





## U.S. NEWS

### Ole Miss To Rename Campus Building

BY MELISSA KORN

The University of Mississippi will rename an administrative building that currently honors a former governor and U.S. senator who opposed African-American education and advocated lynching to maintain white supremacy.

The school is the latest institution to publicly grapple with how to acknowledge its history without offending modern sensibilities.

After a review by the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on History and Context, the school said Thursday it decided to remove the moniker of James K. Vardaman from the building known as Vardaman Hall.

According to a report by the school committee, Mr. Vardaman, a local publisher who served as Mississippi governor from 1903 to 1908 and represented the state in the U.S. Senate from 1913 to 1919, was "distinctly unworthy of honor."

The committee said Mr. Vardaman was exceptional be-

A school report said James K. Vardaman was 'distinctly unworthy of honor.'

cause he "actively promoted some morally odious practice, or dedicated much of [his life] to upholding the practice."

An opponent of educating African-Americans and advocate of white supremacy, Mr. Vardaman said at a public event while governor, "If it is necessary, every Negro in the state will be lynched; it will be done to maintain white supremacy."

The committee cited that quote as part of its explanation for the renaming.

The University of Mississippi also said that while it won't change the names of other campus buildings and sites that honor slave owners or proponents of slavery who had ties to the school, it will add plaques providing more information about the namesakes.

For example, Barnard Observatory is named for a former university president and chancellor who owned slaves but was criticized for not being sufficiently pro-slavery, while Lamar Hall is named for a former professor and congressman who, according to the committee report, played an active role in "dismantling Reconstruction in Mississippi to the detriment of the state's African-American citizens."

The university will also install a plaque noting that four projects on campus were built with slave labor.

"Contextualization is an important extension of a university's responsibility to educate and provides an opportunity to learn from history," Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter said, commending the committee for "recognizing that while our history is not by any means all that we are, it remains an important part of who we are."

A new name for Vardaman hasn't been chosen. The school said it would begin that process as it renovates the building.

A number of cities and schools, especially in the South, in recent years have been reconsidering how they acknowledge their historical ties to slavery or to the Confederacy.

In 2015, Ole Miss removed the state flag, which includes the Confederate battle emblem, and other public universities in Mississippi have followed suit.

### Miami Prepares for New Departure

Privately funded rail system is seen as a model for express passenger service

BY ARIAN CAMPO-FLORES

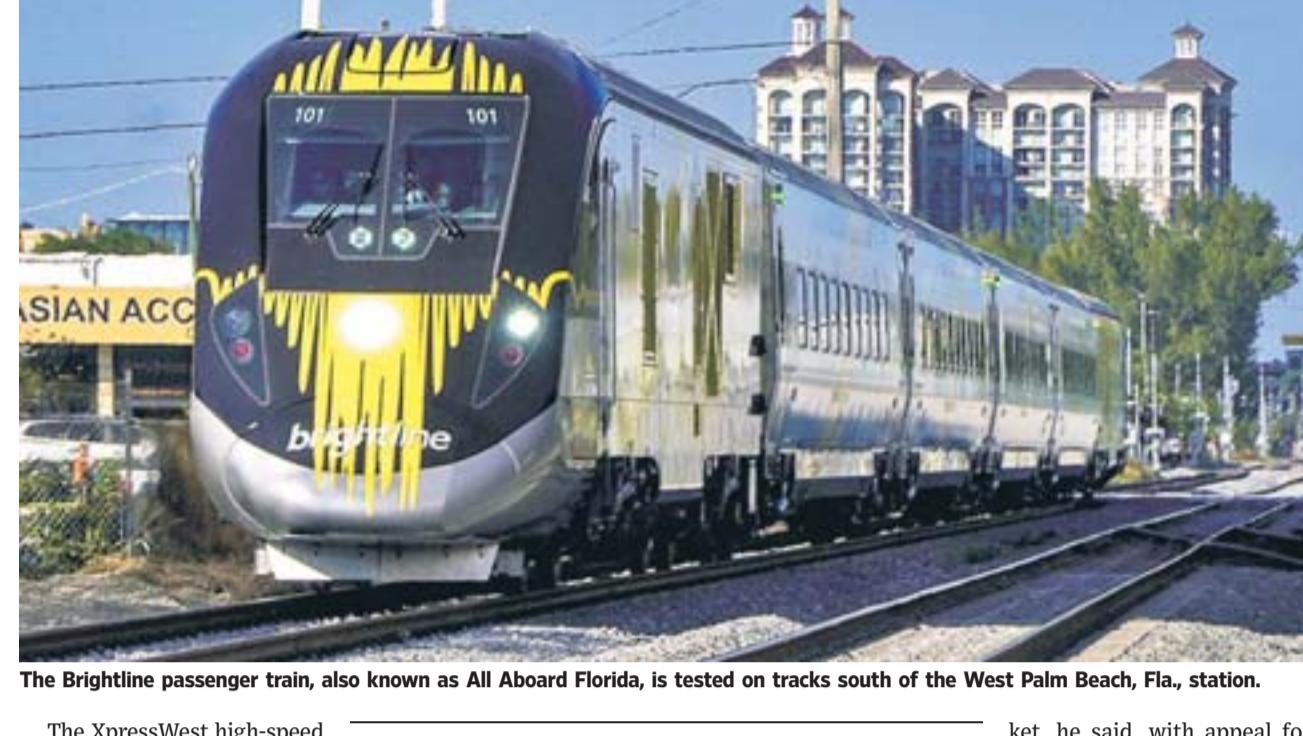
MIAMI—Commuters and tourists fed up with South Florida's clogged highways will soon have a new alternative: A posh passenger-rail service to whisk riders from Miami to Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and, eventually, Orlando.

The \$3 billion system, named All Aboard Florida but better known as Brightline, is privately funded and hasn't received federal or state grant money. It comes online as President Donald Trump and Congress weigh a \$1 trillion infrastructure plan that would rely heavily on private capital—leading some to see it as a model for express intercity passenger-rail service.

Brightline's owner, Florida East Coast Industries, is focused on connecting major urban centers that are from 250 to 350 miles apart with speeds up to 125 miles an hour. It plans eventually to expand Brightline service to cities farther away, such as Tampa and Jacksonville.

"These trips, which we see as too long to drive and too short to fly, represent the opportunity for the next generation of American train service," said Michael Reininger, executive director of Florida East Coast Industries, Brightline's parent company, at a recent congressional hearing on passenger rail.

Express and high-speed rail projects are planned or under way outside Florida. A company called Texas Central is pursuing a \$15 billion passenger-rail service to zip riders between Dallas and Houston in 90 minutes, with trains traveling at 200 miles an hour. The project is in the development stage with financing from private investors, said Tim Keith, the company's president.



The Brightline passenger train, also known as All Aboard Florida, is tested on tracks south of the West Palm Beach, Fla., station.

RICHARD GRAULICH/THE PALM BEACH POST/ZUMA PRESS

The XpressWest high-speed rail line would connect Las Vegas to Palmdale, Calif., where it could join with a Los Angeles-bound service. The proposed financing would involve private investment, local funds and federal loan programs, according to a recent letter by project backers to the Trump administration.

Also in California, work is under way on the first phase of a \$64 billion bullet-train line that, if completed, would link Los Angeles and San Francisco with trains speeding at more than 200 miles an hour. The project has received federal and state funding, but a private entity is expected eventually to operate it, said Dan Richard, chairman of the California High-Speed Rail Authority, at the recent congressional hearing.

The projects have hit roadblocks, from court challenges to difficulty obtaining financing, all underscoring the steep challenges to creating high-speed rail lines in the U.S. Opponents question how such services will survive financially without large government subsidies.

#### Making Connections

The Brightline passenger-rail service connecting Miami with Orlando is one of several intercity high-speed rail projects proposed or underway across the U.S.



Sources: All Aboard Florida, Texas Central, California High-Speed Rail Authority, Xpress West

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Brightline "will generate losses of more than \$100 million and will be unable to service its large debt burden," wrote John Friedman, a Brown University economist, in a study funded by a citizens group opposed to the rail line.

Brightline executives challenge that analysis and say their business model promises to make the venture profitable. Florida East Coast Industries, a descendant of 19th-century

industrialist Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway, which spurred development of the Florida coast, is relying largely on existing rail lines currently used for freight for the Brightline service.

Dave Howard, Brightline's chief executive, said highway congestion and the hassles of air travel have strengthened demand for alternative forms of transit. The Brightline service—with leather seats, Wi-Fi and bike racks—will be upmarket, he said, with appeal for millennials in search of vibrant urban living. He wouldn't disclose ticket prices but said they would be comparable to the cost of driving.

In the past five years, the number of daily commuters in three counties around Miami has increased by 120,000 people to 2.3 million, according to a U.S. Census survey. Most of them commute to work in cars.

Brightline trains, traveling at a maximum of 79 miles an hour, are scheduled to begin operating between West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale this summer, with the leg down to Miami operating in the fall, executives say. An extension up to Orlando, with trains reaching a maximum speed of 125 miles an hour, could be completed by 2019 if construction begins this year.

The Brightline parent company is owned by funds managed by Fortress Investment Group LLC, which is being acquired by SoftBank Group Corp. of Japan. SoftBank Chief Executive Masayoshi Son pledged to invest \$50 billion in the U.S. in a December meeting with Mr. Trump.

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.

"Dr. Fitzgerald is more than prepared to face the health challenges of our time, including climate change, Zika, Ebola, and our growing burden of chronic disease," Georges Benjamin, executive director, of the American Public Health Association, said.

Brenda Fitzgerald understands the relationship between the CDC and state and local health departments, and I'm confident she'll advocate for a strong public-health system," said Michael Eriksen, dean of Georgia State University's School of Public Health, and a former CDC and World Health Organization official.

The Georgia Department of Public Health under Dr. Fitzgerald's leadership is credited with effective preparations for domestic threats of both Ebola and Zika. State public-health officials worked closely with Emory University and the CDC when four Ebola patients, and others exposed to Ebola, were treated at Emory.

The department also developed a web portal that was seen by other states as a model for managing visitors returning from Ebola-affected countries.

Dr. Fitzgerald did her medical training at Emory and Emory-Grady hospitals in Atlanta. As a major in the Air Force, she served at the Wurtsmith Air Force Strategic Air Command (SAC) Base in Michigan and at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington.



Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald has been commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Health since 2011.

leads the CDC in its work to protect America's health 24/7," Mr. Price said in a statement. "We look forward to working with Dr. Fitzgerald to achieve President Trump's goal of strengthening public health surveillance and ensuring global health security at home and abroad."

Dr. Fitzgerald will assume her role at a critical time for

the CDC. The agency faces potential budget cutbacks while it is under pressure to fight a greater number of infectious-disease threats. It led the U.S. responses to the Zika epidemic in the Americas last year, as well as the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, where the agency is still involved. It is also at the forefront of public-health battles against anti-

biotic-resistant infections, food-borne outbreaks and obesity.

Dr. Fitzgerald's background in public health isn't as deep as that of many previous CDC directors—many of whom have master's degrees in public health or trained as epidemiologists. But she is well regarded by public-health officials and was the president-elect of the

### Trump to Fill Vacancy on Powerful Circuit

BY JESS BRAVIN

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump will soon have the ability to start remaking Washington's second-most powerful court, with the expected retirement of Judge Janice Rogers Brown from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Judge Brown, a 2005 appointee of GOP President George W. Bush, has notified officials that she is stepping

down, according to a person familiar with the matter. Judge Brown, 68 years old, didn't return a call seeking comment.

It is common for federal judges to time their retirements when a president of the party who appointed them is in office. That raises the chances of a like-minded successor.

Retired federal judges frequently assume "senior status," which allows them to maintain their salaries and

continue hearing cases, with some limitations.

Judge Brown has been among the most conservative voices on the D.C. Circuit, which hears many cases involving federal regulatory authority, the powers of the executive and legislative branches, and special matters such as appeals from Guantanamo Bay detainees.

Three current Supreme Court justices served on the D.C. Circuit, as did the late

Justice Antonin Scalia.

Last year, then-President Barack Obama, a Democrat, nominated the D.C. Circuit's chief judge, Merrick Garland, to succeed Justice Scalia on the Supreme Court. But Republicans blocked his nomination, saying they wouldn't consider any nominee until Mr. Obama left office. Justice Scalia's seat remained vacant until the Senate confirmed Mr. Trump's Supreme Court pick, Neil Gorsuch, this spring.



Judge Janice Rogers Brown has notified officials she is retiring.





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# WORLD NEWS

## Trump Breaks With Global Leaders

President clashes with counterparts over trade and climate at the G-20 summit

HAMBURG—President Donald Trump faced off with world leaders over trade policy on Friday, positioning the U.S. as the most vocal critic of the international economic order and leaving it largely isolated.

By Emre Peker,  
Anton Troianovski  
and William Horobin

The Group of 20 summit, long a platform to tackle common problems for leaders presiding over 80% of the world economy, split in two at its outset, with Mr. Trump adopting defiant opening positions toward the rest of a group largely united on the issues of trade and climate change.

Mr. Trump told the G-20 leaders in the closed-door meeting that they were "largely responsible" for the U.S.'s trade deficit, according to an official. China alone is responsible for about two-thirds of the U.S. trade deficit. European Union leaders bluntly warned the president that they would retaliate against protectionist measures from Washington.

"The vast majority pointed out that we need free, but also fair, trade," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said, seeking to reconcile the two positions. The U.S. has emphasized "fair" trade in contrast to past official language focusing on open markets.

"The discussions on this are



U.S. President Donald Trump met with his counterparts from China, Germany, Argentina and Australia on Friday in Hamburg.

very difficult," Ms. Merkel said.

Disagreements deepened a G-20 schism that officials had flagged before the two-day gathering. Mr. Trump's critical stance toward international initiatives largely isolated the U.S., while the remaining 19 pushed for more cooperation, according to people at the discussions.

The first day of the two-day summit paved the way for what is likely to be a bland joint communiqué that papers over deep rifts on two core issues of the meeting—trade and climate change—and testament to the American retreat from the global consensus since Mr. Trump's election.

With the global economic recovery slowly taking hold, some G-20 members urged the group to also tackle international crises from migration to the inequality wrought by globalization.

The unusual level of international tensions surrounding this year's gathering—and the attendance of polarizing leaders, from Russia's Vladimir Putin to Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan—were mirrored in the streets of Hamburg, where violent protesters set cars on fire and clashed with police for a second day as Ms. Merkel greeted arriving heads of state.

Before his arrival at the G-20 summit, Mr. Trump told a cheering crowd Thursday in

Poland that the West must fight existential threats and uphold its values. His address signaled a shift from May, when Mr. Trump withheld an unequivocal commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's defense during the alliance's summit.

"We've been waiting for a long time to hear these words from President Trump, but the real question is whether it was a one-time incident or a new policy," European Council President Donald Tusk said Friday as the gathering began.

Initial signs weren't encouraging to some of the summit participants.

For Mr. Trump, fair trade means erasing the U.S. trade

deficit with G-20 countries, and that position "drastically differed from all others," Russian Economic Development Minister Maxim Oreshkin said.

The White House has pledged to unilaterally rebalance what it brands as unfair bilateral terms of trade, in contrast with the rest of the G-20 countries that advocate for global platforms to resolve imbalances.

"The right course is a lack of protectionism; we have to ensure that we move together resolutely," European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said, citing the EU and Japan's landmark trade agreement on Thursday as an example of the way forward.

## South Calls for Talks With Pyongyang

BY JONATHAN CHENG

SEOUL—South Korean President Moon Jae-in urged dialogue with North Korea, extending an olive branch even as he backed U.S. calls for tougher action following Pyongyang's launch of its first intercontinental ballistic missile.

Mr. Moon, the country's first left-leaning president in nearly a decade, said in a speech at Berlin's old City Hall on Thursday that he is prepared to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. He called for more economic cooperation and a resumption of reunions between families separated during the Korean War in the early 1950s.

"The basic conditions have been met to restart the Korean Peninsula peace process," Mr. Moon said, his clearest statement on inter-Korean engagement since taking office in May.

The venue for the speech ahead of a Group of 20 summit in Hamburg was symbolic: Germany's reunification in 1990 has long served as a reference point on the divided Korean Peninsula.

Mr. Moon's message could chafe with that of U.S. President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, with whom he dined on Thursday in Hamburg. Messrs. Trump and Abe have demanded harsher punishments on North Korea in response to its recent missile tests.

## Protests Bring Violence, Chaos

By ANDREA THOMAS  
AND ANTON TROIANOVSKI

HAMBURG—Violent protests marred the meeting of world leaders in Germany on Friday as anarchists and others threw Molotov cocktails, blocked roadways, burned cars, attacked police officers and disrupted several events scheduled around the summit.

A signal rocket narrowly missed a police helicopter, officers guarding Russian President Vladimir Putin's hotel were assaulted, and hundreds of people tried to block streets near President Donald Trump's residence and elsewhere. A police officer fired a warning shot after he was attacked, police said. Hamburg's top security official said a small group of perpetrators had left "a trail of destruction."

The violence scattered across the city, which left at least 196 police officers and an unspecified number of others injured, cast a shadow over a summit meeting that German Chancellor Angela Merkel had hoped would produce a message of global harmony.



German Chancellor Angela Merkel endorsed peaceful protests but called the violence unacceptable.

"I have complete understanding for peaceful protests, but violent protests endanger people's lives," Ms. Merkel said. "This is not acceptable."

About a dozen burned cars stood on and around the Elbchaussee, one of this wealthy port city's best-known thor-

oughfares, by Friday evening. Some residential buildings and nearby banks and an IKEA furniture store had their windows smashed.

First lady Melania Trump, who couldn't be driven to an event for leaders' partners because of the protests, posted

on Twitter: "Thinking of those hurt in #Hamburg protests. Hope everyone stay safe!"

Many of the protests were peaceful. Four separate gatherings protesting Hamburg's trade industry took place largely without incident, police said.

fighting in that part of Syria.

Messrs. Putin and Trump spent considerable time talking about the Syrian war and would try to end the fighting in more swaths of the country, Mr. Tillerson said. The U.S. backs rebel groups opposing Syria's government, while Russia backs Syrian leader Bashar Al-Assad and has Iran and Iranian-backed militias as allies.

Mr. Tillerson said the Trump administration wants Russia's help in doing away with North Korea's nuclear missile program. While Russia also wants to rid the Korean Peninsula of nuclear weapons, it doesn't share the U.S.'s urgency, he said, adding that "we're going to continue these discussions and ask them to do more."

No other meetings between Messrs. Putin and Trump have been planned. But the U.S. came away from this one convinced the dialogue is in a better place.

Just three months ago, Mr. Trump said at a news conference that relations between the two countries "may be at an all-time low."

"The two leaders I would say connected very quickly," Mr. Tillerson added. "There was a very clear positive chemistry between the two."

—Felicia Schwartz, Paul Sonne, and Byron Tau contributed to this article.

## U.S. and Russia Agree On Syrian Cease-Fire

BY FELICIA SCHWARTZ

The U.S. and Russia agreed on a cease-fire in a violent corner of Syria in a limited deal that officials said Friday was designed to show the two powers are able to find ways to cooperate.

The agreement to secure a halt to fighting in southwest Syria came as Russia's President Vladimir Putin and President Donald Trump met for the first time in Germany and as Washington seeks to work with Moscow on the long-running Syria conflict.

If the deal is successful, it would be the first time Moscow and Washington succeeded in implementing a cease-fire together in Syria. A U.S.-Russian agreement last year on a nationwide cease-fire and closer military cooperation collapsed after Moscow-backed Syrian forces stepped up an offensive on Aleppo.

The U.S. backs rebel groups

opposing Syria's government

and Russia backs Syrian leader

Bashar al-Assad, with Iran and

Iranian-backed militias as allies.

Despite differing goals

and approaches, the U.S. and

Russia had been meeting se-

cretly in recent months to dis-

cuss setting up what officials

call a de-escalation zone in

southwest Syria, an area

where Syrian government

forces and rebels would be

separated.

Officials hope that the es-

tablishment of the first such

zone will help reduce violence and that the U.S. and Russia can work to set up other zones around the country. Officials have provided few details on how the zone will be enforced or the parameters of the agreement.

"This is our first indication of the U.S. and Russia being able to work together in Syria," Secretary of State Rex Tillerson told reporters in Hamburg.

The agreement is set to take effect on Sunday at noon Syria time. A senior State Department official involved in the negotiations said that the U.S., Jordan and Russia last week agreed on a "line of contact" where regime and opposition forces are operating.

Talks are continuing about monitoring mechanisms and other efforts to make the cease-fire more durable, the official said, adding that the ultimate goal would be to create conditions to try to bring about a political solution.

One question is whether Russia can deliver Iranian and Syrian cooperation for the cease-fire. Western diplomats in the region have been skeptical that Moscow has much influence over Damascus and Tehran, despite backing them militarily. Syrian government officials didn't comment on the initiative. The senior official involved in the talks said the U.S. had received assurances from Russia that the Assad regime would be willing to abide by the agreement.



Rebels fire mortar shells toward Syrian government forces.

## MEET

Continued from Page One  
was in the room, told reporters afterward. "And it was a good start."

Mr. Trump's interest lay not only in speaking in detail with the Russian leader, but also in trying to shape the narrative that emerged about the meeting. Toward that end, Mr. Tillerson provided a round-by-round account.

The first issue raised by Mr. Trump was one that has vexed him most at home: whether Russia interfered with the 2016 presidential race to help him win. As recently as the day before, Mr. Trump cast doubt on the U.S. intelligence community's conclusion that Russia interfered in the election and was prepared to do it again.

"No one really knows for sure," Mr. Trump said.

In private, however, the president told Mr. Putin that Americans are upset about Russia's actions and want them to stop, Mr. Tillerson said. The president invoked a bill passed 98-2 by the Senate last month that would slap new sanctions on Russia in reprisal. The measure is now pending in the House.

Mr. Trump's message: Rus-

## WORLD NEWS

# Talks on Reunifying Cyprus End in Failure

By NEKTARIA STAMOULI

Negotiations to reunify the divided island of Cyprus collapsed Friday, marking the end of a more than two-year process that had been seen as possibly the last chance to resolve the decades-old conflict.

"I'm very sorry to tell you that despite the very strong commitment and engagement of all the delegations and different parties...the conference on Cyprus was closed without an agreement being reached," United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres told a news conference after a tense final session at which voices were raised.

The island—a European Union member in the eastern Mediterranean close to Turkey and Syria—has been split between the Greek south and the Turkish north since 1974. Numerous peace talks over the years have failed.

Cyprus's President Nicos Anastasiades and Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci are strong supporters of the island's reunification and have sought to generate international momentum for a deal since talks began in 2015.

As the latest negotiations headed toward the last and most-sensitive issues—security arrangements and a military presence on the island—hopes for a deal began to

recede. "The ask was too big," one diplomat involved in the negotiations said.

The summit lasted 10 days in the Swiss resort of Crans-Montana among the Cypriot leaders, the foreign ministers of Greece, Turkey and Britain—the country's guarantor powers since 1974—the U.N. and the EU.

Turkey appeared to offer too little to the Greek Cypriots on the termination of the right of military intervention, the abolition of the guarantor treaty and the withdrawal of Turkish troops from the island, according to Greek and Cypriot officials.

Cyprus government spokesman Nikos Christodoulides said "tonight's development is in no way positive, but it is not the end of the road either." It was unclear whether reunification talks between the two sides could start again.

"This outcome shows the impossibility of reaching a settlement within the parameters of the Good Offices Mission," Turkish Foreign Minister Mavlyut Cavusoglu wrote on his Twitter feed, using a term referring to the U.N.

A deal could have delivered economic benefits, such as allowing the installation of natural-gas pipelines connecting Europe and the Middle East via the island.

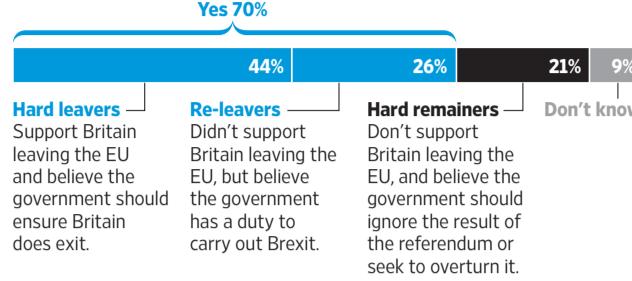


Theresa May attends the G-20 summit in Hamburg, Germany.

### Brexit Blues

A significant majority of Britons believes the U.K. should leave the European Union, but most think the country will get a poor deal.

#### Should Brexit be enacted?



#### How will the election result affect Brexit?



Source: YouGov survey of 1,651 adults conducted June 12-13, 2017. Margin of error +/-3 percentage points. THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

# Some Go Easier on Brexit

By JENNY GROSS  
AND STEPHEN FIDLER

LONDON—A month after Britain's election left Prime Minister Theresa May severely weakened, senior government figures are starting to show signs they are open to a less-definitive break from the European Union than they previously set out.

The shift, which comes as negotiations between the U.K. and the EU are getting underway has been subtle, but notable.

While the government's official line hasn't changed, several cabinet ministers have softened their language. Officials are stepping up efforts to engage with U.K. business leaders, who have complained their concerns about the possibility of an abrupt split from the EU were being ignored.

David Davis, the minister charged with overseeing Brexit, on Friday hosted business leaders at his country residence as part of a new initiative for better coordination between the government and industry—the first major

outreach effort.

The election results sent Mrs. May a powerful signal that the public was unhappy with her tough vision for Brexit and has restrained her ability to carry it out, analysts said.

Because her authority has been dented, cabinet officials have more leeway to express their opinions, said Tim Bale, politics professor at Queen Mary University of London. "They have more wiggle room because their boss isn't in charge in the same way she was before," Mr. Bale said.

Mrs. May had ruled out the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice in the U.K., post-Brexit, and insisted that the U.K. wouldn't allow free movement of EU workers.

She said the U.K. would pull out of the EU's zone of common regulation, known as the single market, and its customs union in which members trade tariff-free and impose common external tariffs on imports from nonmembers.

In a sign that the government may be open to relenting on its tough stance, Jeremy

Hunt, the health secretary, this week said the U.K. wants to work closely with the European Medicines Agency, the EU regulatory agency currently based in the U.K. He said the U.K. should be ready to accept some continued regulation from the bloc.

Mr. Hunt previously said he didn't expect the U.K. to re-

*A few U.K. ministers have felt emboldened to relent on the terms of the departure.*

main a member of the agency once it left the EU.

But even if the U.K. looks more amenable to accepting EU regulation in some areas as the price for better access to its market, there are big questions about whether the EU will accept it.

In a blunt speech Thursday, Michel Barnier, the bloc's chief Brexit negotiator, spelled out that Britain can't choose

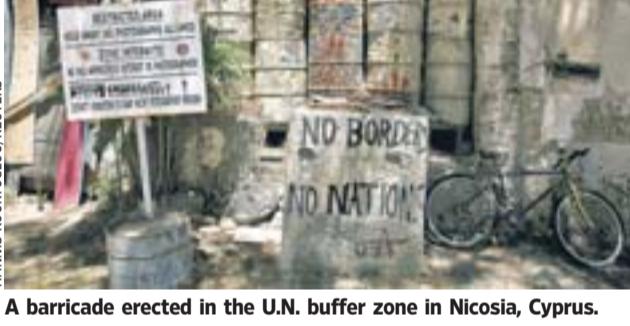
which parts of the single market it would like to participate in—for instance automotive and financial services—and which it wouldn't. "You cannot be half-in and half-out of the single market," he said.

Downing Street still says the election results haven't changed Britain's aims in negotiations. Defense Secretary Michael Fallon echoed that, saying Wednesday Britain's position hadn't changed.

"The red lines have not shifted," Mr. Fallon said in an interview. "There's a clear majority for getting on with Brexit," he said.

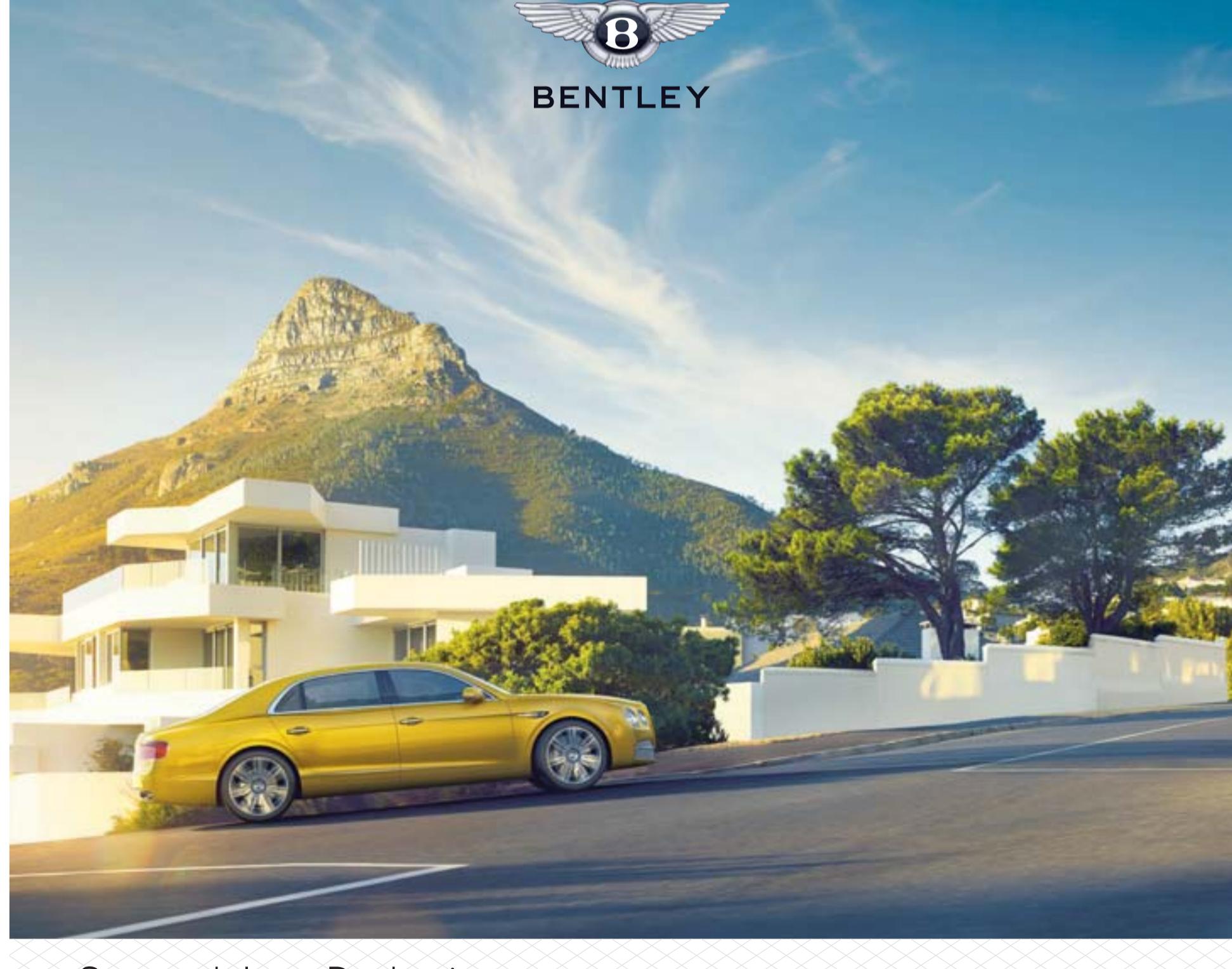
Analysts said, however, that Parliament's majority of pro-EU lawmakers could put pressure on Mrs. May to take a softer approach. Lawmakers could also be influenced by a sharp slowdown in U.K. growth in the first quarter of 2017 when the economy expanded at a quarterly rate of 0.2%, less than half that recorded for last year's final quarter.

◆ France takes steps to attract bankers after the split..... B9



A barricade erected in the U.N. buffer zone in Nicosia, Cyprus.

  
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## WORLD NEWS

### Ancient Iraqi City of Mosul Emerges From Islamic State Siege



NIGHTMARE OVER: As Iraqi security forces nearly complete their effort to recover Mosul, a soldier this week helped a family out of hiding. 'There were bombings all around us and the children almost died of thirst and hunger,' the woman said. Of the troops, she said, 'God bless them.' For more, go to <http://on.wsj.com/MosulPhotos>

### Canada Settles With Detainee Held by U.S.

BY PAUL VIEIRA  
AND DAVID GEORGE-COSH

OTTAWA—Canada announced a formal settlement with Omar Khadr, a Canadian held by the U.S. at Guantanamo Bay for more than a decade, as the government here attempts to bring closure to a case that fueled a bitter debate on how to handle national security threats.

Canada's Liberal government said in a statement Friday it wished to "apologize to Mr. Khadr for any role Canadian officials may have played in relation to his ordeal abroad and any resulting

harm."

Other settlement details, such as a payment for damages, weren't publicly disclosed. A person familiar with the details said the payment was about 10 million Canadian dollars (US\$7.75 million).

The settlement and apology, which immediately sparked an uproar here, brings an end to a drawn-out lawsuit Mr. Khadr's lawyers launched against the Canadian government. It sought C\$20 million in damages in connection with his detention at Guantanamo Bay and what it claimed was a violation of his constitutional rights by Canadian officials

who interviewed Mr. Khadr while he was in custody.

On the surface, Mr. Khadr's settlement bears some similarity to a payment Canada made in 2007 to Maher Arar, a Canadian citizen born in Syria, of more than C\$10 million after Canadian authorities sent incorrect intelligence about him to U.S. officials. That information was later used to remove Mr. Arar from a plane in New York and deport him to Syria, where he was jailed and tortured.

Mr. Khadr's case dates to 2002 when he was captured by U.S. forces after a firefight in Afghanistan in which he

killed a U.S. Army combat medic, according to a later conviction. His detention at the military facility in Guantanamo Bay became the most high-profile in Canada in the post 9/11 era, causing a years-long ideological fight. The former Conservative government under Prime Minister Stephen Harper portrayed Mr. Khadr as a convicted terrorist and national security threat, while others said his rights were being violated.

On Friday, Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale acknowledged that Canadians "hold deeply divided views" of Mr. Khadr, who was 15 years

old in July 2002 when he killed the medic with a grenade. The explosion also caused another soldier to lose sight in one eye.

Mr. Khadr was born in Canada and later brought to Afghanistan by his father Ahmed Khadr, who was killed in a 2003 shootout with Pakistani security forces, U.S. officials have said. The elder Mr. Khadr was a confidant of Osama bin Laden, and his family was reviled in Canada as terrorist sympathizers.

"The debate no doubt will continue, passionately, on all sides," Mr. Goodale said at a news conference in Ottawa.

### Egyptian Military Outposts Bombed

BY DAHLIA KHOLAIF

CAIRO—Vehicles packed with explosives blew up at military checkpoints in Egypt's northeastern Sinai on Friday in deadly attacks that could intensify criticism of President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attacks that killed at least 23 soldiers on the edge of the city of Rafah, near Egypt's border with Israel and the Gaza Strip, the Associated Press reported.

An army spokesman said that government forces killed 40 militants who were trying to carry out attacks on other military checkpoints.

Mr. Sisi swept to power in a 2013 military coup, promising a government that would be a bulwark against terrorism, both at home and in the region.

Since then, government forces have been mired in a prolonged war against Sinai Peninsula, a local branch of the fundamentalist Muslim militant group Islamic State.

In October, the group's fighters, traveling in a sport-utility vehicle, opened fire on a checkpoint in Sinai, killing 12 soldiers.

This and other recent terrorist attacks, especially against Egypt's minority Coptic Christian community, have deepened doubts that Mr. Sisi's administration can contain and defeat the militants.

Islamic State's local branch said it carried out the suicide bombing in the Coptic cathedral in Cairo in December that killed 28, and attacks on Coptic churches in Alexandria and Ismailia in April that killed 45.

Following that bloodshed, the government imposed a nationwide state of emergency expanding a similar edict that had been in place in Sinai since October 2014.



### Trading Punches

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# OBITUARIES

CARLA FENDI  
1937 – 2017

## Designer Led Global Expansion of Family Firm

One of five sisters who inherited an Italian fashion house, Carla Fendi led a global expansion of the family firm, starting in the 1960s. With excellent timing, she agreed to sell the firm in 1999 when demand for luxury brands was hot.

Ms. Fendi became the president of the company founded as a maker of leather goods in 1925 by her parents, Adele and Edoardo Fendi. The Fendi firm hired Karl Lagerfeld as a designer in the mid-1960s. He made furs into a fashion sensation again by dyeing them in bright colors and trimming them into whimsical patterns, attracting customers including Jacqueline Kennedy and Sophia Loren.

In the 1990s, Fendi came up with another huge seller: the Baguette bag, a purse shaped like French bread and featured in the television series "Sex and the City."

A bidding war for Fendi erupted in 1999. France's LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA teamed up with Prada Holding BV to outbid Gucci Group NV for a 51% stake in Fendi. The deal valued Fendi at nearly \$1 billion, or 33 times earnings.

LVMH later acquired full control of Fendi. Carla Fendi remained honorary president.

She died June 19 at age 79. Her family didn't disclose a cause of death.

—James R. Hagerty

OWEN GREEN  
1925 – 2017

## British Executive Built a Conglomerate

As chief executive of BTR PLC, Owen Green established himself in the 1980s as one of Britain's most admired corporate leaders by taking over poorly performing companies and knocking them into shape.

Once known as British Tyre & Rubber, BTR thrived on acquisitions, mostly in unglamorous industries. Its products included airplane brakes, golf balls, artificial limbs and pantyhose.

Mr. Green kept his London head office small and let managers of the many subsidiaries run their own shows so long as they met strict profit targets. In the 1990s, Mr. Green publicly denounced what he saw as greed among corporate executives.

"How a director who has just had an 18% rise dares tell his workers to show restraint and accept less than 5%, I cannot understand," he wrote. Executives were often mere functionaries and shouldn't be rewarded like entrepreneurs or show business stars, he argued.

BTR didn't survive long after Mr. Green's retirement in 1993. Conglomerates were losing favor, and it was becoming harder to find undervalued bid targets.

BTR agreed to merge with Siebe PLC in 1998, creating Invenys PLC, which focused on industrial automation and was later swallowed by Schneider Electric SA of France. Mr. Green died June 1 at age 92.

—James R. Hagerty

## WORLD WATCH

### UNITED KINGDOM

#### Sick Boy's Hospital Requests New Panel

The London hospital that won a legal battle in June to have a baby boy's life support withdrawn said Friday it asked a U.K. court for a fresh hearing in light of what it said was new evidence about a potential treatment for him.

Eleven-month-old Charlie Gard is on an artificial ventilator at Great Ormond Street Hospital and suffers from a rare genetic disease that affects his brain, breathing and muscles.

His parents lost a legal appeal in June to take him for experimental therapy in the U.S., after the hospital argued successfully that the treatment, which hasn't been tested on mice or humans with Charlie's condition, wasn't in his best interests and wouldn't help his condition. The court also said his life support was likely causing him pain and should be withdrawn.

The hospital said Friday that "two international hospitals and their researchers have communicated to us as late as the last 24 hours that they have fresh evidence about their proposed experimental treatment." It didn't give further details about the hospitals or what the evidence was.

—Joanna Sugden

### FRANCE

#### Minister Scrutinized For a Past Action

Prosecutors are investigating a Las Vegas party that President Emmanuel Macron's labor minister helped organize, a spokeswoman for the Paris prosecutor's office said Friday.

The event, which took place in January 2016 as part of a technology trade show, was organized by Business France, a government agency, headed at the time by Muriel Pénicaud before she was appointed labor minister in May.

Prosecutors suspect Business France, an agency that promotes the country's business interests abroad, violated procurement rules by failing to establish a public tender to select the company that would organize the party, and instead offering the job to French advertising agency group Havas SA.

"I maintain in the strongest possible terms that I have done nothing wrong," Ms. Pénicaud said in an emailed statement on Friday.

Earlier this year Business France acknowledged a "potential irregularity" in the tender process. A spokeswoman for the agency declined to comment. A spokeswoman for Havas didn't respond to a request to comment.

—Noémie Bissiere

### RUSSIA

#### Opposition Leader Is Released From Jail

Opposition leader Alexei Navalny was released from jail Friday after serving 25 days for organizing a wave of protests.

"We will, of course, not bend under any pressure," Mr. Navalny said after he returned to the office of his Fund for Fighting Corruption.

He was arrested June 12 as thousands of protesters gathered for an unsanctioned demonstration in Moscow. Protests in response to Mr. Navalny's call occurred in more than 100 Russian cities and towns that day, one of the strongest showings by the marginalized opposition for several years.

Nearly 2,000 people were detained at the protests, most of them in Moscow and St. Petersburg. Mr. Navalny was sentenced to 30 days in jail, but a court later reduced that to 25.

He told supporters at his headquarters that he was glad that "work continued even in my absence, and I will continue working on it in the same cheerful manner."

The anticorruption campaigner—who had been jailed several times before his latest conviction and is the most persistent of Kremlin critics—aims to run for Russian president in 2018.

