. But poetry gives pleasure through its excess, the way it uses sound and image and implication to communicate in ways that are not strictly logical. That is why a good poem can't be paraphrased: It's impossible to convey everything a poem says in simpler language, because the particularity of its language is the whole point.

Sometimes, indeed, poets simply play with language, the way Wallace Stevens does in “Bantams in Pine-Woods,” a verbal portrait of a rooster: “Chieftain Iffucan of Azcan in caftan/Of tan with henna hackles, halt!” This borders on nonsense, but it is fun to say, and that kind of fun is a large part of why people read and write poetry.

Poetry moves in two directions at once: It wants to communicate, and it wants to play. When a poem does both, it gives a sort of pleasure that no other art form can. And in National Poetry Month, it's worth emphasizing that pleasure, not civic duty, is the reason why people read poems in the first place.

Mr. Kirsch is a poet and critic. His most recent book of poems is “Emblems of the Passing World.”

REVIEW



STUART BRIERS

The Botch of the Human Body

Our many design glitches, from weak knees to poor sinus drainage to infertility, highlight the randomness of evolution

BY NATHAN H. LENTS

OVER THE PAST DECADE, geneticists and biologists have learned more about our evolution than we ever thought possible. Not all of it is pretty. For example, the DNA in our cells is littered with huge stretches of repetitive, useless gobbledegook. Our chromosomes also harbor thousands of viral "carcasses," baggage left by infections that our ancestors fought millions of years ago.

Evolution has not perfected our species—far from it. The human body, wondrous and beautiful as it may be, is cluttered with glitches and inefficiencies, the messy byproducts of evolution's creative process. Natural selection is a blind, groping process, one that frequently produces terrible problems in addition to workable prototypes.

Some of our flaws are due to little more than a mismatch between the world we live in now and the world we evolved in. Our immediate ancestors spent several million years eking out a living on the grassy plains of sub-Saharan Africa, an environment that bears little resemblance to the ones most of us now inhabit. These unfortunates spent hours each day chewing tough roots, choking down leaves and stems, munching on tiny berries and gorging on rare windfalls of meat, bone marrow and worms.

It was during this time that our body's metabolic system, which determines how we derive energy from food, developed one of its defining features: We are built to pack on the pounds when food is plentiful, and we retain that weight when we are deprived of calories. This system made very good sense back then, but it has backfired now that we graze not on roots and grubs but on a veritable savanna of rich, calorie-packed foods. Because natural selection never rewarded will power, it's no surprise that we have so little of it now.

This is just one of countless examples of how poorly suited our bodies are to our current environment. We sprain our ankles, twist our knees and suffer debilitating back pain much more than we would have been able to endure in the unforgiving Pleistocene epoch. This is chiefly because we sit in chairs, wrap our feet in supportive shoes and generally construct our surroundings to be as smooth and gentle as possible, leaving our muscles and tendons weak in all the wrong places.

But we can't blame all of our aches and pains on modern living. A host of other bodily

glitches are due to nothing more than the inherent limits of evolution. What sense could it ever have made, for example, to bend our backbones into an S-shape, which leaves us vulnerable to slipped disks, pinched nerves and lower back pain? Why are there seven bones in our ankle and eight in our wrist, like a useless pile of rocks, good for nothing but sprains and strains? And how could our knees have come to hinge on a tiny ligament, the oft-torn anterior

cruciate ligament, or ACL?

All of these questions have a single, simple answer: Evolution does not make or have a plan. Natural selection can only work on the bodies we have, making slight tweaks and tugs through the randomness of mutations. Human anatomy has other design quirks that defy easy categorization. For instance, adults average three to four head colds a year, and children can suffer 10 or more, whereas other animals—even our fellow apes—don't seem to be plagued by them at all. The reason is as annoying as the cold symptoms themselves: the drainage point of our largest nasal sinus is placed at the top of the chamber. Because of gravity, this poor arrangement impedes the flow of mucus, and it doesn't take much to gum up the system.

Hobbled by poor design, humans fall short of our fellow animals in other ways. Many creatures are healthy eating the same two or three foods their whole lives. The koala can do fine eating just one kind of leaf. Humans, on the other hand, have very particular needs for very specific micronutrients. Why? Because we lost the ability to make them for ourselves.

Vitamin C, for example, is an important molecule that the vast majority of animals synthesize in their livers. Not us. One of the key genes for vitamin C synthesis was mutated beyond re-

pair in one of our distant ancestors. If we don't get vitamin C in our diet, we die of scurvy.

The case of Vitamin B12 is even stranger. We can only extract this important nutrient from animal products like meat and eggs. But the vast majority of herbivore animals do just fine since they conveniently have bacteria in their intestines that make vitamin B12 for them. It turns out that we do too, except that we harbor those bacteria in our large intestine while we can only absorb vitamin B12 in our small intestine. Bad plumbing strikes again.

Even the human reproductive system—which one might expect to be fairly streamlined, given its importance for the continuation of the species—is riddled with errors and inefficiencies, as one of the nearly 10% of us that struggle with infertility can attest. For instance, women's ovaries aren't connected to their fallopian tubes, an evolutionary oversight that sometimes leads to eggs floating pointlessly out into the abdominal cavity.

Even when eggs make it into the fallopian tube, it's a miracle that sperm are able to locate them; sperm cells must travel around 17.5 centimeters to meet the egg, which is a challenge given that this is more than 3,000 times the length of their bodies—and that sperm cells cannot turn left. The corkscrew-like movement of their tails propels them in right-hand circles along a completely random path. Considering the challenges of even fertilizing an egg, never mind the other hurdles that developing fetuses must overcome between conception and childbirth, every baby really is a miracle.

But just because evolution is kind of dumb doesn't mean that humans are. We are tremendously intelligent and resourceful—the ultimate generalists. Rather than specializing in one habitat, one food source or one survival strategy, we evolved to find success in whatever

way we could. Our big brains were the key to this creative approach, but this came with a very big drawback. As we came to rely on ingenuity in solving life's challenges, this relaxed the pressure on our bodies. We no longer had to be in tiptop shape in order to find a way to survive and thrive. Our error-prone bodies are what happens when the pressure is taken off.

An even bigger drawback may yet be in store. The same ingenuity that allowed humans to hit home runs with evolution's curveballs has arguably created the risk of environmental destruction, resource exhaustion, anthropogenic climate change and thermonuclear war. This is partly because our brains—powerful as they are—are also full of glitches. We commit cognitive errors in surprisingly predictable patterns and struggle to grasp the mathematics of large numbers, which limits our ability to learn important lessons and make good decisions.

Just like evolution itself, humans fail to prioritize long-term planning even in the face of imminent threat. As a result, many of the dangers our species now faces are purely of our own making. Ironically, the big brain that helped humankind to transcend the limitations of our bodies may turn out to be our biggest flaw.

Dr. Lents is professor of biology at John Jay College of the City University of New York and the author of "Human Errors: A Panorama of Our Glitches, from Pointless Bones to Broken Genes," which will be published on May 1 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.



OUR BODIES, ankles included, are poorly suited to our world.

WORD ON THE STREET: BEN ZIMMER

An FBI Raid Adds Import To 'Fixer'

IN PRESS ACCOUNTS of Donald Trump's personal lawyer Michael D. Cohen, whose office, home and hotel room were raided by FBI agents earlier this week, one word has come up again and again to label him: "fixer."

A Wall Street Journal article from January 2017 set the trend with the headline, "Intelligence Dossier Puts Longtime Trump Fixer in Spotlight." Mr. Cohen said of his relationship with Mr. Trump, "I am the fix-it guy. Anything that he needs to be done, any issues that concern him, I handle."

How did "fixer" come to refer to characters like Mr. Cohen, with a knack for taking care of potentially embarrassing situations behind the scenes? The verb "fix" has undergone a peculiar evolution in English. It originated from the Latin "fixus," the past participle of the verb "figere," meaning "fasten." From that sense of attaching securely, the word developed more figurative uses, like "fixing one's attention" on something. The verb then moved on to mean "settle, establish" and then "arrange, adjust."

When "fix" traveled from England to the American colonies, it added some colloquial nuances. The use of "fix" to mean "repair" appears in colonial sources around 1760, but soon after independence the word took on a shadier connotation of "taking care" of someone, such as bribing an official to secure cooperation. The Oxford English Dictionary provides an example from the diary of William Maclay in 1790: "Gentlemen, it is

Long associated with bribery, blackmail and scandal control.

expected of us that we should fix the Governor of Pennsylvania."

By the late 19th century, "fixer" was used to describe someone working discreetly, and often illegally, to arrange matters. One account in Indianapolis in 1889 told of a "jury fixer" who took a juror to a brothel the night before a trial and then blackmailed him into supporting a favorable verdict. An 1899 article by an "itinerant policeman" described how, when a traveling circus came to a town, a "fixer" would be dispatched to bribe the mayor into overlooking games of chance that were really rackets run by pickpockets.

The golden age of Hollywood was also the golden age of fixers—most notably at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, where vice president Eddie Mannix and head of publicity Howard Strickling made sure that any scandals involving the studio's stars were kept under wraps. Mannix's exploits have been dramatized on screen, portrayed by Bob Hoskins in the 2006 film "Hollywoodland" and by Josh Brolin in "Hail, Caesar!" a decade later.

On television, we've seen professional fixers on ABC's "Scandal" and Showtime's "Ray Donovan." The latter show features Liev Schreiber in the title role as a fixer for the rich and famous of Los Angeles. Employed by a powerful law firm, Donovan uses all manner of questionable tactics, including payoffs and threats, to take care of the firm's elite clients.

Life imitated art when CNN's Jim Acosta quoted a former Trump campaign official as saying that Mr. Cohen was "a less cool version of Ray Donovan...he fixes things." When the Ray Donovan "fixer" comparison came up last month in a CNN report by Brian Todd, Mr. Cohen evidently took it as a compliment, responding on Twitter: "Thank you @BrianToddCNN @cnn for your accurate depiction of me and my role for our @POTUS @realDonaldTrump! #loyalty #RayDonovan #fixer."

Answers to the News Quiz on page C19:

1.C, 2.C, 3.B, 4.A, 5.B, 6.D, 7.D



SPRING BOOKS

'Quasimodo, one-eyed, humpbacked, and bow-legged, could hardly be considered as anything more than an *almost*.' —Victor Hugo

From 'Freaks' to Southern Gentry

Inseparable

By Yunte Huang

Liveright, 388 pages, \$28.95

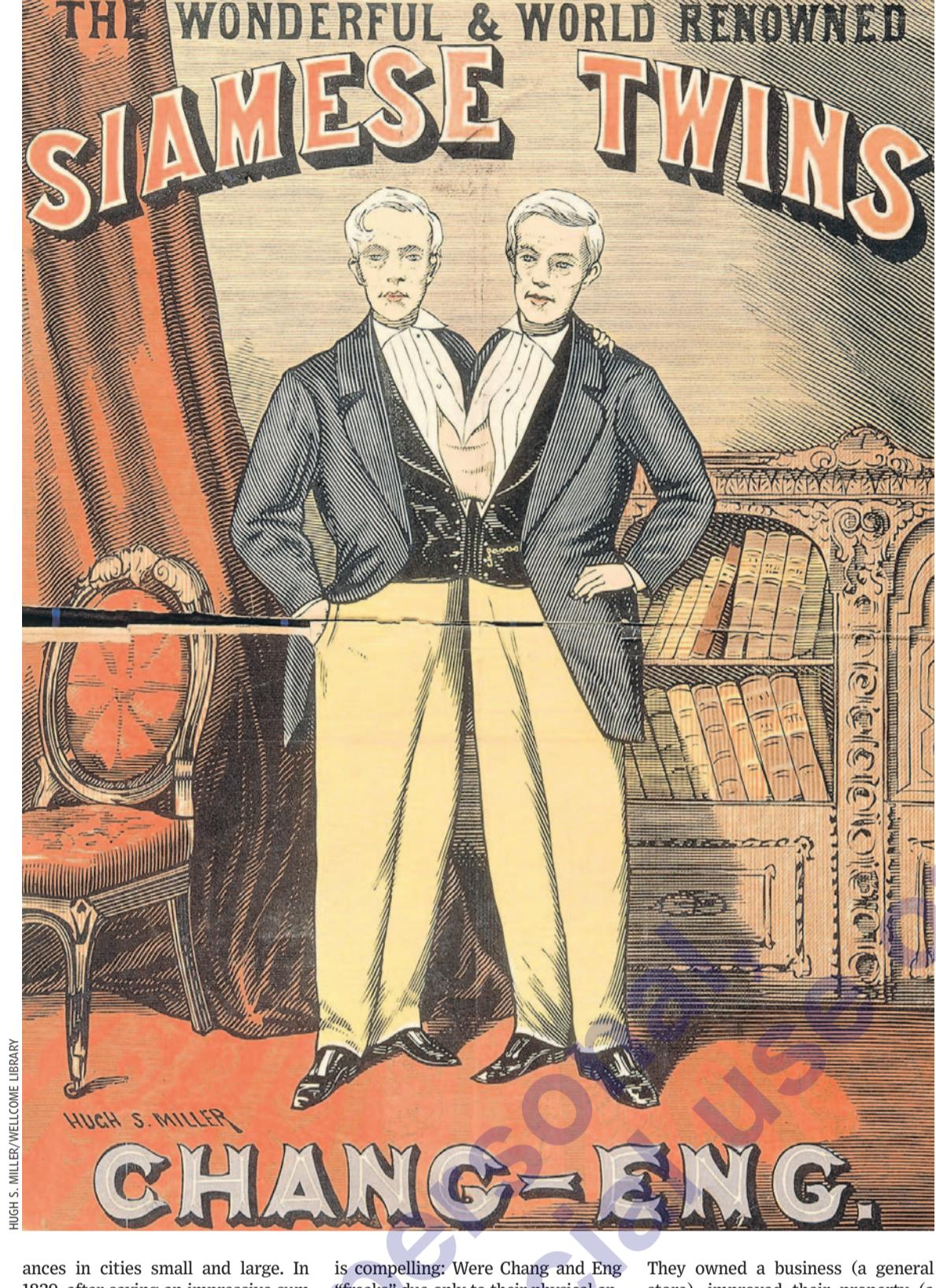
BY MELANIE BENJAMIN

CHANG AND ENG, the famed Siamese Twins of the 19th century, have inspired numerous biographies, plays and historical novels. Now, in his book "Inseparable," cultural historian Yunte Huang, author of the acclaimed critical study "Charlie Chan," turns his impressive skills to telling the story of what he calls their "rendezvous with American history."

Forever joined at the breastbone by a thick, flexible, 5-inch-wide band of flesh, Chang and Eng were born in Siam (now Thailand) in 1811 to a Chinese fisherman and his Chinese-Siamese wife. When news of the birth of this "double boy" reached the king, he considered it an evil omen; he ordered a death warrant but had a change of heart. In 1829 the twins were "discovered" by a Scottish merchant, Robert Hunter, who marveled at the sight of the boys gracefully swimming in tandem. He and an American sea captain, Abel Coffin, successfully petitioned the king to allow them to take the twins to Europe and America, where they would be exhibited as one of the wonders of Siam. Chang and Eng's mother consented to the deal, accepting \$500 in cash and a promise that in five years' time her sons could return.

They never did. Coffin, who soon bought out Hunter's share of their joint contract, energetically exploited the twins as "freaks of nature." With no say as to any part of their lives—they lived where Coffin put them, ate what he gave them, performed where and when he told them to—the twins toured the northern states, Canada and England. They quickly learned to speak and write English. Natural showmen and accomplished athletes—their movements were fluidly synchronized, and they could do somersaults and backflips—they soon developed a stage routine, a good-humored line of patter and, especially during the question-and-answer segment of their act, a warm and witty rapport with their audience. They had "presence" and proved themselves to be, despite their unusual physical appearance, "almost human." This was a favorite way to present such acts in Jacksonian America; P.T. Barnum did it, very successfully, with the Bearded Lady and General Tom Thumb.

After five years of indentured servitude, Chang and Eng negotiated their freedom from Coffin. Now accomplished showmen with extensive business contacts, they hired a manager who booked their appear-



ances in cities small and large. In 1839, after saving an impressive sum of money, they retired to North Carolina, where, as naturalized citizens of the United States, they married white sisters and sired 22 children between them.

Mr. Huang does an excellent job in depicting an antebellum America hungry for diversion from the brewing conflict over constitutional slavery. His descriptions of the New York City of that era, and of the show-business personalities the twins met (including Barnum), are raffish and vivid. And the great question he poses

is compelling: Were Chang and Eng "freaks" due only to their physical appearance? Or were they also freaks due to their race?

As Mr. Huang details, the U.S. Census Bureau did not have a category for Chinese until 1870. So in 1839, the year Chang and Eng became American citizens, they did so as "free white persons." Mr. Huang's question—in the time in which they lived, were they considered white? non-white? or something else?—drives the narrative yet is never fully answered. Chang and Eng enjoyed the privileges of most Southern gentlemen of that era:

They owned a business (a general store), improved their property (a working farm), and bought and sold slaves. Yet Mr. Huang also argues that the intense, sometimes outraged, public interest in their sex lives reflects not only mass curiosity about the logistics of the twins' extraordinary domestic arrangement but also mass distaste for the image of non-white foreigners bedding white American women.

It's an interesting argument, and Mr. Huang compellingly makes his case that racism was a factor in these two self-made gentlemen land owners

still being considered, late in life, as nothing more than a Barnumesque "freak show." It would have helped, however, had Mr. Huang been able to find at least one 19th-century article or essay that made this case explicitly. He does make good use of countless historical references to the twins' Asian features—the shade of their skin, the shape of their eyes—and he

The surprising career of Chang and Eng, the original Siamese Twins.

even devotes a chapter to the fad for phrenology, which was used further to convey the "otherness" of Asian immigrants.

Mr. Huang is less successful in depicting the two men as individuals. Apparently, the twins were given to writing letters as one—writing in first-person plural and signing themselves "Chang and Eng"—so perhaps the historical record does not yield much detail in this matter beyond the widely noted impression that Chang was the more extroverted of the pair.

Despite its shortcomings, "Inseparable" is a compelling study, and its author is unafraid of enlivening his narrative with a playful intelligence, an attractive humor, and incidents of his own life as an Asian American living in the South. And who can resist a book that ends with a coda linking the original Siamese Twins to "The Andy Griffith Show"?

As Mr. Huang discovered, Mount Airy, N.C.—the town where Chang and Eng lived from the late 1830s until their death in 1874—was the inspiration for Andy Griffith's Mayberry. Sheriff Andy's town, as Mr. Huang points out, was devoid of persons of color, but its real-life counterpart is a very American town made up of immigrants and their families, hundreds of them the twins' descendants. Mr. Huang, in this coda, makes a visit to the real Mount Airy, complete with bronze statue of Andy and Opie and museum dedicated to the show. Tucked away in the basement of this museum is a tiny room devoted to Chang and Eng. The town proudly claims its nostalgic, white-bread television heritage while fairly ignoring its more complex, racially mixed roots.

It's not difficult to find in this, as Mr. Huang most definitely does, a comment on the times in which we live.

Ms. Benjamin is the author of five historical novels, including "The Autobiography of Mrs. Tom Thumb" and "The Girls in the Picture."

Disappearing Act

Richard Potter: America's First Black Celebrity

By John A. Hodgson

Virginia, 318 pages, \$29.95

BY MEL WATKINS

BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR, stage performers in America were predominantly white. A few freedmen struggled to establish professional stage careers during the antebellum period, but as with Ira Aldridge, the most critically acclaimed black actor of the 19th century, they were typically met with severe restrictions or even violent protests. Aldridge eventually abandoned his quest for a career in the U.S. and emigrated to Europe in the mid-1820s. Only a small number persisted in their efforts.

One such performer was Richard Potter. By far the most successful African-American entertainer of his era, Potter was born in 1783 in Hopkinton, Mass. His mother had been captured in Guinea and brought to Boston, where she was sold into slavery. Potter was one of her six or possibly seven children—most of whom were fathered by whites—but Potter himself was never treated as a slave, since slavery in Massachusetts had ended before his birth. And while he was known in his hometown to be black and was treated as a Negro, outside the area his racial identity was often obscured. He was frequently mistaken for a West Indian, a white man with a dark complexion or even a Hindu—notions to which Potter apparently gave tacit support.

In his ambitious and extensively researched biography, John A. Hodgson examines the life of "America's first black celebrity" and argues that Potter's interest in the performing arts was kindled as a teenager during a 1799-1803 trip to Europe. According to a contemporary newspaper editor, Potter had been described as "agile" and full of "trick and mimicry" during his youth; the teenager's travels in Europe provided an opportunity to hone those traits and seek training in acrobatics, rope dancing, sleight of hand and ventriloquism. Upon returning home, he worked as an apprentice to the Scottish magician and ventriloquist John Rannie, and later assisted John's older brother, James, an even more skilled performer.

In 1808, Potter married Sally Harris, a young singer and dancer of mixed descent, and a year later he launched his career as an independent performer with Sally as his assistant. In his act, Mr. Hodgson writes, Potter "did card tricks; he broke raw eggs into a gentleman spectator's hat and soon produced cooked pancakes from it; he swallowed tow, spat out fire, and pulled yards and yards of colorful ribbons from his throat." A contemporary account described how Potter would "throw his voice into many different parts of the Room, into Gentlemen's hats" and ladies' pockets, and one of his most sensational routines involved "passing a red-hot iron bar over his tongue, drawing it through his hands, bending it with his bare feet, and immersing his hands and feet in molten lead."

After James Rannie retired in 1811, Potter's recognition in America

soared. By 1818 he had "made himself into the most prominent and widely known entertainer in all of New England." The following year he launched what Mr. Hodgson deems "the most ambitious North American tour that had ever been pursued," traveling over the course of four years to "every one of the twenty-four states in the Union as of that time," two territories and several Canadian provinces as well. The tour introduced the magical arts and ventriloquism to new audiences and established Potter as both a master showman and, Mr. Hodgson claims, "America's most fa-

duced and impregnated by a married man. After the child's death, Potter's wife, long plagued by alcoholism, seems to have succumbed to the addiction and ceased traveling or performing with her husband.

Throughout his career, Potter worked hard to maintain an apolitical and uncontroversial public persona,

but by the 1830s debate in America

over slavery was intensifying and

racial conflicts were escalating. Al-

though he was still generally regarded as a "treasure" in New England,

Potter's performances were increasingly targeted by complaints and legal actions that appeared to be at least

partially motivated by race. Moreover,

across the country traditional legerdemain was being challenged by a

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Thomas "Jim Crow" Rice—white

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though he was still generally regarded as a "treasure" in New England, Potter's performances were increasingly targeted by complaints and legal actions that appeared to be at least partially motivated by race. Moreover, across the country traditional legerdemain was being challenged by a different type of staged illusion: So-called Ethiopian Delineators such as Thomas "Jim Crow" Rice—white entertainers who used blackface makeup and affected an exaggerated

dialect intended to mimic blacks—were becoming immensely popular. By the mid-1840s, blackface minstrelsy would become what many historians consider America's first popular mass-entertainment form.

Potter, who died in 1835, would not live to witness this phenomenon.

Mr. Hodgson, a former dean of Forbes College at Princeton University, has produced a scholarly, densely detailed and provocative record of Potter's odds-defying climb to fame at a time when such accomplishments were rare for African-Americans. Mr. Hodgson's assiduous research includes performance reviews, news stories, records from Potter's Masonic Lodge, and interviews with magicians and ventriloquists, as well as court and census records. His account also documents the entertainer's performance exhibitions from 1809 to 1835 and includes examples of apocryphal tales circulated about Potter's life.

One may or may not be convinced by the author's lofty estimate of Potter's cultural impact, or his assertion that Potter was "the unrecognized precursor to a Frederick Douglass." No matter, this is an impressive chronicle of a remarkable individual whose life and career will not only enlighten readers about the origins of celebrity and the evolution of the illusory arts in America but also offer a glimpse at the illusory nature of race and racial identity in our country.

Mel Watkins, the author of "Stepin Fetchit: The Life and Times of Lincoln Perry," is the NEH professor of the humanities at Colgate University.

SPRING BOOKS

'From birth to 18 a girl needs good parents. From 18 to 35 she needs good looks. From 35 to 55 she needs a good personality. From 55 on she needs cash.' —Sophie Tucker

'They've All Cooled Down but Me'

Red Hot MamaBy Lauren Rebecca Sklaroff
Texas, 276 pages, \$27.95

BY GARY GIDDINS

IN HER LAST DECADE, it wasn't her illustrious rotundity that gave Sophie Tucker's television appearances the illusion of gravity defied. It was rather the historical weight with which she had inflated herself, her persona, her act, promoting it as the vestige of a quendom that would disappear when she did. "Some of these days you're gonna miss me honey / when I'm far away," she wailed (taking "days" up an octave and making it three discrete pitches). She offered her hand to be kissed and her ego to be buttered while also eliciting the rarest kind of empathy. She did not want you to shed tears; she wanted your throat to clench in awe, joy, memoriam.

"Isn't that a wonderful, wonderful experience," Ed Sullivan says after her 16th and last appearance for him, an eight-minute medley saluting pals from way back, accompanied by her pianist of 45 years, Ted Shapiro. Three months later, in February 1966, she was gone. "Of course I remember Sophie Tucker," a relative noted the other day: "She discovered Cary Grant." "That was Mae West," I said. "Oh, right, Mae West." Such is fame.

She had the most unconventional and memorable moniker in show business history: The Last of the Red-Hot Mamas. And who were they, these mamas who perished like Gaia, mother of the Titans, or the Valkyrie, all save one? If you were Jewish and, in Sullivanian parlance, "a youngster," you weren't so sure the breed had vanished. Who didn't know a bala-busta aunt or a neighbor who shared outward traits: a sofa-size bosom, no waistline, improbably blond curls, a voice—loud, genderless, booming—that could stop an oil derrick in mid-plunge. When Tucker appeared on "What's My Line?" in 1957, the blindfold panelists assumed she was a man, except for Dorothy Kilgallen, who pouted, "Are you a group?"

Tucker's vaunted survival held a double promise: I come from a time long ago, so I have no competition; and I know everything there is to know about bodily pleasure. "I'm the last of the red hot mamas," she sang in 1928 and after, "they've all cooled down but me."

It is no more possible to discuss Sophie Tucker without dwelling on her Jewishness than it is to recall the arguably hotter mama Ma Rainey without placing her in context as an African-American. In the early years, when Tucker was forced to black-up as a minstrel shouter, her ethnicity was moot; some observers assumed she was, in fact, black. But the more accomplished she became, the more emphatically she identified as Jewish. She put it on the line in her fundraising for Jewish causes and on records like the two-sided "My Yiddishe Mama" (1928), side one English, side two Yiddish Sprechstimme; or her nervy canticle for the diaspora, "My People" (1936), with its Shylockian plea that we're all mothers "under the skin."

She was born to fashion her own mask, raised as Sonya Abuza, an Italian name adopted by her Ukrainian



COLOSSUS Tucker headlining at one of her regular New York venues in the 1940s, at the height of her fame.

parents, who thought it would make assimilation easier than Kalish, even though they earned a living by opening a kosher restaurant in Hartford, Conn. Abandoning a bad marriage and leaving her newborn son to be raised by her sister, she went to New York to become a star. Overweight and homely, without resources or influence, she had no idea what kind of star she would be other than one who compelled audiences to love her.

Within a few years, she emerged as a terrific ragtime singer with a seemingly artless sob in her voice, a Jewish version of the Irish mordent later popularized by Bing Crosby, and a feeling for the diatonic intervals and clashing blue notes that defined Tin Pan Alley's ragging of pop songs. She had a buoyant comic facility, at once self-deprecating and kiss-my-ass, and a flair for sexual tangents. In her great 1919 recording of "High Brown Blues," she sings the part of Henry, who catches his high brown gal on the knee of a sailor; the brazen gal tells Henry to turn on the light "and let the sailor show you how to love me right." That year Tucker also recorded "Please Don't Take My Harem Away" and "Don't Put a Tax on Beautiful Girls."

But she was never a jazz singer. Jazz, like chamber music, demands constant synergy, and she didn't like to share a spotlight or adapt her independent phrasing to suit a band. The notable thing about her 1920s jazz records is not that she swings (she

doesn't) but that her rhythm is uncompromisingly her own and yet she fits in perfectly. And she always tells a story; for example, her homiletic 1934 recording of "Sophisticated Lady."

The convergence of three incidents focused my interest in her in the 1970s: an LP collection of her 1920s jazz sides, including the classic "After You've Gone" with one of Eddie Lang's finest guitar solos; the you-

No one reads an as-told-to show-business chronicle for facts. "Some of These Days" is an energetic portrait of the artist as she wished to be known, not least in her categorical regard for black artists, among them her companion, a dancer named Mollie Elkins, and the composer of her theme song, Shelton Brooks. Sartre's protagonist believes the singer is black and the songwriter

is white. The convergence of three incidents focused my interest in her in the 1970s: an LP collection of her 1920s jazz sides, including the classic "After You've Gone" with one of Eddie Lang's finest guitar solos; the you-



coulda-rolled-me-with-a-feather moment at the end of Jean-Paul Sartre's "Nausea," when Roquentin is relieved of his existential retching by a recording of "Some of These Days"; and her self-published 1945 memoir, found at the Strand and inscribed on Dec. 10, 1960, to the founder of the Supremes, Florence Ballard (who died in 1976), five weeks before the 17-year-old and two friends signed a contract with Motown.

Jewish, a stereotyped reversal. Tucker may paint the lily, but she is forthright about race (African-American newspapers lauded her) and her hatred of blackface, which at the time she was writing enjoyed an extraordinary boost in popularity.

A few attempts at biography followed her death, not least the extensive liner notes to Archeophone's superb 2009 mastering of Tucker's earliest recordings, "Origins of the

Red Hot Mama, 1910-1922," written by Susan and Lloyd Ecker, who announced a biography but settled instead for a fictional memoir that achieves the worst of both worlds. A Tucker-size biography that places her in context with vaudeville history and her times, while examining her neglected art, is overdue. Lauren Rebecca Sklaroff's sketchy "Red Hot Mama: The Life of Sophie Tucker" isn't that book.

Ms. Sklaroff, author of the excellent "Black Culture and the New Deal," is an accomplished historian, but she is not a congenital biographer. She looks

Sophie Tucker was born Sonya Abuza, an Italian name adopted by her Ukrainian-Jewish parents.

to Tucker to exemplify themes, not to document the quotidian drudgery of a life lived. The excitement Tucker brings to her description of, say, her taming of a British audience has no parallel here. Ms. Sklaroff nails down a few disputed facts and provides a reasonable survey of Tucker's career and times, but she repeatedly grumbles that we can't really know what she was like in performance as her records are devoid of physical gestures. We don't have Beethoven's improvisations either, but we work with what we've got. In Tucker's case, we have a hundred recordings from her peak prewar years, her postwar albums, and her film and television appearances. Ms. Sklaroff appears not to have listened to many of the records or given them serious thought. She regrets the absence of verbal interplay on records, ignoring the several instances where it exists.

She exalts Tucker's "progressive" attitude toward the "female form" in the age of flappers, as if this was not also the age of Trixie Friganza (whose career on stage and activism as a suffragette anticipates Tucker on many counts), Marie Dressler, Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey, Belle Baker and other full-figure performers,

with Kate Smith soon to come over the mountain. She is given to peculiar locutions (an unclear fact is "not quite clear"; songs no matter how obscure are called "standards"); she is at pains to explain away Tucker's personal lapses.

Ms. Sklaroff accessed Tucker's voluminous scrapbooks yet fails to use them to re-create the details of a Tucker performance; she speaks often of her wit without citing examples. She is astute on the decline of vaudeville and the rise of cabaret, the flu of 1918 and the necessity of keeping up with the times. But Tucker as a torrent of energy is absent. Seek her on her records; they are the news that remains news.

Mr. Giddins is a biographer, critic and educator. The second volume of his life of Bing Crosby, "Swinging on a Star: The War Years, 1940-1946," will be published in November.

The Face of Real News

In 2013, Jessica Donati arrived in Kabul at the tail end of the U.S.'s transfer of security to the Afghanistan government. Despite the dangers, she traveled with and without military escort to report on the country's dramatic upsurge in violence. Over the next four years, Ms. Donati provided WSJ readers the full scope of the unending corruption, bombings and kidnappings that has encapsulated America's longest war.

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SPRING BOOKS

'A film is—or should be—more like music than like fiction. It should be a progression of moods and feelings.' —Stanley Kubrick

Like Nothing Else on Earth

Space Odyssey

By Michael Benson

Simon & Schuster, 497 pages, \$30

Stanley Kubrick

By Nathan Abrams

Rutgers, 328 pages, \$34.95

BY GEOFFREY O'BRIEN

WHEN STANLEY KUBRICK'S "2001: A Space Odyssey" emerged in 1968, after repeated delays (filming had begun in late 1965) and nearly doubling the original \$6 million budget, it was greeted as something of a disaster. Kubrick had kept a tight lid on the project, and when MGM executives got a look in March, they were aghast. At the New York premiere, a sixth of the audience walked out. Critics described it as "somewhere between hypnotic and immensely boring" (Renata Adler) and "a thoroughly uninteresting failure" (Andrew Sarris), with Pauline Kael concurring: "monumentally unimaginative . . . trash masquerading as art."

None of that meant a thing to the younger spectators who began lining up on opening day and continued to come back. By the time I belatedly caught up with "2001" some months after its opening, acquaintances had already favored me with elaborate exegeses—metaphysical, prophetic, psychedelic—of what seemed to them not so much a film as an unbroken flow of revelation. Yet although ensconced as a canonical milestone and cited as a formative influence by filmmakers who followed, "2001" remains singular even in Kubrick's oeuvre: slow, elliptical, deliberately enigmatic, often wordless. Its most emotionally expressive character is a dysfunctional computer, its culminating episode a sustained burst of abstraction. It is doubtful whether such a film could gather a mass audience now, and even more unlikely that any filmmaker would get the chance to risk it.

Kubrick's risk-taking is the through-line of Michael Benson's "Space Odyssey," an omnivorously curious account of how the movie came to be, starting with Kubrick's letter to the novelist and scientist Arthur C. Clarke about "the possibility of doing the proverbial 'really good' science fiction movie." Mr. Benson, himself a filmmaker and artist whose projects have often been concerned with cosmological science, has put together an enlightening and entertaining narrative rich in both pointed anecdotes and lucid technical expositions. The book's large cast of characters reflects the scale of a production so complex it seems a wonder it didn't take even longer to complete—especially with the director still working out basic plot concepts and contemplating radically different endings almost until the wrap.

