

BOOKS

'Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost.' —John Quincy Adams

The Daily Brilliance of JQA

The candid diary of a great American statesman is a matchless window on the early republic

The Diaries of John Quincy Adams

Edited by David Waldstreicher
Library of America, 1,488 pages, \$75

BY RICHARD BROOKHISER

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS (1767-1848) was the sixth president of the United States, chosen by the House of Representatives after the chaotic contest of 1824, crushed in his re-election bid by Andrew Jackson in 1828. But his public career stretched decades before and after his single term. His diplomat father, John Adams, took him on his first European trip when he was 10; he suffered a fatal stroke on the floor of the House of Representatives when he was 80. In the seven decades in between he served as ambassador to four countries, senator, secretary of state, congressman and advocate before the Supreme Court.

He also kept a diary, with a juvenile start in 1779 called "A Journal by Me, J Q A, Vol. 1st." It grew, as he entered adulthood, into an almost daily record. An electronic facsimile of this running autobiography, comprising 14,000 digitized pages of JQA's original handwriting, can be found at the website of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

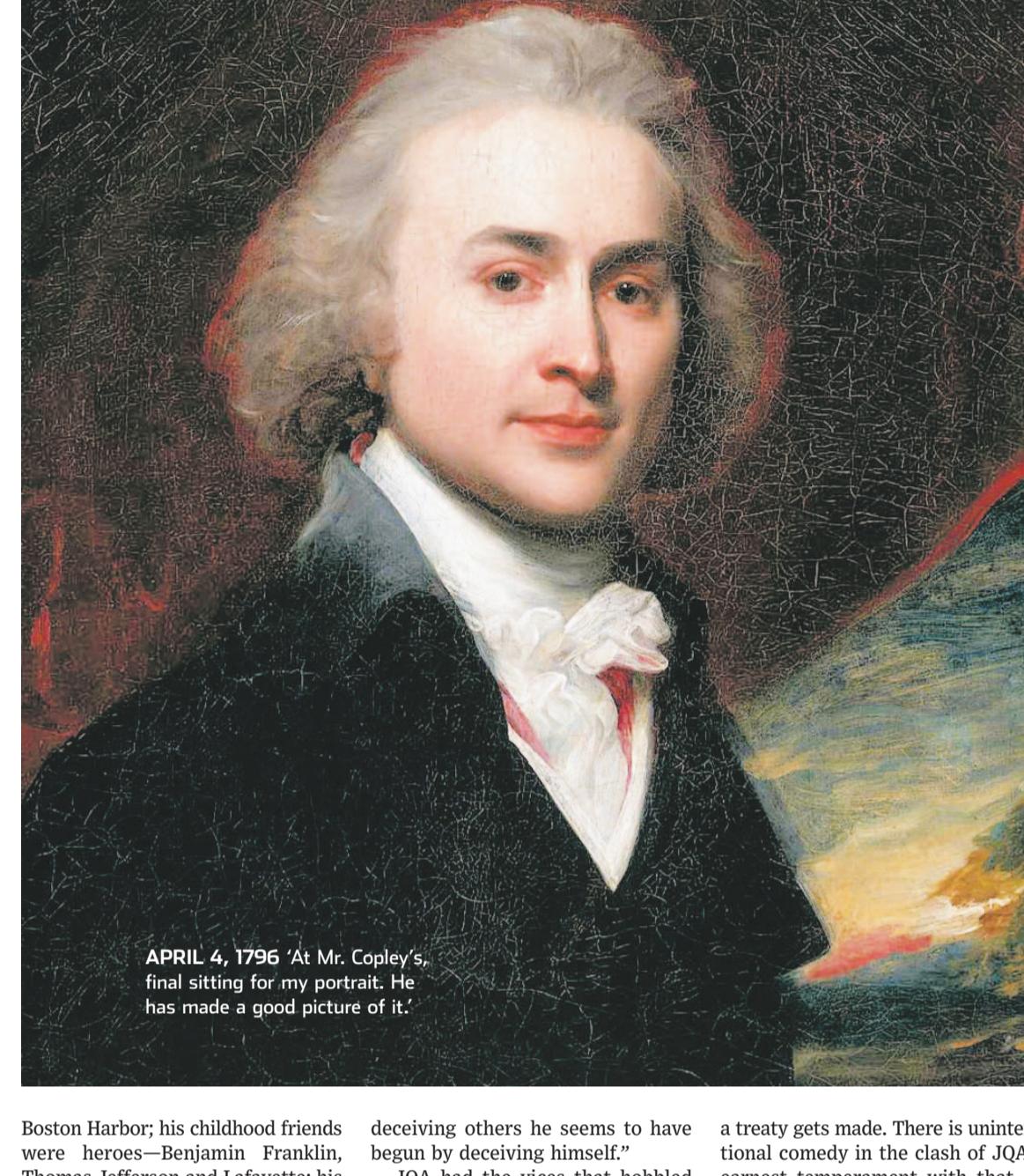
David Waldstreicher, professor at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, has distilled 1,200 pages of it, plus chronology and notes, into two volumes in the Library of America's handsome format. It will be the standard reader's edition of this masterpiece, which gives an account of both a fascinating life and a thrilling, disastrous period of American history.

JQA is a masterly diarist. He could write in sentences and paragraphs, unlike modern politicians. (Sad!) His style is always clear, often elegant, informed by his reading in Latin, French and German (not Austrian). He has a sharp eye for people, places and things.

While he was representing the United States in St. Petersburg he described a Russian Orthodox baptism: "Another singularity was that at one part of the ceremony they were all required to spit on the floor." Throughout his life, he noted sunrises (he himself typically rose at 4 a.m.), sunsets and eclipses.

Although public affairs consumed him, he had a variety of quirky interests and habits. He had a garden at home in Quincy, Mass., where he tried to start the seedlings of trees, usually with no luck. When he was in Washington he swam (he called it "bathing") in the Potomac; he once nearly drowned, and on another occasion saw a drowned body pulled from the river. He was forever writing verse, and scolding himself for its poor quality. "It is with poetry as with Chess and Billiards—There is a certain degree of attainment, which labour and practice will reach, and beyond which no vigils and no vows will go."

His signal deficiency as a chronicler is that he had almost no sense of humor. Whatever seriousness was not drilled into him by his Puritan heritage, history and Adams family history supplied. When he was 7 he saw the smoke and heard the cannon of the Battle of Bunker Hill across



ALAMY

APRIL 4, 1796 'At Mr. Copley's, final sitting for my portrait. He has made a good picture of it.'

Boston Harbor; his childhood friends were heroes—Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and Lafayette; his father, the second president, was the hero at home. The private history of the Adams family was somber: JQA's two brothers, and two of his three sons, were alcoholics.

The gusto that sunnier temperaments draw from humor, JQA got instead from bile. He knew everybody, and hated almost everybody. The diary is a cavalcade of vituperation: Stephen Douglas "cast away his cravat, unbuttoned his waistcoat and had the awkward aspect of a half-naked pugilist." Daniel Webster had "gigantic intellect," "envious temper," "ravenous ambition" and a "rotten heart." Ralph Waldo Emerson was "a crack-brained young man." Alexander Hamilton's death in a duel was "divine retributive justice" for his opposing JQA's father. He acknowledged Martin Van Buren's "calmness," "gentleness of manners" and "conciliatory temper" but flayed his "obsequiousness," "sycophancy" and "fawning servility."

The sternest rebuke was reserved for Jefferson, who "combined a rare mixture of infidel philosophy, and Epicurean Morals—Of burning Ambition, and of Stoical self-control—of deep duplicity and of generous sensibility, between which two qualities and a treacherous and inventive Memory, his conduct towards his rivals and opponents appears one tissue of inconsistency." JQA ticked off some instances, then struck off this epigram: Jefferson had "a memory so pandering to the will that in

deceiving others he seems to have begun by deceiving himself."

JQA had the vices that hobbled his father: wrath and aggression, cast as righteousness. "My cause is the cause of my Country, and of human liberty. It is the cause of Christian improvement—the fulfilment of the prophesies." His canting rage was stoked by the punishments he administered to himself: for being a mediocre poet; for getting up as late as 6 a.m.; for reading for pleasure when he should have been doing research; for a hundred shortcomings, almost all of them magnified by relentless self-scrutiny. Back of the implacable internal judge lay a profound internal fear: I am not worthy—of my father; of the founding fathers; of the opportunities I have been given.

Sometimes sheer loss released him from the prison of himself, if only into grief: The death of his mother, and of his drunkard sons, touched him to the core. And day by day, poems, plants and heavenly bodies momentarily soothed him, even if he called them distractions. Otherwise the vice of his personality stayed tight.

Much of Volume I is taken up with JQA's career as a diplomat. His crowning achievement was his part in procuring the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812. JQA belonged to a five-man American negotiating commission, which also included the young Henry Clay. The shuffling and bluffing of their British counterparts, and their own internal bickering, shows how the sausage of

a treaty gets made. There is unintentional comedy in the clash of JQA's earnest temperament with that of the smiling, spouting Clay; Clay's all-night card parties broke up just when JQA was starting his day.

In 1817 James Monroe tapped JQA to be secretary of state. Monroe's eight years in the White House became the original permanent campaign as Adams, Treasury Secretary William Crawford, Secretary of War John C. Calhoun, House Speaker Clay and Gen. Andrew Jackson jockeyed to succeed him.

JQA's account of these years, which straddles Volumes I and II, is the ultimate inside baseball. (JQA learned that, at one point, a frustrated Crawford, seeing his chances slip away, threatened to beat Monroe with his cane.) It is a tribute to JQA's public-spiritedness that in the midst of these brawls he crafted the principle of mutual European/American noninterference, known as the Monroe Doctrine, that would guide U.S. foreign policy for 90 years.

JQA beat his competitors for the White House and served a damp term as president. The most important subject in the diary—much more important than this sterile victory—is slavery.

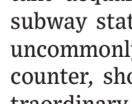
Joseph Ellis believes that John Adams, at the end of his life, told JQA that the founders of the North had made a tacit bargain with their brothers of the South: End slavery in your own way. Since the South hadn't done so, it would be fair, and necessary, for JQA to push hard against it.

Izies she has no idea how to answer the question "Can you remember a time when you were really real?" She was raised on Whitney Houston and LL Cool J and now she watches "Seinfeld" reruns every night. Khalil grew up a preppie—"the only black guy at the frat party"—before undergoing a road-to-Damascus conversion in which he embraced his blackness and changed his clique of friends. The frankness with which "New People" treats race as a kind of public performance is both uncomfortable and strangely cathartic.

Being a performance, it transforms easily into deception, and the story hinges on two hallucinatory sequences in which Maria falsifies her identity in order to sneak into the poet's apartment. The ending of this brittle, provocative novel carries the fated sense of a utopia heading inexorably toward collapse.

FICTION CHRONICLE: SAM SACKS

Butterscotch Dream Children



EARLY IN Danzy Senna's "New People" (Riverhead, 229 pages, \$26), a woman named Maria runs into a distant acquaintance in a New York subway station. The woman seems unusually excited about the encounter, showering Maria with extraordinary compliments. And then all is explained when she invites Maria to take the notorious personality test administered by the Church of Scientology.

It's at this point that most people would hurl themselves into, if not in front of, the next arriving train. But Maria has a fascination with cults. She happens to be completing a dissertation on the ethnomusicology of the Peoples Temple in Jonestown. And she herself belongs to a group that, Ms. Senna suggests, can feel

much like an exclusive social order: Both she and her fiancé Khalil are biracial. In the eyes of others their beige skin is the consummation of enlightened racial attitudes. "Maybe

Senna treats race as kind of a public performance, a provocative approach that proves strangely cathartic.

she and Khalil are some kind of solution," she thinks, "the beautiful blend that happens four hundred years after humanity's collision." The two have been selected to star in a documentary called "New People" about the future of American coupledom. When Maria wonders why their wedding announcement is



GETTY IMAGES

being featured in the New York Times, Khalil answers, only half joking, "We're mulatto. Everybody loves mulattos. Nobody will grow bored of us, ever."