—Associated Press

J. TYLEE WILSON  
1931 – 2017

## Executive Made Deal That United RJR Nabisco

BY JAMES R. HAGERTY

J. Tylee Wilson didn't know what he was getting himself into when he sat down to make a deal with Ross Johnson in 1985.

As chief executive of the cigarette maker R.J. Reynolds Industries Inc., Mr. Wilson agreed to pay \$4.9 billion for Nabisco Brands Inc., the maker of Oreo cookies and Ritz crackers, headed by the gregarious Mr. Johnson. Within 18 months, Mr. Wilson was out as CEO of the combined company, and Mr. Johnson took the reins.

Then Mr. Wilson watched from the sidelines as the new RJR Nabisco spiraled into the 1988 bidding war that became a parable of corporate greed, inspiring the book and movie "Barbarians at the Gate."

The 6-foot-2 Mr. Wilson, a Camel smoker who favored three-piece suits, was used to overseeing a global business including tobacco, alcohol and Del Monte fruit. Retired from RJR Nabisco in his late 50s, he settled into a quieter life of consulting, serving on boards and running a marina.

Mr. Wilson died June 21 at home in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. He was 86.

James Tylee Wilson, often called Ty, was born June 18, 1931, and grew up in Teaneck, N.J. His father was a sales manager at a textile company. The younger Mr. Wilson earned a degree in government at Lafayette College in Easton, Pa., and later said his studies there taught him how to think. He was a member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps and later served as a weapons instructor in the Army. One of his early jobs was installing toilet-paper dispensers at gas stations. He moved on to Procter & Gamble Co. and then Chesebrough-Pond's Inc. As a rising young executive at that



humans—period."

In any case, Reynolds and other tobacco companies were eager to keep diversifying. After Reynolds bought Nabisco, Mr. Johnson became president. Mr. Wilson was expected to serve as CEO of the combined RJR Nabisco for at least a couple of years before handing the reins to Mr. Johnson. "I'd like to run it for a while," Mr. Wilson told the Times. "I sure would."

Within a year, though, some of the directors were annoyed that Mr. Wilson didn't brief them on plans for a safer "smokeless" cigarette (which later flopped). Meanwhile, Mr. Johnson told directors he was thinking of leaving RJR, according to "Barbarians at the Gate" by former Wall Street Journal reporters Bryan Burrough and John Helyar. The board, eager to keep Mr. Johnson, made him CEO, sending Mr. Wilson into an early retirement.

Mr. Johnson tried to take RJR Nabisco private with a leveraged buyout in October 1988. Rival bids came in from Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., or KKR, and a group led by First Boston Corp. First Boston sought advice from Mr. Wilson during the battle, and there were suggestions he might return as CEO; that didn't happen. RJR Nabisco's board ended up accepting a \$25.07 billion bid from KKR.

During his retirement years, Mr. Wilson provided advice and donations to health-care organizations. He enjoyed fishing and named his boat Integrity. For a few years, he owned and managed a marina in Jacksonville, Fla. At Wake Forest University, he provided funding for the J. Tylee Wilson chair in business ethics.

He is survived by his wife Patricia, three children and seven grandchildren.

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## ELEGANT ELEPHANTS CARTIER DIAMOND BROOCH

Celebrated jeweler. Whimsical design. Luxury materials. Charming and elegant, this diamond elephant brooch embodies the creative, high-fashion jewelry designs for which the legendary house of Cartier is renowned. Crafted of 18K yellow gold, the pair is embedded with approximately 1.75 total carats of pavé-set white diamonds, while each is set with a single emerald eye. Marked "750 Cartier 647871." Circa 1990. 1 1/8" w. #30-6492

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## IN DEPTH

# IHS

*Continued from Page One*  
go anywhere else," said Lisa White Pipe, a tribal council member for the Rosebud Sioux, whose father died last year after a delay in cancer treatment that she blames on the agency.

The problems have come to a head in recent months after IHS hospitals repeatedly failed inspections, shut down services or lost access to crucial federal funds. Such failures have prompted new calls for broader oversight of the IHS by Congress. The Rosebud tribe, whose reservation stretches across a rural swath of South Dakota, is also now suing the agency, alleging that the IHS has failed to fulfill its treaty responsibility to care for tribal members.

"People are dying here as a result of the care they are not receiving, or the care they are receiving," said U.S. Sen. John Barrasso, (R., Wyo.), who until January chaired Congress's Indian Affairs Committee, in an interview.

The latest crisis has arisen after the IHS and the Health Department failed to address a chorus of warnings over many years about neglect at the facilities. The warnings came from lawmakers in both parties, internal whistleblowers and the families of patients who died. Over and over, they reported that IHS hospitals were plagued by inadequate supplies, poor training, overwhelmed staff and critical positions left unfilled.

The agency has lacked a permanent director since 2015. People familiar with the matter said they expect a nominee for that post to be announced soon.

Rear Adm. Michael D. Weahkee, the agency's current acting director, said in a statement after this article was published



Oliver Semans, a member of the Rosebud Sioux tribal health board, at a cemetery on the South Dakota reservation. Tori Kitcheyan, below, said her aunt, Debra Free, died at the Indian Health Service hospital in Winnebago, Neb., after being oversedated.

Winnebago but was sent home without treatment despite medical staff documenting his severe back pain—10 on a scale of 10—and ashen skin color, according to one of those reports.

Hours later, a nurse read a test result that showed his kidneys were shutting down. The finding would normally lead to hospitalization, doctors say. Instead, the nurse left a phone message telling Mr. Spotted Wood to avoid calcium products like the antacid Tums and come back in two days, a federal inspection report said.

One of his sisters, Betsy Spotted Wood, herself an IHS nurse who was at the hospital that day, said "his skin coloring was way off. You could tell something was seriously wrong."

Mr. Spotted Wood didn't make it to his follow-up appointment. He died in his bed of kidney failure on Jan. 1, 2015, the day he had planned to return to the hospital.

An IHS spokeswoman, Jennifer Buschick, provided a statement saying the agency wouldn't comment on specific medical cases, lawsuits or regulatory findings. Officials at the IHS's Maryland headquarters fielded queries from The Wall Street Journal related to the agency's individual hospitals and clinics.

Following Mr. Spotted Wood's death, U.S. hospital regulators found the Winnebago facility failed to meet basic standards in 11 of 30 random cases they reviewed, including his case, during a routine inspection.

Winnebago is one of seven IHS hospitals that the regulator, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said had put patients in danger since 2010—more than a quarter of the 26 hospitals the IHS manages around the country.

The IHS and tribal health advocates say Congress underfunds the agency, and the Trump administration's 2018 budget proposes cutting about \$300 million, a roughly 6% decrease from its 2017 level.

The IHS spent \$3,688 on care for the average patient in 2015, according to an agency document. The Veterans Health Administration, for comparison,



BENJAMIN RASMUSSEN FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

### Missed symptoms, and a tragic death

Some of the families of patients who died unexpectedly under the IHS's care said the toll extends beyond the hospitals that have been sanctioned. Among them, is Wakanda Gonsalves, a high school senior and prom queen, who went to an IHS clinic in Sisseton, S.D., on May 4, 2012, because she was coughing up blood. She was sent home that same day, with cough syrup, an inhaler and antianxiety medication. Two nights later, her parents woke to Ms. Gonsalves's screams, her mother, Lisa, recalled. They found her convulsing

spent an average of \$11,056 on medical services for each veteran receiving VA health care in 2015, that agency's records show. The agencies count users of their services differently, and their populations vary.

Obesity and diabetes on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations are more than 40% higher than nationwide, according to a Journal analysis of data

in bed before she went limp.

"My husband kept doing CPR and chest compressions. Over and over," Lisa Gonsalves said. "But she had no pulse."

An autopsy showed Ms. Gonsalves suffered a blood clot in her lung. The IHS-contracted doctor who treated her said in a court deposition he didn't review an X-ray showing a lung abnormality, or follow up after an irregular blood test. The staffing agency that employed the doctor settled a lawsuit with Ms. Gonsalves's family for an undisclosed sum in 2015.

In court filings, both the doctor and the contractor denied any wrongdoing. Lawyers for both didn't respond to requests for comment.

from the University of Wisconsin. At least 50% of residents of those two reservations, as well as a third of those served by the Winnebago hospital, earned less than the federal poverty line, 2015 data show.

Such factors, coupled with remoteness—Rosebud is more than 100 miles from the nearest Wal-Mart—make recruitment difficult. The IHS said vacancy

ding, Ms. Marino learned to make apple strudel, using a recipe from an old Slovak cookbook, which belonged to her husband's great-aunt.

Mary Beth McKnight Potts, of Youngstown, loaded about 3,000 cookies in coolers destined for her niece's 2015 wedding in North Carolina. She baked eight varieties, including pecan tarts, her specialty. Ms. Potts, a seasoned baker, is often asked to help with cookie tables and will interview the couple beforehand. "What do you want this cookie table to say? Where do you want the 'Wow' factor?"

She posts recipes on the Youngstown Cookie Table Facebook page, which has more than 4,500 members around the country. Cookie tables have shown up at weddings in Florida, Arizona and Texas. Linda Sproul, who created the page in 2009, has since moved to Missouri but remains its administrator to screen members. "I didn't want it to be commercialized, or too exclusive," she says.

They post photos and recipes and discuss cookie-to-guest ratios, 12-to-1 being the consensus if you want guests to take some home, which most agree you do and suggest decorative bags or

Chinese takeout containers. They ask what cookies freeze well and whether the proper name of the Eastern European pastry is kolache, or kolachi, and best filled with nuts or cheese or apricot preserves.

Another question is when to open cookie tables, says planner Anna Serrano, of Your Event, Your Way in Youngstown. When guests arrive, or after dinner? Do you drape tulle over them so people can see but not touch, or keep them in a separate room for a big reveal? "Whatever the client wants, I try to make happen," she says.

Newer cookies like vegan chocolate, rosemary shortbread and Twix cookies are showing up on tables, says Johanna Pro, who organized the Traditional Pittsburgh Wedding Cookie Table when the city hosted the National Main Street Now Conference this spring. There were 319 dozen cookies in 39 varieties, says Ms. Pro, who works for the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

She usually makes 10 dozen lady locks for weddings, which she learned to make from her Italian mother, but only a few dozen Pesche Con Crema, spe-

cial cookies that look like peaches. Those are reserved for dear friends and relatives because they require baking, then hollowing out small balls of dough, which are filled with lemon custard and sandwiched together, brushed with peach-colored liqueur and coated in sugar. "I'm personally a cookie snob," Ms. Pro says. "I would never put a chocolate chip cookie on a cookie table."

Rachel Sheller has been dreaming of her cookie table since she was a little girl and attended her first wedding. "There was something magical about them," she says. "I wanted the biggest."

She and her fiancé, Chris Hitchings, both from the Youngstown area, have invited 500 people to their July 22 wedding. They recently sat at the kitchen table deciding on which cookies they want, remembering ones from friends' weddings and their own favorites: buckeyes and chocolate macadamia nut. So far, she has 25 types of cookies pledged by friends and family.

"Years from now, I want people to remember my wedding and say, 'Rachel's cookie table was immaculate,'" she says.

# BAKE

*Continued from Page One*  
Banquet Centre, a Youngstown-area reception hall. When his daughter, Mallory, married in 2015, Mr. Naffah recalled "we had tens of thousands of cookies," filling nine banquet tables. Six people worked for two days on the display. They also served cake.

Don Warg assumes every reception at Mr. Anthony's Banquet Center, the Youngstown-area hall where he is assistant manager, will have a cookie table. One recent Saturday, when they had two 6 p.m. receptions, staff had to begin at about 11 a.m. to get the cookies out in time.

These days, couples looking to add something different to their receptions are trying non-wedding-cake options, ordering tarts, doughnuts, pies and parfaits, brownies and blondies. S'mores bars are big, too.

The appeal of the cookie table is that it is a tradition handed down through generations—at least in areas such as Youngstown and Pittsburgh, which both claim to be its birth-



Michal Naffah, owner of Embassy Banquet Centre in Ohio, had an elaborate cookie table display when his daughter married in 2015.

place. As children grow up and move on, the idea has spread. Cookie tables have been reported in 17 states and Canada, according to the Mahoning Valley Historical Society in Youngstown and postings on the Youngstown Cookie Table Facebook page.

There is an emotional connection for some. Mothers of the brides had cookie tables at their weddings, with pizzelles and nut horns made by teams of aunts and great-aunts. But it isn't carefree.

Buckeyes, while delicious, are

tedious. Powdered sugar sweats. Having been to weddings where everyone noticed a skimpy cookie table, brides-to-be worry about running out.

Its origins are unclear, whether it was brought over by Italian or Eastern European immigrants or originated in the U.S. during the Depression. Families couldn't afford wedding cakes and made their best pastries instead, with neighbors pitching in, says Jacqueline Marino, co-editor of *Car Bombs to Cookie Tables*, a book of essays about Youngstown. For her wed-

ding, Ms. Marino learned to make apple strudel, using a recipe from an old Slovak cookbook, which belonged to her husband's great-aunt.

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# OPINION

THE WEEKEND INTERVIEW with Jennifer Doudna | By Kyle Peterson

## The Gene Editors Are Only Getting Started

**R**ewriting the code of life has never been so easy. In 2012 scientists demonstrated a new DNA-editing technique called Crispr. Five years later it is being used to cure mice with HIV and hemophilia. Geneticists are engineering pigs to make them suitable as human organ donors. Bill Gates is spending \$75 million to endow a few *Anopheles* mosquitoes, which spread malaria, with a sort of genetic time bomb that could wipe out the species. A team at Harvard plans to edit 1.5 million letters of elephant DNA to resurrect the woolly mammoth.

"I frankly have been flabbergasted at the pace of the field," says Jennifer Doudna, a Crispr pioneer who runs a lab at the University of California, Berkeley. "We're barely five years out, and it's already in early clinical trials for cancer. It's unbelievable."

**Would you eradicate malaria-carrying insects? Change your baby's DNA? Scientists soon may have the power to do both.**

The thing to understand about Crispr isn't its acronym—for the record, it stands for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats—but that it makes editing DNA easy, cheap and precise. Scientists have fiddled with genes for decades, but in clumsy ways. They zapped plants with radiation to flip letters of DNA at random, then looked for useful mutations. They hijacked the infection mechanisms of viruses and bacteria to deliver beneficial payloads. They shot cells with "gene guns," which are pretty much what they sound like. The first one, invented in the 1980s, was an air pistol modified to fire particles coated with genetic material.

Crispr is much more precise, as Ms. Doudna explains in her new book, "A Crack in Creation." It works like this: An enzyme called Cas9 can be programmed to latch onto any 20-letter sequence of DNA. Once there, the enzyme cuts the double helix, splitting the DNA strand in two. Scientists supply a snippet of genetic material they want to insert, making sure its ends match up with the cut strands. When the cell's repair mechanism kicks in to fix the cut, it pastes in the new DNA.

It's so exact that Crispr blurs the meaning of "genetically modified organism." The activists yelling about "frankenfish" are generally upset about transgenic plants and animals—those with DNA inserted from other species. But what about using Crispr to alter only a few letters of an organism's own genome, the kind of mutation that could happen naturally?

Last year a professor at Penn State created blemish-resistant mushrooms by knocking out a gene that causes them to turn brown when handled. "It attracted

Through a citywide program called Public School Choice, parents can apply to move their children from a poorly performing school to a better one. But the city Education Department's stringent policy means that many of these requests are rejected. Last year about 5,500 families applied, but the city approved transfers for only 3,500 students.

Soula Adam, a single mother in Astoria, Queens, knows the disappointment of the rest. For years she tried to help her son Harry escape what she felt were lackluster teachers at P.S. 70, the same neighborhood school that she had attended as a girl. "I liked P.S. 122 on Ditmars Boulevard," she recalls, explaining that the school was more rigorous and only two miles away. But she knew the city's transfer guidelines would never allow her son into P.S. 122. "If you're not zoned," she says, "you couldn't get in."

Harry tried to win a spot at a charter school through an open lottery, but his number wasn't called.

attention," Ms. Doudna says, "because the U.S. Department of Agriculture ruled that that type of plant product would not be regulated as a genetically modified organism."

Ms. Doudna welcomes this kind of streamlining as the Food and Drug Administration considers its own approach to Crispr crops. "It's crazy. It takes years and years and years to bring a plant to market," she says. "I'm all for safety of course and that has to come first. But I think it has to be done with knowledge of the science that makes sense."

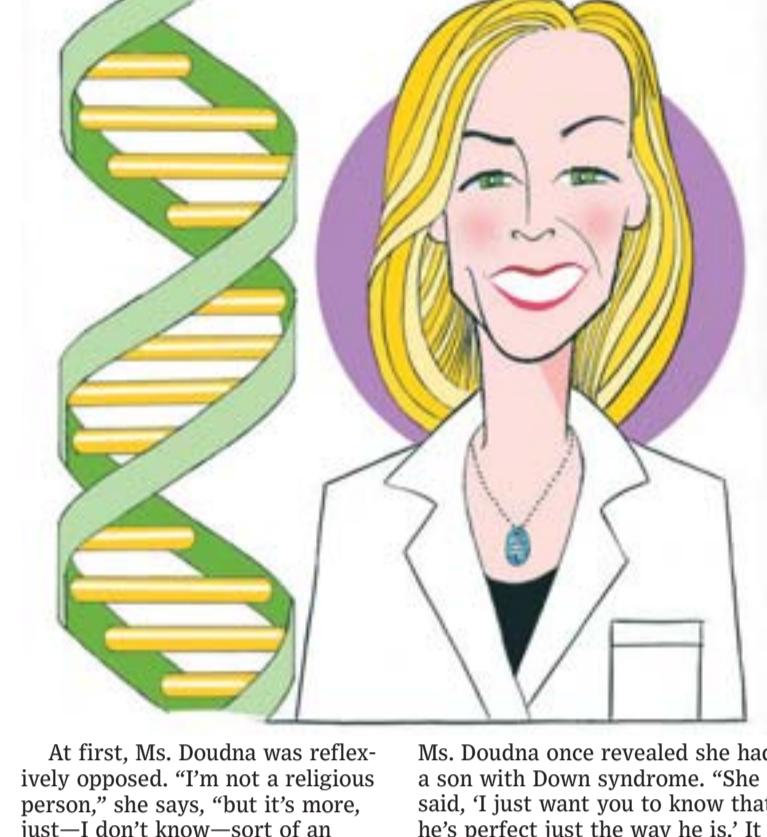
Medical labs are also putting Crispr to work, since it is potentially meticulous enough for routine use on people. The human genome is 3.2 billion letters, and in the wrong place a single typo—a dozen or so misplaced atoms—can create misery. For patients with disorders like cystic fibrosis, the obstacles to fixing the genetic glitch with Crispr seem mostly practical.

First, there's delivery: A human body contains some 50 trillion cells. How do you get Crispr to the affected ones, and what percentage need to be edited successfully to matter? Ms. Doudna says injecting Crispr-laden viruses into animal tissues has resulted in rates of editing on the order of 70%—enough to have a therapeutic benefit: "In muscular dystrophy, for example, it looks like you only need to have somewhere between 10% to 20%."

Second, there's the risk: Although Crispr aims at a 20-letter DNA sequence, occasionally it can hit a partial match and make an unintended edit. "For any drug that we're developing for treatment, you're going to have some kind of risk factors," Ms. Doudna says. "In this case it might be changes to DNA, and you have to decide what's the right level that you would tolerate." There are ways to minimize the mistakes, and some studies show so few off-target edits "that it's difficult to distinguish them from just errors in DNA sequencing."

What seems to merit the risk today? "Sickle-cell disease," Ms. Doudna says: "Well-known mutation. Single gene is involved. No treatments right now for people. They have these horrible crises where they're in terrible pain." Moreover, the faulty red blood cells can be drawn from a vein and isolated. "The actual DNA editing can be done outside the body," she says, "validated first, and then the cells implanted and allowed to repopulate the blood supply." The approach may work for cancer, too: A Crispr clinical trial awaiting FDA approval would pull white blood cells, give them tumor-killing superpowers, and then put them back into action.

It would be technically simpler, rather than working in fully grown patients, to fix genetic disorders early, in human eggs, sperm or embryos. But this raises thorny moral questions, since edits made to these cells would pass down to future generations, who can't consent to having their genes tweaked. In debates about this, the word "eugenics" comes up.



KEN FALLIN

At first, Ms. Doudna was reflexively opposed. "I'm not a religious person," she says, "but it's more, just—I don't know—sort of an intrinsic reaction, that it feels like a realm where maybe we shouldn't be messing around." Her position softened, somewhat to her own surprise, as she heard from hundreds of people facing horrific genetic diseases. "They're reaching out because they're desperate," she says. "A lot of them are asking me the questions you're asking about: How soon? How long will it be? Is there hope for my child?"

Ms. Doudna recalls an email from a 26-year-old woman who'd found out she carried a mutation in the gene *BRCA1* that is associated with a 60% risk of breast cancer by age 70: "She said, 'Should I have a mastectomy?'"—this was right after Angelina Jolie, worried about a similar mutation, did the same—"Or do you think that gene-editing is going to come along in time for me? Or if not for me, at least so that I can get rid of this mutation in my eggs?"

There was a man who watched his father die of Huntington's disease and had three sisters diagnosed. There was a woman whose daughter had given birth to a child with Fragile X syndrome, which causes intellectual disability, but deeply wanted to conceive again. "She was very emotional," Ms. Doudna recounts. "She said, 'If there were a way to use this, and if I could use it in embryos or germ cells, I would have absolutely no hesitation about doing it.'"

A few bioethicists have even argued that research on editing human embryos is a "moral imperative," since roughly 6% of all babies have "serious birth defects." As for the risk of "off target" edits, merely smoking cigarettes can create mutations in a man's sperm. One academic joked that if old-fashioned sex were up for regulatory review, the FDA would never sign off.

Not everyone has the same reaction. A reporter interviewing

the edited DNA would be diluted into oblivion.

That's where the gene drive comes in. Scientists using Crispr in the lab have given the mosquito DNA that causes its cells to create Crispr. The result is a recursive, self-propagating gene that slices its reproductive competition. The edited mosquito passes on the sterility gene to nearly 100% of its offspring—which in turn do the same. Theoretically, releasing a single gene-drive insect, or letting one escape out an air-conditioning vent, could spread the edited DNA to the entire species.

Theoretically. "Although we understand that these gene drives can work in a laboratory setting efficiently in fruit flies and things like that, how well would they really work environmentally?" Ms. Doudna asks. "Evolution is a very strong force. If you put a species in a wild setting where they have to compete with other species, if they have a disadvantage reproductively, even if it's a small disadvantage, they're going to lose out."

Ms. Doudna still needs to be convinced, too, of the wisdom of letting loose a gene drive. She cites her native Hawaii. "Species were introduced to that environment that ended up having large unintended consequences," she says. Seeing that made her "very respectful of nature and very cautious about human beings' thinking they have the knowledge to predict what will happen."

A final Crispr worry is that it makes DNA editing so easy anybody can do it. Simple hobby kits sell online for \$150, and a community biotech lab in Brooklyn offers a class for \$400. Jennifer Lopez is reportedly working on a TV drama called "C.R.I.S.P.R." that, according to the Hollywood Reporter, "explores the next generation of terror: DNA hacking."

Ms. Doudna provides a bit of assurance. "Genetics is complicated. You have to have quite a bit of knowledge, I think, to be able to do anything that's truly dangerous," she says. "There's been a little bit of hype, in my opinion, about DIY kits and are we going to have rogue scientists—or even nonscientists—randomly doing crazy stuff. I think that's not too likely."

Still, a couple of years ago Ms. Doudna had a dream in which a colleague asked her to explain gene-editing to someone very important. Turns out it was Hitler, except with the face of a pig. This, she says now, was her awakening to Crispr's potential. "Try to imagine: We're biochemists here, we're futzing around with bacteria, just fartin' around the lab, and students are doing experiments," she says. "Then suddenly you have this discovery that you realize can be harnessed in a very different way."

A few moments later she adds: "It was just this growing realization that this is no joke. This is a really seriously powerful technology."

*Mr. Peterson is the Journal's deputy editorial features editor.*

## New York City Has 1,800 Public Schools. Why Not Let Parents Pick?



New York

As the final bells of the academic year sounded in New York City's public schools two weeks ago, thousands of students and parents were dreaming of a better education down the block.

Through a citywide program called Public School Choice, parents can apply to move their children from a poorly performing school to a better one. But the city Education Department's stringent policy means that many of these requests are rejected. Last year about 5,500 families applied, but the city approved transfers for only 3,500 students.

Soula Adam, a single mother in Astoria, Queens, knows the disappointment of the rest. For years she tried to help her son Harry escape what she felt were lackluster teachers at P.S. 70, the same neighborhood school that she had attended as a girl. "I liked P.S. 122 on Ditmars Boulevard," she recalls, explaining that the school was more rigorous and only two miles away. But she knew the city's transfer guidelines would never allow her son into P.S. 122. "If you're not zoned," she says, "you couldn't get in."

Harry tried to win a spot at a charter school through an open lottery, but his number wasn't called.

Eventually he earned a scholarship to Saint Demetrios Astoria, a Greek Orthodox school close to home. That private generosity opened the door for the Adams, but thousands of other public-school pupils remain stuck.

Transfers between New York City schools first became available in 2003, after the No Child Left Behind Act required districts nationwide to create options for students whose schools lagged behind federal standards for progress. For more than a

**Students can transfer out of 88 struggling schools, but many are trapped in merely mediocre ones.**

decade, however, the Education Department permitted moves only for students with specific hardships, such as health issues or one-way commutes over 75 minutes. Former Schools Chancellor Joel Klein defended this restriction on transfers for the sake of choice. "The system doesn't work that way," he told the Observer in 2014. "By definition, some kids get better choices."

But last year the city began allowing "guidance" transfers, available to students who are not "progressing or achieving academically or socially." The update received

favorable notice from school-choice advocates, but the kicker is in the fine print: Transfers are still open only to students in 5% of New York City's schools—the 88 designated as "priority" because of perennially poor performance. But nonpriority schools can still be bad, with as few as a quarter of test-takers proficient in English and math. Students at these schools have no recourse to move out and up.

Consider a tale of two elementary schools: P.S. 173 (Fresh Meadows) and P.S. 187 (Hudson Cliffs), less than a mile apart in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan. Both are zoned schools with no admission criteria beyond place of residence, and yet the share of students passing state exams in 2016 was 30 percentage points higher at Hudson Cliffs. The only thing that stops a bright student at Fresh Meadows from attaining success up the street is the city's red tape.

In the long term, the free flow of students enabled by a reformed transfer program would put pressure on underperforming schools, as students left and budgets tightened. Successful schools wouldn't be burdened by the influx of newcomers, since New York's funding algorithm allocates enough money each year to cover the marginal cost of each additional student.

Critics may say the way to fix a bad school isn't to cut its funding.

But why should fear of tight budgets hold back students who are ready to succeed? Moreover, many of the city's specialized private schools that serve low-income students have delivered impressive results with as little as half the funding per student as traditional public schools.

New York pours most of its hope for academic mobility into the high-school admissions process, which lets students apply to any school in the city through a competitive application. But ninth grade is often too late for students who might have thrived with better primary education. A 2016 report by New York's Independent Budget Office showed that regardless of individual

scores, students from low-performing middle schools were much less likely to apply to top high schools. However bright they are, children in pitiful schools may develop low expectations that conform to their environments, long before they get a shot at an elite high school like Stuyvesant or Bronx Science.

The Education Department's summer homework is simple: Revamp the city's transfer standards. Come up with a plan to promote the new policy in every school's guidance office. And then get out of the way.

*Mr. Ukueberuwa is a Robert L. Bartley Fellow at The Wall Street Journal.*

## Notable & Quotable: Roberts

*Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts speaking at his son's middle-school graduation, June 3:*

From time to time in the years to come, I hope you will be treated unfairly, so that you will come to know the value of justice. I hope that you will suffer betrayal because that will teach you the importance of loyalty. Sorry to say, but I hope you will be lonely from time to time so that you don't take friends for granted. I wish you bad luck, again, from time to time so that you will be conscious of the role of chance in life and understand that your

success is not completely deserved and that the failure of others is not completely deserved either. And when you lose, as you will from time to time, I hope every now and then, your opponent will gloat over your failure. It is a way for you to understand the importance of sportsmanship. I hope you'll be ignored so you know the importance of listening to others, and I hope you will have just enough pain to learn compassion. Whether I wish these things or not, they're going to happen. And whether you benefit from them or not will depend upon your ability to see the message in your misfortunes.



## OPINION

# A Pope and a President in Poland



**DECLARATIONS**  
By Peggy Noonan

The greatest speeches given in Poland in the modern era were delivered in June 1979 by a pope. Ten months into his papacy, John Paul II sweetly asked the government of Poland for permission to journey home from Rome to visit his people. Europe was divided between the politically free and the unfree, on one side the democracies of Western Europe, on the other the communist bloc. Poland had been under the Soviet yoke since the end of World War II.

### In a good Warsaw speech, Trump invokes one of Pope John Paul II's great 1979 orations.

John Paul knew his people: They did not want dictatorship, and a primary means of resistance was through their faith. Every time you took communion it was a rebellion, a way of reminding yourself and others that you answered to a higher authority. The Catholic Church of Poland survived precariously, within limits, under constant pressure, as John Paul well knew, having been a cardinal in Krakow for 11 years.

What would happen when the first Polish pope went home? If Warsaw refused his request it would be an admission of weakness: They feared his power to rouse and awaken the people. But if they invited him they risked rebellion, which would bring on a Soviet crackdown and could bring in Soviet troops. They chose to

invite him, calculating that as a sophisticated man he would, knowing the stakes, play it cool. He happily accepted their terms: It would be a religious pilgrimage, not a political event.

The Polish government did everything it could to keep crowds down. Parade routes were kept secret or changed. State media would censor word of what was said and done. Grade-school teachers told pupils he was a wicked man in gold robes, an enemy of the state.

And so it began. On June 2, in Victory Square in the Old City of Warsaw, John Paul celebrated Mass. Halfway through, the crowd began to chant: "We want God! We want God!" He asked: What was the greatest work of God? Man. Who redeemed man? Christ. Therefore, he declared, "Christ cannot be kept out of the history of man in any part of the globe, at any longitude or latitude. . . . The exclusion of Christ from the history of man is an act against man." Even those who oppose Christ, he said, still inescapably live within the Christian context of history. And Christ is not only the past for Poland, He is also the future, "our Polish future."

The chant turned to thunder: "We want God!" John Paul was speaking not only to the faithful but to the rulers and apparatchiks of an atheist state. He did not explicitly challenge them. He spoke only of spiritual matters. And yet he was telling the government that Poland is the faith and the faith is Poland, and there is nothing communism can ever do to change that.

More, he was saying: God is real. And God sees one unity of Europe. He does not see "East" and "West," divided by a wall or a gash in the soil. In this way, as I once wrote, he divided the dividers from God's view of history.

The next day he spoke outside the cathedral in the small city of Gniezno.



Pope John Paul in 1979 and President Trump Thursday.

Again, he struck only spiritual themes—nothing about governments, unions, fights for political freedom. "Does not Christ want, does not the Holy Spirit demand, that the pope, himself a Pole, the pope, himself a Slav, here and now should bring out into the open the spiritual unity of Christian Europe . . . ?"

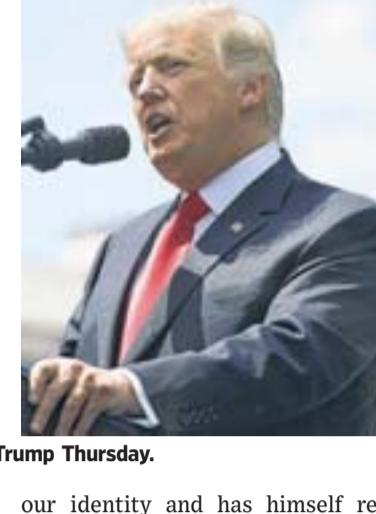
He extended his hands in an apostolic gesture. "I speak for Christ himself: 'Receive the Holy Spirit,' " he said. "I speak again for St Paul: 'Do not grieve the spirit of God.' "

He urged Poles: "Be strong, my brothers and sisters! You must be strong with the strength that faith gives."

It sounded like he was telling them to be strong in their resistance to communism.

"Today more than in any other age you need this strength." Love, he said, is stronger than death. Seek spiritual power where "countless generations of our fathers and mothers have found it."

This was a reassertion of the Polish spirit, and those who were there went home seeing themselves differently—not as victims of history but as fighters within a new and promising reality. At home they turned on state-run TV, which did not show the crowds and the chants but only a few words by the pope, and a few pictures. They were offended by the lie of it. It was another blow to the government's claims of legitimacy.



our identity and has himself remained its basis ever since?" He was telling the communist usurpers: You'll never win.

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Years later I asked Lech Walesa about the impact of the pope's trip. Poland, he said, always knew that communism could not be reformed but could be defeated. "We knew the minute he touched the foundations of communism, it would collapse."

\* \* \*

And so to President Trump's speech in Warsaw.

Near the top he deftly evoked John Paul's 1979 visit and the sermon that brought on the chants. "A million Polish people did not ask for wealth. They did not ask for privilege. Instead, one million Poles sang three simple words: 'We want God!' " He called the Polish people "the soul of Europe."

It was a grown-up speech that said serious things. Article 5, the NATO mutual defense commitment, is still operative. Missile defense is necessary. He called out Russia for its "destabilizing activities." He spoke as American presidents once did, in the traditional language of American leadership, with respect for alliances.

But he did it with a twist: The West is not just a political but a *cultural* entity worth fighting for. It is a real thing, has real and radical enemies, and must be preserved.

A lovely passage: "We write symphonies. We pursue innovation. We celebrate our ancient heroes . . . and always seek to explore and discover brand-new frontiers. We reward brilliance. We strive for excellence. . . . We treasure the rule of law and protect the right to free speech and free expression. We empower women as pillars of our society and our success. . . . And we debate everything. We challenge everything. We seek to know everything so that we can better know ourselves."

If he talked like this at home, more of us would be happy to have him here. If he gives serious, thoughtful, prepared remarks only when traveling, he should travel more.

## Big Foundations Double Down on Government Mistakes

By James Piereson  
And Naomi Schaefer Riley

The Ford Foundation is putting its money where its mouth is. That seems to be the message from its president, Darren Walker, and his colleagues. Ford, the third-largest foundation in the U.S., recently announced that over the next 10 years it will put \$1 billion of its \$12 billion endowment into "mission-related investments."

Until recently, foundations generally invested the way everyone else did—to get the most bang for the buck. The difference was that foundations sought returns so as to have more money to give away. But now nonprofit leaders such as Clara Miller of the F.B. Heron Foundation have decided to go instead for social-impact investing, with the goal of generating a social or environmental effect alongside a financial return. "If we were just doing good work for a limited number of people, we would never eliminate poverty," Ms. Miller told Crain's last month. "We wanted to be influential beyond our own giving. We wanted to get others into this mindset."

Yet mission-based investing also can create serious distortions in the market. For foundations like Ford, whose mission has long been entangled with encouraging more federal spending on a variety of programs, the potential for harm is significant.

Fifteen years ago, for example, the foundation invested \$2 million in the Bay Area Equity Fund, a backer of the electric-car company Tesla, according to a recent article in the Chronicle of Philanthropy. "The foundation declined to provide details," the article continues, "but estimates suggest the fund's value grew 24 percent, while its investment in Tesla alone increased more than tenfold."

What's odd about this is that

Tesla is still not selling cars at a profit, but it has received billions of dollars in state and federal subsidies, as well as payments from other car companies buying "zero-emissions vehicle" credits. Ford has

### What's the trouble with 'mission-related investments'? Who defines the mission.

reaped its returns in part thanks to subsidies and regulations.

Both politicians and the Ford Foundation are picking winners and losers—favoring what they see as more environmentally sound cars over traditional ones. Generous government subsidies also create distortions within the electric vehicle market itself. As Adam Andrzejewski of OpenTheBooks.com notes, Zero Motorcycles has received millions in credit from the Export-Import Bank, subsidies from the state of California, and even grants from the city of Santa Cruz. It could hardly have been a surprise when Zero's biggest competitors, Brammo and Mission Motorcycles, exited the business in 2015.

If the subsidies go away at some point, Ford may lose a significant chunk of money—a risk it has presumably decided is worth taking. But the foundation is also putting its pretty big thumb on the scale.

Traditionally, foundations were supposed to be independent—needing to worry about neither financial returns nor voters' demands. But these days it seems philanthropic money simply follows government money. The Rockefeller Foundation is investing part of its endowment to launch a clean Energy Investment Trust that will "support institutional investments into renewable

energy." In other words, it will pour money into solar and wind power, where government is already deeply involved.

Similarly, Ford has announced it will invest in affordable housing in the U.S. This is an area where government regulations and subsidies have already distorted the market significantly, creating shortages in cities and constructing public housing with terrible living conditions.

Nonprofits often see government as leading private investment. A post earlier this year on the blog Broadway Journal explained that when a theater receives a grant from the National Endowment for

the Arts, it "confers a stamp of approval for a project, which is appealing to other donors."

But it's not as if government gets out of the way once private money starts flowing. Many nonprofits take taxpayer money even when they don't need it. As of June 2016, the Metropolitan Museum of Art had \$3.82 billion in total assets and annual revenue and support of \$379 million. But last year it got a \$50,000 NEA grant for its "Age of Empires" exhibit.

One problem with public-private partnerships is that the private partner often ends up covering the public partner's mistakes. So much

of foundation giving these days seems aimed at trying to fix public institutions. Yet this money—hundreds of millions of dollars for large public school systems, affordable housing or AmeriCorps and the World Bank—seems simply to fall into the abyss.

With mission-driven investing the opportunities for private philanthropy to follow government will only grow, leaving foundations like Ford, more than ever, throwing good money after bad.

Mr. Piereson is president of the William E. Simon Foundation. Ms. Riley is a senior fellow at the Independent Women's Forum.

## Volvo Discovers Electric-Vehicle Hype



**BUSINESS WORLD**  
By Holman W. Jenkins, Jr.

If your mother says she loves you, check it out. The most popular article on the Journal's website on Wednesday was headlined "Volvo to Switch to Electric, in First for Major Auto Firm."

On its front page the next morning,

the New York Times declared Volvo "the first mainstream automaker to sound the death knell of the internal combustion engine."

Well, not exactly. By 2019, Volvo said all its cars would be hybrids or gas-electric hybrids or "mild" gas-electric hybrids—i.e., most will continue to have internal combustion engines.

"This announcement marks the end of the *solely* combustion engine-powered car," is how Volvo chief executive Håkan Samuelsson actually put it (*emphasis added*).

Volvo, unlike just about every major car maker, doesn't even have an electric car in the market today. Its big winner is a luxury SUV, a gasoline-powered vehicle whose top-of-the-line model is further enhanced, yes, by a supplemental electric drive.

The hybrid version of the XC90 comes with a \$75,000 price tag: A customer who wants a hybrid is also presumed to want the 19-speaker, 1,400-watt sound system, the self-parking package and every other option Volvo can stuff into a \$75,000 SUV.

Therein lies the real point. Volvo's announcement signals nothing about the electric-car future and everything about Volvo's niche marketing.

Not even Volvo could have expected the bounty of free media it won this week. The Swedish company clearly left more impression on American psyches than it ever did on American pocketbooks. In its best years in the 1980s and the mid-2000s, it never broke 0.8% of the U.S. market.

Its brand image as a virtuous innovator survives from the day when it heavily promoted Volvo safety. But Volvo-like safety has long since become the price of admission in the car business, so Volvo has been deliberately rebranding its niche—and its ambitions are entirely wrapped up in being a niche player—as a technology icon.

### The Swedish car maker isn't giving up on gasoline. It's redefining its niche.

"It is not just bundling a lot of technology together to have a lot of gadgets in the car. It is important to deliver smart functionality and connectivity," Mr. Samuelsson explained back in 2014.

But something else is also going on. Volvo is still run out of Sweden. Its chief is Swedish. But the Volvo car business has been owned by China's Geely since 2010.

Volvo's biggest market now is China. Starting in 18 months, China's auto makers will be subject to an increasingly onerous California-style "zero-emission vehicle" mandate.

In fact, only through the intervention of Angela Merkel, the German leader who knows a thing or two about green excess, was the timeline delayed from 2018. Companies will have to build and sell electric cars in growing numbers (starting with 8% of total output) in order to be free to sell the vehicles Chinese customers are most likely to buy.

To repeat a sore point, if the goal is to reduce greenhouse gases, passenger cars are not the place to aim. Electricity production is.

China's real goal here is to reduce its strategic vulnerability to imported oil. By mandating a switch to electric cars, it's essentially mandating a switch to a domestic fuel in plentiful supply, coal. An eager convert is the city of Taiyuan, capital of China's coal belt, which enacted a

rule requiring local taxis be all-electric by 2021.

As part of declaring its energy independence, especially its independence from the U.S. Navy, guardian of the Middle East oil routes, China also is seeking to capture world leadership in lithium-ion technology. Its electric-vehicle mandate includes a requirement that manufacturers use only locally made batteries.

This is the China, by the way, that the media has been trying to turn into the world's conscience on global warming since Donald Trump removed the U.S. from the Paris climate agreement.

OK, China's government can do pretty much as it wants. It can order domestic car makers, protected by a 25% import tariff, to make and sell electric cars using local batteries, likely at a loss. But even Beijing has run into political, i.e., democratic, opposition to piling on a European-style gas tax. After several attempts at raising it, gasoline remains a middle-of-the-road \$4 a gallon.