Kubrick has been mythologized as



the ultimate control freak, and the obsessiveness of his concentration is self-evident, but Mr. Benson emphasizes his capacity to improvise, to respond creatively to other people's hints, and to make large gambles. "We never had a finished script," production designer Tony Masters recalled. "We'd get together with Stanley in the evening and talk about what we were going to do the next day—and as a result, the whole thing would change. The production department was suicidal."

Mr. Masters was only one of a small army of recruits making crucial contributions. As Kubrick seized advantage of the ample means his earlier successes had earned him, "a big-budget Hollywood production," in Mr. Benson's words, "had been transformed into a giant research and development think tank." If "2001" now seems a relic of an already unimaginable era, it is because every element of its analog simulation of a future digital age had to be imagined, invented and built by hand. Arguments over who did the imagining and inventing of any given element have simmered over the years, but Mr. Benson shows how widely diffused the creative energies were, with artisans devoting months or years to solving minute technical problems while often having scant idea of the film's overall structure. To watch the film after reading Mr. Benson's book is to see it as an assemblage of disparate

pieces, and to marvel again at the enduring beauty of their assembling.

The opening "Dawn of Man" sequence alone involved protracted trial and error to create costumes for the hominids who first encounter the inscrutable extraterrestrial monolith around which the film is centered. These outfits needed to be both flexible and believable enough not to look like B-movie apeman outfits, while the American mime Dan Richter, who would play the lead hominid, studied a gorilla at Regent's Park Zoo and trained a troupe of dancers to imitate his movements and behavior. In the meantime, photographers flew to Namibia to gather landscape images that would be combined to remarkably seamless effect with the staged action. When they sent Kubrick pictures of a rare and protected species of Namibian trees, he went so far as to urge them to illegally uproot a few and ship them back for use by the art department.

Kubrick allowed little to get in the way of anything he thought necessary for the film, and the set could be a dangerous place to work. The rotating 30-ton centrifuge set representing the living quarters of the central episode's Jupiter-bound astronauts regularly overheated amid showers of glass from exploding lights. To provide convincing simulations of zero gravity, Kubrick encouraged high-risk wirework stunts above a concrete floor. Stuntman Bill

Weston, who had a frightening near-miss realizing one such scene, remarked: "One of the great things about Stanley was he had an incredible, tremendous artistic integrity. I think morally he was a little bit weaker."

Kubrick's drive to push collaborators beyond their usual boundaries was not so much about realizing a blue-

Kubrick found what he wanted by trying things out—an expensive habit.

print as about venturing into the unknown. Despite the visual power of his art, Mr. Benson writes, Kubrick was "nearly incapable of actually picturing visual concepts when they were described verbally." He found what he wanted, where he was going, by trying things out. Before there was even a script, he spent long days in an abandoned brassiere factory in Manhattan, filming blobs of paint diffusing in a mix of ink and paint thinner: These turned out to be the preliminary ingredients of the hallucinatory "Star Gate" episode of the film's final chapter, when the surviving astronaut, played by Keir Dullea, makes his final journey "beyond infinity." In like fashion, the whole movie was built up piece by

piece, the connections between the pieces known only to Kubrick.

Even when completed "2001" remained opaque to many. Clarke, truly the film's co-creator, found himself shut out from the final stages and was unhappy with the omission of the narration that had been intended to guide the spectator through all the leaps of time and space. Kubrick preferred to leave in the gaps and mysteries, perhaps realizing it was the rational explanation that would date most rapidly. As a result "2001" became a nexus for free-floating speculation.

In Nathan Abrams's "Stanley Kubrick: New York Jewish Intellectual," a sometimes tortuous exploration of the contradictions of Kubrick's relation to Jewish identity, the film is seen through the lens of Biblical allusion and Kabbalistic interpretation. Scribbled into Kubrick's copy of a book by Kafka, Mr. Abrams finds his marginal note: "The tower of Babel was the start of the space age." Like many Kubrick analysts, Mr. Abrams can go very far afield in tracking down parallels and resonances. Then again, given the director's readiness to explore any intellectual path or aesthetic suggestion that presented itself, nothing can really be ruled out. His "Space Odyssey" continues to be gloriously open-ended.

Mr. O'Brien is the former editor-in-chief of the Library of America.

All They Needed Was a Chance

Nobody's Girl Friday

By J.E. Smyth

Oxford, 304 pages, \$29.95

BY DONNA RIFKIND

UNDERSTANDING THE movie business has never been easy. Hollywood's resistance to definition has been its defining feature since its earliest days. "Not half a dozen men," F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote, "have ever been able to keep the whole equation of pictures in their heads." Those who tried have navigated by familiar signposts: the Paramount gates, the Warner water tower, Chaplin's wood-shingled La Brea studio. These are the monuments that appear on most film historians' maps. They were constructed by men—shrewd men with names like Fox, Mayer, Cohn, Warner—who came from nothing and gambled everything to build their celluloid empires.

A truer view of golden-age Hollywood would acknowledge that the picture business is not one "whole equation" but a multiplicity. Behind the studio chiefs were the legions they hired to invent the look and sound of the movies. From reading most books about American filmdom's early decades, one wouldn't guess that scores of those people were women.

Many more roles were available to Hollywood women than those of actress, secretary or wife. During the studio era—from the mid-1920s to the late 1950s—women were employed in every department of the vast film factories: as writers, editors, directors, researchers, story editors, script read-

ers, costumers, production designers. The biggest studios were the tech campuses of their day, providing services to keep their staff on the lot for as many hours as possible. To this end, women also worked in the commissaries, as nurses in the first-aid departments and as teachers in on-site schools for child actors. Often unheralded, women stoked the fires that fueled the business of picture-making.

In "Nobody's Girl Friday," J.E. Smyth, an American-born professor of history at the University of Warwick, seeks to restore women's filmmaking achievements to a cultural discussion that over decades has erased or dimin-

The most empowering time for a woman to be working in Hollywood was, ironically, the studio era.

ished them. Her book makes several related arguments. The first is that "the studio era—long dismissed as a corporate patriarchy by historians and critics—remains the most important and empowering chapter in women's employment in the film industry." The second emphasizes the collaborative nature of filmmaking, refuting experts who spent years promoting the auteur theory, which elevates directors—virtually all male—to the highest power in the equation. Ms. Smyth also questions two claims of feminist historians: that women's work in Hollywood was "usually unrecognized drudgery" and that female employees "did not sup-

port the networks of other women necessary for the development of women in the profession."

These dissenting views are commendable and arrive at an interesting time, when objections to gender inequality have found new energy in the Hollywood of our own era. Ms. Smyth's exposition is varyingly successful. She is less than engaging when, in a reach for inclusivity, she presents evidence in the form of long lists of women



LEADING LADY Barbara McLean, Oscar-winning film editor, in 1938.

employees' names "patched," as she writes, "from fragments of studio archives, payrolls, union lists" and the like. Her arguments are far more persuasive when they emerge through portraits of individual women.

Some of those women were born into the business. Editor Barbara McLean grew up helping out in her father's film lab, while producer Virginia

Van Upp began as a child star. Others had the benefit of a college education. Mary McCall went to Vassar, became a screenwriter and was the first woman to serve as president of the Writers Guild of America, where she was a tough but fair-minded advocate, resisting radicalism on both left and right.

More commonly, women in film rose from hard beginnings. Costume designer Dorothy Jeakins survived a series of abusive foster homes, begged for street handouts and sought refuge in the Los Angeles public library, where she taught herself about textiles and dressmaking. She went on to design costumes for major films from the late 1940s to the 1980s (e.g., "The Sound of Music") and to win three Oscars, her rough childhood having prepared her, as it prepared so many who succeeded in Hollywood, to adapt within a constantly changing industry.

Engrossing as these mini-biographies are, elsewhere Ms. Smyth's eagerness to prove her empowerment thesis leads to distracting hyperbole. Of the longtime assistant to MGM's studio chief, she writes: "Those in the know in Hollywood were aware that 'executive secretary' Ida Koverman wielded as much power as Thalberg or Mayer." That's just silly. And we all love Bette Davis, but she's hardly alone here: "Of all women in studio-era Hollywood, Bette Davis came closest to having it all: feminist, actress, star, producer, rebel, politician, war worker, administrator, defender of civil liberties, role model, wife, mother, and legend."

There are some odd elisions as well. Ms. Smyth barely mentions the significant influence of émigré women. Surely St. Petersburg-born Nathalie

Bucknell, who created and ran MGM's formidable research department, deserves more than a passing mention, as do émigré Jewish screenwriters such as Vicki Baum and Gina Kaus. These omissions are especially curious given the focus of Ms. Smyth's 2014 book, on the Austrian-born director Fred Zinnemann, whose European influences on American film she traced with thoroughness and sensitivity.

The strongest argument in "Nobody's Girl Friday" is perhaps the most important: that achievement in Hollywood depends on networks and alliances, often created by chance. The most affecting moment is a glimpse of young Dorothy Jeakins, the future costume designer, when she worked for \$16 a week as a background painter at Disney Studios. There she solidified a friendship with the great Chinese-American artist Tyrus Wong, then engaged in the tedious animation work of "inbetweener," making countless intermediate drawings to create the illusion of motion. The two aspirants scrounged up enough coins to share their meager lunches, no doubt encouraging each other to pursue their maverick ambitions in the face of poverty and discrimination: Jeakins with her fiercely intellectual approach to costuming as character; Wong with his fusion of Chinese landscape technique and contemporary Western art (on display, if without proper credit, in "Bambi" and many live-action films). There are thousands of such stories in Hollywood's vaults. Let's hear them all.

Ms. Rifkind's book about the screenwriter Salka Viertel will be published by Other Press.

SPRING BOOKS

'If that guy were healthy, he'd hit 80 home runs.' —Carl Yastrzemski

Those Weren't the Days

A Season in the Sun

By Randy Roberts & Johnny Smith

Basic, 276 pages, \$28

BY EDWARD KOSNER

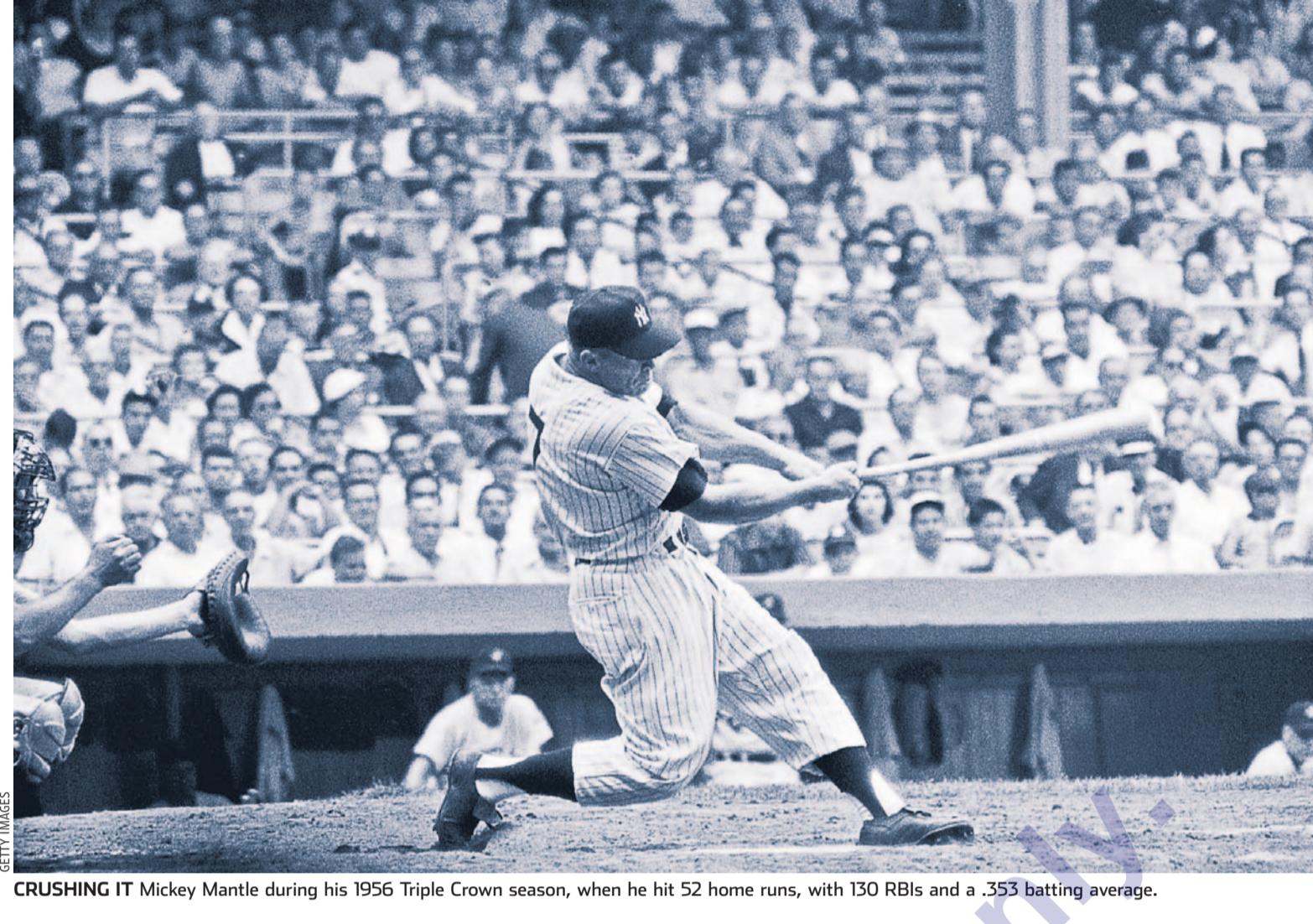
REAL BASEBALL fans—even some younger ones—know that Mickey Mantle was a Potemkin village of a superstar. Greedy club owners and complaisant sportswriters contrived a persona for him as a mash-up of Li'l Abner and Paul Bunyan, a devoted family man and humble Hall of Famer. But, as the authors of a new biography concede, the great Yankee slugger was actually a “moody, angry, hard-drinking, philandering, flawed man.” His magnificent body was a fragile facade as well. He blew out a knee in his rookie season and played 17 more seasons with an assortment of injuries worthy of an orthopedic textbook. The fans loved him anyway—and still do.

There is already a bulging shelf of books about Mantle, including more than a half-dozen ghosted autobiographies, memoirs and reminiscences. Now two academics—Randy Roberts, a Purdue historian, and Johnny Smith, a professor of “sports, society, and technology” at Georgia Tech—have produced “A Season in the Sun,” an ambitious but pretentious book that tries to cast Mickey in a new light by focusing on the 1956 season. That’s the year Mantle won the Triple Crown with the most home runs, the most runs batted in and the highest batting average in either major league.

“In 1956,” the authors write, “Mantle moved to the center of America’s imagination because he dramatized the daily struggle for individual achievement. Etching his name into the record books, he emerged as a symbol of American progress. His life bridged two worlds: the city’s modern commercialized culture and the folklore of baseball’s bucolic origins, a romantic ideal where country boys like Mickey played the game in unkempt fields. His success story promoted the myths around baseball’s meritocratic values and shaped his heroic status. Mantle’s hardscrabble origins reminded the country that anything seemed possible through baseball.”

Now, that’s a heavy burden to bear even on Mickey’s broad back, thickened by breaking rocks as a boy at the lead mine outside Commerce, Okla., where his father toiled until the work basically killed him at 40.

To transform Mantle into resonant socio-political-psychological symbol of mid-20th-century America, the professors begin by sketching out his early years in Commerce and his streak through the Yankee farm system until his major-league debut in 1951 at just 19. Mickey awed the scouts and coaches at bat and in the field. It was a given that he would soon replace Joe DiMaggio in center field and in the heart of the batting order. But Mantle was a taciturn bumpkin. Joltin’ Joe praised him to



CRUSHING IT Mickey Mantle during his 1956 Triple Crown season, when he hit 52 home runs, with 130 RBIs and a .353 batting average.

reporters but dismissed him to intimates as a “rockhead.”

After a few false starts, Mantle became a regular toward the end of the season—three months before his 20th birthday—and played right field in the World Series against the Giants. In the second game, trying to avoid DiMaggio chasing a ball into the right-center-field gap, he caught his spikes on the cover of a drain and tore up his right knee. Today surgeons could have rebuilt it. There was no such hope in Mickey’s day—and he was never really right again. Over the next four seasons, he played well but never quite redeemed his extravagant promise. Then came 1956.

The authors contend that Mantle found “joy” that Triple Crown season. This newfound delight, they argue, should recast the conventional wisdom that Mickey was a boorish sorehead who never enjoyed his accomplishments or the fame and comparative riches they brought him. They try to make their case in a detailed reconstruction of Mantle’s ’56 season but wind up reinforcing the standard view of Mickey.

On opening day, he hit two titanic home runs over the center-field wall and out of Griffith Stadium in Washington, D.C., totaling 1,000 feet or more on the fly. For days afterward, writers swarmed his locker to talk about his feat and how he compared with other stupendous sluggers. “I’m no Ruth, Gehrig, Foxx, Williams or whoever they say,” Mantle muttered. The whole business was “right silly.”

And his play didn’t galvanize Yankee fans, who had booed him unmercifully in his first seasons. In May, he homered and threw a runner out at home from center field in a 9-2 victory over the Tigers at Yankee Stadium. There were only 6,771 fans in the stands and over 60,000 empty seats.

As he had nearly from the start, Mantle caroused after games at home and on the road with bad-boy Billy Martin, the runty but pugnacious second baseman, and Hank Bauer, the pug-nosed, ex-Marine outfielder. Married to his hometown sweetheart, Mantle had a long-running romance with Holly Brooke, a beautiful redhead seven years older than the 24-year-old slugger, and many one-nighters with other women who pursued him, or at least didn’t resist his pursuit. In the middle of the season, the Yankee front office learned that the FBI was investigating an extortion plot involving a supposed liaison with a married woman. From Billy Martin, Mantle came to appreciate “greenies,” amphetamines to jolt the hungover system at game time. Martin and Mantle, the authors write, would race “around the locker room . . . playing practical jokes on their teammates, and behaving like circus clowns.”

Still, Mantle’s numbers piled up. At midseason, he was running comfortably ahead of Babe Ruth’s pace from 1927, when he hit 60 home runs, and was also leading both leagues in batting average and runs batted in. Then he fell into a slump as epic as his

slugging. Ruth’s record seemed more unobtainable with each strikeout and pop-up. Ted Williams of the Red Sox, the best hitter in baseball, was closing in on Mantle’s batting average, and the Tigers’ young sensation Al Kaline threatened his lead in runs batted in. Mickey might wind up second in two of the Triple Crown categories.

Mantle was having an MVP season. But the FBI was looking into a plot to extort the slugger for a supposed affair.

An instinctive hitter, Mantle seemed helpless to help himself. Then, in mid-September, as suddenly as it had set in, the slump lifted. Over the last weeks of the season, Mantle hammered the ball as he had at the start. He never eclipsed Ruth, but he led baseball with 52 home runs, a .353 batting average and 130 runs batted in. In those pre-internet days, he had to wait until late on the last day of the season to learn whether he had clinched the triple crown. “For the first time in what seemed like months, Mantle smiled,” the authors write, “relaxed, satisfied, fulfilled.” The World Series against the Dodgers was almost an afterthought, but Mantle provided another great moment in sports in the fifth inning of game five when he sprinted toward the left-center-field

wall to snare Gil Hodges’s drive and save Don Larsen’s perfect game.

Mantle had other great seasons after ’56, but there were many low points. He was on hand with Bauer, Martin, Whitey Ford and others at the notorious Copacabana nightclub brawl the next season. Confidential magazine, the TMZ of its time, exposed his long affair with Holly Brooke. In 1961, he wound up going to “Dr. Feelgood,” Max Jacobson, for his cocaine-laced ministrations. A decade later, Yankee pitcher Jim Bouton portrayed Mantle as a roistering boor in his memoir “Ball Four.” By the time he died at 63 in 1995, Mantle was a cirrhosis- and cancer-ridden husk.

“A Season in the Sun” is annoyingly repetitious and full of overwritten digressions about Ruth (“the Great Gatsby of baseball”), Williams and Casey Stengel. Many of the same sportswriters who created the mythic Mantle are quoted over and over as authoritative witnesses to aspects of his career. Here and there, traces of a joyful Mantle do appear. “I wish everybody in America could have that feeling just once,” he muses about rounding the bases to cheers after a home run. But these are overwhelmed by professorial pontificating about the significance of it all. “Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar,” as Freud didn’t say. Sometimes a baseball star is just a baseball star. That should be enough.

Mr. Kosner is the former editor of Newsweek, New York, Esquire and the New York Daily News.

A New Approach to the Old Ball Game

IT'S NOT JUST

about hitting and

pitching anymore.

Former Major

League pitcher

Bob Tewksbury,

who holds a

master's degree in

sport psy-

chology and

counseling, and

who has served as

the mental-skills coach for the Bos-

ton Red Sox and the San Francisco

Giants, brings us “Ninety Percent

Mental” (*Da Capo*, 248 pages, \$27),

an entertaining and self-deprecating

autobiographical work that explores

the mental side of the game. Over

the course of a 13-year career with a

half-dozen teams during which he

won 110 games, Mr. Tewksbury used

breathing exercises as part of his

pre-game ritual. Now a self-described

“baseball whisperer,” he recommends

techniques such as self-talk, mental

imaging and strategic thinking to

give players—especially pitchers—an

edge. One of the points he makes in

his book is that thoughts really do

become “things”—and if those things

are less than positive, they can be

damaging. It’s an approach that’s

being taken up across the league: In

his epilogue, Mr. Tewksbury informs

us that 22 of the 30 Major League

teams now have at least one full-time

mental-skills coach on staff, while about a dozen teams employ several such individuals.

Joe Cox’s “The Immaculate Inning” (*Lyons*, 277 pages, \$27.95) celebrates singular moments that have made baseball baseball. Some of these, such as Ted Williams’s .406 season—the last .400 season in baseball—are well-known and often discussed. Much less so is the feat of hitting a home run on one’s first pitch in the major leagues. Not one of the

Seeing the game through the eyes of statistical gurus, pitcher ‘whisperers’ and poets of the diamond.

30 men who did so have gone on to have a Hall of Fame career. Indeed, a dozen of the 30 failed to hit 10 career homers, and seven failed to ever hit a home run again. But Mr. Cox’s book goes beyond trivia and gee-whiz statistics. He coaxes short, well-written narratives out of these events and puts the athlete in the context of the game. My favorite is the chapter on men who stole 100 bases in a season—only 17 players have ever achieved this, and nine of these seasons occurred before 1892—but I

never tire of reading about the larcenous baseball lives of Vince Coleman and Rickey Henderson.

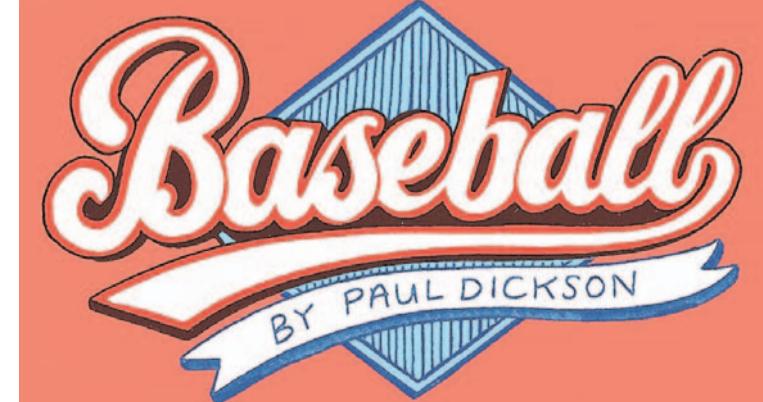
Baseball poetry has a long and honorable history in this country, a thread that runs through the works of Robert Frost, Donald Hall, Marianne Moore and Walt Whitman, to

parents’ attempt to move him, a young African-American from a housing project in the South Bronx, to a predominantly white school, he compares it to being “traded.” When his high-school guidance teacher demands to know what he wants to do with his life, he hears a manager

pitcher Satchel Paige dressed in a Kansas City Monarchs uniform.

Satchel Paige also adorns the cover of Averell “Ace” Smith’s “The Pitcher and the Dictator” (*Nebraska*, 212 pages, \$26.95), but here he is in the uniform of the Ciudad Trujillo All-Stars, a team designed to boost the career and “re-election” of Dominican Republic dictator Rafael Trujillo. In 1937, Paige and other stars from the Negro leagues, including Josh Gibson, were hired to play for the notorious strongman. The team featured some of the best talent the game has ever seen and produced what the author calls one of the best baseball championships ever. But as Paige and other black men slipped out from the yoke of Jim Crow for a short moment in the sun, Trujillo showed his hand. The All-Stars trained and played under the hostile eyes of armed thugs managed by the head of Trujillo’s death squads. The American players were told that they must win and worried that they might be lined up and shot if they lost. This short, action-packed narrative illuminates one of those footnotes that dot the history of the game but are seldom explored in depth. Here the footnote explodes with unexpected vitality.

Mr. Dickson is the author, most recently, of “Leo Durocher: Baseball’s Prodigal Son.”



talking to a pitcher before removing him from a game: “I’m nodding and he’s nodding / and I’m not listening.” The collection is an homage to the game itself—at once sweet, sad and vital. Mr. Miller and I are old friends, but even if we were sworn enemies I would still love this book, which features on its cover a laconic image of

SPRING BOOKS

'I want to cure us of plant blindness. After all, show us a picture of a monkey in a rainforest and we see the monkey but not the vegetation.' —Carlos Magdalena

Green Thoughts



'THE GOLDEN Age of the Garden: A Miscellany' (Elliott & Thompson, 272 pages, \$18.95) might better have been subtitled a "Pot-pourri"—and a delicious one at

that. This charming small volume, edited by Claire Cock-Starkey, is a treasure trove of wonderful short extracts from writings made during the transition in 18th-century England from formal garden design to a more romantic, picturesque style, one featuring vistas, woodlands, meandering paths, and lakes and streams to reflect light, all intended to create a "scene that invites the landscape painter to capture it." With no table of contents, this is a volume meant to be dipped into and savored like an anthology of poetry. Historically appropriate black-and-white engravings and vignettes decorate the text. Commentary and footnotes by Ms. Cock-Starkey, the former series editor of Schott's Almanac, give just enough context to many selections from well-known landscape designers, writers, gardeners, philosophers, diarists and poets. Gardening has long been a national passion in England and its traditions have influenced those of other countries, including America, France and even Russia. Catherine the Great is here quoted in a letter to Voltaire: "I am madly in love with English gardens. . . . Anglomania rules over my plantomania."

They were suffering from what botanists call "plant blindness": the tendency to take plants for granted as the undifferentiated green backdrop to our lives. It's an epidemic, compounded by our penchant for plowing down forests and meadows everywhere, oblivious to the fact that what we are destroying is ourselves.

"Plants are the basis of everything, either directly or indirectly," Carlos Magdalena writes in "The Plant Messiah." "Plants provide the air we breathe; plants clothe us, heal us, and protect us; plants provide our shelter, our daily food, and our drink." He counts 31,128 plant species used by humans and adds that without plants "we would not survive. It is as simple as that."

Mr. Magdalena, a botanical horticulturalist at London's Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, writes that he got dubbed "the plant messiah" by a Spanish journalist, for his work "trying to save plants on the brink of extinction" and also for his "post-biblical (though pre-hipster) beard and long hair." Taking the name to heart, Mr. Magdalena writes that curing us of plant blindness is the miracle he would like to accomplish.

Thankfully, he does not do much sermonizing on behalf of this mission. Instead he takes the reader on a lively account of his own transformation from bar owner in Spain to Kew horticulturalist in training, clinging much too far up a chestnut-leaved oak in the wind, "trying to comfort myself by musing on the tracheids, ray cells, and lignin—which I had seen on microscope slides—that ensure the trunk won't snap."

Mr. Magdalena soon makes a reputation for obsessively experimenting with the arcane sexual behaviors of plants that are the last of their kind and unable to reproduce on their own—the Lonesome Georges of the botanical world. His first case is the café marron tree, considered extinct until a solitary example turns up in

The Miracle Worker



CONSIDERING Magdalena with a specimen of the world's smallest water lily.

1980 beside a road on the Indian Ocean island of Rodrigues. Someone promptly chops it down, an appallingly common outcome in Mr. Magdalena's stories. But a few branches resprout from the stump and get shipped off to intensive care at Kew.

By the time Mr. Magdalena arrives at Kew 20 years later, half a dozen café marron trees are producing "masses of flowers" year-round—without ever setting fruit. Scientists diagnose a mysterious blockage in the flowers that keeps the sperm cells in the pollen from reaching the ovule. They set the species aside as one of "the living dead." But Mr. Magdalena balks. "Surely there had to be a way to make it produce seed," he writes. Reasoning from his own allergies, and the way pollen begins to germinate in contact with the fluid in his eyes, he sets about operating on flowers with a scalpel, aiming to bypass the blockage and give pollen a place to germinate in the moist incision, en route to the ovule.

After several hundred attempts—and lots of flak from colleagues who think he should be using his time more productively—he gets a single

fruit. Further heroic manipulations finally yield seeds, then seedlings, and ultimately restoration of the species on Rodrigues. Better still, he writes, the experience has helped the island's

The author saved a few species that were thought to be unable to reproduce.

forestry department move away from the sort of non-native ornamentals found everywhere in the tropics—hibiscus, heliconia and the like—and instead focus on the species that make the island unique.

Mr. Magdalena dreams up the remedy for another recalcitrant species one evening at home while cooking tortellini. The world's smallest water lily (*Nymphaea thermarum*) is native to a hot spring in Rwanda. A single plant also grows in a botanical garden in Bonn, but its seedlings always die. Mr. Magdalena obtains some seeds, and, after multiple failed experiments, the bubbles in his pasta water finally

inspire him to try filtering carbon dioxide through the floating mat in which seedlings grow. Figuring out what makes plants tick "is a bit like cooking," he writes. "You have to have a recipe. It is not magic; it's logic," and it works.

Later a visitor from the Bonn botanical garden stops by and is stunned to find more than 100 of these tiny water lilies flourishing at Kew. "A hundred!?" he cries. The water lily has gone extinct in the wild—"finished, expired, gone"—after local people dug a canal from the hot spring to use the water for washing. Worse, the visitor confesses, a rat has gotten into the greenhouse at Bonn and eaten the last surviving plant. "At the time of my tortellini moment," Mr. Magdalena writes, "I had been playing with the last five seedlings on the planet."

Mr. Magdalena tells his story well, and the cliffhangers aren't just about the plants. Collecting specimens from an unexpectedly tall plant in Mauritius, he takes the top spot on a four-man human ladder. "The problem was that below us there was a 300-foot drop into the valley," he writes. At the top, the Mauritius bulbul, a rare bird, makes a surprise appearance. "As I reached for my camera, the human ladder wobbled alarmingly." In Australia, he wades neck deep to collect a water lily from what turns out, only by dumb luck, not to be crocodile habitat.

For anyone who might have considered plants dull stuff, Mr. Magdalena delivers a thrilling and inspirational account of adventures in the botanical world. At times, I found myself wishing for more detailed explanations of the importance of a particular species or how it fit into a larger habitat. A better account of our self-destructive tendency to prioritize economic interests over the survival of supposedly useless species would have also helped. The classic example of our shortsightedness is the Pacific yew, considered a trash tree by loggers for most of the 20th century. Then its bark became the basis for the life-saving—and extraordinarily lucrative—breast-cancer drug Taxol.

Unfortunately, Mr. Magdalena writes, "plants can't speak, they can't plead their cause, warn of the folly of their destruction, or remind us of their importance." The plant messiah becomes their voice instead, and his passion for his subject could just be enough to help the rest of us shed the scales from our plant-blind eyes.

Mr. Conniff is the author of, among other books, "The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth."

Betting the Farm on Organic

The New Farm

By Brent Preston
Abrams Press, 279 pages, \$26

Fruitful Labor

By Mike Madison
Chelsea Green, 164 pages, \$18

BY FORREST PRITCHARD

IN THE DECADES since Wendell Berry, Masanobu Fukuoka and Ruth Stout kicked off the Good Food Movement—not only talking the talk but sustainably growing the food that made it all deliciously possible—tens of thousands of wannabe organic farmers have followed in their wake. Success, however, has been fickle. If there was a patent recipe for predictable results, then surely more of us would volunteer for a life of manure, tractor grease and overalls. Until that day arrives, it's comforting to learn from the stories (read: mistakes) of others.

In "The New Farm," Brent Preston slowly transforms from "wannabe" to "is," chronicling a decade of farming fiascoes along the way. Utterly unprepared, Mr. Preston and his wife, Gillian, abandon a reliable life in Toronto and bet everything on a small, wind-worn wedge of land two hours northwest of the city. Early on, the couple leans heavily on the books of Eliot Coleman, another elder of the sustainable-farming movement. Under the tutelage of Mr. Coleman's tomes and little else, they struggle to reinvent a former GMO grain farm into a nascent organic-vegetable operation.

Mayhem ensues. Echoing those early years, Mr. Preston's book is loudly told, populated with randy ducks, chortling roosters and corporu-

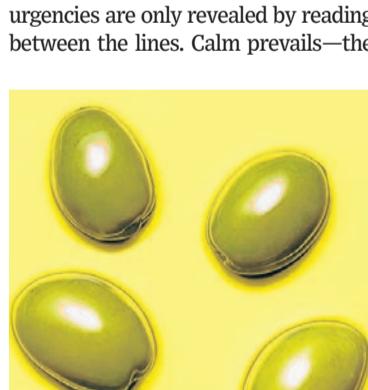
lent groundhogs crunching prized brassicas down to their stumps. Porcine castrations abound, to ear-splitting protestations. There's no shortage of yelling by the author himself either—at clueless, perplexed interns, a newly hired Mexican crew and, most reliably and volubly, himself.

What eventually emerges is the eponymous and triumphant New Farm. After a decade of false starts, the couple achieves profitability through selling gourmet salad greens to Toronto's swankiest restaurants. With cash steadily flowing, they turn their attention to philanthropy, hosting on-farm rock concerts to benefit the region's food bank. When at long last the volume drops from 11 and Mr. Preston reflects on his 10-year arc, the epilogue is a contemplative decrescendo of hard-won humility and gratitude.

More than 2,500 miles away, near Davis, Calif., Mike Madison's farm is by contrast profoundly muted. Here unspoken exchanges with a white-whiskered coyote constitute most of the dialogue, though black-tailed hares, barn swallows and burrowing spiders are occasional confidants as well. This wordless communication with nature is vital, Mr. Madison explains in "Fruitful Labor," "because it bears on how I go about operating my farm, at times following a course that appears irrational and unprofitable—at odds with the common utilitarian paradigm." Thirty years spent among organic apricots, oranges and olives can do that.