A charmed future seems to lie ahead: "A Brooklyn brownstone, a tribe of butterscotch dream children, a fancy tenure-track job." But Maria is having severe doubts about her membership in the tribe. Her pre-wedding jitters have taken the form of a ruinous obsession with a writer friend of Khalil's she thinks of only as "the poet." The poet isn't a New Person—he's "old-school," meaning he's simply a black guy, someone who endures the slights and persecutions that come with his skin color but feels no confusion about who he is.

Maria's confusion is central to the breakdown that follows her obsession, and Ms. Senna deftly draws it out in the way of an espionage thriller, peeling back her characters' racial personas as though they were so many disguises. During the Scientology personality test, Maria real-

FINANCE & MARKETS

Why Stocks Keep Going Up

Theorists weigh in on a market that hits record after record. Other assets look wan.

BY AKANE OTANI
AND CHRIS DIETERICH

The Dow Jones Industrial Average crossed 22,000 for the first time Wednesday. Here are some investors' theories for why the stock market keeps rising.

Stocks reflect the resurgent health of corporate America.

The biggest U.S. corporations are on a stronger footing. With most S&P 500 companies having reported second-quarter results, firms are on track to post another quarter of strong profit growth—building on gains from the end of last year, when companies snapped a five-quarter streak of earnings contraction, according to FactSet.

The rebound has been broad, reflected in oil companies—which have recovered along with oil prices—in tech giants like Apple Inc. and in economic bellwethers like Caterpillar Inc. Those who believe the stock market's trajectory is ultimately determined by the rate of earnings growth say continued strength among U.S. firms should help fuel further gains in the stock market.

The global outlook is brighter.

Economists are projecting a pickup in global growth, while the U.S. expansion remains slow and steady—a combination that investors say has helped boost multinational companies, which have been among the best-performing stocks this year. Boeing Co., Apple and McDonald's Corp. made up the bulk of the gains that pushed the Dow industrials past 22,000 for the first time. Profits at such firms may get an additional boost if weakness in the U.S. dollar persists, because it makes



A New York Stock Exchange trader's cap touts the latest Dow Jones Industrial Average milestone.

their exports cheaper to foreign buyers. The WSJ Dollar Index, which measures the currency against a basket of 16 others, has fallen 7.5% this year through Wednesday.

The U.S. economy is in a "Goldilocks" situation.

Investors are enjoying a rare but favorable environment: an economy that is expanding but not fast enough that the Federal Reserve is in a rush to raise interest rates. The unemployment rate fell to a 16-year low in May, yet inflation has remained stubbornly below the Fed's 2% target—suggesting to many investors that the central bank is unlikely to raise rates hawkishly. "In a period where accommodation remains very aggressive, all of this is coming together to keep the markets afloat at these higher levels," said Tracie McMillion, head of

global asset-allocation strategy for Wells Fargo Investment Institute.

Passive funds are propelling up prices.

One hallmark of this year's stock-market rally is the relentless flow of money into index-tracking mutual and exchange-traded funds. Some \$128.6 billion has moved into U.S. index-tracking funds that own U.S. stocks in 2017 through June, while a net \$99 billion was withdrawn from actively managed U.S. stock funds, according to Morningstar Inc. Buying of passive funds is partially offset by the money flowing out of active ones, but some investors warn that the rising popularity of index funds that own hundreds, sometimes thousands of stocks, translates into indiscriminate buying divorced from corporate fundamentals.

One concern is that persistent index buying elevates valuations across the board and that, should turmoil erupt, investor index buying would turn to selling, leaving the broader market vulnerable.

There is no alternative.

In a low-rate environment, one reason investors say the stock market keeps rising is simply that there is no alternative for returns. After an initial selloff following Election Day, U.S. Treasurys are back roughly where they began the year, with the yield on the 10-year note at 2.264% Wednesday, compared with 2.446% at the end of 2016. With bonds offering paltry yields, many investors begrudgingly say stocks remain their asset class of choice—even if they are getting increasingly nervous about the long stock rally.

Market's Rally Stalls Amid Mixed Results

BY JUSTIN YANG AND RIVA GOLD

Earnings results from dozens of big U.S. corporations pulled major stock indexes in different directions Thursday.

Some of the biggest insurance companies dragged the broader financial sector lower

after reporting quarterly earnings.

Meanwhile,

solid profits from consumer-goods companies including Clorox pulled the consumer-staples sector higher.

The result: Major U.S. stock indexes struggled to find direction the day after the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed above 22,000 for the first time. The milestone marked its 32nd record of the year, as stocks benefited from a buoyant global economy, a weaker dollar and a solid earnings season.

The blue-chip index rose 10 points, or less than 0.1%, to 22,026 around midday. The S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite both declined 0.2%.

In Asia, South Korean stocks led the way lower, with the Kospi down 1.7% after recently topping highs set in 2011. A big pressure point was Samsung Electronics, which fell 2.5%—erasing its gains for the week—as the Samsung conglomerate's de facto head testified for the first time at his corruption trial.

Elsewhere, the Stoxx Europe 600 index rose less than 0.1%.

Prudential Financial

shares fell 3.3% around midday in New York as its operating income missed analysts' expectations. MetLife shares were down 2.5%.

Kellogg's stock jumped 4.4% as second-quarter earnings for the maker of Frosted Flakes and Eggo waffles beat analysts' expectations. Separately, Clorox shares added 2.6% after the maker of consumer products such as liquid bleach and trash bags reported a climb in

net profits for the latest quarter.

In other corporate news, shares of Tesla jumped 7% after the electric-car company reiterated its plans to sell more vehicles during the second half of the year.

The British pound came under pressure after the Bank of England kept interest rates unchanged, despite signaling that the long era of easy money is gradually drawing to a close.

The pound fell 0.7% to \$1.3133. The pound started falling in European afternoon trading when investors saw that only two BOE officials had dissented in favor of a rate increase, said Thu Lan Nguyen, analyst at Commerzbank AG. "Some anticipated there would be three dissenting," she said.

The central bank also lowered its 2017 U.K. economic growth forecast to 1.7% from 1.9% in May. The 2018 forecast was reduced to 1.6% from 1.7%.

Gross-domestic-product "growth remains sluggish in the near term, as the squeeze on the households' real incomes continues to weigh on consumption," BOE Gov. Mark Carney said in a press conference after the rate announcement, even as he said he anticipated raising interest rates faster than investors currently expect.

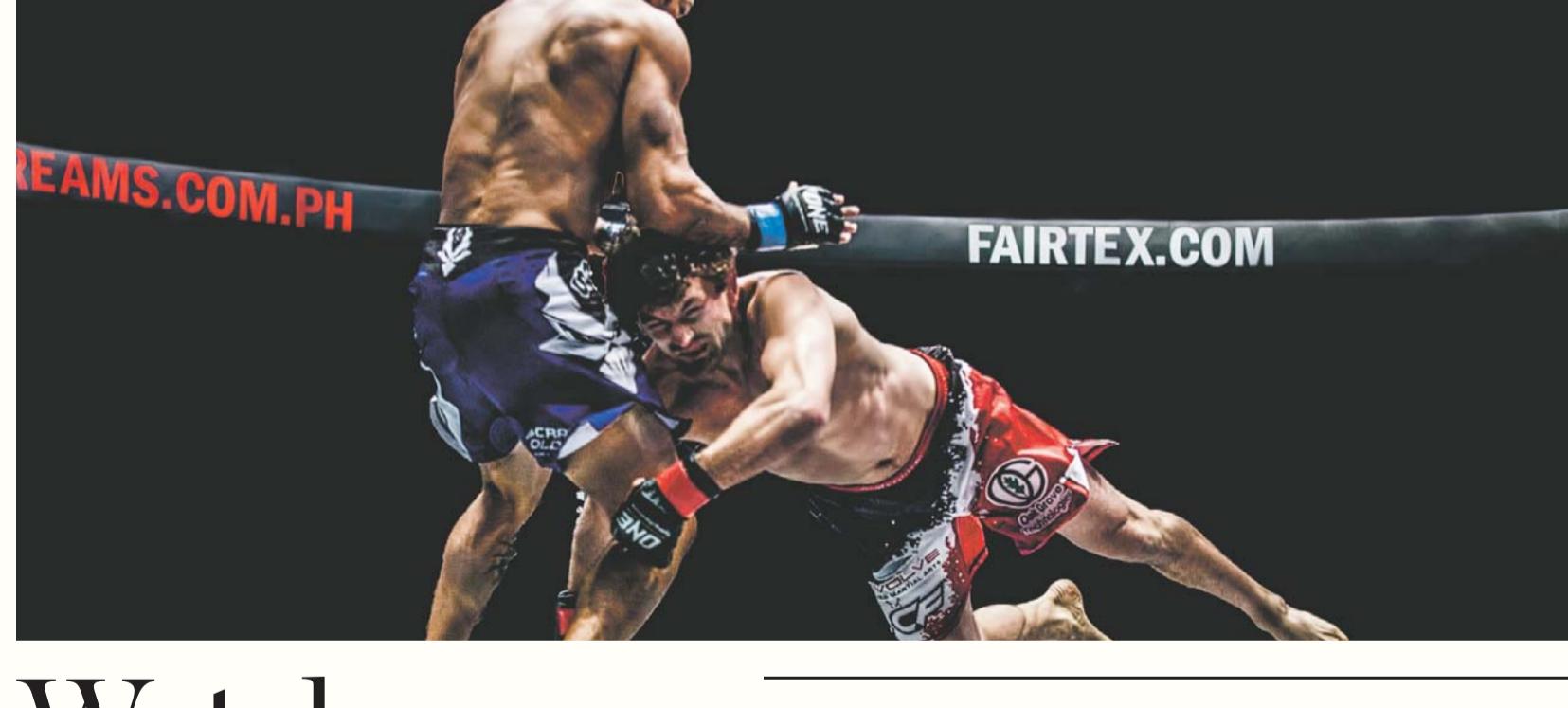
Declines in the pound helped push the export-heavy FTSE 100 index up 0.9%, led by exporters such as British American Tobacco and Astrazeneca.

European stocks have struggled in recent sessions amid a climbing euro and mixed corporate results. German conglomerate Siemens fell 2.8% Thursday after its results were slightly weaker than analysts had expected. Italy's UniCredit was one of the biggest gainers, up 7.2% after it reported higher second-quarter profit.

—Corrie Driebusch contributed to this article.

+

WSJ TALK / EXPERIENCE / OFFER / GETAWAY



Watch Top MMA Athletes Compete

Enjoy a pair of complimentary tickets to the ONE Championship, the largest mixed-martial arts event across Asia. See elite champions compete in the world's biggest arena—from Macau to Kuala Lumpur, in August.

EXCLUSIVE TO WSJ MEMBERS
REQUEST TICKETS AT WSJPLUS.COM/ONEFC-AUG

WSJ+
INVITES + OFFERS + INSPIRATION

ONE
Championship

Pharrell
Williams on his
first fashion
memories
W3



OFF DUTY



Do Costco
and Sam's Club
sell worthy
wines?
W6

EATING | DRINKING | STYLE | FASHION | DESIGN | DECORATING | ADVENTURE | TRAVEL | GEAR | GADGETS

© 2017 Dow Jones & Company. All Rights Reserved.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Friday - Sunday, August 4 - 6, 2017 | **W1**

Electric Shock

With luxury auto makers—from Porsche to Aston Martin—poised to release electric sports cars that upend earnest eco-clichés, going green will soon entail going startlingly fast

LIGHTNING FAST
Electric cars are typically quick to accelerate but not fast. This limited-edition Rimac Concept_One, however, has a 220-mph top speed.

POWER PLAY
The four high-speed, oil-cooled magnet motors at each corner of the car can output up to 1,224 hp. A Chevrolet Corvette's V8 generates 650 hp.



FASHION FORWARD
The car's carbon-fiber midsection is meant to recall a cravat—an accessory that was invented in Croatia, where the Concept_One is hand-built.

BATTS OUT OF HELL
The Concept_One's liquid-cooled battery pack is capable of discharging a whopping 1 megawatt of power.

THE WHEEL DEAL
Each wheel has its own motor and gearbox. This allows them to be driven independently and cooperatively, for quicker response and higher handling limits.

BY DAN NEIL

IF GEAR HEADS had any doubts about how ferocious electric sports cars can be, Richard Hammond destroyed them in June, along with a million-dollar prototype and some Swiss shrubbery.