France's new president called this week for a ban on new petrol-fueled cars by 2040. Good luck with that, even in a country where taxes make gasoline \$6.50 a gallon. In the U.S., Tesla, whose stock price has been plummeting in recent days, will be delivering its new Model 3 at a time of \$2.24 gas, amid a complex thicket of pro-electric-car mandates that end up doing Tesla as much harm as good.

Not even China, by central command, will be able to make mass adoption of electric cars economically viable, at least not without resort to massive mandates, subsidies and other distortions that bring their own problems.

None of which is a problem for Volvo. Volvo isn't anticipating mass adoption of electric cars. Volvo is anticipating only that its affluent audience will associate Volvo with whatever is cool and cutting-edge in automotive technology at the moment.

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## Rival Bid for Oncor Brews

The \$9 billion deal might spark a richer bid from bondholder Elliott Management

BY PEG BRICKLEY  
AND SOMA BISWAS

Hedge fund **Elliott Management Corp.**, dissatisfied with **Berkshire Hathaway's** \$9 billion deal to buy electricity-transmission business **Oncor**, is considering making a competing bid, according to people familiar with the matter.

Elliott is the biggest bondholder of bankrupt **Energy Future Holdings Corp.**, which owns an 80% stake in Oncor and agreed to sell itself to Warren Buffett's Berkshire on

Friday. Court papers indicate that Elliott, a \$33 billion hedge fund run by billionaire Paul Singer, is in position potentially to bottle up Berkshire's deal in bankruptcy court or put together a better offer.

Berkshire's deal is for \$9 billion in cash in exchange for Energy Future including its stake in Oncor, the largest electric transmissions utility in Texas and one of the biggest power-transmission systems in the country.

That is less than Energy Future needs to pay off creditors and end the massive bankruptcy that is now in its fourth year. The company has already seen the collapse of two previous efforts to sell the Oncor transmissions business, its

crown jewel.

Unless the Berkshire offer is improved or bested, Elliott could be looking at significant losses, according to other people familiar with the matter. An analysis issued Friday from Cowen Credit Research and Trading suggests that may not be the case, however, and that the hedge fund can offset losses in one class of debt with gains in another. Elliott ran up a big stake in Energy Future's debt in recent months, as other funds retreated in the face of failed efforts to sell Oncor.

A successful offer by Elliott would be a tall task: It has never done a deal of the size and scope of the Oncor buyout, and it will need allies. It also faces regulatory risks that

Berkshire is unlikely to encounter. And it would have to outbid Mr. Buffett, a prolific investor with \$96.5 billion in cash on Berkshire's balance sheet to spend.

Yet failing to mount a rival offer could leave Elliott with big losses on its Energy Future debt. Reuters first reported Elliott was considering a bid for Oncor.

Bond-trading prices Friday were down in an early reaction to the Berkshire offer. A level of junior debt dubbed the "PIKs," or pay-in-kind notes, fell about 10 points Friday to 29 on the bid side from 41 Thursday. At the same time a

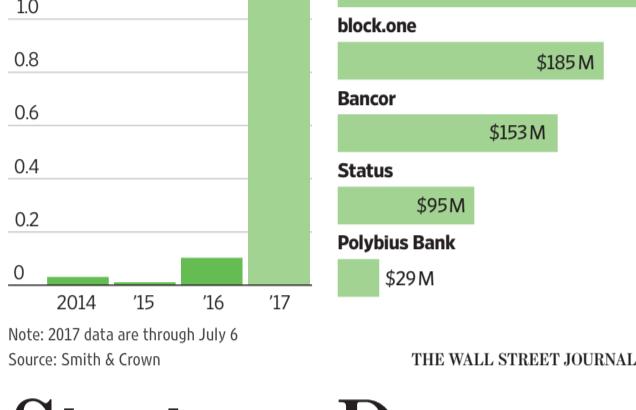
Please see **ONCOR** page B2

◆ Elliott pushes to remove Akzo Nobel's chairman..... B3

### Virtual Bonanza

Cryptocurrency-related startups have raised more than \$1 billion so far this year through a new fundraising method called an initial coin offering.

#### Proceeds of initial coin offerings



Note: 2017 data are through July 6

Source: Smith & Crown

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

## Startups Draw On Coin Offerings

BY PAUL VIGNA

Two obscure companies with no sales raised nearly \$400 million combined in recent days from outside investors. How did they do it? Via a new, unregulated fundraising method that has no connection to Wall Street and is based in the world of cryptocurrencies.

These fund raisings, called "Initial Coin Offerings," are exploding in value. So far this year, companies have raised more than \$1 billion this way. That is 10 times the amount raised in 2016, according to Smith & Crown, a digital-currency research firm.

"It's very hot right now," said Marco Santori, a partner at Palo Alto, Calif.-based law firm Cooley LLP, who advises startups on structuring their coin offerings. "For the last six months, it's been about 60% of my work flow."

The excitement around these coin offerings has helped fuel this year's sharp rise in virtual currencies bitcoin and ether, which investors typically use to purchase coins. In the first half of 2017, bitcoin rose 160%; ether rose 3,350%.

The latest companies involved in coin offerings—software startups **Dynamic Ledger Solutions Inc.**, known for its Tezos software project, and **block.one**—attracted more funds, combined, than the \$300 million raised at the end of June by Blue Apron Holdings Inc. in a closely followed initial public offering.

Those two coin offerings also raised amounts nearly equal to what companies tend to fetch by going the traditional IPO route. In 2016, U.S. companies undertaking IPOs on average raised about \$219 million, according to Dealogic.

The success of the recent coin offerings comes despite the companies' youth: Dynamic Ledger is just three years old and block.one was founded this year. Both have only a handful of employees; their products aren't yet fully developed. Blue Apron, by contrast, has been around for five years, has a well-known meal-kit business and had nearly \$800 million in revenue last year.

Coin offerings are more like crowdfunding campaigns than a traditional securities offering. Most offerings don't have a detailed prospectus, rather companies typically publish a so-called white paper outlining their project or idea. Sometimes the offerings are handled through a nonprofit

*Companies have raised more than \$1 billion so far in 2017 using virtual tokens.*

foundation—such as the Zug, Switzerland-based Tezos Foundation—to further distance them from the characteristics of a security.

But the huge amounts companies are raking in could attract greater scrutiny from regulators such as the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission or authorities in other countries. The SEC declined to comment.

Polybius Bank, an Estonia-based firm that is looking to build a cryptocurrency-based online bank, did create a prospectus. It raised \$28.9 million.

Please see **COINS** page B2

INTELLIGENT INVESTOR | By Jason Zweig

## Market Display Colors Mess With Your Head

When after more than eight years of gains, the stock market finally falls instead, your portfolio won't be glowing green anymore. It will turn red.

That might seem trivial and obvious. Showing losses in red ink (or pixels) and gains in green is just an arbitrary convention. It's the size, not the color, of your changes in wealth that should matter. But new research shows that color is another of the many intangible forces that can have a powerful influence on investors' behavior.

In a series of experiments, finance scholars William Bazley and Henrik Cronqvist of the University of Miami, along with marketing professor Milica Mormann of

Southern Methodist University, have found that seeing red has a drastic effect on how people view investments.

The researchers offered basic choices like these: Would you rather have a 70% chance of winning \$2 and a 30% chance of losing \$1.50, or a 70% chance of winning \$4 and a 30% chance of losing \$5? Merely by displaying the potential losses in red rather than black, the researchers could make people about 25% more risk averse (preferring the first gamble to the second, even though the latter has a higher expected value).

Likewise, investors viewed charts of stocks in the S&P 500 index with falling prices and predicted how the shares would perform in the next six months. Those who saw charts in red, rather

Please see **INVEST** page B4

Easy Wall Street cash is leading U.S. shale companies to expand drilling, even as most lose money on every barrel of oil they bring to the surface.

Despite a 17% plunge in prices since April, drillers are on pace to break the all-time U.S. oil production record, topping 10 million barrels a day by early next year if not sooner, according to government officials and analysts.

U.S. crude fell again on Friday, dropping 2.8% to \$44.23 a

barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Yet the U.S. oil rig count rose Friday to the highest level in more than two years. Operators have now put more than 100 rigs back to work from Oklahoma to North Dakota in the past three months.

Companies have more capital to keep drilling thanks to \$57 billion Wall Street has injected into the sector over the past 18 months. Money has come from investors in new stock sales and high-yield debt, as well as from private equity funds, which have helped provide lifelines to

stronger operators.

Flush with cash, virtually all of them launched campaigns to boost drilling at the start of 2017 in the hope that oil prices would rebound.

The new wave of crude has again glutted the market. The shale companies are edged even further from profitability, and a few voices have begun to question the wisdom of Wall Street financing the industry's addiction to growth.

"The biggest problem our industry faces today is you guys," Al Walker, chief executive of Anadarko Petroleum Corp., told investors at a conference last month.

Wall Street has become an enabler pushing companies to expand production at any cost, while punishing those that try to live within their means, Mr. Walker said, adding, "It's kind of like going to AA. You know, we need a partner. We really need the investment community to show discipline."

Even if companies cut back drilling now, it wouldn't stop a new wave of oil from hitting the market in the second half of the year. U.S. shale output

typically lags behind new drilling by four to six months,

Please see **OIL** page B2

## This Sherpa Serves Down in the Valley

Scott Stanford has used his wide social network to guide many a tech investor

BY MAUREEN FARRELL

Wall Street bankers and Silicon Valley executives thrive on networking. Scott Stanford has perfected the art.

His résumé is replete with elite credentials—undergraduate and business degrees from Harvard University, investment banking at Goldman Sachs Group Inc., and a stint at a dot.com flop. But he stands out for his social network, considered vast even among the business elite.

He helped Arianna Huffington find financing for the Huffington Post during the financial crisis, she says. Spotify AB Chief Executive Daniel Ek is a longtime friend, say people who know them. Barack Obama's election guru

Jim Messina is an official business adviser. Michelle Phan, a co-founder of online makeup company Ipsy, counts on him for business guidance, according to someone who knows them both. And investor Yuri Milner credits him with introducing Mr. Milner to Silicon Valley.

"I will be forever grateful to him," Mr. Milner says of Mr. Stanford. "I really didn't know anyone in Silicon Valley. He literally paved the way for us to become global investors."

Mr. Stanford's main job is running venture firm **Sherpa Capital**, which he co-founded four years ago with Shervin Pishevar, also considered one of Silicon Valley's most hyper-networked individuals.

The question for Mr. Stanford is whether he can convert his connections into returns.

Please see **SHERPA** page B2



The Sherpa Capital co-founder knows his way around Silicon Valley.

Anastasia Sapon for THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WEEKEND PROFILE

By MAUREEN FARRELL

INTELLIGENT INVESTOR | By Jason Zweig

Market Display Colors Mess With Your Head

W hen after more than eight years of gains, the stock market finally falls instead, your portfolio won't be glowing green anymore. It will turn red.

That might seem trivial and obvious. Showing losses in red ink (or pixels) and gains in green is just an arbitrary convention. It's the size, not the color, of your changes in wealth that should matter. But new research shows that color is another of the many intangible forces that can have a powerful influence on investors' behavior.

In a series of experiments, finance scholars William Bazley and Henrik Cronqvist of the University of Miami, along with marketing professor Milica Mormann of

Please see **INVEST** page B4



## BUSINESS NEWS

# Holder Proposals Run Into Hurdles

BY TATYANA SHUMSKY

The Securities and Exchange Commission allowed companies to exclude a greater number of shareholder proposals during the 2017 annual meeting season, according to a report by law firm **Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP**.

The increased rate comes as the SEC is under pressure from business groups and lawmakers to revise its shareholder proposal rules, amid claims compliance is expensive and immaterial. The SEC allows any shareholder who held at least \$2,000 of stock, or 1%, for a year to submit a proposal.

Companies submitted 288 "no-action" requests to the SEC this year, staff ruled on 242 of them, clearing 78% for exclusion. This compares with 245 company requests in 2016, with the SEC ruling on 211, of which 68% were approved. Such requests are for SEC permission to omit a shareholder proposal from a proxy vote without incurring enforcement action from the regulator.

The trend appears to be in contrast with the tougher stance the SEC took on proxy proposal in recent years. In 2016, it cracked down on companies that used vague descriptions of shareholder proposals on proxy cards to obscure their purpose. The regulator also roiled corporate interests in 2015 when it temporarily barred companies from omitting certain shareholder proposals.

About a third of the proposals challenged this year were allowed to be excluded by SEC staff based on company arguments that the proposals have been substantially implemented, said Elizabeth Ising, a partner at Gibson Dunn and co-chair of the firm's securities regulation and corporate governance practice.

"A company's ability to exclude a shareholder proposal, in part, is dictated by what action the company has taken or is willing to take in response," Ms. Ising said.

The SEC declined to comment.

## 827

Shareholder proposals submitted for Russell 3000 firms this year



Tesla's electric-car factory in Fremont, Calif. The company has faced questions about its ability to supply enough batteries to maintain its vehicle production.

EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

## Musk Adds to His Battery Work

Tesla chief undertakes huge storage project in Australia, just as Model 3 rolls out

BY ROBB M. STEWART AND TIM HIGGINS

MELBOURNE, Australia—**Tesla** Inc. Chief Executive Elon Musk has agreed to build the world's largest lithium-ion battery system in Australia, a bid to showcase the technology's potential but one that raises questions about the company's focus on ramping up production of its Model 3 sedan.

The plan, revealed Friday, is to build a 100-megawatt storage system in the state of South Australia, which has been hit by a string of black-

outs over the past year. The system will collect power generated by a wind farm built by French energy company Neoen.

Mr. Musk said the project will be three times more powerful than any other battery system in the world. He pledged to complete it within 100 days of signing an agreement or it would be free.

"This is not a minor foray into the frontier, this is like going three times further than anyone has gone before," Mr. Musk said.

The Silicon Valley auto maker didn't detail how it plans to handle the ambitious goals of meeting the needs of battery packs for Australia while also scaling up battery production for the Model 3 at its new giant battery factory in

Nevada.

Dennis Virag, a manufacturing consultant who has worked in the automotive industry for 40 years, said the move is concerning. "You can plan as well as you want but there's always going to be a hiccup along the line," he said.

Analysts, pointing to Tesla's quick deployment of a large battery array in Southern California, said there is little doubt Tesla can manufacture batteries off-site and plug them into the grid in 100 days.

The risk, though, is Tesla can't do both projects fast enough and will have to prioritize one over the other, said David Whiston, an analyst for Morningstar Research. "Given the pledge to finish the Australia project in 100 days, the auto business would suffer in

that scenario," he said.

Production issues around the battery pack led to a shortfall of supply for Tesla during the second quarter, hindering sales, the company said Monday. It has declined to discuss the details, saying the issue was resolved in June. Mr. Musk this week also revealed a dramatically slower ramp-up of the Model 3 than he previously had suggested suppliers should prepare for.

Tesla said Friday the issues that caused the battery-pack shortfall, which affected certain Model S and Model X vehicles, aren't a factor for the Australia project or the Model 3. While Mr. Musk earlier in the day acknowledged the risks of building the Australian system on a large scale, the company said it is confident it can

"meet delivery dates for our concurrent vehicle and global energy storage projects."

The project is strategic for Tesla, given many of the battery-storage facilities built to date have been pilot projects, said Shayle Kann, head of clean-energy consultancy GTM Research. The firm estimates the installation would require about 500 to 600 of Tesla's Powerpacks, and would cost roughly \$80 million.

Tesla was selected from more than 90 bids to build a storage system for the state, said South Australia Premier Jay Weatherill. The value of the project wasn't disclosed. The project will provide enough power for more than 30,000 homes, Tesla said.

—Erin Ailworth contributed to this article.

## Apple Tries to Fence Off User Data

BY ROBERT McMILLAN

Last year, **Apple** Inc. kicked off a massive experiment with new privacy technology aimed at solving an increasingly thorny problem: how to build products that understand users without snooping on their activities.

Its answer is differential privacy, a term virtually unknown outside of academic circles until a year ago. Today, other companies such as **Microsoft** Corp. and **Uber Technologies** Inc. are experimenting with the technology.

The problem differential privacy tries to tackle stems from the fact that modern data-analysis tools are capable of finding links between large databases. Privacy experts worry these tools could be used to identify people in otherwise anonymous data sets.

Two years ago, researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology discovered shoppers could be identified by linking social-media accounts to anonymous credit-card records and bits of secondary information, such as the location or timing of purchases.

"I don't think people are aware of how easy it is getting to de-anonymize data," said Ishaa Nerurkar, whose startup **LeapYear Technologies** Inc. sells software for leveraging machine learning while using differential privacy to keep user data anonymous.

Differentially private algorithms blur the data being analyzed by adding a measurable amount of statistical noise. This could be done, for example, by swapping out one question (have you ever committed a violent crime?) with a question that has a statistically known response rate (were you born in February?). Someone trying to find links in the data would never be sure which question a particular person was asked. That lets researchers analyze sensitive data such as medical records without being able to tie the data back to specific people.

Differential privacy is key to Apple's artificial intelligence efforts, said Abhradeep Guha Thakurta, an assistant professor at University of California, Santa Cruz. Mr. Thakurta worked on Apple's differential-privacy systems until January of this year.

Apple has faced criticism for not keeping pace with rivals such as **Alphabet** Inc.'s



Companies are looking for ways to understand product users without snooping on their activities.

### How Differential Privacy Works

A survey company queries **100 residents** of a building, using differential privacy to keep respondents anonymous.



Questionnaires are jumbled so respondents could be asked a real survey question, or another question with a known response rate. Only the respondent knows which question is asked.

**90 versions** of the survey ask:

**Do you smoke marijuana?**

**10 versions** of the survey ask:

**Flip a coin. Answer yes if the result is heads.**

Using statistical techniques, the survey's authors can still get an accurate picture of marijuana use in the building.

Survey results show **one person** answered yes to two questions:

**Do you smoke marijuana?** —

**— Do you own a blue car?**

A car owner's database shows that there is only one blue car owner in the building: **John Doe in Apartment 137**.

So do we now know that John Doe smokes marijuana?

**No.** He may have simply flipped a coin, answering yes to the question.

Source: Staff reports

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Google in developing AI technologies, as they have made giant leaps in image and language recognition software that powers virtual assistants and self-driving cars.

While companies such as Google have access to massive volumes of data required to improve artificial intelligence, Apple's privacy policies have been a hindrance, blamed by some for turning the company into a laggard when it comes to AI-driven products such as Siri.

"Apple has tried to stay away from collecting data

from users until now, but to succeed in the AI era they have to collect information about the user," Mr. Thakurta said.

Apple began rolling out the differential-privacy software in September, he said.

Users must elect to share analytics data with Apple before it is used.

Originally used to understand how customers are using emojis or new slang expressions on the phone, Apple is now expanding its use of differential privacy to cover its collection and analysis of web browsing and health-related data.

Differential privacy has seen wider adoption since Apple first embraced it. Uber employees, for example, use it to improve services without being overexposed to user data, a spokeswoman said via email.

## Elliott Pushes To Remove Akzo Boss

BY IAN WALKER

Activist investor **Elliott Management** Corp. said Friday it was seeking to remove Akzo Nobel Chairman Antony Burgmans because of the board's handling of the failed \$27.6 billion bid from **PPG Industries** Inc.

Citing shareholder dissatisfaction, a unit of Elliott has filed a joint petition to the Interim Relief Court in the Netherlands to convene a general meeting of shareholders to vote on the dismissal of Mr. Burgmans.

Elliott owns 9.5% of the Dutch paint and chemical giant's issued share capital. It said a recent survey that it requested showed that shareholders holding 21% of shares didn't have confidence in the management board, compared with 4% that do.

It also said shareholders holding 32% of shares weren't satisfied with the way Akzo's boards conducted themselves over the PPG approach, compared with 0.2% who were happy. The survey was conducted by a proxy advisory firm.

For its part, Elliott said it had lost confidence in the ability of the chairman to guide Akzo in a manner that benefits all of its stakeholders.

Elliott was a key player in trying to end a standoff between Akzo and PPG, two of the world's oldest industrial companies. As one of Akzo's largest investors, Elliott mounted a bold public-relations and legal campaign to try to force the Amsterdam-based company into sale talks with U.S. peer PPG.

The New York hedge fund has a history of agitating for European mergers and its London office has taken stakes in several companies and either pushed them to agree to a sale or forced a bidder to pay more.

In its rejection, Akzo said the bid from PPG substantially undervalued the company and carried "significant delivery and timing risk for shareholders, both in relation to substantial antitrust issues, pension schemes and the achievability of proposed synergies."

In May, Elliott lost an earlier legal battle to remove Mr. Burgmans.











## MARKETS

# Paris Looks To Attract Bankers

By NOEMIE BISSERBE

PARIS—The French government unveiled new measures to attract bankers to Paris after Brexit, pledging to cut taxes and labor costs and provide more international schools for expatriates' families, as competition for London's jobs heats up.

French Prime Minister Édouard Philippe said the government would scrap the highest bracket of its payroll tax, and cancel a planned extension of a tax on financial transactions. Some bonuses of traders and banking executives classified by the European Banking Authority as "risk takers" won't be included as a part of severance packages, he said.

"Our government's ambition is to reinforce France's attractiveness and competitiveness," said Mr. Philippe at a news conference. "Companies must want again to set up and develop their business here," he said.

Paris has stepped up its efforts to win business from financial firms now based in the U.K. since the election of pro-business Emmanuel Macron as French president in May.

In addition to tax and labor-cost cuts, the government plans to open three international schools near La Défense, the sprawling business district on the Western edge of Paris, and invest in an express train line from Paris's center to Charles de Gaulle Airport.

"This package of measures meets the expectations voiced over the last months by the financial institutions and international investors that we have met," said Gérard Mestrallet, chairman of Paris Europlace, a group that promotes the French capital as a financial center.

French labor laws that make it hard to hire and fire workers have become a major hurdle for banks considering relocating business to Paris. Banks that pay hefty bonuses to lure traders and other talent don't want those sums later factored into severance payments, as is currently required under French law.

—Max Colchester  
and Nick Kostov  
contributed to this article.

# Investors Brace for ECB's Unwind

By JON SINDREU

Investors are dumping government bonds, certain that the European Central Bank will soon start dialing back the massive stimulus that has buoyed markets.

They are less sure what that tapering will look like—a key question as the ECB becomes the main focus for spooked investors around the world.

Many market participants are betting that officials will reduce bond purchases from €60 billion (\$69 billion) to €40 billion during the first half of next year and then cut them to €20 billion in the second half. But there are other options investors are considering, from tapering less to following the Federal Reserve's model of reducing the buying on a monthly basis.

Whatever the ECB does, investors expect volatility along the way. In the wake of the financial crisis, central banks cut interest rates to record lows and bought billions of dollars of assets, pushing up bond

prices and sending investors chasing returns into equity and emerging markets. Because such monetary policy was so experimental in implementation, there is little precedent in what to expect in the retreat.

"When we are in the territory of unconventional monetary policy, expectations of what the central bank will do in the future have no anchor," said Willem Verhagen, a senior economist at NN Investment Partners.

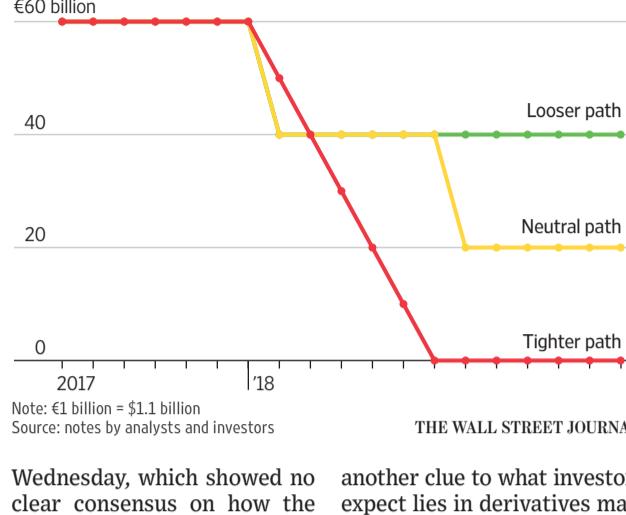
ECB President Mario Draghi kicked off the bond selloff last week with bullish comments about the eurozone economy that investors saw as heralding tighter monetary policy.

Yields on 10-year German bonds, which move opposite to prices, closed at 0.568% on Friday, the highest in 18 months, compared with 0.247% the day before Mr. Draghi's speech. Treasury 10-year yields traded at 2.388% from 2.143%. The euro has gained more than 2% over this period.

Yet markets were broadly unchanged by Fed minutes on

## How the ECB Could Take the Foot Off the Pedal

Forecasts for the monthly rate of asset purchases of the European Central Bank



Note: €1 billion = \$1.1 billion

Source: notes by analysts and investors

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Wednesday, which showed no clear consensus on how the central bank should unwind a portfolio of bonds that has been unchanged since 2014.

Most investors expect the ECB to announce the future of its bond buying as soon as September.

Aside from recent selling,

time will be before next December.

Buying less than €40 billion of bonds a month would be seen as a tightening of policy, said Thomas Page-Lecuyer, a strategist at CPR Asset Management, leading to a larger selloff in eurozone bonds and a further rally in the euro.

There are other alternatives. The ECB could also follow in the Fed's footsteps and announce that purchases will be smaller each successive month, reaching zero at the end of the year. That would likely boost bonds and depress the currency, investors say.

Many investors think this is unlikely, however, because ECB officials will want flexibility. They see the Fed as a cautionary tale, after it triggered a big bond selloff when announcing in 2013 that it would taper asset purchases.

"The experience in the U.S. was very painful, and that's what the ECB wants to avoid," said Franck Dixmier, global head of fixed income at Allianz Global Investor.

# Silver Futures Plunge For a Flash Crash Moment

By KEVIN KINGSBURY AND BIMAN MUKHERJI

The market's latest flash crash occurred in silver Thursday evening, with futures falling nearly 10% in several minutes before quickly reversing almost all

**COMMODITIES** of that decline.

Market players said the drop was almost set off by a trading error.

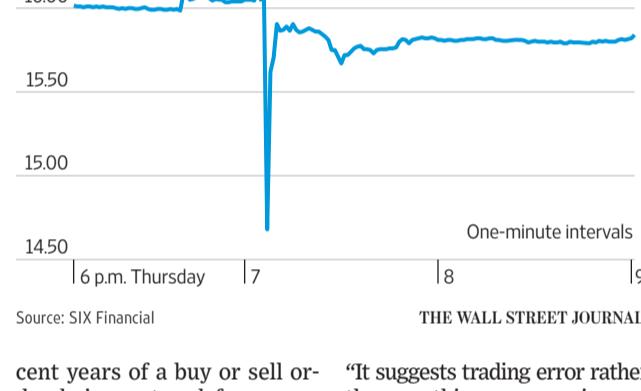
Shortly after 7 p.m. EDT—a time when typically less than 100 contracts change hands—5,000 additional contracts were sold at once, said Ross Norman of gold dealer Sharps Pixley. Then in the next few minutes, about 5,000 additional contracts changed hands in smaller deal sizes.

Silver fell from just over \$16 per troy ounce to around \$14.30 in moments, before quickly getting back to \$15.80. The most active Comex silver futures fell 1.5% to \$15.425 per troy ounce Friday in New York, settling at the lowest level in 15 months.

There have been cases in re-

## Sudden Drop

Silver futures plummeted nearly 10% on Thursday shortly after 7 p.m. EDT, then quickly bounced back. Some said it was caused by a trading error.



Source: SIX Financial

cent years of a buy or sell order being entered for an asset—be it stock, commodity or bond—at a seemingly wrong price and resulting in subsequent trades. The result has been brief market tumult.

If the drop "had real volumes behind it, [prices] would not have bounced back so quickly," said Stuart Ive of OM Financial.

It suggests trading error rather than anything more serious at this point of time."

But Sharps Pixley's Mr. Norman said, "It could be a deliberate move. It happened when the market was illiquid."

There was a smaller 1% decline that happened in seconds early in European trading on June 26 that some think was

also caused by a trading error, though prices didn't immediately rebound.

The sudden drop in silver Thursday followed a similar sell-off in gold two weeks ago, fanning concerns over trading precious metals, market participants said. On June 29, gold prices slid \$20 an ounce before recovering, on a large sell order at a time when there were few buyers and sellers in the market.

The most infamous flash-crash is the May 6, 2010 plunge



Bars at a refinery in Turkey.  
MURAD SEZER/REUTERS

in U.S. stocks, when the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell some 600 points in minutes, putting the day's slump at nearly 1,000. But the blue-chip index soon reversed nearly all of that 600-point plunge.

Such moves are frustrating to traders, who may be forced out of their bets when prices fall past a certain point and they need to sell or put up more money to keep the position, said Jim Wyckoff, senior market analyst at Kitco Metals.

"They're not common, but unfortunately they're not rare anymore either," he said. "The damage is done to a lot of these guys."

Precious metals, which are often bought by investors for protection against geopolitical risks or economic turmoil, have been shunned lately as signs of global growth encourage betting on riskier assets. Gold and silver have also suffered as the U.S. Federal Reserve has raised short-term interest rates twice this year, and has indicated plans to raise rates once more in 2017.

—Stephanie Yang contributed to this article.

# OPEC Targets Nigeria, Libya

OPEC is considering putting a limit on how much oil members Nigeria and Libya can pump, cartel delegates say, as surging production from those countries is complicating the

By Benoit Faucon in London and Summer Said in Dubai

cartel's plans to influence crude prices.

Libya's crude-oil output has surged to over one million barrels a day, up from 400,000 in October, while Nigeria's output has reached 1.6 million barrels a day, up 200,000 barrels a day since October, according to JBC, a Vienna-based energy-industry consultancy.

Those increases have unnerved the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, the 14-nation cartel that joined forces last year with Russia and other big non-OPEC producers in an agreement to withhold almost 1.8 million barrels of oil from market every day. Libya and Nigeria were exempted from the obligation to cut because their industries had been crippled by civil unrest.

"Nigeria is definitely becoming a worry for us," said a delegate to OPEC from a Persian Gulf Arab country. OPEC delegates from several other countries echoed his concerns.

## 2.6M

Combined daily output of both crude oil producers

Light, sweet crude for August delivery settled down \$1.29, or 2.8%, at \$44.23 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, the global benchmark, lost \$1.40, or 2.9%, to \$46.71 a barrel on ICE Futures Europe. Both had their seventh-lowest settlement of the year.

Surging production from Libya and Nigeria are a significant reason prices haven't

risen more, said Olivier Jakob, head of Swiss energy consultancy Petromatrix, in a note Thursday. OPEC's cut doesn't look so deep when you consider Libya and Nigeria.

"With the return of Nigeria and Libya, OPEC's production is currently very close to the average of 2016," Mr. Jakob said.

To be sure, Libya and Nigeria aren't the only reason oil prices remain low.

U.S. output surged on the back of an initial price spike after OPEC's output deal last year and has managed to maintain those gains, flooding the market with more supplies. Global demand is growing but at a slower pace than in recent years.

But Libya and Nigeria are factors more within OPEC's orbit of control.

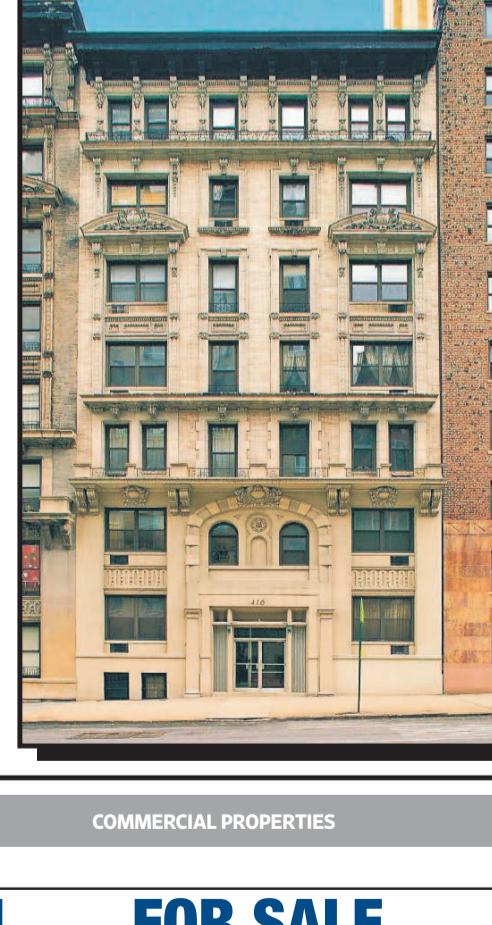
Russia, which has cut about 300,000 barrels a day, and some OPEC members have asked Nigeria and Libya to send their oil chiefs to a July 24 meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia. Their attendance would be unusual because the monthly meetings are focused on assessing the compliance of countries that agreed to cut.

According to people familiar with the matter, the meeting could be a first step toward drafting production limits for Libya and Nigeria.

**Cushman & Wakefield has been retained to exclusively arrange for the sale of 410 West End Avenue**

a 7-story multi-family building containing 42 apartments located on the Upper West Side of Manhattan in New York City. The property measures approx. 20,272 square feet and possesses an additional 25,400 SF of un-used air-rights. 410 West End Avenue has been owned and operated by the same family for over 60 years. The building and the air rights are available for purchase separately.

Contact James Nelson or Hall Oster for more information at 212-696-2500.



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## MARKETS

# Financial Stocks Drive Indexes Higher

Gains in bank shares offset losses in energy companies hit by a decline in crude prices

BY CORRIE DRIEBUSCH  
AND GEORGI KANTCHEV

U.S. stocks ended the week higher, lifted by shares of financial companies.

Bank stocks have been rallying since the firms passed the Federal Reserve's stress tests and some quickly announced higher **EQUITIES** dividends in late June. Rising government-bond yields helped lift banks further this past week, as higher interest rates can boost bank profits.

The gains offset losses by energy companies, which were weighed down by a drop in the price of oil.

The S&P 500 finished the week up less than 0.1%, with the financials sector posting a 1.5% gain. The Dow Jones Industrial Average and Nasdaq Composite gained 0.3% and 0.2%, respectively, for the week.

On Friday, the Dow industrials added 94.30 points, or 0.4%, to 21414.34. The Nasdaq Composite added 63.61 points, or 1%, to 6153.08 as the recently volatile tech sector swung higher, and the S&P 500 added 15.43 points, or 0.6%, to 2425.18.

Financials climbed Friday after Labor Department data showed U.S. hiring picked up more than expected in June, even as wage gains stalled.

The jobs report is a key data point for the Federal Reserve that will help the central bank determine its plans for raising short-term interest rates further and reducing its asset portfolio.

While jobs growth jumped from the prior month, some analysts homed in on how average hourly earnings growth

### Pulling Back

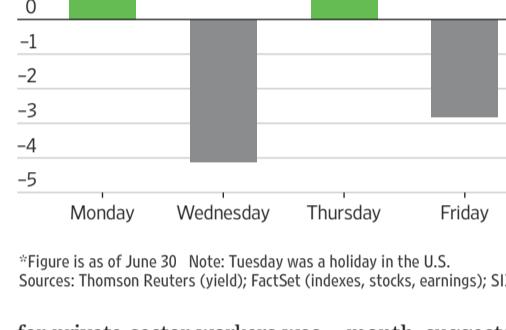
Investors sold Treasuries, sending yields higher for a second week, on expectations that central banks are moving toward scaling back monetary stimulus.

Yield on 10-year U.S. Treasury note



Investors' ongoing concerns about the global glut kept U.S. crude-oil prices choppy.

Daily percentage change



\*Figure is as of June 30. Note: Tuesday was a holiday in the U.S.

Sources: Thomson Reuters (yield); FactSet (indexes, stocks, earnings); SIX Financial (crude)

for private-sector workers was little changed from prior months.

"This report speaks to a central Fed argument," said Kristina Hooper, global market strategist at Invesco, referring to wage growth in June, which she called underwhelming. "That is, is inflation transitory? Should we be worried that lower inflation has appeared over the last few months?"

Still, Ms. Hooper said such a big increase in hiring in the

month suggests the jobs recovery following the financial crisis has more room to run.

The monthly jobs report is less critical for the stock market now compared with several years ago, as the Fed has already raised short-term rates and is likely to raise them again in 2017. However, stock investors say the report still matters, as it provides a window into the labor market and the pace of economic growth, both of which can affect stock prices.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note bounced around slightly in the wake of the jobs report, and settled at 2.39%, up from 2.36% on Thursday.

The WSJ Dollar Index, which tracks the dollar against a basket of 16 currencies, rose 0.2%.

Hawkish signals from policy makers in Europe and the U.S. have roiled markets in recent days as investors gauge how fast central banks will be moving away from their ultra-accommodative monetary policies put in place after the

financial crisis. Minutes from the European Central Bank's last meeting released Thursday showed officials are considering dropping a pledge to accelerate bond purchases.

"People are taking note of what signals central banks are sending," said Lefteris Farmakis, macro strategist at **UBS**. "If central banks rush the tightening, markets will suffer a lot."

In commodities, U.S.-traded crude-oil prices fell 2.8% to \$44.23 a barrel, after data on

Thursday showed that U.S. oil production rebounded in the prior week. Oil prices ended the week down 3.9%.

Falling oil prices weighed on energy shares in Europe on Friday, and the Stoxx Europe 600 edged down less than 0.1%. The index was up 0.2% for the week, its largest gain in about a month.

Japan's Nikkei Stock Average fell 0.3%, while Hong Kong's **Hang Seng** Index shed 0.5% Friday. Both indexes posted weekly declines.

## HEARD ON THE STREET

Email: [heard@wsj.com](mailto:heard@wsj.com)

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS & COMMENTARY

[WSJ.com/Heard](http://WSJ.com/Heard)

# Markets Not Ready for Jobs Boost

### Getting Rich

S&P 500 forward price/earnings ratio



about 121,000 jobs. The economy needs to generate fewer than 100,000 jobs to keep up with population growth.

If the current trend continues, we've gone from an employment market that was tightening only slightly to one that could change the dynamic of wage increases, inflation and bond yields. The unemployment rate could drop below 4% by early next year.

Under these circumstances, the Federal Reserve will almost definitely follow through with its plans to start shrinking its balance sheet this fall and raise rates again in December.

Indeed, if the recent pace of hiring holds, the Fed might set aside its worries over low inflation, and lean toward tightening faster to keep the job market from overheating.

That would hurt bond in-

vestors who have bet that interest rates will hardly move in the coming months.

Stocks, too, are priced for low rates. With the price/earnings ratio on the S&P 500 near its highest level in more than a decade, investors would have to rethink whether stocks deserve such high valuations.

Markets largely ignored the jobs report Friday, but if stocks and bonds fall in anticipation of higher rates, that could tighten financial conditions more than the Fed would want, damaging the economy. But with jobs growth this strong, the Fed can't risk underreacting either, even with inflation well below its 2% target.

As far as the Fed is concerned, the best thing would be for the job market to slow to a sustainable pace, with inflation drifting up toward its target as it gradually reduced its balance sheet and raised rates. Investors might like to dream of such an outcome, too, but reality is apt to be messier.

—Justin Lahart

### OVERHEARD

Bad news, Starbucks—your labor supply may be shrinking.

On the bright side, more young people can now afford your fancy drinks.

Humanities Indicators, a long-running report by the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, says that the number of bachelor's degrees in the humanities dropped by 5% in 2015 and nearly 10% since 2012.

By one measure, the share of U.S. college degrees in the common liberal arts majors is at its lowest recorded and less than a third the late 1960s peak.

While overeducated baristas are to some extent a stereotype, economists Jason Aibel and Richard Dietz wrote last year that about half of recent liberal arts graduates are "underemployed," while the share is far lower for majors related to STEM or health care.

Engineering majors had the lowest underemployment rates. There was no word on their coffee preferences.

### Samsung Steps Ahead Of Apple

**Samsung Electronics** likely edged past Apple to become the world's most profitable technology company last quarter. But to continue the strong run, it may hope the iPhone maker does better as well.

The South Korean tech giant said Friday it expects its operating profit for the quarter ended June to be a record 14 trillion won (\$12.1 billion)—a 72% jump from a year earlier. Apple will likely report an operating profit of \$10.6 billion for its latest quarter when it announces results next month, according to estimates from S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Rising memory-chip prices, driven by strong demand from servers and mobile, have likely contributed to Samsung's strong results. About 60% of its operating profit comes from the semiconductor business, according to Morgan Stanley. The March launch of its new flagship phone, the Galaxy S8, has also helped.

Strong sales of the newest iPhone model, expected later this year, could actually benefit Samsung. The company will supply flexible displays, called organic light-emitting diodes, to at least one version of the new phone, The Wall Street Journal has reported.

Even though Samsung supplies memory chips to Apple as well, the business accounts for less than 5% of the company's operating profit, Credit Suisse estimated. The more salient impact from the iPhone "super-cycle," as some analysts call it, is that it will likely keep memory-chip prices buoyant.

While Samsung and Apple are sometimes depicted as archrivals, their relationship is actually one of mutual benefit.

—Jacky Wong

# Tesla Stock's Skid Couldn't Have Come at a Worse Time

When the story of Tesla is finally written, this week will be seen as a crucial juncture. The electric-car company started production on its highly anticipated Model 3 on Friday, one day after its stock briefly fell into a bear market.