About those olives. From mid-October through early January, Mr. Madison picks as many as 1,500 pounds of olives a day—by himself, by hand—fruit destined for his on-site mill, then local farmers' markets. In essence, Mr. Madison harvests solar energy and presses it into golden bottles of liquid sunshine.

"Fruitful Labor" is both an encou-
ragement to self-reliance and a testament to the analgesic effects of organized surrender. One chapter beautifully de-
scribes self-sharpening shovels as they pass through sandy soil; the next se-
renely concedes an annual percentage of fig trees to ravenous gophers. Yes,
crops must be planted, the seasons attended and money made. But these urgencies are only revealed by reading between the lines. Calm prevails—the



LIQUID SUNSHINE One farmer picks as many as 1,500 pounds of olives a day for pressing olive oil.

sort of composure that's cultivated through a lifetime devoted to a greater cause.

These books are contrasts to a shared problem: namely, how to make a living doing what you love. Sometimes nudging, sometimes coaxing and at other times unabashedly imploring the reader to agree, each demonstrates how sustainable agriculture might offer a viable alternative to mainstream production. Mr. Preston's approach is primarily heuristic,

guided by an occasionally wobbly compass that always manages to find true north. Mr. Madison instead leans on a lifetime of methodical research, lessons rooted in soil science, biology and direct-market economics.

Both strategies are persuasive but not always completely compelling. Mr. Preston repeatedly laments his inability to pay his interns a salary, then dispels this drama by purchasing a \$200,000 bunkhouse, new solar panels, a lightly used tractor and a pickup truck. Mr. Madison's omissions are those of a no-nonsense producer who, in his desire to provide an authentic accounting, neglects to offer deeper

Even novice farmers with high ideals need to learn old truths.

insight into the protagonist himself. Several chapters, while satisfyingly pragmatic, would have benefited from the lightness of human touch.

For the novice farmer or, perhaps more likely, the dreamer living vicariously through food and farming books, these volumes pair as naturally as olive oil and escarole. Mr. Preston's often frenetic pace is balanced by Mr. Madison's meditations; conversely, when "Fruitful Labor" waxes didactic, "The New Farm" buoys us with upbeat, lighthearted tales of short-lived chaos. Read these in either order for a balanced understanding of how sustainable agriculture can not only work but perhaps foster a much-needed new generation of farmers.

Mr. Pritchard is a full-time organic farmer. His latest book, "Start Your Farm," will be published in September.

SPRING BOOKS

'A party without a cake is just a meeting.' —Julia Child

Coconut, Carrot, Pound, Layer . . .

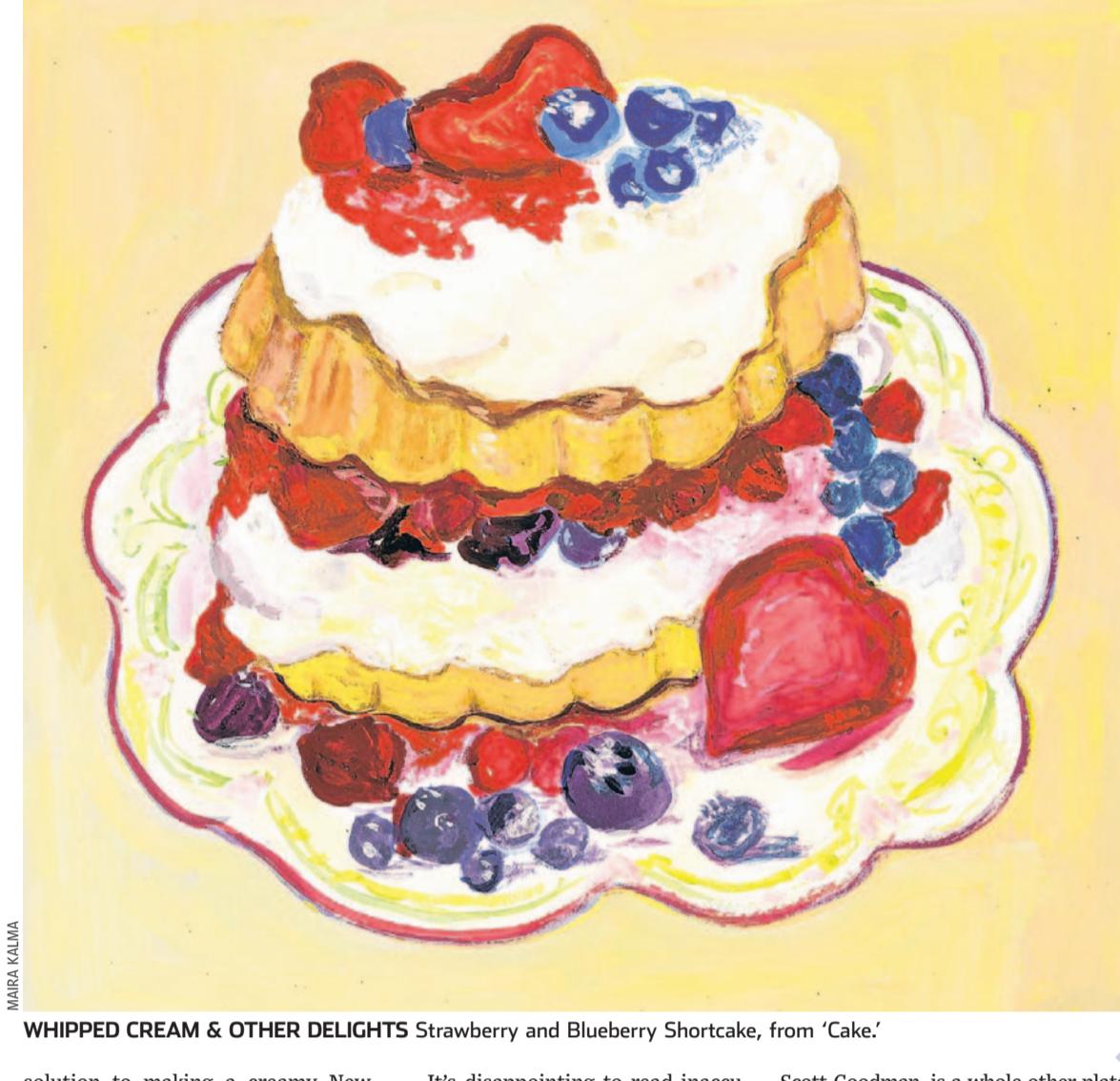
The Perfect CakeBy the Editors at America's Test Kitchen
America's Test Kitchen, 422 pages, \$35**Cake**By Maira Kalman
with Barbara Scott-Goodman
Penguin Press, 95 pages, \$25

BY ALICE MEDRICH

BAKING IS A finicky endeavor, and baking books are the most challenging cookbooks to write because mere details can separate good cake from bad. Knowing how to make a perfect cake is one thing. Being able to communicate that knowledge so that a baker in another kitchen with different ovens and equipment can reproduce it successfully—well, that's another thing entirely.

"The Perfect Cake," by the editors at America's Test Kitchen, does the other thing admirably. It's a big book, and not pretty. Some may find the realistic-rather-than-artful cake photos encouragingly accessible. Others will endure them. No matter, the book offers an impressive education for curious cake makers, new and experienced alike. A summation of 25 years of cake making at ATK, there are cakes for every taste—from elegant to crowd-pleasing to kitschy—divided into 10 chapters, including classic layer cakes, cupcakes and pops, sheet cakes, holiday cakes, cheesecakes, European torts, ice-cream cakes and more. ATK, the publisher of Cook's Illustrated magazine, is known for rigorous testing—and retesting—in search of the best version of a recipe. The more times a recipe is tested, the more likely it will anticipate and prevent problems before they happen. Whether or not you agree that a recipe is the ultimate version of same, you will usually be rewarded with a cake that looks and tastes good and can be served with pride—plus insight about how ingredients and method affect flavor and texture.

Every recipe begins with a brief essay that identifies the challenge (yellow cake is often dry and cottony; apple cake often lacks discernible apple flavor) and then describes the thinking and testing that produced the "best" recipe. Whether you find this narrative terribly tedious or riveting reading, it is precisely how bakers and pastry chefs think and work (and why we love what we do). Each recipe includes a wealth of information that can only have come from repeated testing: "The batter may look curdled" is a welcome reassurance. And the fool-proof method for preventing a chocolate cake from sticking to a Bundt pan, the trick to assembling an ice-cream cake without making a melty mess, the ingenious



WHIPPED CREAM & OTHER DELIGHTS Strawberry and Blueberry Shortcake, from 'Cake.'

solution to making a creamy New York Cheesecake that is also well browned on top—these are just a few of the countless gems that await the avid baker.

"The Perfect Cake" is not quite perfect. The introduction does a fine job of explaining cake-making steps, cake-mixing methods, and why you should weigh ingredients and use measuring cups properly. But egg whites and folding—universally mishandled by home cooks—deserves a deeper dive. It's not enough to say that one shouldn't under- or over-beat egg whites. Why not mention how to correct over- or underbeaten whites, even after the first portion has been folded into the batter? Or tell the inexperienced baker that underbeating is the lesser sin? It's good to know that recipes were tested with all-purpose unbleached flour, but why not specify unbleached flour in each recipe, for the baker who fails to read front matter? Why not tell us whether the cake flour used in testing was unbleached or bleached, rather than coyly stating that most cake flour is bleached? Today's cooks are interested in less-processed ingredients and will like to know if unbleached cake flour works just fine.

It's disappointing to read inaccurate or outdated chocolate information in an otherwise comprehensive book. Bittersweet chocolates are now too diverse to be called for without also giving a cacao percentage range or a not-to-exceed percentage for each recipe. Recipes were tested with bittersweet 60%—the low end of the bittersweet range—and may suffer if a baker fails to read the front of the book and uses bittersweet 70% (or higher) instead. Chocolate chips hold their shape because the chocolate is more coarsely ground and contains less cocoa butter than bar chocolate—not because of added stabilizers and emulsifiers. It is no longer correct to say that white chocolate is not "real" chocolate—there is finally an official definition for white chocolate (it's made with cocoa butter) that differentiates it from white coating and white baking chips (neither of which contain cocoa butter). Each has its place, but I can't agree that they are interchangeable in recipes and can't imagine spending time and money to produce a masterpiece like Triple Chocolate Mousse Cake and then cutting corners by using white baking chips instead of white chocolate.

"Cake," an illustrated reverie by Maira Kalman with recipes by Barbara

Scott-Goodman, is a whole other plate of cake. This small, stunningly designed book of less than 100 pages is a work of art, and its minimal prose reads like poetry. "Cake" is not about the making of cake, but cake as a

Two takes on cakes:
As feats of the baker's
art, and as touchstones
in one woman's life.

touchstone in the artist-writer's life. Ms. Kalman's autobiographical vignettes begin with a childhood memory of sprawling on cool patio tiles and eating cake after a glorious day at the beach in Tel Aviv, and then flash back to freezing winters in Belarus, and forward again to the Bronx and New York City. The prose is accompanied by Ms. Kalman's beautifully expressive paintings—work she deems naive, cartoony and humorous, but which is also mysterious, subtle and wise. There is always cake, the eating of cake and gathering around cake. There is love and loss, heartbreak, celebration, poignant and hilarious times—always with cake.

One might assume that the recipes are mere props in such a book. But Ms. Scott-Goodman is an accomplished cookbook writer, and her 17 simple, festive and pretty cakes make an elegantly curated collection of recipes that anyone might like to have in a little cookbook. There are classic yellow, white and chocolate cakes, a flourless chocolate cake, a Southern-style carrot cake, ginger bread, coconut layer cake, Pavlova with berries, and more—charmingly introduced and illustrated. Recipes are brief and well written, with useful details: unbleached flour is specified, oven-rack placement is given, and ingredients are called for at room temperature when that condition is important. But cocoa powder should be specified as natural or Dutch-process, and the salted butter called for in the Coconut Layer Cake is unfortunate because the amount of salt in butter varies so widely—my cake was too salty, though I could tell it would have been quite yummy! Overall the recipes are suited to someone already comfortable with cake making—someone who knows that "add the flour mixture alternating with the buttermilk" means that you should start and end with the flour, and who has whipped and folded egg whites. A few recipes will be fine for beginners and none are complicated. Cake-baking tips at the back of the book manage to nail the most important basic advice—with one exception. Since weights are not given in recipes, the baker ought to be told whether (and how) to measure flour, either by dipping the cup into the flour or by lightly spooning flour into it before leveling. The difference can be significant enough to produce a doorstop rather than a cake. Of particular note (so far) are Honey Cake, Maialino's Olive Oil Cake and (if slightly adjusted) Coconut Layer Cake.

I compared the white and yellow layer cakes in "Cake" and "The Perfect Cake" and found that the ATK version promising moister and better yellow cake was neither! It was by no means a failure, but not worth the many extra bowls and steps. The classic version in Ms. Kalman's book looked, smelled and tasted better, and was simpler to make. The white cakes were harder to judge, making the easier version in "The Perfect Cake" the winner.

And the "Perfect Cake" Pound Cake, made with hot melted butter and a food processor? I've never made an easier, more delicious pound cake! The recipe is genius, and worth the price of the book.

Ms. Medrich is a writer, dessert chef and expert on chocolate. Her most recent book on baking, "Gluten-Free Flavor Flours," won a 2015 James Beard Award.

Southern Soul and Southern Stories

THE BEST stories come from the South. I'm even a little surprised when I learn of a good one from elsewhere—"Well, bless his heart! Ketchum, you say?" I'm kidding, but I could be serious. The big cultural, gustatory and musical narratives of America all run through the South, and the fact that other regions can make a claim here or there doesn't change the facts. Southerners do not let this go unnoticed.

Lots of those stories are about food, of course, and as Rick Bragg is out to prove in his book "**The Best Cook in the World**" (Knopf, 485 pages, \$28.95), even those that aren't about food are often about food. The best cook in the world, it should come as no surprise at all to learn, is Rick Bragg's mother. She puts up a bit of an argument over this—"I wasn't even the best cook that lived on our road"—but I certainly won't. Arguing about it would be like criticizing Rick Bragg for dropping his g's ("cake layers are as dry as a Lutheran prayer meetin'" for instance), which would be like sitting down in a Cadillac and complaining that it seemed to have a lot of bells and whistles.

Rick Bragg writes like Rick Bragg, and his is a world of skillets and moonshine, possums and hogs, full of tornadoes and hardworking men who tell tales and drink and treasure a silent moment leaning against a tree. His mother sure can cook, from the

looks of it, and what's more she once dug "her nine-inch iron skillet, her prized possession, from the ashes of her burnt-down house."

This book is a tribute, a monument, to his mother and her people, captured here in solid recipes for good food, charming details and funny conversations. On sweet-potato casseroles:

"I never have liked marshmallows," she said.

"Some people are just different from us," I said.

"Then they prob'ly won't like the hog jowl," she said.

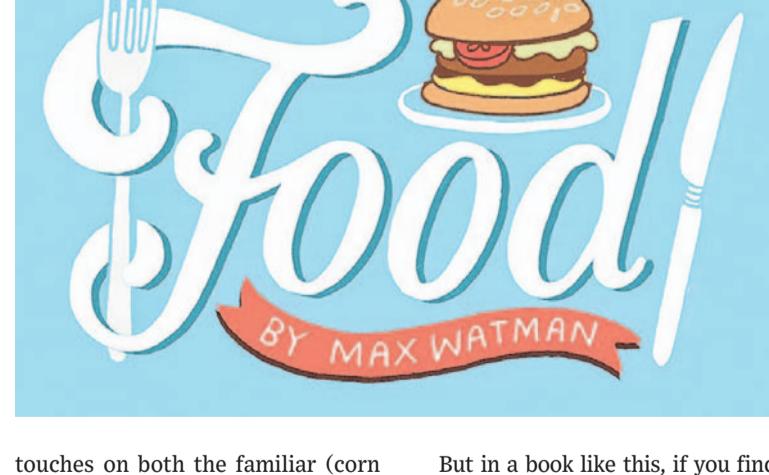
The story begins well before her, in 1924, when Mr. Bragg's great-grandfather Jimmy Jim Bundrum is coaxed back down out of the North Georgia mountains. He'd run up there on the back of a black mule "while the blood was still bright on the leaves." His son comes to beg him to return, saying he's "married a pretty and hard-headed woman who can't cook a lick, and I do believe that I am a starvin' to death."

All the stories in this book are good, but some gleam with a special luster; they've been polished by time, and no one is meant to get hung up on the details.

North of Mr. Bragg's family of Alabama and Georgia mountain folk, Edna Lewis was growing up in Freetown, Va., a community founded by emancipated slaves, including one of her grandparents. Sara B. Franklin has edited a book about Lewis, a collection of essays titled "**Edna Lewis: At the Table With an American**

Original" (North Carolina, 259 pages, \$27). It comprises recollections and analysis of Lewis, a cornerstone of American cuisine since the publication of her book "**The Taste of Country Cooking**" in the 1970s. An important and varied collection of recipes and reminiscence (still in print from Knopf), her work

the land, an intense work ethic and frugality, and cooking and sharing delicious food." In Freetown, these were results, but what it was really about was independence and freedom. Freetown was about controlling your land, and therefore your life, and making sure that no one owned any part of you—literally.



touches on both the familiar (corn pudding, oyster stew and pan-fried chicken) and the exotic (potted stuffed squab, casserole of sage-flavored pork tenderloin).

Some of the writers of the essays collected here knew and worked with Edna Lewis, some of them met her briefly, and others were inspired by her. Some of the essays sing, and some are less engaging—at one point I scrawled my disagreement in the margin when a writer equated Freetown with the farm his sister works at in Maine: "It's about a respect for

But in a book like this, if you find yourself disagreeing, just flip a few pages ahead. You'll find a completely different take on an important element of our foodways.

What has always struck me about Edna Lewis is how sophisticated her food is, and Francis Lam's entry, especially, does an excellent job of tracing the "aristocratic strain of southern cuisine," inspired by France but "provisioned and cooked largely by black people." This cuisine is subtle and nuanced.

What's most interesting to note,

looking at both Rick Bragg's family recipes in front of me and Edna Lewis's, is not their differences (although those are also surprising) but their similarities. Everyone killed chickens and ate okra and cornbread. There is vegetable soup everywhere. There is no real hard delineation between "Southern" food, which is code for white, and "soul" food, which is code for black. It's all the same food.

For years, both of these foods were treated as if they were the natural by-products of the South. As if the talent

Whether you call it 'soul' food (code for black) or 'Southern' food (code for white), it's the same food.

for these flavors was simply something you were born with. There's condescension behind the concept "soul," and the only thing that keeps me from saying it's racist is that the same insult is leveled at "Southern."

What Rick Bragg shows in his family over the decades, and what is clear in any discussion of Edna Lewis's food, is that this food is not intrinsic to a population, it doesn't come naturally to anyone, it is carefully constructed and well thought out by people who take it seriously.

Mr. Watman is the author, most recently, of "Harvest: Field Notes From a Far-Flung Pursuit of Real Food."

SPRING BOOKS

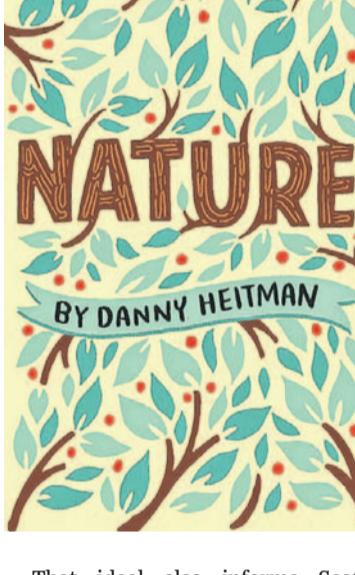
'Nothing is constant but change! All existence is a perpetual flux of "being and becoming"! That is the broad lesson of the evolution of the world.' —Ernst Haeckel

Water Works



MORE THAN
150 years after Henry David Thoreau lived at Walden Pond, the Concord, Mass., site draws half a million visitors a year. Although Thoreau was far from a hermit, he enjoyed ample solitude at Walden, a scarce commodity there now that it's an international shrine. Or so we're reminded in Robert M. Thorson's **"Guide to Walden Pond"** (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 250 pages, \$16.99).

Mr. Thorson is a lucid writer, though his book's tutorial style can be cloying. ("Keeping to the left, we descend the long, gentle ramp until our shoes crunch the stone dust on the ground-level path.") But if he is insistently instructive, it's perhaps because he has so much to teach. Odd facts freckle every page, as in his mention that Thoreau's cabin, now long gone, was probably plastered with sand left by laborers building the nearby railroad, his primitive abode lined with the residue of industrial progress. Walden, says Mr. Thorson, "will never be short-listed as a scenic Wonder of the World." It's special because Thoreau, by power of observation, demonstrated the magic a seemingly ordinary landscape can reveal if we look hard enough.



That ideal also informs Scott Freeman's **"Saving Tarboo Creek"** (Timber Press, 224 pages, \$25.95), the story of how the author and his wife, Susan Leopold Freeman, bought 17 acres of woodland on Washington's Olympic Peninsula that included a salmon stream degraded by development. In the spirit of **"A Sand County Almanac,"** the nature classic written by Susan's grandfather Aldo Leopold, Mr. Freeman alternates between reflections on global ecology and local, lyrical observation. Mr. Freeman chronicles his family's efforts to reverse the effects of channeling and clearcutting to make Tarboo a thriving salmon stream again. It's hard work, but the real windfall of being outdoors, he suggests, is just looking. "If you watch a creek flow by long enough," Mr. Freeman writes, "you will find yourself thinking about things: like how long this cycle of water and salmon has been going on without us ... or how long it's been since you just sat somewhere." In this way, **"Saving Tarboo Creek"** becomes not only an earnest report of reclamation but also a hymn to pleasure.

Pleasure is the prevailing theme of Nathaniel Philbrick's newly reissued **"Second Wind"** (Penguin, 218 pages, \$17). First published in 1999, the book details a midlife crisis of sorts, when Mr. Philbrick found himself too settled into the routines of marriage and fatherhood and decided to compete again for a Sunfish sailing prize he'd won in his youth. His odyssey led him "from the lonely ponds of Nantucket Island to a humbling return to competition in Florida" and then, with his family, "to a steamy lake in Illinois for the North American championship." Readers can discover for themselves whether Mr. Philbrick reclaims the trophy. But the most affecting part of **"Second Wind"** comes in an epilogue, when the author understands that the real prize in sailing is sailing itself.

The story begins in 1992, as Mr. Philbrick and his young children fight over the TV clicker. A generation later, would today's media-addled families so quickly leave the couch for the water? We can only wonder—and hope.

Mr. Heitman is the author of **"A Summer of Birds: John James Audubon at Oakley House."**

The Zoologist as Artist

The Art and Science of Ernst Haeckel

Edited by Rainer Willmann & Julia Voss
Taschen, 704 pages, \$200

BY CHRISTOPH IRMSCHER

TOWARD THE END of his best-selling book **"Die Welträtsel"** ("The Riddle of the Universe," 1899), the German zoologist Ernst Haeckel (1834-1919) offered an easy solution to one of the minor riddles besetting humankind—Is there life after death? As far as he was concerned, folks who believed in postmortem reunions only needed to be told that they would then likely also be reunited, in perpetuity, with their mothers-in-law. We might shrug this off as an autobiographical aside, the *cri de cœur* of a deeply unhappy man. But Haeckel's snarky comment appears in the context of an extraordinary plea to open

A scientist-draftsman for whom the organic world was a pageant of loveliness.

ourselves up to the beauties of the world to be enjoyed in the only life we get. Recent discoveries of dazzling creatures from the bottom of the oceans had unlocked a universe of wonders surpassing anything a human artist could imagine. If you think Haeckel is exaggerating, spend an hour with **"The Art and Science of Ernst Haeckel,"** a glorious, oversize volume collecting Haeckel's artistic work, and you'll be an instant convert.

Haeckel, to be sure, was easy to dislike. A blustery polemicist and gloves-off defender of Darwin's theories, he did not suffer enemies gladly. If Thomas Huxley was considered Darwin's bulldog, Haeckel was his German shepherd. His life has often been told as a cautionary tale, as an example of what happens when a gifted naturalist is led into error and nihilism by rashness and self-righteousness. Or it has been cast as a tragedy, in which the sudden death of his beloved wife, Anna, triggered in him a lifelong hatred of metaphysics and the wish to create his own ersatz-religion. Haeckel's "monism," a rejection of all systems of thought that separate mind from matter, soul from body and God from nature, spoke to readers all over the world. His **"Welträtsel"** was translated into 30 languages.

Darwin Comes to Town

By Menno Schilthuizen
Picador, 293 pages, \$27

BY JENNIE ERIN SMITH

AN UNWRITTEN RULE among biologists, says Menno Schilthuizen, is that cities must be spoken of as "necessary evils where a true biologist spends as little time as possible." In fact, Mr. Schilthuizen argues in **"Darwin Comes to Town,"** the city is a laboratory of human-induced rapid evolutionary change that we need to start appreciating. The author, a Dutch biologist who has spent much of his career doing fieldwork in the forests of Borneo, appears to have convinced himself—and is now trying to convince his readers—that urban ecology is where it's at. At a time when most naturalists have been fighting to save the world's "crumbling pre-urban ecosystem," he says, nature has been building "novel, urban ecosystems for the future."

To most observers, that future is already here, and it looks bleak. Cities all over the world tend to be full of non-native species and harbor a monotonous palette of highly successful ones. As Mr. Schilthuizen acknowledges, dozens of cities' original plant and animal inhabitants go extinct for every one that adapts. But his research aims to discover how organisms become new species, and the inner city offers exciting evidence of evolution in real time.

The mosquitoes of the London Underground, for instance, have become non-hibernating, year-round opportunists, making commuters their preferred food source and becoming genetically distinct from their above-ground relatives. The white-footed mice of Manhattan—which had the run

In either version of Haeckel's story, his flaws and lapses figure prominently, as they do also in the introduction to this volume, written by the German zoologist Rainer Willmann. Take Haeckel's pet theory, the biogenetic law, which stipulates that the development of each embryo in utero echoes the evolution of its remote ancestors. In his **"Natürliche Schöpfungsgeschichte"** ("The History of Creation," 1868), seeking to persuade his readers that the embryos of humans, dogs and turtles likewise climb the evolutionary tree, Haeckel printed three identical illustrations from the same wood engraving. Fraud, cried his detractors, among them the illustrious Harvard professor Louis Agassiz, hardly a paragon of scientific rectitude, who littered his copy of the book with invectives. Later opponents drew a line from Haeckel's questionable ethics to his convoluted politics, noting his belief in racial hierarchies and some form of eugenics. But Haeckel was no anti-Semite, and the Nazis in fact shunned his books.

Warts and all, Haeckel left a great scientific legacy: more than 20 monographs, thousands of newly named species, as well as an entire new kingdom of simple organisms that are neither plants nor animals, the *"Protista."* This lavishly produced volume, equipped with textual commentary in three languages, gives us a chance to appreciate yet another version of Haeckel. This pageant of unceasing loveliness. Mr. Willmann and his co-editor, the critic and science historian Julia Voss, who contributes a brilliant essay on Haeckel's influence on the arts, have gathered his most important illustrations, beginning with the early monograph on the radiolaria (1862), tiny marine organisms known for the mineral skeletons they produce, and ending with the grand finale, the extravagant **"Kunstformen der Natur"** ("Art Forms in Nature," 1899-1904), a series of 100 color lithographs featuring everything from algae to antelopes. Haeckel's

plates are packed with parts and particles that variously resemble ancient armor, baroque vases, ornamented chandeliers and soup tureens. The finished volume is a funky panoply of arabesques, polygons and polyhedra, a fantasy of spikes, spines and spires, left levitating in white space or emerging spectrally from backgrounds dark as night. If Darwin had lamented the gaps in his knowledge of the earth's history, Haeckel gives us a world in which nothing has been left blank.

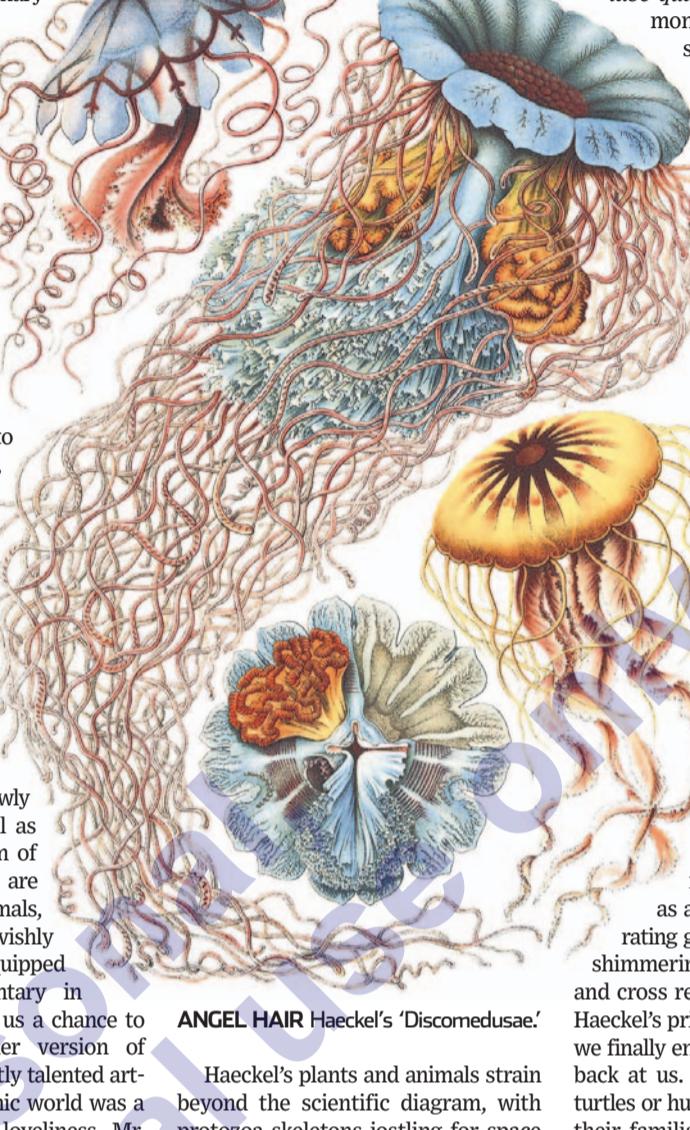
us to trace the evolution of that most fascinating of all creatures, the scientist-artist Haeckel. Consider his ***Discalbe quadrigata***, named by Haeckel himself—a stately siphonophore or colony comprising thousands of small polyps and medusae, each of them, as Haeckel insists, a "person" in his or her own right. In an earlier image, the majesty of this massive montage of organisms is still obliterated by the crazy mess of orange tentacles swirling under it and by the details Haeckel has crowded around it. When ***Discalbe quadrigata***, now more commonly known as the "hula skirt" siphonophore, appears in **"Kunstformen,"** it dominates the page, its tentacles tidily looped around, under and above it, a gracefully buoyant miracle languidly drifting its way into our minds.

Haeckel wanted to convince his viewers that, no matter how astonishing we think our cultural productions are—our houses, paintings, poems and symphonies—we only imitate what nature has been doing all along. The seemingly strange views **"Kunstformen"** offers—an upside-down bonefish, the cavernous nostrils of a bat, the delicate latticework shielding a stinkhorn—encourage us to see the world not as an assemblage of natural-history detail but

as a unified whole, an exhilarating game of formal variation, a shimmering tapestry of quotations and cross references. Paging through Haeckel's prints, we are stunned when we finally encounter animals who look back at us. Suddenly, those frogs or turtles or hummingbirds shock us with their familiarity. One of the greatest and enduring achievements of Haeckel's scientific art is precisely that it challenges our standard anthropocentric viewpoint. What matters most in nature is *not* what most closely resembles us, *not* what looks most the way we look. And that is quite a timely message for a book of old prints.

Mr. Irmscher is director of the Wells Scholars Program at Indiana University Bloomington. Among his many books is **"Louis Agassiz: Creator of American Science."**

TASCHEN KÖLN/NIEDERSÄCHSISCHE STAATS/UNIVERSITÄTSBIBLIOTHEK GOTTINGEN



ANGEL HAIR Haeckel's *'Discomedusae.'*

Haeckel's plants and animals strain beyond the scientific diagram, with protozoa skeletons jostling for space and the baroque tentacles of medusae curling back upon themselves as they gingerly touch the margins of the page. But rarely does he permit himself as much artistic license as in his representation of *Desmonema annasetha* (see above), the jellyfish he had named after his beloved wife, trailing long tresses not of blond hair but of tentacles, the eruption of diaphanous divinity into the mundanity of textbook science.

What I love about **"The Art and Science of Ernst Haeckel"** is that it allows

Living for the City

of the island before Henry Hudson arrived—are now on independent evolutionary trajectories in Manhattan's Central Park and Brooklyn's Prospect Park, where remnant populations hold out. Scientists found that the Central Park mice have undergone genetic changes that inure them to fungal toxins and fatty foods. "Nothing stands in the way of them evolving to suit the

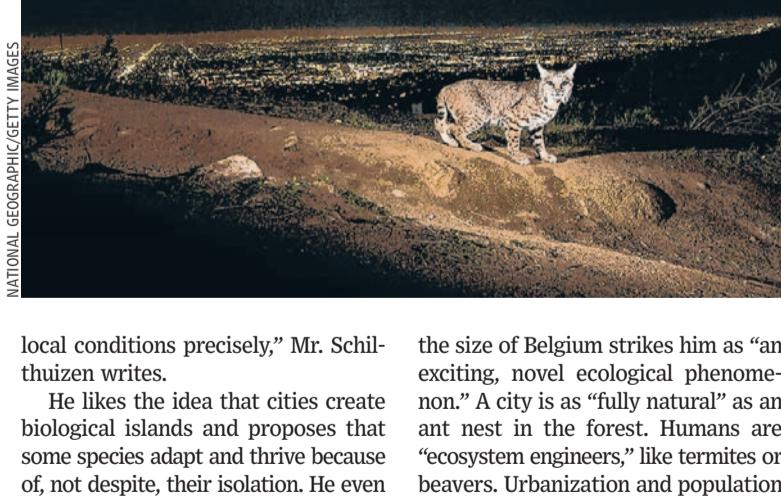
quickly to a rapidly changing environment. But if the mice and bobcats are all right for now, it's probably thanks to the genetic diversity they retain from when their populations were bigger and better connected. They may win some battles in the new urban era, but they're poised to lose the war.

Elsewhere, the author is even more provocative. A Chinese megalopolis

cities offer rich opportunities to study such trends, and that it's only recently that urban ecology has gotten the funding and attention it deserves.