The former "Top Gear" host was shooting an episode of the Amazon series "The Grand Tour" in Switzerland when he overcooked a corner and went over the edge in an all-electric, 1,224-hp Rimac Concept_One. The car, one of eight in the world, sailed 100 feet before impacting and violently tumbling to pieces. Mr. Hammond, who escaped serious injury in the accident, was extricated before the car burned to

a lithium-ion cinder.

OK, so flammability might still be an issue. In an interview after the accident, Mr. Hammond said he has struggled to describe the physical intensity of futuristic whips like the Rimac, a car with four advanced motors, all-wheel drive and liquid-cooled lightning: a battery capable of instantaneously discharging a full megawatt of power. "We need a new vocabulary," Mr. Hammond said.

Car enthusiasts were left similarly speechless in May, when an all-electric supercar called the NIO EP9 knocked 6 seconds (6:45) off Lamborghini's production-car record at Germany's 12.9-mile Nürburgring test track, a universally recognized standard of performance. While a McLaren P1 LM (gas-electric hybrid) was able to nip the NIO's record two

weeks later, it's clear that, between EV and gas, it's on like Donkey Kong for the Nürburgring record.

But wait, you say, aren't EVs (electric cars) weird-looking, pokey and riddled with range anxiety? You are thinking of the Nissan Leaf. The first mass-produced EV of the modern era, released in 2010, did for EVs' sexiness what VW has done for diesel. The electron burners you will meet here are a whole different species.

If your ankles are tingling, it's because you are on the shore looking at a tidal wave of electric vehicles. In July, Tesla CEO Elon Musk handed over the key fobs to the first few Tesla Model 3s, the American company's EV for the people (people with at least \$35,000 and the patience to wait months to get their

Please turn to page W2

[INSIDE]

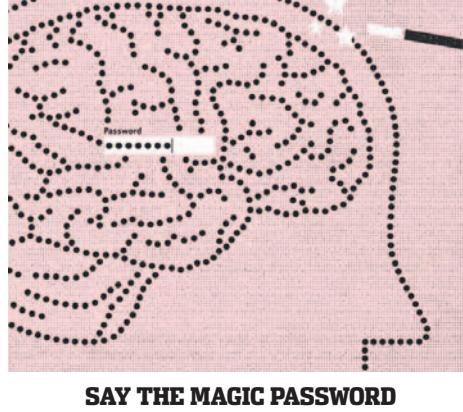
THE ON-TREND OFFICE
What Miuccia Prada thinks you should wear to work **W4**



KENTUCKY FRIED CHIC
A native of the state returns, with her mind set on decades-spanning décor **W5**

A RECIPE FOR IMPATIENT EPICURES

This Turkish riff on risotto is ready in a jiff **W6**



SAY THE MAGIC PASSWORD
The magician Teller shares his secret to recalling strings of letters and numbers **W8**

OFF DUTY

NUTS FOR VOLTS

Continued from page W1
car). Tesla has about a half-million reservations for the Model 3 in hand and plans to ramp up production to 10,000 cars a week by the end of 2018. Deliveries anywhere near those figures would make it the best-selling car in America.

In September, the second-generation Nissan Leaf will debut (spy shots show a massive upgrade in aesthetics). With sales of more than 250,000 world-wide, the Leaf is already the most numerous EV in the world.

Out in the deep ocean of the global car business, even larger seismic anomalies have been detected. Perhaps the biggest was China. Combating the twin emergencies of urban air pollution and dependency on imported oil, the Chinese government last September unveiled sweeping, California-style mandates requiring that all car makers generate "EV credits"—including sales of EVs, plug-in hybrids and fuel-cell vehicles—equal to 8% of sales in 2017, 10% in 2018 and 12% in 2020. (Implementation may be pushed back to give car makers time to adjust.)

This lurch toward electrification

If you are wondering how eco-weenie mobiles got to be so mega, the simple answer is bigger, badder batteries.

in the world's largest car market implies transformational economies of scale. Example: As part of its campaign for redemption, VW Group has announced plans for 30 new EV models by 2025, with global sales targeting 3 million units, mostly in China. To meet those targets, VW research and development chief Ulrich Eichorn estimates the company needs to source 200 gigawatt-hours worth of energy-storage devices. Mr. Eichorn told Automotive News Europe that if the global auto makers devoted just 25% of production to plug-capable vehicles in 2025, it would need 1.5 terawatts-hours—the output of 40 Tesla-like "gigafactories."

"What is often forgotten is the current drive to EVs was initiated by Nissan, Mitsubishi [the i-MiEV] and Tesla," said Aston Martin CEO Andy Palmer, who championed the Leaf program when he was a vice president of Nissan. "Without all three and VW's Dieselgate, we would not be seeing this revolution."

But having been more or less obliged to build such cars, auto makers still face the challenge of making them desirable and status-bearing. It's comforting somehow that this part of the auto industry, at least, has not changed: You have to sell the sizzle with the steak.

Porsche's all-electric halo car, currently named Mission E, is scheduled for full production by 2019. Long dismissive of the very idea, Porsche executives have done an about-face on electric propulsion.

In June, CEO Oliver Blume said that by 2023 half of the legendary performance brand's production would be electric.

With its 800-volt charging technology, the Mission E is targeting more than 300 miles of range and a 15-minute quick-charge good for 250 miles. Also: 600 hp, all-wheel drive, and 0-60 mph in 3.5 seconds, if that does anything for you.

In 2019 Aston Martin will begin delivery of the RapidE, a version of the Rapide super-sedan with EV tech developed with F1 masters Williams Advanced Engineering.

If you are wondering how eco-weenie mobiles got so mega, the simple answer is bigger, badder batteries and the systems that manage, support and cool them. The average specific-energy and power density of lithium-ion batteries has been rising steadily for the past decade. As they do, they allow more energy to be put in the bottle (to go farther) and widen the bottle's mouth so more energy comes out at once (to go faster).

Indeed, it was inevitable, given the nature of the mechanisms, that battery-packing sports cars would eclipse their piston-powered forebears in performance, at least over short distances. By virtue of a comparatively lower center of gravity, EVs tend to corner flatter and harder without body roll. EVs also put torque to the ground more efficiently. Unlike conventional traction-control systems, an e-motor's twist can be modulated hundreds of times a second, exploiting all available adhesion between tire and surface without spinning.

Most famously, electric cars enjoy a huge advantage in initial acceleration. This has been colorfully demonstrated about a million times on YouTube since 2012, when the Tesla Model S started handing out beatings to Camaros and Corvettes at drag strips.

For driving enthusiasts there is also a little game-changer ahead called independent torque vectoring. By virtue of their compactness, EV motors can be arrayed at all four wheels, allowing each to work independently and cooperatively, speeding up or slowing down to help the car in extreme maneuvering. As the driver heads for a corner, the inside front wheel slows, or even drags, the outside tire pushes harder, the rear wheels do the same, and the directional power actually bends the car's path through the turn.

Independent AWD torque vectoring opens a new dimension in performance driving. "I would contest that with or without legislation, we would be investing in EVs," said Mr. Palmer of Aston Martin. The design opportunity "has got both our engineers and designers excited."

But is faster always better? "The power of an EV powertrain is not in question," said Mr. Palmer. "The biggest step change is how it feels for the driver (and passengers) versus an internal combustion engine. Although we as a brand are loved for the sound of our engines, we don't see any issue with the sound of silence."

The power of an EV powertrain is not in question," said Mr. Palmer. "The biggest step change is how it feels for the driver (and passengers) versus an internal combustion engine. Although we as a brand are loved for the sound of our engines, we don't see any issue with the sound of silence."



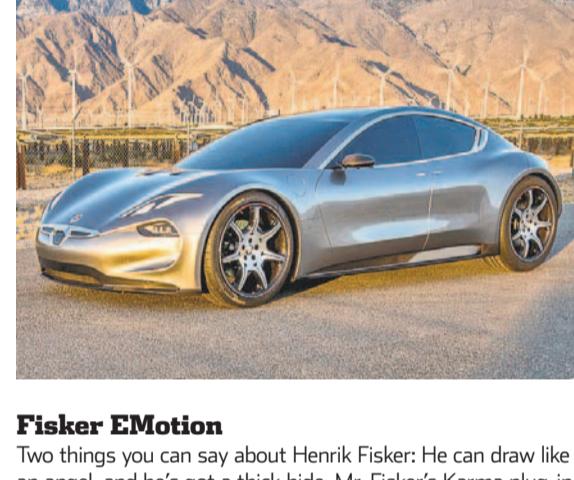
Porsche Mission E

The Mission E concept car, shown above as a rendering, is in many ways a redefining automobile for the Stuttgart-based luxury-performance brand. Previewing a car in the mold of the Tesla Model S, it has two clear advantages: a captivating design by Michael Mauer and the company's bred-to-the-bone knowledge of what makes a sporting car great. The design calls for two electric motors, fore and aft, totaling more than 600 hp. The car will be capable of inductive charging (no plug) and of using Porsche's 800-volt supercharging (15 minutes equals 250-mile range).



Faraday Future FF 91

Faraday Future—the Los Angeles EV startup initially funded by Chinese media giant LeEco—flew high and came down hard this year, backing away from very public plans to build a \$1 billion facility in Nevada. In the meantime, we have this insane concept car to admire (rendering shown), with 1,050 electric horsepower bristling at the wheels, a huge open cabin, and all the autonomy/connectivity your future self could want.



Fisker EMotion

Two things you can say about Henrik Fisker: He can draw like an angel, and he's got a thick hide. Mr. Fisker's Karma plug-in hybrid went belly-up, but he's back with this gorgeous, feline four-door EV: all-wheel drive, 400+ miles of range and an anticipated price of \$129,900. Mr. Fisker's proposal calls for (potentially problematic) graphene-battery technology and ultra-fast charging (125 miles in 9 minutes).



NIO EP9

What can credibly be called the fastest electric car in the world, the NIO EP9 (rendering shown) is powered by four in-board electric motor/generator units (totaling 1,360 hp) paired with four gearboxes, capable of exerting an Earth-turning 4,671 pound-feet of torque. The battery packs (777V) are interchangeable, allowing them to be swapped out for fresh ones in 8 minutes. Zero-to-124 mph goes by in 7.1 seconds.



Lucid Air

Founded in 2007, Lucid Motors (formerly Atieva) has ambitious plans to build the heavenly seeming Lucid Air, if they don't get bought out first by Ford, which is reportedly considering the acquisition. The Air is vast on the inside with slim, floor-mounted batteries and compact drive components. A planned "Launch Edition" will have 1,000-hp output and 315-mile range. —D.N.



AUDI BEAUTY, BRAINS AND BRAWN A rendering of the 2018 Audi e-tron Quattro, an electric mid-size SUV with a 95-kWh battery, nominal range of 310 miles, and 0-60 mph in 4.6 seconds.

THE CROSSOVER CROSSES OVER

America's favorite style of vehicle is about to get a battery-powered jolt

WHILE FEDERAL clean-air policy makers are rowing the other way, California has doubled down on its zero-emission-vehicle (ZEV) mandate, aiming to have 1.5 million such vehicles on the road by 2025 and obliging car makers to offer them. California is a must-have market for premium and luxury brands like BMW, Jaguar, Audi and Porsche.

But if you really want to sell cars in America—or even California—you have to make a crossover SUV.

And so, following in the ample tire tracks of the Tesla Model X, comes the finely curried Jaguar I-PACE, a five-seat, all-wheel-drive crossover with a 90-kWh battery, 220 miles of promised range and 400 electric horses (0-60 mph in about 4 seconds). Taking orders now for 2018 delivery.

The I-PACE is no mere compliance car (an adaptation of a conventional product, built in small numbers only to satisfy the ZEV quota). Last month, the U.K. joined France and other EU states in announcing a ban on petrol-powered vehicles by 2040. The British government is positioning EV technology as a pillar of industrial strategy, post-Brexit.

A similar urgency is pushing the German giants post-Dieselgate. Jumping into the Model X's pool is the 2018 Audi e-tron Quattro, a mid-size SUV with a 95-kWh battery, nominal range of 310 miles, and 0-60 mph in 4.6 seconds. Porsche has indicated it too will offer an EV crossover, Macan-sized, on the VW Group's new dedicated architecture.

Our Mr. Musk won't be taking that lying down. Tesla has said it will have its own small-midsized crossover, called Model Y, before the end of the decade.