The slump brings the company's financial position into fresh focus given its historic reliance on the equity market. At first glance, it has plenty of cash on hand—more than \$4 billion as of March 31. But that is likely to go quickly.

Tesla's free cash outflow was \$622 million in the first quarter. Since Tesla delivered fewer cars in the sec-

ond quarter than in the first, there is a decent chance that number will worsen. Accounts payable have risen and Tesla has \$7 billion in long-term debt.

The Model 3 isn't likely to improve matters, at least in the short term. Tesla said in the first quarter that it expected to have an additional \$1.5 billion in capital spending before the Model 3 began production.

Analysts at Guggenheim Securities predict that gross margins on the Model 3 will be negative 15% at the start of the launch and won't turn positive until the middle of next year. Tesla's automotive gross margin was 27.4% in

the first quarter.

The company could forgo some of its planned capital spending if it chose to do so. But that might slow the Model 3 rollout amid increasing competition, denting the stock.

The good news is that CEO Elon Musk should have other options.

The company has issued equity or convertible debt in every year since its 2010 initial public offering, most recently in March. And despite a bad week, the shares are up more than 40% so far this year.

Meanwhile, Tesla may need to raise nearly \$3 billion over the next year. At

### Expensive Cars

Tesla's quarterly free cash flow



Note: Cash flow from operations less capital expenditures

Source: the company

current prices, that amounts to roughly 6% of the total equity value. The more the shares slip, the greater the potential dilution of existing owners.

Chinese technology company Tencent's recent investment in Tesla stock is an encouraging sign that there is appetite for large chunks of equity.

While that deal didn't involve fresh cash, it suggests other potential options besides a traditional secondary market issuance.

So the past would suggest that the recent sell-off won't be much of a long-term problem for Tesla shareholders. Yet Tesla's balance sheet and the increasingly crowded electric-car field suggest this is a moment the company can't risk squandering.

—Charley Grant

Memo to parents:  
Stop nit-picking.  
How to focus on  
your children's  
strengths



C3

# REVIEW



Are we wrong  
about Jane  
Austen? Four  
books work hard  
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BOOKS | CULTURE | SCIENCE | COMMERCE | HUMOR | POLITICS | LANGUAGE | TECHNOLOGY | ART | IDEAS

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## The Smart-Medicine Solution

Our health-care system

won't be fixed by

insurance reform.

To contain costs and

improve results,

we need the tools of

information-age

medicine.

BY ERIC TOPOL

THE CONTROVERSY over Obamacare and now the raucous debate over its possible repeal and replacement have taken center stage recently in American politics. But health insurance isn't the only health-care problem facing us—and maybe not even the most important one. No matter how the debate in Washington plays out in the weeks ahead, we will still be stuck with astronomical and ever-rising health-care costs. The U.S. now spends well over \$10,000 per capita on health care each year. A recent analysis in the journal *Health Affairs* by the economist Sean P. Keehan and his colleagues at the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services projects that health spending in the U.S. will grow at a rate of 5.8% a year through 2025, far outpacing GDP growth.

Our health-care system is uniquely inefficient and wasteful. The more than \$3 trillion that we spend each year yields relatively poor health outcomes, compared with other developed countries that spend far less. Providing better health insurance and access can help with these problems, but real progress in containing costs and improving care will require transforming the practice of medicine itself—how we diagnose and treat patients and how patients interact with

medical professionals. In medical training, private sector R&D, doctor-patient relations and public policy, we need to move much more aggressively into the era of smart medicine, using high-tech tools to tailor more precise and economical care for individual patients. This transition won't be easy or fast—the culture of medical practice is famously conservative, and new technology always raises new concerns—but it has to be part of the solution to our health-care woes.

Radical new possibilities in medical care are not some far-off fantasy. Last week in my clinic I saw a 59-year-old man with hypertension, high cholesterol and intermittent atrial fibrillation (a heart rhythm disturbance). Before our visit, he had sent me a screenshot graph of over 100 blood pressure readings that he had taken in recent weeks with his smartphone-connected wristband. He had noticed

some spikes in his evening blood pressure, and we had already changed the dose and timing of his medication; the spikes were now nicely controlled.

Having lost 15 pounds in the past four months, he had also been pleased to see that he was having far fewer atrial fibrillation episodes—which he knew from the credit-card-size electrocardiogram sensor attached to his smartphone.

In my three decades as a doctor, I have never seen such an acceleration of new technology, both hardware and software, across every dimension of medical practice. I have also had the opportunity to advise and collaborate with several companies on these developments. The new tools are not just more powerful, precise and convenient; they are more economical, driven by the information revolution's ability to deliver, as Moore's Law holds, ever-

Please turn to the next page

**Radical new approaches to medical care are not some far-off fantasy.**

*Dr. Topol is a cardiologist and professor of molecular medicine at the Scripps Research Institute in San Diego and the author of "The Patient Will See You Now: The Future of Medicine Is in Your Hands" (Basic Books, 2015). He consults for Illumina and Apple on some of the issues discussed here, sits on the board of directors of Dexcom and is a co-founder of YouBase.*

## INSIDE



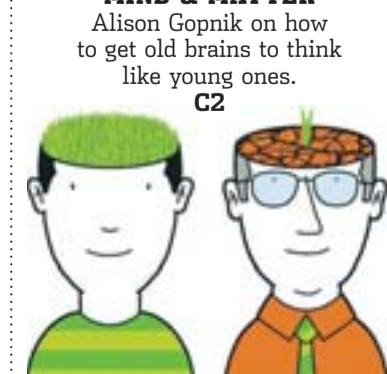
**WEEKEND CONFIDENTIAL**  
Film composer Hans Zimmer  
on directors, inspiration and  
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**ASK ARIELY**  
Can money buy happiness?  
Not to the extent that most  
of us seem to think.

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### MIND & MATTER

Alison Gopnik on how  
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### ESSAY

China has a debt addiction.  
Curing it will mean defying  
powerful party elites.

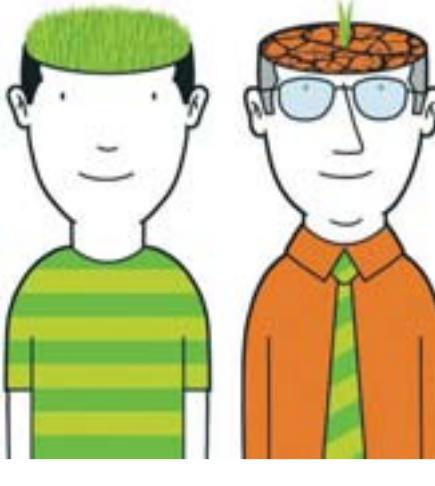
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**BOOKS**  
Cuisine worth its salt.  
A history and tour of  
America's preserved meat.

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## REVIEW



# Tools to Improve Care and Reduce Costs

Continued from the prior page

increasing computing power for less money.

Consider the biggest line items in the 2016 national health-care budget, according to Mr. Keehan and his colleagues: more than \$1 trillion for hospital care, \$670 billion for doctor and clinician services, \$360 billion for drugs. And compare the often sorry outcomes: more than 1 in 4 patients harmed while in the hospital; more than 12 million serious diagnosis errors each year; a positive response rate of just 25% for patients on the top 10 prescription medications in gross sales.

We don't have to resign ourselves to this outrageous situation. Smart medicine offers a way out, enabling doctors to develop a precise, high-definition understanding of each person in their care. The key tools are cheaper sensors, simpler and more routine imaging, and regular use of now widely available genetic analysis. As for using all this new data, here too a revolution is under way. Algorithms and artificial intelligence are making it possible for doctors to rapidly apply relevant medical literature to their patients' cases, while "natural language processing" (that is, talking to computers) holds the promise of liberating them from keyboards during office visits.

One obvious practical effect of these developments will be to replace hospital stays with remote monitoring in the patient's home. The Food and Drug Administration has already approved wearable sensors that can continuously monitor all vital signs: blood pressure, heart rate and rhythm, body temperature, breathing rate and oxygen concentration in the blood. The cost to do this for weeks would be a tiny fraction of the cost for a day in the hospital. Patients will be able to avoid serious hospital-acquired infections and get to sleep in their own beds, surrounded by family.

We do more than 125 million ultrasound scans a year in the U.S., at an average charge of well over \$800—that's \$100 billion. But we now have ultrasound probes that connect with a smartphone and provide exquisite resolution comparable to hospital lab machines. It is possible to examine any part of the body (except the brain) simply by connecting the probe to the base of a smartphone and putting a little gel on the probe's tip. When I first got a smartphone ultrasound probe last year, I did a head-to-toe "medical selfie," imaging everything from my sinuses and thyroid to my heart, lungs, liver, gallbladder, aorta and left foot.

That experience came in handy when I recently developed pain in my flank. Seeing my very dilated kidney on my smartphone screen helped to confirm the diagnosis that I had a kidney stone. The CT scan later ordered by my doctor showed a nearly identical image, but the charge for that was \$2,200. If this single tool was used in a typical office visit, a large proportion of expensive and unnecessary formal scans could be avoided.

Smart medicine can also bring some sanity to how we handle medical screening, which today results in an epidemic of misdiagnoses and unnecessary procedures and treatments. The leading culprits are routine tests for breast and prostate cancer for individuals at low risk for these diseases. Because the tests have such extraordinarily high rates of false positives, they result all too often in biopsies, radiation and surgery for people in no medical danger.

It would not be hard to use screening tests in a more discriminating way, for the much smaller population that really should worry about certain serious health problems. Genome sequencing for an individual—identifying all three billion base pairs in a person's genetic makeup—can now be done for about \$1,000, and we know a great deal about which genes predispose someone to conditions such as cancer and heart disease. Guided by genomic risk scores that can be determined with an inexpensive device known as a gene "chip"—and, of course, by family histories and clinical examinations—doctors could spare many families from the ordeal of unnecessary treatment while making a dent in the \$15 billion spent each year in the U.S. on mass screening for breast and prostate cancer.

Routine use of individual genetic information could also allow us to prescribe drugs more effectively, avoiding the waste, in clinical time and in money, caused by medications that misfire. More than 130 drugs in common use have an FDA label for DNA data—that is, they provide peer-reviewed research instructing doctors about dosage, side effects and potential responsiveness for patients with particular genetic profiles. But with rare exceptions outside of some cancer treatment centers, doctors in the U.S. don't obtain such data before prescribing drugs. That's a shame, because the relevant genetic information for each patient could be determined easily and inexpensively from saliva DNA at an office visit or even a pharmacy.

For its part, the drug industry needs to make genetic information available for far more drugs by making it a regular part of testing. This R&D effort would be inexpensive relative to the cost of developing a new drug, and it could make medications far more efficient, upping the response rate and averting dangerous side effects.

Smart medicine can also transform the doctor-patient relationship. Most medical services today are still provided in the traditional outpatient setting of a doctor's office. It takes an average of 3.4 weeks to get a primary care appointment in the U.S., and there's little

time allotted for each visit. Most doctors provide a minimum of eye-to-eye contact as they busily record the session on a keyboard.

The frustrations and inefficiencies of this system are obvious—and unnecessary. In the era of telemedicine consults, there is no reason to wait weeks for an appointment. For the same copay as an office visit, connection with a doctor can occur instantly or within minutes. With increasing use of patient-generated data from sensors and physical exam hardware that connects with a smartphone, the video chats of today will soon be enriched by extensive data transfer.

Indeed, obtaining patient data solely from the occasional office visit is no way to get a full picture of someone's health or to assess their medical needs. As more people generate and maintain their own medical data, they will carry this information around with them, no longer leaving it in the exclusive domain of doctors.

At the Scripps Research Institute, we are working with the support of a National Institutes of Health grant and several local partners to develop a comprehensive "health record of the future" for individual patients. It will combine all the usual medical data—from office visits, labs, scans—with data generated by personal sensors, including sleep, physical activity, weight, environment, blood pressure and other relevant medical metrics. All of it will be constantly and seamlessly updated and owned by the individual patient.

Such medical data belongs to us rather than to our doctors—it's about our bodies, after all, and we generate and pay for much of it. But it will also make our medical care more exact, more precisely tailored, as we move from doctor to doctor, depending on our needs at a particular moment. It will make unnecessary the billions of dollars spent each year in the duplication of labs and scans. Personal medical data—stored in a cloud or using blockchain technology, a kind of digital ledger—also will be more secure and relatively immune to hacking, compared with data sitting on massive servers.

Having such data readily available will be vital to reaching the next stage of smart medicine, with virtual medical coaches. Just as we have adopted Alexa, Siri and Cortana for daily activities, we are headed to a time in the years ahead when our continuously updated personal medical data will provide health guidance. Consider the diabetic whose blood sugar sensor indicates that control is slipping because of lack of sleep or physical activity, or the asthmatic whose sensors show reduced lung function before any symptoms occur, so that she can adjust her medications. Refined feedback, through text, voice or avatar, will ultimately lead to better prevention and management of medical conditions.

The revolution in patient data will empower doctors too, particularly as artificial intelligence matures into practical technologies. Researchers at Google DeepMind and Stanford University have recently shown the great potential of "deep learning"—computers that grow ever smarter through the continuous analysis of new data—for accurate interpretation of medical scans, pathology slides and skin lesions, on par with doctors. In a paper last year in the Journal of the American Medical Association, authors Andrew Beam and Isaac Kohane, specialists in biomedical informatics, calculated that advances in artificial intelligence now make it possible for computers to read as many as 260 million



**Genomic risk scores can be determined with simple, inexpensive devices.**

A SEQUENCING CHIP from Thermo Fisher Scientific detects DNA associated with cancer and inherited disease.

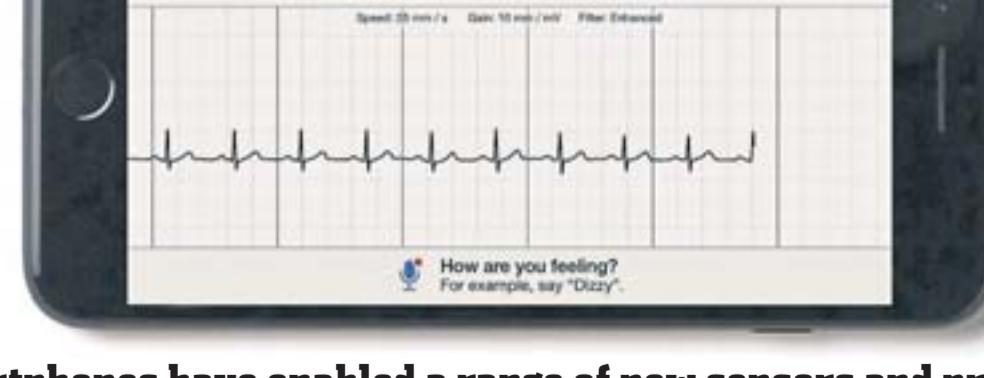
medical scans in a day, at a cost of \$1,000. The advances in diagnostic power would be enormous, to say nothing of the cost savings.

So why have we been so slow to adopt and encourage these potential solutions? Medicine is hard to change, especially when reforms threaten established modes of payment and the customary control of patients. And like everyone else, doctors are seldom eager for extensive new training. But our current course of medical spending and practice is unsustainable, and no change in how we handle health insurance is likely to alter that reality.

Fortunately, serious ventures in smart medicine are well along. My colleagues and I at the Scripps Research Institute are leading the Participant Center of the NIH's Precision Medicine Initiative, which is currently enrolling one million Americans. Volunteers in the program will be testing many of the new tools I have described here. The recently formed nonprofit Health Transformation Alliance, which includes more than 40 large companies providing health benefits to 6.5 million employees and family members, intends to address the high cost of health care by focusing on, among other things, the sophisticated use of personal data.

Physicians will also need to be trained to use the new technologies, from interpreting genomic data to using a smartphone for ultrasound. The FDA recently announced a broad initiative to foster innovation in digital health devices, with the intent to streamline the regulatory review process.

But more could certainly be done to move us toward better health outcomes at lower costs. Perhaps some enterprising member of Congress will propose a Frugal Health Care Innovation Act, providing government incentives for technology, research and implementation. Such public support for electric cars has rapidly changed the face of the whole auto industry. American medicine today is no less antiquated than the Detroit of a generation ago, and it needs to find its way into the present century.



**Smartphones have enabled a range of new sensors and probes.**



ALIVECOR'S Kardia traces a person's heart rhythm on a smartphone through fingers on a sensor.

FROM TOP: THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC; ALIVECOR

## REVIEW



A WORKER polishes coiled stainless steel rods at a Dongbei Special Steel plant.

But Mr. Xi's net caught only his political rivals, from Zhou Yongkang, the former high-ranking security chief, to Ling Jihua, the party leader who was fired after his son's death in a Ferrari crash. Most of the business lobbies within the party that are loyal to Mr. Xi have not been touched.

He is now preparing for a crucial party congress this autumn, when five new members will likely be appointed to China's seven-person Politburo Standing Committee. The event will shape China's political future for some time to come. To get his protégés appointed, Mr. Xi needs support from various party elites, and a time-tested method for securing it is to supply subsidized credit to their provinces and enterprises, whatever the long-term cost. This is what has allowed bankrupt companies like Dongbei to get the credit that they need to keep running.

Mr. Xi's supporters say that the president is tolerating debt growth today to achieve his political goals at the party congress. Off the record, Chinese economists promise that once Mr. Xi consolidates power, he will have the clout needed to push through tough reforms. But will the president really be willing to turn on his supporters immediately after the party congress?

A decade ago, China's breakneck growth in debt could be explained as part of its effort to develop its financial markets. But returns to capital investment have fallen sharply since the early 2000s, according to research by the economists Chong-en Bai and Qiong Zhang. Despite this, debt-financed corporate investment continues to increase. A sizable portion of the new investment will prove unprofitable, at which point the debt that funded loss-making projects will pose risks to financial stability. China's corporate indebtedness is already near or above the levels that preceded the 1997 Asian financial crisis or the eurozone crisis.

In advance of this year's party congress, Mr. Xi is committed to hitting China's 6.5% GDP growth target, even if it requires more wasteful, debt-financed stimulus. Letting big firms go bankrupt or tolerating local government defaults is impossible in China's equivalent of an election year.

The argument that Mr. Xi can more easily tackle the debt burden once he has consolidated his political position is logical—but it is the same promise that Beijing made in advance of the last party congress, five debt-fueled years ago. As Mao noted, Chinese officials “fight among themselves for power and money; they extend their hands into the Party; they want fame and fortune.” Mr. Xi can only tackle China's debt addiction if he is willing to take on his own party first.

**Talk of reform rings hollow when key party interests are at stake.**

country cast off state socialism in the 1980s, crony capitalists have come to control the Communist Party.

The most powerful business interests within the party are those that benefit most from cheap, state-funded lending, fueling China's debt bubble. The bosses of state-owned firms are in theory subordinate to the party hierarchy. In reality, they constitute a powerful lobby, demanding cheap loans from state banks and the ability to use public assets for the private interests of the monopolies they run. When Sinosteel appeared on the brink of bankruptcy several years ago, for example, regulators intervened, forcing state-owned banks to lend cheaply to the steel firm to keep it running.

Provincial and local government officials are even more powerful than the bosses of state-owned firms. Real-estate development—which is no less reliant on cheap credit—has driven growth in many regions. It is also a lucrative source of corruption, as local officials sell off property to developers on the cheap in exchange for kickbacks. Last year, former Guangzhou Party Secretary Wan Qingliang was jailed for taking bribes from a real-estate developer in return for choice plots of land.

Beijing regularly promises to restore party discipline, and doing so would help to restrain the political networks that take advantage of government-backed lending. Mr. Xi's anticorruption campaign, launched in 2012, ostensibly sought to punish the “tigers” in the party who used political power for personal gain.

# Mr. Xi's Awkward Debt Problem

China's Communist elites are addicted to easy credit

BY ALICE HAN AND CHRIS MILLER

**WHEN THE CHAIRMAN** of China's Dongbei Special Steel Co. hanged himself last year, it was clear that something at the firm was going horribly wrong. Next, the company defaulted on nine separate corporate bonds, telling creditors that it lacked the money to pay its bills. Dongbei declared bankruptcy last October.

In the fall of 2015, before Dongbei's slide into insolvency, Chinese President Xi Jinping had declared that Beijing would soon implement “supply-side structural reforms” to cut debt and overcapacity in Chinese industry. With its record of unprofitability, Dongbei might seem to be a perfect candidate for the policy.

But Dongbei isn't being shut down. Nor is it being restructured. Courts in the troubled industrial province of Liaoning, where Dongbei is based, have yet again postponed discussion of the firm's restructuring plan. Rather than cutting output, the province's steel production hit a record in April, up 4.6% from last year. And Dongbei still owes \$6.4 billion to Chinese banks, most of which will probably never get repaid.

China has long relied on debt to fuel growth. The country's debt burden expanded over 2.5 times faster than its economy in 2016, and its ratio of corporate debt to GDP is one of the highest ever seen in a big economy.

Mr. Xi has repeatedly said that China intends to cast off this model of development. Earlier this year, he declared that “financial security”—including debt sustainability—was key to China's “national security.” But change has been slow, and as long as the government provides cheap loans to spendthrift provinces and bankrupt businesses, the risk of a debt-driven financial crisis will grow.

Why can't China kick its debt addiction? The obstacles are political, not economic. Local governments

and bosses of state-owned enterprises benefit immensely from government-subsidized loans, and these groups form the backbone of the Chinese Communist Party.

After taking power in 1949, the party nationalized industry on the grounds that it needed to control the capitalists. “To exterminate the bourgeoisie and capitalism in China,” Mao Zedong said, “is a very good thing.” Yet since the

## Talk of reform rings hollow when key party interests are at stake.

taking bribes from a real-estate developer in return for choice plots of land.

Beijing regularly promises to restore party discipline, and doing so would help to restrain the political networks that take advantage of government-backed lending. Mr. Xi's anticorruption campaign, launched in 2012, ostensibly sought to punish the “tigers” in the party who used political power for personal gain.

## THE POWER OF POSITIVE PARENTING

BY LEA WATERS

**MY HEART SANK** as I pulled into the driveway. For what seemed like the millionth time, my 8-year-old son, Nick, had left his new bike by the front door instead of putting it away. Just the day before, I'd snapped at him: “You need to put your bike where it belongs. I'm getting tired of reminding you!” Smiling and happy to see me just a moment before, he now looked downcast. I felt like a horrible parent.

Why do we zoom in on our children's faults and find it so hard to resist the urge to criticize?

Blame it on our brains. Our “negativity bias,” an ancient survival mechanism, hard-wires us to be nit-pickers, focusing on what's wrong as a way to keep ourselves and our tribe safe. These days, we're also under social pressure to “fix” what's missing or lacking in our kids with extra tutoring, discipline strategies, therapy and more.

The good news is that by learning how to shift our focus to our child's strengths, we can override the negativity bias. A strength is more than just something your child is good at. Psychologists define a strength as something your child does well, happily and often, and they have identified more than 100 discrete strengths that can be measured and improved. These range from talents in sports, music, art and communication to character traits such as grit, curiosity, humor and kindness.

Research has shown that focusing on strengths encourages children to be happy and active. A 2009 study of more than 300 middle-school students in the U.S., published in the *Oxford Review of Education*, found that teens who undertook 25 lessons on strengths—in-



cluding taking a survey to identify their own strengths and setting goals to use their strengths in new ways—had significantly higher engagement and enjoyment at school (as reported by the students themselves). They also had better social skills (as reported by teachers and parents) than their peers who didn't go through the program. Similar results have been found for students in the U.K., Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Japan and China.

In my own research, children and teenagers with parents who focus on strengths are less stressed and better at handling friendship issues and meeting homework deadlines. They also get

better grades. Parents benefit, too. In one of my studies, published this year in the *International Journal of Applied Positive Psychology*, 137 parents were split into two groups. One took a three-week course that taught them to focus on their children's strengths, while a control group continued to parent as usual. Those who went through the training were happier and more confident about their parenting skills after the course compared with their pre-course levels. Those who didn't go through the course showed no shift in happiness and confidence.

Focusing on strengths doesn't mean ignoring problems or lavishing children with excessive

praise. It shows them how to use what they're good at to work on what they're not so good at. To shift gears, just choose a strength your child already has and suggest how he or she could use it to handle the situation.

In my case, I remembered Nick's good organizational skills. I commented on how he'd used them to put his other belongings away after school. I asked him to use those skills now and in the future to put his bike where it belonged. Result? He felt good about himself—and I got the bike put away. A father I've worked with helped his athletic son channel his natural competitive spirit into a friendly contest to “win” at finishing homework instead of having the same old battle about lack of discipline.

How to start? Simply notice one strength in your child each week and have a conversation together about it. When challenges arise, you will find that you can more easily shift out of fix-it mode and into strength focus.

Also, incorporate strengths into the questions you ask your children. When your child is nervous about a big project or event coming up, ask him or her, “What strengths do you have to help you with this?” If they have had a fight with a friend: “What strengths do you think were missing that may have led to the fight? What strengths will help you make up?”

Negativity bias helps us to survive, but our strengths help us to thrive. Showing our children how to harness them is the best tool for success that we can give them.

*Dr. Waters is a professor of positive psychology at the University of Melbourne and author of “The Strength Switch,” to be published by Avery on July 11.*

## REVIEW

### WORD ON THE STREET: BEN ZIMMER

### Trump's 'Dipsy' Turn On Twitter

**PRESIDENT** Donald Trump's Twitter habits of late have drawn criticism from both Democrats and some Republicans. When Sen. Orrin Hatch weighed in last week, after Mr. Trump had tweeted attacks on MSNBC hosts Mika Brzezinski and Joe Scarborough, the GOP legislator revived some decidedly old-fashioned language.

After an interview with Mr. Hatch, CNBC's Kayla Tausche reported that while he was "not a fan" of the tweets in question, he still approved of the president's use of social media. He qualified his response by saying, "Every once in a while you get a dipsy-doo-dle," according to a tweet by Ms. Tausche. (A Twitter account for Sen. Hatch later added that the senator had urged Mr. Trump "to use his platform for good.")

"Dipsy-doo-dle"—dated slang for something that is intended to confuse, deceive or distract—rarely gets dusted off by politicians these days, though Ronald Reagan used it in his first term as president. In 1982, when Democrats argued that tax cuts and military spending would drive up the deficit, Reagan responded, "Well, that's a real dipsy-doo-dle."

The term was popularized in 1937 (when Mr. Hatch was 3 years old) by a song titled "The Dipsy Doodle." Performed by Tommy Dorsey and his Orchestra and by Larry Clinton, its composer, the song playfully describes verbal flubs: "When you think that you're crazy / You're the victim of the Dipsy Doodle / But it's not your mind that's hazy / It's your tongue that's at fault, not your noodle."

In titling the song, Clinton drew on colorful baseball slang for off-speed pitches that fool batters looking for fast balls. A 1940 article in the Hartford Courant explained that Clinton got his inspiration at a game featuring New York Giants pitcher Carl Hubbell, famous for the slow delivery of his screwball pitch, which was nicknamed "the dipsy dew."

Clinton had meant to shout out, "Give 'em the dipsy-dew, Carl!" but instead it came out as "Give 'em the dipsy-doo-dle, Carl!" So inspired, "Larry went home and sat down to write a song," the Courant reported.

Long before Hubbell threw his screwball, baseball players used the phrase "dipsy-dew"

### An old baseball term revived in politics.

(also spelled as "dipsy-do" or "dipsy-doo") for odd-breaking pitches. It shows up in regional newspaper accounts of minor-league baseball games as early as 1910, when the Daily Times of Portsmouth, Ohio, described the "dipsy-dew' curve" of William Ludwig, who pitched for the Portsmouth Cobblers of the Ohio State League.

The "dipsy" part of "dipsy-dew" evokes the dipping movement of a nasty curveball. As for "dew," Major League Baseball's official historian John Thorn pointed out to me the resemblance to an even older name for an off-speed pitch: the "dewdrop." That dates back to the 19th century, when pioneering pitchers first figured out how to vary the speed and motion of their delivery to keep batters guessing.

After "The Dipsy Doodle" hit big in 1937, baseball players latched on to the term, and it entered sports like boxing and football to label deceptive, zig-zagging moves. In politics, the phrase has been used for various kinds of confusion and chicanery, but Mr. Hatch may be the first to bring "dipsy-doo-dle" into the age of Twitter.



A TRAINEE in Coalfield Development Corp.'s wood shop.

### WORK IN PROGRESS: HANNAH BLOCH Job Renewal in Appalachia

**AS AN UNDERGRADUATE** at West Virginia's Shepherd University, Brandon Dennison served as the youth director for the local Presbyterian church—a role that took him on service trips to such far-flung places as Botswana and Nepal. He found these stays—which involved helping AIDS orphans and other people in need—meaningful and inspiring. "But I knew there was extraordinary pain in my own state," he says, "and I would have more impact in the community I knew best."

That community is southern West Virginia, in the heart of Appalachia, a region that has struggled in recent years as the American coal industry has declined and many younger people have left to pursue opportunities elsewhere.

Not Mr. Dennison. While pursuing a master's degree in public affairs at Indiana University Bloomington, he began developing a plan to generate work and training opportunities back home. Before he'd even graduated in 2011, he put that design into action and launched the Coalfield Development Corp., a nonprofit in the small town of Wayne, W. Va.—not far from his hometown of Ona, near the borders of Ohio and Kentucky.

The organization was based on a fairly simple idea," Mr. Dennison says: to hire unemployed people to work for a licensed general contractor startup that would build affordable, energy-efficient housing in the area. Over the years, the organization has branched out into other fields, and laid-off coal miners receive priority in the hiring queue. Trainees have to commit to complete 33 hours of paid work, six hours of community-college classes and three hours of life-skills classes every week—toward the goal of earning an associate degree and professional certification in such fields as solar installation and asbestos removal at the end of two years.

In a state that consistently ranks among America's lowest in rates of higher education, encouraging more of his fellow West Virginians to attend community college was

particularly important to Mr. Dennison. For those who have signed onto the program, "most are the first in their families to go to college," he says.

Since 2012, 23 people have completed the Coalfield Development Corp. program; all have associate degrees and now work full-time. Today, 55 trainees are on the group's payroll, and their achievements help to motivate others. "People see unemployed coal miners back to work, driving tractors, installing solar panels," Mr. Dennison says.

Trainees can now work in five different enterprises in five different counties in southern West Virginia, as well as in a coffee shop, the first in downtown Wayne, in a building renovated by a Coalfield Development Corp. team. Some are working in agriculture and solar power (a field in which the corporation's trainees are the only local licensed installers, Mr. Dennison says).

Others are learning to do woodwork and to build furniture. Trainees are also reclaiming former strip-mining sites for farming, planting blueberry and blackberry bushes as well as herbs such as lavender and thyme. "We are a very future-oriented group," Mr. Dennison says.

The Coalfield Development Corp. is supported by government and foundation grants, private donors and its own sales and contracts. The organization aims eventually to spin off its ventures as for-profit enterprises.

Mr. Dennison, 31, is the son of two university professors. Growing up, he saw that government programs were a crucial safety net for many in the region. But the programs "didn't create transformative opportunities in people's lives," he says. "I wanted to build something sustainable."

In the coming years, Mr. Dennison says, possible new enterprises for the organization could include work in areas such as transport and logistics, health care, technology and software—industries that many don't typically associate with Appalachia. "We are a part of the country and have a lot to offer," he says.

### Laid-off coal miners receive priority.

### PHOTO OF THE WEEK



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

### R&D: DANIEL AKST

## Moths Aid an Attack on Glare

SUNLIGHT can be a glaring problem for many of our most advanced consumer electronics—so science is looking to moths for some help.

Reflected rays can make it tough to see the screens on electronic devices outdoors and sometimes indoors, too. Cranking up the screen's brightness can help, and many smartphones do this automatically, but that can sap battery life. Various antireflective coatings and screen covers typically involve trade-offs in durability, performance and expense.

That's where moths come into the picture. Inspired by the unusual structure of the insects' eyes, researchers at the University of Central Florida and two universities in Taiwan have invented a durable new coating that sharply cuts the reflected light coming off a clear surface without impairing clarity.

The scientists say that the material can work for screens large and small and can resist smudges and scratches. The new coatings require a careful fabrication process, which the scientists are still tweaking. But they believe the process can eventually be economical on an industrial scale.

The researchers were drawn to moths by the work of other scientists, who had created coatings based on moths' eyes to reduce the reflectiveness of solar panels. Moths' eyes are strongly antireflective, thanks to a pattern of infinitesimal dimples on the surface. Those dimples help the insects to see at night and prevent light from being reflected, thus keeping their eyes from disclosing their position to predators. A similar coating can boost the efficiency of solar panels by letting more light enter and become electricity.

Aware of these results, the scientists in Florida and Taiwan wondered if they could overcome fabrication problems to bring the same technology to bear on smartphones and the like. In a new scientific article, the researchers say that their coating demonstrated a measured surface reflection of 0.23%—far less than the 4% to 5% that is typical of smartphones, according to Guanjun Tan, one of the scientists. He adds that the figure is lower than the reduced reflectiveness offered by many alternative coatings, which might register in the 2%

### A pattern of tiny eye dimples protects them from predators.

range.

In sunlight, the scientists report, glass coated with the new material improved the contrast ratio by a factor of 4—and by a factor of 10 in shade. To allow for the more advanced touch screens that the scientists anticipate coming to market in the years ahead, they made the new coating work on flexible and even foldable surfaces and on curves.

Adapting the moths' eye structure to consumer electronics posed challenges. For example, the dimples had to be tinier than a moth's to minimize reflections without impairing transparency, so they are just a thousandth of the breadth of a human hair. This in turn required a precise fabrication process. A silicon dioxide template was used to imprint the nano-pattern of dimples on a thin layer of rubber and acrylate coating material. The former contributes flexibility, the latter hardness, and the proportions can be adjusted depending on the desired trade-off.

The scientists report that they succeeded in using their coating on glass and on two types of flexible plastics.

"Broadband Antireflection Film With Moth-eye-like Structure for Flexible Display Applications," Guanjun Tan, Jiun-Haw Lee, Yi-Hsin Lan, Mao-Kuo Wei, Lung-Han Peng, I-Chun Cheng and Shin-Tson Wu, *Optica* (June 22)

**Field of Dreams**  
Racers in the Tour of Austria's second stage cycled past planted sunflowers on Tuesday during the journey from Vienna west toward the town of Pöggstall.

**Answers**  
To the News Quiz on page C13

1.B, 2.A, 3.D, 4.B,  
5.A, 6.B, 7.A, 8.C

# BOOKS

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Saturday/Sunday, July 8 - 9, 2017 | C5

## A Jane for Every Reader

For 200 years Austen has proved adaptable to the changing sensibilities of her ever-avid audience

### The Genius of Jane Austen

By Paula Byrne

Harper Perennial, 334 pages, \$16.99

### Jane Austen at Home

By Lucy Worsley

St. Martin's, 387 pages, \$29.99

### Jane Austen, the Secret Radical

By Helena Kelly

Knopf, 318 pages, \$27.95

### The Making of Jane Austen

By Devoney Looser

Johns Hopkins, 291 pages, \$29.95

BY D.J. TAYLOR

**NOT LONG AGO** the Times Literary Supplement decided to advertise its review of a clutch of Jane Austen-related material with an unusually striking cover image. Poised intently on the gray stone terrace of some stately home stood three immensely beautiful young women. Each came nattily dressed in the fashions of the early 19th century; one, at least, was wearing a bonnet. There, however, the connection to Regency-era decorum ended, for each, mysteriously, wore an expression best described as "feisty," had her stony eyes trained on an unseen assailant, and was brandishing a drawn sword. These, it turned out, were three of the Bennet sisters, played by the actresses Bella Heathcote, Lily James and Millie Brady, in the 2016 feature film "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies."

While the average Austen enthusiast—a "Janeite," to use the technical term—will straightaway mark this down as a travesty of everything he or she holds dear, it should be pointed out that bygone fans were quite as bewildered by some of the liberties taken by the film publicists of the mid-20th century. Even now it can come as rather a shock to discover that the shout-line for the 1940 version of "Pride and Prejudice," scripted by Aldous Huxley and starring Laurence Olivier and Greer Garson, ran "Bachelors beware! Five Gorgeous Beauties are on a Madcap Manhunt." Purists, naturally, were outraged, and yet the unifying theme of each of four new books on Austen and her reputation is an insistence that the visions of Bath and Pemberley peddled by die-hard Janeites are often quite as false to the original texts as any member of the undead disturbing Mr. Darcy in his dressing room.

If Austen's status as an English classic currently rests somewhere between Shakespeare and Dickens, then she is also—here on the 200th anniversary of her passing in July 1817—a handy illustration of the ancient truism that what happens to writers after their deaths is nearly always quite as fascinating as the life itself. Eighty years ago, for example, Dickens, that champion liberal and free spirit, was being hailed by left-wing writers as "almost" a Marxist and by

same time, the temptation to over-read her—to zealously re-examine the positions she may, or may not, be supposed to have taken up—is exacerbated by how little we know about her, an absence of hard fact that, as all four of her latest interpreters acknowledge, encourages mythmaking.

We associate Austen with the West Country town of Bath, with hearths and homes and domestic solidity, but as TV history presenter Lucy Worsley points out in her new biography, "Jane Austen at Home," much of her life was spent in transit, living out of suitcases. Nearly all her heroines are, in some sense, displaced persons, in search of comfort and security.

As for that absence of hard fact, we might think that we can approach Austen through her letters, but they, it tends to be argued, are less revealing than they seem: Many of the original texts are missing; those that remain are sometimes more a smokescreen than an illumination.

Celebrating the many faces of Jane: the genius, the homebody, the radical, even the zombie slayer.

The novels, Helena Kelly assures us in "Jane Austen, the Secret Radical," are "as close to Jane as we're ever going to get."

But how close is that, given the obfuscations and seductive reimaginings of the novels by the cineastes? Nearly everyone here is convinced that the damage was done by Andrew Davies's highly praised 1995 BBC adaptation of "Pride and Prejudice" starring Colin Firth and Jennifer Ehle, which, Ms. Kelly insists, faithfully manipulates and sanitizes its source. Mr. Darcy's comparatively modest estate at Pemberley is upgraded to the Duke of Devonshire's Chatsworth pile. Mr. Bennet's affability and eccentricity trump his incompetence, ineffectuality and neglect of his family's interests. And so, incriminatingly, on, with romance replacing social tension and chatter filling in for the political hint.

"The Secret Radical" is a provocative, if impressionistic, study, which alternates fictionalized episodes from Austen's life ("Sunlight and shadow chase each other across the sea ripples, while the waves dance, mischievous, sparkling, to welcome in the yearly miracle of an English spring," runs one picturesque lead-in) with some convincing arguments about Austen's interest in, or at least awareness of, the radical underpinnings of the Georgian age. "Pride and Prejudice" is reimagined as a dispatch from a country at war with its cross-Channel neighbor and "Sense and Sensibility" redefined as a book about greed and need and "the terrible, selfish things that families do to each

Please turn to the next page



religious apologists as "almost" a Catholic. In much the same way, two-thirds of a century after its author's miserable death, a browser of the newspaper op-ed pages could be forgiven for assuming that George Orwell's "Nineteen Eighty-Four" (1949) was expressly written to satirize the Trump presidency. It is the same with Jane. Is she a romantic, a satirist or even a proto-feminist? What do her women want? And—perhaps even more important—what do we want from them?

Efforts to fit long-dead writers into the behavioral straitjackets of the present may very often involve huge amounts of special pleading or grotesque misrepresentations of historical fact, but the impetus behind

them is perfectly understandable. It is a mark of how much the 21st century values such literary colossi as Orwell, Dickens and Shakespeare that it should want to use them as spiritual litmus paper: If they weren't so important to us, we would leave them behind and find other lanterns to guide us through the contemporary murk. Even more significant, perhaps, is that we should almost invariably find in them things that sometimes aren't there, magnify some of their authors' preoccupations and diminish others to the point of marginality. And so, reaching the end of "The Genius of Jane Austen: Her Love of Theatre and Why She Works in Hollywood," and reflecting on Austen's endless transitions to the wide

screen, Paula Byrne can only conclude that, had she lived, Jane would have been "baffled" that most of the film adaptations emphasize the romantic aspects of her fiction when her real intention was "to subvert and undermine the romantic."

There is a great deal in all these books about subversion and undermining, so much so that it occasionally can make Miss Austen, scribbling surreptitiously away in the drawing room while family life ebbed and flowed around her, look like the wildest of postmodern cryptographers rather than a youngish woman of the reign of George III—she was born in 1775—filing amused reports on the somewhat restricted middle-class world in which she flourished. At the

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## BOOKS

'Something more than death has happened. . . . We are in touch with the reality of extinction.' —Henry Beetle Hough

# The Fire Last Time

## The Ends of the World

By Peter Brannen

Ecco, 322 pages, \$27.99

BY RICHARD CONNIFF

**FOR EVERYONE** who loves disaster movies, and the sound of Wile E. Coyote going splat, here's a book about Planet Earth's multiple suicide attempts—sorry, mass-extinction events. The Earth "has nearly died five times over the past 500 million years," notes science writer Peter Brannen in "The Ends of the World." One of these events, the End-Permian Extinction 252 million years ago, killed more than 95% of all living things, earning it a reputation as "the Great Dying." The other four, muddling along at a somewhat more modest rate, were nonetheless apocalyptic enough to make biblical floods and famines seem like Monday at the office.