But there are times when it seems the author is promoting a connoisseur's interest—rapid evolution—to distract from the bigger picture, which is shrinking biodiversity and wilderness. There will always be city people eager to observe wildlife, but it's doubtful that many will want, as Mr. Schilthuizen proposes, to form an **"Urban EvoScope,"** or band of citizen-scientists that "keeps tabs on the fluid Darwinian motions that every city ecosystem goes through."

Urban areas are biological 'islands' where some species thrive due to, not despite, their isolation.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC/GETTY IMAGES
local conditions precisely," Mr. Schilthuizen writes.

He likes the idea that cities create biological islands and proposes that some species adapt and thrive because of, not despite, their isolation. He even sees silver linings for the bobcats of Los Angeles, isolated by highways that fracture their habitat. In the early 2000s, one of these inbred populations suffered an outbreak of mange. Most died, but the survivors' immune genes showed evidence of adaptation, something "that may not have been possible in a larger population, because non-adapted genes would have come flowing in from all directions."

This is a contrarian perspective for a wildlife biologist. It's true that small, cut-off populations can respond

the size of Belgium strikes him as "an exciting, novel ecological phenomenon." A city is as "fully natural" as an ant nest in the forest. Humans are "ecosystem engineers," like termites or beavers. Urbanization and population growth will continue apace without "dictatorial birth control," he argues.

What Mr. Schilthuizen does exceptionally well is lay out complex evolutionary concepts like island biogeography, genetic drift, and hard and soft selection, while walking readers through experiments that show, for example, how urban anole lizards in Puerto Rico evolved more adhesive feet that help them clamber around metal surfaces and painted walls; or how urban moths have begun to shun artificial light at night. He's right that

There are hints in Mr. Schilthuizen's first and final chapters of an emotional struggle at the core of his book. He has watched powerlessly as mangroves got cut to build parking lots in Borneo, he says. He reports on a "gut-wrenching" visit to the suburb of Rotterdam where he grew up and where he spent his youth dropping beetles into his killing jar and photographing wading birds. Now he sees nothing but homes there, each with "an affordable car, and an Ikea umbrella in every front yard."

Naturalists have different ways of reacting to the loss of worlds they once knew and loved. Tuning in to the marvels of urban evolution is as good a balm as any.

Ms. Smith is the author of **"Stolen World: A Tale of Reptiles, Smugglers and Skulduggery."**

SPRING BOOKS

'Our Nightingale, just as it exceeds other Birds in song, is also exquisite in its ACUTENESS and sagacity in picking out scents.' —Giovanni Pietro Olina

Birdwatching Tips From the Renaissance

Pasta for Nightingales

By Giovanni Pietro Olina

Yale, 133 pages, \$22.50

BY SIMON BARNE

IF YOU WANT your nightingale to sing out of season—outside the annual six weeks of frenzy—it's a sound idea to add powdered pine nuts to the bird's pasta and introduce a thread or two of saffron to its drinking water. "These two things both heat and cheer it, so without any harmful effect this will induce it to sing." So we are told in a charming 17th-century Italian treatise now presented in English under the title "Pasta for Nightingales."

Birdsong mattered if you lived in a city in 1622, when this information was gathered. Then as now, we love to have sweet sounds around us, and they can be a hard thing to find in a city. Open the window and there's nothing but the endless bustle of humanity.

In a world without recorded sound—before public places were filled with compulsory music, before you could fill your house with Vivaldi or the Sex

here, beautiful and precise watercolors showing birds selected for their availability and their tolerance of captivity: buntings, starlings, kingfishers and, yes, nightingales. Text and drawing together take us to the dawn of ornithology—that is to say, to the first efforts to collect objective information about birds.

No folklore, then, despite the subtitle. You won't read here that the robin got his red breast because he plucked the thorns from the head of the crucified Christ. Rather, you will learn how to find the little worms for your robin that will "make it merry" and will discover that a robin "brooks



HOPOE 'It is said, that every year they change their feathers, and that this is the reason that for a certain time they are not seen.'

Pistols at the touch of a switch, and before you could shut yourself away in a private world of sound—the only music that came without a living human musician was a bird in a cage. William Blake wrote that "a Robin Redbreast in a Cage / Puts all Heaven in a Rage," but the songs of caged birds supplied beauty, comfort, good cheer, and an antidote to the noise and oppression of the world.

Thus the importance of the primordial ornithologist Giovanni Pietro Olina's "handbook of bird-care and folklore," as the book's current subtitle has it. The text was commissioned by Olina's patron, Cassiano dal Pozzo, who also, separately, commissioned the illustrations that appear

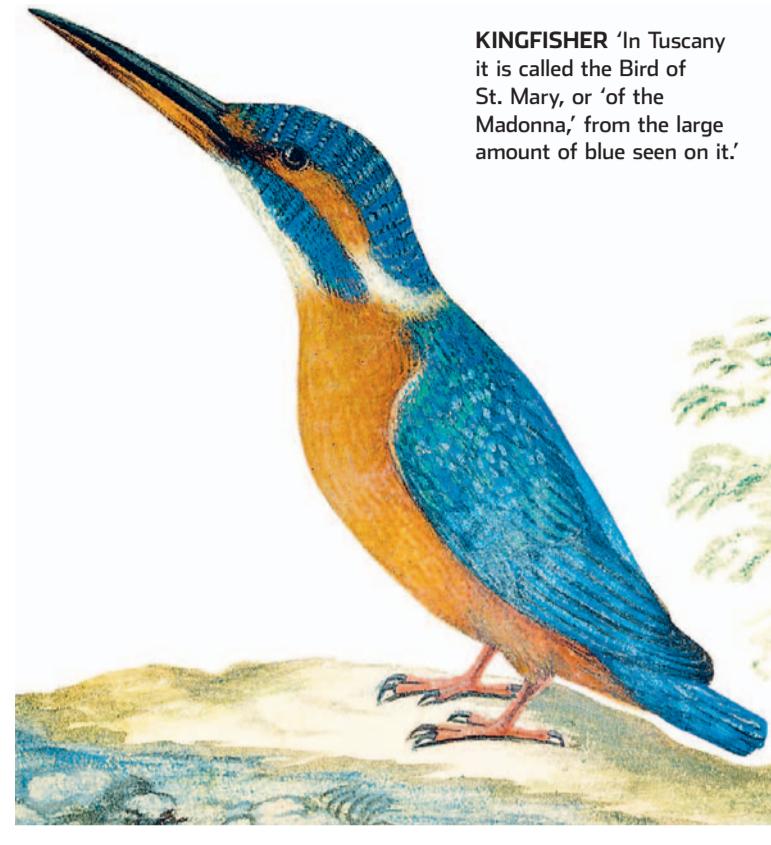
no companion." (Indeed they don't: As we would express today, robins are highly territorial even in winter.) You will also learn, rather surprisingly, that the robin suffers from "dizziness or epilepsy."

Food is a big deal in "Pasta for Nightingales": not just how to feed your birds but how to eat them. If you want your chaffinch to sing, give him a little bread with chewed sheep's-milk cheese—though make sure that the cheese is unsalted. And when your ortolan buntings have reached three to four ounces in weight, "whence being exquisitely delicious," they may be "sent preserved in their skins, and rolled in FLOUR, to be served up in Rome and elsewhere to noblemen."

The book's title is not Olina's, but its pasta recipe comes from him. You make your special pasta for nightingales with chick-pea flour and ground almonds, adding butter, egg yolks and honey. In winter you should also use saffron.

A lot of trouble? Not to have a singing nightingale in your house. More recent studies than Olina's have revealed that a top-quality nightingale has a repertoire of 250 phrases made up from 600 song units, and it will combine these with individual virtuosity. The extent to which songs are learned or innate is a cutting-edge question to this day. Can you, for example, claim a tradition of cultural transmission in nightingales and other "repertoire" species?

It was a question that naturally exercised Olina, and for practical purposes: There was no point in going to the trouble of raising a fledgling nightingale if it couldn't sing—or sing well—when it reached maturity. Olina debated the question and decided that song was "the gift of



KINGFISHER 'In Tuscany it is called the Bird of St. Mary, or 'of the Madonna,' from the large amount of blue seen on it.'

pose—to delight human ears, eyes and stomachs—is essentially aimed at us, we can only obtain such gratification by understanding the birds for themselves.

The only innocence comes

from Olina's casual talk of numbers. He says of quail: "In the countryside about ROME near NETTUNO, upon their arrival, an infinite number of them are taken each day." He assumed, naturally, that the birds are out there in numbers that will never dwindle: our very own self-replenishing larder and sound system, forever there, forever at our service. There are 40 million fewer birds in Britain than there were in 1970. There are no statistics for losses since 1622: just as well, for our peace of mind.

This, then, is a book that provides food for thought as well for nightingales. Modern studies show that listening to birdsong still helps us in many ways: calming anxieties and generally making life better. As humans have become



NIGHTINGALE 'This bird sings best all of April until mid-May.'

ercent in a green place—and almost all of them are plugged into a sound system that drowns out the sound of birds. We're not just losing nature; we are losing our connection with nature. "Pasta for Nightingales" is, among many other things, about what we have lost and what we continue to lose.

Mr. Barnes is the author, most recently, of "The Meaning of Birds."



ROBIN 'It brooks no companion. . . . A single bush does not feed two robins.'

Budding Minds in a Blooming World



'IT'S SPRING ... the trees are waking up!" writes Chris Butterworth in "*The Things That I Love About Trees*" (Candlewick, 24 pages, \$15.99), a breezy and

zestful picture-book appreciation of trees and the changes they undergo with the cycle of the seasons.

In Charlotte Voake's inky, water-color-splashed illustrations, children ages 2 to 5 can follow the goings-on of a pretty Stanley plum tree, from its delicate springtime blossoms to the fallen fruit of late summer, as well as the broader alterations in other sorts of trees. "Summer trees are shady and so full of leaves that when the wind blows, they swish like the sea," we read, as two children swing from the crooked branch of a leafy colossus.

Set apart from the principal narration, short chatty paragraphs in smaller print convey age-accessible facts about trees, including this important distinction: "Not all trees lose their leaves in the fall. The ones that do are called deciduous trees. Trees that keep their leaves are called evergreen." An afterword listing ways for children to play games involving trees (building forts, collecting pinecones) speaks to today's comparative rarity of outdoor play.

Emily Hughes dreams up ever more fantastical elevated dwellings in her colorful and detailed illustrations for "*Everything You Need for a Treehouse*" (Chronicle, 32 pages, \$17.99), a picture book for 4- to 8-year-olds by Carter Higgins. "Every-

thing you need for a treehouse starts with time and looking up," Ms. Higgins writes, as two children and a dog stand on a forest floor "imagining a home of timber and rafters in wrangled, gnarled bark."

As the pages turn, the writing veers into self-conscious lyricism that will not be to every reader's taste: "You can spill secrets and whispers in a treehouse cause the wind keeps them snug with a rustle which is a hush you can feel in your bones that's how you know it's safe." But the pictures offer unalloyed

A dog can be a girl's companion, and a pig can become a boy's playmate. But so can a tree.

interest. Ms. Hughes conjures throngs of industrious children who build and enjoy one magical, impossible treehouse after another: a round fort reached by a circular staircase; a bamboo bungalow in a giant cypress; even a library built into a cliff for easy treehouse access.

The trees in Matt James's illustrations for his humane and generous-spirited picture book "*The Funeral*" (Groundwood, 40 pages, \$18.95) are a riot of spring blooms, their vivid pinks and fuchsias standing out against brilliant green grasses and a sky of robin's-egg blue. Sometimes painted, sometimes composed from photo collage, his trees seem an embodiment of loss and renewal, evoking a little girl's innocent enjoyment of her great uncle's funeral.

"Norma was practicing her sad face in the mirror of her parents' room," we read on pages washed in tearful shades of blue, "though she was, in fact, pretty happy. It was a day off from school, and she would be spending it with her cousin Ray. Her FAVORITE cousin, Ray."

Readers ages 4-7 are left in no doubt as to the sorrow of the adults—we see Norma's mother put "a million kleenexes in her purse"—but they'll also recognize

Observant and life-embracing, "*The Funeral*" is refreshingly respectful of the real ways of young children.

Renewal of a more poignant sort transpires in the affecting pages of "*Rescue & Jessica*" (Candlewick, 28 pages, \$16.99), a twin biography, in a way, of a girl who loses her legs and the service dog that becomes her aide and closest companion. The story of their mutual devotion is based on the experiences of authors

bed trying to absorb the fact that her left leg has been amputated: "When will I be able to walk again? What will my life be like?" Her whole family was worried about her, and she didn't want to let anyone down."

Scott Magoon's colorful digital illustrations are pitch-perfect here: detailed enough to convey a sense of reality, yet softened and stylized in a way that will make the emotional intensity bearable for children ages 5 to 9. Young readers may also be delighted by the tasks that Rescue and dogs like him can perform, from fetching a ringing cellphone and opening the fridge to knowing exactly when his human needs consolation.

Any gentle, nonconfrontational child who has struggled to break with a controlling friend—and any bossy child who has been mystified by the loss of friends—will appreciate the emotional arc of "*Beyond the Fence*" (Child's Play, 36 pages, \$16.99), a spare and powerful picture book by Maria Gulemetova.

Piggy is the polite animal companion of an assertive boy named Thomas. "Thomas knew what suited Piggy," we read. "He always knew what they should play." One day, while Thomas is busy with a visitor, Piggy ventures away from their house and into a wide meadow. There Piggy encounters Wild Pig—brown, shaggy, and exuding fun and adventure. As in most personal relationships, things don't change for Piggy overnight, but when they do, it's for keeps. As we see in Ms. Gulemetova's spacious ink-and-watercolor pictures, sometimes it takes a true friendship to illuminate a false one.

Mrs. Gurdon writes about children's books for the Journal.



themselves and the way they experience the world in the characters of Norma and Ray.

During the funeral, the children are fascinated, confused, a little bored. At one point, Norma buries her face in her mother's handbag, which she loves: "She put her face right into it and breathed deeply, the smell a mix of toothpaste and makeup and deep warm leather—different from the old book smell of the church." Eventually Norma and Ray slip away from the mourning to play in the open air.

Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes, who were newlyweds when they were both badly injured in the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings, and the black Labrador, Rescue, who came to live with them.

Here we meet Rescue as a puppy, worried because his trainer says he can't be a seeing-eye dog but will become a service dog instead: "What will my new partner be like? Will she like me? Rescue didn't want to let anyone down." At the same time, a girl named Jessica lies in a hospital

SPRING BOOKS

'I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library.' —Jorge Luis Borges

Putting Your Self on a Shelf

Packing My Library

By Alberto Manguel

Yale, 146 pages, \$23

The Book: An Homage

By Burkhard Spinnen

Godine, 140 pages, \$19.95

Unpacking My Library

Edited by Jo Steffens

& Matthias Neumann

Yale, 166 pages, \$20

BY ERNEST HILBERT

IN HIS 1931 ESSAY "Unpacking My Library," the German-Jewish author Walter Benjamin wove a spiritual aura around his books as he prepared to shelf them in a new home. He ruminated about "the spring tide of memories which surges toward any collector as he contemplates his possessions" and declared that the "acquisition of an old book is its rebirth." But he also acknowledged the role of serendipity in shaping a library—and a life—as he noted that "the chance, the fate, that suffuse the past before my eyes are conspicuously present in the accustomed confusion of these books." Benjamin's statements prompt us to ask: Is a well-stocked library a badge of character or merely a repository of choices and desires? For that matter, what is the rationale for libraries or collections, and how will they retain their integrity while enduring societal and technological changes? Three new books take up this conversation.

In 2015, the widely traveled Argentine writer Alberto Manguel was appointed director of Argentina's national library, a post once held by Jorge Luis Borges. (In a gesture that now appears fateful, when Borges' eyesight began to fail he asked Mr. Manguel, then a teenager, to read aloud to him.) Not long before his appointment, Mr. Manguel had found himself faced with a bookish dilemma that verged on a psychological crisis. After carefully filling an ancient presbytery near France's Loire Valley with a personal library of no fewer than 35,000 volumes, he was compelled to pack them all up again in preparation for a move to a New York apartment. He tells the story in "Packing My Library," alternating intimate chapters that make up an "elegy" for his library with 10 masterly digressions on his life as a reader and lover of books.

On the day he left France, he felt "desperately unhappy" and overcome by "waves of remembered lines about revenge and rage and despair." After all, he confesses, "I've often felt that my library explained who I was," a "space that both enclosed and mirrored me." For Mr. Manguel, a library preserves the emotional contours of "a story read one sultry night be-



INSTALLATION The collection of the artists Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller, from 'Unpacking My Library.'

tween the sheets, a poem discovered in an anthology that my adolescent self believed no one had discovered before," housing the "ghosts of people I knew once." He goes so far as to suggest that perhaps we only learn who we are once we are deprived of a library we've spent a life creating. Mr. Manguel's intellect and enthusiasm are on full display as he cites a dazzling number of books in many languages, dilating on an astounding number of topics, from Plato and Aristotle (including the platonic qualities of digital text) through modern masters of the absurd like Kafka and Borges, guiding us from the Library of Alexandria to contemporary efforts to digitize every book ever printed, a fool's errand for Mr. Manguel, who easily imagines a library as heaven, its absence a kind of hell.

Less ambitious than Mr. Manguel's slim but wide-ranging volume is German author Burkhard Spinnen's "The Book: An Homage." It is a series of brief meditations on different varieties of books and the parallel life of readers, with space devoted to "the signed book," "the loaned book," "the right book" (along with, of course, "the wrong book"), "the burned book," and even "the forbidden book" that can "change, or end, a life." Regrettably, some expressions and terms fail to translate. For instance,

the chapter devoted to "the reading copy" refers to what Americans would call an advance review copy for book reviewers (a reading copy being for them a working copy of a book used in order to preserve a collectible first edition).

Nevertheless, Mr. Spinnen mounts a spirited defense of books in the

'My library explained who I was,' writes Manguel. The books 'both enclosed and mirrored me.'

wake of digitization. He concedes that both digitization and online bookselling have made formerly rare books much more accessible, but he regrets that this comes at the expense of the felicitous browsing in bookstores or beloved flea markets that he so enjoys. While he accepts that e-books might be, somewhat perversely, the final stage of "Gutenberg's plan," Mr. Spinnen is too fond of his own library (like Mr. Manguel, he is averse to lending books) to view the physical book as anything less than "the embodiment of a complete, accomplished work, like the final bronze cast of a statue." He intro-

duces the unsettling but uncontested notion that "an old book conveys—with terrific force—that it has outlived one, two, or perhaps many owners." For him, "text and physical form are self-evidently one. Spirit and substance are equivalent."

Much the same devotion can be found in "Unpacking My Library: Artists and Their Books," edited by Jo Steffens and Matthias Neumann, which adopts its title directly from Benjamin's essay. It is the third in a series of attractive illustrated books that had previously documented writers' and architects' libraries. Lavish photographic surveys accompany enjoyable interviews with the artists, who are asked to select 10 favorites from collections that vary in scope from cherished childhood books to working archives.

The subjects' need for books as things is infectious and palpable. British artist Tracey Emin, who carries books around with her, explains that "having a good book means I never feel lonely. Art can do this, but it is momentary." American artist Theaster Gates, creator of the Dorchester Projects library (which makes use of formerly derelict buildings on Chicago's South Side), wonders: "How does one make a special place? And what are the designations of special places, so that other people feel they have the

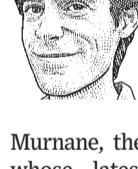
right, and the permission, to come to them?" American Pop Artist Ed Ruscha, who extols the virtues of the "simple act of flipping pages," describes the "temptation to decorate and print images and words" on blank book covers, and he includes two of his own creations among his favorites. Acknowledging the "identity crisis brought on by the digital era," the editors nonetheless believe that "books offer a tangible, powerful, and meaningful experience."

As all three volumes attest, a book's very presence, combined with its contents—tales, images, evidence—cast a peculiar spell on the owner. To create a library is to multiply this effect hundreds or thousands of times, resulting in something of deeply personal and, hence, inestimable value. For centuries, libraries have served, in Mr. Manguel's words, as places for "memory and experience," elaborate arrangements for preserving thought, tradition and culture. As the pace of technology continues to accelerate, the question remains whether we will keep books on our shelves, retaining the "accustomed confusion" our forebears once cherished, or if we will surrender such collections to a greater chaos.

Mr. Hilbert is a poet, critic and rare-book dealer.

FICTION CHRONICLE: SAM SACKS

The Mapmaker's Colors



WRITERS OF fiction should rarely be trusted to explain their own books, but an exception can be made for Gerald Murnane, the 79-year-old Australian whose latest, "**Border Districts**" (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 132 pages, \$22), appears alongside "**Stream System**" (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 548 pages, \$18), a generous new collection of short works from the past 40 years. Mr. Murnane's writing is so self-aware and so unorthodox that it's worth letting him speak for himself.

"When I think of the word 'fiction,'" he said in an interview with his Australian publisher Giramondo, "I think of someone at a desk, grappling with what are largely unseen, what I call the invisible world or the world of the mind. Fiction starts, and for me, never gets away from the realm of the mind." He has no interest in the realistic novel. "I had never created any character or imagined any plot," says the autobiographical narrator of his 2009 book "Barley Patch." His writing proceeds instead by elaborating on a sequence of mental images prompted by memories, by his immediate environment or by books. Often, he says in the essay "Why I Write What I Write," "the images and feelings haunting me become linked in ways that surprise and amaze me."

Mr. Murnane arranges these images in the methodical manner of a cartographer charting a landscape. He writes in "In Far Fields," "A diagram of my mind would resemble a vast and intricate

map with images for its small towns and with feelings for the roads between the towns." This piece and much of the rest of his writings Mr. Murnane has labeled "fictions," but another term he favors is "reports"—thorough, fastidious and neutral in tone, they read like field notes from a journey through the interior.

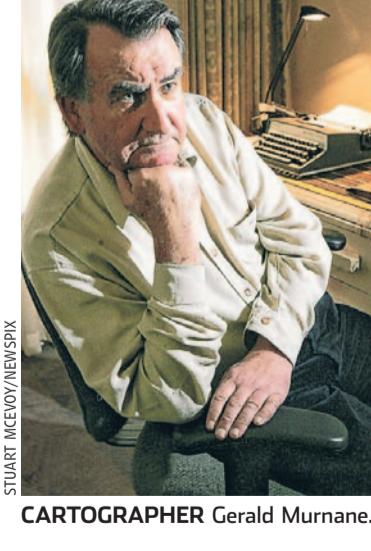
An actual map of Melbourne is the starting point for the title work in "Stream System," in which a roughly oval shape designating a body of water serves as a kind of ink blot that con-

Murnane likens his mind to a vast map with images for the towns and feelings for the roads between them.

jures recollections of the author's family. Thus the shape's vague resemblance to a drooping mustache summons the memories of the author's grandfather. "The White Cattle of Uppington" arranges an annotated list of images—fields with cows and trees, a young man reading "Ulysses" on a crowded train, an erotic magazine illustration—through which one can discern the lineaments of the author's coming of age in rural Australia.

Books are the source of Mr. Murnane's busiest mental activity and it's no surprise that a novel as concerned with memory as "In Search of Lost Time" is central to two pieces, "Emer-

ald Blue" and "Invisible Yet Enduring Lilacs." Yet irony undercuts the allusion, because while Proust's madeleine uncovered a teeming universe from the mists of the past, Mr. Murnane's associations simply call forth the random circumstances of reading the book:



CARTOGRAPHER Gerald Murnane.

Whenever he remembered his having read one or another passage in one or another book, he remembered not the words of the passage but the weather during the hour when he had read the passage, the sights or sounds that he had seen or heard around him from time to time while he read, the textures of the cushions or curtains or walls or grasses or leaves that he had

reached for and had touched from time to time while he read . . .

The chain of connection, by which a book is tied more closely to the picture on its cover than to its contents, is at the heart of what makes Mr. Murnane's writing so counterintuitive. Almost all the fiction we read is metaphoric. That is, it signifies something larger than itself. A love story affirms the existence of love; tragedies tell us that there are moral truths. We read with the faith that the book will give sense and structure to a system of meaning. Mr. Murnane's fiction doesn't offer that baseline assurance. It replaces metaphor with metonymy, essences with chance effects. The relation of one thing to another can be completely arbitrary so long as it is honest to the mind of the individual thinking about it.

The technique is often difficult to appreciate in the shorter works in "Stream System," which are so packed with reflections on the writing process—for Mr. Murnane, *how to write* answers the question of *what to write*—that they can read like instruction manuals. "Border Districts," with more room to expand, feels less formally oppressive while still holding the author's signature moments of crystalline detail and uncanny observation.

It begins when the narrator notices the stained-glass windows on a church in the rural township where he has lately moved. The "wondering richness" of the color in the illuminated panes turns the ignition of his thoughts and the narrative launches into a cascade of mental associations linked to images of colored glass.

The sequences are inscrutable and resistant to interpretation. In a few pages the musings alight from the author photo on a book, in which the woman has glassy eyes, to the narrator's childhood marble collection, to the day when a friend gave him a kaleidoscope, to the state of Virginia, where the friend bought it.

But a strong, recurring presence is the church. The narrator notes that he is a lapsed Catholic, so while his mental landscape is filled with Christian iconography, the symbols' associations have been shucked away. To read of stained glass shot through with sunlight is to think of divine radiance, but Mr. Murnane pulls the image down from the abstract to the human. For him the vision is still revelatory, for it reveals an endless succession of further images, but its disclosed messages are prosaic. It has exactly the same meaning and importance as a jar of marbles.

Later in "Border Districts," the narrator paraphrases a quotation from Kafka suggesting that "a person might learn all that was needed for salvation without leaving his or her own room." Mr. Murnane's challenging, rewarding books push this proposition to its logical endpoint, elaborating a fictional world grounded in the imagery of the everyday, in which God is no longer found in the details but is replaced by those details altogether. "Eternity is just another name for this endless scenery where we wander from one place to another," he once wrote. Or it's a map we spend our lives completing.

SPRING BOOKS

'Some people become so expert at reading between the lines they don't read the lines.' —Margaret Millar

She Kept Us in Suspense

BY TOM NOLAN

'A GREAT MANY women feel trapped after they have their first child,' a social-worker character says in Margaret Millar's 1952 novel *"Rose's Last Summer,"* "especially talented and ambitious women. . . . Most of them eventually adjust themselves, in one way or another."

Margaret Millar (1915-94), who had her first (and only) child in Toronto, in 1939 at the age of 24, adjusted initially by giving her infant daughter over to the care of female relatives and taking to bed with an imagined (she would later confess) heart ailment. There she read dozens of detective stories brought home for her from the library by her husband, Kenneth, who would soon take a job teaching high school in Kitchener, Ontario. The new mother, already frustrated in her youthful ambition to be a writer, threw one of these novels against a wall and vowed: "I could do better than that!"

In two bedridden weeks, she produced a handwritten draft of what would be the first work in a 27-book oeuvre.

The entirety of that lifework is now gathered in *"Collected Millar,"* a densely packed set of seven mostly omnibus volumes by the author who more or less invented the mystery subgenre dubbed "psychological suspense." Her works would be ranked by German author-critic Alfred Andersch with those of Georges Simenon and Patricia Highsmith. Her admiring readers would include Agatha Christie, Raymond Chandler and Truman Capote. In 1983, she was named a "Grand Master" by the Mystery Writers of America.

Such honors might not have been predicted on the basis of her first three mysteries, comical works full of arch epigrams and learned wisecracks uttered by a 6-foot-5 psychiatrist-sleuth named Dr. Paul Prye. But they received good reviews and got her from Kitchener to Ann Arbor (her husband having earned a graduate fellowship from the University of Michigan). Millar replaced Dr. Prye with Inspector Sands of the Toronto police force—a gruff and intense investigator with whom she leapt onto a more adventurous literary plateau. *"Wall of Eyes"* (1943) won her a better publisher; and *"The Iron Gates"* (1945) became a best seller, billed not as a detective story but as a "psychological thriller."

By then the Millars had settled in Santa Barbara, Calif., and Kenneth had begun writing detective novels too, eventually using the pen name Ross Macdonald. Wife and husband, in their different ways, both began reshaping the style and substance of modern American crime fiction.

In the golden age of mysteries preceding their careers, it was thought

COLLECTED MILLAR
SYNDICATE BOOKS

The First Detectives
1941-45, 543 pages, \$17.99

Dawn of Domestic Suspense
1944-52, 516 pages, \$17.99

The Master at Her Zenith
1952-59, 555 pages, \$17.99

Legendary Novels of Suspense
1960-70, 516 pages, \$17.99

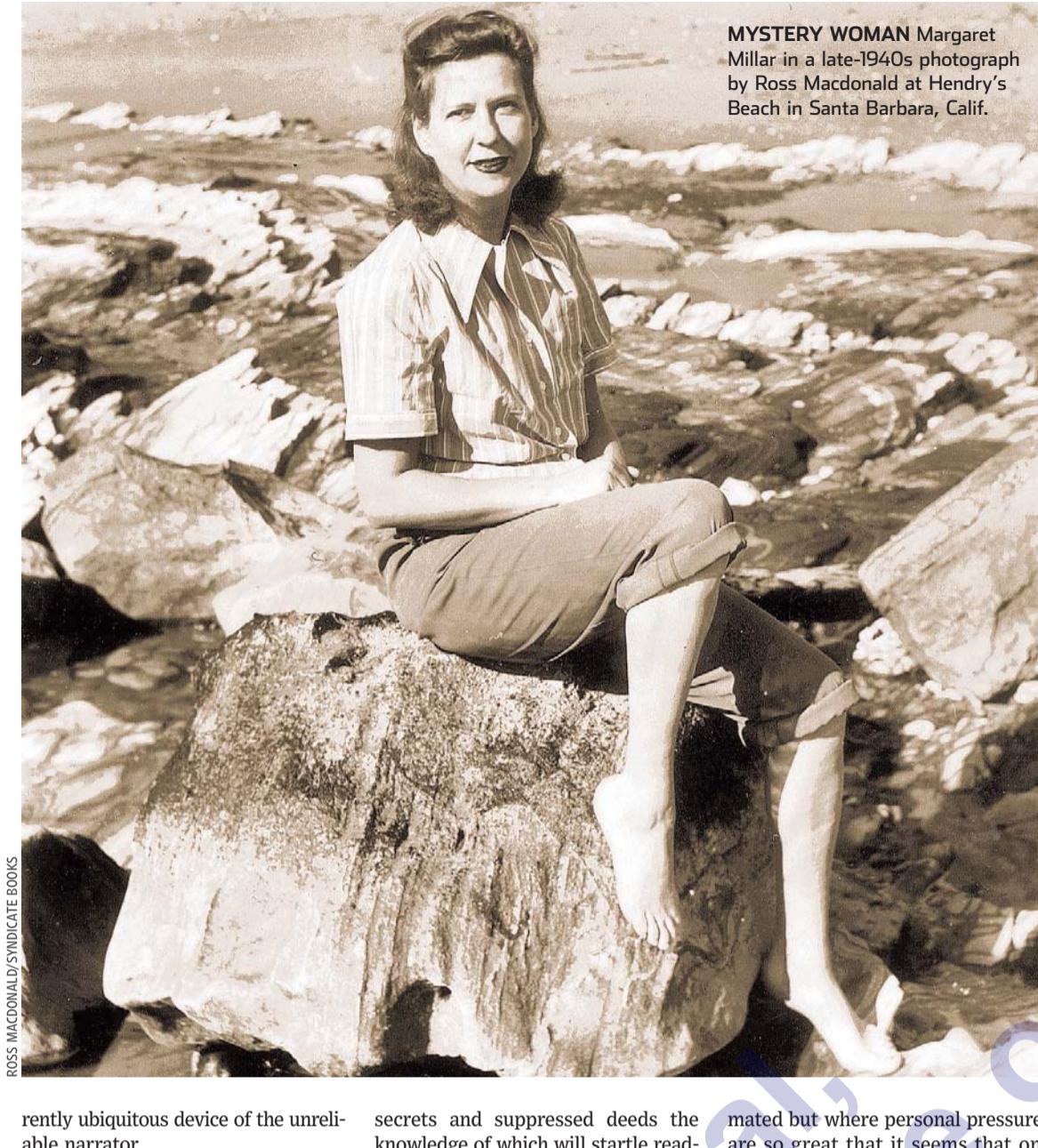
The Tom Aragon Novels
1976-82, 337 pages, \$17.99

First Things, Last Things
1948, 1983-2017, 495 pages, \$17.99

Memoir
1968, 228 pages, \$16.99

Millar found her solution in having plot unfold through the points of view of several characters, any of whom might conceivably be culpable of, or vulnerable to, crimes. With this enlarged emphasis on victims and potential perpetrators, the traditional detective figure became less central. For the most part, Millar would write non-series, stand-alone books.

Her best-known novel is probably the Edgar Award-winning 1955 work *"Beast in View,"* in which a well-to-do Beverly Hills woman, Helen Clavoe, is menaced by telephone calls from a female she is certain means to destroy her. But how much faith should be put in Helen's perceptions, given her propensity for such Freudian slips as, writing in a seemingly friendly letter to her mother: "I hope that all is hell with you." Is it Helen perhaps who is her own worst enemy? With the powerfully effective *"Beast in View,"* Millar pioneered (albeit in third-person prose) the cur-



ROSS MACDONALD/SYNDICATE BOOKS

MYSTERY WOMAN Margaret Millar in a late-1940s photograph by Ross Macdonald at Hendry's Beach in Santa Barbara, Calif.

omnipresent, whether or not the penal code came into play.

In *"The Fiend"* (1964), though, the author combined thriller and mainstream elements with great success. Events spiral out from the sheltered, frightened life of Charlie Gowen, a convicted sex offender who lives with his caring but exasperated brother. The lives of several other citizens, including Jessie, a young girl whom Charlie is obsessed with protecting, are affected in significant ways by the actions of this unwitting "fiend," real, imagined or anticipated.

Among other notable Millar works of psychological suspense included in this welcome and long-overdue omnigathering are *"How Like an Angel"* (1962), *"Vanish in an Instant"* (1952), *"Beyond This Point Are Monsters"* (1970) and *"The Listening Walls"* (1959). Then there is Millar's non-fiction memoir, *"The Birds and the Beasts Were There"* (1968), a true-life education in bird watching that begins in humorous fashion, becomes fascinating in its abundance of information—and then concludes with a Santa Barbara forest-fire sequence as full of life-or-death anxiety as the finale of one of Millar's threat-filled novels.

In *"The Murder of Miranda"* (1979), a lively later tale of nasty doings at a Southern California beach club, Millar surprisingly displayed a biting comic tone that reminded her husband, at least, of Evelyn Waugh's.