Going down market a bit, Hyundai—is already in the EV business with its Ioniq sedan—is expected to bring an all-electric Kona crossover to market in 2018. The subcompact ute will reportedly use a 50-kWh battery pack good for a 217-mile range with a starting price of \$39,000.

The one name we haven't called is the Chevy Bolt, GM's excellent five-passenger EV that isn't quite a crossover. With a range of 238 miles and price of \$37,495 before tax credits, the Bolt seems to have all the goods, but so far it's a soft-seller. What if the Bolt had been born a crossover, though? It could have been a star. —D.N.

OFF DUTY

20 ODD QUESTIONS

Pharrell Williams

The multi-tasking maker of hit songs on the most comfortable T-shirts and why Tilda Swinton has killer style

AN OBVIOUS QUESTION: What is Pharrell Williams listening to right now? The songwriter, producer and gatekeeper of all things cool demurs. "At the moment, I'm just mixing," he said, a coy non-response.

For an indication of what's been going on musically inside Mr. Williams's head, however, it's worth noting that, just this year, he's used his hitmaking production skills on songs for rapper Vic Mensa; sang a verse alongside Katy Perry and Big Sean on Calvin Harris's "Feels"; and wrote and performed eight songs for the soundtrack of "Despicable Me 3."

The time in the studio hasn't stopped Mr. Williams, 44, from indulging his love of fashion. Known for only-he-can-pull-it-off outfits like beshorted tuxedos, the eccentric aesthete moonlights as a designer, working with labels like Diesel. He is also the owner of streetwear brand Billionaire Boys Club, which he co-founded in 2005. And last summer, Mr. Williams created a sneaker subbrand called Hu, short for Health Ultimatum, as part of his three-years-and-counting partnership with Adidas.

His latest collection for Hu, out next week, riffs on Adidas's classic Stan Smith sneaker. In Mr. Williams's hands the simple shoe is anything but basic, acquiring a sock-style knit upper in dreamy hues like baby blue and muted mint. "We try to think about what colors will literally lighten up someone's life," said Mr. Williams. Designing highly covetable sneakers is something he's wanted to do since he was a child in Virginia Beach, Va. "We couldn't afford them so I just dreamed," said Mr. Williams who, with his wife Helen Lasichanh and their four children, splits his time between Miami, Los Angeles and Malibu, Calif. "You'd go, man, I wish I had those in purple or pink. That started my fascination."

My first fashion memory is: not having [fashion]. But I had a wonderful childhood and I didn't know the difference. Though who didn't want an Adidas tracksuit—especially when breaking and popping was becoming popular in our area.

My favorite thing to wear is: Cactus Plant Flea Market T-shirts. I don't know where (designer Cynthia Lu) sources the material from but they're just comfortable.

One of my favorite places in the world is: Tokyo. Nearly the first thing I do when I land is get a teriyaki burger at the 2-5 Café, owned by my buddy Nigo (founder of Japanese label A

Bathing Ape). If Tokyo and Miami had a baby, that's where I'd be all the time.

I really admire the style of: Tilda Swinton. She's just who she is, she's personal. She understands her look, she understands her character. I also think Wes Anderson is good. His style is not for me but it's great.

The most stylish movie is: "Inglourious Basterds." That wardrobe was really good. I also think the Coen Brothers' attention to detail is really good and Kubrick never missed either.

Color matters to me because: it holds power. If you lived in a black house that had black walls

and you had black clothes on everyday, I'm sure that would affect your psyche. Same if you lived in a house with white walls, and had on white clothes everyday. Color is real.

I can't leave the house without: the phone. Come on. And I'm one of those weird people who plugs his phone up as soon as it drops below 65%.

I still listen to: the first A Tribe Called Quest album, "People's Instinctive Travels and the Paths of Rhythm." I found it when I was 14 or 15 and it's magical.

My favorite art gallery is: Perrotin. I try to go to when I'm in Paris, but they have locations all over—New York, Tokyo, Seoul, Hong Kong. It's amazing to see the talent of friends, like JR, KAWS and Takashi Murakami, represented in a space that has had such an influence on contemporary artists.

My most memorable meal is: hard to pick. There have been so many. My father's cooking is amazing, my mom's cooking is amazing and so is my wife's. I can't cook.

The most important life les-

son I've learned is: the importance of humility. You want to shine but not so bright that you burn everything in the room. As long as you've got your light, people will see you and it's all good.

If I could work with anyone, it would be: so many people. Musicians like Donny Hathaway, John Lennon and Michael Jackson. Who wouldn't have wanted to know Picasso or van Gogh? Or Nikola Tesla? Or to understand the mind of Werner von Braun. And wouldn't it have been cool to pass the joint to Einstein?

The oldest thing in my closet is: nothing special. I usually let things go once a year. You have to purge. Instead, I collect memories and experiences.

My exercise of choice is: running. I love to run in Miami near Brickell Avenue. There is a bridge connecting to some inlets so I usually make time to run that route when I'm in town. It's good for clearing the mind.

I cannot fly without: a book. Right now I'm reading "The Root of Chinese Qigong: Secrets for Health, Longevity, & Enlight-



MR. PURPLE Clockwise from top: Pharrell Williams in Malibu, Calif.; current reading material; Adidas Tennis Hu Sneakers; Werner von Braun; Cactus Plant Flea Market T-shirt.

ment." I only read hard copy.

One thing I wish I had invented is: a free power source. I have solar panels on my house in Los Angeles now. I finished remodeling this year, so solar power is new for me. It's really important for me to use the

natural resources we have to power our energy.

If my life had a slogan it would be: "God is the greatest." I know that I'm blessed. Acknowledging it is the least I can do.

—Edited from an interview by Jacob Gallagher



Left: a KAWS sculpture at Perrotin Galerie in Paris; below: the teriyaki burger at Tokyo's 2-5 Café.



From left: Custom Tote, \$45, llbean.com; Tote Bag, \$250, wantlesessentials.com; Tote Bag, \$1,975, hermes.com

THE LOAD STAR

Guys, consider a humble canvas tote as your new everyday bag

FOR BYRON and Dexter Peart, the twins who founded the accessories line Want Les Essentiels, a canvas tote is as central to a man's wardrobe as a white oxford or jeans. Some might disagree, dismissing such a bag as a summer-only carry despite canvas's obvious advantages (it's sturdy, masculine and handsome without being flashy). Byron, however, argues that Want Les Essentiels' version, called the O'Hare after Chicago's airport, is appropriate for "all seasons and occasions." It's been a best-seller since it was launched 8 years ago.

His position isn't so radical, especially with menswear skewing ever more casual and "seasonal" rules falling by the wayside. In discreetly dressed-up dark or autumnal colors, a canvas tote could be ideal to toss everything in as temperatures cool. And the bag has been making more sophisticated inroads of late with labels like Dries Van Noten and Valentino offering up versions for fall.

Simon Spiteri, accessories buyer

at the online men's retailer Mr. Porter, has seen a steady uptick in sales of canvas totes. The bags, said Mr. Spiteri, run the gamut from the understated designs shown here—Hermès's luxe (and quite expensive) leather-handled one could sub in for a leather briefcase—to more eccentric styles, such as a Gucci version studded with logos and appliquéd with a cat face. Only men with an wildly creative office dress code could get away with that one.

You needn't, however, spend four or even three figures. In fact, there's a real beauty to L.L. Bean's bags. For one less sporty than the brand's classic accent-striped "Boat-and-Tote," try a creamy custom version (far left)—easily created on L.L. Bean's website.

A great advantage of the canvas bag is its versatility. (Try shoving your weekend clothes in a briefcase.) Said Want Les Essentiels' Dexter Peart, "It's the simplest product but one with the most possibilities to it." —Max Berlinger

OFF DUTY

Weekday Update

With a new season of just-fashionable-enough clothes hitting stores, it's time to promote your work wardrobe

BY NANCY MACDONELL

WHEN shopping for work clothes, fashion-minded women often face a choice: Indulge in dramatic pieces that make for a memorable, if not exactly administrative, wardrobe or conform to office dress codes and feel exiled to style purgatory.

It's a conundrum that makes pre-fall—that awkwardly named fashion season—an ideal time to refresh your work wear. Pre-fall merchandise lands in stores in mid- to late-summer, when spring's trendy pieces and all those eyelet dresses and bikinis are straggling on the sale rack. The infusion of newness is equal parts bold and businesslike.

Pre-fall anticipates the official fall season ahead, but rather than catering to fashion editors looking for runway-worthy statements, it's designed more straightforwardly, with the customer in mind. As Mary Alice Stephenson, a fashion and beauty expert and founder of nonprofit Glam4Good, puts it, "Pre-fall covers all your basic needs with things that you'll wear for years to come."

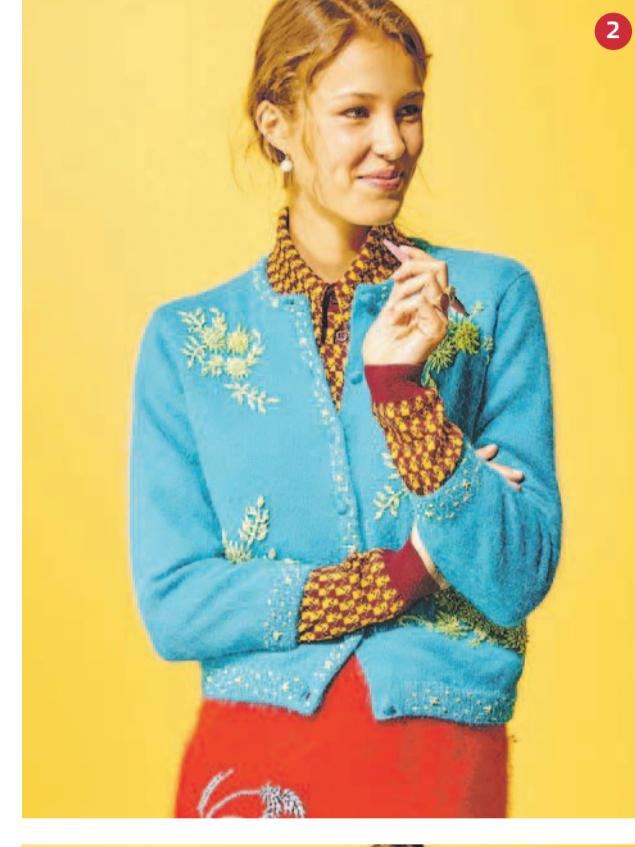
To make it even easier, we've compiled a very short shopping list of four accessible on-trend pieces that can give your weekday look a subtle pre-fall update.