Mr. Brannen sets out to learn "just how bad" it could get, with a view to understanding our own future as climate change advances across the planet. Brace yourself. It's not just about "a rock larger than Mount Everest" slamming into the planet at a speed "twenty times faster than a bullet."

That is of course the leading theory about what happened to *Tyrannosaurus rex* and friends in the best-known mass extinction, at the end of the Cretaceous Period 66 million years ago. Debate about this theory in the 1980s began in ridicule and progressed to widespread acceptance, with the fatal asteroid ultimately linked to an impact crater 110 miles wide on the coast of Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula. An alternative—or possibly complementary—theory puts the blame on massive volcanic eruptions occurring almost simultaneously on the opposite side of the planet, in the Deccan Traps of India.

As a result of the debate over what killed the dinosaurs, the study of mass extinctions, "long pushed aside as a disreputable fringe of paleontology," became cutting edge, Mr. Brannen writes, and it has opened up a whole new world of potential Armageddons. Thus he gleefully introduces readers to "truly mind-blowing cyclical floods called jökulhlaups," waves "20,000 feet high," catastrophic volcanic eruptions that make Krakatoa or Vesuvius look like "pathetic burps," 500-mile-per-hour winds loaded with toxic hydrogen sulfide, and vast swaths of the planet alternately buried under miles of ice, baked at 140 degrees Fahrenheit or drowned by oceans like hot soup.

The evidence of past extinctions turns out to be surprisingly visible all around us in North America. "We live on a palimpsest of earth history," Mr.



ETERNAL A Jurassic ammonite fossil on the beach in Dorset, England.

Brannen writes. Look west from Manhattan, for instance, and the high cliffs of the Hudson River Palisades are a vestige of the End-Triassic mass extinction 200 million years ago. They were formerly "gigantic underground channels" spewing an "incandescent fountain" of lava, much of which landed a little to the west, forming New Jersey's Watchung Mountains.

West Texas, an arid region best known for its Permian Basin gas and oil fields, is similarly the perfect destination for End-Permian tourism. The Guadalupe Mountains there are a former barrier reef, a "marine tableau, frozen in limestone," made up of what were once vase sponges, horn corals, crinoids and other ancient sea creatures, the last profusion of species before the Great Dying. "Life on earth," Mr. Brannen reminds us, "constitutes a remarkably thin glaze of interesting chemistry on an otherwise unremarkable, cooling ball of stone."

Mr. Brannen's travels introduce us to the paleontologists who work these landscapes, often by studying the fossil remains of uncharismatic invertebrates. The paleontologists tend to "regard the dinosaur folks," one of them admits, in the same slightly patronizing way that "marine biologists look at people who work with dolphins." These visits are

occasionally illuminating. We learn, for instance, that the continents did not always have our familiar north-south orientation. In the Ordovician Period roughly 450 million years ago, North America, Siberia, Australia and other continents drifted in isolation along the equator. So while many species in our time have already be-

What the five previous mass die-offs of life on Earth can teach us about the looming sixth.

gun to extend their ranges north or south toward the poles, in response to the warming climate, their Ordovician counterparts "found themselves marooned on their island continents, separated from habitable refuges by vast open oceans."

Unfortunately, Mr. Brannen's travels often distract more than they inform. He spends much of the book bouncing down a dirt road to the site of some past geological catastrophe or other. But he seldom sticks around long enough to see much or to help readers understand what was happening, or why, in any given period. He

with employment benefits to negotiate child-rearing in the absence of a father than it is for a low-income single mom working a service-industry job. Eventually the latter woman may come to believe the system is stacked against her. Because, in a sense, it is. John B. Judis's "The Populist Explosion" (Columbia Global Reports,

works desperately to avoid being dragged down by humdrum details. "When a geologist calls something boring, reel in horror," he advises. But his alternative is to reach for snappy-sounding descriptions—the ancient armored fish Bothriolepis and Dunkleosteus resemble "bony Frisbees" and "psychotic torpedo Cuisinarts," respectively—that just leave the reader mystified.

Mr. Brannen is also obsessed with the apocalyptic tendencies of the present day. This is understandable, given our deadly mix of greenhouse-gas pollution, ocean acidification and species extinction. But past extinctions are complicated enough on their own. Competing theories about these ancient extinction events abound, and readers need an evenhanded guide to weed out the wild speculation from ideas more firmly grounded in evidence. Instead, Mr. Brannen repeatedly flashes forward, pausing, for instance, during a description of a catastrophe that happened 252 million years ago to interject: "No one knows where our modern experiment with the planet's geochemistry will lead."

If you want to understand past extinction events, you would do better to try paleontologist Norman MacLeod's 2013 book "The Great Extinctions." For the current world-wide disappearance of species, try Elizabeth Kolbert's "The Sixth Extinction" (2014).

The one hopeful aspect of our own developing catastrophe is that humans are the driving cause this time, unlike in previous extinction events. That means humans could still develop a remedy. Mr. Brannen points out that we have successfully acted in the past to address human threats to the planet's atmosphere. In the 1980s, for instance, NASA simulations of continued use of chlorofluorocarbons showed the ozone layer almost completely disappearing by 2060 and spawning what he calls "a global wave of lethal mutations and cancers." Instead, 197 nations came together to ratify the 1989 Montreal Protocol, which set the ozone layer on a course to recovery by the middle of this century. In the U.S., the 1989 amendments to the Clean Air Act likewise quickly reduced the threat of acid rain and led to dramatic improvements in the quality of the air we breathe. Both of those initiatives began under Republican administrations, and the current administration could still take that kind of bold, forward-looking action on climate change. The lesson from the unimaginable devastation of past extinction events is that we have everything to lose by continued delay.

Mr. Conniff is the author, most recently, of "House of Lost Worlds: Dinosaurs, Dynasties, and the Story of Life on Earth."

## Jane Austen

*Continued from page C5*  
other for the sake of money." These are novels, in Ms. Kelly's reading, about locked cabinets, jealously guarded mysteries and emotional concealments. Hunky Mr. Darcy plunging into his lake then running into Elizabeth Bennet (a scene that Austen never got round to writing) is given the shortest of shrifts.

As the example of Colin Firth in his figure-hugging swimwear reminds us, much of Austen's periodic reinvention has to do with the pictorial representation of her characters. One of the most fascinating sections of Devoney Looser's "The Making of Jane Austen," a study of Austen's near-continuous post-death reinvention, consequently takes in the wildly different approaches of her early illustrators. The first collected editions of her novels in the 1830s brought her sartorially up to date by putting her heroines in early-Victorian clothing and playing up the familial, female and sensational elements, only to be replaced, come the 1870s, by a hankering for the Wordsworthian sublime that tied them to nature and geographical place. Then

Perceptions of Austen may change with the times, but not the ardent devotion of her admirers.

came the artist Hugh Thomson (1860-1920), who drew attention to the social criticism implicit in Austen's attitude to matchmaking and produced a famous illustration of the five Bennet sisters seated in a line of high-backed chairs and being inspected by their parents. Elizabeth is accompanied not by a drawn sword but by a sign bearing the words "Not for Sale."

By the later 19th century, Ms. Looser argues, Austen was already a chameleon-like figure, simultaneously regarded as a traditionalist and as the advocate of social change, praised by conservative gentlemen in their clubs for being apolitical while the suffragists promenading outside their windows had her name woven into their banners. Half a century later, the placid comfort of her domestic interiors was balm to a readership traumatized by war, while half a century after that her gossiping sororities awaiting their suitors' calls looked like a less sophisticated version of a Hollywood teen movie.

If all this suggests that, 200 years after her early death (over which, as in nearly every other aspect of her life, hangs a fog of mystery), Austen is a literary version of one of John Wyndham's *Triffids*, capable of colonizing every territory to which she is introduced, then several unifying factors remain. One of them is the intensely proprietorial air brought to her by her fans. Lucy Worsley confesses to having "searched for my own Jane, and naturally I have found her to be simply a far, far better version of myself: clever, kind, funny, but also angry at the restrictions of her life." The suspicion, alas, is that "my own Jane" may actually be in part someone else's, for the appearance of "Jane Austen at Home" in the U.K. was met by accusations (which Ms. Worsley denied) that she had borrowed some of her conceptual armature from an earlier book by Paula Byrne titled "The Real Jane Austen."

Another unifying factor, curiously enough, is a descent into idiomatic chattiness. Devoney Looser may be a professor of English at Arizona State, but that doesn't stop her, in "The Making of Jane Austen," from wanting to get down with the kids by rapping about "monikers," "direct riffs" and "knockoffs." Ms. Worsley, too, leaps in her preamble to take issue with what she regards as misreadings of Austen's texts ("Wrong, wrong, wrong . . . Big mistake!" etc.). But perhaps this, too, is a testimony to Jane's enduring appeal. So eager are fans of "Emma" and "Persuasion" to explain what really matters about her to an impressionable new audience that literature professors and TV presenters alike turn quaintly demotic in her presence. Like her ability to inspire zombie films in which Miss Elizabeth Bennet lays about the undead with a flailing sword, this is quite an achievement.

Mr. Taylor is the author, most recently, of "The New Book of Snobs."

## Letters From 'Anywhere'

**AT ITS SIMPLEST,** populism is the mobilization of common folk against the elite—and present-day liberals are nothing if not elite, the left wing's long association with working-class radicalism having expired a generation ago. Liberals and progressives are therefore not wrong to view the populist movements now roiling Europe and America—Britain's exit from the

Two short books distill a key question for the left: Is populism driven by culture or economics?

European Union, the election of Donald Trump—as inimical to everything they believe. But although they're not wrong to see these populist movements as arising from basically conservative impulses, their responses have generally consisted of sarcasm and frenzied outrage and not much more. Here, however, are two brief and lucid books by center-left writers who genuinely want to know what our liberal democratic societies might have done, or failed to do, to provoke these populist revolts.

David Goodhart's "The Road to Somewhere" (Hurst, 278 pages, \$24.95) deals mainly with last year's Brexit vote, but his argument has more to do with outlooks and

attitudes than economic policies, and for that reason it's every bit as relevant in the American context. "The old distinctions of class and economic interest," he writes, "have not disappeared but are increasingly overlaid by a larger and looser one—between the people who see the world from Anywhere and the people who see it from Somewhere."

Anywheres are university-educated, highly mobile and socially liberal; Somewheres derive their identity from particular places, lack impressive educational backgrounds and find rapid social change unsettling. Like "The British Dream" (2013), in which Mr. Goodhart suggested to fellow liberals that mass immigration may have unforeseen effects on British society, "The Road to Somewhere" asks liberals to consider that social changes they've cheered for decades might not look like unalloyed blessings to the nation's Somewheres—in other words its untraveled, uncredentialed majority.

In a chapter on the family, for instance, Mr. Goodhart—sounding a lot like an American neoconservative writing 40 years ago in the Public Interest or Commentary—warns that left-liberal values haven't worked out so well for Somewheres. Elite liberals wanted a more casual view of marriage, and they got it. But it's more feasible for a woman with a postgraduate degree and a well-paying job

with employment benefits to negotiate child-rearing in the absence of a father than it is for a low-income single mom working a service-industry job. Eventually the latter woman may come to believe the system is stacked against her. Because, in a sense, it is. John B. Judis's "The Populist Explosion" (Columbia Global Reports,

2016) was published just before Mr. Trump's election, but that improbable victory only confirms the book's thesis that Western democracies are in some ways failing to represent their citizens. Mr. Judis contends that the forms of populism we're witnessing in Europe are essentially American in their provenance, the latest manifestation of a tradition running from the original populists—the People's Party of the 1890s—to Huey Long's Share Our Wealth cam-

paign of the 1920s and 30s and George Wallace's presidential campaigns of the 1960s. All these movements, in Mr. Judis's interpretation, were expressions of dissatisfaction with the distribution of wealth. In essence, he thinks, these were revolts against economic "neoliberalism."

Mr. Judis's analysis is sharp and engaging on narrow points—he rightly insists, for instance, that the driving forces behind the fascism of the 1930s simply do not obtain today—but the thrust of his argument is almost wholly economic. Mr. Goodhart, I think, is closer to the truth in defining contemporary populism as primarily a cultural phenomenon. It's as much about political correctness and the cultural turmoil caused by mass immigration as it is about the distribution of resources. I suspect one reason Mr. Judis concentrates so exclusively on economic issues is that it allows him to categorize Bernie Sanders's 2016 insurgency as "populist." But for the most part Mr. Sanders's band of earnest hipsters and college professors don't think of themselves as populists—common folk—but as the nation's rightful, if yet unacknowledged, elite. They are, in other words, Anywheres.

In both these slim volumes, however, you sense a spirit of fairness and a capacity for self-criticism—and that, surely, is what their liberal Anywheres readers need so badly.

In both these slim volumes, however, you sense a spirit of fairness and a capacity for self-criticism—and that, surely, is what their liberal Anywheres readers need so badly.

Mr. Taylor is the author, most recently, of "The New Book of Snobs."

WE WANT OUR COUNTRY BACK

BREXIT BACKER Nigel Farage in 2016.

## BOOKS

'Photography is . . . an art that excites the most astute minds—and one that can be practiced by any imbecile.' —Nadar

# Parisian Dynamo



**MAN IN FULL** Frames from Nadar's 'revolving self-portrait,' created in 1865, for which the photographer took a dozen images of himself as his chair was rotated 360 degrees.

### The Great Nadar

By Adam Begley  
*Tim Duggan, 248 pages, \$28*

BY TOBIAS GREY

**AT THE AGE** of 37, Gaspard-Félix Tournachon, more commonly known as Nadar, went up in a hot-air balloon for the first time. It was a life-changing experience for the Parisian portrait photographer, whose unstinting activities had moved his friend Charles Baudelaire to describe him as "the most astonishing expression of vitality" he had ever seen.

The year was 1857, and Nadar was desperate for something to take his mind off his earthly concerns, or at least put them into some kind of perspective. For the past two years he had been waging a bitter—and eventually successful—legal battle against his younger brother, Adrien (himself a photographer), to prevent him from appropriating his pseudonym and using the name "Nadar jeune."

In Nadar's delightful ragbag book of memoirs, "When I Was a Photographer" (which was finally given a sparkling English-language translation two years ago), he recalled his feelings of drifting above the clouds for the first time: "Everything is far away: cares, remorse, disgust. How easily indifference, contempt, forgetfulness drop away from on high—and forgiveness descends."

For Nadar it was the beginning of a lifelong, frequently perilous love affair with ballooning that resulted in his becoming the first person to take and develop aerial photographs. He

also established the world's first aerial postal service during the Prussian siege of Paris (1870-71).

These airborne adventures are given a regrettably brief, if lively, recounting in Adam Begley's "The Great Nadar." Mr. Begley's primary focus, in this first English-language biography of the French polymath (he was also a gifted writer and caricaturist), is on Nadar's considerable merits as a portrait photographer. Mr. Begley suggests that, by the time Nadar took up photography in the mid-1850s, his half-dozen years of work as a caricaturist had given him a head-start as a portraitist. Nadar also "understood

The true pioneer of portrait photography was also a writer, balloonist, cartoonist and *bohème*.

intuitively the emerging celebrity culture, the desire to be publicly known, to be visible and recognized now and in the future."

With his 2014 biography of John Updike, Mr. Begley showed that he is a writer who likes to work his way from the outside in. This approach, in "Updike," involved nailing down the autobiographical resonance of the author's novels, short stories, literary criticism and poetry. For "The Great Nadar," Mr. Begley has combed through an array of literature, letters, guest books, invitations, drawings and other miscellany to tease out a nuanced portrait of one of the world's first celebrity artist-entrepreneurs.

Above all, though, it is Mr. Begley's careful study of Nadar's portraits of famous writers, artists, actors and composers (many of them reproduced here) that recommends "The Great Nadar" as a window on an era of extraordinary artistic endeavor.

Nadar's first photographic studio was an outdoor one on the Rue Saint-Lazare (wags rechristened it Rue Saint-Nadar). Visitors crossed a reception room, decorated with a half-dozen romantic paintings by Gustave Doré, before stepping out into a "ravishingly beautiful" courtyard garden.

It was here that Nadar learned to appreciate all the different ways that natural light could imbue a photograph. As he wrote: "It's the artistic appreciation of the effects produced by various qualities of lighting alone or combined—it's the application of this or that effect according to the nature of the physiognomy that as an artist you aim to reproduce."

One of Nadar's first celebrity subjects was Baudelaire, whom he photographed over an eight-year period. Mr. Begley describes these photographs as an "eloquent" study of the poet "refining his persona and coping with [the] notoriety" that arose from the publication, in 1857, of "The Flowers of Evil," six poems of which were banned in France for decades for their depiction of decadence run amok.

Nadar had become friendly with Baudelaire and his fellow poet Gérard de Nerval during his days as a garrett-hopping bohemian. It was during this period that his biting political cartoons earned him the nickname "tourne à dard" (later shortened to Nadar), meaning one who scores with a dart. Mr. Begley notes that Nadar—one can't

help thinking of Andy Warhol a century later—"cultivated an antiestablishment chic meant to entice not only the cultural elite but also anyone who hoped to mix with artists, radicals and . . . bohemians."

Nadar was equally adept at photographing women and men. One of his most provocative photographs shows the middle-aged author Théophile Gautier, shirt unbuttoned and a hand tucked lewdly down the waistband of his trousers. Nadar's exquisite pictures of the actress Sarah Bernhardt, at the age of 20, capture a sense of both her toughness and vulnerability, while his portraits of George Sand delighted the 60-year-old writer so much that they became firm friends.

The dead didn't escape his camera's focus either. In 1865, Nadar was invited to take a picture of Victor Hugo (both shared a hatred of Louis-Napoleon's autocratic regime) on the great writer's deathbed. Similarly, Gustave Doré, whom Nadar had first made a portrait of as a bright young thing on the brink of fame, was shown on his deathbed wrapped in a white shroud strewn with roses.

Mr. Begley is rightly lavish in his praise for Nadar's early photography and his gift for "capturing a piercingly accurate psychological likeness." But he feels that Nadar lost his way in the 1860s, when he upgraded his business and moved to massive new premises on the Boulevard des Capucines. His art suffered, Mr. Begley argues, as he was compelled to produce portraits on an industrial scale to pay off his growing debts. The result was "conventional images lacking the edge and daring and enigmatic beauty of his early work."

By that point—despite the support of his ever-loyal wife, Ernestine—Nadar seems to have grown disillusioned by his métier. What he started out by calling "an art that sharpens the wits of the wisest souls" became for him an "idiot job."

But Nadar was nothing if not a master of reinvention. He pioneered the practice of aerial photography and became the first photographer to use artificial lighting below ground in the Paris catacombs. With his friend Jules Verne, he formed the Society for the Encouragement of Aerial Locomotion to promote the development of so-called heavier-than-air machines.

These were all considerable achievements, but Mr. Begley is not convinced. He suggests that "the sad consequence of [Nadar's] extracurricular activities in the 1860s is that all these frenetic adventures kept him away from the studio, the place where his true genius had flourished." Perhaps so, but what made Nadar such a compelling personality—what drew so many disparate personalities toward him—was his range of passionate engagement, his effervescence. Nadar's "true genius" could not be limited to the confines of portrait photography.

What made Nadar so entrancing, it seems, was his Wildean propensity for putting talent into his works but genius into his life. One need only read Nadar's chapter on his first attempt at aerostatic photography in "When I Was a Photographer" to grasp the true nature of the man: "Who or what can stop me," he writes, "once I have given in to one of my sudden bursts of enthusiasm?"

*Mr. Grey is a writer based in Paris.*

# The Hated Enemy

### Hannibal

By Patrick N. Hunt  
*Simon & Schuster, 362 pages, \$28*

BY JAMES ROMM

**ANCIENT HISTORIANS** gave the name "Hannibalic" to the war between Carthage and Rome at the end of the third century B.C.—known to us as the Second Punic War—to acknowledge that one man had set it in motion and defined the course it

What drove Hannibal's lifelong crusade against the Roman republic?

took. Hannibal Barca, a general of unparalleled skill and determination, invaded Italy in 218 B.C., hauling a vast army, including a corps of war elephants, over the snow-clad Alps. Hannibal led that army, a polyglot assemblage of African and Iberian peoples, to three successive victories over numerically superior Roman forces. He inflicted horrific casualties on the Romans and nearly ended their rise to imperial dominion when it had barely begun.

The third of Hannibal's wins, at the Battle of Cannae in 216 B.C., was among the most devastating military blows ever struck; perhaps 50,000 Romans were killed in a few hours of fervid fighting. Yet somehow Rome refused to give in. With newly recruited legions and a new general, Scipio, whose brashness and brilliance were a match for those of Hannibal, the Romans chased Hannibal out of

southern Italy and back to his native North African haunts.

The great duel between Hannibal and Scipio was finally resolved near a town with the stirring name of Zama, near the border between today's Algeria and Tunisia. Rome's forces trounced Hannibal there in 202 B.C. and imposed a humiliating surrender on Carthage, though their final destruction of that city, the notorious "Carthaginian peace," came more than 50 years later at the end of the Third Punic War.

Although beaten, Hannibal remained unreconciled to the triumph of Roman arms. In the second phase of his remarkable career, he became a kind of international *condottiere*, lending his strategic brilliance to rulers in the Greek east who opposed Roman expansion. He remained innovative and entrepreneurial to the end. While leading the naval forces of a certain Prusias of Bithynia, a province in northwest Asia Minor, Hannibal is said to have won a sea battle by tossing baskets of poisonous snakes onto the decks of his adversary. When, late in the 180s B.C., the Romans pressured Prusias into turning Hannibal over, he took poison himself (according to most sources) to avoid being marched captive through the streets of his hated enemy.

What was it that drove Hannibal's lifelong anti-Roman crusade? According to a tale told by the historians Polybius and Livy, Hannibal himself described to a king who employed him, late in life, how his father Hamilcar—another general who had fought Rome and lost—had taken him, at age 9, to a solemn sacrificial rite and bade him swear eternal enmity to Rome. Patrick Hunt, an archaeologist who

teaches in Stanford's continuing-studies program, reimagines this scene in the first chapter of "Hannibal," a chapter titled "The Vow," and seems to find in it an explanation of Hannibal's later career. "The child Hannibal died that day," Mr. Hunt writes. "He would increasingly come to know thereafter that he lived only to see



**SILVER** A Carthaginian coin, found in Spain, from the third century B.C.

Rome's destruction."

Mr. Hunt's portrayal of this oath-swearing scene is vivid and stirring, but he prefacing it with a quiet reminder that it cannot be substantiated ("if the story is true"). There are indeed good reasons to doubt its veracity. Even if Hannibal related this tale in the way our sources claim, he did so at a moment when he was suspected of treachery and his life depended on his anti-Roman bona fides; he had good reason to invent it. Or his recounting of the pledge, in a private conversation, might itself have been invented by some later writer,

neuvers and battles, material that is more fully documented in the sources. Even here, though, Mr. Hunt's impulse to import color sometimes results in peculiarities. He speculates, on no evidence, that a Roman general's corpse was beheaded after Hannibal's victory at Lake Trasimene in central Italy, then writes: "This possible decapitation was eerily symbolic of the now-headless Roman army." A beheading that is only "possible" but still "eerily symbolic" is the sort of contortion that results from serving two masters, responsible history and romance.

Mr. Hunt could perhaps pull off this straddle if he were a better prose artist, but many of his sentences are as ungainly as African elephants lumbering over the Alps. Some are poorly constructed: "The Romans now had another masterful tactic working well to keep [Hannibal] running to put out fires among his shrinking allies." Others are simply bizarre: "Old king Syphax had a young trophy wife to fan both his ardor and his Punic alliance." In describing the horrors of an all-out infantry clash, Mr. Hunt too often resorts to cliché sound effects (screams, moans and the clashing of spears on shields are heard at regular intervals).

The cover of "Hannibal" features an equestrian statue of a dashing cavalryman, with the title superimposed like a label. Readers be warned: There are no surviving ancient portraits that preserve Hannibal's features; this image is actually an 18th-century line drawing that only looks like a Roman marble. The illusion is all too much in keeping with Mr. Hunt's approach throughout the book.

*Mr. Romm is the author of, most recently, "Dying Every Day: Seneca at the Court of Nero."*

## BOOKS

"Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." —Genesis

FICTION CHRONICLE: SAM SACKS

# Riots, Wars and Real Estate



**BRIAN PLATZER** builds his debut novel, "Bed-Stuy Is Burning" (Atria, 326 pages, \$26), on a perceptive and unsettling metaphor for gentrification. His main character, Aaron, is a former rabbi who was fired for gambling with the synagogue's funds. He rebounded by becoming an investment manager, having a child with his girlfriend, Amelia (a divorcee, Amelia is reluctant to remarry), and settling them into a gorgeous brownstone in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Aaron has mostly stayed away from the bookies since his disgrace, but in his psychologist's diagnosis his real addiction is to "risk taking"—that's why he's gotten more of a charge in moving into this predominantly black neighborhood than he ever did playing the ponies: "Bed-Stuy was the best bet he'd ever made. It was a real risk, and a thrilling one. It took guts to be surrounded by people who didn't look like him, in a neighborhood without the amenities he was accustomed to, but it was worth it. As long as New York City remained desirable ... the only way he could lose was a spike in crime to scare off new gentrifiers."

Two ambitious novels that tackle gentrification and the seething resentments of those it displaces.

Mr. Platzer presents a rounded picture of Aaron and Amelia. Both are decent, family-oriented and charitable, and Amelia, a magazine writer, has stretched beyond celebrity profiles to write a sensitive article on Bed-Stuy's history and architecture. But it's impossible to shake the author's characterization of them as high-stakes gamblers, people who don't see crime and employment rates as numbers that refer to real people around them but only as statistics to factor into the odds of a big payout.

In "Bed-Stuy Is Burning" the odds go against them. The neighborhood has been set on edge after police killed an unarmed 12-year-old boy, and on the day that most of the novel takes place young men and women, chanting the refrain "Twelve years old ten shots!" engage in acts of civil disobedience. But a heavy-handed police crackdown inflames them to violence, and soon mobs fan out, looting shops and subjecting brownstones and housing projects to a frenzied auto-da-fé.

A group of rioters comes to Aaron and Amelia's doorstep. Aaron has left



ALAMY

for work—unbeknownst to his wife, he's had a relapse and gone to the racetrack—but Amelia is upstairs writing while their infant son, Simon, is cared for by his nanny, Antoinette, a widowed mother of one who has recently converted to Islam. To Amelia's displeasure, they have also had a visit from their African-American neighbor Jupiter, who is courting Antoinette and foresees the trouble to come. "He knew that if the neighborhood's anger was to be expressed it would be directed first against the cops and then against white people," Mr. Platzer writes, underscoring the irony that Amelia is reflexively frightened by the man who is endangering himself to protect her.

The violent standoff between the mob and those inside the building is riveting, full of cliffhanger chapter endings and surprise twists. An unstable, gun-toting tenant who rents Aaron and Amelia's basement arrives to ratchet up the tension, and at one point a teenager named Sara breaks in to evade the police, locking herself in the upstairs office. Mr. Platzer deftly swivels among the clashing points of view, and the climax, in which Aaron returns to disperse the crowd with an improvised sermon, is powerfully done.

But the scene is vexing as well. To Aaron, the sermon is his wake-up call to return to the rabbinate. But that it casts him in the role of the redeemed hero highlights just how much he and Amelia have dominated a novel whose flashpoint is police violence against African-Americans. Mr. Platzer attempts to widen his lens in the way of a Tom Wolfe extravaganza by inhabiting the perspectives of Antoinette, Jupiter, Sara and others—there are

even sections that follow the thoughts of New York Police Commissioner Bill Bratton. But these figures seem strictly peripheral. When the book relates, almost as an aside, that the riots have spread so widely that tanks have been called in to contain them, we realize that the story left off the page is larger and more significant than the one that's on it.

In a coda set during the months after the violence, Amelia arranges to pay Sara for access to the young woman's experiences, which results in a work of career-making reportage. Mr. Platzer is a direct and revealing observer of the habit white Americans have of making themselves the centerpieces of other peoples' stories. Yet even in this novel, the gentrifiers have still managed to claim the choicest real estate.

For David King, the upwardly mobile Jewish businessman of Joshua Cohen's "Moving Kings" (Random House, 240 pages, \$26), the idea of voluntarily relocating to a neighborhood in the outer boroughs is anathema, and the very word "gentrifier" sounds "British, fancy and goyish." "To him," Mr. Cohen writes, "crime would always be going up and only statistics lived in Brooklyn. Crown Heights, Bedford-Stuyvesant. Their streets were just names on the news, associated with the city's youngest corpses."

Even so, his company has an interest in those neighborhoods. King is the president of King's Moving, a dot-it-all moving empire that gets called on to clear out the belongings of evicted tenants, which means that King has a warehouse full of reclaimed items. Such sharp practices

have led his daughter to all but disown him, and that has spurred him to look elsewhere for family. His search brings him to Israel and his distant cousin Yoav. Young Yoav, like his traumatized best friend Uri, has completed his military service, having fought in the 2014 Gaza War. Since both of these twenty-somethings are at loose ends, David helps them to exchange "their drabs for denims [and] beat their munitions into passports," bringing them to New York and giving them jobs moving furniture.

There are two halves to this novel. The first is a superbly drawn portrait of King, a man raised in a cramped Queens apartment where his parents argued "in the Yiddish of banged cabinets" who went on to make a fortune at the cost of his soul. Bluff, funny, amoral and likably scrappy—he brings the dented company van to glitzy fundraisers—King seems both archetypal and vividly sui generis.

But the book's second half drops him in order to enact a creaky allegory of Israeli occupation. Yoav and Uri unwittingly reprise their mission in Gaza by helping to dispossess poor evictees. When they do so to a mentally disturbed Vietnam War veteran and convert to Islam, the story moves toward the chaos and conflagration of "Bed-Stuy Is Burning."

Mr. Cohen, though a brilliant stylist, is an indifferent dramatist, and these scenes aren't sharp enough to transcend their symbolism. The idea is that the cycle of violence that afflicts Israel is analogous to the predatory practices of urban capitalism. This is, to put it mildly, a tricky parallel, and Mr. Cohen's parable-like tale is too sketchy to make it persuasive.

CHILDRREN'S BOOKS:  
MEGHAN COX GURDON

## Not So Long Ago



IT'S THE summer of 1965, and Sophie LaBranche, nearly 13 years old, is bracing for the awful moment when her big sister, Lily, goes off to college. She'll be left alone with her work-obsessed mother and father and with the family's baleful housekeeper, Mrs. Baylor, who made clear her dislike of Sophie the moment she arrived.

In the family's mostly white, upper-middle-class Los Angeles neighborhood, Sophie's social life is less than ideal. There's her age (which can be awkward for anyone), her eccentricity (she's a bookworm) and her light brown skin. In fact, Sophie and her parents appear to be the only black people in the area; Lily, as her name suggests, can "pass" as white if she chooses.

In the captivating novel *"It All Comes Down to This"* (Clarion, 355 pages, \$16.99), Karen English drops 11- to 14-year-old readers into an era when Americans watched the same TV shows and people said "colored" rather than "black" or "African-American." For Sophie, it's just the way the world is, and at least she can count on her best friend, an equally brainy redhead who enjoys playing pranks on their prejudiced neighbors.

Like the pattern in a kaleidoscope, though, Sophie's perceptions begin to shift. She discovers her father in company he shouldn't be keeping. Her sister gets involved with the housekeeper's handsome, dark-skinned son. And Sophie sets her heart on a role in a play that, we fear, she can't win. Ms. English has a light touch, and she captures human idiosyncrasies in an honest, witty way that makes her characters relatable, whatever their color or pallor. Unfairness and race-consciousness run through the story—so do surprises. Bigotry wears many guises. Kindness does too.

Colorful cut-paper illustrations seem to glow against the obsidian pages of *"Under the Silver Moon"* (Chronicle, 36 pages, \$17.99), a vibrant picture-book collection of nursery rhymes and lullabies illustrated by Pamela Dalton. In the opening endpapers, against a backdrop of darkness, an angel carrying a lighted candle leads a sleepy parade of small children forward, into the book. Inside, with tableaux of animals, flowers, birds and butterflies, little ones ages 1-4 will find songs and poems as familiar as "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" and as unusual as "Evening Prayer," from an 1893 German opera. The tender fragility of Ms. Dalton's scissor-cut pictures seems just right for bedtime.

# Abroad in Old Manhattan

## Golden Hill

By Francis Spufford

Scribner, 302 pages, \$26

BY ALLAN MASSIE

A MYSTERIOUS young man, bearing the all but anonymous name of Smith, a passenger from London, arrives in colonial New York in the winter of 1746 and goes straight to the merchant house of Lovell & Van Loon, where he presents a bill from a London merchant house that will allow him to receive funds. But the bill is for £1,000, an enormous sum. Moreover, there is no cover letter. The bill may not be genuine, and Smith may be a rogue.

Lovell and his partner Van Loon are in a quandary. A compromise is reached. The bill will be held for 30 days, by which time confirmation may, or may not, have arrived from England. Meanwhile, Smith is advanced a modest sum to support him while he waits and is invited to a family dinner with the Lovells and Van Loons, a dinner that will serve as a sort of test. When there, however, Smith gives no indication of what he intends to do with the £1,000 if the bill proves genuine.

It's an intriguing opening to what proves to be a notably well-crafted novel. For "Golden Hill," Francis Spufford—an English writer previously known for nonfiction works, including "Unapologetic," a defense

of Christianity, and "Red Plenty," a study of the Soviet Union in 1960—has devised an elegant plot (with an agreeable twist). He has also devised an adventure story packed with dramatic incident. But the novel is very much a literary work, too, echoing classic novelists of the 18th century, notably Fielding and Smollett. The dialogue has an 18th-century ring as well but manages to achieve a distinctive individual tone.

Mr. Spufford would, I fancy, agree with Walter Scott, who saw that the chief purpose of a plot is to enable the author to bring in "fine things";

Who is Mr. Smith? And why, in 1746, has he come to New York counting house with a £1,000 note?

and there are fine things aplenty in "Golden Hill." The finest may be its evocation of colonial New York, a turbulent city of only 7,000 inhabitants, at a time when New Yorkers still thought of themselves as loyal subjects of King George but when there was already disagreement and rivalry between the elected citizen assembly and the colony's governor, who was the king's representative.

In the novel, the governor's secretary, Septimus Oakeshott, becomes a suspicious yet friendly guide to

Smith. He warns Smith that New York "is a place where things can get out of hand very quickly: and often do. You would think, talking to the habitants, that all the vices and crimes of humanity had been left behind on the other shore." Not so, however: The city's residents are "wild, suspicious, combustible—and the devil to govern." The word "combustible" is apt, as Smith will discover. Moreover, Septimus warns,

just off-stage: The merchant Lovell has two daughters, the blond Flora, who is docile and eager for marriage, and the dark Tabitha, who is sharp of wit and tongue. But Smith seems to have more urgent purposes in mind, and he arouses interest (or suspicion) wherever he goes. The governor has Septimus and his black servant-slave, Achilles, keep an eye on him. The city's chief justice interrogates Smith adroitly over a game of cards (piquet)



FLEET WEEK

differs from its models in one crucial respect: It is not a picaresque story of its hero's wanderings but a taut drama. There is indeed violent action—an angry mob, a duel—but essentially it's a mystery novel, the question being what Smith's purpose is, what he will do with the money if his bill proves genuine, and what will become of him if it isn't.

Mr. Spufford's research has been thorough and is so thoroughly absorbed that he presents old New York, a small, turbulent merchant city, as if he had walked its streets, drunk in its coffeehouses and taken a boat trip up the mist-shrouded Hudson. Perhaps the setting's detail isn't all accurate, and scholarly historians may find flaws or spot mistakes. But it feels accurate and true to life; and this is what matters in a novel.

The business of America will be business, as we know, and Mr. Spufford's New York, while still a colony, is a place built on trade and the credit that keeps goods in motion. One of the chief articles of trade, however, is the buying and selling of people, and this too will occupy Smith's attention. In this respect and many others, "Golden Hill" is a remarkable achievement—remarkable, especially, in its intelligent re-creation of the early years of what was to become America's greatest city.

Mr. Massie is the author of *"The Royal Stuarts: A History of the Family That Shaped Britain."*

## BOOKS

'Skiffle was . . . in essence, American folk music with a beat.' —Van Morrison

**Roots, Radicals and Rockers**  
By Billy Bragg  
Faber & Faber, 431 pages, \$29.95

BY TONY FLETCHER

READERS OF THIS book are less likely to be drawn to the title ("Roots, Radicals and Rockers") than its musician author. Billy Bragg came of age in 1980s Thatcherite Britain singing tales of romance and politics in a nasal cockney voice accompanied by equally harsh electric guitar. He became an occasional hitmaker while remaining a committed left-wing polemicist, frequently mining the rich repertoire of international protest songs. In recent years he has turned author. In 2006, Mr. Bragg published "The Progressive Patriot," an examination of British identity, and now follows with a hugely ambitious account of the post-war style known as "skiffle," thereby filling a gaping hole in the literature of 20th-century music.

All musical genres of merit have clear-cut images that we associate with the moment from which there was no turning back. For rock 'n' roll, it might be Elvis Presley shown from the waist up on "The Ed Sullivan Show" in January 1957; for rock music, Bob Dylan turning electric at the Newport Folk Festival in July 1965; and for punk rock, at least in the U.K., the Sex Pistols swearing on prime-time live TV in December 1976. For "skiffle," to the extent that such a moment is celebrated at all, it is probably with an image of the Quarrymen, as the future Beatles were then known, performing in November 1957, with John Lennon and Paul McCartney each on acoustic guitars as part of a five-piece band that includes someone playing a "broomstick bass" behind them.

That image is included in Mr. Bragg's book as evidence of skiffle's enormous influence. As with the other aforementioned genres, skiffle had a long and convoluted prehistory. It emerged out of what Mr. Bragg calls the "dreary parsimonious atmosphere

Skiffle? That's British for a guitar, a washboard and an English audience raised on American R&B.

sphere" of postwar Britain, where rationing continued until 1954, the lone television station (the BBC) was blatantly paternalistic, pop radio simply did not exist and a mutual ban by British and American musicians unions forestalled all trans-Atlantic tours between 1935 and 1955. As such, when an enthusiastic jazz musician, trumpeter Ken Colyer, went to New Orleans by ship in 1952 to hear and perform the music at its source, his journey was the musical equivalent of an Everest expedition. Within weeks of his return, his new group, Ken Colyer's Jazzmen, were the hottest ticket in the U.K.

The Jazzmen engaged in "breakdown sessions" in between sets, per-



GETTY IMAGES

TRENDSETTERS Lonnie Donegan (center) and his band in 1957.

forming American folk, spiritual and blues songs on guitar, stand-up bass and a "washboard" for percussion. In the summer of 1953, Ken's brother Bill, a playing member and the Jazzmen's manager, first applied to this music the term "skiffle"—1920s American slang for a rent party.

In May 1954, Ken Colyer sought to fire his rhythm section, exasperated in part by its young guitarist, Scottish native Tony "Lonnie" Donegan. Donegan was a singer who had a voice like a runaway steam train and a personality to match, and Colyer had forgotten that the group had been established as a cooperative. In the end, it was the Colyers who were exiled instead. Trombonist Chris Barber took the helm, and when the group was short of material at a Decca Records session in July 1954, he, Donegan and a washboard player recorded four songs, including a rendition of Lead Belly's "Rock Island Line" that started as spoken story and ended as a musical riot.

As so often is the case with popular culture, it was an afterthought that subsequently proved seminal. (Mr. Bragg notes how, a week earlier, at Sun Studios in Memphis, Elvis Presley recorded an off-the-cuff, "skiffle"-like version of "That's All Right Mama" when the session's original mandate, Ernest Tubb's "I Love You Because," failed to ignite.) "Rock Island Line" was finally released as a single in late 1955, cred-

ited to Donegan. Much to the disdain of the stuffy music-business establishment, the song was quickly adopted by Britain's first generation of postwar teenagers, desperate for music they could call their own.

Mr. Bragg works valiantly to join the disparate dots that rendered "Rock Island Line" so vital. He devotes chapters to the Anglo-American folk and jazz scenes, American rock 'n' roll, the Angry Young Men of British stage and screen, the effects of the coffee bar, and the trendsetting roles of both off-shore "pirate" station Radio Luxembourg and American Forces Network radio. He is ebullient describing scenes at British movie houses during 1956 when Bill Haley and His Comets were shown performing in the film "Rock Around the Clock"—dozens of "teddy boys" would "jive" in the aisles and, after being ejected for unruly behavior, continue to dance in the streets.

Yet Haley was a portly middle-aged man, as audiences discovered when the union bans were finally lifted and the Comets toured Britain. Donegan, by comparison, was in his mid-20s, raffishly handsome and refreshingly provincial. The skiffle sound he popularized offered not just an alternative to American rock 'n' roll but greater accessibility. The only purchase necessary to make it was an acoustic guitar. The washboard and "tub bass" were essentially household items. With the

same few songs performed across the land, aspiring musicians only needed enthusiasm to attempt to play skiffle, and just about all of them did.