Kenneth Millar—Ross Macdonald—died in 1983. His widow kept writing almost until her own death 11 years later, still probing the foundational cracks and psychological fault lines of the sort of fraught interpersonal entanglements that first led her, as a depressed young mother, to lie down and pick up a pen in Kitchener, Ontario, over half a century earlier. "I had to do something to get out of that bed," she would later say. "To get out of that town."

Mr. Nolan, who reviews crime fiction for the Journal, is the author of a biography of Ross Macdonald.

rently ubiquitous device of the unreliable narrator.

The less-well-known *"An Air That Kills"* (1957) is an equally impressive performance of a different sort. Set mostly in Ontario, the book turns on the disappearance of Ron Galloway, who vanishes on his way to join friends on a fishing trip. It's left to his wife to sort out what became of a fellow who seemed bland and uncomplicated to his closest pals but who is downright mysterious in his absence. While learning Ron's fate, readers are treated to a satiric skewering of a certain discontented middle-class set of privileged mid-1950s citizens, the sort of educated couples who "instead of throwing ashtrays at each other . . . threw Oedipus complexes, father fixations and compulsive neuroses."

Millar's mature style was something to savor. She could shift with ease from the mental perspective of a savvy yet innocent child to that of a well-meaning but manipulative parent to the devoted mentality of the family canine. (Cats, though, she didn't presume to comprehend.) And she could capture a mood or sketch a character in a single sad or satirical phrase:

"It seemed . . . she was always dressed for company but company never came."

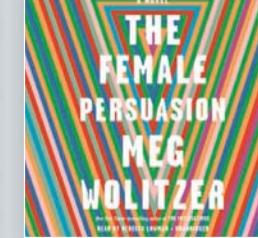
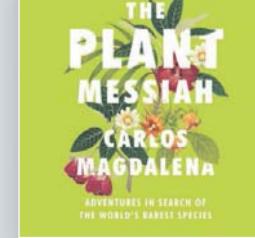
"It was better to feed him a lie he would swallow than a truth he would spit out."

"The only people who really enjoy a divorce are your best friends. All that vicarious excitement and raw emotion . . . it was almost as good as television."

Even as Millar changed the contours and expanded the possibilities of the traditional mystery, she adhered to genre customs of fair play and prolonged suspense. In at least three books, she withholds the plot's ultimate surprise until the last sentence or even the last word.

Another critical favorite by Millar is the excellent California-set *"A Stranger in My Grave"* (1960), in which Daisy Harker, the childless wife of a businessman in a Santa Barbara-like city, wakes one morning from a frightening dream: Walking in the local cemetery, she had come upon a gravestone bearing her own name—and a death date of four years earlier. Convinced that the dream has great personal significance, Daisy visits the cemetery and finds the gravestone from her dream; it bears the same death date but the name of a man she doesn't know, a man who committed suicide. Who was he? And why is he in "her" grave? As she tries to find the answers, she uncovers ugly

Clear Stories Blossom



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SPRING BOOKS

'It's amazing how right you can sometimes be about a person you don't know; it's only the people you do know who confuse you.' —Elaine Dundy



Fallen Idylls

The Art of the Wasted Day

By Patricia Hampl
Viking, 271 pages, \$26

BY EMILY BOBROW

LIFE, IF YOU'RE lucky, is divided into thirds: youth, middle age and "you look good." For Patricia Hampl, this quip of her father's feels freshly relevant now that, as she acknowledges, most of her life is behind her. Like many who feel their days are numbered, she finds herself looking back with wistful ambivalence on years "awash in the brackish flotsam of endeavor, failure and success, responsibility and reward."

"The Art of the Wasted Day" is a memoir haunted by death. Having lost not only her parents—the subjects of her acclaimed 2007 memoir, "The Florist's Daughter"—but also her husband of nearly 30 years, Terrence Williams, in 2015, she has turned both more nostalgic and more philosophical. She begins her book with a memory of herself as a child, lazing away under a beechnut tree in her parents' backyard in St. Paul, Minn., swept up by the "pure pleasure" of daydreaming. How did this delicious sense of abandon turn into a life lived as a to-do list, "a scrum of tasks jittering down the day"? Ms. Hampl now seems troubled by the compromises of adulthood and the "foolish vanity" of work. Mindful of death, she is preoccupied with what it means to live a "real life."

This renewed sense of the preciousness of time makes Ms. Hampl more inclined to waste it properly. For inspiration, she looks to Michel de Montaigne, her longtime muse, whom she praises as "the first modern day-dreamer." Like Montaigne, Ms. Hampl feels most alive when travelling (ever itchy to leave "middling Minnesota"), yet most at home when writing. She admires Montaigne's retreat to his stone tower in Bordeaux, the way he abandoned the world in order to see it—and himself—more clearly. His was a life of leisure, Ms. Hampl notes, but not one of idleness.

Ms. Hampl seeks out others who withdrew from life in order to live it more fully. She travels to Wales to visit the 19th-century home of two spinsters—Sarah Ponsonby and Lady Eleanor Butler—who fled their families to while away their lives together. They

crammed their days with the leisurely pursuits of curious minds: reading, walking, gardening, writing, drawing. Ms. Hampl then treks to Moravia to learn more about Gregor Mendel, whose quiet life at a Brno monastery freed him to explore the reproductive patterns of pea plants. After decades of contented toil as an abbot and gardener, the father of genetics died in relative obscurity.

In keeping with this book's theme, Ms. Hampl's prose can demand some patience. Instead of hewing to a clear narrative, she prefers to throw together notions about life, memory and writing, and to tug readers in unexpected directions. As an acolyte of Montaigne, who described his own work as "meddling with writing," Ms. Hampl prizes essays that stumble upon meaning over those that argue a clear point. Yet her blend of literary criticism and personal anecdote is oc-

How did the child who lazed away under a tree turn into a harried woman driven by a to-do list?

casionally not just meandering but confusing. Her lyrical repetitions and abstractions can be as poetic as prayer. But sometimes she chases beauty at the expense of clarity, such as with this metaphor pile-up about fictional storytelling: "The great carapace of the novel puts a bridle on the stampede of detail."

For all of its profound questions, this book is most moving when Ms. Hampl is describing her newfound disorientation as a widow. She wonders, for example, "Why is it still so hard to enter a restaurant on my own... as if eating alone were faintly reprehensible?" She does not dwell on this loss; she's not that kind of memoirist. Yet her husband's presence, and absence, is felt throughout. For this reason, Montaigne's lessons about life feel all the more valuable: He seemed to suggest the point of it all is not achievement or even love, but finding order and tranquility in one's days. This, Ms. Hampl recognizes, is something she can pursue on her own.

Ms. Bobrow is a journalist based in New York.

FIVE BEST: A PERSONAL CHOICE

Jenny Allen
on comic novelsThe Dud Avocado
By Elaine Dundy (1958)

ISALLY JAY GORCE is a 21-year-old American girl running amok in Paris. She stays out all night. She drinks until she's comatose. She sleeps around. Sixty years after the original publication of Elaine Dundy's first novel, Sally Jay is still outrageous and endearing. She has been compared to that other naughty gamine Holly Golightly, but Holly was poignant. Sally Jay refuses to let us feel sorry for her. She's gladly left her fed-up parents behind in Squaresville; she puts all her faults on the table, including her "fatal" curiosity: "I knew I would have to wait, standing by helplessly, while it rampaged around the town." Sally Jay has many madcap adventures, but she is also molested by a man and betrayed by a trusted friend, and she learns from her abundant mistakes. But she remains, from start to finish, irrepressible.

On Turpentine Lane
By Elinor Lipman (2017)

2 FAITH FRANKEL, 32, is all set. She has returned to her Massachusetts hometown to work at a private school, her alma mater, where she has taken a not-too-demanding job writing thank-you notes for alumni donations. She's getting married. Elinor Lipman is a witty master of comic unraveling, and Faith's tidy world comes apart. Her fiancé, who has had a spiritual awakening and taken off on a cross-country walk, starts posting Facebook photos of himself with dishy younger women. She buys an adorable bungalow that turns out to have



GETTY IMAGES

NO DUD Elaine Dundy in 1962.

a ghastly past. Her supposedly happy parents seem to be separating. Her boss is a disloyal dumbbell. Faith is too sturdy for a nervous breakdown, but it's a lot for anyone. "Tracy!" she says when her father names the woman he has fallen in love with. "How old can someone named Tracy be?" Faith's world is rich with characters, and following their intertwined stories is a great pleasure. Faith finds her soulmate, and even her boss meets someone who can stand him. For the generous Ms. Lipman, everyone deserves to be loved.

They May Not Mean To, But They Do
By Cathleen Schine (2016)

3 WHEN BABY BOOMERS talk about coping with elderly parents, the tone is often *This is so hard on us*. Cathleen Schine's hugely appealing novel turns the tables: Joy, the spirited, suddenly overwhelmed 86-year-old Manhattan matriarch of the Bergman clan, has center stage. We follow Molly and Daniel, her two adoring, guilt-ridden offspring, but the story is mostly told—hilariously, touchingly—from Joy's point of view. Molly calls and visits, but Molly has moved to Los Angeles to live with her partner ("She was sorry Molly had given up a perfectly reasonable husband so she could be a lesbian in California," but Joy has come around). It is Joy who cares for her much-loved husband, changing his diapers, bathing him. When he dies, Joy is more adrift than her children realize. "Someday they would understand," Joy tells herself. "If only everyone could be old together." But wistfulness will not have the day. Look at the aged, Ms. Schine is telling us. See how they prevail.

Le Divorce
By Diane Johnson (1997)

4 LIKE DUNDY'S Sally Jay, Isabel Walker is an American girl let loose in Europe, only steadier. She has come to Paris to help her stepsister Roxeanne, a poet who has married a Frenchman and is pregnant with her second child. Isabel is made of "cruder clay," as she puts it, than the high-strung Roxy, meaning that she's good in a crisis—which is lucky, because Roxy's husband has fallen in love and is demanding a divorce, and Roxy is a fragile mess. This set-up provides the perfect platform for Diane Johnson to explore, with a light, keen touch, the chasm between two cultures. Roxy's mother and stepfather



MS. ALLEN is the author of 'Would Everybody Please Stop? Reflections on Life and Other Bad Ideas.'

fly to Paris to plead with Roxy to divorce the cad and return to Santa Barbara. Suzanne, Roxy's exquisitely mannered mother-in-law, urges her to wait out her son's infidelity. Isabel doesn't judge so much as observe, fascinated. At a tense lunch with both families, French propriety prevails. "No one was sharing his or her feelings, in the encouraged California way.... I learned something." She also learns, thanks to an affair with Suzanne's debonair brother, quite a lot about excellent sex and expensive restaurants. A violent episode at the end feels forced, but *ça ne fait rien*. "Le Divorce" is still a rollicking read.

Pictures From an Institution
By Randall Jarrell (1952)

5 HERE IS the all-female, progressive Benton College, so right-minded that its motto should be "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you feel guilty." Here is the president of Benton, a young man without an original thought in his handsome head. "About anything, anything at all, he believed what it was expedient for the President of Benton College to believe." Here is the virtuous, do-gooder faculty wife Flo Whittaker, whose sweaters "looked as if an old buffalo... had knitted them for her from its coat of the winter before." And here is writer Gertrude Johnson, the toxic central character in Randall Jarrell's brilliant satire of academic life. Gertrude, come to Benton to teach for the year, mistakes cruelty for Truth. (Jarrell denied that she was based on Mary McCarthy, though both taught at Sarah Lawrence at the same time.) "When she patted someone on the head you could be sure that the head was about to appear, smoked, in her next novel." Unlike Gertrude, Jarrell is, finally, generous. Sleepless in the night, Gertrude "said to herself in wondering agony, Why am I so angry?" There's a beating heart inside this asp somewhere.

Best-Selling Books | Week Ended April 8

With data from NPD BookScan

Hardcover Nonfiction

TITLE AUTHOR / PUBLISHER	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK
12 Rules for Life Jordan B. Peterson/Random House Canada	1	1
The Rational Bible: Exodus Dennis Prager/Regnery Faith	2	New
The Confidence Code for Girls Katty Kay & Claire Shipman/HarperCollins	3	New
The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck Mark Manson/HarperOne	4	5
StrengthsFinder 2.0 Tom Rath/Gallup Press	5	9

Nonfiction E-Books

TITLE AUTHOR / PUBLISHER	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK
Factfulness Hans Rosling/Flatiron Books	1	New
The Intelligent Investor (Rev. Ed.) Benjamin Graham/HarperCollins Publishers	2	—
Wizard: The Life...of Nikola Tesla Marc Seifer/Kensington	3	—
Franklin Barbecue Aaron Franklin & Jordan MacKay/Ten Speed Press	4	—
A Random Walk Down Wall Street Burton G. Malkiel/W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.	5	—
Educated Tara Westover/Random House Publishing Group	6	10
The Rational Bible: Exodus Dennis Prager/Regnery Publishing	7	New
The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck Mark Manson/HarperCollins Publishers	8	—
Lost City of the Monkey God Douglas Preston/Grand Central Publishing	9	—
12 Rules for Life Jordan B. Peterson/Random House Canada	10	2

Nonfiction Combined

TITLE AUTHOR / PUBLISHER	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK
True Roots Kristin Cavallari/Rodale Books	1	New
Killers of the Flower Moon David Grann/Vintage	2	—
12 Rules for Life Jordan B. Peterson/Random House Canada	3	1
The Rational Bible: Exodus Dennis Prager/Regnery Faith	4	New
The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck Mark Manson/HarperOne	5	8
Factfulness Hans Rosling/Flatiron Books	6	New
You Are A Badass Jen Sincero/Running Press Adult	7	—
The Confidence Code for Girls Katty Kay & Claire Shipman/HarperCollins	8	New
Milk And Honey Rupi Kaur/Andrews McMeel Publishing	9	—
Red Alert: An NYPD Red Mystery James Patterson & Marshall Karp/Little, Brown & Company	9	1
The Sun and Her Flowers Rupi Kaur/Andrews McMeel Publishing	10	—

Hardcover Fiction

TITLE AUTHOR / PUBLISHER	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK
Dog Man and Cat Kid (Dog Man 4) Dav Pilkey/Graphix	1	1
I've Got My Eyes on You Mary Higgins Clark/Simon & Schuster	2	New
Red Alert: An NYPD Red Mystery James Patterson & Marshall Karp/Little, Brown & Company	3	2
The Giving Tree Shel Silverstein/HarperCollins	4	—
The Disappeared C.J. Box/G.P. Putnam's Sons	5	3

Fiction E-Books

TITLE AUTHOR / PUBLISHER	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK
I've Got My Eyes on You Mary Higgins Clark/Simon & Schuster	1	New
Ready Player One Ernest Cline/Crown/Archetype	2	7
The Great Alone Kristin Hannah/St. Martin's Press	3	6
Scoured Kevin Hearne/Random House Publishing Group	4	New
Cave of Bones Anne Hillerman/HarperCollins Publishers	5	New
Harvesting the Heart Jodi Picoult/Penguin Publishing Group	6	—
Little Fires Everywhere Celeste Ng/Penguin Publishing Group	7	—
Rock Chick Reborn Kristen Ashley/Kristen Ashley	8	New
Red Alert: An NYPD Red Mystery James Patterson & Marshall Karp/Little, Brown & Company	9	1
The Disappeared C.J. Box/G.P. Putnam's Sons	10	2

Fiction Combined

TITLE AUTHOR / PUBLISHER	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK
I've Got My Eyes on You Mary Higgins Clark/Simon & Schuster	1	New
Ready Player One Ernest Cline/Broadway Books	2	4
A Wrinkle in Time Madeleine L'Engle/Square Fish	3	2

REVIEW



RICK WERNER FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WEEKEND CONFIDENTIAL: ALEXANDRA WOLFE

Suzanne Greco

For the Subway CEO, business is a family affair

WHEN SUBWAY chief executive Suzanne Greco took over the sandwich chain after the death of her older brother, she knew what others were thinking: "What is she going to do? What is she going to say?" I think a lot of people didn't know what to expect from me."

Fred DeLuca, the company's co-founder, had led Subway for decades, but he was diagnosed with leukemia in 2013 and died two years later. Ms. Greco had been running operations and research and development for the company—the largest restaurant chain in the world, based on number of stores—and was elevated to the job of CEO.

"I wasn't really thinking of being a

leader or climbing the corporate ladder," she says.

Ms. Greco, who admits she was often known within the company as "Fred's sister," faced challenges right away. Customer traffic had been declining for years. At the end of 2017, Subway had nearly 44,000 franchisee-owned locations around the world—including almost 26,000 in the U.S.—down about 750 from the end of 2015. According to industry research firm Technomic, U.S. sales fell from \$11.3 billion in 2016 to \$10.8 billion in 2017. Late last year, hundreds of franchisees protested the company's \$4.99 foot-long sandwich deal, saying the discount was eating into their prof-

its. The company says that participation in promotions is optional and that 97% of its U.S. locations are running the deal.

Ms. Greco, now 60, has staged a brand overhaul and is in the midst of updating the stores' look, technology and menu. The "Fresh Forward" redesign, now adapted by around 200 stores, features brightly colored modern décor. Earlier this year, Subway reintroduced wraps and began running discounts on its health-focused offerings.

Not everyone in the company has been pleased about the re-branding. The business's co-owners—her brother's partner, Peter Buck, and her brother's widow,

Elisabeth DeLuca—"were not thrilled," says Ms. Greco, who doesn't have an ownership stake in the company. "I'm just taking a little bit of a bolder approach." Dr. Buck told the New York Post last fall that Subway should instead buy or develop a sub-brand. Through the company, Dr. Buck and Mrs. DeLuca declined to comment.

Ms. Greco has been involved with Subway in some way since she was a child. When she was 7, her brother borrowed \$1,000 from Dr. Buck, a family friend, and started the business in 1965 at age 17 as a single sandwich shop in Bridgeport, Conn., called Pete's Super Submarines. Her parents

helped out. On weekends and holidays, Ms. Greco says, "my mom really didn't have any choice but to bring me to the restaurant."

At 16, she was working behind the counter. She was also an avid dancer. She took ballet classes at a studio next to the original shop, and after high school, she enrolled in a training program to become a dance teacher. She then performed

with a dance company and taught classes.

"I loved the kids, and I loved to teach, but I really didn't care for the parents," she says with a laugh. By

1986, when she was in her late 20s, she was ready to work at Subway, which by then had more than 700 locations.

She started as an operations specialist and worked to get a business degree at night, which she earned in 1996. In 2013 she became vice president of operations and research and development.

When she was younger, working for her brother was a way to connect with him. "I really looked up to him," she says. Her brother wanted to make sure she really earned her promotions. Fred, who tended to be more serious than his sister, sometimes criticized her for being too lighthearted and humorous, she says. "I think he expected my behavior to be a little more corporate than it was," she recalls.

There were the inevitable arguments, she says. "Have you ever worked with your family before?" Ms. Greco jokes.

Her mother, who didn't have a formal title at the company, continued to be involved, too. She was a receptionist at Subway's headquarters for a time and hosted "Marinara Mondays" at her house—spaghetti-and-meatball dinners for Dr. Buck and her family.

Ms. Greco says that many of the chain's recent problems stem from increased competition, with the rise of smaller fast-casual chains and an increase in healthy offerings from fast-food outlets. Ms. Greco's solution is to emphasize freshness, affordability and technology—with displays of fresh vegetables and self-ordering kiosks. The company employs over 1,500 people worldwide (beyond its franchises), including 150 new hires to focus on technology.

Ms. Greco lives in Woodbridge, Conn., with her husband and her two teenage daughters, who have helped her understand what millennial consumers want. One of her daughters recently raved about being able to order a delivery from Starbucks to her friend's Manhattan apartment. Subway will soon be increasing the number of stores that offer delivery through third-party services. Ms. Greco spends many of her off-hours taking one of her daughters to equestrian events. She also enjoys boating and traveling.

She's particularly looking forward to seeing the newest Fresh Forward stores in France. The redesigned stores, the company says, have on average doubled their sales and traffic since the overhaul. Still, Ms. Greco notes, "this has been a continuous challenge."

MOVING TARGETS: JOE QUEENAN



Slow and Steady Drives Everyone Crazy

IN A VICTORY for justice and freedom, the state of Virginia has begun issuing \$100 tickets to motorists who drive too slowly in the fast lane. The law has been on the books for a while but was rarely enforced. Now the Old Dominion is flexing its muscles about this too-long-overlooked vehicular transgression.

Naturally, civil libertarians will be up in arms about this draconian policy, because civil libertarians are always up in arms about something. Yet the state's logic seems impeccable: Left-lane slowpokes can cause accidents by making other drivers angry and therefore reckless. In their own seemingly innocent, absentminded way, slow drivers pose just as much of a threat to society as fast ones. And don't think they don't know it; those self-satisfied smirks tell all.

Slow drivers are among the most despised human beings in the republic. Nothing is more infuriating than missing that blink-

and-you'll-miss-it left-hand turn on the green arrow because the driver in front of you was texting or talking on the phone or simply not paying attention. There goes your date, your job interview, your flight, your day, your career, your life. It makes you want to pull your hair out. Which also could ruin your day, your career and your life.

But meandering motorists are by no means the only offenders. While technology has made so many things more efficient—quickly finding out on your phone, for example, that it will rain for five days straight—and sped up the way we live, some among us have gone in the opposite direction, deliberately slowing things down, sometimes unconsciously but more often than not just to be mean. This is a crisis. We need to declare war on sluggards, on dawdlers, on leaden-footed lollygaggers. We need more tickets.

Who gets ticketed? How

Virginia is giving out \$100 tickets to slow drivers. We need to do more.



about that person in front of you in the supermarket checkout line who capriciously—no, maliciously—waits until all his items have been rung up before looking for his wallet? How about the customer who insists on counting out all the change in pennies? Fifty-one. Fifty-two. Grrrrr. Have the cashier press a button, and a scary-looking policeman will show up. That'll set you back a hundred bucks. On the spot. You got a problem with that? Tell it to the judge.

And how about the jerk in the airplane aisle, trying to jam his oversized suitcase into an overhead bin that's too small, preventing everyone else from getting to their seats? So the plane that's already three hours late can take off? Or the barista who lovingly fashions that goofy, utterly extraneous bean symbol on the froth atop the latte while a dozen other "guests" are hoping to get their Mocha Frappuccinos before the

departure gate closes? Also \$100.

Other ticket-worthy slowpokes? The jazz bassist who takes 19 minutes to wrap up the solo on "The Girl From Ipanema." The guys up in the review booth trying to decide whether the receiver caught the ball, the base runner eluded the tag or the pitcher deliberately hacked LeBron. And let's not forget Amtrak and the DMV.

The way I see it, Virginia's \$100 tickets are the first salvo in a battle the rest of us must fight against the sociopathically slothlike and the abysmally dilatory. You know who you are, because you're doing it on purpose, you pedestrians sauntering down Fifth Avenue five abreast on Christmas Eve. You art lovers who plant yourselves in front of "Starry Night" and refuse to budge for 45 minutes. You drivers who take 10 minutes to pull out of that parking spot I've been idling to get into.

Let the games begin. And let the fast man win.

REVIEW

TABLE TALK: BEE WILSON

Could It Be the Last Straw?

 I USED TO BELIEVE that a milkshake plus a few straws equaled happiness, or something like it. Back in 1994 when the NBC sitcom "Friends" started, there was a famous promo shot of the cast sharing two strawberry milkshakes. Chandler and Ross and Rachel are sharing one of them and Monica and Joey and Phoebe are sharing the other. Each is sucking on his or her own black plastic drinking straw. It's an image of pure, nonchalant fun.

Plastic drinking straws, I realized recently, are enmeshed with many of my fondest memories. When I was a child, a glass of lemonade with a straw was heaven. Drinking straws were also part of going to the movies, huddled in the dark with a giant, icy Diet Coke. In my 20s, I remember the thrill of sipping whiskey sours through one of those short, slender cocktail straws and feeling carefree and sophisticated.

It's a shock to come to the realization that the straws we had fun with all those years were actually pointless and damaging. What were we thinking, allowing all these tiny pieces of plastic to be generated for beverages that are gone in minutes? Once discarded, millions of straws end up in the ocean, where some become lodged up the nostrils of sea turtles. As a recent article in these pages reported, straw maker Fuling Global estimates that U.S. consumers use 20 billion of the plastic contraptions a year.

But we are now in the middle of a war on straws being fought by environmentalists as well as some bartenders and liquor companies (such as Bacardi, which banned plastic straws from events two years ago). Several cities in California now have "straw-on-request" laws that prohibit waiters from handing out straws unless a diner expressly asks for one.

It's strange how plastic straws seemed essential to our lives—until they weren't any more. Straws won't be the first or last utensil to fall out of favor. Consider the corn-on-the-cob holder, the toast rack or the butter dish, items that once seemed normal yet are now considered superfluous by most eaters.

Like all kitchen utensils, the drinking straw is a piece of engineering, but this doesn't mean that it is any improvement on a glass and a mouth. Some worry that drinking out of a glass at a bar without a straw is unhygienic, but given that glassware is put through superhot dishwashers, this isn't much of an argument. You manage to drink your Sauvignon Blanc just fine without a straw, so why not a club soda?

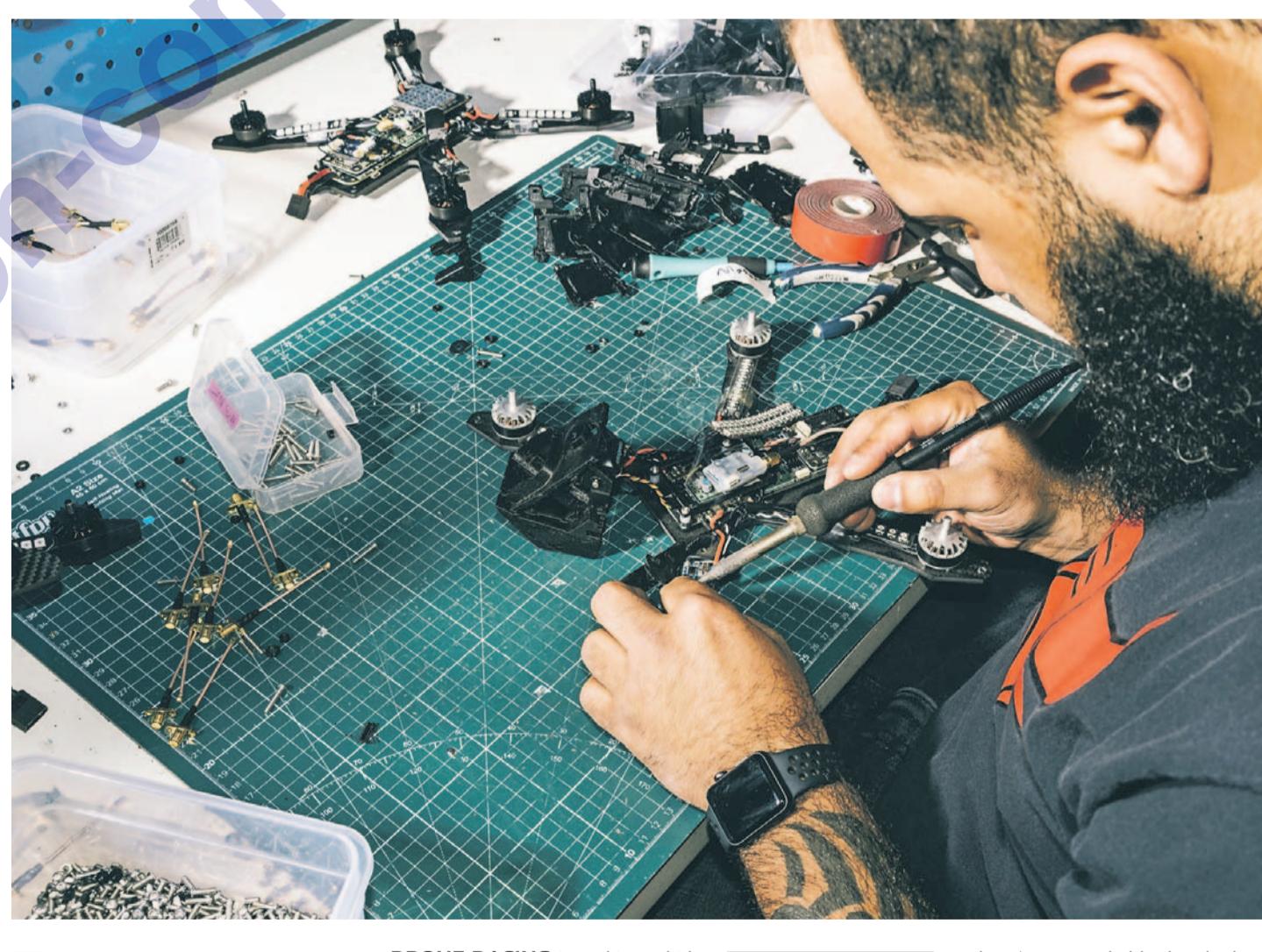
You drink your Sauvignon Blanc without a straw, so why not club soda?

enamel. There are also times—at a crowded ballgame, say, or when giving a drink to a child—when a closed lid and straw is all that prevents spillage. For such occasions, a paper straw will do fine.

On rational grounds, the plastic straw can't be justified, at least in the vast quantities that they are currently used. But something so deeply rooted in popular culture isn't easy to leave behind. There's still a part of me that yearns for nothing more than to sit in a booth with a friend, a milkshake and two plastic straws, waiting for the gurgling sound when the last drop is gone.



CHRISTOPHER SILAS NEAL



WILLIAM MEBANE FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Drones Race... and Crash

DRONE RACING is making a bid to be the next big sport. Later this year a league of 18 paid "pilots" will enter its third season of races broadcast on ESPN. One problem with the drones, which the league says accelerates from zero to 80 mph in under a second: They crash, a lot.

The Drone Racing League brings about 600 of the small aircraft to each event and sends most of them back to its workshop in Manhattan for repairs afterward. Engineers work at seven desks (one,

THE FUTURE OF EVERYTHING

above), surrounded by hundreds of mangled Racer3 drones, the league's 2.2-pound custom model, which costs about \$700 to make.

The league is addressing other problems of the sport: LED lights to make drones more visible for spectators and a proprietary radio-frequency system so signals don't cut out. But crashes remain a cost of doing business. "You'll kinda destroy a drone every time you fly it," says the league's Ryan Gury.

—Leigh Kamping-Carder



PLAY

NEWS QUIZ: Daniel Akst

From this week's
Wall Street Journal

1. House
Speaker Paul Ryan said he'll retire at the end of the term. What reason did he give?

A. Nancy Pelosi is moving to Janesville, Wis., to run against him.
 B. He expects a Republican rout in November.
 C. He wants more time with his family.
 D. Having reined in federal deficits, he feels that his work is done.

2. A townhouse on New York's Upper East Side is listed for \$30 million. What is the owner willing to take instead of cash?

A. A parking space in Greenwich Village
 B. A major work by Jean-Michel Basquiat
 C. \$45 million in digital currency
 D. A San Francisco penthouse of comparable value

3. "It's not enough to just build tools," Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg told Congress. What did he say next?

A. "We have to be careful they don't fall into the wrong hands."
 B. "We need to make sure that they're used for good."
 C. "They have to be easy to access."
 D. "We also have to make money off members' data."

4. Lucy Peng, one of China's richest businesswomen, has

left the helm of one of the country's most valuable private companies. Which?

- A. Ant Financial
- B. Bee Manufacturing
- C. Cricket Wireless Asia
- D. Dragonfly Technologies

5. Results are in from last year's National Assessment of Educational Progress tests of fourth- and eighth-graders. What were the results?

- A. Who can say? Nobody knows how to add up the numbers.
- B. Results were basically flat, continuing years of stagnation.
- C. Fourth-graders, but not eighth-graders, made great gains.
- D. Fourth-graders and eighth-graders lost ground.

6. How many seats on the nine-member U.S. Postal Service governing board are empty?

- A. One
- B. Three
- C. Five
- D. Nine

7. The wholesale price of America's favorite fruit has gone bananas thanks to which of these factors in banana-growing regions?

- A. Floods
- B. Cooler temperatures
- C. Striking plantation workers
- D. All of the above



VARSITY MATH

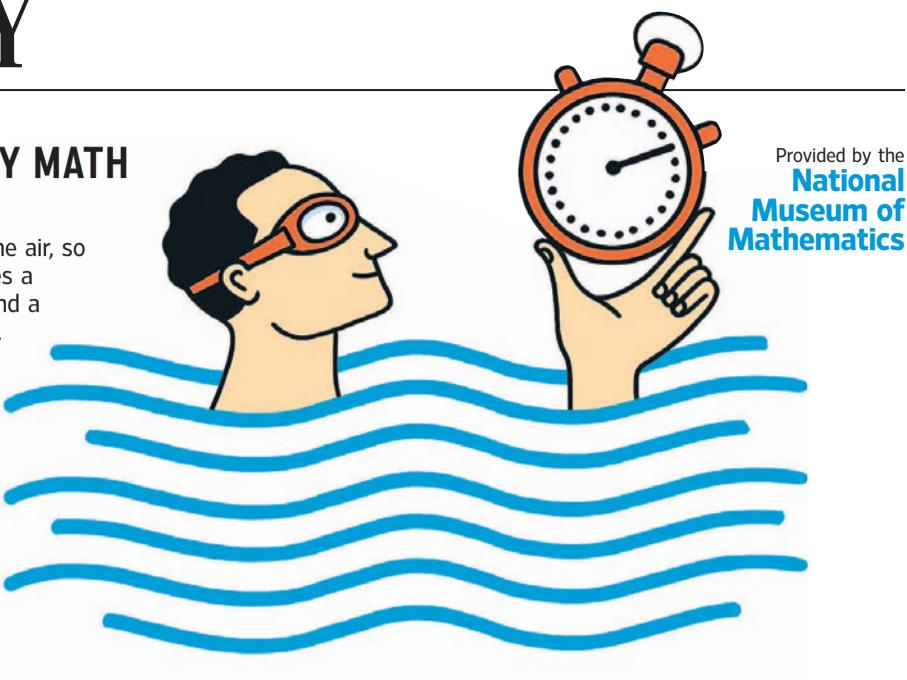
Spring is in the air, so the coach provides a baseball puzzle and a swimming puzzle.

Swimming Workout

Team member Randall says, "I swam from our campsite this morning straight across the lake at my normal constant rate

to the mouth of a stream flowing into the lake. I then swam upstream for a while to a lovely spot took an hour for lunch, swam back downstream to the lake and straight back to our campsite at my normal rate. My total time away was exactly 3 1/2 hours."

Sophie asks, "How far did you swim?" "I don't know any of the distances involved,"



answers Randall, "but I do know my average speed downstream relative to land was 1.2 miles an hour and my average speed upstream relative to land was 0.6 miles an hour."