1. The Menswear-Fabric Skirt

When it comes to tweed skirts, designers aren't reinventing the wheel, but rather tweaking a classic—adding a retro detail like a snap-front placket in bright orange or playing with more intricate cuts: Consider this asymmetric self-belted style from Louis Vuitton. It may take its cues from the stodgy side of tradition but this is not your dowdy schoolmarm skirt. Ms. Stephenson compared it to comfort food that's been spiced up just enough. She added, "Right now, everything has to have a personality to make an impact." Wear it with a white



1



2



3



4

shirt and pumps straight away, and dark knits and knee-high boots once autumn arrives in earnest. Skirt, \$2,570, [louisvuitton.com](#); Shirt, \$990, [The Row](#), 212-755-2017; Shoes, \$890, [Celine](#), 212-535-3703

2. The Embellished Cardigan

The cardigan is often an unexciting extra—that supporting player you brought along in case you get a chill. The embellished cardigans in stores now, however, are stars. Think Sophia Loren as executive director of employee relations. In bright colors, vivaciously embroidered or beaded, they're a fun way to weather the last days of air conditioning and then keep your palette up-

beat as fall's earth tones descend all around you. They're also an easy entry into the season's glamour trend, or what Ms. Stephenson calls "work wear on female hormones." Roopal Patel, senior vice president

and fashion director at Saks Fifth Avenue, likes how this hopped-up knit looks with a pencil skirt or over a dress. "It's a wonderful way to add some sparkle," she said, "without wearing a full-on sequin dress to the office." Cardigan, \$2,820, Shirt, \$1,350, and Skirt, \$3,390, [Prada](#), 212-334-8888; Earrings, \$3,995, [Sidney Garber](#) 212-274-1111; Elizabeth Locke Carnelian Ring \$3,475, and Banded Agate Ring, \$4,050, [Neiman Marcus](#), 800-937-9146

3. The Bold-Printed Blouse

Although printed silk blouses hardly push the envelope, the scale and intensity of this season's patterns, like the graphic wave on this Victoria Beckham number, nicely update this office workhorse. "It's a great layering piece," said Ms. Patel, who suggested using it to add femininity to a tailored suit. You can also wear it with designer denim, as shown here. Bonus: It will look great in your Instagram feed. "It's wowing from the waist up," said Ms. Stephenson. Blouse, \$1,240, [victoriabeckham.com](#); Jeans, \$375, [tibi.com](#)

4. The Floral Midi Dress

Given its put-on-and-go ease and comfort, we're predicting the floral midi frock in moody shades will be the breakaway hit of the season. Exhibit A: This high-necked Christian Dior dress, rational but romantic. Able to transition seamlessly from day to evening, these dresses' soft fabrics also resist wrinkling, and the densely detailed prints can disguise even vinaigrette splatters from your inevitable desk-side salad. Top one with a jacket for meeting days, said Ms. Patel. If heading to a postwork dinner, consider velvet heels for added elegance. Sub in tights and ankle booties for the cold months ahead. Dress, \$4,600, [Dior](#), 212-751-7466; Jacket, \$2,740, [Thom Browne](#), 212-633-1197

FRESH PICK

A SHOE THAT RINGS A 'BELLE'

Roger Vivier reissues the pump the brand made for 'Belle de Jour' 50 years ago

BRUNO FRISONI CAN'T recall the first time he saw Luis Buñuel's film "Belle de Jour," but the style of its leading lady Catherine Deneuve made an indelible impression on him. "This woman looks bourgeois, but inside she's not at all," said Mr. Frisoni, creative director of French footwear brand Roger Vivier. "[Her look] is all about this black raincoat in patent leather with black shoes."

The raincoat was by Yves Saint Laurent, but the shoes were Roger Vivier's "Belle Vivier" style—designed by the brand's namesake and founder. The prim pumps, made slightly rebellious with large square silver buckles, enjoyed soaring popularity after the film's 1967 release, worn by the likes of Marlene Dietrich and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. And that buckle became a touchstone for the brand, used on many styles subsequently.

To mark the movie's 50th anniversary, Mr. Frisoni has updated and reissued the Belle Vivier. The new shoe, called the Square Podium, carries over the original '60s buckle but sits atop a slightly higher square heel. It comes in two versions, a gold-buckled-and-heeled iteration intended for day (pictured) and a bling-encrusted velvet one for evening. When designing, Mr. Frisoni kept the virgin/vixen duality of Ms. Deneuve's protagonist front of mind: "I wanted to give [the shoe] a very proper look but with a twist that makes it, in the end, not so proper." —Christine Whitney



SHOD ON LOCATION
Catherine Deneuve, costumed for the 1967 film 'Belle de Jour.'

Square Podium Pumps, \$1,050, [Roger Vivier](#), 212-861-5371



Ring, \$82,500, [Chanel Fine Jewelry](#), 800-550-0005



LUST OBJECT

WAVES OF DESIRE

What would it be like to own Chanel's *très cher* 'Sailor Tattoo' ring?

GIVEN ITS IMMODEST price, we are pretty much resigned to lust after this cocktail ring from afar. *Way afar*. But we can all dream. Part of Chanel's new high jewelry collection, the ring takes its design cues from the compass tattoos of sailors who manned the Flying Cloud, the yacht belonging to the Duke of Westminster, Coco Chanel's lover in the 1920s.

A 1.22-carat yellow sapphire sits amid 54 brilliant-cut diamonds. The ring is crafted to feel bubble-light—even though it spans almost half a finger. The aim was for the stones to appear to float, said Marianne Etchebarne, Chanel's global head of watches and fine jewelry, product marketing and communication. The nautical-rope effect around the edge,

she added, was also tricky to execute, as the metal must both twist on itself and curve to comfortably hug the finger.

Where we'd wear it The Côte d'Azur. Chanel was an enthusiastic patron of the French Riviera where she paired major jewels with little nothing get-ups. We'd follow suit by wearing this with a sun-dress and flat sandals to lunch at Le Club 55 in Saint-Tropez. As silver-haired industrialists come and go, we'd naturally fixate on how our ring catches the sun.

Could we wear it forever? At \$82,500, this is obviously not a casual purchase.

And yet, amortized over 20 summers—a reasonable lifespan given its trendproof materials—that works out to about \$44 per wear, or less than the price of the aforementioned lunch. —N.M.

OFF DUTY

HOUSE TOUR

A Feat Of Derby-Do

Returning to her native Kentucky, a designer melds nostalgia and courage

BY CATHERINE ROMANO

YOU'VE GOT to have principles!" So declared Lucinda Loya of planning the interior of a Victorian house in Louisville, Ky., her beloved hometown. To stay focused in the realm of aesthetics, one must adhere to rules, said the Houston-based designer—who with her husband returns annually for the city's famous horse race—even if those rules are as personal and arbitrary as hers: "Everything brought into the house had to be from the period between 1875, when it was built, and 1976, when I left Louisville at 12," she said.

Passing muster: a few heirlooms dispersed among Ms. Loya's family that were gladly donated. She appreciates the pieces stylistically and values them emotionally, having grown up with a single mom and "very, very little means."

Nothing was allowed in the new house from "the lost period," from 1976 to 2014, when Ms. Loya bought the 6,000-square-foot derelict mansion. It had been divided into five apartments, but the original architecture and some fixtures were intact.

Furnishings designed since the purchase were also welcomed. "I wanted to enjoy what's new," she explained. Her décor influences included English equestrianism, Art Deco, hippy chic, midcentury modernism and the horsey influence of the town (the seven bedrooms fill with her guests during the Derby). Though the designer asserts that "everything had to be chaotic so it would all go together," there are inspiring decorating methods to glean from the madness.



▲ Old Made New and Vice Versa

When Houston-based designer Lucinda Loya bought a neglected Victorian mansion in her hometown of Louisville, Ky., she created a "bourbon room" to lure her husband. "I made him a bourbon collector so he'd have an interest there," she said. Rather than overtly mimic a 19th-century English smoking room, Ms. Loya implied

and modernized the theme by covering updated wingback chairs in traditional cigar leather, upholstering an 18th-century French settee in Ultrasuede and making simple French-pleated curtains from \$10-a-yard paisley quilting fabric that reminded her of a vintage gentleman's tie. And, of course, hanging above the bar, an oversize photo of a Cuban woman—shot by Leif Wivelsted—invites guests in for a drink.

► A Moment Of Calm

Ms. Loya carved out vanity space for guests using a family heirloom—a European-styled mahogany piece from the early 20th century with a low knee hole. "This bedroom shares a bathroom with another, so I needed a place for a woman to put on makeup," she said. The small chair she found to use with the piece was boring and plain, so she feminized it with "a little crop top and a poofy skirt." The vignette's symmetry lends a sense of relative peace: Two thickly glazed Chinese urns sit atop the double-doored heirloom, framed by a pair of curtains in an oversize gate pattern. "The curtains could be considered Art Deco or 1970s," said Ms. Loya, "so it fits my time frame. And the contrasting scale makes it modern."



► Practicality Masked

Finding most kitchens too utilitarian, Ms. Loya determined to make hers more like an English parlor. The light fixture came with the house, as did its larger sibling in the bourbon room. On a white-washed brick wall, she hung an iron horse head (less icky than taxidermy) and an old master-ish silk-screen on canvas. The two-tiered metal basket was fashioned from the remnants of a great grandmother's candy dish. "I needed something vertical to connect the planes of the counter and shelves," she said.



► Disorderly Conduct

Ms. Loya admits that she frequently brings together disparate elements "then starts back pedaling." To unify a classic English Chesterfield sofa, a midcentury arm chair and two stacked Moroccan poufs in her daughters' TV room, she covered them all in patchwork or otherwise motley fabric. She also advised that "when order can't be maintained, just go with it." Her girls, 12 and 14, jump around to "Just Dance," a videogame, in this room, so any art on the walls will jiggle and end up askew. Ms. Loya surrendered and hung a collection of oils in a deliberately haphazard grid, some placed inches apart, some touching. "It gives energy. It's not neat and orderly," she said. A Grey Atom Pendant, a Sputnick-like fixture from Nuevo Lighting, hangs against the vibrant hue of Porter Paint's Seaport Blue. Of the wainscoting, Ms. Loya said, "I like to include something bright white in every room to give the eye a point of reference for the other colors," a sort of You Are Here if the color wheel were a map.



► Delusion Solution

Although Ms. Loya often finds primary colors cold and generally hews to secondary and tertiary hues, in this powder room she worked with the true red she found in the stained glass. And because mission fatigue was setting in, she also overlooked the floor tiles' 1980s provenance, which falls outside her self-imposed time-frame constraints. "I tricked myself into thinking it was English china," she said of the tiles' aesthetic. The rhythmic, interlocking pattern of the wallpaper mimics the Greek-key motif that borders the flooring, and provides a contemporizing contrast in scale.



OFF DUTY

TRAVELER'S TALE NOVELIST ANDREW SEAN GREER ON WHY ITALY'S VILLAGES BEAT ITS BIG CITIES



Roman Holiday? Don't Be So Predictable

ABOUT 35 YEARS AGO, my parents brought me and my twin brother, Mike, to Italy. We saw the classic tourist sites of Rome, Florence and Pisa, then, unusually, we spent almost a week in the small coastal town of Lerici while my father worked for NATO. Of everything we saw—the Forum, Michelangelo's David, the Sistine Chapel—what we remember most is that little Lerici apartment, where there was little to do but play cards and eat sausage. We loved it.

Now I live in Italy half the year as a director of a writers' retreat outside Florence. And Mike recently decided to bring his family to Italy to visit; in fact, he arranged for us to stay in Lerici again, and my mother came along to complete the reunion. While we reminisced seaside (a Spritz in hand this time instead of cards), Mike asked me if he should take his family on to Rome, Florence or Pisa. I told him he already knew the answer, the one we learned 35 years ago: Think outside the cities.

And here's why: Italy is personal. In my experience, the standard business practices most Americans expect—in hotels, restaurants, stores—do exist, especially in big cities, but miss the very nature of Italian transactions, which is between individuals. If you go into a certain cheese shop in Pontassieve, for example, asking for mozzarella, they might not have any. But if you talk to the owner, you might learn she loves books and if you lend her one, she may save you the mozzarella she gets from Puglia. Of course this personal touch is not limited to Italy—you find it in many small American towns as well—but in Italy it appears to be a general rule.

This pervading sense of individuals living among individuals makes driving interesting; everyone seems to have his own idea what the laws are. But it also brings specific pleasures to daily life: The baker in Lerici got to know our love of sfogliatelle pastries and was ready with a bag of them every morning (all cream, with one chocolate for my mother); the man who sold gelato on the beach taught my nephews how to pronounce "stracciatella";



the rental owner, also a writer, got us into a closed church because he knew the "guy with the key."

In a city like Rome, all of these still exist. But you may miss them; the Colosseum might be in the way. If you stay in a small town for a week, spending your time more leisurely, visiting the castle, or the church, you will be pulled, even against your will, into personal relationships with the cafe owners, waiters and shopkeepers. You will see them daily; you can't help it.

In America, we think of great art as something exclusive to big cities, but I have found that small Italian towns are packed with culture. Almost every village I visit seems to have a masterpiece in its church—my unassuming nearby town of Cascia has a Masaccio—and the regional nature of Italy (it has only

been a country for 150 years) means these small towns have food specialties that are often hard to find in the cities. My favorite food experiences have all been in out-of-the-way places. Two years ago, while staying near Montepulciano, I was driving through the countryside

In the small towns, you're pulled, willing or not, into personal relationships.

looking for San Galgano, a famous church without a roof. I got lost, got hungry, and ended up in a town I have never been able to find since. It had a tower and a restaurant; that was all. In the restaurant, I

asked the waiter what I should have. He smiled, closed my menu and walked away. Minutes later, he returned with a hollowed-out wheel of pecorino cheese. Into it, he emptied hot pasta and white pepper, and stirred the mixture until it became creamy from the cheese. He served it to me with a bottle of local wine. Later, he took me into the locked tower; he knew the "guy with the key."