The influence of this music in Britain cannot be overstated. As Donegan piled on the hits, and contemporary groups like the Vipers and youthful imitators like Tommy Steele followed him onto the charts, acoustic-guitar sales went through the roof. "I have twenty thousand on order and wish I could get more," offered one of Britain's bigger national retailers in mid-1957. Among those lining up were future members of the Rolling Stones, the Who, the Kinks—and the Beatles. Mr. Bragg tells of 13-year-old George Harrison attending all six of Donegan's first Liverpool shows in November 1956, and 14-year-old Paul McCartney saw at least one. John Lennon, whether or not he saw the same concerts, acquired a guitar in the weeks that followed to form his own skiffle group, the Quarrymen. In 1957, Mr. McCartney witnessed the Quarrymen at a village fête and the rest, as they say, is history.

Though Lonnie Donegan did become an American pop star for a while, Mr. Bragg readily admits that "skiffle never took hold" in America. As such, his book's subtitle—"How Skiffle Changed the World"—is misleading. Skiffle only really changed Britain. And while the Quarrymen may not have formed without skiffle, they would never have progressed but for

American rock 'n' roll, which formed the core of the Beatles' live shows long after Donegan fell out of fashion.

Mr. Bragg's British worldview is frequently evident, as in his use of the personal possessive when referring to his home country, though such occasional intrusions of personality and opinion serve to enliven a book that can otherwise seem almost scholarly. And his personal touch adds vitality to other sections, as when he likens the skiffle explosion of 1956-57 to that of punk rock precisely 20 years later. Of Donegan's "Frankie and Johnny," Mr. Bragg notes: "By the climax of the song, he's near-hysterical, exhibiting the loss of vocal control that would later become the hallmark of Joe Strummer's performances with the Clash."

"Roots, Radicals and Rockers" contains more detail than necessary; even the most attentive reader will likely lose track of the many players on the scene. But Mr. Bragg's knowledge of these personalities, and of the shifting cultural tides that brought them together in skiffle, is nothing short of masterly. It would be hard to cite another historical book of such depth, quality and reasoned analysis by a working, nonacademic musician.

*Mr. Fletcher is the author of "All Hopped Up and Ready to Go: Music From the Streets of New York 1927-77," among other books.*

# Salumi Coast to Coast

**Salted and Cured**  
By Jeffrey P. Roberts  
Chelsea Green, 275 pages, \$27

BY MAX WATMAN

ALTHOUGH I'M SURE it is only vaguely related to any real historical event, the myth concerning the origin of ham is one I love. Supposedly, people buried joints of pork by the seashore—to hide them, keep them cool, keep the bugs off—and when they dug the pieces up later they had been transformed. The salt water had washed over the meat, the pork had drawn in the salt and expelled moisture, and the result, a happy accident, was proto-prosciutto.

In "Salted and Cured: Savoring the Culture, Heritage, and Flavor of America's Preserved Meats," Jeffrey P. Roberts doesn't repeat this bit of mythology. But in his opening chapter he traces an origin story that goes back even further. Swine were among the first domesticated animals, he notes; they started hanging around the moment we had stationary kitchens. Hunter-gatherers followed seasons and herds, leaving behind whatever they'd used up. Once they settled down, though, piles of trash quickly began to appear.

"Wild pigs recognized potential foodstuffs in these communities," Mr. Roberts writes. Pigs can eat everything, after all, and we offered a cor-

nucopia. A man's kitchen midden is a pig's buffet. And, properly prepared or preserved, a pig is a meal for a man. Confucius' students paid cured pork as tuition, Mr. Roberts reports. A few centuries later, Cato the Elder explained how to salt hams in "De Agri Cultura" ("On Farming"). "The techniques he described," Mr. Roberts says, "are still the basic recipe used today to make both prosciutto di Parma and prosciutto di San Daniele."

After this historical primer, we're on to the stories of America's chefs and charcutiers, the real meat of this

From pastrami and corned beef to artisanal charcuterie, a celebration of American cured meats.

book. Although Mr. Roberts makes it clear that he didn't talk to every single person with a butcher knife and a curing program in America, he seems to have given it a good try. If, like me, you build food-based travel itineraries, you need a copy of "Salted and Cured."

American charcuterie begins on the banks of the Pagan River in Virginia, in the town of Smithfield. The Powhatan tribe treated fish and game with sea salt harvested from tidal flats. From early colonial times, Mr. Roberts writes, "their techniques meshed with

British traditions, and cured, smoked ham became a staple throughout the South." Mr. Roberts covers the growth of the industrial Smithfield Packing Co. before bringing us two tales of tradition and brilliance in the stories of S. Wallace Edwards & Sons and North Carolina's Johnston County Hams.

New Orleans for Cajun boudin sausage, chases spicy 'Nduja in Chicago and tracks down salami in Denver. He is just as comfortable in the Jersey Pork Store as he is in New York's Gramercy Tavern.

It's delightful that so many craftspeople and cooks are keeping



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alive these traditions. But why do they do it? In a technical sense, preservation techniques are no longer needed. "Until the twentieth century," writes Mr. Roberts, "dry curing, pickling, cooking, and smoking hams were the available preservation techniques. With most farmers putting up meat, no one looked to country ham as a major money maker; it was simply part of the culture of farming and rural life." Today, though, we can cryovac and refrigerate and freeze. We do not require the ungraceful, exacting process by which fresh meat becomes cured meat.

For a while it seemed as if the entire tradition might be sunk and that, as it faded, the American *cucina povera* might fade along with it. Now the questions are different: how to make production viable, how to raise pigs in the right way, how to train people to process the meat and carry on the traditions laid down by generations. Most important, perhaps, is how to find people willing to pay for the luxury item that charcuterie has now become.

To his credit, Mr. Roberts asks tough questions as he tours the landscape, such as: What happens to country ham if we elevate it "to a pedestal similar to what prosciutto or jamón are on, with their associated price tags? What happens when we shift the ham from its cultural and historic roots?" Yet the hallmark of this book is his gustatory enthusiasm. It makes Mr. Roberts a spirited traveling companion even if it lands the text in a strange middle ground: At times "Salted and Cured" vacillates between guidebook and memoir. While the reader's consumption might be smoother if the author had settled on either a narrative or encyclopedic tone, rather than attempting a hybrid, "Salted and Cured" has all that's needed to help you fill your larder.

*Mr. Watman is the author, most recently, of "Harvest: Field Notes From a Far-Flung Pursuit of Real Food."*

## BOOKS

'Things won are done; joy's soul lies in the doing.' —Shakespeare



AHEAD OF THE PACK A breakaway on July 2 during the Tour de France.

# Game Theories

### Knowing the Score

By David Papineau  
Basic, 285 pages, \$27

BY MICHAEL SHERMER

AMONG CYCLING aficionados, Peter Yates's 1979 film "Breaking Away" was a welcome vehicle to convey the elegance of the sport to a largely oblivious American audience. Like most sports films, it was also something more: the story of a man struggling to break away from the provincialism of family and friends, along with a morality tale about how everyone lies a little and some people cheat a lot.

In "Knowing the Score," King's College philosopher David Papineau uses bike racing and other sports as metaphors for lessons about the most important issues in philosophy and life. He confesses his ignorance of cycling and admits that he did not understand, when watching the 2012 Olympic road race, why four women cyclists from different countries would work together after they broke away from the peloton. Mr. Papineau finds an answer in game theory, the analysis of competition and cooperation between rational actors in a conflict situation. Cyclists drafting one another create a significant savings in energy and an increase in speed, so solo breakaways are unusual and almost always fail.

Drafting in the middle of the pack for the entire race is very efficient, but then you have to sprint for the win against the entire field. Ideal is a small breakaway with, say, four riders: Each can conserve energy and only has to beat three others to win. In game-theory terms, it pays for each of the four racers to cooperate with one another until the very end. If one rider "defects" (in game-theory terms) and refuses to take a pull at the front, the others will punish her, verbally or by other means. Occasionally, in the final kilometer, everyone in the breakaway refuses to pull through in order to conserve energy for the sprint, and the group gets caught by the hard-charging peloton, an example of selfishness surmounting selflessness to the detriment of all. On the other hand, knowing that

this can happen discourages early defection and keeps the provisional mutualism going.

Each chapter in Mr. Papineau's engaging book takes a look at a philosophical problem like this, presented by a sport, and links it to phenomena in the wider world. The author finds cyclists' conflicts between self-interest and group interest to be mirrored in relations between nations: Agreements attempting to combat climate change, for instance, face a collective-action problem that must contend with "breakaway" nations that desire greater economic growth. In other sections, failure to meet political obligations in a society is equated to fouls in an athletic contest; sporting competi-

Any coach or philosopher will tell you that the rules of sport mirror those of life (and vice versa).

tion among nations is connected to geopolitical rivalry (George Orwell once commented that sport "is war minus the shooting"); nature and nurture are discussed in terms of athletic performance and life (gifted athletes have gifted children, but not equally so). Mr. Papineau also applies economic concepts, like Coase's theorem—stating that free markets with well-defined rules lead to relative efficiency—to sports, in which the best players migrate to the best teams and earn the most money unless an artificial mechanism like a draft is devised so as to level the playing field.

Another lesson that Mr. Papineau's book imparts is that athletic contests are not just another form of play. Most people want more than just a happy existence. We want challenges to face and obstacles to overcome. Our ancestors got more of those from daily life than we do today, so we need artificial trials. Sports are, in that sense, the very embodiment of the human striving that brings meaning to life.

Mr. Shermer is the author, most recently, of *"Skeptic: Viewing the World With a Rational Eye."*

as if the collective spirit of the office is telling the story. "Our desks were waiting, we had work to do. And work was everything. We liked to think it was family, it was God.... But at two in the afternoon with bills to pay and layoffs hovering over us, it was all about the work." The meetings, the emails, the utter unimportance of the projects ("We wandered the hallways carrying papers that indicated some mission of business when in reality we were in search of free candy"), and all the while Mr. Ferris's air-conditioned voice is inviting your laughter, so as to more thoroughly—when the moment arrives—break your heart.

**New Grub Street**  
By George Gissing (1891)

**1 IN THE MORE** than ample list of novels about writers, "New Grub Street" is one that gets it right. It is not the usual story of egos, betrayals and bad behavior; it's about the sheer work of writing. Gissing presents us with a gallery of striving scribblers for whom daily existence in 19th-century London is yet another iteration of the new world of industrial labor. With steady sympathy and wit, Gissing brings us into the ink-stained lives of writers who teeter on the precipice of disaster. His voice ricocheting between sarcasm and sympathy, Gissing writes: "It was very weak of Harold Biffen to come so near perishing of hunger as he did in the days when he was completing his novel. But... he did not starve for the pleasure of the thing, I assure you." Despite the frustration seething at its heart, the novel is elegant, suspenseful and strangely inspiring—the writers here might all end up on time's remainder table, but they are dear and brave enough to be heroes.

**Then We Came to the End**  
By Joshua Ferris (2007)

**2 IT'S NO SECRET** that the people we work with become a kind of surrogate family, and no novel better captures this phenomenon than this one. Written with a blend of compassion and high wit, it takes on office life at the end of the 1990s boom and at once embraces and satirizes that life in a weirdly omnipotent voice,



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**3 DESPITE BEING** published in the mid-1960s and titled "Stoner," John Williams's great novel about being a teacher is about as far from Day-Glo psychedelia as a novel can be. As austere as a Shaker bench, it tells the life story of William Stoner, a professor of English at the University of Missouri. Love affairs, war and madness shape Stoner's life, but through it all nothing takes precedence—either for the character or his creator—over teaching young students to read and to think. "But don't you know, Mr. Stoner?" a professor asks him early in the novel when he is still a student himself.

"Don't you understand about yourself yet? You're going to be a teacher." Understanding oneself is largely what this uniquely unsettling novel is about. At times, the portrait is almost unbearably sad.

"Within a month he knew that his marriage was a failure; within a year he stopped hoping that it would improve." Even at the end, when Stoner contemplates his own demise, his stoicism persists. Faced with his own shortcomings, he asks himself quite simply, "What did you expect?" In his impassioned passivity, Stoner is brilliant to behold. The novel is a monument to the men and women like him, a praise song for those who show up and do their job and a radical redefinition of the meaning of success.

**Regeneration**  
By Pat Barker (1991)

**4 A PSYCHIATRIST** is at the heart of Pat Barker's moving novel, the first book in her great trilogy set during World War I. At Craiglockhart War Hospital,



MR. SPENCER is the author, most recently, of the novel 'River Under the Road.'

Dr. William Rivers does the painstaking and haunting work of mending the psyches of traumatized young men enough for them to return to the front lines. Rivers is a heroic figure, a just man in an unjust system, in a workplace that is equal parts heaven and hell. His patients—some of them, like Rivers, based on real people—exist simultaneously in the rooms of the hospital and in the trenches with the dead as Rivers takes them through the talking cure. His goal is to lead them toward an understanding that horror and fear were inevitable responses to the trauma of war... that tears were an acceptable and a helpful part of grieving. This incandescently humane novel never allows us to forget where else Rivers is leading the men in his care—right back to the trenches.

**Matterhorn**  
By Karl Marlantes (2009)

**5 KARL MARLANTES** began writing "Matterhorn" 30 years before it was published. It's a big book, nearly 600 pages, as majestic as "War and Peace" but without the peace. In this meticulous, terrifying re-creation of war, we suffer hour by hour with a small band of soldiers in Vietnam who are trying to take a strategically worthless mountain in a jungle rife with predators bacterial, animal and human. Here is the commander's point of view, not quite halfway into the novel: "Mellas wanted to look at his map. If he could see the contour lines of Hill 1609 drawn on the map, it would help him feel that it and the company were still really there. In this darkness, it was a dream. There was only this ground, this smell, this small group of humans." Mr. Marlantes depicts the job of a soldier as pure labor: It's not a noble crusade, or a romantic calling, just long hours and lousy pay, with your chances of advancement roughly the same as your chances of extinction.

## Best-Selling Books | Week Ended July 2

With data from NPD BookScan

### Hardcover Nonfiction

TITLE AUTHOR / PUBLISHER	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TITLE AUTHOR / PUBLISHER	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK
<b>Rediscovering Americanism</b> Mark R. Levin/Threshold Editions	<b>1</b>	New	<b>Al Franken, Giant of the Senate</b> Al Franken/Twelve	<b>6</b>	2
<b>The Swamp</b> Eric Bolling/St. Martin's Press	<b>2</b>	New	<b>She Persisted</b> Chelsea Clinton/Philomel Books	<b>7</b>	7
<b>Hillbilly Elegy</b> J.D. Vance/Harper	<b>3</b>	4	<b>The Subtle Art of Not Giving A F*ck</b> Mark Manson/HarperOne	<b>8</b>	9
<b>Astrophysics for People in a Hurry</b> Neil deGrasse Tyson/W.W. Norton & Company	<b>4</b>	1	<b>Option B</b> Sheryl Sandberg & Adam Grant /Knopf Publishing Group	<b>9</b>	-
<b>Understanding Trump</b> Newt Gingrich/Center Street	<b>5</b>	3	<b>Make Your Bed</b> William H. McRaven/Grand Central Publishing	<b>10</b>	5

### Nonfiction E-Books

TITLE AUTHOR / PUBLISHER	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TITLE AUTHOR / PUBLISHER	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK
<b>Hillbilly Elegy</b> J.D. Vance/HarperCollins Publishers	<b>1</b>	2	<b>Hillbilly Elegy</b> J.D. Vance / Harper	<b>1</b>	2
<b>Rediscovering Americanism</b> Mark R. Levin/Threshold Editions	<b>2</b>	New	<b>Rediscovering Americanism</b> Mark R. Levin/Threshold Editions	<b>2</b>	New
<b>Call the Midwife</b> Jennifer Worth/HarperCollins Publishers	<b>3</b>	-	<b>The Swamp</b> Eric Bolling/St. Martin's Press	<b>3</b>	New
<b>The Swamp</b> Eric Bolling/St. Martin's Press	<b>4</b>	New	<b>Astrophysics for People in a Hurry</b> Neil deGrasse Tyson/W.W. Norton & Company	<b>4</b>	1
<b>Etched in Sand</b> Regina Calcaterra/HarperCollins Publishers	<b>5</b>	-	<b>Milk and Honey</b> Rupi Kaur/Andrews McMeel Publishing	<b>5</b>	4
<b>Astrophysics for People in a Hurry</b> Neil deGrasse Tyson/W.W. Norton & Company	<b>6</b>	4	<b>Al Franken, Giant of the Senate</b> Al Franken/Twelve	<b>6</b>	3
<b>Al Franken, Giant of the Senate</b> Al Franken/Grand Central Publishing	<b>7</b>	3	<b>Understanding Trump</b> Newt Gingrich/Center Street	<b>7</b>	6
<b>10 Messages...</b> Doreen Virtue/Hay House	<b>8</b>	-	<b>The Subtle Art of Not Giving A F*ck</b> Mark Manson/HarperOne	<b>8</b>	8
<b>The Subtle Art of Not Giving A F*ck</b> Mark Manson/HarperCollins Publishers	<b>9</b>	8	<b>Option B</b> Sheryl Sandberg & Adam Grant /Knopf Publishing Group	<b>9</b>	-
<b>The Heir Apparent</b> Jane Ridley/Random House Publishing Group	<b>10</b>	-	<b>She Persisted</b> Chelsea Clinton/Philomel Books	<b>10</b>	-

### Hardcover Fiction

TITLE AUTHOR / PUBLISHER	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK
<b>Camino Island</b> John Grisham/Doubleday Books	<b>1</b>	1
<b>Murder Games</b> J. Patterson & H. Roughan/Little, Brown and Company	<b>2</b>	New
<b>Use of Force: A Thriller</b> Brad Thor/Atria Books	<b>3</b>	New
<b>The Duchess: A Novel</b> Danielle Steel/Delacorte Press	<b>4</b>	New
<b>Wonder</b> R.J. Palacio/Knopf Books for Young Readers	<b>5</b>	2

### Fiction E-Books

TITLE AUTHOR / PUBLISHER	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK
<b>Use of Force: A Thriller</b> Brad Thor / Atria/Beyond Books	<b>1</b>	New
<b>Camino Island</b> John Grisham/Doubleday Publishing Group	<b>2</b>	1
<b>Murder Games</b> J. Patterson & H. Roughan/Little, Brown and Company	<b>3</b>	New
<b>The Duchess: A Novel</b> Danielle Steel/Random House Publishing Group	<b>4</b>	New
<b>Love by Degree</b> Debbie Macomber/MIRA	<b>5</b>	-
<b>Easy Nights</b> Kristen Proby/Kristen Proby	<b>6</b>	-
<b>Seven Stones to Stand or Fall</b> Diana Gabaldon/Delacorte Press	<b>7</b>	New
<b>The Identicals</b> Elin Hilderbrand/Little, Brown and Company	<b>8</b>	7
<b>The Woman in Cabin 10</b> Ruth Ware/Gallery/Scout Press	<b>9</b>	7
<b>High Stakes</b> Fern Michaels/Zebra	<b>10</b>	-
<b>Into the Water</b> Paula Hawkins/Riverhead Books	<b>11</b>	6
<b>The Orphan's Tale</b> Pam Jenoff/MIRA	<b>12</b>	-

### Methodology

NPD BookScan gathers point-of-sale book data from more than 16,000 locations across the U.S., representing about 85% of the nation's book sales. Print-book data providers include all major booksellers (now inclusive of Wal-Mart) and Web retailers, and food stores. E-book data providers include all major e-book retailers. Free e-books and those sold for less than 99 cents are excluded. The fiction and nonfiction lists in all formats include adult, young adult, and juvenile titles; the business list includes only adult titles. The combined lists track sales by title across all print and e-book formats; audio books are excluded. Refer questions to Peter.Saenger@wsj.com.

### Hardcover Business

TITLE AUTHOR / PUBLISHER	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK
<b>Strengths Finder 2.0</b> Tom Rath/Gallup Press	<b>1</b>	1
<b>The Five Dysfunctions of a Team</b> Patrick M. Lencioni/Jossey-Bass	<b>2</b>	2

## REVIEW



WEEKEND CONFIDENTIAL: ALEXANDRA WOLFE

# Hans Zimmer

The film-score composer tackled his stage fright for a new tour

**WHEN OSCAR-WINNING** composer Hans Zimmer stepped on stage last year, he almost ran right off again. He was performing in public for the first time in 40 years, and as he sat down at the piano to play the introductory song for "Driving Miss Daisy," a 1989 film whose score he wrote, stage fright overwhelmed him. "I thought I should apologize to everyone and tell them that I made a terrible mistake," he says. Sensing Mr. Zimmer's anxiety, one of the musicians on stage accompanying him told him to smile. "You can't quite retain the angst and all that Germanic-ness if you have a little bit of a smile on your face," he says.

Mr. Zimmer, 59, has composed more than 100 original film scores, earning nine Academy Award nominations and one win for best original score for "The Lion King" (1994). Other films include the "Pirates of

the Caribbean" and "The Dark Knight" series, "Gladiator" (2000) and "Interstellar" (2014). Now he's about to embark on the U.S. leg of his show, "Hans Zimmer Live," playing songs from his films. It kicks off in Dallas on July 13 and runs through mid-August.

"This is the opposite of my normal life, where I'm thinking about long, dramatic arcs" in movies, he says. On tour, he has to be in the moment. "If I even try to think 30 seconds ahead, I will play badly," he says. "It's quite a learning curve for me, actually."

His goal when writing a score is to make both audiences and himself happy. The latter isn't easy. "Nothing leaves my studio unless I'm happy with it," he says. He quickly adds, "Happy" is a big word. Let's say "slightly less unhappy."

Mr. Zimmer started playing piano when he was a child in Frankfurt. His mother was a classical pianist, and his father, an engineer, died when he was young. Mr. Zimmer preferred composing his own music to learning to play others' songs. As a teen-

ager, he moved to London to play keyboard and synthesizers in a band. He went on to produce music for groups such as the Buggles, who released the 1979 hit song "Video Killed the Radio Star."

He took up film composing in the early 1980s because he thought that staying in a band would confine him to making the same kind of music. In London, he began apprenticing for the composer Stanley Myers, whose scores featured in films such as "The Deer Hunter" (1978) and "My Beautiful Laundrette" (1985).

Mr. Zimmer was soon working on his own. He got his first Oscar nomination for the 1988 Dustin Hoffman-Tom Cruise film "Rain Man." After working on the movie in Los Angeles, he decided to stay there. As he says, "I sort of got stuck."

When developing a score, Mr. Zimmer begins by asking the director to tell him the story of the movie. "A good director is by nature a great storyteller," he says. "I actually get far more than I would get from the script." When he started to work on "Interstellar," director Christopher Nolan didn't tell him the story; instead, Mr. Nolan gave him a page-long fable about what it meant to be a father. Mr. Zimmer came up with a fragile, intimate tune based on the fable and was surprised when he found out that the

on weekends, too. "Weekends for me are the most perfect time because nobody phones and you can get more writing done," he says. He sometimes sees friends. "They put up with [the fact] that we start a thought three years...before we get to finish it because I got sidetracked into a piece of music," he says.

He generally doesn't listen to other music. "It just sort of confuses me because when you're writing, you're trying to sneak up on an idea, and they have a habit of being elusive and disappearing too quickly," he says. "You want as much silence around you as possible."

One of his next scores will appear in "Dunkirk," a World War II thriller directed by Mr. Nolan that will be released later this month. The score, he says, is based on long conversations that he had with the director. "I usually start hearing musical ideas in my head while he discusses his story with me," he says.

He is driven by his love of coming up with sounds and melodies. "Deadlines are great motivators," he says, but what really excites him is the point when a tune suddenly comes to him and he starts seeing one note after another in his head. "That moment is so delicious that nothing can quite beat it."

**'You want as much silence around you as possible.'**

MOVING TARGETS: JOE QUEENAN

## Telepathy for Facebook and Then the World

**FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS**, human beings have dreamed of communicating telepathically, if only to reduce long-distance phone bills. At long last, that elusive dream may become reality.

At its annual F8 conference in April, Facebook announced that it was working on a way for sentient beings to communicate telepathically. According to a Wall Street Journal article—this is real—an in-house team supplemented by 60 scientists and engineers across the country is hard at work on a technique known as "fast-optical scattering" or "event-related optical signaling" that would enable humans to type messages just by thinking them.

Basically the process works by shining a light into the head, then measuring the intensity of the light reflected back from the brain. Facebook hopes that the measured neural activity could tell it what people

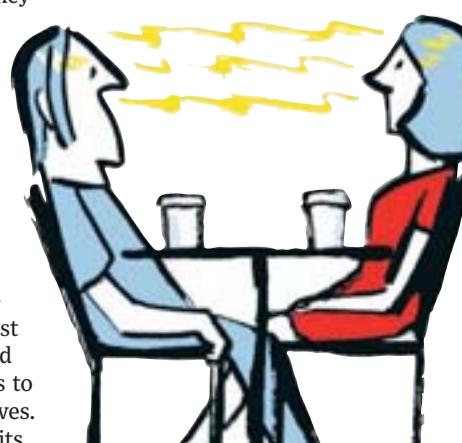
are thinking.

It's just a short jump from there to being able to directly interface with another person's brain. Love-smitten young men playing way out of their league wouldn't need to risk embarrassment by going down on their knees and begging for their girlfriend's hand in marriage. They would already know that she was going to say, "Forget it." Catchers would no longer have to put down two fingers between their legs to call for a curve or a forkball; brain waves would do all of it.

Similarly, Amazon would benefit enormously. Instead of waiting for customers to order appliances, books, artisanal kippers or "Dan Fogelberg's Greatest Hits, Vol. II," the company would telepathically prompt customers to put in their orders via brain waves.

But by far the greatest benefits would go to the hordes of underem-

**Are telepathic job interviews perfect for millennials?**



ployed, underappreciated millennials. This generation hates talking on the phone, preferring to use online chat or texting. Recruiters are even starting to conduct job interviews via text. Telepathy would take that one step further. By interviewing for a job telepathically, millennials wouldn't even have to type.

Here's how it would work. A candidate would beam to a recruiter the thought, "I am a passionate, talented person with a Ph.D. in astrophysics who speaks nine languages and is willing to work for next to nothing to get my foot in the door at your out-of-the-way taco stand."

To which the recruiter might reply: "We don't pay any health benefits, have no 401(k) plan and expect you to work 90 hours a week. Also, there's no salary; this is an internship. Is that a problem?"

"Not at all," the candidate would reply telepathically. "Anything to

get out of my mommy's basement."

True, there would be a few drawbacks. Too many simultaneous telepathic messages could fry the brain, inducing the recipient to short the wrong stock or amputate the wrong toe. And if you reflexively think to yourself, "God, this guy is a pig" when you meet your new supervisor or blind date, things could go south in a hurry.

But wearing a lead-lined hoodie could counteract these problems, preventing anyone from penetrating your innermost thoughts. Of course, you'd look pretty silly if you were chairwoman of the Federal Reserve and had to wear a hoodie while testifying before Congress, so that no one could figure out whether you were about to raise interest rates. But that's a small price to pay to ensure the safety of the American financial system. And a lead-lined, telepathy-jamming hoodie would definitely make the Fed seem hip.

 EXHIBIT

REVIEW



Above: American magician Harry Jansen performed under his own name before taking on the name Dante. This 1929 Russian Constructivist-style poster advertises one of his shows in Moscow.



Above: Magician Charles Joseph Carter often included a 'psychic' in his act. This 1926 poster featured the Priestess of Delphi, who answered audience questions about the future.



## Abracadabra

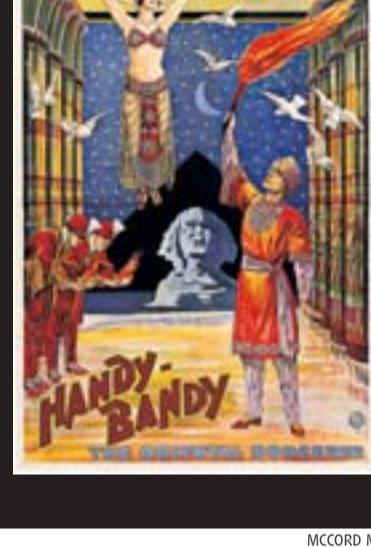
AND PRESTO CHANGO, the advertisement turns to art! "Illusions: The Art of Magic," on view at the McCord Museum in Montreal through Jan. 7, showcases 71 posters for magic shows from the 1880s through the 1930s. (It's accompanied by a book with the same title, from 5 Continents Editions for \$49.95.) The ads depict masters performing elaborate tricks, including Howard Thurston's levitation spectacles and Harry Houdini's famed escapes. Just don't expect to learn any of the magician's secrets. "One of the great reasons for why you don't expose magic is that once you have that knowledge, you can never go back," says exhibit guest curator David Ben. —Alexandra Wolfe



Left: Harry Jansen's act included a levitation trick, shown in this 1911 poster.

Above: This 1925 poster, done in a German expressionist style, shows magician Alois Kassner copying one of Houdini's signature stunts, says Mr. Ben.

Below: The man in this 1927 poster is Egyptian-born illusionist Fuad Makarius.



MCCORD MUSEUM

## PLAYLIST: CHRISTOPHER BROOKMYRE

### Hit of the Highlands

The pop-Celtic sound of the band 'Big Country' unites two young Scots

Christopher Brookmyre, 48, is an author and winner of the 2016 McIlvanney Prize for Best Scottish Crime Novel of the Year. His latest thriller is "The Last Hack" (Atlantic Monthly Press). He spoke with Marc Myers.

I first heard Big Country's "IN A BIG COUNTRY" in 1983, just after the song was released. I was 15 and reading in my parents' living room in Glasgow, Scotland, with "Top of the Pops" on TV. As soon as I heard Stuart Adamson's guitar evoking the sound of the bagpipes, my head snapped up.

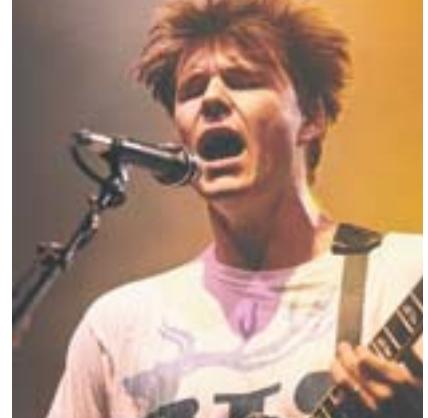
At the time, everyone I knew was into the new romantics and synth-pop bands, which I found a bit vapid. I also detested the bagpipes, which sounded like a tourist-shop notion of Scottishness. But Adamson's guitar captured the pipes in a way that was just Scottish enough.

His chords were reminiscent of a soaring Celtic folk song and awakened in me a sense of Scotland as a place both ancient and modern. Scotland's countryside has an epic landscape that inspires optimism and storytelling. The song lifted me up the same way.

"In a Big Country" is about hope and defiance: "Pull up your head off the floor, come up screaming / Cry out for everything you ever might have wanted."

Two years later, when I was 17, I was at a Glasgow University orientation retreat, just before starting my first year. I was helping

### A song of 'hope and defiance.'



BIG COUNTRY'S Stuart Adamson around 1984.

to clean up after dinner when I made a silly joke and watched as a woman walked out of the room.

When I caught up with her later at the pub, it turned out she hadn't even heard me. We got to talking about music. The first band she mentioned was Big Country, and we talked about what "In a

Big Country" meant to us. Marisa and I began dating, and we married in 1991.

Several years ago, we were on a drive up through Glencoe in the Scottish Highlands. The region offers some of the most beautiful, dramatic views of imposing, jagged mountains and dark streams, with the sun sliding in and out from behind the clouds.

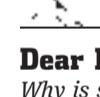
As we drove along the winding roads, I put on "In a Big Country." Marisa and I looked at each other. It was an amazing feeling. There could be no better combination of Scottish song and landscape.

His chords were reminiscent of a soaring Celtic folk song and awakened in me a sense of Scotland as a place both ancient and modern. Scotland's countryside has an epic landscape that inspires optimism and storytelling. The song lifted me up the same way.

"In a Big Country" is about hope and defiance: "Pull up your head off the floor, come up screaming / Cry out for everything you ever might have wanted."

Two years later, when I was 17, I was at a Glasgow University orientation retreat, just before starting my first year. I was helping

## ASK ARIELY: DAN ARIELY



### Can Money Buy Happiness?

#### Dear Dan,

Why is society structured around the accumulation of wealth? Is this part of human nature, and is it the best way to achieve happiness? —Annie

Most of us believe that more money brings more happiness—and the wealthy are no exception. In a 2014 survey of very wealthy clients at a large investment



MATT CHASE

bank, Mike Norton of Harvard Business School asked clients how happy they were and how much money would make them really happy.

Regardless of the amount they already had, they responded that they'd need about three times more to feel happy. So people with \$2 million thought they could achieve happiness if they had \$6 million, while those with \$6 million saw happiness in having \$18 million, and so on. This kind of thinking changes, of course, as people get more money, with happiness in reach at a level that is some multiple more than what they already have.

Although people predict that money strongly influences happiness, researchers also find that the actual relationship between wealth and happiness is more nuanced. In 2010 Daniel Kahneman and Angus Deaton analyzed data from over 450,000 responses to a daily survey of 1,000 U.S. residents by the Gallup Organization. They found that money does influence happiness at low to moderate levels of income. Real lack of money leads to more worry and sadness, higher levels of stress, less positive affect (happiness, enjoyment, and reports of smiling and laughter) and less favorable evaluations of one's own life. Yet most of these effects only hold for people who earn \$75,000 a year or less. Above about \$75,000, higher income is

not the simple ticket to happiness that we think it is.

Together, these studies show that we need far less money than we think to maximize our emotional well-being and minimize stress. This means that accumulating wealth isn't about the pursuit of happiness—it's about the pursuit of what we think (wrongly) will make us happy.

#### Hi Dan,

When I voted this morning in the U.K. general election (at a polling station in a church) I realized that the choice of venue may impact electoral decisions. Most polling stations in my area are in either a community center or a church, which may have mental associations for voters (for example, church=conservative/right; community center=community/social responsibility/left). I was wondering if you have ever looked at this phenomenon. —Zaur

Your intuition is absolutely right. In a 2008 paper published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Jonah Berger of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and colleagues showed that Arizona voters assigned to vote in schools were more likely to support an education funding initiative. In a follow-up lab experiment, Mr. Berger also showed that even viewing images of schools makes people more

supportive of tax increase to fund public schools.

In other words, the context for voting certainly changes how we look at the world and what decisions we make.

#### Dear Dan,

People I meet sometimes ask me for my email address. On one hand, I want to keep in touch with those who are truly interested in friendship, but on the other, I don't want to have a million meaningless exchanges. How can I get email only from people who are truly invested in real discussions? —Ron

The problem is that email is too easy to send—it just takes a few seconds—while the person getting it on the other side might have to spend a lot of time responding to a particular message or to their email in general. My answer? Get a complex email address that takes some time to type. With this added effort you will get emails only from the people who are really interested in contacting you.



## REVIEW



ETTORE SOTTASS' 'Carlton' Room Divider (1981) is composed of wood and plastic laminate.

### ICONS

# A MASTER OF CONTRADICTIONS

Uneasy with typewriter fame, Sottsass designed a varied and vast body of work

BY BRENDA CRONIN

ETTORE SOTTASS' "Valentine" typewriter was famously attractive—and gave the designer lots of trouble. When creating it in the 1960s, Sottsass proposed leaving out the bell to signal the end of a line—as well as lowercase letters—to keep the machine sleek and inexpensive. The manufacturer, Italy's Olivetti, balked and Sottsass compromised. The two ended up with an irresistible scarlet typewriter that came to define Sottsass, much to his dismay.

The Valentine, along with dozens of other works, goes on display at the Met Breuer, part of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, on July 21. The exhibition, "Ettore Sottsass: Design Radical," will focus on the influential Italian designer, architect, painter, photographer, writer and editor who remains largely unsung outside Europe.

The exhibition contains examples of Sottsass' furniture, jewelry, textiles, patterns and graphic design as well as his writing. Glass vases of swirls and squiggles in primary colors compete for attention with a red-and-yellow necklace of enameled metal and rubber. Objects can appear simple, such as a chair in shiny yellow aluminum and steel, or complex, such as a fruit dish elevated on jagged columns of silver.

Sottsass, who was born in the Alpine city of Innsbruck, Austria, in 1917 and died in Milan in 2007, left a sprawling legacy marked by contradictions. Trained as an architect, he designed far more objects than houses. Both fascinated and repelled by mass production, he came up with assembly-line office equipment as well as unique ceramics and works in glass. Cherishing his independence, he resisted signing on as an in-house corporate designer. He drew inspiration from both East and West, laced his contemporary design with historical references and had a deeply serious nature at odds with his playful hallmarks such as bright colors, vivid patterns and glossy laminates.

Sottsass at times doubted himself in his early years, according to "Ettore Sottsass and the Poetry of Things," a book by Deyan Sudjic, director of the Design Museum in London. Writing in 1980, Sottsass recalled that as a 30-year-old, "Sometimes I was happy, and sometimes I was desperate. Sometimes I thought I was a great talent, sometimes I thought I was a total idiot."

Instead of offering a retrospective, the show puts Sottsass in the context of his creative influences. "You can't present him as a lone genius in a vacuum," said Christian Larsen, an associate curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Mr. Larsen organized the exhibit by stages in Sottsass' work, starting with the 1950s, when he was crafting ceramics sold in art galleries and designing furniture. On display are some of the decorative ceramics that Sottsass based on ancient, simple forms such as fishing reels and spools of thread. "He is very poetic about ceramics," Mr. Larsen said. "He's really trying to find the roots of design."

Mr. Larsen also tracked Sottsass' '60s and '70s-era conceptual designs for living. Examples include the "Superbox," a youth-oriented modular cabinet intended to hold

### An exhibition of ceramics, glass, furniture and more in New York.



A VALENTINE portable typewriter made in 1968.

life's essentials for a mobile, carefree generation. The designer's "Tower," a 9-foot-plus piece of hybrid furniture with cabinets, drawers and adjustable shelves, dominates one room.

During a stint as a design consultant for Olivetti—where Sottsass was charged with transforming a room-size mainframe computer from forbidding to friendly—he drew on his time in the U.S. and India. Those travels got Sottsass thinking about how mass-produced goods could benefit individuals—but also lead to a sense of sameness and a culture of consumption.

In the early 1980s, Sottsass and others formed the Memphis design collective. The group's name is said to have been inspired by the cities in Tennessee and ancient Egypt as well as by the song on the record player during many of the designers' conversations: Bob Dylan's "Stuck Inside of Mobile With the Memphis Blues Again." Working in Milan with mostly younger creators, Sottsass set out to make furnishings that could be mass produced, many with striking colors and plastic laminate skins.

The ensemble's first collection of tables, lamps, clocks and other objects caused a sensation in 1981. On display at the Met Breuer is a Memphis exemplar, Sottsass's "Carlton" room divider, a multicolored shelf unit of wood and plastic laminate. The designer wanted such pieces to go beyond function and, thanks to their whimsical and disarming design, evoke a personal response, Mr. Larsen said. He added: "If the objects are emotional, if somehow they...stimulate a memory in you, that's what they are supposed to do."

Sottsass' Valentine typewriter still has a following. Last year one that had belonged to David Bowie fetched more than \$50,000 at Sotheby's in London, although many are auctioned for far less. Not long before Sottsass' death, in an interview with L.A. Weekly, the 88-year-old designer lamented, "I worked 60 years of my life, and it seems the only thing I did is this f-ing red machine."

## MASTERPIECE: MARCEL PAGNOL'S MARSEILLE TRILOGY (1931-36)

### WATCHING LIFE'S PLEASURES AND PAINS UNFOLD

BY KRISTIN M. JONES

A SHIP SAILS AWAY on a shimmering ocean at the end of "Marius" (1931), the first film in Marcel Pagnol's beloved Marseille Trilogy, but the trilogy is firmly rooted in the pleasures and pain of life at home. Written by Pagnol and directed by three different directors, "Marius," "Fanny" (1932) and "César" (1936) tell a story filled with comedy and emotion, realism and poetry, that patiently unfolds in one close-knit waterfront community.

Among the trilogy's indelible central characters are Marius (Pierre Fresnay), who as a young man works in his father's bar, near the vessels that promise freedom and adventure, and loves the pretty, poignantly smitten cockle seller Fanny (Orane Demazis) but yearns to become a sailor. His father, César (Raimu), who, when he isn't dozing or presiding over his bar, trades tall tales, gossip and genial insults with his friends. And the well-to-do sailmaker Honoré Panisse (Fernand Charpin), a widower who is infatuated with Fanny (and a character who memorably inspired the name of Alice Waters's Chez Panisse).

Time had taken a physical toll on the trilogy's familiar faces, voices and landscapes, but the films were recently digitally restored under the supervision of Nicolas Pagnol and Hervé Pichard of La Cinémathèque française, and now the Criterion Collection has released them on Blu-ray and DVD. The restorations offer a chance to rediscover Pagnol's vision, with its mingling of intimate theatricality, poetic passages and an inventive approach to sound and location that has been credited with anticipating Italian neorealism and the *nouvelle vague*.

Born in Aubagne in 1895, Pagnol was a teacher and became a successful playwright in Paris before he eagerly explored the possibilities of talking pictures. He made the film version of his hit play "Marius" with funding from Paramount, casting actors from the stage production. Working closely with Pagnol, the Hungarian-born Alexander Korda directed "Marius," incorporating atmospheric images that reflected his work in silent cinema and evoke Marius's and Fanny's inner turmoil, such as shots in which the beam of a lighthouse passes through inky darkness like waves of emotion.