Sophie says, "Since I know your normal swimming speed, that's all I need to know."

How far did Randall swim and how fast does he swim in the lake?

For previous weeks' puzzles, and to discuss strategies with other solvers, go to WSJ.com/puzzle.

Batting Order

The players in the initial lineup of the Sluggers have jerseys numbered 1 to 9. Players in even-numbered batting positions have even-numbered jerseys, and each player's jersey number is different from his or her batting order position.

Players next to each other in the batting order have jersey numbers that differ by more than one. The Sluggers' opponents have the same situation but a different batting order.

What are the batting orders of the two teams?

ILLUSTRATION BY LUCI GUTIÉRREZ

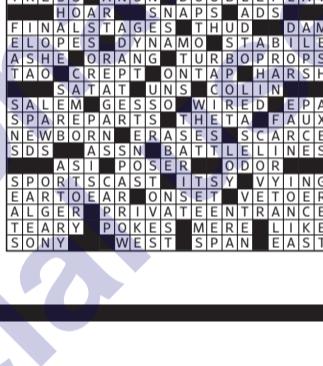
+ Learn more about the National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) at momath.org

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLES

Varsity Math

To solve **Maximization**, let $a = .1^4 = 10000$ and $b = .2^a = 5^{10000}$. Then $M = .3^b$ is the maximum. For the answer to **Multiplication Table** go to WSJ.com/puzzle.

Chewing the Scenery



Acrostic

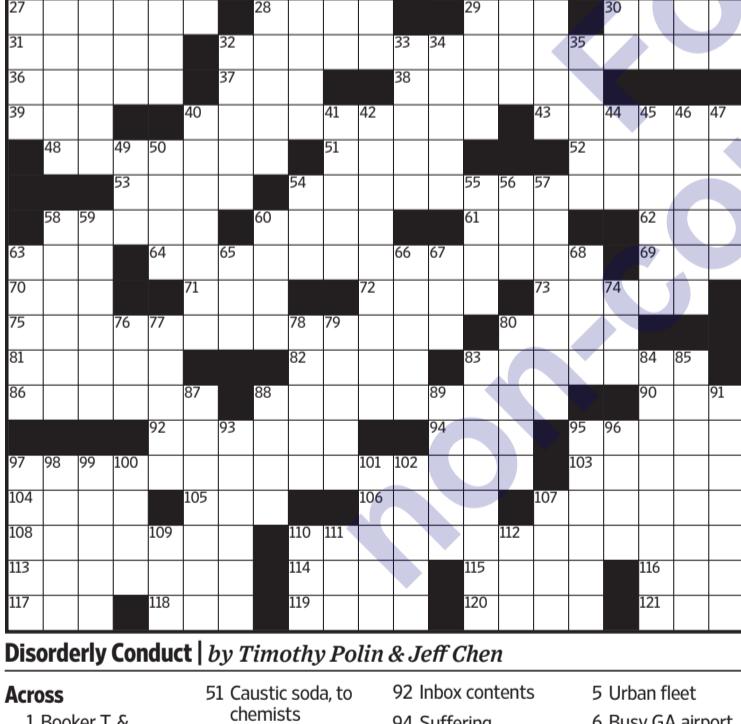
Kate Betts, "Brooks Brothers"—"Henry Sands Brooks, a dandy at heart...would visit the tailors of Savile Row and bring back trunks filled with colorful waistcoats and silk cravats and lavish them on his friends. This habit became a business, and Brooks became a legendary purveyor of American style."

A. Knitwear; **B.** "Awake and Sing!"; **C.** Threshold; **D.** Encyclopedic; **E.** Bassoon; **F.** Edvard Munch; **G.** Thames; **H.** Tabasco sauce; **I.** Small arms; **J.** Billy Idol; **K.** Reels in; **L.** Out of whack; **M.** Obsidian; **N.** Kevin Durant; **O.** Savarin; **P.** Ballast; **Q.** "Ray of Light"; **R.** Obtrusive; **S.** Twist of fate; **T.** Haberdashers; **U.** "Ebony and Ivory"; **V.** Rat fink; **W.** Shirtdress

To see answers, please

turn to page C4.

THE JOURNAL WEEKEND PUZZLES Edited by Mike Shenk



Disorderly Conduct | by Timothy Polin & Jeff Chen

Across

- 1 Booker T. & the __
- 4 "Beat it!"
- 8 Inseparable pals, to texters
- 12 Kidnappers in 1974 news
- 15 Marvelous, slangily
- 18 Corrida call
- 19 Four-letter word
- 20 Diva's delivery
- 21 Like sweepstakes winnings
- 23 See 2-Down
- 26 "There he goes again!" look
- 27 Low-risk securities
- 28 Worms, e.g.
- 29 Busy CA airport
- 30 "I__dead!"
- 31 Deli specification
- 32 See 17-Down
- 36 Launched
- 37 \$200 Monopoly properties: Abbr.
- 38 Seyfried of "Mamma Mia!"
- 39 That señorita
- 40 Cologne alternative
- 43 Soup-strainer
- 48 Theater concession stand choice

51 Caustic soda, to chemists

52 Doff one's topper

53 Rob __ (scotch cocktails)

54 See 45-Down

58 Frank topper

60 Brightest star in Lyra

61 "You expect me to clap for that?"

62 Stretch (out)

63 Stretch out

64 See 68-Down

69 Scorecard figure

70 Sibling of Helios and Selene

71 Go astray

72 Intestinal sections

73 Job at a bank

75 See 59-Down

80 Some, but not much

81 Deep throat?

82 Ireland's Sinn

83 Villain in a 1950 Superman serial

86 You can't take it with you

88 Mascot with a big bill

90 "When You Wish Upon a Star" lyricist Washington

92 Inbox contents

94 Suffering

95 Blather

97 See 93-Down

103 Put in one's sights

104 Improviser's lack

105 Divest

106 It's a two-person job

107 Novice's piano exercise

108 Reward poster subject, perhaps

110 See 95-Down

113 It might make you a better person

114 Mendel subjects

115 Archer of note

116 Superlative suffix

117 "For sure!"

118 High lines

119 Cribbage markers

120 Assets

121 __ Moines

122 One with an inner child?

123 Smooth talker's specialty

124 Stamen or pistil, for a flower

125 Soaked through and through

126 Urban fleet

127 1963 film not recommended for ornithophobes

128 Kitchen garden herb

129 Popular chip

130 Stabilizer at sea

131 Decline

132 Offer a favorable bet

133 Brand of 40-Across

134 Menotti title role

135 Thoroughly enjoy

136 Submerged

137 Spread apart

138 "Try again!"

139 Makes an unpleasant sound

140 Purple-berried evergreen

141 Hiccups

142 Freeloading

143 Menotti title role

144 Hydrocarbon suffix

145 Sounds on some Easter commercials

146 Take a machete to

147 Old knockout

148 British singer-songwriter Rita

149 Triumphant move

150 "I'll be!"

151 Inspiration for the film "Clueless"

152 River near Balmoral Castle

153 Persia, once

154 Oklahoma tribe

155 Stand up to

156 Obsolescent movie players

157 Not interfere with

158 Busy IL airport

159 Justice Kagan

160 Spiegel

161 Bunch of players

162 Watson's company

163 Org. that has your number

164 Family symbol

165 "Too rich for me"

166 "The Butter Battle Book" author

167 In any way

168 Up until

169 Vivacious

170 Highborn people?

171 Catch up

172 Even

173 Seahawk rival, informally

174 Can't stand

175 Evens things up

176 Personal preferences

177 Costa __

178 "Go ahead," at the dinner table (2 wds.)

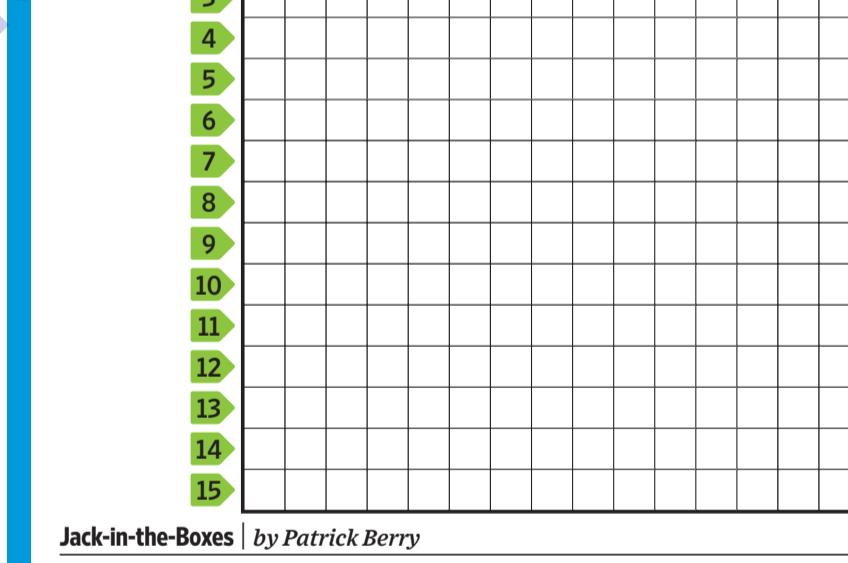
179 "That '70s Show" actor

180 Dr. of rap

181 Alphabear, e.g.

182 Jeans brand

183 Cloner's material



Jack-in-the-Boxes | by Patrick Berry

Each Row of the grid contains a series of answers placed end to end, clued in order of appearance. Answers to clues in the Boxes list must be packed into rectangular containers before entering. Letters in a given Box should be packed left-to-right and top-to-bottom, as shown in the SAMPLE Box.

Clues are ordered by length (shown in parentheses after each clue) but otherwise randomly, so you must use the Row answers to determine where each Box belongs. The 21 Boxes will almost fill the grid; the remaining letters will reveal what jack-in-the-boxes play.

6 ► New hospital wing's namesake, maybe

► Tuscan tourist's rental

► Reside

7 ► Buyer's bid

► Book of Genesis location

► George who coined the term "thoughtcrime"

8 ► Arboreal African snake

► Winged "Sistine Madonna" figure

► Itinerant's milieu

9 ► Tiny swarmer

► Drives onward

► Scrabble play

10 ► One of Vatican City's 109

► More mournful

► Common craps roll

11 ► "___ You Glad" (Beach Boys song)

► Uncle ___ (grocery brand)

► Tools for making bats

12 ► Low-stress exercise (2 wds.)

► "Too bad"

► Delicious center?

13 ► Oregon's capital

► Summon (up)

► Coastal indentation

14 ► Karaoke machines display them

► Having seniority

► Neck of the woods

15 ► Result of rumination

► Glossy jacket part

► Landscaper's tool

► Get the solutions to this week's Journal Weekend Puzzles in next Saturday's Wall Street Journal. Solve crosswords and acrostics online, get pointers on solving cryptic puzzles and discuss all of the puzzles online at WSJ.com/Puzzles.

Rows

- 1 ► Heavenly
- 2 ► Left the scene
- 3 ► Tree secretion
- 4 ► Joe Mantegna's role in the HBO film "The Rat Pack" (2 wds.)
- 5 ► "Go ahead," at the dinner table (2 wds.)
- 6 ► Rodent control brand (Hyph.)
- 7 ► Whistler on the range
- 8 ► Tour of duty
- 9 ► Letter sent to an agent
- 10 ► Bowled over
- 11 ► "That '70s Show" actor
- 12 ► Dr. of rap
- 13 ► Grace
- 14 ► "Body checker?"
- 15 ► Ripped
- 16 ► What analgesics target

Boxes

- Dull show, slantly (6)
- Word before weapon or warfare (8)
- Bullring performer (8)
- Mentally unbalanced (8)
- "Isn't this interesting?" (4,4)
- Defeat thoroughly (9)
- Prevent access to, in a way (6,3)
- British town considered the global hub of thoroughbred horse racing (9)
- Perhaps a little too excited (9)
- Youngest American astronaut to travel into space, at age 32 (5,4)
- Most mentioned in memes (9)
- As things now stand (2,7)
- Scottish dueling weapon (10)
- Document annulled by the pope the same year it was signed (5,5)
- Easily stowed means of climbing back aboard (4,6)
- Deserving of (8,2)
- Exact revenge (4,3,5)
- March on Rome organizer (6,9)
- Top film on the AFL's Greatest Movie Musicals list (6,2,3,4)
- Sound military strategy for one with many enemies (6,3,7)
- Bow tie-wearing businessman whose statue sits on a park bench in Valparaiso, Indiana (7,11)

REVIEW



A SWORD ornament in the form of a lion from the mid-20th century, made of cast gold and felt.

ICONS

The Golden Legacy of Ghana

A precious metal interwoven with every aspect of Asante culture and political power

BY SUSAN DELSON

IN CONTRAST to museums' usual fare from long-vanished cultures, "The Power of Gold: Asante Royal Regalia From Ghana" brings a living people, their centuries-long history and their 21st-century monarch to the Dallas Museum of Art.

Opening Sunday, the exhibition will present more than 250 objects—from tiny weights for measuring gold to ceremonial furniture, gold jewelry and glittering sword ornaments—to explore the precious metal as a basis of Asante art, culture and wealth. Drawn from the museum's holdings and international public and private collections, the show is the first American museum presentation of Asante regalia in more than 30 years.

"While gold was a key driver of the Asante economy, it also became an incredibly important part of Asante culture," said exhibition organizer Roslyn A. Walker, the museum's senior curator of the arts of Africa, the Americas and the Pacific.

The Asante (also spelled Ashanti) are the largest group among the Akan peoples of southern Ghana. Founded around 1700, the Asante kingdom rapidly expanded through conquest to become a major force in West Africa. As the kingdom grew, the Asante seized cap-

tives from defeated enemies, retaining some as domestic slave labor and sending many more across the Atlantic in the European slave trade.

By the second half of the 19th century, the Asante controlled most of the territory in present-day Ghana. Britain, though, was aiming to colonize the region and fully succeeded by 1901, ruling until 1957, when the colony achieved independence. Today, the Asante kingdom remains highly symbolic in Ghanaian culture but has no direct role in governance. The Asante capital, Kumasi, is one of Ghana's largest cities and remains the seat of the Asante king, or Asantehene.

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The first part of the Dallas exhibition includes objects made even before the Asante kingdom was established, reflecting the influence of a thriving gold trade with North Africa and Europe. While not Muslim themselves, Asante artists were quick to incorporate Islamic motifs into the designs on objects like storage containers and the small weights used in measuring gold—themselves made of lesser metal.

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Thanks to the use of more-sophisticated casting methods, by the 17th century—even before the kingdom was founded—Asante gold weights included tiny sculptures of humans and animals. This section also introduces a key aspect of Asante culture: its rich oral heri-

tage, visually represented in gold weights and other objects.

One weight depicts a *kotoko*, or porcupine, associated with the saying, "Kill a thousand, a thousand will come"—referring to the might of Asante warriors, as numerous and dangerous as the animal's quills. (Not coincidentally, the Kumasi soccer team is called Asante Kotoko.) On nearby touchpads, visitors can pull up information on individual gold weights and the proverbs associated with them. This section also includes some of the oldest surviving examples of Akan gold work—part of the trade cargo recovered from the Whydah, an English slave ship that, captured by pirates, sank off Cape Cod in 1717.

From the gold trade, the exhibition pivots to state regalia and emblems of royal power. No object symbolizes the Asante

people more than the Golden Stool, said to embody the soul of the Asante nation. The Golden Stool does not leave Kumasi—in fact, it has a throne of its own—but the exhibition does include a 19th-century royal stool generously embellished with silver. It belonged to a Mamponghe, second in status only to the king, whose title translates as "Of the Silver Stool."

The king's retinue also includes his linguist, or spokesman, who ensures that his statements reflect Asante tradition and law. A selection of linguist's staffs provides another glimpse into Asante oral tradition. One depicts

Ananse (or Anansi) the spider, the trickster god who brought wisdom into the world. Another illustrates the proverb "If you climb a good tree you get help," meaning that others will help in worthwhile actions.

Not surprisingly, the show's largest section is devoted to royal dress—crowns, gold arm ornaments and other objects of adornment intended to "dazzle people who need to be impressed," Ms. Walker said. Sandals decked with gold-leaf ornaments underscore a fundamental rule of royal locomotion: The king's foot must never touch the ground or famine will strike, so a spare pair is always at hand.

Asante culture is matrilineal, with property transmitted through the female line. Every male leader, from king to local chieftain, is balanced by a queen mother—a senior woman chosen from the ruling lineage. The gallery in the exhibition devoted to Asante "woman power" is home to the show's newest artwork: an ornate dual-disc pendant traditionally associated with women and specifically queen mothers. On a visit to Kumasi last summer, Ms. Walker commissioned metalsmith George Kofi Doky to make the piece.

The final gallery adds an American touch, with portraits of Asante royalty and honorary Akan royalty living in the Dallas-Fort Worth area—among them the local Asante chief and queen mother. A royal delegation from Ghana will attend the exhibition's opening. Leading the group will be the current Mamponghe, occupant of the Silver Stool and a living link to the Asante traditions artfully embodied in "The Power of Gold."

DALLAS MUSEUM OF ART

MASTERPIECE: 'MOSS ROSES IN A VASE' (1882), BY ÉDOUARD MANET

BEAUTY IN FULL BLOOM

BY WILLARD SPIEGELMAN

ONE MIGHT start with the obvious cliché: Good things come in small packages. In the case of Édouard Manet's 1882 "Moss Roses in a Vase" (22 inches by 13 5/8 inches), the cliché also connects resonantly to larger truths. The simple flowers themselves and their water-filled container prove that modesty of size and subject has nothing to do with depth of feeling.

Manet (1832-1883) was the man primarily responsible for the great shift in taste and style from Realism to Impressionism. From a well-connected Parisian family, this painter of modern life studied with the academic artist Thomas Couture and copied the Old Masters he found at the Louvre. He was deeply entrenched in the major traditions of European painting. He scandalized his contemporaries with his depictions of contemporary Paris, urban and suburban, especially "The Luncheon on the Grass" and "Olympia" (both completed in 1863), despite these pictures' ample reference to Renaissance forebears. Here we see ordinary women, naked, with no reference to mythological or classical associations.

Manet had a public career of

Size has nothing to do with depth of feeling.

merely two decades. As his health declined (he died at age 51) and he was no longer able to do large-scale canvases, he turned exclusively to still life on a small scale. At the very end, he even switched to pastel, a less demanding medium than oil. Of his oeuvre (430 oils, 89 pastels, 400 works on paper), about one-fifth are still lifes. These are not the pictures that most people remember him for.

Manet's commitment to still life may have been even more radical than the nudes and other subjects of his larger pictures, because it also encouraged a reconsideration of historical traditions. For most of the prior centuries, especially in France, there existed an academic hierarchy of painting. Religious and historical subjects took precedence; landscapes and portraits followed; genre scenes next, and, at the bottom of the chain, mere flowers, foods and fruits, objects on display. Size mattered: Bigger meant Better.

One of Manet's first experiments in still life (1862, in Washington's National Gallery) is a plate of oysters with a fork and a lemon, on a wooden table; it pays homage to the Dutch masters of the 17th century. An 1870 "Brioche" at the Metropolitan Museum echoes Chardin's picture of the same subject. Manet had also studied

Goya; he knew Courbet's realistic still lifes as well as the gorgeous flowers of his contemporary Henri Fantin-Latour.

Manet's technique in "Moss Roses"—casual, bold and thick brushstrokes; dashes and dabs of color—shows his connections to the Impressionists. Everything seems to have been accomplished with bravura speed and apparent spontaneity. The picture comes across as "natural," artless rather than effortful. Van Gogh praised Manet's impasto (the thick application of oil to canvas) and his "simplicity of technique." That simplicity took time to achieve. The picture foreshadows Post-Impressionism and its skewing of perspective and space, and even Abstract Expressionism with its emphasis on the flatness of the painting surface. Cézanne was an admirer.

Nothing looks shellacked, or even polished, in "Moss Roses" and Manet's other flower pictures, unlike the way everything does in a large Dutch still life with a bountiful embarrassment of riches. Still life, in French, is *nature morte*, a reminder of both copiousness and transience. In Manet's painting we find neither pride in possession nor an overt memento mori. We have, instead, the offhanded delicacy of barely arranged humble blossoms.



trusive geometry gives order: The vase is really two opposing, inverted triangles. The roses make for a third triangular shape. There is neither a vanishing point nor any realistic geometry of the sort perfected by Renaissance masters. Instead, the painter has made subtle changes to traditional forms. The beaker tilts to the left, delicately askew, as if acknowledging the precariousness of all balance and nodding toward the single flower lying on the table.

Manet plays with light and water: We see both refraction and reflection. And those colors! The black for the submerged stems mirrors the outline of the vase. The leaves go from the lightest to the darkest green. The pink roses have crimson spots at the center. Daubs of white punctuate the whole.

According to the artist, "A painter can say all he wants with fruit and flowers." He said, also, that still life is "the touchstone of the painter." As a single Shakespeare sonnet may contain riches equivalent to those of a drama, so a rendering of small pink flowers in a glass says a lot about what an artist sees, and how he presents it to his receptive audience.

Mr. Spiegelman's "If You See Something, Say Something: A Writer Looks at Art" (DeGolyer Library/SMU Press), a selection of his Wall Street Journal pieces, was published last year.

Spring's shade
for shades?
Cherry is staring
you right in
the face
D3



OFF DUTY



This Jaguar
station wagon
overshadows
many crossovers,
says Dan Neil
D12

EATING | DRINKING | STYLE | FASHION | DESIGN | DECORATING | ADVENTURE | TRAVEL | GEAR | GADGETS

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Saturday/Sunday, April 14 - 15, 2018 | **D1**

The Case for Men's Makeup

Once taboo, tools like concealer and bronzer have found their way into guys' grooming kits. Our conflicted writer tests it all out—and finds arguments in favor of putting on a face



TOOLING AROUND

Men's products courtesy of Bobbi Brown, Chantecaille, Formen, Giorgio Armani, Milk Makeup, Lab Series Skincare for Men and Tom Ford.

BY JACOB GALLAGHER

LAST AUGUST headlines blasted that French president Emmanuel Macron had spent approximately \$30,000 on a personal makeup artist during his first three months in office. That's about \$330 a day. On makeup. For a man. (The Élysée did not respond to requests for comments on this matter.) Although male politicians and TV anchors have long used makeup for public appearances, Mr. Macron's eyebrow-raising budget (and tawny, photogenic face) sent a message that powerful men are going to great lengths to look their best. But even among non-heads of state, the once-absurd notion that makeup can reasonably be part of a man's grooming routine is slowly shedding its punchline status.

Just ask footballer David Beckham, whose new men's grooming line, House 99, includes an eye balm and a face moisturizer, gateway drugs to the expanding universe of male primping. On the website of New York-based cosmetics brand Milk Makeup, 13% of customers are now men. At Blue-

mercury, a skin-care chain with over 170 stores, 20% of its shoppers pack a Y-chromosome. And they're not just coming in for shaving cream: Men are increasingly buying concealers, bronzers and tinted moisturizers there. Later this year, Blue-mercury will launch its own men's makeup line.

This isn't the first time gentlemen have branched makeup brushes. In early-aughts America, emo bands like My Chemical Romance and Fall Out Boy sported "guyliner," inspiring angsty young men to steal their mothers' eyeliner. In 1970s and '80s London, following the lead of David Bowie and Boy George, male new wavers sashayed up to the cosmetics counter for powder and mascara. Going further back, to 17th-century France, some historians claim it was men, perhaps more often than women, who pancaked their cheeks.

Despite these antecedents, it's fair to wager that today most men think wearing makeup is just too image-conscious to be masculine. In high school I had terrible acne, but I never thought to wear makeup. The idea of a teen boy with makeup stashed in his locker was too embarrassing to fathom; it was better to be seen as acne-ridden

than concealer-covered. As Hayden Cohen, a 24-year-old digital marketing manager from Boston said, "When men think of makeup they relate it to femininity, so a lot of men are way too ego-driven and I'm so masculine" to even consider it."

Lisa Eldridge, a London-based makeup artist and author of "Face Paint: The Story of Makeup," noted that women have an incredible arsenal of products at their disposal to compensate for late nights and bad skin. Of being without that option, she said, "I always felt kind of sorry for guys. There's always been such a stigma."

For many millennials, that stigma is passe, and a band of progressive men is working diligently to shred it. Confident vloggers on YouTube earn millions of views with tutorials on how to deftly daub on a full-face look. In 2016, CoverGirl announced its first male brand representative, then-17-year-old vlogger James Charles. In joining the ranks of models like Christie Brinkley as a face of CoverGirl in global advertising, Mr. Charles is putting a somewhat more masculine face on the decades-old American brand.

How-to videos about multi-product contouring
Please turn to page D2

[INSIDE]



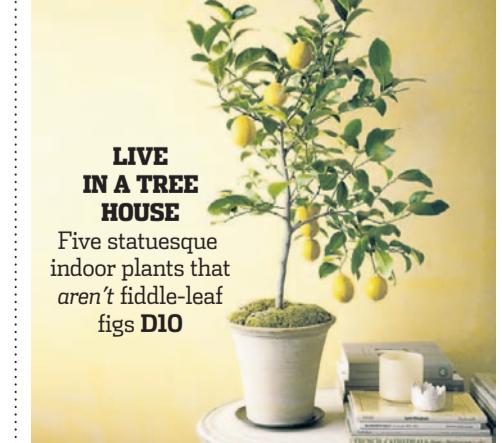
UNPARALLELED PARKS

An insider's guide to visiting four of the finest national parks **D4**



PRIME CUTLETS

A most appetizing offering to a hungry family—from schnitzels to katsus **D7**



LIVE IN A TREE HOUSE

Five statuesque indoor plants that aren't fiddle-leaf figs **D10**



COME AND GET IT...INSTANTLY

We test the limits of the latest multicookers **D11**

STYLE & FASHION

AN ABOUT-FACE ON MEN'S MAKEUP

Continued from page D1

ing and CoverGirl ads showing young men in eye shadow might portray a culture shift, but the real-life shift is much more incremental, at least in the experience of Dr. Bradley Glodny, a New York-based dermatologist who's seen an uptick in men's inquiring about makeup over the past two years. "There aren't many people coming in asking, 'Can I wear a full face of makeup?'" he said. "It's more subtle." He recommends concealer and tinted moisturizers with SPF to male patients as a nonintrusive, impermanent way for them to conceal skin issues.

Daniel Mollino, 34, a part-time lobbyist in Ringwood, N.J., uses makeup to softly conceal some scars on his face and his post-shave skin splotches. A BareMinerals foundation, he said, "smooths out the face and gives a more professional look." He applies foundation before business meetings, date nights with his wife, "nice functions" like weddings, or anywhere he thinks photos might be taken.

Which could be anywhere these days, with the constant photo documentation of our lives via smartphones, and those photos' immortalization on social media. And whether in phone selfies or the mirror, men are seeing the strain of busy schedules on their faces. Late nights at the office left Ernest James, CEO of digital influencer agency Noire Mgmt. in New York City, looking "like a raccoon," so he turned to Sephora concealer. "It's the best thing ever," said the 32-year-old of the boost in confidence that came with covering up his dark circles.

Mr. James made makeup sound like such an easy fix that I began to wonder if I had been wrong to write it off as a teen. With more men dabbing on concealer after rolling on deodorant, I decided to join them and try makeup for one week, even though my skin problems are (mostly) a thing of the



IF I HAD A CONCEALER From left: Lune+Aster One-Step Brow Gel, \$22, Hydrabright Concealer, \$26, Brush, \$28, bluemercury.com; Foundation Stick, \$46, bobibrown cosmetics.com; Compact Solei Bronzer, \$46, and Brush, \$70, chantecaille.com

DANNY KIM FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL; ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOE MCKENDRY

past. My goal wasn't to change anything drastically. I wanted my own face, just better.

I visited Bluemercury's midtown New York location, where its district manager Maggie Dewine helped me assemble a battery of men-specific products to be used regularly: Lune+Aster concealer to erase the occasional pimple, Bobbi Brown foundation to even out my blotchy skin, Chantecaille bronzer for a vacation-y glow, and a brow gel, also by Lune+Aster, to smooth my eyebrows. She swore these products would provide a "no-makeup" makeup look.

Ms. Dewine made it all look easy when she showed me how to use the products, but alone in my bathroom, I was befuddled. I clumsily

rubbed and brushed at my face like a monkey swiping at a banana in a tree. Smearing in the concealer was like applying moisturizer, which had been the one and only step in my erstwhile beauty routine, but flecking my brows up with the gel-wand was not nearly as familiar.

Once I'd mastered the application, I had to admit that I looked good: no under-eye bags, a slight glow. It was as if I had slept 16 hours instead of six. I just looked like a Photoshopped version of myself. I couldn't even tell I was wearing makeup. Nor could two female friends I saw later that afternoon. An hour into our conversation, I told them that I had makeup on. They inspected my face like a moth under a microscope but couldn't see

anything. Or so they said.

I felt more confident, and as the week wore on, I got comfortable with my new routine. (In my bachelor's bathroom, though, the products looked alien and accusatory. If I had guests, I would've tucked them under the sink.) My colleagues admitted they didn't realize I had anything on my face until I told them. The strongest comment I heard all week was, "Yeah, I guess, you do look a little glowing." Shrug.

Walking into Bluemercury on that first day, I was a skeptic. I had chuckled at President Macron's budget and cast sideways glances at friends who kept eye cream on their bathroom counter. I'd even tried to hide my Bluemercury bag as I walked back to my office.

By week's end, though, I was a convert. I thought back to what Diana Ruth, Milk Makeup's chief operating officer, had told me earlier: "The fact that it's taboo for a guy to be able to cover a blemish when it's been acceptable for a girl since the age of 10 is such a strange concept." Now I agree: a concealer for a zit, or foundation to even out your skin post-shave? Why not? Whatever gets you through the night (though I still think President Macron's makeup budget should be chopped by 99.9%).

The morning after my test-drive wrapped up, I caught a few pimples bubbling up on my chin. Two dabs of the concealer and my skin was "clear." If it hadn't been for this article, no one would have ever known.

COSMETIC DIFFERENCES // MAKEUP ARTIST SIL BRUINSMA, WHO HAS ROUGED MALE MODELS FOR THOM BROWNE, SHARES HIS TOP TIPS FOR MEN



GO GOLD WITH BRONZER Although it comes in powder form, too, go with a gel for easy application. Put a pea-sized dollop on hands and rub together, then dab on the spots the sun hits.



COVER UP LIKE A COVER BOY Choose a concealer that matches your skin tone and includes a brush wand. Apply a bit to any blemishes and areas that get red, like the chin or around nostrils.



BROW DOWN Comb a small amount of brow gel through your eyebrows, drag your finger through them a bit so they don't look too perfect, and the gel will lock your once-wild bristles into place.



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STYLE & FASHION

COPY CAT

Reign of Plain

Take your cues from the simply twisted white shirt that Carolyn Bessette Kennedy wore in 1999

BY RORY SATRAN

IN A COUP for accessible style, Sharon Stone wore a simple Gap turtleneck under her chic black velvet coat to the 1996 Oscars. As a fashion-curious middle-schooler, I was riveted: Here was something fabulous-looking I could buy with my baby-sitting dollars and wear to the local Starbucks. With her spur-of-the-moment turtleneck, Ms. Stone went a long way to democratizing the stark minimalism that designers like Calvin Klein and Helmut Lang were sanctifying in the '90s.

Three years later, I found an even better style role model. Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, the wife of John F. Kennedy Jr., wore a similarly simple outfit to a Whitney Museum of American Art gala in New York: a white shirt, a black skirt, black sandals—that's all. Then, as now, the outfit performed the rare feat of being both elevated and realistic.

Nicole Rice, 30, who runs the Instagram account Simplicity City, which posts photos of pared-down looks for its legion of followers, said of C.B.K.'s ensemble: "I feel like it's very attainable and very unattainable at the same time." (The white shirt is attainable whereas Ms. Bessette Kennedy's enviable posture is not.) The '90s icon is something of a mascot for the feed, inspiring rhapsodic comments about everything from her platinum blonde hair to her Selima Optique sunglasses to her predilection for black and white.

Just as mastering a simple omelet tests a chef's skills, elevating something as fundamental as a white shirt is what separates women who merely wear clothes from style icons. "She brought a lot of life and an interesting quality to seemingly basic clothes," said Ms. Rice, who admires the way C.B.K. unexpectedly twisted and tucked in her white shirt, an oversize menswear piece from Yohji Yamamoto Homme. Although her choice of an experimental Japanese label is noteworthy, the

GETTY IMAGES (BESSETTE KENNEDY); DANNY KIM FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL STYLING BY JILL TELESNICKI (SHIRTS)

OFF WHITE
Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, with her husband, at a Manhattan gala in 1999.

look is more about her personal brand than that of any one designer.

Such is the enduring appeal of minimalism, as epitomized by C.B.K.: It placed the focus on the woman, not the outfit. The 26-year-old New York designer Sandy Liang has several photos of Ms. Bessette Kennedy tacked to her studio wall. "It's never just about the clothes," said Ms. Liang. "It's about the story behind it and who the clothes are associated with." If worn confidently, no garment better reveals your essential you-ness than the white shirt already hanging in your closet.

And the timeless button-up has never felt more right as women revolt against the idea

that they must change their style every season. Carolina Herrera recently celebrated her last show designing for her eponymous brand by sending a procession of models down the runway in her signature white shirt. Ms. Herrera, 79, wears some version of it nearly every day, usually tucked demurely into a skirt.

But the white shirt needn't behave politely. Strolling through the New York branch of the stripped-down clothing emporium Totokaelo this spring, I was struck by how many white shirts rebelliously spiraled and embraced asymmetry. For a very Carolyn wardrobe update, buy one that's a few sizes too big and pair it with a slim skirt or jeans.

As the 2005 memoir "What Remains" by Ms. Bessette Kennedy's friend Carole Radziwill reveals, C.B.K. wore simple clothing, in part, because she didn't want to be photographed: "We came up with the idea...that she'd wear the same outfit every day—jeans and a white shirt, with her hair in a ponytail and sunglasses—and then the pictures would all look the same. And they'd stop taking them." (Their plan didn't work; She and J.F.K. Jr. were hounded until their untimely death in a plane crash in 1999.) The white shirt wasn't a disguise, exactly, but an attempt to appear unremarkable that was ultimately remarkable. Unflashy, but irreproachable.