Don't take my word for it: Take my brother's. After Lerici, skipping the siren-song of Rome, Mike took his family to a former abbey outside of Orvieto, in Umbria. The town, easily walkable, is remarkably beautiful, with a famous cathedral filled with Renaissance masterpieces by Signorelli. And (food again), in Umbria, they put truffles on everything. My brother

and his wife also befriended the owners of the abbey. I am sorry to say they liked it even better than Lerici. Why? Because it was theirs. It was personal. Let me also add: It was much, much cheaper than a stay in Rome.

So which town to pick? Instead of Venice, try the fisherman's town of Chioggia. Instead of Napoli, head down to Castellabate and explore the Cilento coast. Instead of Florence, try the tower-town of San Gimignano. In each of these spots, you'll find exceptional works of art. Ancient ruins. Castles. Amazing food. Locals unjaded by tourists. And maybe, just maybe, you will meet the "guy with the key."

Andrew Sean Greer is the author, most recently, of the novel "Less" (Little, Brown and Company).

WAY DOWN UNDER IN DOWN UNDER

How best to plumb the depths of Australia's Great Barrier Reef? An eager diver tries three approaches

WAKING UP on the beach in classic Australian swag—a weatherized canvas bedroll unfurled on a cot on the sand—I was one of just 10 visitors on an otherwise deserted Queensland island. Butterflies and birds flitted overhead, but we hadn't come to look up. We were here to dive. The day before, we'd submerged four times on the reef just off the coast, amid electric-blue Maori wrasse and shark-size giant clams.

Australia's Great Barrier Reef is a conglomeration of 3,000 reefs longer than the Pacific coast from Vancouver to Tijuana. That's a lot of territory to cover if you're a vacationer looking for the ultimate diving experience in just a few short days. I visited during the height of its 2016-17 coral bleaching, when unusually high water temperatures were causing corals to expel from their tissues the zooxanthellae that provide their color and energy to survive. Still, given the 8,000-year-old reef's enormous size—eight times that of our planet's second-largest reef, off Belize—vivid sections still abound and I found myself overwhelmed with the options.

In the end, I opted to experience the reef in three distinct ways, setting up my home base at a campsite, on a resort island, and on a liveaboard cruise ship, around different parts of the reef. The only constant: access to the reef's astounding variety of life (dive leaders naturally focus on the healthiest sections), which never failed to disappoint—and never failed to remind me how devastating its loss would be.

—James Sturz



HOME BASE: A CAMPSITE

I started in Townsville, a seaside city in northern Queensland, with Remote Area Dive, a scuba operator that offers campsite-based dive experiences. This wasn't glamping. Five other travelers, three divemasters, a boat captain and I pulled out from the dive shop at 5:45 a.m., hauling a trailer full of scuba and camping gear. We drove 1½ hours up the coast before boarding a boat for a 40-minute trip to tiny Pelorus Island. Shimmery cottonwood and beach almond trees lined the white coral beaches where we set up camp.

We made two dives later that morning, using the boat to explore the fringing reefs around the 1.5-square-mile island, then returned to land for tur-

key sandwiches and watermelon. We completed two more dives later that day, the last of them just after dusk. By day, we saw pink fire coral and clownfish darting among the undulating tentacles of anemones. At night, the beams of our lights revealed slithering sea snakes, translucent cuttlefish, and striped orange and yellow nudibranchs, slugs that looked like jewels. Back on land, there was less to see: a much-appreciated barbecue around a campfire and a starry sky.

Some in our group slept inside tents, but I opted for the outdoor swags and cots. We went to sleep slicked with salt and, in the morning, washed it off with two more dives.



HOME BASE: A RESORT ISLAND

Numerous resort islands dot the Queensland coast but few are as extravagant as 1,829-acre Hamilton Island in the Whitsunday chain, which offers a range of accommodations. The nicest is the Qualia resort (pictured), where it's easy to want to stay in your room forever.

But since hibernation wasn't the point of my visit, I spent my initial morning on a catamaran-sailing trip; we snorkeled around shallow corals and then lolled on Whitehaven Beach, often voted the best in all of Australia. It might have felt more indulgent had I not been lolling with the 30 other people on my excursion.

For each of the following two days, I boarded the island's even larger dive boat for



HOME BASE: A LIVEBOARD YACHT

the two-hour ride to the closest section of outer reef, where the barrier-reef corals give way to continental slopes extending more than a mile down. We didn't need to venture that deep at Bait Reef—75 feet was enough—to encounter a half-dozen whitetip reef sharks on every dive, along with scores of pineapple sea cucumbers (so-called for their pineapple-y armored skin), sea turtles, marble rays, hefty coral trout and 3-foot humphead parrotfish that reminded me of aquatic bulldogs.

Post-dive highlights at the resort included a hot shower in my comfortable hotel room, dining on local slipper lobsters and visits with the resident koalas, who snuggled and snoozed in the trees.

Number of dives: Up to six. **Cost:** About \$526 per person, including camping and scuba gear and meals for one night. **Verdict:** The most budget-conscious way to spend two days diving (or snorkeling) the reef intensively. remoteareadive.com.au

Number of dives: Four over two days. **Cost:** About \$263, per person per two-dive excursion, including gear; snorkeling about \$140. Qualia rooms from about \$957 a night. **Verdict:** A great beach holiday with a side of diving. hamiltonisland.com.au

FROM LEFT: REMOTE AREA DIVE; QUALIA, SPIRIT OF FREEDOM

chargeable shark deterrent to his ankle each time he entered the water.

We spent the next two days at the Ribbon Reefs, ¼-mile-wide strips of coral 60 miles from shore, focusing on their "bommies," pinnacles that rise 100 feet from the reef. Some coral was bleached or phosphorescent, which meant it was fighting to survive. But the water clarity and the sea life we saw along the more distant reefs made liveaboard diving best. We ended our trip diving at Cod Hole, a site named for its massive potato cod, which can grow to 7 feet and 250 pounds. They counted among the biggest bony fish I'd seen—until 9-foot Queensland groupers began feeding in our stern lights that night.

Number of dives: Up to 11 over three days. **Cost:** From about \$1,411 per person, all-inclusive of dives and meals, for the three-night itinerary. **Verdict:** If you're looking for a bucket-list dive holiday, a liveaboard is your vessel. spiritoffreedom.com.au

OFF DUTY

Open, Sesame

Remembering a myriad of passwords is challenging, even for famous magicians. Here, one tries to conjure a viable system

BY TELLER

IMAGINE WE'RE at a cafe. I hand you a pencil and a pad of paper. I ask you to write your laptop's password on the pad, rip off the sheet, fold it up and keep it safe in your pocket while I go place our orders for caffeine-laced milkshakes.

Later, I ask you to hand me your laptop. I turn it on, look dreamily into the distance, slowly type in your password and comment admiringly on your late-night browsing choices.

"That," I say with a smile, "is why security experts tell you never to write down your password."

I don't need to be a computer geek or have the budget of the NSA to accomplish this prank. The method is more than a century old and was devised by crooks—specifically, spirit mediums trying to get the dope on their clients. The medium would prepare a notepad by rubbing the back of the top sheet lightly with spermaceti wax (it was a tough time for whales). Then the medium would hand a pencil to the client and ask her/him to write down a secret question for a departed loved one and keep the question secure. Later, the rat-bastard would "channel" a message from the dead, such as, "Your dear wife says, 'Don't worry about our children. They will thrive without your help. Sell the house and invest in Dr. Slade's diamond mines.'"

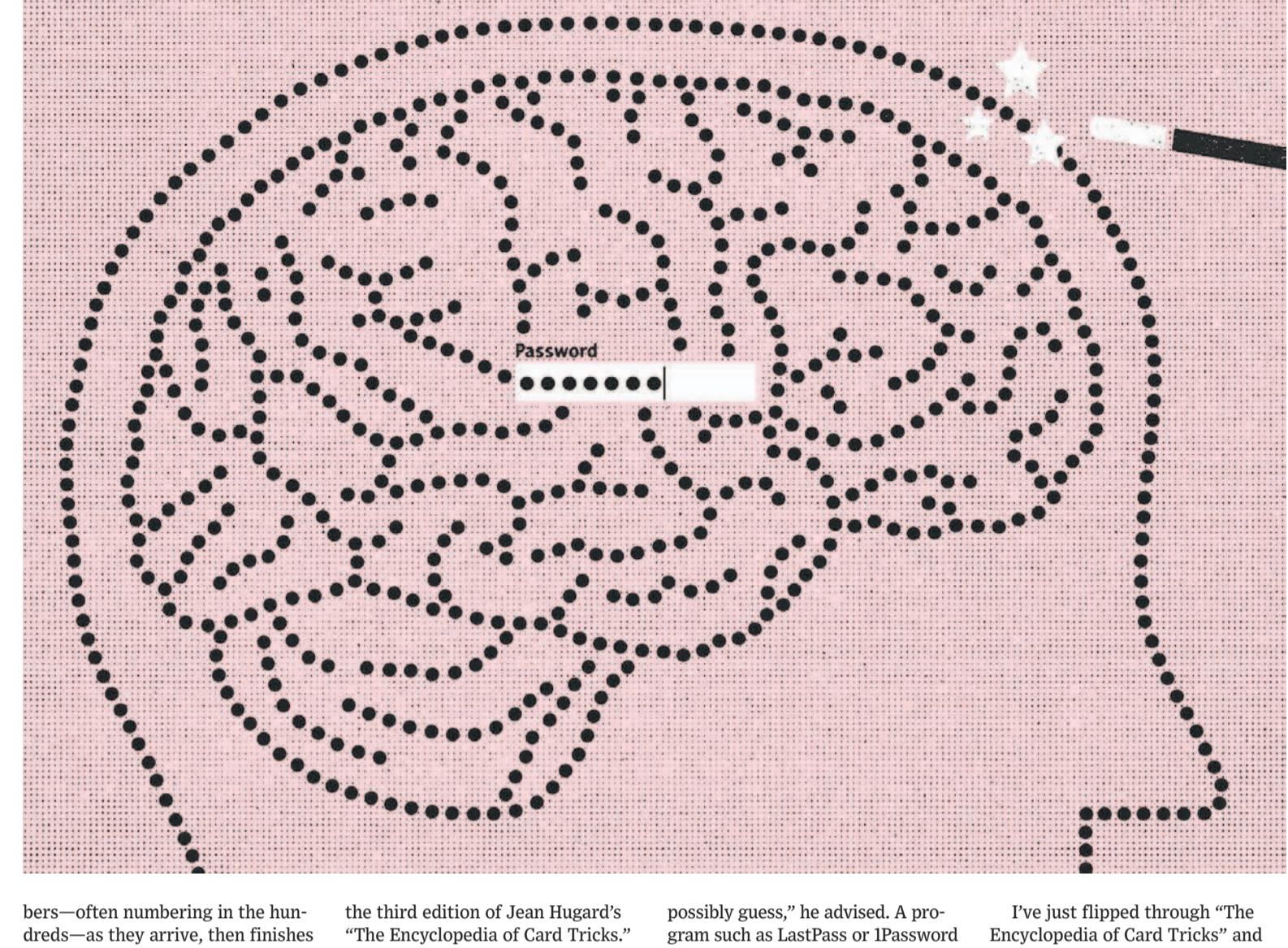
When the client wrote on the first sheet, the pressure left an invisible copy in wax (today, we use soap) on the second sheet. The medium took back the pad, left the room to "get a glass of water" (or, in my case, to fetch the frosty frap-pés) and secretly dusted the wax impression with powdered lead (I use something less lethal). The dusty particles stuck to the residue and revealed the writing.

Such information piracy was possible a hundred years ago, so how can I possibly defend myself from genius archfiends who are bent on stealing my passwords today? As a magician, can I use my tool kit to keep my information safe?

The overarching principle of magic is that magicians are willing to go to more trouble to pull off a trick than any spectator would think the trick is worth. We cripple our hands with years of practice just to make a dime disappear.

I could apply this too-much-trouble principle to my passwords by simply memorizing them all. That's not as impossible as it sounds. Memory training is one of magic's strongest methods. If I can glance at a hand of cards or the serial number of a dollar bill and commit that info to memory in the blink of an eye, I have quite a potent tool.