Marc Allégret directed "Fanny," whose scenes shot on location include a breathtaking sequence in which Fanny, having discovered that she is pregnant out of wedlock, walks in a daze through the sunny streets to pray in a basilica. Pagnol himself directed "César," which continues the story years later, and was the only film in the trilogy to originate onscreen. At the tale's close, the characters grapple with aging, death and questions about the true meaning of love and family, but the shadows in "Marius" have given way to a luminous evocation of hard-won wisdom and forgiveness.

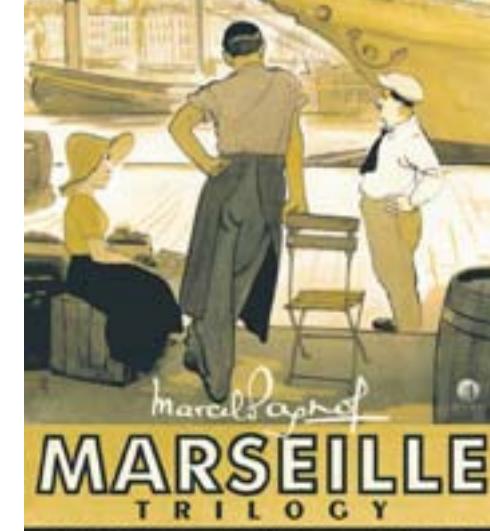
The casting contributes much of the films' magic. There is scarcely a moment that isn't captivating in the brilliant comic actor Raimu's performance as the endearingly volatile César. Fresnay, who would portray the aristocratic prisoner of war Capt. De Boeldieu in Jean Renoir's "Grand Illusion" (1937), brought a restless grace to the role of the ardent, anguished Marius, and Demazis is touching as his passionate but self-sacrificing beloved. It's difficult to watch the Marseille Trilogy and not fall in love with its characters.

And audiences did exactly that, although critics have not always agreed about the significance of Pagnol's work. In an introduction recorded for the Criterion Collection, the director Bertrand Tavernier recounts how he was drawn to Pagnol by the writings of François Truffaut. Mr. Tavernier also recalls seeing the trilogy over the years "in prints which were worse and worse" and being struck by its beauty on seeing the restoration.

In his book "My Father's Glory," Pagnol describes learning from his schoolteacher father how to work with his hands by refurbishing junk and curios gleaned from secondhand shops. Renoir also wrote in his own autobiography that the production company Pagnol founded in 1932 "operated like a medieval workshop.... He collected technicians, actors and workpeople in his country house like a fifteenth-century master-carpenter." The pragmatic, craftsmanlike approach Pagnol used to transform the flotsam and jetsam of everyday life into wondrous stories was one of the keys to his artistic achievement.

Vital, humanistic and ingeniously combining a rich Provençal theatrical tradition with cinematic innovation and his own flair for storytelling, Pagnol's trilogy is one of the treasures of French cinema. It may depict an idealized world, but when Marius, torn between the sea and Fanny, exclaims, "I want, I want... In life, you can't always do what you want," it's one of many moments in the Marseille Trilogy that we can all understand.

Ms. Jones writes about film and culture for the Journal.



'MARIUS,' 'FANNY' and 'CÉSAR' tell a story filled with comedy and emotion, realism and poetry.

Why 'summer sweater' is  
not an oxymoron  
**D5**



# OFF DUTY



Travel back  
in time to  
Prohibition-era  
New York  
**D6**

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

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Saturday/Sunday, July 8 - 9, 2017 | **D1**



TED CAVANAUGH FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, FOOD STYLING BY HEATHER MELDRUM, PROP STYLING BY NIDIA CUEVA

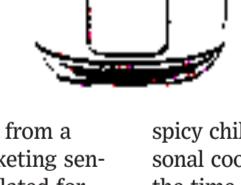
## Does This Look Instant to You?

The Instant Pot has seduced legions with promises of stews that cook themselves. But what would Julia Child say? With a sophisticated summer menu based on her recipes, we put this gadget to the test

BY SARAH KARNASIEWICZ

**R**ECENTLY, FOLLOWING the lead of millions of other harried cooks, I introduced an Instant Pot to my kitchen. Perhaps you've heard of the gizmo? It's the highest-profile brand of the increasingly pervasive countertop "multicooker"—combination Crock Pot, pressure cooker, rice maker, electric skillet and yogurt maker.

This \$99 appliance from the tiny Ontario-based company Double Insight has, in the seven years since its debut, progressed from a niche product modestly popular with Paleo dieters to a viral-marketing sensation. At least a half-dozen multicooker-focused cookbooks are slated for publication over the next year. The product sits reliably atop Amazon's Home



and Kitchen bestseller list, and during 2016's Prime Day—the online retailer's annual one-day flash sale—it was the biggest-selling item in the U.S. market, in any category, with more than 215,000 units moved on that day alone. On Facebook, a community page dedicated to the brand currently counts more than half a million members.

This should be where I tell you the Instant Pot revolutionized my cooking and my life along with it. But that's not exactly the story. It was midwinter when I unpacked my new toy, and the test spins—my mother-in-law's braciole, a rib-sticking stew, a spicy chili—were successes. Still, a gal, especially one with a taste for seasonal cooking, can only stomach so much braised beef and ranch beans. By the time the trees were in bloom, my Instant Pot was back on the shelf.

Please turn to page D2

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Intimate giraffe encounters and other diversions unique to Nairobi **D7**



**STRAW DATA**  
An info-packed tribute to that iconic summer bag: the woven basket **D4**



**FARM FRESHER**  
How a city-slicker designer subtly updated a 1790s rural house **D8**



**STRAP STARS**  
Luxe ways to lug around a camera **D10**

## EATING & DRINKING

# MASTER THE ART OF THE MULTICOOKER

Continued from page D1

There the Instant Pot sat until a few weeks ago, when, packing for my family's annual trip to Cape Cod, I was reminded of an essay the novelist Jhumpa Lahiri once wrote. She made the case that you could cook everything you need during a summer getaway in a single cast-iron pan. Recalling the appliance's promises of ease—not to mention our un-air-conditioned cabin—I eyed my Instant Pot with fresh curiosity. Into a canvas tote it went, along with a few well-thumbed cookbooks by Jane Grigson, Julia Child and Elizabeth David that have become stalwart seaside references. Could the machine adapt to summer's lighter fare?

On arrival, I eased in with a simple challenge: a batch of hard-boiled eggs for beach snacking. Given the 8 minutes it took for the pot to reach pressure, the process proved no quicker than my usual method. Yet there were upsides: namely, shells that slid off with nary a nick and entirely avoiding the swelter of stovetop boiling. Multicookers keep the heat inside and the kitchen cool.

Recalling the promises of ease—not to mention our un-air-conditioned cabin—I eyed my Instant Pot with fresh curiosity.

A few days later, I threw a quart of sliced strawberries in with a spoonful of sugar and a splash of vanilla extract and closed the lid. After cooking it for two minutes at high pressure, I had a syrupy compote that thickened as it cooled and made a lovely sight at breakfast, spooned over ricotta toast. (Per the internet, I could have made that ricotta in the Instant Pot, too—but let's be serious, I was on vacation.)

Part of becoming a competent cook is learning to play to strengths and minimize shortcomings—in your ingredients, your equipment, yourself. With a few months of occasional use, I'd begun to understand the Instant Pot's flaws. Tender veggies like spring peas and petite carrots are obliterated in the intense atmosphere of high-pressure cooking. And because of the intense, moist heat the pot generates and the lack of opportunity for evaporation once the lid is sealed, you can forget about crisped edges. But I appreciate the capacity to sauté ingredients in the pot, uncovered, before affixing the lid for a steam or a braise, saving the work of washing another pan. And plenty of delicious, summery dishes don't require browning. I began to wonder if I'd hamstrung the gadget's potential by relying so heavily on the economy-focused advice and down-home recipes dispensed on message boards and blogs.

So, over one humid weekend in Cape Cod, I staged a final throw-down: preparing an elegant summer supper for visiting friends using nothing but the multicooker and my 1961 edition of Julia Child's "Mastering The Art of French Cooking." Success, I knew, hinged heavily on

### Soubise

(Sweet Onion Risotto)

Apart from the optional garnish, this dish can be made a day ahead and reheated.

ACTIVE TIME: 15 minutes

TOTAL TIME: 35 minutes

SERVES: 4-6

### Arborio rice

2 pounds sweet onions, such as Vidalia, thinly sliced

8 tablespoons (1 stick) butter, divided

Kosher salt

3 tablespoons heavy cream

2 ounces Gruyère or

Emmentaler cheese, grated

Freshly ground black pepper

Fresh basil, shredded, or

fresh oregano sprigs, for garnish

canny recipe selection, but I didn't want to play it totally safe, either. In the end, I settled on a quartet of resolutely summery classics: homard à l'Américaine, ratatouille and soubise (a sweet onion risotto)—plus a fudgy (and gluten-free) gâteau Reine de Saba to finish it off.

To get the goods to the table at the proper temperature and degree of doneness would require me to stagger my cooking. I started a day prior with the cake, which calls for a chill before serving, and continued on with the soubise and the ratatouille, both of which cope well with gentle reheating. The lobster would have to be done, as Julia might put it, à la minute.

"Baking" inside an Instant Pot required a new technique: pot-in-pot cooking (PIP in the parlance of the message boards). Happily, that turned out to be as straightforward as it sounds, involving nothing more than lowering a small spring-form pan onto the steaming rack and sealing the Instant Pot for a half-hour session. I'd chosen the Reine de Saba because I suspected its dense, almost puddinglike consistency would be well suited to the steamy climate of the cooker. My hunch was right. Crowned with a cloud of freshly whipped cream and a corona of summer berries, it was a sight to behold.

The ratatouille and soubise were the menu's ringers: exactly the sort of succulent, moisture-loving dishes that pressure cooking can improve. The ratatouille's mélange of eggplant emerged from the pot silky and slicked with fragrant, herb-infused oil, and I may never make risotto another way again.

That left the lobster. Any recipe that begins with plunging a knife directly into a live animal is liable to give you a case of nerves, and indeed, as showtime approached I felt the panic of wading into uncharted waters. I was buoyed by a comment I read from chef Joël Robuchon that described pressure cooking as a lovely method for lobster. But nowhere on Facebook could I find references to Instant Pot flambéing.

Also, no disrespect to Mme. Child, but I'm no tomato-peeling cook. Dispensing with that step—and the flambéing, for safety's and sanity's sake—I simply split the lobsters and sautéed them in batches before returning them to the pot for a fast, final schvitz in a broth of vermouth, tomatoes and herbs.

It was remarkable. I'm sure the dinner I laid on the table a few moments later didn't resemble anything the engineers at Double Insight had in mind when they were designing their "closed loop control systems." Nor was this method exactly what Ms. Child had in mind when she addressed the "servantless American cook who can be unconcerned on occasion with budgets, waistlines and time schedules." I was having my (Reine de Saba) cake and eating it, too: With the Instant Pot, this really rather grand meal had come together with minimal sweat, figuratively as well as literally.

Will my Instant Pot face many more bouts in this weight class? Probably not. But it's nice to know how far I can push it. And I'll never again head to the beach without it.



- Add 3 cups water to the pot of a 6-quart multicooker. Set to Sauté and bring to a boil. Add rice and stir. Simmer 5 minutes, then drain rice and set aside.
- With cooker still set to Sauté, add 4 tablespoons butter to pot. Once melted, add onions and stir to combine. Sauté, stirring frequently, until onions are soft and translucent, about 7 minutes. Return rice to pot along with remaining butter, 1/2 cup water and a pinch of salt. Stir until well combined. Seal multicooker, set manually to High Pressure and cook 7 minutes.
- When cooking has finished, let pressure release naturally for 10 minutes, then use the quick release method to open cooker. Add cream and cheese and stir mixture well. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Transfer to a serving dish and garnish with fresh herbs. Serve hot.

—Adapted from "Mastering the Art of French Cooking"



**POT LUCK** A moist chocolate Reine de Saba cake topped with whipped cream and fruit completes this summery spread made in a multicooker.

### Gâteau Reine de Saba (Queen of Sheba Cake)

ACTIVE TIME: 10 minutes TOTAL TIME: 2 1/2 hours (includes cooling) MAKES: 1 (7-inch) cake

#### Nonstick cooking spray

5 ounces dark chocolate chips or wafers (at least 60% cacao)

8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened

1/2 cup sugar

#### 3 eggs

1 teaspoon real vanilla extract

2 tablespoons dark rum

3/4 cup fine almond flour

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

3/4 cup heavy cream

#### Seasonal fruits, for garnish, such as strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, sliced plums, sliced apricots and sweet cherries

- Spray a leakproof 7-inch springform pan with non-stick cooking spray. Set aside. Place chocolate in a heatproof bowl and melt, stirring occasionally, in microwave or over a saucepan of simmering water.
- Combine butter and sugar in a large bowl and use an electric mixer to beat on medium-high until pale, about 2 minutes. Add eggs one at a time and continue beating until mixture is very pale and fluffy, 4-5 minutes. Stir in vanilla and rum. Gently fold in melted chocolate, almond flour and salt.

- Spoon batter into prepared pan and smooth out top. Cover loosely with aluminum foil. Lower pan

into the pot of a 6-quart multicooker fitted with steamer rack. Pour 1 cup water into bottom of multicooker's pot.

- Seal multicooker, set manually to High Pressure and cook 30 minutes. When cooking has finished, let pressure release naturally.\* Then transfer pan to refrigerator to chill at least 2 hours or overnight.

- Just before serving, whip cream until it forms loose peaks. Spoon generously onto cake and top with a colorful mixture of berries and sliced summer fruit.

—Adapted from "Mastering the Art of French Cooking"

by Julia Child, Louisette Bertholle and Simone Beck

### Homard à l'Américaine (Lobster with Wine, Tomatoes, Garlic and Herbs)

ACTIVE TIME: 20 minutes TOTAL TIME: 30 minutes SERVES: 4

#### 2 (1 1/2-pound) lobsters

4 tablespoons olive oil

1 carrot, peeled and finely diced

1 onion, finely diced

2 shallots, finely diced

2 cloves garlic, minced

1/2 cup Cognac

1 pound ripe tomatoes, chopped and juice reserved

2 tablespoons tomato paste

1/2 cup clam juice

1 cup dry vermouth

2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley, plus more for garnish

1 tablespoon chopped fresh tarragon, plus more for garnish

6 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened

1 large baguette or other crusty loaf

- Quickly and humanely kill lobsters by positioning the tip of a chef's knife in the center of the head and plunging the blade in between the eyes.

Next, split lobsters in half lengthwise. Spoon out the green tomalley and red coral (if present) and set aside. Remove heads. (Save for making stock, if desired.) Remove claws from body and crack them. (This makes them easier to open later.)

- Warm oil in the pot of a 6-quart multicooker set to Sauté. When hot, add lobster pieces in batches and sear, turning occasionally, until shells are bright red and meat is golden at edges, 4 minutes per batch. Transfer cooked lobster pieces to a plate.

3. Add carrots, onions and shallots to pot. Sauté until fragrant and softened, about 4 minutes. Add garlic and

- sauté 2 minutes. Stir in Cognac, tomatoes with juice, tomato paste, clam juice and vermouth. Add parsley and
- tarragon. Return lobster pieces to pot.
- Seal multicooker, set manually to High Pressure and cook 5 minutes. When cooking has finished, use quick release method to open multicooker.
- Transfer lobster pieces to a plate. Set multicooker to Sauté and let sauce simmer until reduced by half, 8-10 minutes.
- Meanwhile, combine softened butter with reserved tomalley and coral in a medium bowl. Drizzle a ladleful of the hot sauce into bowl and rapidly whisk together with butter mixture



until smooth. Add mixture back into sauce along with reserved lobster pieces. Cook 2 minutes more, stirring frequently, until warmed through.

- Transfer lobster and sauce to a deep serving platter and garnish with fresh herbs. To serve, divide among 4 wide, shallow bowls and provide slices of crusty bread for sopping up sauce.

—Adapted from "Mastering the Art of French Cooking"

► Find a multicooker recipe for ratatouille at [WSJ.com/Food](http://WSJ.com/Food)

\*\* \* \*

## EATING & DRINKING

ON WINE LETTIE TEAGUE



# Red, White and Green: What Sells Wine Today

"YOU'RE LATE," said David Lillie to me when I arrived at his store, Chambers Street Wines in Manhattan, at half past ten in the morning a few weeks ago. (The store opens at 10 a.m.) "You missed an elegant ballet of inventory," he added, referring to the cases of wine his staff had to carry into the store when the conveyor belt in the basement broke. That's how they talk at Chambers Street Wines; the staff slips in terms like "schist" and "whip-crack acidity" when speaking with customers who know what they mean. A cardinal staff rule: Never pretend to know more than you do, because the customer is likely to know even more.

I'd opted to spend some time in a wine shop as I'd been thinking a lot about the retail wine world and the fact that there is practically a story a day about the perilous state of the retail today. How does a Manhattan brick-and-mortar wine shop compete with its local peers, let alone the rest of the world?

The owners of Chambers Street Wines have crafted a highly successful sales formula: Buy mostly from small producers with whom they have personal relationships and who practice natural, biodynamic or organic winemaking; hire passionate, knowledgeable salespeople; sell to both local and national customers via their informative, constantly updated website; and, of course, provide attentive service and regular (free) in-store wine tastings.

Though the store carries wines and spirits from all over the world, it is particularly strong in wines from France, especially the Loire Valley. It also sells a great deal of aged Barolo sourced from private cellars in Italy. And there are lots of interesting wines for \$15 and under that can't be easily found elsewhere. Most of the 1,900 or so bottles in the 950-square-foot space have been sourced from producers personally known to the staff.

"I don't think you can successfully open a wine shop today without a point of view," said Mr. Lillie as we repaired to the tiny back-of-fice space that he shares with several other staffers, including his business partner, Jamie Wolff. Mr. Lillie had extensive retail experience when they opened the store; Mr. Wolff was an alumnus of the wine division of Christie's auction house. The two men met in 2000 and opened their store in 2001.

Mr. Lillie worked as a buyer and manager at Garnet Wines & Liquors on Manhattan's Upper East Side for 15 years when it was one of the leading retailers in New York. The store's monthly full-page newspaper ads attracted masses of customers. "These days no one does conventional advertising," he observed.

Instead, many retailers rely on



**RETAILERS OF THE CITY** Clockwise from top: Salesperson Eben Lillie with his father, David Lillie, and Jamie Wolff, co-owners of Chambers Street Wines; salesperson Caroline Coursant; an array of bottles in the store's back office.



sales tools such as offers sent via email. Staff members email out several offers each week. One of Mr. Lillie's tasks the morning I visited was to send an email offering of rosés to the 14,000 or so customers on his list—illustrated with a photograph of his Cardigan Welsh Corgi, Gwenny, walking on the beach, to convey a summery mood.

Mr. Lillie's emails abound with details about featured regions, wineries and makers, related from a personal perspective. The average offer accounts for 5-15% of the day's sales, according to Mr. Lillie—though a recent one featuring old, rare wines from Italy's Piedmont accounted for 80% of that day's sales.

The profit margins in a retail business are not large, said Mr. Lillie. The standard retail markup on a bottle is about 30%. And yet, though they weathered a few unprofitable years thanks to 9/11 and the market

crash in 2008, Mr. Lillie estimates their profit margin today is 4-8% and further noted that he and Mr. Wolff draw small salaries and put the rest back into the business.

The key sales tool today is wine-searcher.com, the most commonly used database and search engine for wine lovers and merchants alike. Retailers pay large sums to have their store inventories included in its matrix. At one point Messrs. Lillie and Wolff were so perturbed by the high cost—they are paying \$6,500 for the service this year alone—they took their store off the site. But they went back a few months later, after they decided it was "an important source of new referrals," said Mr. Lillie.

The store is usually quiet in the morning, but the back office is busy with the sales action taking place online. Mr. Wolff, who came in shortly after I did, joked that he spends most of his time on his com-

puter. "What did I do before email?" he asked rhetorically. Some of the bottles surrounding his computer were from private cellars that Mr. Wolff has purchased, while others were new arrivals yet to be shelved.

The greatest challenge facing Chambers Street Wines: an extreme shortage of space (a perennial New York problem). Unpacked boxes are forever stacking up, said stock manager David Schwartzberg.

Although the website attracts customers from all over the world, the store's physical location—close to several subway lines that converge at Chambers Street in the Tribeca neighborhood—is key to its success, as is the ongoing development of the surrounding area. "Chambers Street has become a high-density neighborhood," said Mr. Lillie.

More customers began drifting into the store around 4 p.m., and by 6 p.m. there was a bit of a din

as customers and staff members mingled and talked. I overheard one of the store's more voluble salespeople, John McIlwain—also a French wine buyer; nearly all sales staff also hold wine-buying jobs—explaining the difference between two Muscadets to a Muscadet fan: "This one is more granite, while this one has more broadness to the palate and some shoulders." Meanwhile, Ariana Rolich, the

'The store is like a family, and it has a beautiful feeling of being part of something.'

store's Spanish-wine buyer, chatted with Roger Valls, who is in charge of sales for wineries in Priorat and Montsant. Mr. Valls lingered for nearly an hour.

Ms. Rolich knows the preferences of her clients by heart. "An important part of learning someone's taste is learning their vocabulary," she said. For example, she had a customer whose "profoundly balanced palate" required wines that "were bright-fruited but not full-fruited." (Translation: lots of acidity and not much oak.)

Steve Edmunds of Edmunds St. John winery in California was the featured winemaker pouring his wines the evening I was there. The genial Mr. Edmunds is a staff favorite, and his wines fit the Chambers Street profile: minimal intervention, pure and expressive. Would-be tasters queued up, including a man in L.L. Bean boat shoes who asked Mr. Edmunds if he was "one of those biodynamic producers." As if in warning, the questioner added, "I like conventional wine." Mr. Edmunds smiled. "We use a little sulfur in the winery," he said. "Glad to hear it," the man said, and after tasting Mr. Edmunds' reds, he walked away with a couple bottles.

Staff and customers crowded around, tasting and talking wine. I thought about what one of the store's newest employees, Caroline Coursant, had said to me earlier. The Paris-born former attorney left a lucrative career to work at Chambers Street Wines about eight months ago. "The store is like a family, and it has a beautiful feeling of being part of something," she said.

More than a great wine selection or fair pricing or an optimal location or even a subscription to wine-searcher.com, imparting this feeling is perhaps the best sales tool of all.

► Email Lettie at [wine@wsj.com](mailto:wine@wsj.com).

## SLOW FOOD FAST SATISFYING AND SEASONAL FOOD IN ABOUT 30 MINUTES

### Tomato and Snap-Pea Toasts

**YOU CAN'T BEAT** a great tomato toast, especially at this time of year, with so many heirloom varieties available. "Each tastes a little different," said chef Steven Satterfield. "They tend to have a lot more juice than other tomatoes, and that fruity-meaty flavor that's part vegetable, part fruit, part unknown umami."

Mr. Satterfield knows when to leave well enough alone, and high tomato season is that time. In his second Slow Food Fast recipe, Mr. Satterfield simply throws ripe, luscious tomatoes into relief with a scattering of crunchy snap peas and a

sharp Sherry vinaigrette. Piled on thick toasts slathered with garlicky aioli, this salad becomes the classic summertime tomato sandwich, tweaked just enough.

Though the aioli is easy to make from scratch, even the chef will occasionally swap in store-bought. "At the beach I've used Duke's Mayonnaise," he said. "It's a little richer than Hellman's." But skipping the slather altogether is not an option. "There's so much acid in tomatoes, you have to balance it with fat," he said. "A good swoosh of mayonnaise does the trick." —Kitty Greenwald

TOTAL TIME: 20 minutes SERVES: 4

1 cup snap peas cut into $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch pieces	1 tablespoon Sherry vinegar	fresh basil
Salt and freshly ground black pepper	$\frac{3}{4}$ cup extra-virgin olive oil	1 egg yolk
2 cups diced ripe heirloom tomatoes	2½ cloves garlic	$\frac{1}{2}$ lemon
	2 tablespoons finely sliced	8 thick slices country bread, toasted

1. Fill a small pot with salted water and set over high heat. Bring water to a boil and add chopped snap peas. Blanch until bright-green and crisp-tender, 1-2 minutes. Drain snap peas and run under cold water to cool and toss dry. In a medium bowl, toss snap peas with tomatoes, Sherry vinegar,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup olive oil and 1 finely grated garlic clove. Add salt, pepper and basil to taste. Let mixture sit to allow flavors to meld, about 15 minutes.

2. Make aioli: Place egg yolk and 1 finely grated garlic clove in a blender or food processor. Pulse until well combined. With blade

running, very slowly drizzle in remaining olive oil, adding only a few drops at first and gradually drizzling in the rest to form a thick spread. (You should have about  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup.) If desired, thin slightly with water, one teaspoon at a time. Season with salt and lemon juice to taste, and blend once more to fully combine.

3. Rub toasted bread with cut side of remaining  $\frac{1}{2}$  garlic clove. If you like a pungent flavor, after rubbing, add  $\frac{1}{2}$  clove to tomato salad and toss to combine. Generously smear one side of each toast with aioli, sprinkle with salt and spoon tomato mixture on top.



**LOAF LESSONS** Use a good, sturdy, crusty bread to make the toasts. You want them to stand up to the tomatoes' juices and the mayonnaise.



**The Chef**  
Steven Satterfield

**His Restaurant**  
Miller Union  
in Atlanta, Ga.

**What He's Known For**  
A deep affinity for vegetable cookery, from root to stem. Inventive dishes that seem timeless.

STEVEN SATTERFIELD: JULIA SOHN FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL; FOOD STYLING BY HEATHER MELDRUM; PROP STYLING BY NINA CUEVA; ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL HOEWEVER

## STYLE & FASHION

DEEP DIVE

# The Straw Bag

From lowly beginnings, the utilitarian woven wonder has wended its way into the fashionable imagination

BY HAYLEY PHELAN

**B**AGS WOVEN from natural, readily available materials—usually dried grasses—have been a practical staple for centuries. “Basket-weaving goes back forever,” said London fashion curator Shonagh Marshall. (Traces have been found in Egyptian pyramids.) Like today’s plastic bags, these baskets were cheap and lightweight—a utilitarian way to carry goods.

In the 1950s, straw clutches gained popularity among fashion-minded women. Many featured appliqué or embroidery, and functioned as souvenirs, noted Jill Brady, founder of the website Sackrider Museum of Handbags. The new demand created “pockets of cottage industry” in destinations like Miami, said Ms. Brady. Since only the wealthy could afford to travel widely, these colorful bags—though humbly constructed—became status symbols.

It wasn’t until the late ’60s when French singer Jane Birkin began carrying a wicker basket that the style acquired icon status. The basket, said Ms. Marshall, was central to Ms. Birkin’s Parisian glamour, but also expressed the rebellious and eccentric spirit that permeated the youthquake of the ’60s and ’70s. That idiosyncratic quality still resonates with designers. The straw bag “puts a nice twist on a look,” said French designer Vanessa Seward, who collaborated with artist Jason Glasser on a series of hand-painted circular straw bags for spring. “It’s a bit anti-It bag,” said Ms. Seward. “It shows taste versus money.”



### NATURALS SELECTION // FIVE OF OUR NEW SUMMER FAVORITES, FROM CLASSIC TO CHA-CHA-CHA



A classic all-around—unembellished, soft-sided and roomy enough to hold all the blanket-sized towels and satisfactorily lowbrow beach reads you may need. Bag, \$47, [littleliffner.com](http://littleliffner.com)



More for the chic traveler on the go than the languorous beach-dweller, this flat, circular rattan number is polished enough to take along to summer cocktails in Venice or Vancouver. Bag, \$185, [bembien.com](http://bembien.com)



Because you’re not always in the mood for 50 shades of beige, vacation gear expert Stephany Sensi weaves conspicuously vivid versions of hardy toquilla palm. *Sensi Studio Bag*, \$275, [modaoperandi.com](http://modaoperandi.com)



With a neat dark canvas handle, Muun’s tidy tote works as well for those on holiday as it does for those commuting to work. A removable cotton pouch offers privacy. Bag, \$246, [muun.fr](http://muun.fr)



Sometimes bags just want to have fun. This striped, pom-pom’d carryall skews more Ibiza than Provence but encourages a good time anywhere. *Sophie Anderson Bag*, \$330, Barneys New York, 212-826-8900

### WHAT MAKES WICKER A WINNER?

As fashion trends go, straw bags are typically (and delightfully) inexpensive. But they’re not created equal. Here, a few tips on finding one that fits your personal style and summer toting needs

**CONGRATULATIONS**, you’ve decided to buy a straw bag. Why the solicitations? Because these bags are usually a relative bargain, a rarity for anything that constitutes a bona fide fashion trend. Sure you could spend four figures on one but it’s far from necessary. You can easily channel Jane Birkin, Audrey Hepburn or whichever woven tote-muse you choose for less than \$50 without feeling compromised.

The biggest decision may be whether to go plain or embellished. Traditionalist designers tend to prefer the former. “There is something very honest about a straw bag,” said Yi-Mei Truxes, founder of Bembien, a line of minimalist accessories exclusively made of rattan and seagrass.

Plainer bags also have a less ephemeral allure, which can be key to weathering the trend cycle. If it

doesn’t fall prey to a major sunscreen or ice-cream spillage, a classic Little Liffner style (“The Seasider,” above) can last for decades. Simpler bags also don’t scream “I’m on vacation,” so they can be used in the city more readily than a pompom-strewn piece.

Then again, these beautiful descendants of ancient carryalls also provide an irresistible canvas for creative expression. Paris designer Vanessa Seward took the canvas concept quite literally, asking American artist Jason Glasser to hand-paint geometric motifs on the round Moroccan straw bags she made for spring. “Working with cheaper materials makes you freer,” said Ms. Seward. “You’re less in awe of the raw materials.” Priced at \$290—roughly half of what her leather bags fetch—they proved more popular than the designer predicted. “I promised Jason we’d never sell more

than 100,” she said. She ended up with orders for 500.

An expressive straw bag can be a smart way to make an everyday fashion statement for summer. Keep your clothes simple and let the bag do the talking. Said Bembien’s Ms. Truxes, “There will always be something attractive about a woman in jeans, a white T-shirt and a basket bag.”

That’s true whether the accessory is basic or bedecked. At both ends of that spectrum, it’s also true that a straw bag’s handmade quality adds to its appeal, especially when so much of fashion is mass-produced. Companies such as Brazilian brand Nannacay make a point of celebrating their artisans. “There is a story behind the pieces,” said founder Marcia Kemp. “I think people connect to the story. This bag is woven by someone and the feeling is in there.”

If the Three Little Pigs Had Bags...  
Superior

inferior

Truly Inferior

### A Tense Q&A With a Mellow Straw Tote

We posed a few innocent questions to a particularly laid-back example of the classic carryall. Things didn’t go well

- Q.** Do you ever get worried that a donkey might eat you?  
**A.** I think you’re confusing me with hay.  
**Q.** What’s the difference?  
**A.** Animals eat hay. They sleep on straw.  
**Q.** I see. Do you ever get worried that a donkey might mistake you for a pillow or a tiny mattress?  
**A.** Not really, no.  
**Q.** You appear to have suspiciously few donkey-related worries. Do you take anti-anxiety medication?  
**A.** I’m carefree by design.  
**Q.** Yogic breathing? Lemon balm? Herbal tea? Valerian? Botox as migraine relief?  
**A.** I’m blithe, dammit!  
**Q.** Really? You seem a little strident.  
**A.** It’s just that now you’ve got me worried that some donkey’s going to trample me. Or drool on me.  
**Q.** It could be a pretty little colt, instead. All endearingly knock-kneed.  
**A.** That’s not helping.

—Dale Hrabik

## STYLE & FASHION



**AVERAGE LOW** 54° Lucky enough to be summering at Lake Como? Then you'll need a pullover that's posh enough for an Italian industrialist. When temperatures dip to the mid-50s, Berluti's cashmere crewneck, gradient-dyed in cool blue-gray tones, will keep you from appearing uncouthly ill-prepared at cocktail hour.

Sweater, \$1,010, [Berluti](#), 212-439-6400

**Comparable Climates:** London, Sydney, St. Moritz

# Heat Weaves

Counterintuitive though it might seem, no July or August holiday jaunt is complete without a summer sweater

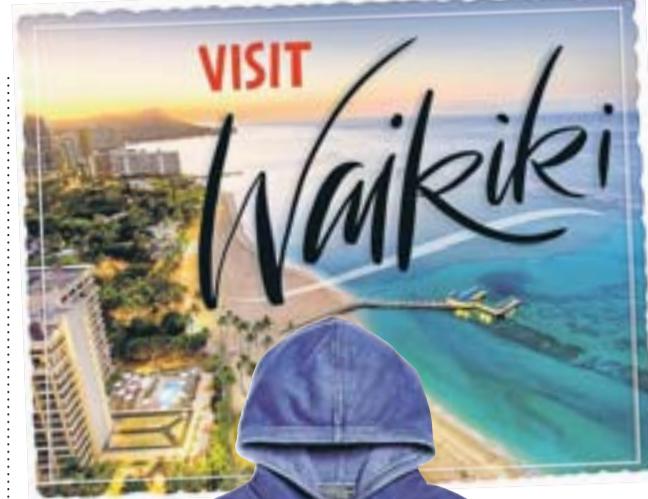
BY JACOB GALLAGHER

**I**T WASN'T FAIR. I was on summer vacation, and should have been baking in the SoCal sun, sipping from a moisture-beaded bottle of Corona. But I wasn't. I was shivering. Goosebumps ran up and down my arms, exposed in a flimsy cotton T-shirt. I wondered if any bars along the Venice boardwalk had a fireplace. I was pining for that most underappreciated of summer standbys: a light but, yes, moderately cozy sweater.

Even in the height of summer, there are nights "when it's still cold and people still need to layer up," said Mary Lou Ryan, co-founder of Bassike, a Sydney-based brand that excels at toasty, thin knits. "It all comes down to the weight of the yarn," she added. Instead of wool or cashmere, most summer knits rely on cotton, merino, silk or a blend.

The weave itself matters, too. Look for "something more open so that it's a little bit airier," suggested Don Weir, co-founder of Stag, a menswear boutique with outposts in Texas and Venice, Calif. Bassike's Ms. Ryan concurred: "[A loose weave] gives it that relaxed appeal, so it doesn't feel like an uptight knit." In other words: You'll look more appropriately dressed for a backyard barbecue than a session of resentful snow shoveling.

For easygoing summer style, minus the unmanly shivering, we've identified five suitably smart layers to handle July's average-low temperatures in five seasonal vacation spots. If you're stuck at work, any of these pliable sweaters can also counteract summer's biggest scourge: overactive office air-conditioning.



**AVERAGE LOW** 73° A getaway in Waikiki requires a knit that won't weigh you—or your suitcase—down. Rag & Bone's thin knit-cotton sweatshirt will slip unobtrusively into a duffel. The sporty hood

might get you mistaken for a board-toting local. Just don't agree to demonstrate your moves. Sweater, \$295, [rag-bone.com](#)

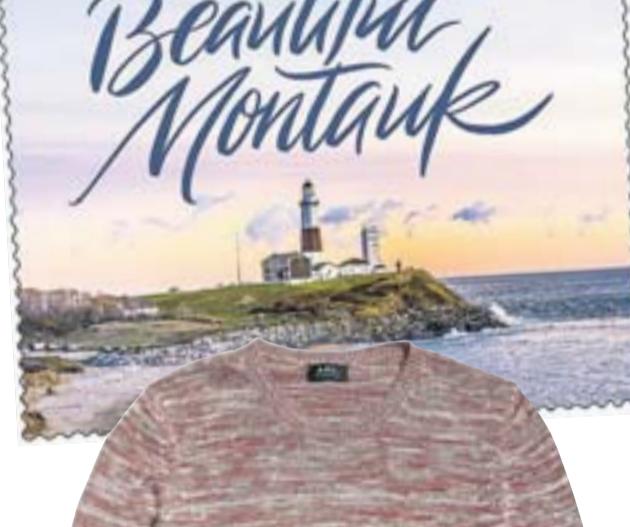
**Comparable Climates:** Rio de Janeiro, Havana, Ibiza

**AVERAGE LOW** 54°

Lucky enough to be summering at Lake Como? Then you'll need a pullover that's posh enough for an Italian industrialist. When temperatures dip to the mid-50s, Berluti's cashmere crewneck, gradient-dyed in cool blue-gray tones, will keep you from appearing uncouthly ill-prepared at cocktail hour.

Sweater, \$1,010, [Berluti](#), 212-439-6400

**Comparable Climates:** London, Sydney, St. Moritz



**AVERAGE LOW** 64°

Watching the sunset at Montauk Point State Park is a favored ritual for weekending New Yorkers, but once the last rays recede, sending temperatures to the mid-60s, you'll need a reliable cotton layer, like A.P.C.'s marled crew with sweatshirt-like ribbed side seams for extra coziness. Sweater, \$250, [apc.fr](#)

**Comparable Climates:** Provincetown, Mass., Malibu, Nashville



**AVERAGE LOW** 47°

Even in high summer, Iceland's popular coastal capital Reykjavik can fall prey to quite the chill. When you're touring around Harpa concert hall and that brisk wind starts whipping off the Atlantic, you'll be happy to have Bassike's airy yet hardy-as-Viking-armor mélange merino knit. Sweater, \$395, [bassike.com](#)

**Comparable Climates:** Copenhagen, Cape Town, Vancouver



**AVERAGE LOW** 78°

In Palm Springs, where temps rarely fall below the high 70s, it's less about staying warm, than about staying prepared. The Armoury's featherweight merino crewneck is so light, you'll barely even notice it's there—that is until you appreciate its elegant insulation against the icy A/C at that dinner party. Sweater, \$250, [thearmoury.com](#)

**Comparable Climates:** Miami, Tokyo, Tulum

## FRESH PICKS

### THE EXHIBITION

#### A Few Famous Faces

A stranger asks for the time: Do you check your watch or tap your smartphone? A growing number of men take the latter route. And even Patek Philippe, one of the world's

mightiest horological brands, concedes that watches no longer rule the world's wrists. And so, when gathering over 450 timepieces from its vaults in Geneva for the Art of Watches, Grand Exhibition, a retrospective opening July 13 in New York, the company knew it had to appeal not only to watch enthusiasts but to the dial-illiterate as well. Old-school fans would attend the show (which runs to July 23) even "if we put it at the North Pole," said Larry Pettinelli, president of the company's U.S. division. But those who don't know their tourbillons from their tachymeters might still like to see Duke Ellington and General Patton's chronograph wristwatches or President Kennedy's desk clock.

Should casual viewers catch the watch bug while ogling these tiny mechanical wonders, they can view demonstrations by watchmakers or participate in an interactive virtual-reality simulation which lets them "assemble" a watch. "You can literally create product out of thin air," said Mr. Pettinelli. "You can build your own movement."

The company is marking the event with a special timepiece: a Grand Exhibition edition of its World Time model (pictured) embossed with the Manhattan skyline at the center of its face. Only 300 of the \$53,299 watches will be made. The show itself, however, is free to everyone. [patek.com](#) —J.G.



Watch, Ref. 5230-010,  
\$53,299, [Patek Philippe](#),  
212-218-1240

### THE COLLABORATION

#### Moncler's Compound Interest

Greg Lauren had a secret. With a label of his own, the 47-year-old designer already had a surfeit of outerwear, but he furtively coveted a Moncler jacket. "I just really admired the brand from afar," said Mr. Lauren. He'd see his 4-year-old son strut about in a glossy puffer from the Italian label, but it didn't seem to make sense to buy one for himself.

Then just over a year ago, Moncler artistic director Francesco Ragazzi, who's tasked with reaching out to buzzy talents for partnerships, contacted Mr. Lauren and tapped him to design a limited-edition collection, which arrives at Moncler boutiques and select Barneys New York stores this week.

Mr. Lauren's designs with the brand, however, detour dramatically from the look of his son's classic puffer. After hauling a selection of Moncler's traditional jackets, vests, hats and sweatshirts to his Los Angeles studio, the designer cut them apart and Frankensteined them back together with his own signature fabrics: recycled denim and surplus canvas. "I love nothing better than to see the frayed edge of vintage denim or canvas brush up against the smooth surface of the nylons," he said.

Despite the reconstructed look, Mr. Lauren took pains to ensure that the pieces retain Moncler's revered all-weather-resilience—and recognizability. "When you see a classic Moncler jacket going down the street, it's obvious," he said. Mr. Lauren's unique mashups are equally unmistakable. —J.G.



'Collide' Greg Lauren & Moncler Vest,  
\$3,500, [Moncler](#), 646-768-7022

# ADVENTURE & TRAVEL



DAVID CHOW FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (6); GETTY IMAGES (POLICE RAID SPEAKEASY)

## Unquenchable Manhattan

The Prohibition era offered illicit fun, and a thirst for it lives on—from secret cellars to flapper parties

BY TONY PERROTTET

I FELT LIKE a furtive liaison from a vintage film noir. After midnight, downtown Manhattan seemed deserted: I barely saw another soul on the streets as I scurried past the wrought-iron fences of Gramercy Park. When I finally located the awning of the Player's Club, a stately old mansion on the park's south side, a hulking doorman looked me up and down before shouldering open the portals.