FAST FIVE



DANNY KIM FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

A VISION IN CRIMSON

This spring, it's chic to get a little red in the face. Add juicy color to white clothing with Lolita frames

1. Red Acetate Sunglasses, \$390, [Céline](#), 212-226-8001

2. Red Saint Laurent Lily Sunglasses,

\$350, [ysl.com](#)

3. Red Vinyl Sun-

glasses, \$220, [ill-](#)

[esteva.com](#)

Sunglasses, \$340, [garrettleight.com](#)

5. Red Polaroid

Sunglasses, \$60, [solsticesun-](#)

[glasses.com](#)

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ADVENTURE & TRAVEL

Clouds Rest Trail leads up one of the highest peaks in Yosemite National Park.

National Park Playbook

A cheat sheet to maxing out four of the country's most popular nature retreats

BY KATHRYN O'SHEA-EVANS

IN 1872, when Congress earmarked land for the first national park, Yellowstone, as a "pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people," it surely had no idea just how enjoyable those wild lands would become. More than four million visitors rolled into Yellowstone last year. Other national parks—like the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Great Smoky Mountains—claim even more tourists. In the height of summer, you'll find logjammed roads and backpacking swarms on the major trailheads.

No wonder Edward Abbey, that eloquent worrier, fretted in his seminal book, "Desert Solitaire," that the national parks might become national parking lots—and that was 50 years ago. But the most famous parks are famous for good reason, and, if you go deep enough, there's no reason to steer clear. "There's space for everyone," said Ken Burns, who visited more than 20 parks while filming "The National Parks: America's Best Idea." "With just a little effort, you can follow a path a bit longer, a trail a bit higher and you'll find the most satisfying seclusion."

Jeffrey Olson, a public affairs officer for the National Park Service, offers another tip for crowd-avoidance: "I have never seen people more polite and respectful of each other's space than at sunrise." For more advice on treading wisely in and around four of the country's busiest national parks, we asked a few locals to lead the way.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park, North Carolina and Tennessee

THE NATURALIST
Lynn Frierson Faust
Author of 'Fireflies, Glow-worms and Lighting Bugs' (University of Georgia Press)

TRAIL BLAZER // Alum Cave Trail. The hike is a 5-mile round trip, steep and rocky, with amazing views of the Smokies. You walk along a river and go through little caves before you reach Alum Cave, a huge saltwater bluff that was mined in the Civil War for gunpowder. Farther up the trail is bucket-list LeConte Lodge, which can only be reached by foot. nps.gov/grsm

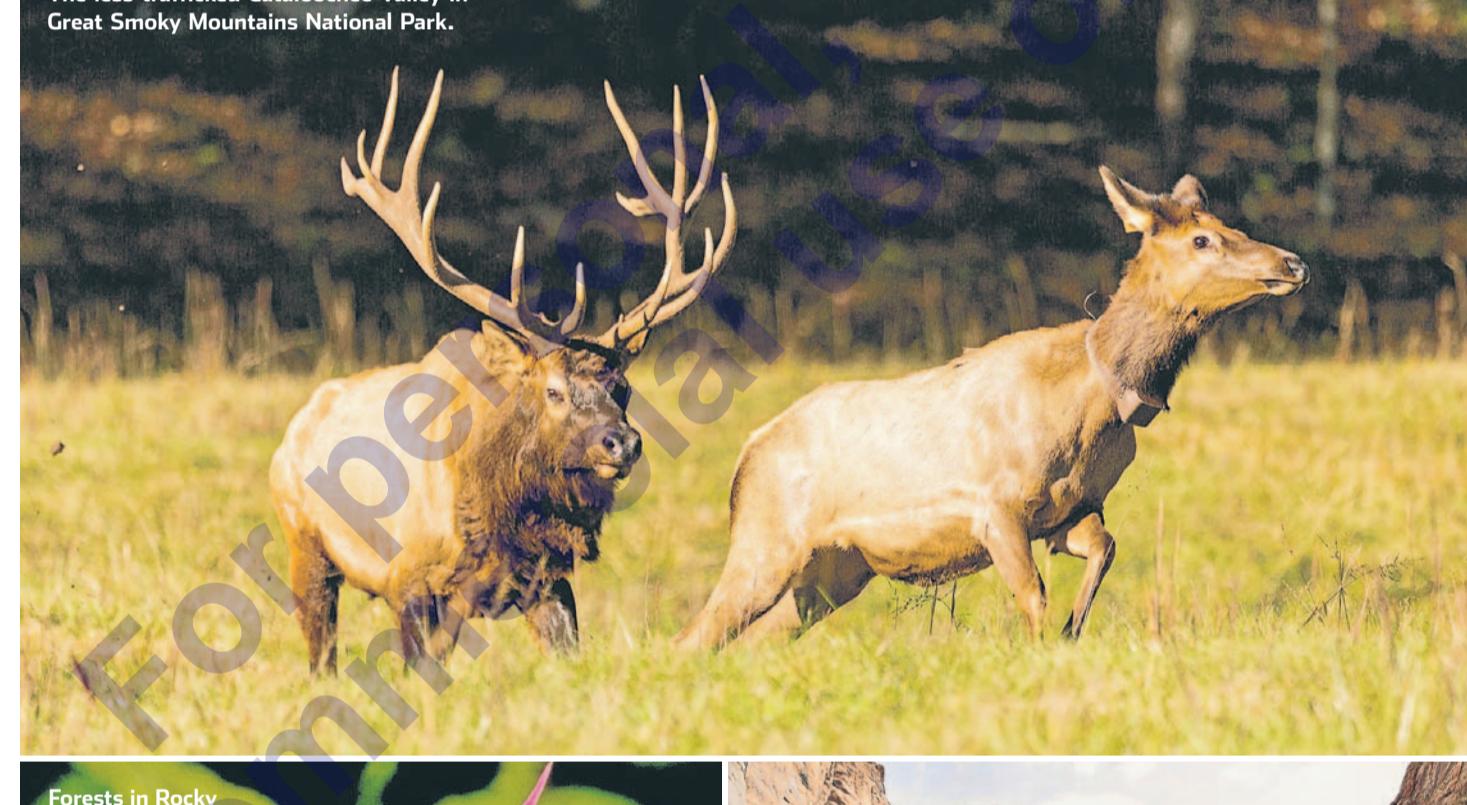
NIGHT LIGHT // Cades Cove. I bicycle around this valley on the western end of the park by full moon; it's wonderful because they close the roads to cars. Start at dusk in June to see big dipper fireflies and the pink mountains. nps.gov/grsm

BUGLE BOYS // Cataloochee Valley. The drivable North Carolina side of the park is much less crowded; this old high-mountain valley has huge herds of elk you can hear bugling. nps.gov/grsm

SPY ME A RIVER // Little River. People on the verge of a nervous breakdown go sit by this roadside river (the best stretch is in Elkmont, Tenn.) and feel a whole lot better afterward. You never know what you're going to see—bear, skunk, otter. I've counted more than 50 species of wildflowers in spring. nps.gov/grsm



The less-trafficked Cataloochee Valley in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.



Forests in Rocky Mountain National Park are prime orchid habitat.



Glen Canyon, adjacent to the Grand Canyon, with Wilderness River Adventures.

PHYLIS HOLST (ORCHIDS); ARAMARK (GLEN CANYON); ALAMY (2)

Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona

THE SHUTTERBUG
Mike Buchheit
Photographer and
Director of the Grand
Canyon Association
Field Institute

WALK THE WALK // Grandview Trail. Miners used this treacherous trail back in the day to access copper mines in the canyon. Walking 3 miles in to Horseshoe Mesa gives you a good look at what trails looked like a hundred years ago, with creepy ledges and abrupt switchbacks (check with rangers for trail conditions before you go). In the summer you might see rare California condors, with an 8-foot wingspan. nps.gov/grca

DRIFT OFF // Wilderness River Adventures Glen Canyon Float Trip Experience. This outfit offers single-day smooth-water float trips on the last 15 miles of Glen Canyon, adjacent to the Grand Canyon. Sheer walls, no white water and crackerjack guides. riveradventures.com

SECRET SPECTACLE // Cape Final Trail. The north rim gets a fraction of the visitation of the south, and this easy-to-moderate, 4-mile round-trip trail is one of the least used. nps.gov/grca

SILVER SPREE // Hopi House. I send collectors to this 1905 "pueblo revival" shop—a 15-minute drive from the South Entrance—for textiles and etched silver jewelry by regional Hopi, Navajo and Zuni artists. nps.gov/grca

Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado

THE CONSERVATIONIST
Estee Rivera Murdock
Executive Director,
Rocky Mountain
Conservancy

GO DEEP // Rocky Mountain Conservancy Field Institute. Have a naturalist take you into the forest to see orchids or berries you can sample, or to hold in your hand, then release, hummingbirds they've banded for research. rmconservancy.org

DRINK LOCAL // Bird & Jim. This new farm-to-table restaurant, a minute from Beaver Meadows park entrance, is named after early park pioneer Isabella Bird and her friend Jim Nugent, with pictures of Bird summing Long's Peak in woolen ladies attire. It's a local favorite for happy hour. 915 Moraine Ave., Estes Park, birdandjim.com

STAY OUTSIDE // Kruger Rock Trail. There's a beautiful area just outside Estes Park called Hermit Park Open Space. I did Hermit's 4-mile round-trip Kruger Rock hike with my 6-year-old. It's switchback-y and meanders, with views of the park's peaks and Estes Valley. larimer.org

FINE PRINT // Macdonald Bookshop. This is an old 1908 forest-service cabin that became a riverside bookstore in 1928, and is owned by the granddaughter of the original owners. It has local-interest books and events all the time. 152 E. Elk-horn Ave., Estes Park; macdonaldbookshop.com

Yosemite National Park, California

THE RANGER
Jamie Richards
Yosemite National Park
Ranger

HISTORIC HIDEOUT // The Majestic Yosemite Hotel. One of the most historic lodges in the National Park Service (it was built in 1927), formerly known as the Ahwahnee, is a nice place to take a break and relax after hiking the trails—the atmosphere is lovely. When it's cool, the fireplaces are going. From \$510 a night, travelyosemite.com

HIGH PROFILE // Cloud's Rest Trail. This is one of the tallest peaks in the area, and standing up there feels like you're floating in the clouds, with great views overlooking Half Dome. You want to leave before 6 a.m. so you can be up the 7 miles and back before afternoon thunderstorms roll in. nps.gov/yose

FREE RANGE // Cathedral Lakes Trail. This moderate 3.4-mile (one way) Tuolumne Meadows trek retraces areas conservationist John Muir hiked on his way to Mt. Whitney. You might spot pikas—they look like a spicule between a mouse and a chipmunk with really big ears. nps.gov/yose

FILLING STATION // Tioga Gas Mart. A lot of park rangers drop down to this gas station and live-music venue for their fish tacos. 22 Vista Point Dr., Lee Vining; whoanelliedeli.com

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ADVENTURE & TRAVEL

Hail Victoria's New Cool

As hipness infiltrates this picturesque Canadian city, wine bars and pot dispensaries now mingle with Edwardian manors

BY TARAS GRESCOE

THE VIEW of Victoria's Inner Harbour hasn't changed much since Rudyard Kipling described it as a mix of Sorrento, Hong Kong and the Isle of Wight "with some Himalayas for the background," during his lengthy sojourn at the grand Empress Hotel in 1908. Ships still dock beneath the massive columns of the Canadian Pacific Railway terminal, though the steamships have been replaced by high-speed ferries on the three-hour run to Seattle.

For years, mainlanders dismissed the city on Vancouver Island's south coast as a picturesque haven for honeymooners and retirees, "the newlywed and the nearly dead." But lately, Victoria has developed a hipper side. Tech companies now occupy brick warehouses, craft distilleries share street-fronts with traditional tea rooms, and marijuana dispensaries are popping up among the old Edwardian mansions. At times it feels like a Portland North, set amid the architectural glories of a one-time imperial outpost: a mashup of traditional and alternative, with a sneak-up-sideways charm.

The historic heart of Victoria's walkable downtown is Bastion Square, where the city was born as a Hudson's Bay Company trading post in 1843. Now lined with pubs and home to a popular Sunday farmers market, the square's oldest buildings date to the 1860s, after the discovery of gold on the Fraser River transformed little Fort Victoria into a boomtown thronged by American miners and outfitters.

The Cantonese migrants who followed them from San Francisco founded Canada's first Chinatown, and on Fisgard Street, the neon signs of the Don Mee Restaurant and the Fantan Café continue to lure patrons to old-school feasts of Szechuan seafood and sweet-and-sour pork. Fan Tan Alley, whose three-foot-wide entrance forced the local constabulary to enter single file when raiding its louche gambling and opium dens, now houses vendors of used records, handmade chocolates and Dr. Martens boots.

The streets around Lower Johnson, a strip where prospectors once spent their gold in saloons, brothels, and outfitters' shops, have undergone a similar transformation. In the district, redubbed



RUSH JAGOE (AGRUS); JANIS NICOLAY (THE MILKMAN'S DAUGHTER)

LoJo, brick facades are now home to chic boutiques and specialty shops like Silk Road Tea, a mix of day spa and high-end tea room. Off Yates Street, Little Jumbo restaurant channels the district's past with a down-the-hall entrance and speakeasy vibe, where an aperol-and-absinthe cocktail makes a bracing prelude to delicate local oysters and lightly grilled lingcod.

Change has come even to the venerable Fairmont Empress hotel. After a two-year, \$40-million-plus renovation, the trademark ivy has been stripped from the facade—the family of raccoons who called it home had to be relocated—transforming its former flag deck into a terrace with a privileged harbor view. A rooftop garden now yields the herbs and edible flowers on the menu at Q at the Empress, and four beehives on the grounds hone the honey served with scones and clotted cream at high tea.

There is still plenty of old Victoria to savor. The hotel's unapologetically colonialist Bengal Lounge has been left untouched: punkah fans still sway from the mahogany-inlaid ceiling over murals of dhows and elephant-borne rajahs on the Ganges. And the corridors of the sixth floor—where guests continue to report sightings of the ghost of a chambermaid who plunged

to her death in the 1930s—are still as crooked and atmospheric as ever.

By contrast, Victoria's alternative side thrives in the funky Fernwood neighborhood east of downtown. In the last decade, neighborhood associations have spearheaded the transformation of the buildings around Fernwood Square. An old Methodist church became the multi-staged Belfry Theatre; the Fernwood Inn, a former dive bar, was reborn as a pub serving local ales and ciders. The once-run-down building across from the Inn now houses the Crossroads, an espresso bar that has become an unofficial community meeting place, and the relaxed Stage Wine Bar, where one can dine on small plates of cauliflower pakora, Salt Spring Island mussels, and gnocchi.

A stroll in the surrounding streets takes visitors past book exchange boxes outside century-old Arts-and-Crafts bungalows, a community garden on the former grounds of a schoolhouse, and an ice cream parlor called Cold Comfort offering "Hoynes Dark Matter," an improbable but successful combination of vanilla ice cream and brown ale.

A 10-minute walk south of downtown is the tranquil James Bay neighborhood, site of the childhood home



HOMECOMING QUEEN

Clockwise from top: Q Bar at Victoria's revamped Fairmont Empress Hotel; Victoria Distillers's gin-based Empress & Tonic; prepping at Agrius.

the 50 kinds of heirloom apples that grow in the surrounding orchards. Farther down the end of the trail is Victoria Distillers, a craft distillery in Sidney, 15 miles north of downtown. A tasting of Empress 1908 gin, infused with dried flowers from Thailand that make it turn from deep indigo to pink when tonic is added, is a welcome reward for a long afternoon of pedaling.

THE LOWDOWN// EXPLORING THE TRADITIONAL AND TRENDY IN VICTORIA

Getting There The high-speed Victoria Clipper makes the three-hour-run from downtown Seattle twice a day in high season, clippervacations.com. Major U.S. airlines connect to Victoria through Vancouver; United offers a direct flight from San Francisco.

Staying There The Inn at the Union Club, in a 1913 beaux-arts building located across the street from the Empress, offers well-appointed rooms, top-

notch breakfasts, and access to its health club for nonmembers. From about \$133 a night, unionclub.com. Abigail's is a charming inn in an English Tudor-style building a 10-minute walk from the Inner Harbor. From about \$204 a night, abigailshotel.com. The Fairmont Empress has rooms starting from about \$274 a night, fairmont.com/empress-victoria.

Eating There To sample the best of Vancouver Island's farm-

to-table food culture, try Agrius for foraged greens, fermented vegetables and sustainably sourced seafood. 732 Yates St., agriusrestaurant.com. For an alternative to high-tea at the much-frequented Empress, visit the White Heather Tea Room. Order the three-tiered Big Muckle, which features fresh-baked scones with lemon curd and crustless cucumber sandwiches. 1885 Oak Bay Ave., whiteheather-tearoom.com. Taco Justice, a popular Fernwood food truck (at the corner of Cook and Pandora) offers fusion delights such as the Korean Krippler, featuring bulgogi beef and Asian slaw.

Shopping There Old Morris Tobacconist, which has been on its present site since 1892, sells smoking accessories and the best Havanas, and features a vintage "electrolier" of Mexican onyx for lighting cigars. 1116 Government St., oldmorris.com. The Milkman's Daughter specializes in accessories, gifts, home décor and baby clothes, made with local materials and vintage fabrics. 1713 Government St., 250-590-5451.



The Milkman's Daughter, a décor shop in Victoria's Chinatown.

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IN MY KITCHEN

Nigella Lawson

The eminent epicure holds forth on the pleasure of egg poaching, demented diets and how reading feeds her

IT MIGHT BE hard to believe of Britain's "domestic goddess," but Nigella Lawson didn't particularly enjoy eating as a child. When she left for boarding school, the food proved so vile she took matters into her own hands and began cooking. "By the time I went off to university, I was the person who fed everyone," she said. As a young journalist, Ms. Lawson often ended up pottering around the kitchen when copy was due, to help focus her thoughts. "I would always be cooking, chopping and stirring. I think there is really something there that helps the thought process," she said.

Now a global household name with a social-media following of 5 million plus, the host of multiple TV shows, including "The Taste" and "Simply Nigella," and a prolific, award-winning author, Ms. Lawson tends to approach cooking at home with an impromptu air. Her 11th cookbook, "At My Table" (Apr. 10, Flatiron Books), pointedly dispenses with traditional organization. "The messiness of having no chapters, no breaks in the run of recipes, felt so much more like the way I actually cook and live," she writes in her introduction. We interviewed her at the heart of her London home, a welcoming space she described as "a kitchen with places to sit."

The kitchen tools I can't live without are: a fine Microplane grater and a mezzaluna. I use the Microplane for ginger, lemon zest and garlic. I don't like garlic presses—they just give you fat wormlike pieces. With a microplane, you get such a fine pulp. It's wonderful. I'm very clumsy when I cook, but with the curved blade of a mezzaluna, it always looks kind of showy.

My cooking mentor was: not any one person, but I was very influenced by Anna Del Conte. What I loved about her book "Entertaining all'Italiana" was

that she wrote about the history of food with great intention and immediacy, particularly the recipes and the ingredients. It showed me a way that recipe books could be intellectual inquiries and reliable manuals. I think that is something all cookbooks need to have at their heart.

My pantry is always stocked with: Cretan olive oil and high-quality chocolate with 70% cocoa. You need really good dark chocolate to bake with, and I like knowing I can go downstairs and make a chocolate-olive oil mousse in a matter of moments.



JOY OF COOKING Clockwise from top: Nigella Lawson at home in London; mezzaluna and dark chocolate; Microplane grater; cookbooks and Cretan olive oil.

The pan I reach for most is: a fantastic spun-iron pan called the Prospector from Netherton Foundry that's around 10 inches. It's real iron but has the weight of a nonstick skillet. I love being able to start something on the stove and then put it in the oven to finish. It's a joy to cook in, and food looks beautiful in it as well.

The ingredients I'm most excited about right now are: preserved lemons. I can't stop cooking with them. Whether in stews or on a tin of sardines, you suddenly have this sourness that has more depth than you get from a freshly squeezed lemon. Use a tiny bit of juice from the jar in place of olive brine to make a dirty lemon Martini. It has the sharpness of lemon but also this gorgeous headiness.

On weeknights, I typically cook: a butternut squash and sweet-potato curry. Chopping up things can be a good way of decompressing, and it's so easy to make. There's something particularly comforting about eating out of a bowl with a spoon versus a knife, fork and plate. And the dish is vibrant. I don't want a blanket over my head, culinarily speaking. I want to feel invigorated and alive when I eat.

When I entertain, I like to: use my friends as guinea pigs. Recipes have to be tried out in real life. The more people you have to eat, the better. I always know that something works



when people ask for the recipe.

A typical breakfast for me is: poached egg on dark German rye bread with extra-virgin olive oil, coarsely ground white pepper and Maldon salt. I've taught myself to poach eggs only recently. I can't get over how wonderful it is to do.

A food trend I am totally over is: this tendency to venerate or demonize foods. I have nothing against people wanting to eat in a way that makes them feel healthy and well; that seems eminently wise. But I feel that any form of eating that involves self-persecution can only do long-term damage, however essentially healthy a certain food trend might be. When there are so many land mines and rules, you kill the sense of kinship with the body. It makes eating something fear-filled rather than joyful.

My approach to cooking is a lot like my approach to: everything in life. I hate too much authority and I'm not good at planning. I like to think on my

feet, but I need a certain amount of structure. In cooking, I really love opening up the vegetable drawer to my fridge or my pantry cupboards and seeing what I've got, and just winging it and going for it. It gives me both the structure that I need and the opportunity to be spontaneous.

In addition to food, I'm obsessed with: books and reading. Writing and cooking are analogous, and reading is a form of eating. I need to be fed by books as well as by food. They are just as important to me.

A food I could happily have every day of my life is: bread, the cornerstone of civilization. It has to be good bread. There are times when a sandwich made of plastic sliced bread is quite right and proper, but generally speaking, I like bread with a bit of heft to it. I like a chewy crust. I can never get over the miracle of bread, which really only has two ingredients, wheat and water, in addition to air and time. I'm trying to make a lyrical case, but really I just like eating bread.

—Edited from an interview by Eleanore Park

Preserved Lemon and Mint Sauce

This versatile herby sauce is a "reworking of the old-fashioned vinegar mint sauce my mother used to make, using ingredients from my kitchen now," said Ms. Lawson. She serves the sauce with lamb cutlets, roasted sweet potatoes or griddled halloumi cheese.

TOTAL TIME: 15 minutes MAKES: 1 cup

2 cups loosely packed fresh mint leaves
1 large garlic clove, peeled and sliced into 3 pieces
2 small preserved lemons, quartered, plus 2 tablespoons juice from the jar
½ cup olive oil
Sea salt to taste

In a medium bowl, combine mint, garlic, preserved lemons and juice, and half the olive oil. Use an immersion blender or food processor to blend until most of the leaves have been incorporated. Pour in remaining oil and continue to blend until you have a deep-emerald,



emulsified sauce. Taste and add more salt, if you like, though the preserved lemons will likely provide all the salinity

you need.

—Adapted from "At My Table" by Nigella Lawson (Flatiron Books)

HOW TO MAKE GNOCCHI ALLA ROMANA

Relax. These old-school Italian dumplings won't have you dusting off the pasta machine. They're pretty much slice-and-bake

THESE GNOCCHI aren't the high-maintenance kind. Do not confuse them with potato gnocchi, the perfect little pillows you order in restaurants because they're too much trouble to make at home.

Last summer, at a simple garden lunch outside Rome, I discovered another, homier recipe. A plate of semolina gnocchi—aka gnocchi alla romana—redefined this food for me. I was told that northern Italians were forming gnocchi from semolina long before potatoes arrived from the New World. Baked instead of boiled, these addictive dumplings, rich with eggs, butter and cheese, are at least as appealing as their potato-based cousins.

A cooking lesson later in the week showed me that preparing semolina gnocchi is about as difficult as baking brownies. A sticky, polenta-like dough is spread on a baking sheet and chilled. Tradition-

ally, round gnocchi are then cut out with a cookie cutter, but I find making square ones with a pizza wheel or sharp knife more efficient. Round or square, the dumplings are lined up on a baking sheet, sprinkled with cheese and baked until crunchy at the edges. Though semolina gnocchi are often overlapped, shingle style, for baking, I prefer laying them flat and leaving about a half inch between them, for more even baking and to maximize those lovely crisp bits. Make-ahead cooks can refrigerate the cut-but-uncooked gnocchi 2-3 days, or freeze them at least 6 months.

Adorn as you please. These gnocchi pair well with tomato, béchamel and mushroom sauces, and most any pesto or meat ragù. And when the weather turns warm, I like my semolina gnocchi naked, with nothing but a simple green salad alongside. —Gail Monaghan



6 cups whole milk
½ teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
2 ¼ cups fine semolina
8 tablespoons plus 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided and cut into small pieces, plus more for buttering pan
1 cup grated Parmigiano-Reggiano, plus 1 cup for sprinkling
2 large egg yolks
1 teaspoon fine sea salt
½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

ACTIVE TIME: 20 minutes
 TOTAL TIME: 1 hour
 SERVES: 6 generously



1. Bring milk and nutmeg to a simmer. Off heat, whisk in semolina. Cook over low heat, stirring, until mass pulls away from pan, 3 minutes. Off heat, stir in 8 tablespoons butter, 1 cup cheese and yolks. Season with salt and pepper.



3. Preheat oven to 500 degrees with rack in the highest position. Use a sharp knife or pizza wheel to cut semolina into 2-inch squares.



2. Pour hot semolina mixture onto a foil-lined, buttered sheet pan. Use an offset spatula to spread mixture into an even rectangle ½-inch to 1-inch thick. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes.



4. Set gnocchi ½-inch apart on a parchment-lined sheet pan. Dot with remaining butter and sprinkle with Parmesan. Bake until golden, 10-15 minutes.

EATING & DRINKING

A Cutlet Above Average

Who doesn't love a schnitzel, a katsu or a milanesa? Crisp-fried cutlets please eaters the world over, with good reason: These economical cuts are tender, quick-cooking and endlessly amenable to reinvention

BY SARAH KARNASIEWICZ

A MAJOR PERK of my job as a food writer: the sheer indulgence it excuses. Testing clam-bake recipes means dining on lobster for days; in the name of research, I've had more than my share of chocolate cake for breakfast.

Still, I confess I was surprised by the squeals of delight that greeted me when I started experimenting with cutlets—the thin, quick-cooking cuts of meat that are the cornerstone of countless budget-stretching dinners. "Why can't you make these every day?" my son (and chief taster) implored.

The thing is, I could. Breaded or not, cutlets are simple to prep, cook in a flash and take to a globe-spanning array of spices, sauces and other means of accessorizing. Chicken's a sure crowd-pleaser, but a cutlet can also be beef, pork or swordfish. Call it *wiener schnitzel*, chicken-fried steak, *cotale-taor katsu*: There's hardly a corner of the world that hasn't customized the cutlet.

Whatever the flourishes, there are a few universal commandments of cutlet cookery. First, invest in a meat mallet. A brisk pounding flattens the meat for even cooking and breaks down proteins for tenderness. If you're starting with a thicker cut like a chicken breast, a pork chop or a swordfish steak, use a sharp knife to halve it horizontally—or butterfly it open like a book on your cutting board—before pounding. And make sure your skillet is blisteringly hot and plenty roomy: Crowding your cutlets will leave them soggy.

Beyond that, let the cutlet be your canvas. Recently I played around with the idea of applying Doritos dust to a Mexican milanesa-style beef cutlet. With a cursory nod to healthfulness (and lacking a bag of said chips), I blended a homemade take on the orange dust, with Parmesan, smoked paprika and tomato powder. Piled on a bun with onions and avocado, the nacho-ized cutlet was the stuff of sophisticated stoner fantasies.

Some Sunday soon, prep a double batch of chicken cutlets in a simple panko coating. Fry up half that night picata-style, deglazing the pan with lemon juice, capers and white wine. Then freeze the rest, and you'll never be more than 30 minutes away from chicken katsudon, the comforting Japanese rice bowl topped with crisped cutlets and dashi-cooked eggs.

If I had to choose just one, my desert-island cutlet would be a spin on *kotlet schabowy*, Poland's porky take on wiener schnitzel. The breadcrumb coating is cut with garlic powder, parsley and dried mushrooms blitzed to a fine powder. Shatteringly crisp and earthy, these cutlets beg to be paired with cold beer and dilly potato salad. I can't guarantee they'll be met with squeals, but you can count on sighs of contentment.



► Find a recipe for porcini-dusted pork cutlets with pickled potato salad at wsj.com/food.



Nacho Cheese Tortas Milanesas

TOTAL TIME: 25 minutes SERVES: 4

4 (6-ounce) top-round steaks, pounded $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thick	powder
$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon kosher salt, plus more for seasoning	$\frac{3}{4}$ cup all-purpose flour
Freshly ground black pepper	3 eggs, beaten
$\frac{1}{4}$ cup panko	Vegetable oil, for frying
$\frac{1}{4}$ cup finely grated Parmesan	4 bolillos or similar sandwich rolls, halved
1 teaspoon chili powder	2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
1 teaspoon garlic powder	2 ripe avocados
$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon smoked paprika	1 cup refried beans, warmed
1 teaspoon tomato	1 yellow onion, thinly sliced
	Lime wedges, for serving



- Season cutlets with salt and pepper. In a wide bowl, combine panko, Parmesan, chili powder, garlic powder, smoked paprika, tomato powder and $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt. Put flour in another wide bowl and eggs in another. One at a time, dredge cutlets in flour, shake off excess, then dip in egg, turning to coat, and allow excess to drip off. Finish by pressing into breadcrumb mixture, turning to coat well.
- In a skillet, heat $\frac{1}{4}$ inch oil and over medium-high heat until shimmering (or 350 degrees on a thermometer). Working in batches to avoid crowding, fry cutlets until crisp and golden, about 1½ minutes per side. Transfer cutlets to a paper towel-lined plate to drain.
- Heat a skillet over low-medium heat. Lay buns into skillet, cut-side down, and toast until golden brown. Scoop flesh from avocados into a medium bowl and mash with a fork. Stir in lime juice. Spread avocado mixture over cut side of tops of rolls. Spread refried beans over cut side of bottom halves of rolls. Top beans with cutlets and sliced onions. Season with salt and pepper. Cover sandwiches with tops of rolls and cut in half. Serve with lime wedges.

Chicken Katsudon

TOTAL TIME: 30 minutes SERVES: 4

1 (2-inch piece) kombu (dried kelp)	Vegetable oil
2 cups water	1 tablespoon sugar
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup bonito flakes	3 tablespoons soy sauce
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup all-purpose flour	2 tablespoons mirin
1½ cups panko	2 tablespoons sake
10 large eggs	2 onions, halved lengthwise and thinly sliced
4 boneless, skinless chicken thighs, pounded thin	4 cups cooked short-grain rice
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper	Sliced scallions, to garnish
	Togarashi, to garnish

- Make dashi: Add kombu and water to a pot and bring to a boil. Quickly discard kombu, stir in bonito flakes and lower to a simmer. After 1 minute, remove pan from heat. Let steep 5 minutes, then strain off bonito flakes. Set aside.
- Meanwhile, make cutlets: Put flour in a wide bowl, panko in another, and 3 eggs in a third. Whisk eggs. Season chicken with salt and pepper. One at a time, dredge cutlets in flour, shake off excess, then dip in egg, and allow excess to drip off. Coat with panko, pressing to adhere.
- In a large skillet, heat $\frac{1}{4}$ inch oil and over high heat until shimmering (or about 350 degrees on a thermometer). Working in batches, fry cutlets until crisp and golden, 1½-2 minutes per side. Transfer cutlets to a paper towel-lined plate to drain.
- In a skillet, bring 1½ cups reserved dashi to a simmer over medium heat. Stir in sugar, soy sauce, mirin and sake. Add onions and cook, stirring, until soft, about 7 minutes. Slice cutlets against the grain into 1-inch pieces and arrange slices over onions. In a medium bowl, whisk remaining eggs, then pour into skillet, swirling pan to fill spaces between onions and chicken. Cook until eggs begin to set, about 2 minutes. Cover pan and cook until eggs are fully set, about 2 minutes more. Remove from heat and let rest, covered, 1 minute.
- Spoon rice into four wide bowls and top with chicken and egg mixture. Garnish with scallions and togarashi.

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The Noel & Harriette Levine Collection



Nacho Cheese Tortas Milanesas

TOTAL TIME: 25 minutes SERVES: 4

4 (6-ounce) top-round steaks, pounded $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thick	powder
$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon kosher salt, plus more for seasoning	$\frac{3}{4}$ cup all-purpose flour
Freshly ground black pepper	3 eggs, beaten
$\frac{1}{4}$ cup panko	Vegetable oil, for frying
$\frac{1}{4}$ cup finely grated Parmesan	4 bolillos or similar sandwich rolls, halved
1 teaspoon chili powder	2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
1 teaspoon garlic powder	2 ripe avocados
$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon smoked paprika	1 cup refried beans, warmed
1 teaspoon tomato	1 yellow onion, thinly sliced
	Lime wedges, for serving

- Season cutlets with salt and pepper. In a wide bowl, combine panko, Parmesan, chili powder, garlic powder, smoked paprika, tomato powder and $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt. Put flour in another wide bowl and eggs in another. One at a time, dredge cutlets in flour, shake off excess, then dip in egg, turning to coat, and allow excess to drip off. Finish by pressing into breadcrumb mixture, turning to coat well.
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EATING & DRINKING

ON WINE LETTIE TEAGUE



Would You Know a Fake Wine If You Tasted It?

The second in a two-part series on wine fraud.

"I'VE NEVER DONE this before. I don't think anyone has done this before," said Bill Koch as we sat down to taste 10 Burgundies and Bordeaux pulled from his cellar. Mr. Koch is certainly accustomed to tasting rare wines, but in this case, five bottles were authentic, five were counterfeit. He'd paid a total of \$56,351.85 for them, though the collective amount would be much greater today. In the end, however, the fakes cost him even more dearly.

Mr. Koch is the Palm Beach, Fla., billionaire and brother of the political activists Charles and David Koch of Koch Industries (of which Bill Koch has no part today). He famously spent some \$40 million on legal fees and multiyear investigations into the problem of wine fraud. According to Brad Goldstein, an investigative consultant who led Mr. Koch's wine-fraud investigation team, Mr. Koch has won multiple civil suits and settlements from wine counterfeeters as well as auction houses and other collectors from whom he unwittingly purchased counterfeit wines.

It took a large team of experts that included former FBI, CIA and MI6 agents, chemists, forensic scientists and an inspector from Scotland Yard to uncover the breadth and depth of the fraud. Mr. Koch spent far more than he's received in judgments and settlements, but for him, it's the principle that matters. "I hate to be cheated," he said.

We ended up tasting wine together thanks to a conversation I'd had with Mr. Goldstein. When I mentioned, half joking, that I'd love to know what a counterfeit Pétrus tastes like, Mr. Goldstein replied, "I'll ask Bill." A few days later, I was on a plane to Palm Beach.