Memory is sometimes even presented as a trick on its own. The legendary New York magician Harry Lorayne greets his audience mem-



DAN PAGE

bers—often numbering in the hundreds—as they arrive, then finishes his show by calling every single person in the theater by name. He's written half a dozen books on mnemonics (e.g., "The Memory Book," "Ageless Memory"), and I recommend them.

The general principle of this kind of rapid memorization is to translate neutral information into vivid images, then to recall the images and translate those images back into the information. To accomplish this with numbers, for example, we generally employ a system of letter substitution. The one I use begins:

1=l (a letter with one stroke)
2=n (a letter with two strokes)
3=m (a letter with three strokes)

The reasoning changes from 4 onward:

4=r (because R is the final sound of the word "four")

5=f or v ("five")

And so forth.

When presented with a string of numerals, I translate them to consonants, then add vowels to create a juicy image. For example, the number 1342 (lmrn) becomes "lamb rain," and I picture a downpour of plump little sheep. Later, I recall the image and the two words, discard the vowels, and translate the consonants "lmrn" back to "1342." I use this system all the time for credit-card security codes.

You can find the complete mnemonic system I use under the heading "Curriculum" on page 387 of

the third edition of Jean Hugard's "The Encyclopedia of Card Tricks."

But, you know, I frequent lots of websites, and if I get enough of these nutty images in my head, I start to get confused. Let's say I need to fill in my American Express card number. In the middle of my card is the famous emblem of a helmeted Roman gladiator. If I picture that head covered with buzzing insects swimming in fruit topping, will I remember whether they are "lanky bumblebees in orange sauce" (129636160242800) or "dazed mosquitoes in cherry reduction" (707309702844782)?

How can I possibly defend myself from genius archfiends who are bent on stealing my passwords?

Kevin Mitnick—a reformed hacker who served hard time for the crimes of his youth and now fights for the good guys—attends a Penn & Teller show whenever he comes to Vegas. I recently took advantage of this to ask him his advice. He said that although mnemonics might be fun for Harry Lorayne, they're hazardous for the rest of us. "Get yourself a good password manager and pick a master password that no one could

possibly guess," he advised. A program such as LastPass or 1Password stores all of your passwords on your computer or smartphone and allows you to unlock them with a single master password. "Then let the program do all the heavy lifting," he said.

OK. Now, I just need an unbreakable master password. Wait, I know what I should base it on: the Eight Kings stack.

When you arrange a deck of cards in an order that you can recognize, that's called a "stack." A stacked deck allows a magician to glance at the bottom card and know which card is on top.

To stack a deck, you memorize a repeating pattern for the suits (e.g., Spade, Diamond, Club, Heart, which you can remember with the phrase SaD CrotCH), then a similar pattern for the face values. When I was a kid, I learned a nonsense rhyme for this purpose:

*Eight kings threatened to save
Ninety-five queens for one sick
knav.*

If you say that aloud, you'll see how it sounds out to:

*Eight king three ten two seven
Nine five queen four ace six jack*

Which translates to:

8K3102795Q4A6J

That's one strong, perfect password. And who would suspect I'd really use it, now that I've published it in *The Wall Street Journal*?

But hold on. I've overlooked the most basic principle of magic.

I've just flipped through "The Encyclopedia of Card Tricks" and plunked my finger down 15 times at random. Each time, I noted whatever character, numeral or mark of punctuation I happened to land on. I have, in other words, created a 15-character password that's totally random. It's not the name of my dog, my favorite band or the street I grew up on. No one who knows me, however intimately, could guess it.

And I've written the utterly random password down. Yes, I've written it down—just as I advised you not to. But I'm not telling you where. It's somewhere in my office, somewhere easy to see from my computer. It might be broken up into different parts. Some of it might be big. Some might be very small. But only I know where to look.

And now I'm tacking a bright pink sticky note onto my computer monitor screen. On it—in very thick, black marker—I've written PW-FOO7BA1176#. I believe with a strong pair of binoculars you could read that from the park outside my window.

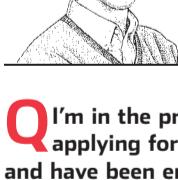
The technical term for this pink note is "misdirection."

And that—as any magician will tell you—is the strongest security you can have.

Teller is the smaller, quieter half of the Las Vegas magic duo Penn & Teller and co-hosts "Penn & Teller: Fool Us" on the CW Network.

THE FIXER MICHAEL HSU

Securely Sign a Document With a Smartphone



QI'm in the process of applying for a mortgage and have been emailed a seemingly endless number of documents to sign. I don't want to have to print them all out. Is there a way for me to sign these using only my phone?

AAlthough iOS 11, due this fall, supports scan and sign natively for iPad and iPhone, my favorite document-signing app is currently Adobe Fill & Sign, which is free and available for both iOS and Android devices. The app allows you to use your finger (or a stylus) to sign your phone's touch screen, which is less awkward than it might sound. Once your signature is stored, you'll be able to drag and drop it into any PDF document—and even resize the signature to fit

the line provided. The app also makes it surprisingly easy to enter text into a PDF. It even has a tool that lets you complete forms with those rows of little rectangular boxes you're supposed to fill in letter by letter—the bane of every digital form-filler's existence.

If the documents that you're signing contain sensitive financial information, such as bank account or Social Security numbers, you'll want to go one step further by password protecting and encrypting the file.

To do this, I like an app called GeniusScan+. Although a free version, called GeniusScan, is available for both Android and iOS, you'll need to buy the ad-free version to access the PDF-encrypting capabilities. GeniusScan+ costs \$5 for Android

and \$8 for iOS.

The process of encrypting a PDF using the app requires only a few taps, but it isn't all that intuitive. Here's how to pull it off:

First, export the PDF from Adobe Fill & Sign by tapping the Share icon in that app and selecting GeniusScan+.

Then in the GeniusScan+ app, open the PDF and tap the Share icon. On the screen that pops up, tap "Password" and enter a strong one. Take care as you type, since the app won't ask you to verify the password that you've entered here.

From there, you can export the protected file to the app of your choosing, whether email or a cloud-storage app such as Dropbox or Google Drive.

Have a lifestyle problem that a gadget might solve? Email us: the_fixer@wsj.com



KIERSTEN ESENPREIS

MANSION

HOMES | MARKETS | PEOPLE | UPKEEP | VALUES | NEIGHBORHOODS | REDOS | SALES | FIXTURES | BROKERS

© Dow Jones & Company. All Rights Reserved.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

'Nantucket! Take out your map and look at it. See what a real corner of the world it occupies.'

—Herman Melville

Friday - Sunday, August 4 - 6, 2017



NANTUCKET

ORIC APPEAL Devotees say part of the charm of the island, which has a median home-sale price of \$1.235 million, is its carefully preserved historic architecture. Above: shingled structures on t

; a boat passing Brant Point Light

Summer Home Smackdown!

Martha's Vineyard vs. Nantucket: How the enclaves stack up in terms of home prices, luxury-market performance, celebrity cachet and New England charm.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD



ED CHARMS Martha's Vineyard fans say the island is more eclectic, laid-back and artsy than Nantucket. Above, the Gay Head Lighthouse in Aquinnah; Gingerbread Cottages in Oak Bluffs. Medi

BY CANDACE TAYLOR

FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE John Kerry made national headlines earlier this year when, after spending decades summering on the Massachusetts island of Nantucket, he bought a home on nearby Martha's Vineyard.

On the face of it, the move doesn't seem surprising—the two islands off Cape Cod are less than 20 miles apart, as the crow flies, and both are famed for their sweeping sandy beaches, his-

toric New England charm and affluent summer residents.

But despite these similarities, denizens of the two preppy enclaves are fiercely loyal to their chosen island. Many Martha's Vineyard loyalists say they've never been to Nantucket, and vice versa.

"I've never, ever visited Nantucket," said Daniel Phelan, 41, a Martha's Vineyard resident whose family has owned property on the Vineyard for generations. "I couldn't tell you anything about it except it's a longer boat ride" from the mainland, he added.

Residents can rattle off a long list of perceived differences between the two islands, both of which can only be accessed by boat or plane. The larger, more heavily wooded Martha's Vineyard is closer to the mainland and more accessible. It also has a reputation for being more ethnically and racially diverse, relaxed and artsy, whereas Nantucket is seen as more buttoned-up, with a high-octane social scene that lures jet-setting CEO types.

In reality, said Martha's Vineyard real-estate agent Tom Wallace, buyers' loyalties to one is-

Please turn to page W10



HOUSE CALL | DANIEL HANDLER

LEMONY SNICKET'S ATTIC HIDEAWAY

The children's book author discovered reading under the eaves of his family house; today, he still lives in San Francisco, but he reads in his favorite leather chair that he says is way too big.



Daniel Handler, 47, is a novelist and children's book author, who publishes under the Lemony Snicket pen name. His latest children's book is "Goldfish Ghost" (Roaring Brook), illustrated by Lisa Brown, his wife. He spoke with Marc Myers.

My favorite children's book growing up was fairly obscure: "The Bears' Famous Invasion of Sicily," by Dino Buzzati. My Great Aunt Vera was a librarian and gave my mother many books when she was young. This one, published in 1945, was about a battle between bears and Sicilians.

Among the book's many charms is that the narrator frequently says something like, "The illustrator has gotten this all wrong. It went nothing like you see it here." Not until I was an adult did I realize that the illustrator and author were the same person.

I liked the ambiguous space the book's narrator created for me. There's a certain delight in being lied

HOUSE OF THE DAY
wsj.com/houseofthe



San Antonio, Tex.
A Spanish Revival ho



Malvern, Pa.
An art-filled retreat
the Pennsylvania wo



Seeley Lake, Mont.
A rustic lodge in th

MANSION

LEMONY SNICKET'S ATTIC HIDEAWAY

Continued from page W9

to as a child in books. Childhood is full of unreliable pronouncements.

My childhood was spent in San Francisco, in the Balboa Terrace neighborhood. Our three-story house was beige with brown trim, and there were two large spherical bushes in front that we decorated each year as jack-o'-lanterns for Halloween.

I lived in the attic, which my parents had converted into a bedroom. There was an extra set of stairs to reach my room, so most of my family gave up climbing and forgot about me.

When I was old enough to read books about people who were kept in garrets for various reasons, the attic became a gothic fantasy, even though I didn't live in our attic by force.

The attic was large, and there was plenty of floor space to spread out. But I didn't have much in the way of walls, since various slants formed the roof. The angles weren't great for decorating. Many things I put up would fall in the middle of the night with an eerie, swooping sound. In the morning I'd have to remember that things had fallen down to avoid stepping on thumbtacks.

My younger sister, Rebecca, wasn't particularly jealous of my attic space. Her bedroom door locked, so we both had advantages and disadvantages.

As a family, we ate dinner together most nights. At the table, my sister and I would be asked to report on the best and worst parts of our days. Rebecca and I competed to be amusing and theatrical.

My dad, Louis, was a CPA with a good sense of humor. He had a very high moral sense. So there were many rules and regulations. For example, you couldn't owe people money and couldn't take a taxi or buy a fancy shampoo or anything that could be considered a crazy luxury. But my father was unconditional in his affections.

My mother, Sandra, was a dean at San Francisco's City College, so



KID STUFF Daniel Handler with his sister, Rebecca, in 1984 in their family home in the Balboa Terrace section of San Francisco, above, and at his current home in the same city, right.

she was the stricter parent but also hilarious. She was on top of our homework and much more detail-oriented.

I wasn't beaten up at school as much as you'd think. My quick wit was off-putting enough. Compared with the childhoods of other writers I know, the suffering wasn't that enormous.

I was a voracious reader as a child. As soon as I had my own library card, I took out as many books as I could carry. I liked any book in which something terrible was happening.

I was conditioned early. My father's family had escaped Nazi Germany in 1939, and both my parents were opera fans. I heard the

'We live in an Edwardian house that is often mistaken for Victorian, so most people think I'm uptight.'

lurid stories of operas growing up, so melodramatic felt to me what a story should be like. If I reached page 35 in a book and no one had died or a blizzard or beast hadn't appeared, I suspected it wasn't a book I wanted to read.

I don't remember a time as a

child when I wasn't writing in a notebook. But my practical parents always made clear to me that pursuing a writing career was dreamy at best.