But the moment I stepped inside, my night erupted with music and light. Dapper crowds surged up and down the antique stairs, the men dressed in tuxedos with wingtip collars and bow ties, the women in flapper dresses and cascades of feathers. I squeezed my way beneath glittering chandeliers, past oil paintings of long-gone actors, into wood-paneled rooms where musicians were belting out raucous jazz and blues. Bartenders shook up Gin Rickeys, Sazeracs and Mary Pickfords. The main parlor was packed with swing dancers. I was at a "retro nouveau" Prohibition party, open to anyone who could buy a ticket and a pair of spats or a vintage chemise. The only concession to the 21st century was the absence of smoke.

Manhattan's fascination with the Prohibition era—the period from 1920 to 1933 when the U.S. government issued a nationwide ban on alcohol—seems never-ending. In a city where almost any pleasure is available around the clock, New Yorkers are evidently compelled by a time when fun was forbidden. Those years now inspire a host of parties all over the city evoking the period. For travelers, the events provide access to venues that might otherwise be off-limits, like the members-only Player's Club (a seasonal soiree hosted by Prohibition Productions), or allow a fresh view of classic New York sites. You can find the Jazz Age Lawn Parties on Governors Island, immersive theater pieces about gangland murders in an old bank in Williamsburg, even swing dance parties on the decks of the USS Intrepid aircraft carrier. Meanwhile, a string of historic speakeasies have been reborn as hopping retro bars.

I sidled up to the Players Club bar, ordered a classic Southside (gin, mint, club soda and lemon juice) and decided to immerse myself in all things Prohibition. That 13-year period of official austerity is now recalled as a festive golden age.



self in all things Prohibition. That 13-year period of official austerity is now recalled as a festive golden age.

Although the bright young things in many American cities are fond of '20s style, New York rightfully harbors a genuine Prohibition obsession. Jazz was born in New Orleans but thrived in Harlem, along with Swing and acrobatic dance styles like the Lindy Hop. Once, tens of thousands of speakeasies, bars and clubs selling illegal alcohol operated in the city and stories of hidden tunnels, rooms and chutes are part of its folk mythology.

Even the classiest New York venues cherish their secrets. After the Player's Club, I set out to explore an even more storied Prohibition relic, the '21' Club in Midtown Manhattan, where mayors, socialites and famous artists once came for illicit libations. There used to be 37 speakeasies on this block," said manager Avery Fletcher, as she led me down-



hidden away. After an FBI raid in 1930 cost the bar a fortune in confiscated liquor, a top architect was hired to design this secret cellar, which remained in use for decades afterward as a stash for celebrities' wine stocks. It's now been converted into a private dining room, with labeled bottles once owned by Richard Nixon, Sammy Davis Jr. and Elizabeth Taylor tucked into niches along the walls.

The '21' Club's downtown counterpart is the William Barnacle Tavern in the East Village. "While the mayor was drinking uptown at the '21' Club, the city councilors were drinking down here," explained the owner, Lorcan Otway. Al Capone was a regular at the once-bustling underground jazz club, which hosted bands, dancing and all-night cavorting. Though quieter now, it's just as atmospheric. Mr. Otway, who inherited the bar from his father and wears a vintage three-piece suit, gave me a hard hat so we could clamber through a smuggling tunnel to the bunkerlike basement. There, under a bare bulb, the original safe from the '20s sits with its door forced open. He remembers as a child seeing the previous owner remove \$2 million from it in gold certificates. Mr. Otway has set up the Museum of the American Gangster upstairs from the bar in homage to the period, when competing Jewish, Italian and Irish gangs roamed the Lower East Side. The two rooms are filled with mobsters' portraits, grisly photos of corpses riddled with bullets and relics like handmade "automatic shotguns." Despite Prohibition's dark side, he said, it ironically also opened up society, allowing women, for example, to frequent bars for the first time. "In the 1920s, a lot of people felt disempowered by the government," he said. "But then they realized that beating the law was fun. It's no surprise that the song 'Let's Misbehave' was such a hit."

Other Prohibition sites have also returned to their boozy roots. A few blocks from William Barnacle, I dropped by the KGB Red Room, a remodeled art-deco enclave at the top of a creaking set of wooden stairs—apparently, Lucky Luciano ran the Palm Court casino in the same building. In the Red Room, a monthly absinthe party called the Green Fairy was in full swing. As bartenders dripped the potent spirit over sugar, I ran into Don Spiro, the co-founder of Zelda magazine, dedicated to the '20s revival. He argued that the Jazz Age is far easier to relate to than previous historical periods. "It was the first truly recorded history," he said. "We can see pictures of what people looked like, see movies of what they did and hear recordings of how they sounded. We will never hear how Mozart played. But we can hear how Louis Armstrong played trumpet and how Cab Calloway sang,



HAUTE HOOCH Clockwise from top: A '20s-themed Shanghai Mermaid party at the Django bar; the Red Room's Fallen Angel cocktail; Lorcan Otway, owner of William Barnacle Tavern; the historic bar at '21' Club.

### NIP AND TUCK // '20S-THEMED HIDY-HOLES IN NYC

For a wide range of Prohibition-era events in New York, check [thisweekinswingnyc.wordpress.com](http://thisweekinswingnyc.wordpress.com). On the high end, the '21' Club has its \$42 prix fixe lunch, and if the restaurant isn't busy, ask your waiter about the secret wine cellar ([21club.com](http://21club.com)). For a vision of Manhattan straight out of a period film, try the Rainbow Room's jazz brunch, complete with live band and revolving dance floor ([rainbowroom.com](http://rainbowroom.com)). The 1930 Pierre Hotel hosts live jazz in their art deco Two E Bar on weekend evenings ([thepierrenewyork.com](http://thepierrenewyork.com)). Prohibition Productions throws weekly swing dance parties, and events at unique venues ([prohibitionproductions.com](http://prohibitionproductions.com)). Most attendees don period dress at the monthly Shanghai Mermaid parties ([shanghaiimermaid.com](http://shanghaiimermaid.com)). The New York Hot Jazz Fest celebrates benchmarks like the 100th anniversary of the first jazz record ([nyhotjazzfest.com](http://nyhotjazzfest.com)). At William Barnacle Tavern, you'll find a busted safe in the basement and the Museum of the American Gangster upstairs ([museumoftheamericanangangster.org](http://museumoftheamericanangangster.org)). The most imaginative addition to the retro bar scene is BlackTail, near Battery Park ([blacktailnyc.com](http://blacktailnyc.com)). A bit older but also fun is the Raines Law Room in Chelsea ([raineslawroom.com](http://raineslawroom.com)). KGB's Red Room, in the East Village, hosts live jazz and a monthly absinthe party ([redroomnyc.com](http://redroomnyc.com)). Former speakeasy Chumley's reopened in the West Village last year as an upscale eatery ([chumleynewyork.com](http://chumleynewyork.com)). Annual events, worth planning a trip to the city around, include the Jazz Age Lawn Party on Governors Island every summer ([jazzagelawnparty.com](http://jazzagelawnparty.com)) and the Great Gatsby Party in the former bank Capitale in darkest winter ([thegreatgatsbyparty.com](http://thegreatgatsbyparty.com)).

just like it was yesterday."

The clandestine nature of the era also still appeals: The more furtive the venue, the better, it seems. To visit the Monday night swing party in the Back Room in the Lower East Side, I descended an unmarked stairway, followed an underground passageway to the entrance, where I gave a password (gleaned from a Facebook page) through a grille, before being admitted into a softly lit world of velvet lounge chairs and erotic oil paintings. In the '20s, this was the speakeasy "backroom" of Ratner's Deli and a hangout for Jewish underworld figures such as Meyer Lansky and Bugsy Siegel. Cocktails are still served in tea cups and saucers, as they were in the day.

Then Michael Katsobashvili, founder of the New York Hot Jazz Festival, took me to Iguana Restaurant and Dance Lounge, a cheesy-looking Mexican eatery on a generic Midtown street. I began to wonder if success in re-creating the free-wheeling spirit of the 1920s depended less on antique locations than on a state of mind—a liberated, improvised creativity that has always infiltrated the city.

"This is a postmodern speak-easy," the Russian-born impresario assured me. "It's hidden in plain sight." The moment we got upstairs, I saw what he meant. The dozen members of the band Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks were dressed to the nines and blasting jazz through vintage megaphones to a crowd that included comedian Mel Brooks. "Who would imagine a scene like this on top of a Mexican restaurant in Midtown?" said Mr. Katsobashvili. Not me, for one. It was an encouraging thought. Somehow, the defiant Prohibition spirit will always survive.

### THE DRY SEASON // MILESTONES IN THE PROHIBITION ERA—FROM THE FIRST SIGN OF RESTRICTIONS TO FULL REPEAL

#### 1893

Anti-Saloon League founded in Ohio; temperance lobby gains traction.

#### 1896

March 23 Raines Law passes in New York state, imposing restrictions on liquor consumption, including a ban



on Sunday alcohol sales except in hotels.

#### 1918

November 11 The Great War ends; U.S. gets ready to erupt into a festive frenzy.

January 16 The killjoy reaction begins: 18th Amendment

banning the manufacture and sale of alcohol is ratified by the 36th state, Nebraska, ensuring it will pass into federal law.

#### 1920

January 16 Last day of legal alcohol sales causes uproar around the country.

A liquor raid circa 1921.

January 17 Prohibition goes into effect; illegal sales begin immediately. Hit songs include: "How Are You Going to Wet Your Whistle (When the Whole Darn World Is Dry?)"

#### 1925

April 10 "The Great Gatsby" is published. Bootlegging reaches epidemic proportions, fostering U.S. organized crime.

A relic at the Red Room.

#### 1929

October 29 Wall Street Crash heralds the start of the Great Depression, increasing calls for tax revenue from liquor.

#### 1933

March 22 Newly minted President Roosevelt, who promised "repeal" during his campaign, signs Cullen-Harrison Act legalizing low-alcohol beer and wine.

December 5 The 21st Amendment repeals Prohibition. Macy's liquor store is mobbed. The date is still celebrated as "Repeal Day" by aficionados.

## ADVENTURE & TRAVEL

# A Labor of Lava Love

Other Italian islands beckon beach bums. Not Stromboli, where a hyperactive volcano lures determined hikers to its peak



**HAVE A BLAST**  
A Magmatrek guide leads  
hikers on the 4.5-mile  
loop up Stromboli volcano.  
Inset: the crater erupting.

FRANCESCO LASTRUCCI FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

BY CHRISTINA PASSARIELLO

**T**HE PEAK of Stromboli lurked behind my hotel, black smoke seeping from its top, making me more fearful as the hours passed. The total absence of vegetation on the volcano's upper half gave it a daunting and desolate feel.

I had signed up to climb to the summit of the volcano that comprises most of this small, carless Italian island, strung in between Sicily and the nation's boot, and issues the black sand that covers its beaches. Stromboli is one of several active (in its case, hyperactive) volcanoes in Italy, from Sicily's Mount Etna to Mount Vesuvius near Naples, which buried Pompeii 2,000 years ago. Stromboli's volcano erupts constantly—volcanologists register activity at least every hour—and it has been that restless for 250,000 years. The persistence of its eruptions as well as its relatively hike-able size (it rises 3,000 feet from sea level) make it the rare active volcano that people can experience up close. Francesco Sortino, a scientist at Italy's National Institute for Geophysics and Volcanology who was working in Stromboli for the summer, told me before I set out, "Stromboli is a spiritual experience. Arrive at the top and you'll see."

Stromboli is located in the Tyr-

henian Sea, at the eastern end of the Aeolian chain of seven islands and six submerged volcanoes, many of which derive their names from Greek deities. Stromboli comes from the ancient Greek word *strombule*, which means a round, swelling form. A couple of the other islands have had explosions in recent centuries, but only Stromboli keeps churning out the fireworks from its summit craters. A major eruption in 2002 caused a 10-foot tsunami, and 2007 and 2014 also saw significant bursts that closed the volcano to visitors for a while. Scientists vigilantly monitor eruptions and if they get too intense, they close the trail.

As the start of my excursion approached, my anxiety grew. It wasn't the possibility of being close to eruptions—the gases, the lava—that scared me. I worried I'd lack the stamina to make it to the top and back down. Italy in high summer is hot, and hiking for five hours along a 4 1/2-mile loop could be exhausting. But Ingrid Bergman had done it in a dress and espadrilles in "Stromboli," the 1950 film Roberto Rossellini shot on the island.

There are less strenuous ways to appreciate the volcano. Boat tours circle the island, offering a view of the western slope no hiker can get: a spectacle known as the Landslide of Fire, a cascade of ash and rocks falling hundreds of feet from the craters to the water. Evening tours hit this spot right at sunset to see sprays of magma in the best light.

You can also appreciate plenty of the volcano underwater. Only the top third of the mountain is above sea level, and the ocean floor drops off quickly beyond the surf, giving the sea its deep blue. Boats take divers and swimmers to Strombolicchio (little Stromboli), the original center of the volcano, where magma hardened into what is now a column of rock off the coast.

Since 2003, only hikers accompanied by guides have been allowed to reach Stromboli's summit. Three outfits operate near-identical excursions: They all use the same trail to get hikers up and back, and stop for a bit at the crest overlooking the craters. Most groups set out in the late afternoon to avoid the midday heat, and arrive at the summit by sunset. Hikers are advised to be in good physical shape, which seems open to interpretation.

Magmatrek, the outfit I chose, instructed me to bring: a backpack and lots of water; a windbreaker, sweater and long pants for the cold weather at the top; a flashlight and snacks. I had all that ready. And yet, I couldn't get rid of the butterflies in my stomach. At 5 p.m., I checked in at Magmatrek's office on the main town square. A picture of a red stiletto was captioned simply "NO" in four languages. My guide, Nicola, checked my footgear—I wore ankle-high boots, as the website had suggested—before handing me a red helmet to protect against falling rocks. He had some bad news: The god of wind was not cooperating. Gusts coming in from the west were shoving clouds right into the craters. The day before, climbers hadn't been able to see much and the gasses at the top were intolerable.

Our group of 20 set out single-

file up a little road, past a cart selling giant peaches. Within 10 minutes, we were already on a dusty path that zigged and zagged, bordered by bamboo stalks that barred any breeze. As the sun fell behind the slope, we paused for a water break to look down at the village. The architecture could be Greek—white Lego blocks of houses, accented with blue doors—but it's on this side of Italy that the African plate is sliding under the European plate, causing the volcanic activity

The clouds rose and we could see under them to the craters and the sea below. 'Look for red,' Nicola instructed.

that created Stromboli. An hour in, halfway up, we reached the vegetation line beyond which the cactus, fig trees and caper bushes below couldn't survive. 'Now we're on the moon,' Nicola told us, gesturing to the barren landscape ahead.

We hit a traffic jam of trekkers: 300 people were visiting that day, Nicola told us, as many as live on the island year-round. The dust beneath our feet grew thicker and darker, and volcanic rocks, some football-sized, blocked the path, increasing the risk of tripping. Whenever the trail briefly leveled off, my feet and knees were so grateful. Out of breath, I noticed clouds skating by below us, but the top of the volcano was still shrouded.

As we neared the summit, just before sunset, we put on warmer clothes and our helmets. Nicola dis-

tributed dust masks to help fend off the fumes. Little good they did: Within a few steps, several of us were coughing as we inhaled the carbon dioxide and sulfur dioxide the volcano spewed.

The crest overlooking the craters was dark and otherworldly. Stromboli blew black smoke and dust up into our eyes, forcing us to turn away. Nicola drew a line in the ash with his walking pole and told us not to go past it—two feet away led straight down to the craters and beyond, the Landslide of Fire.

Then, for a moment, the clouds rose and we could see the volcano's pit and the sea below. "Look for red," Nicola instructed. Smoke erupted again, obscuring the view, but I thought I saw a glow.

We departed in quiet awe after about 20 minutes—longer than Nicola thought we would be able to withstand the fumes. My legs felt somewhat refreshed, but I was not prepared for the trials of the descent. The steep trail was thick with ash that reached our ankles; Nicola said to imagine we were skiing. When night fell, we strapped flashlights to our helmets. By the time we got to the vegetation line and the path cleared, my thighs were quivering.

Five hours after setting out, we reached the town square and dispersed. I hobbled down a little road to the beach on my own. It was all black—the sand, the water, the sky—except for the white hem of the sea. I pulled off my shoes and stumbled over the rocks to wash my feet in the waves. The rocks and I had both come a long way.

► For more photos of Stromboli and details on visiting the island, see [wsj.com/travel](http://wsj.com/travel).

## ONLY IN...NAIROBI

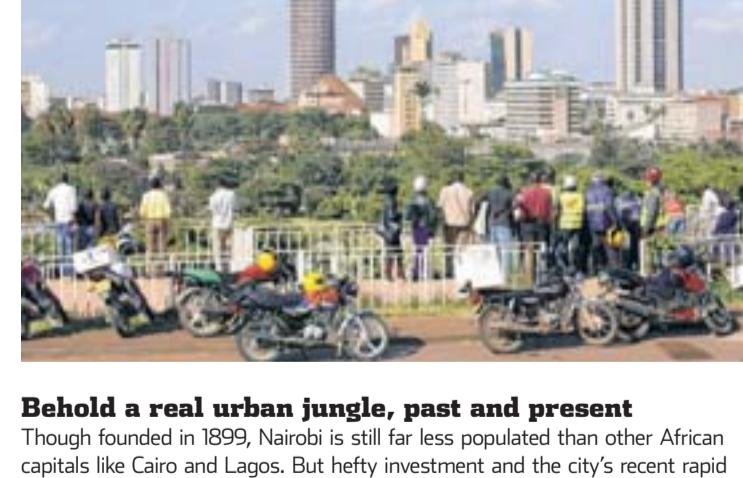
A financial center with a distinctly urban edge, Kenya's capital also has a warm and fuzzy side. Giraffe kiss, anyone?

**MANY TRAVELERS** pass through Nairobi, Kenya's frenetic capital, en route to an East African safari, rarely staying longer than a night at an airport hotel. Yet this city of more than 3.5 million, which has ripened beyond its colonial roots into a multicultural capital and regional business hub, merits more attention. You'll find a hopping (and often traffic-choked) downtown, an energetic art scene, lush parks and delicious Kenyan and Southeast Asian fare, not to mention some startling wildlife reserves within the city limits. It isn't every day you can see a herd of giraffes grazing in sight of a high-rise. Here, four distinct local excursions worthy of a longer stopover. —Teresa Rivas

### Go on a cheap date with a giraffe

Giraffe Manor, a boutique hotel within in forested parkland, is known for its unusual creature comforts: a herd of giraffes that share the property and often stick their head in windows to the guests' delight. But the hotel, one of the city's worst-kept secrets, has just 10 rooms, which are usually booked well in advance. Fortunately, it's much easier to visit the Nairobi Giraffe Center, located on the same grounds as the hotel.

For just \$10, you can feed the long-necked lovelies pellets and even "kiss" one by holding a pellet lightly in your lips and letting the giraffe grab it with its long black tongue (warning: slobbering is involved). The center, a nonprofit founded in 1983, protects and rehabilitates the Rothschild subspecies of giraffes, among the most endangered, distinguished by their all-white legs. [giraffecenter.org](http://giraffecenter.org)



### Behold a real urban jungle, past and present

Though founded in 1899, Nairobi is still far less populated than other African capitals like Cairo and Lagos. But hefty investment and the city's recent rapid growth—it added a million residents between 2000 and 2009—fueled a construction frenzy. Go to the top of the 28th-floor Kenyatta Conference Center (pictured at center) to take in the skyline, which now includes two of the continent's five tallest buildings. Then learn about the city's past at the nearby Kenya National Archives, home to thousands of works of art, photos, books and preindustrial artifacts from East African tribes. [kicc.co.ke](http://kicc.co.ke), [archives.gov.ke](http://archives.gov.ke)

### Bike through an organic coffee farm

You can tour the Fairview Coffee Estate, a 25-minute drive outside the city, by foot on a two-hour guided walk or rent a bike on the property and wheel yourself around the pristine gardens, waterfall and gently sloping dirt roads. Or do both. The guided tour shows you how the estate's beans (which are sold to Starbucks, among other coffee retailers) go from berry to brew, and enlightens you about the farm's assorted experiments to cultivate new beans that can thrive despite climate change. You'll also get a tasting of the house java, tasty Kenyan pastries and a bag of beans to take home. [fairviewestate.co.ke](http://fairviewestate.co.ke)

### Tuck in a baby elephant

Nairobi National Park is the only major nature reserve smack in the middle of an African capital. On its western border sits the nonprofit David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, an elephant nursery and conservation center, where, unlike inside the park proper, visitors can get up close to orphan calves. Visitors are welcome each morning to view baby pachyderms, but those who sign up to be foster parents (which simply means paying \$50 a year) can return in the evening, when the facility isn't open to the public, to watch the animals race and trumpet their way home, then bed down for the night. The elephant caretakers might even let you pet a trunk or two. As well as helping to rehabilitate the animals, the Trust, which is also home to a blind rhino, helps fund efforts to stem the mass poaching of elephants and rhinos in Kenya's Tsavo National Park. [sheldrickwildlifetrust.org](http://sheldrickwildlifetrust.org)



TERESA RIVAS/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (GIRAFFE); ELEPHANT: ALAMY (CONFERENCE CENTER)

# DESIGN & DECORATING

HOUSE TOUR

## The City Mouse's Country House

A designer known for edgy, urban spaces grapples with a provincial second home

BY SARAH MEDFORD

**K**ARA MANN has a reputation as something of a sparkplug in the design world, capable of juicing up a tired setting or a well-known brand with a series of unexpected moves, often carried out in high-contrast black and white. Her clients have included the Hotel Chelsea in Manhattan—where her proposed redesign honored the building's decadent past with ingredients like leather and leopard—and the newly reopened Talbott Hotel, on Chicago's Gold Coast, into whose sparely furnished guest rooms she introduced leggy bedside tables of smoke-colored marble and rust sofas trimmed in bullion fringe.

All of this re-energizing can be exhausting, and in 2015 Ms. Mann, who maintains offices in New York and Chicago, went looking for a place to unwind. On the website Circa Old Houses, she found it: a four-bedroom, 1790s farmhouse in Connecticut's Litchfield County. Well-proportioned and in turnkey condition, it would come together overnight, she assumed—until she started decorating.

"I thought I was going super modern on the interior," she explained, "but the original details of the house came through and the tension was just too strong. Everything wasn't blending. I told my office, 'I need to hire a designer!'" Instead, she unraveled her overly contemporary scheme for the house and wove in a more polyglot range of furnishings that, though updated in terms of palette and materials, evoke 18th-century antiques—upright sofas, blocky trunks and chests, small-scale tables with some height.

'I thought I was going super modern, but the house's original details came through and the tension was too strong.'

The living room's center table, for instance, whose proportions mimic a blanket chest, is made of cola-colored cast glass and wood; a white-painted four-poster in the master bedroom is a relatively minimalist take on a mahogany pencil-post.

Thanks to such subtle substitutions, the rooms retain the historic charm that made them so appealing in the first place. A full year into the project, said Ms. Mann, "I realized I was creating a new version of my aesthetic, which can be a little rock-'n'-roll, that would feel comfortable in the country."



RICHARD POWERS

### ▲ Art of (Just Enough) Darkness

In decorating a 1790s farmhouse in Litchfield County, Conn., designer Kara Mann chose furnishings that reference early American antiques in purpose and scale, and don't contrast too strongly with the home's 18th-century details. At first the designer installed a curvy black sofa in this sitting room but felt it struck an overly loud note, so she opted instead for furnishings in textured, re-

storative neutrals, restricting her high-contrast gestures to a single inky chair. "I love the fur stool," she said of the sheepskin seating from Coup D'Etat in San Francisco. "It feels like an animal, and it balances the visual weight of the chinoiserie armoire." The Moroccan Tuareg mat and vintage cast-glass and wood coffee table add texture without introducing too-exuberant colors. On the wall: a Yoshitomo Nara drawing saucily riffs on Ms. Mann's new persona.



### ◀ Spare Change

Architectural alterations in the kitchen yielded a combination of high-performance workspace and unembellished refectory. Ms. Mann kept the black granite counters and hulking range but removed a window seat ("too country") and added windows at one end. She also replaced an overhead beam housing downlights with dimmable globe pendants to simplify the ceiling. Ms. Mann held on to the earthy brick floor but softened it with an antique Khotan carpet, the room's one busy pattern. A worktable that runs the length of the room is by Belgian fashion designer Ann Demeulemeester, who gives the classic American form a twist by covering its surface with gessoed canvas. Equally sober-yet-stylish chairs by Peg Woodworking in New York City flank the table. "They're like macramé but on a strict steel frame," said Ms. Mann.



### ▲ Twee Tweaked

Ms. Mann discovered that overtly contemporary furnishings fought with the home's original elements such as the raised-panel wainscoting and wide-plank floors in this guest bedroom. So she subverted the 18th-century quaintness subtly, in this case with a high-gloss black rattan side table from New York City furniture dealer Michael Bargo. Its hard edges and modern stance contrast unpredictably with the elegant 1940s-vintage swan-motif bed. Bare windows and Benjamin Moore's China White paint contribute to the room's monastic simplicity. Said Ms. Mann of the paint color, "It's ethereal, with a little gray in it."



### ◀ Skirting the Past

"This room is really about the original granite fireplace," said Ms. Mann of the combined dining/living room. A 72-inch round table parked next to the fireplace alludes to a time when families gathered around the hearth for warmth and light. The designer refined petite antique Windsor-style chairs from Liza Laserow in New York with an emphatic black stain to amp up their drama, satisfying her taste for contrast by pairing them with a traditional white linen tablecloth ("like a beautiful dress, pretty and soft"). When the rustic candlesticks on the mantelpiece—reproductions from the website Food52—go onto the table next to the chairs' spindles, the result is a chorus of delicate vertical lines, traditional and contemporary at once.



### ▲ Soft Cell

Introducing a note of softness and romance, the master bedroom is all about decorative details that play off the austere geometry of the space. A custom-made bed by H2L Design, in Clifton, N.J., offers a reductive take on the traditional pencil-post style; its frilly Shabby Chic spread avoids granniness in pure white, part of a mostly neutral palette that extends to the white sisal underfoot. The rose-toned antique carpet echoes the flouncy attitude of a Victorian wicker armchair from Pavilion Antiques, in Chicago, that draws the eye out into the hall like a piece of sculpture—and continues the hard-soft conversation already under way inside. Ms. Mann hung a single curtain panel of Rogers & Goffigon's Edelweiss wool like a gown in the window: "It kind of dissolves in the light," she said.

# GEAR & GADGETS



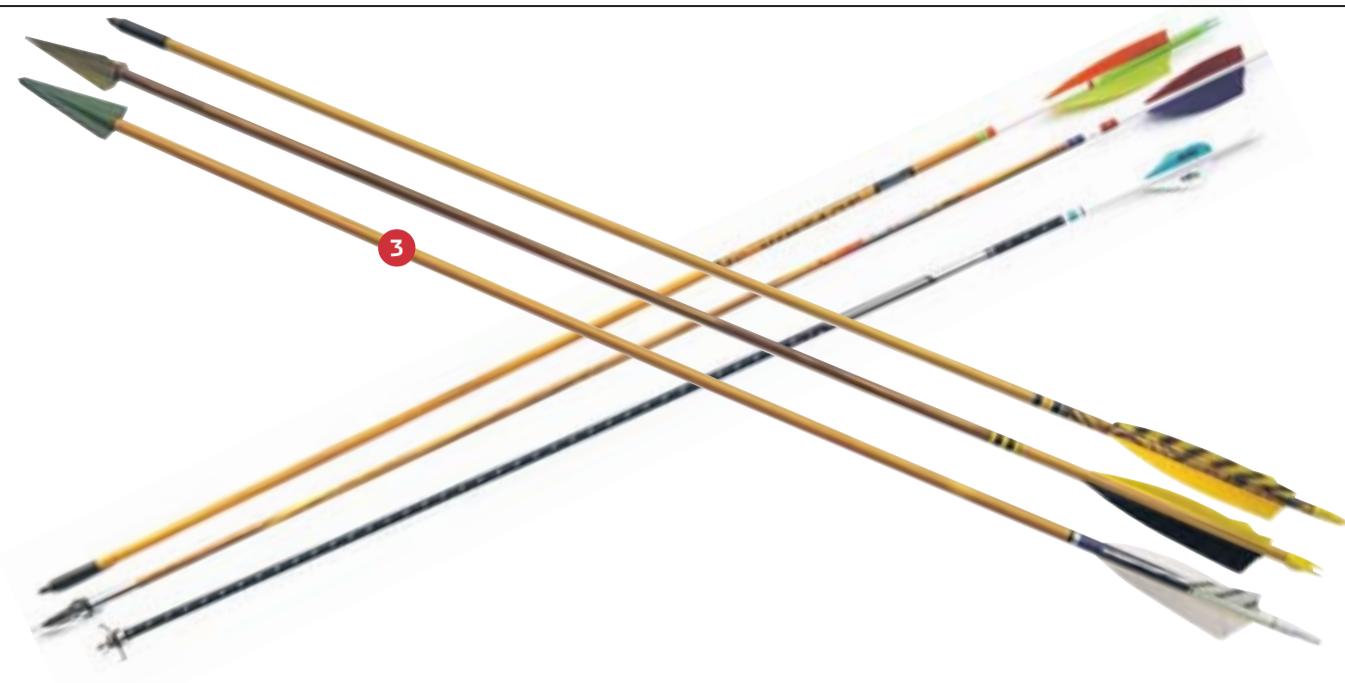
## ON TARGET // PARAPHERNALIA FOR THE VERY DISCERNING ARCHER

**1** This recurve bow from **Blacktail's T2 Series** has a bamboo core and fiberglass exterior, which helps give arrows more speed in flight. Bows in the T2 series can be customized with rare woods; this one is of camphor burl and Bolivian rosewood. From \$1,195, [blacktailbows.com](http://blacktailbows.com)

**2** With a handle of stained quilted maple and Gabon ebony, the **Dingo FXT** longbow-recurve hybrid has barely curved ends. This design style tends to be a bit easier to handle than the classic English longbow. From \$825, [stalkerstickbows.com](http://stalkerstickbows.com)

**3** These custom-made arrows from **Addictive Archery** have shafts of carbon (those pointing upward) or traditional Douglas fir (the arrows pointing downward). All are for use with traditional bows, except the bottommost carbon arrow, which is for a compound bow. The wooden arrows feature custom paint and turkey-feather fletching. From \$100 per dozen, [addictivearchery.com](http://addictivearchery.com)

**4** Like all compound bows, the **Prime Centergy** has a cam-and-pulley system that reduces the force required to draw and hold the bowstring. The Centergy also features a machined-aluminum body and a higher grip for better balance, making it easier to aim steadily. From \$1,200, [c5prime.com](http://c5prime.com)



## A Shot of Tradition

Longing for more focus and calm in a tech-riddled world? Set your sights on the quiet appeal of an old-school bow and arrow

BY BRIGID MANDER

**I**T'S BEEN years since Katniss Everdeen shot her way to freedom in the "Hunger Games" movies, but archery's popularity has yet to wane. Against all odds, one relatively niche segment of the market is thriving: namely, custom-made traditional bows, whose ages-old designs are rendered in expertly crafted wood.

"There is definitely a movement back towards traditional archery and its history and artistry," said Alan Pope, president of Blacktail Bow Company. Blacktail's custom bows run from \$1,195 to upward of \$10,000, depending on the materials and the intricacy of the carvings. The company currently has an eight-month waiting list.

So strong is demand for old-school, handcrafted bows that makers have been scrambling to find and train enough apprentices to keep up with orders. Blacktail—founded in Reedsport, Ore., 26 years ago—recently added a workshop in Indiana and is in the process of expanding to a larger facility.

Similarly, Montana-based RER Bows is searching for new apprentices and a larger space.

"Every month I sell more and more bows," said RER co-owner Chester Floyd. "I don't think it is going to slow down." His company is projected to sell 200 bows this year, double last year's figures. The company currently has a five-month waiting list.

Mr. Floyd, 25, has been struck by the popularity of traditional archery among his millennial peers. "I think it used to be a niche sport for older guys, but now a lot of our sales are to people in their teens, 20s and 30s," he said. As "everything gets more tech-based and complicated, from our phones to bikes," he added, "people are looking for simplicity. A wood bow is simplicity."

Overall, about 18.9 million adult Americans participated in the sport in 2012, including target archers and hunters, according to the Archery Trade Association. By 2015 (the most recent figures), the number had risen to 21.6 million.

To Eva Shockey, a professional bow hunter and author of the forthcoming book "Taking Aim: Daring to Be Different, Happier, and Healthier in the Great Outdoors," the sport has deep appeal. "Stick and string is a way men and women have hunted" for millennia, she said. "To know that many of your ancestors hunted and shot the same sort of weapon to put food on the table for their families is something everyone can relate to."

The majority of archers today use a compound bow, a highly technical-looking

contraption with only a faint resemblance to its wooden forebears. Produced using fiberglass and lightweight metals like aluminum or magnesium alloy, compound bows are outfitted with sights and levels to aid shooting accuracy.

But many archers are forgoing fancier compound bows for traditional wooden ones. "There is a lot of effort to draw people into the compound-bow world, but once people master that, they often want the next challenge, with no gadgets or aids," said Blacktail's Mr. Pope.

Most traditional bows are made primarily of wood, and they lack any sighting aids. To hit a target, you need the right state of mind. "Shooting [a classic bow] isn't about strength; you have to be extremely focused," said Ms. Shockey. "I love the

challenge of it."

You can find these bows in two basic shapes: a parenthesis-shaped "longbow" (with a single curve) and a "recurve" bow, a more elaborate shape with ends that curl away from the archer. One relatively modern ad-

'Shooting [a classic bow] isn't about strength; you have to be extremely focused.'

bolted back together.

Even within the traditional category, there are material innovations, too. Bow makers, known as bowyers, layer the wood with fiberglass, resin and occasionally some carbon (similar to what's done in ski construction). As well as making the bow more resilient, this facilitates a faster snap, more consistency and better accuracy. These beefed-up traditional models—while not as powerful as compound bows—can still send arrows sailing at about 120 to 150 mph.

"It's just a pure sport with alluring simplicity," said Jim Willems, a traditional-bow fan for over 30 years and the president of the Pope and Young Club, a bowhunting and conservation nonprofit. "The flight of the arrow is still an art."

## GEAR & GADGETS



**BLADE RUNNER** The 2017 Ford GT has a top speed of 216 mph. Production is limited to 1,000 cars, with 250 made annually for the next four years.

RUMBLE SEAT: DAN NEIL



## 2017 Ford GT: When Performance Tops All

**STRAPPED INTO** the slim-hipped driver's seat, my helmet bumping the roof, my heart in my throat, I swung the nose of the pharmaceutical-yellow Ford GT toward the main straight of Le Mans and opened the taps. Destiny.

Officially, and for tax purposes, I went to France last month to test this car, the DOT-approved version of Ford's Le Mans-winning GT, now being built at a rate of one per day by Ford's assembly partner, Multimatic, in Markham, Ontario. Unofficially, my audience was with *la belle circuit*: the circus maximus of grandstands, the blind approach to Dunlop Bridge, the Porsche curves, all splitting at speed around me for three whole laps.

I'm sorry to say these laps were merely warm, not hot. I had to stay behind a safety car limited to 140 mph, which in the GT felt like following a Bourbon Street funeral procession. Still, this was bucket-list sports tourism. Imagine getting to play pitch-and-putt at Augusta, or plinking grounders from home plate in an empty Yankee Stadium, or excusing yourself from the tour at Churchill Downs to hurl in Eddie Arcaro's private stall.

If you think the price is high, remember the GT is like getting two cars in one.

The car is pretty special, too: a slashing, belt-high fantasy of grilles and glass, a pinup of hips and headlights coming at you at angles you never saw in Euclid. This thing looks like it flew off God's ax handle.

At first you may be blind to all but the spectacular roof buttresses staving off the rear side-pods. The buttresses are one of many design details that turned out to be good for both the race and road car. The arrangement reduces overall form drag (top speed is a whopping 216 mph) by channeling air around the

teardrop-shaped fuselage like blood grooves on a sword. The design also aids cooling by positioning the heat exchangers into cleaner airflow.

At speed, these buttresses also act like airfoils, generating a bit of downforce while also looking like hell's kitchen drawer.

Deep inside its folded figure is the cause of all the fuss: a production-based 3.5-liter twin-turbo V6, massively boosted to generate 647 hp and 550 lb-ft of torque, blasting creation through high-mounted dual exhaust ports that are always nicely blackened, like the tips of retrorockets. Crackle, Pop? Your ride is here.

Let's just run the checklist: seven-speed dual-clutch rear transaxle; inboard spring-and-damper suspension with hydraulic ride-height adjustment (which, put a pin in it, is the secret to the whole operation); active aerodynamics in the front and rear, including the articulating rear wing/air brake; carbon-ceramic brakes that would stop time.

It is rather fast. The following day I was able to take a GT into the French countryside, with Ford executive vice president Raj Nair joining me in the narrow cockpit—or conjoined, like Siamese twins.

Here and there on two-lane roads, I was able to drift back from the cars I was going to overtake, downshift into 2nd and lean into the GT's throttle. A blur, a sawtooth roar, a flash of the digital tachometer, and then a thudding upshift like a meat mallet on a thick steak. The GT's quickness from a standing start—under 3 seconds to 60 mph—is the first act of a much bigger performance drama.

And now, dear readers, as we come to the price, please refrain from eating or drinking anything spit-able: \$450,000. Ford will limit production to 1,000 cars over four years. That's right: as in Henry Ford.

While it looks like a machine, the Ford GT is actually 100% narrative. From its initial conception, in

2013, as the "Phoenix Project," the GT was blueprinted to win its class at Le Mans. Management targeted the 2016 race for the big push to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Ford's epic 1-2-3 sweep, with Carroll Shelby and the original GT40s.

After a pretty horrible 24 hours, a Ford GT did win the GTE Pro class, by the skin of team owner Chip Ganassi's teeth. In 2017, they weren't even as lucky as that, *quelle dommage*.

While many sports cars are turned into professional race cars—Porsche 911, Ferrari 488 GTB, Aston Martin V8 Vantage, Chevrolet Corvette—not many purpose-built race cars go the other way. The design compromises are pretty fundamental. For example, in order to minimize the GT's frontal area—one of the multipliers of aerodynamic drag—the GT's greenhouse canopy was kept low and narrow, requiring driver and passenger to sit/slung shoulder to shoulder. The seats are molded into the floor, and the pedal box, steering wheel and seat-back adjust to accommodate.

Whereas other production sports car must get a roll cage installed, the GT's carbon-composite safety cell has one already built in, partly explaining the low ceiling.

The GT's very proportions, especially its grandiose nose, are dictated by the slew of radiators required to run Le Mans, around which cars are at wide-open throttle 80% of the time.

Talk about an afterthought: The entire cargo capacity amounts to a hatched compartment, built into the rear deck of the car, that's about the size of a four-slice toaster. Your grand touring better involve a lot of nudity.

Between the 12.8-inch rear tires and the thrumming turbo V6 in the small of your back, the GT's cabin noise and vibration levels are also pretty vivid. Fortunately, my declining hearing compensated.

The key enabler is the car's two-stage hydraulic ride-height ad-

justment, and if you think the price is high, just remember it's like getting two cars in one. At normal ride height, the GT sits on a sophisticated inboard suspension with spring-and-damper sets, an arrangement typical of race cars.

In part thanks to its extra long lower suspension arms, the GT's real-world ride comfort is surprisingly tolerable. But when the driver switches over from Sport to Track, everything changes. The car's chassis abruptly drops 2 full inches, as hydraulic pistons compress the springs completely. This leaves the torsion bars as the only source of elasticity. The damping gets hard, the road feel gets thrashy, the body roll goes from nil to none.

Switching to Normal mode causes the car to jump back up like a Pop-Tart.

There was a time when the beau ideal was to drive your sports car to the track, paint numbers on it, go racing and then drive home. It's been decades since any road car could be really convincing on track against purpose-built race cars—the McLaren F1 and Maserati MC12 come to mind. But in its thoroughly dual nature, its ability to leave public roads and hunker down to speed work with a press of a button, the GT can do this gallant old trick as well as any car I've ever driven.

For all its blade-running futurism, it's actually a bit of a throwback.



### 2017 FORD GT

**Price, as tested** \$450,000

**Layout/construction** Two-seat, mid-engine berline coupe, carbon-fiber

safety cell/monocoque, aluminum

front and rear subframes, inboard

suspension, rear-wheel drive.

**Powetrain** longitudinally mid-

mounted, dual turbocharged and in-

tercooled, port- and direct-fuel in-

jected, 3.5-liter DOHC V6; seven-

speed dual-clutch rear transaxle; rear-

wheel drive

**Horsepower/torque** 647 at 6,250 rpm/550 lb-ft at 5,900 rpm

**Length/dry weight** 187.5 inches/3,054 pounds

**Wheelbase** 106.7 inches

**0-60 mph** < 3 seconds (est.)

**1/4-mile elapsed time** < 10.5 seconds (est.)

**EPA fuel economy** 11/18/14 mpg, city/highway/combined

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