Mr. Koch met me in the foyer of his house. "Palatial" doesn't capture the scope of the 45,000-square-foot dwelling, just as "extraordinary" doesn't begin to describe his art collection, which includes works by Picasso and Monet. We repaired to his cellar, which held around 44,000 bottles until Mr. Koch sold half at auction at Sotheby's two years ago for \$21.9 million. It was one of the biggest wine-auction totals in history, and all the wines had been carefully vetted by Mr. Koch's investigative team beforehand.

Two employees rushed around, consulting lists, climbing ladders, pulling bottles with world-famous names: Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, Château Pétrus, Château La Mission Haut-Brion and even a 1787 Château Lafitte said to be signed by Thomas Jefferson. "It's fake, of course," said Mr. Koch in a tone of remarkable nonchalance. (A 2008 book, "The Billionaire's Vinegar" by Benjamin Wallace, offers a fascinat-



KEVIN WHIPPLE

ing account of the investigation of this wine.) Half the bottles on the table were counterfeits—though they fetched top dollar at auction before Mr. Koch found this out.

We walked through the cellar to a basement room where he stored many of his fake wines. There were boxes labeled "Rudy Kurniawan Investigation Wines" or simply "Investigation Wines." Some of these were evidence Mr. Koch presented in court in New York when Mr. Kurniawan was convicted of wine counterfeiting in 2014.

He paid \$33,150.63 for a magnum. "It tasted like moose piss," he said.

Mr. Koch has discovered around 440 counterfeit bottles in his collection to date, and he allowed that there "might be even more." He recalled one of his earliest fake-wine encounters: a 1921 Château Pétrus. "Robert Parker gave the wine 100 out of 100 points," he said, referring to wine critic Robert M. Parker, Jr. Mr. Koch had to have the wine. He paid \$33,150.63 for a magnum. When he opened the magnum at a dinner with friends, he found it did not match Mr. Parker's description. "It tasted like the cheapest wine from California," he said. "It tasted like moose piss." (That's a favorite

Koch term for a really bad wine.) He made it his mission to find out if his bottle was, in fact, a fake, and how many other fakes might be lurking in his collection.

Craig Stapleton, a friend of Mr. Koch's and the former American ambassador to France, appeared in the cellar. "I'm here to taste fake wines," he declared. After all, Mr. Stapleton reasoned, he'd had a lot of great real wine thanks to Mr. Koch—a famously generous host. Like me, he was curious to see how the fakes measured up.

Since Mr. Stapleton had only a short time before he had to leave for New York, Mr. Koch winnowed the wines we would taste to 10—five superstars and five counterfeits thereof: 1950 Château Pétrus, 1971 Domaine de la Romanée-Conti Romanée-Conti, 1945 Château Lafite Rothschild, 1959 Château La Mission Haut-Brion and 1978 Domaine de la Romanée-Conti La Tâche.

We carried the bottles upstairs and onto the terrace, where glasses and a Coravin wine opener waited on a table. "I'm an investor in Coravin," said Mr. Stapleton with obvious pleasure. The device allows drinkers to access wine by means of a hollow needle inserted into the cork. Once the needle's removed, the cork closes up, so a bottle that has been "Coravin-ed" (yes, that's a verb) remains protected from oxidation for days, weeks, even months.

Mr. Koch affixed blue tape to each of the fakes and Coravin-ed the first

pair of wines, the real and the fake 1971 Domaine de la Romanée-Conti Romanée-Conti.

The faked DRC was a "Rudy" wine, Mr. Goldstein observed, referring to the counterfeiter Mr. Kurniawan. It was markedly cloudier than its real counterpart and smelled and tasted like dirt. The real wine, on the other hand, had a lovely, earthy nose and surprisingly fresh acidity. "All the crooks said, 'You can't tell if it's real until you taste it.' We said, 'If the cork is fake and the label is fake and the bottle is fake, it's fake,'" Mr. Koch recalled with a small flash of anger.

The counterfeit 1959 Château La Mission Haut-Brion, we discovered, was corked. Mr. Goldstein explained that counterfeiters often insert corked wines into old bottles, wagering that this subterfuge will prevent purchasers from considering whether the wine might also be fake—they might simply presume they'd had the bad luck to buy a bottle that turned out to be corked and leave it at that. The real 1959

was in pretty good shape. Both the real and the fake 1978 DRC La Tâche wines showed well; the latter was actually credible, we all agreed. In fact, the nose of the fake was even fresher than that of the real wine. "Maybe they put in a newer wine?" posited Mr. Goldstein.

The fake 1945 Lafite Rothschild, meanwhile, was terrible, bitter and astringent. It smelled like varnish, not wine. Its authentic counterpart

was a bit of a faded rose, but it was clearly a noble old Bordeaux. The 1950 Château Pétrus wines, real and fake, were the big surprise. Both were quite good, earthy and rich with surprisingly lively acidity.

"This [fake] was made by Hardy," said Mr. Goldstein. He was referring to Hardy Rodenstock, against whom Mr. Koch won a default judgment in a federal court in New York in 2012 for the sale of counterfeit wine. "From a mixology perspective he was really good. His handicraft was much better than Rudy's," Mr. Goldstein added. In fact, it was hard to tell the two wines apart.

With fakes this good in circulation, clearly additional precautions and coordinated documentation efforts are called for. For those who suspect that they, too, might have counterfeit wines in their cellars, Mr. Koch is considering the creation of a database, available free to the public, of information on counterfeit wines. It would be the first of its kind, said Mr. Goldstein.

After my return from Palm Beach, I couldn't stop thinking about the highly competent counterfeit Pétrus. Was it good or bad news for collectors who might own fake wines? I wasn't sure. Of course, one can't count on just any fake being so drinkable. And most important, as Mr. Koch pointed out, nobody likes to be cheated—even with a good fake Pétrus.

► Email Lettie at wine@wsj.com.

SLOW FOOD FAST SATISFYING AND SEASONAL FOOD IN ABOUT 30 MINUTES



IF YOU GREW UP in New York City, as chef Mashama Bailey did, the aroma of fennel-laced sausages cooked with sweet bell peppers will likely trip an emotional switch; carts selling the combo are a street-fair fixture. This food is just one point of reference that Ms. Bailey shares with John O. (aka Johno) Morisano, another native New Yorker and her business partner at one of the South's most talked-about restaurants, the Grey, in Savannah, Ga.

"Johno's family is Italian-American," said Ms. Bailey. "We both found food as a refuge, and we have the same principles about it. So this dish is about him, in a way." The chef's final Slow Food Fast contribution, the recipe for sweet and hot Italian sausages served with a luscious

braise of caramelized onions, peppers and tomatoes, holds family memories for her too. "My uncle taught me to make an 'Italian hot dog' with red bell peppers, green bell peppers and onions," she said. "Then I started to put in a little crushed tomato to give it some body. And I added olive oil and vinegar to brighten it up a bit."

Like most chefs dealing with the strenuous schedule of running a restaurant and cooking for customers all day long, Ms. Bailey has a hard time finding a moment to prepare a meal for herself. Still, she said, "I cook at home at least once a week. I like the quiet. But I'm on my feet all day and I need to be sitting down in 30 minutes." This hearty, homey, quick-cooking dish never fails to deliver the comfort she's craving. —Kitty Greenwald

TOTAL TIME: 30 minutes SERVES: 4-6

4 tablespoons olive oil	red, yellow, orange and green, cored, seeded and julienned
2 pounds sweet Italian sausages	1 yellow onion, thinly sliced
2 pounds hot Italian sausages	3 cloves garlic, minced
6 bell peppers, a mix of	1 (14-ounce) can crushed tomatoes
	2 tablespoons Sherry vinegar
	Kosher salt
	Crusty bread, for serving

1. Swirl 2 tablespoons olive oil into a heavy pot over medium heat. Add sausages, working in batches if necessary to avoid crowding, and cook until browned on all sides, about 4 minutes. Remove sausages from pot and set aside.
2. To the same pot, add peppers, onions and

garlic. Sauté until vegetables soften, about 15 minutes. Stir in tomatoes, remaining oil and vinegar. Return sausages to pot and turn gently to coat. Braise until tomatoes reduce to a sauce that cloaks peppers, about 10 minutes, adding splashes of water if pot looks dry. Serve with crusty bread.



PAST PERFECT A splash of Sherry vinegar and a few other tweaks give this old-school Italian American dish new oomph.

The Chef
Mashama Bailey

Her Restaurant
The Grey, in
Savannah, Ga.

What She's Known For
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of the great
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ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL HOWELIER; KATE SEARS FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, FOOD STYLING BY CAITLIN HAUGHT BROWN, PROP STYLING BY SUZIE MYERS

DESIGN & DECORATING

Dinner in the Round

For an elegant riff on that old favorite—the L-shaped breakfast nook—wrap a curved bench around a circular table



BY CATHERINE ROMANO

YOU DON'T want people to walk into a room and think they know what it's going to look like," said interior designer Ray Booth, whose new book, "Evocative Interiors" (Rizzoli), features two examples of the unexpected: curving banquets that hug dining tables in a way that elevates classic diner décor. He said the setup "allows for a bit of discovery." One of his clients likes the demi-lune settee from Coup D'Etat he installed in her Southampton, N.Y., dining room (above) for its social lubrication, the way it pivots people slightly toward each other. "For dinner parties," she said, "we seat people who don't know each other well on it because it provides a kind of intimacy."

Mr. Booth, who splits his time between the Nashville and New York offices of his firm, McAlpine, likes the surprising dynamism of introducing dramatic curves in boxy rooms. "I like to use layers, whether functional, emotional or geometric," he said. "A circle within a square is one way to do that." Add a sculptural sofa to a round table and pull the whole vignette away from the wall or windows, and "it creates its own architecture."

For a Baton Rouge, La., home (right), Mr. Booth combined mid-20th-century klismos-like chairs by T.H. Robsjohn-Gibbons with an arcing channel-back sofa that McAlpine designed. "When you have an open-backed, more intricate seat, you balance that with upholstered that's a little more quiet and solid," he said. In the Southampton room, he paired the open-backed bench with skirted Peplo chairs from B&B Italia. The table's single, solid pedestal avoids cluttering the lower half of the arrangement with legs, he pointed out, and spares guests' knocking their knees against supports. "We have an L-shaped banquette in the breakfast room, and it's great for piling in the kids," said Mr. Booth's client, but for dinner, she prefers the rounded grouping. "It's not as casual as the corner banquette, and the bench works kind of like a love seat."



SIMON UPTON (FAR LEFT); ERIC PIASECKI (RIGHT)

CIRCULAR LOGIC Above left: In a Southampton, N.Y., dining room, interior designer Ray Booth encircled a pedestal table with skirted upholstered chairs and a bench from Coup D'Etat. Above: Of the round free-standing banquette he created for a Baton Rouge, La., couple, Mr. Booth said, "She loves antiques, he likes design that's edgier. This was a way to create something a little outside the box, to feed his desire for something different."

ARCS DE TRIOMPHE // THREE BENCHES THAT DON'T BOW TO TRADITION

Bruno Booth, from \$9,795,
costantinidesign.com



Josie InCurve Sofa by Latitude
Run, from \$930, wayfair.com



Coup Studio Demi-Lune Setee,
from \$7,750, r-hughes.com

FLOWER SCHOOL**IF BACON WERE A BOTANIST**

Floral designer **Lindsey Taylor** translates a 20th-century nude by Francis Bacon into a densely knotted bouquet

IRISH-BORN artist Francis Bacon (1909-1992), famous for his abstract, emotionally charged figurative work, might seem an unlikely source of inspiration for an April arrangement, but early spring can be agitating. One day it's generously warm, the next it cruelly snows; through rainy, gray weeks, we wait restlessly for the season's blooms to burst from dormancy. Bacon's beautifully raw 1969 painting "Lying Figure" (on display Apr. 29-Sept. 2 at Fondation Beyeler, in Basel, Switzerland) sums up the feeling of expectancy, its sweet palette foreshadowing the colors of spring proper.

I wanted to capture the sense of immediacy, almost sketchiness, in the way Bacon applies his paint. A favorite olive-glazed ceramic vessel had large fingerlike open-

ings that allowed me to place each stem like a brush stroke.

I used deep-salmon fringed tulips and pale-pink parrot tulips striped in green to block out the shape and tones of the figure. To capture the body's splayed form, I forced some of the flowers open by turning back their petals; others I let drape over the edge.

Don't be afraid to manipulate a blossom or stem to take your arrangement to another level.

I used a single black scabiosa for the body's shadow and yellow mimosa for the glow of the overhead light. Little cascading muscari and small-headed allium left long picked up on the blue that edges the bed and created energetic gestures to break from the core. Finally, I added a hit of early lilac to play up the pinky blue tones that are layered in



THE INSPIRATION

Tulip petals bent backwards allude to the contorted nude in Francis Bacon's 'Lying Figure' (1969).

Tall ikebana vessel, \$625,
mariteacosta.com

the work and to tighten up the heart of the arrangement. That dense center of leaves and shorter blooms, I believe, captured the tension of Bacon's figure.



THE ARRANGEMENT

DESIGN & DECORATING



The Fiddle-Leaf Fig, R.I.P.

After years as the hot houseplant, the ubiquitous tree needs to be retired. These five rival specimens are ready for their place in the sun (or partial shade)

BY KATHRYN O'SHEA-EVANS

Once a houseplant becomes so popular that Pottery Barn peddles a polyester version, its sophistication status shrivels faster than a thirsty fern. Consider the fiddle-leaf fig, hashtaged in 79,217 Instagram posts. "I can't take it anymore!" protested New York designer Lindsey Coral Harper, who's never put one in a project. "I feel like I've seen them in every magazine, every beautiful spread."

"Fiddles" (named for their violin-shaped leaves) are ubiquitous for good reason: They're sculptural and tall and, as Ms. Harper concedes, a fairly effortless way to fill a corner. They definitely have their

advocates: "We are staunch defenders of the fiddle-leaf fig," said Alana Langan, co-author of the coming book "Plant Style" (Thames & Hudson, May 15) and co-owner of Melbourne botanical studio Ivy Muse.

For those experiencing fiddle-leaf fatigue, we reached out to plant shops that are high-profile on Instagram and to the app FlowerChecker, run by 20 botanists across the globe, to source unpredictable options that still pack an ocular punch. These trees "can be used alone to great effect as a standout focus, but can also be part of a plant gang," said Ms. Langan. "Plants actually like being grouped because they increase their humidity together. It's cute—it's like they know they're all hanging out." Consult your local plant nursery to order them, and get rules of care based upon your particular home and coordinates. Remember, there are no bad plants, only bad, uninformed owners.



The inescapable fiddle-leaf fig tree

◀ A Touch of Europe

Introduced to the U.S. in 1908 by plant scout Frank N. Meyer, the dwarf Meyer lemon tree brings a visual delicacy that recalls the orangerie at Versailles, making it wholly suited to traditional interiors. "It's better alone, so you can see its form and the richness of the leaves," Ms. Langan said. Citrus limon x meyeri may bear delightful, cocktail-ready fruit under ideal conditions, including plenty of sunlight. "Allow surface soil to get dry and then water it," said Ms. Langan. She subjects hers to a mini-typewriter in the sink before dropping it back into its drip tray.

► Ethereal Greenery

With "elegance" right in its name, the Schefflera elegantissima is the Misty Copeland of the flora world, with a floaty, firework-shaped silhouette that energizes stodgy décor. "It has stunning spidery dark leaves and hails from the umbrella-plant family," said Angela Maynard, founder of London's Botany Shop Limited. "It needs plenty of bright light, regular watering and misting," Ms. Maynard said. Another loner, "this plant has such intricate and beautiful foliage, it certainly holds its own alone as a statement piece," she said.



▼ Cher, Circa 1985

Dracaena marginata will survive in dim spaces with neglectful parenting, but a daily mist is encouraged. Named for Greek mythology's half-dragon, half-woman, it's no surprise the plant exhibits twin personalities. The plant's riper-like leaves, on one hand, appear as if it stuck a root in an electric socket; its stems, on the other, can get fluid. "Their stems are my favorite element—the more wiggly and sculptural the better," Ms. Langan said, adding that the silhouette suits an interior with similarly modern lines.



▲ A Sharp Survivor

"The energy from these leaves is stored in the root system, which makes it easier to care for," said Ondrej Vild of the Yucca guatemalensis. The leading botanist at FlowerChecker, Mr. Vild noted that the Central American native flowers on occasion. Ms. Langan said the tree's spiky leaves serve as "a striking contrast to a room with lots of soft texture." At the same time, its inherent masculinity meshes well with an interior of sharp angles and straight lines.



▼ A Fresh Fig

If you're going for lush and leafy, the long-leaved fig, or Ficus longifolia is it. "Each of these is unique with its own branching style, so they have so much character," Ms. Langan said. She recommends displaying them in a trio of plants.



Start with the ficus for height, add a medium-size, bushier plant like a spathiphyllum sensation, which has wide, fan-like leaves straight out of "The Jungle Book," and, finally, include a trailing devil's ivy for softness. "They prefer a bright spot, but they're flexible," she said. "You can get away with medium light. It won't thrive, but it won't die either," she said, "and it will keep its form."



NOW YOU'RE COOKING WITH CLASS Clockwise from left: Classic Play Kitchen, \$699, miltonandgoose.com; Duktig Play Kitchen, \$99, ikea.com; Little Chef Provence Retro Play Kitchen, \$179, teamson.com

ZERO-KITSCH PLAY KITCHENS

We pretended with toy-kitchens made of tacky plastic. Today's kids enjoy birch, maple and 'farmhouse sinks' adults would envy

IN 1963, when style-conscious moms were whipping up chicken à la king and chiffon pies in trendy turquoise kitchens, Kenner's Easy-Bake Oven debuted in the same postwar hue. The 1969 model followed in au courant avocado. But as real kitchens shifted to neutrals like almond and white, their toy counterparts failed to keep pace.

"At some point, society decided children want only bright, colorful, highly-rounded shapes," said Barry Kudrowitz, toy designer and associate professor of product design at the University of Minnesota. Hence, mountains of garish, plastic playthings that crowd closets and landfills.

Recently, however, companies began producing sophisticated mini-me kitchens. IKEA's minimalist birch-plywood and white-fiberboard

design features "stainless" hardware and a flat cooktop whose elements glow red. Milton & Goose's setup comes in gray, birch and maple, with a white farmhouse sink many adults will covet. Teamson Kids' deep green rig emulates a traditional Provence kitchen.

Beyond not affronting parents' tastes, these imitations educate well. "The more a play kitchen looks like a tiny version of the one mom or dad uses, [the more] it helps children develop symbolic understanding, an important marker for language development," said Sarah Lytle, outreach director at the Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences at the University of Washington. And when was the last time you cooked a meal on a pink and purple range with glitter-detailed knobs? — Kelly Michele Guerrotto

GEAR & GADGETS

Meet Your Maker

Can high-tech multicookers like the Instant Pot really prepare any meal with the push of a button? We test the latest machines

BY PAUL SCHRODT

THE ENORMOUSLY trendy Instant Pot, a pressure cooker with programmable functions to help simply and easily make just about anything—from soups to roasts and even yogurt—has given homecooked meals a new aura. It vows to largely eliminate sweaty, grease-splattering slavery in the kitchen thanks to its “smart” steel-encased bowl. This ingenious element knows what you’ve dropped in and how long it should cook, and can automatically change its settings to keep dinner warm when you’re stuck in traffic.

Instant Pot’s popularity has led to a rush on multicookers, a category that grew 68 percent in the past year, according to the market research firm NPD. Much like old-fashioned pressure cookers, these electronic devices trap steam in a tightly sealed space to effectively speed up cooking; the ritual of braising a lamb shank, traditionally a day-long process, can be shrunk to a few hours. But the latest machines, including the Crock-Pot Express, which debuted late last year, also emulate 1970s slow cookers to simmer your food at lower temperatures, or sear and sauté ingredients you’d typically administer to over the stove.

“I think it’s great,” said Craig Koketsu, the chef behind acclaimed New York City restaurants Quality Meats and Park Avenue, of the multicooker phenomenon. “What it represents—maybe I shouldn’t say this since I run restaurants—is the resurgence of people cooking wholesome food at home. It inspired people to do that.”

Not only did the machine overcomplicate the task of frying an egg, I ended up with a limp, sad breakfast.

That doesn’t mean the multicookers can do it all. I put the Instant Pot, Crock-Pot Express, and the pricier Breville Fast Slow Pro and Fagor Lux through a battery of routine amateur cooking tasks. The results were mixed.

First I blazed through a pork chili, which would normally take several hours, in mere minutes using the Breville Fast Slow Pro on its meat setting. I also brought it out for a dinner party to make the classic Cuban beef stew, *ropa vieja*, that I fell in love with growing up in Miami. The meat typically requires eight hours to achieve a delicious rosy tenderness, but the Breville pulled off the feat in half the time. The cooker has a pleasant, streamlined design, with satisfying knobs to adjust temperature and time, and chirping noises



that alert you to pay attention. And while pressure cookers were once infamous given to explode, the new breed is virtually foolproof thanks to safety features including lid locks, automatic temperature control and excess pressure releases.

Aesthetics aside, it can be difficult to tell the cookers’ performances apart. The stainless steel bowls of the Fagor and Instant Pot were slightly better than the Breville’s and Crock-Pot’s nonstick surfaces at browning and caramelizing, which help create those crispy edges and nutty flavors in proteins or produce. But all four multicookers were far from ideal in this respect. Much of the food I made came out with the same slightly mushy texture. I threw a small steak slab on sear in the Breville and found the results disappointing compared to those a cast iron skillet delivers. Out of curiosity, I tried to fry an egg on the same setting. Not only did the machine overcomplicate the task, I ended up with a limp, sad breakfast.

There’s a scientific reason behind this, Mr. Koketsu pointed out. A traditional pan generally has a larger surface area and shallower sides which together let moisture evaporate more easily, giving foods that coveted sear. “You sear the meat because all that deep browning adds to the richness and depth of color of the dish later. Otherwise it comes out looking sort of gray, which is

not very appetizing,” he said. Mr. Koketsu said he thinks multicookers are “great tools,” but he balks at the notion that you can (or should) cook everything in them. He relies on an older pressure cooker to quickly braise short ribs and turn out brown rice. The rest he personally prefers to cook the difficult way—the one he knows best.

Still, it’s hard to overstate the multicookers’ convenience, especially for a novice cook without Mr. Koketsu’s training. They’re not the

magical kitchen machines some have hyped them to be, but they deliver on the promise of making simple meals quickly and easily, if only decently. Fall-apart meats and stews turn out best. If money weren’t a consideration, I’d buy the Breville for its looks and concise LCD menu, but the Instant Pot and the Crock-Pot Express work nearly as well for half the price.

To go with my *ropa vieja* I made moros rice, a Latin American staple, in the Crock-Pot, and was im-

pressed with the brand’s trademark simplicity. Its buttons, functions and even the way you close the lid were all very intuitive. I threw in garlic and onions on sauté mode and they were fragrant in a few minutes, then I poured in the rice and black beans with water, hit a button and moved on with my life. In 13 minutes, I had a silky mix that I’d otherwise have had to sweat over with a traditional pot. My guests went back for seconds (and thirds) until the pot was clean.

WHAT A CROCK // MULTICOOKERS LOOK SIMILAR, SO WHICH IS THE ONE FOR YOU?



CROCK-POT EXPRESS MULTICOOKER

Best for the new at-home cook who values a straightforward tool that just gets the job done. **But don't** use it to sear meats or expect it to make you seem cool in front of your friends. \$100, crock-pot.com



INSTANT POT DUO 60 7-IN-1 COOKER

Best for the person who wants to make leftover-friendly one-pot meals, like stews, rice and pasta. **But don't** expect it to turn you into the next Iron Chef. The do-it-all pot can't work miracles. \$100, instantpot.com



BREVILLE FAST SLOW PRO COOKER

Best for the aspiring chef concerned with handsome kitchenware and a lot of functionality. **But don't** expect to get much benefit for the extra cost. And don't fry an egg in it. Seriously. \$250, brevilleusa.com



FAGOR LUX MULTICOOKER

Best for more advanced home chefs looking for a new kitchen toy (with a nice digital display). **But don't** use it if you're new to cooking, as it requires a bit more knowledge to get full value. \$110, fagoramerica.com

BE A SMART MOUTH

This artificial-intelligence-enabled toothbrush comes with an app that ensures you’re scrupulously cleansing day and night. Admittedly, it’s a little weird



TOOTH BE TOLD
Colgate's app monitors brushing and chimes in when you miss a spot

TECH GEEKS OFTEN joke about salivating over exciting new gadgets, but it's rare to find one that literally makes you drool.

One exception: the Colgate Smart Electronic Toothbrush E1 (\$100, apple.com), an iPhone-linked dental tool that offers real-time guidance as you clean your teeth.

The brush syncs with the Colgate Connect app using Bluetooth. Once you indicate which hand you brush with, the app invites you to use its “smart brushing analyzer,” which taps artificial intelligence to map your mouth and give feedback on how long you’ve brushed and which spots you’ve missed.

The E1’s vibrating bristles were more comfortable than those of most electric toothbrushes I’ve tried, but on my first run I earned a scolding. It seems I only brushed for 79 seconds, rather than the recommended two-minute minimum, and skipped five teeth entirely. On later brushes, a pushy in-app coach painstakingly guided me through scrubbing both sides of the teeth in every corner of my mouth.

The coach offers an illustrated view of your teeth, tracking each section as you brush and warning if you go astray. The biggest challenge was figuring out exactly

where to prop my phone; I needed to see it clearly but not risk drooling on it (as I learned the hard way) or accidentally elbowing it into the toilet.

Colgate’s E1 is part of a wave of digitally enabled toothbrushes aiming to bring the Internet of Things inside the mouths of smartphone users. It’s only available for purchase through Apple and only works with iOS devices.

For Android users, Philips Sonicare offers its high-end DiamondClean Smart (from \$230, philips.com) with multiple brushing modes. Oral-B’s PRO series includes Bluetooth-enabled models (from \$80, oralb.com) that offer real-time guidance and warn you if you’re brushing too hard. And the child-friendly Playbrush (\$30, playbrush.com) lets kids rack up “points” in its app’s games by thoroughly cleaning their teeth.

Colgate’s Connect app also includes family-friendly games, like a pirate-themed quest for gold, and allows you to share brushing logs with a dentist (if you dare).

Good news, Dr. Jacobs: I’m now apparently brushing more thoroughly, and I’ve stopped needing to wash my phone when I’m done.

— Steven Melendez

GEAR & GADGETS

ONE QUICK MULE
Jaguar's sporty station wagon can go 0-60 in 5.3 seconds—but carries a lot of precious cargo capably.



RUMBLE SEAT: DAN NEIL



Jaguar XF Sportbrake: Leaves Crossovers Behind

IMAGINE YOU are a piece of birch veneer plywood, 4x8 feet, $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thick, lying quietly in the lumber department of your local home-improvement store. So far life as a wood-based product is not bad. Birch veneer, that's the good stuff.

Suddenly, a bright light. A man heaves you onto a trolley. The lady with the price-reader zaps your behind and then you're outside. You brace yourself for the chilly ride in the back of a pickup, but no: Your new master clicks the remote and a power hatchback rises in the parking lot. It can't be. This guy isn't really going to—*oof!*

You find yourself flat on the carpeted cargo floor of a Jaguar XF Sportbrake S AWD, a station-wagon version of the British company's premium performance sedan. He must be some sort of eccentric furniture maker! The man ties down the hatch with plastic string. Maybe, you hope, he'll make you into cabinetry, or perhaps a dignified bookcase packed with leather-bound volumes.

Two hours later you're a chicken coop. Still, the ride home was amazing.

I do love me some wagons. Sometimes I wish I could gather up consumers by the lapels and say, "Look! Here, this is the sort of vehicle you really want, not that ugly, lane-hogging, no-driving crossover." All else being equal, a wagon design will always be lighter, quicker, faster, more agile, with better braking and ride quality, lower emissions/consumption and wind noise. The Sportbrake (\$84,245 as tested) brilliantly illuminates this general and inherent superiority.

The Jaguar joins a handful of U.S.-spec premium lifestyle wag-

ons including the Mercedes-Benz E-Class wagon—otherwise known in Westchester County as "Buffy's car"—the oh-so-gorgeous Volvo V90, the Audi A4 Allroad, and the surprisingly winning Buick Regal TourX, built in Russelsheim, Germany, by Opel.

So why are crossovers wildly popular in the U.S. and wagons wildly not? Partly it's due to the size spiral in the American market. Since the SUV craze of the early 1990s, the average vehicle has gotten bigger and taller. As rooflines have grown up like unmoved

Jaguar's Sportbrake dances through corners that would leave most crossovers tripping over their laces.

grass, consumers have sought vehicle designs with ever-higher seating positions from which to see out. In point of fact, most crossover designs (Honda Pilot, Toyota Highlander) are simply thick-waisted station wagons, with a bit more ground clearance and elevated seating position.

But consumers trade a lot for that higher perch. For example, crossovers are comparatively heavy for the space they move. Porsche's 2019 Cayenne S crossover has about the same length as the Jag wagon; but it holds 13% less cargo (60.4 cubic feet, max) and weighs 9% more (4,454 pounds). The Porsche is a finely engineered product, I'm sure.

These disadvantages of vehicle mass and packaging are baked into the crossover recipe.

It's not just the mass but where it's located. The taller the vehicle, the higher the center of gravity and the harder the suspension must work to contain transient motions of roll, pitch and dive. Driven hard, most crossovers sway and lean like Spanish galloons. Which brings us to the absurdist creation called the performance crossover. Yes, with an extraordinary amount of exotic hardware and suspension tuning, it is possible to make an Alfa Romeo Stelvio Quadrifoglio turn and handle on a road course; but it would do it all better with a half-foot less Z-axis.

Station wagons are just smarter. If I may resort to a metric of my own devising: The quotient of uncompromised represents cargo capacity divided by form drag (C_d), efficiency inside and out, if you like. The Sportbrake S—the name derives from "shooting brake," a Britishism for station wagons—pours 69.5 cubic feet (second-row folded) of cargo capacity into a vessel with just 0.32 coefficient of drag. To compare, that's slightly less stowage than the Subaru Outback, and the Jag doesn't look like the box that it came in.

In most respects the Sportbrake is mechanically identical to its sedan sibling from about the B-pillar forward: Under the hood is Jag's thrust-filled 3.0-liter supercharged V6 (380 hp, 332 pound-feet of torque), backed by an eight-speed transmission and rear-biased all-wheel drive. Under the cargo floor is the XF's low-profile, integral-link suspension, here with load-

leveling air springs as standard equipment. Despite its ample rear bustle and a full-length panoramic roof, the aluminum-bodied Sportbrake's weighs in at a trim 4,045 pounds, just 165 pounds more than the sedan.

In order to match its sedan sibling's 50/50 weight distribution, the Sportbrake's designers made the hatch out of a lightweight composite material, the same as used on the Land Rover Discovery. The front double-wishbone suspension has been lightweighted with forged aluminum lower con-

trol arms, low-mass springs, and anti-roll bars.

The net of it is, unless you looked in the rear-view mirror to check on your terrified piece of plywood, you would never know you were driving the wagon version of Jaguar's taut, talented sport sedan. Press the console button for Dynamic mode, and the tach jumps, the steering becomes heavy and the springs stiffen. The Sportbrake dances through corners that would leave crossovers tripping over their laces.

Got wood?



JAGUAR XF SPORTBRAKE S AWD

Base Price \$70,450

Price, as Tested \$84,245

Powertrain Supercharged direct-injection 3.0-liter DOHC V6; eight-speed automatic with manual-shift mode; all-wheel drive with torque vectoring by braking

Power/Torque 380 hp at 6,500 rpm/332 lb-ft at 4,500 rpm

Length/Width/Height/Wheelbase

195.1/74.0/58.9/116.5

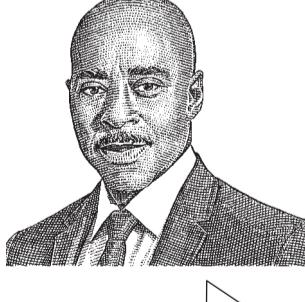
Curb Weight 4,045 pounds

0-60 mph 5.3 seconds

Top Speed 121 mph

EPA Fuel Economy 18/25/21 mpg, city/highway/combined

Cargo Capacity 22.2/69.5 cubic feet (behind second/first row seats)



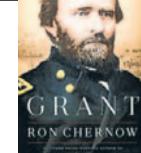
MY TECH ESSENTIALS

COURTNEY B. VANCE

The comforting 'Isle of Dogs' narrator on his refusal to wait for a Tesla, his 1,100-page Kindle reads and why he wishes Apple was a little less pushy

I love big biographies, like "Grant," Ron Chernow's new 1,100-pager, and Walter Isaacson's great book on Leonardo da Vinci. I take two or three years to go through 'em, but I read three or four at a time. I like to go back and forth between Audible and my Kindle app, where I take notes and underline things.

I like to travel simply with a small Bric's Bellagio carry-on spinner suitcase and its companion duffel that slips over the handle. I love to be able to pack things real tightly and just roll in there.



When my mother was alive we binge-watched everything on Netflix. I'd go down to our guesthouse, where she stayed, and watch shows with her. After "Breaking Bad" had gotten all its Emmys and was off the air, I said, "I think my mother may like this." She was glued.

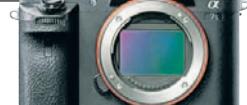


I bought a Dahon Helios folding bike in 2003 when I was doing "Law & Order: Criminal Intent." There was no Uber back in the day. Black man in New York, you try to hail a cab at certain times of the day, it ain't happening. So, I had my folding bike. It's nice to tool around town, get some air and take some pictures.

I didn't feel like putting a thousand down and reserving a Tesla, so I got a 2017 Chevy Bolt (similar model shown). It's the best car I've ever had. It gets 230 miles to the charge, but people only drive 40, maybe 50 miles a day, so you just top off. No more gas. No more maintenance. It's quick and roomy inside. My kids love it. It's perfection.



I have an iPhone 6s and I like my white earbuds—with the cord. I don't like that they're driving us to Bluetooth. The phone doesn't have a jack for the headphones. That bugs me. They should give us the option to be able to do both for a little while.



I have to have my camera when I walk out of the house. I've got a Sony A7S II camera with a Sony SEL2470Z lens. I'm always shooting on set. When I was doing "The People v. O.J. Simpson," they didn't have a set photographer most of the time, so the producers paid me for shots. I did the same thing when I was on Broadway with Tom Hanks in "Lucky Guy." It's a great ice breaker.

—Edited from an interview by Chris Kornelis

GETTY (EARBUDS)