I didn't care. That's what I always wanted to do. I went to Wesleyan University, which encouraged self-starters. This let me pursue my writing with a single-mindedness.

But I had a seizure disorder in college. I would pass out and was subject to terrible hallucinations. That was a new kind of suffering. Medications had side effects and I was hospitalized for a time. The cause remains a mystery today.

After college, I worked in San Francisco writing for syndicated



radio shows. I also wrote for little newspapers in New York. I was making a living, sort of. Then I sold my first novel in 1998.

Today, I live with my wife, illustrator Lisa Brown, and our 13-year-old son, Otto, in San Francisco in the Haight-Ashbury district, near Buena Vista Park. We live in an Edwardian house that is often mistaken for Victorian, so most people think I'm uptight.

The house has two floors and three bedrooms plus a little office. It's my house, so I can go on any floor, and I'm welcome in any room.

My favorite place in the house is in my big black leather chair in the living room. Originally I wanted a leather club chair but my head kept rolling back. Someone said I could have a chair made, so that's what I did. But the chair is way too big. It rises so far up that I could perch a baby on my head or wear a huge fez and there would still be plenty of room.

It's the most comfortable chair in the world. I've often said I want to die in it. So often that my wife and son probably think that if I'm about to croak, they need to drag me to the chair.

Our house has an attic, but we haven't turned it into a room. If we did, we'd have to build a staircase. I think we'll skip that.

ADVERTISEMENT



GUILFORD, CONNECTICUT

Luxury Residences, CT "Project of the Year" by HBRA. 16+ acres, 1884 Mill has 2-BR loft units with garages. New construction of (3) 4-story buildings with 2-BR ranch units, underground parking, views of L.I. Sound, River, Marsh. Walk to the Historic Town Green, Shops, Restaurants, Train Station, Yacht Club and Beach. Proposed Pool/Clubhouse/Fitness Ctr.

Priced from \$719,000

www.66highst.com

Horton Group
Kenny Horton
phone: 1.203.499.8994



AUSTIN, TEXAS

Your Ultimate Lakeside Escape. Look no further than this custom lakeside home with privacy gate & direct Lake Travis access. This contemporary home boasts 5-bedrooms & 360-degree views of the lake & surrounding hills. Luxury home features include a Master-Suite wing with study, gourmet kitchen, over 800 sq.ft. of outdoor living, & an oversized pool with waterfall.

\$2,850,000

PeninsulaLakeTravis.com



AUSTIN, TEXAS

Your Ultimate Lakeside Retreat. Located in a private, lakeside community, this extravagant 4 bed/4+ bath home features cutting-edge design & smart home conveniences. Custom home features include a gourmet kitchen, full bar, outdoor kitchen & living with fireplace, pool/spa with swim-up bar, master steam room & dry sauna, and a 2-story "Hers" closet.

\$2,995,000

PeninsulaLakeTravis.com

The Peninsula at Rough Hollow
phone: 512.456.3756 Info@PeninsulaLakeTravis.com



KIAWAH ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA

Two homesites have been combined to form the breathtaking beachfront property at 185/186 Ballybunion Drive. A rare opportunity to own a full 125 feet of oceanfront on Kiawah Island, this 1.88-acre lot will easily accommodate a generous family estate or two private homes on exclusive Ballybunion Drive. A Kiawah Island Club Membership is available.

\$10,000,000

kiawahisland.com/real-estate

Kiawah Island Real Estate
phone: 866.312.1780 info@kiawahisland.com



BOYNTON BEACH, FLORIDA

Simply the Best 55+ Lifestyle in Florida - Valencia Bay goes above and beyond with luxury conveniences that rival the finest resorts. In the heart of the community is an opulent clubhouse featuring a fully-equipped fitness center, onsite restaurant, grand ballroom, resort-style pools, Har-Tru tennis courts, an on-site Lifestyle Director and more – right in your own neighborhood.

From the \$500's to \$800's

glhomes.com/Valencia-Bay

GL Homes
phone: 800.432.7017



ASHEVILLE/WAYNESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Gorgeous 210-acre, countryside, pristine property near Blue Ridge Parkway, waterfalls and 500 acres of hiking trails. Ideal for development or as luxury retreat. Expansive mountaintop views and lush valley floor. Includes active trout stream. Two vacation homes currently on site with excellent rental history. 4 miles of roads in place. Historic Asheville, NC just 25 minutes away. Sale by owner. Realtors protected. Owner prefers to sell as whole, but will divide. Reduced to \$5.5 million or make offer on divided pieces.

Robert L. Graves
phone: 843.422.2990

To Advertise Call: +852-2831-2552

MANSION

PRIVATE PROPERTIES | CANDACE TAYLOR

Rachael Ray Lists Southampton Home

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BROWN HARRIS STEVENS; DOROTHY HONG FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL; DAVID HEATH



MIAMI BEACH PENTHOUSE IS REDUCED BY \$18 MILLION

In the struggling Miami Beach condo market, a penthouse that sought \$53 million in late 2015 is now asking \$34,999,999, or roughly \$18 million less.

The price of the unit at 321 Ocean was reduced several times; it was most recently seeking \$39.5 million. Listing agents Bill Hernandez and Bryan Sereny of Douglas Elliman Real Estate have taken over the listing from ONE Sotheby's International Realty. They said that after analyzing comparable sales they determined the previous pricing, even after the reductions, was too high.

The average sales price for a condo in Miami Beach was \$736,646 in the second quarter, down 15.2% from the same period last year, according to Douglas Elliman's quarterly market report. Messrs. Hernandez and Sereny said the high-end market was slow in 2016 due to such factors as the election, Brexit and currency fluctuations. They added that activity is beginning to improve, and said that it is likely an out-of-town buyer will buy the unit.

The beachfront condo building, located in South Beach, was completed in 2015. The penthouse, which is being sold furnished, has four bedrooms plus staff quarters. The unit is roughly 6,800 square feet, while a roof deck and terraces add more than 6,000 square feet of exterior space. The roof deck includes an infinity pool overlooking the ocean, an outdoor kitchen, a dining table and a fire pit.

The sellers are Boris and Elizabeth Jordan, who bought the unit for \$20 million about six months before putting it on the market, according to public records. Founder of the private-equity and advisory firm the Sputnik Group, Mr. Jordan previously served as chief executive of state-controlled Russian media conglomerate Gazprom-Media, and as head of the Russian television network NTV. The Jordans couldn't be reached for comment.



They originally intended to spend weekends in the Hamptons, but instead they opted to build a house in Lake Luzerne in upstate New York, near where Ms. Ray grew up. The listing agents are Martha P. Gunderson and Richard Ziegelsch of Brown Harris Stevens.

Television personality and cookbook author Rachael Ray is putting her Southampton home on the market for \$4.9 million.

Renovated by Ms. Ray, the three-bedroom main house spans about 3,650 square feet. The kitchen includes a Wolf range, Sub-Zero refrigerator and dual beverage-cooling drawers.

The house sits on more than 6 acres, according to a spokeswoman for Brown Harris Stevens, which has the listing. The grounds include an

outdoor swimming pool and a roughly 1,400-square-foot pool house, which has a kitchen and two full bathrooms. There is also a one-room structure that can be used as an artist's or writer's studio.

Nearly all of the furniture in the home is from Ms. Ray's furniture line; the furniture isn't included in the asking price, but Ms. Ray would consider selling it.

In addition to writing numerous cookbooks, Ms. Ray has a syndicated talk show, multiple Food Network

shows, an eponymous magazine and branded merchandise in housewares, home furnishings and other categories. She and her husband, John Cusimano, who live primarily in New York City, purchased the Hamptons house in 2008 for \$2.6 million, according to public records.

ings service, measures about 3,500 square feet with four bedrooms, Mr. Giem said. The white house, which spans about 7,000 square feet and has an outdoor swimming pool, had been listed on and off for years, most recently at \$24.7 million, Mr. Giem said. Both houses have a pool and the Blue House has a tennis court. Located in the Corona Del Mar area of Newport Beach, the houses are situated on a bluff above the water and have panoramic water views, he said, but are "modest houses for that kind of setting."

The coastal Orange County market was "really slow" in 2016, but so far this year has been "really busy," with prices "going up rapidly," Mr. Giem said.

The previous sales record in Orange County was set last year by the \$45 million sale of Twin Points, a home in Laguna Beach, said Mr. Giem, the listing agent on that deal.

NEWPORT BEACH PROPERTY WITH TWO HOMES SELLS FOR \$55 MILLION



A Newport Beach, Calif., property that was owned by a prominent California family for decades has sold for \$55 million, setting a new record for Orange County.

The purchase includes roughly 3½ acres of land overlooking Newport Harbor with two homes on it, according to Rob Giem of Compass, who represented the sellers. One, known as the Big Blue House, is a circa 1936 structure painted bright Bermuda blue with a white roof and is considered a local landmark; the other is a white, six-bedroom house built in the 1980s.

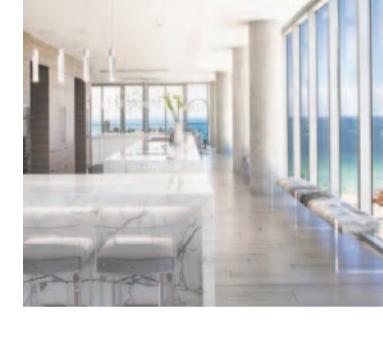
According to public records, the two properties were owned for years by the family of the late Kathryn Wheeler. Mrs. Wheeler was the great-granddaughter of James Irvine, who with partners pieced together the roughly 100,000-acre Irvine Ranch, a swath of land that represents roughly 1/5th of present-day Orange County,

explained Ellen Bell, author of the book "Irvine (Images of America)."

The property has been purchased by a private partnership, and there are no immediate plans for the prop-

erty, said Mr. Giem. The buyers were represented by Kim Walker of Suterra Properties.

The Big Blue House, which hadn't been listed in the local multiple list-



LIFESTYLE PRODUCTION GROUP (2)



RUB A DUB DUB, A DOG IN A TUB

Three luxury homes for sale and for rent in Florida, New Mexico and New York with dog-bathing stations

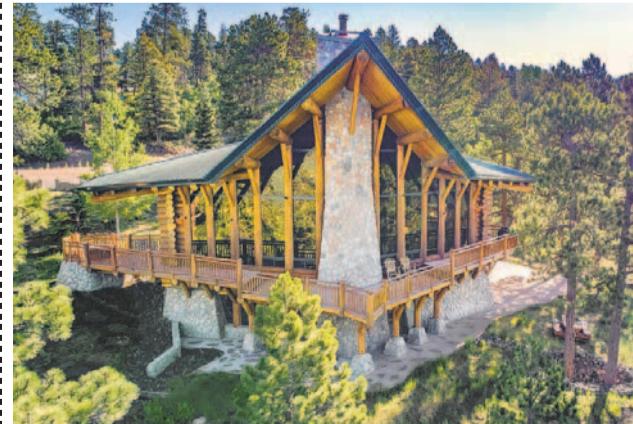


ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPHER HITZ
FROM LEFT: DANIEL DYER; JIM MERRIT; JON DECLO

\$16.9 million

Palm Beach, Fla.

Four bedrooms, six bathrooms

Located on Everglades Island, this 8,600-square-foot home has 150-feet of intercoastal water frontage. The home, which sits on about ½ acre, was built in 1961 and renovated in 2001. The dog-grooming space is located in the laundry room. An outdoor entertaining area includes a loggia and pool.

Agents: Bradford Miller and Pamela M.M. Miller of the Corcoran Group

\$1.48 million

Angel Fire, N.M.

Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, two half-baths

This 3,450-square-foot handcrafted-log home sits on 2.2 acres and has expansive mountain views. The interiors have vaulted ceilings with exposed beams and custom stonework throughout. The kitchen has high-end appliances. Features on the lower level include another living area, a garage, a pantry and a laundry room with a custom dog bath.

Agent: Tara Chisum of Chisum Realty Group

\$35,000 a month

Manhattan

Five bedrooms, four bathrooms

Located in the West Village, this four-story brick townhouse was built in 1850 and has been completely updated. The dog bath and grooming area are located on the parlor level. The basement has a home office with a separate entrance. For outdoor entertaining, the property has both a rear garden and a rooftop terrace, which has a kitchen.

Agent: Astrid Pillay, Halstead Property