

The AI Arms Race



REVIEW

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What's News

World-Wide

A U.S. aircraft carrier will soon visit Vietnam, marking a high point in U.S.-Vietnam relations and a win for Washington as China boosts its sway elsewhere in Southeast Asia. **A1**

◆ Trump is poised to nominate a new head of the Navy's Pacific Command. **A3**

◆ The White House signaled that Trump is backing away from a broad overhaul of U.S. gun policy after a meeting with the NRA. **A4**

◆ Lawmakers in at least 24 states are pushing bills to allow gun seizures from people deemed dangerous. **A4**

◆ A storm lashed the East Coast, downing power lines, sending floodwaters into Boston and halting travel. **A3**

◆ Gymnast Aly Raisman sued the USOC and others over alleged sexual abuse by the former team doctor. **A3**

◆ Kelly said he regretted his handling of the exit of Porter, a top aide who was accused of spousal abuse. **A2**

◆ May admitted that leaving the EU would result in costs to the U.K. economy. **A9**

◆ Suspected Islamist gunmen launched attacks on the capital of Burkina Faso. **A9**

Business & Finance

◆ Trump plans to apply steel and aluminum tariffs globally and won't exempt allies, a senior White House official said. **A1, A6**

◆ The threat of a trade war sparked turmoil in global markets. The Dow fell 70.92 points to 24538.06, putting its weekly drop at over 3%. **B1**

◆ Nucor, US Steel and Century Aluminum lead a short list of companies that welcomed the plan. **A7, B2**

◆ The tariffs are likely to keep driving up domestic metal prices that have already been on a tear. **B10**

◆ BlackRock posed questions to gun firms on its website, another sign that money managers are boosting pressure on the industry. **A1**

◆ HNA received behind-the-scenes aid from Beijing, such as help obtaining loans. **B1**

◆ Biogen and AbbVie pulled their new MS drug after several patients suffered brain inflammations. **B3**

◆ A lumber shortage has pushed prices to record highs as builders prepare for the construction season. **B3**

◆ Libor surpassed 2% for the first time in 10 years, lifting borrowing costs on trillions of dollars in loans. **B10**

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Tariff Plan Spurs Global Jockeying

Lobbying intensifies as White House says no nation will be exempt from trade policy

By JACOB M. SCHLESINGER

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump plans to apply his steel and aluminum tariffs globally and won't exempt allies such as Canada and Eu-

rope, a senior White House official said Friday, an approach that is likely to intensify protests over the move.

The statement that there would be no exceptions to the duties came as Trump aides started to flesh out the president's broad Thursday announcement, in which he said the U.S. plans to impose tariffs of 25% on steel and 10% on aluminum. Officials are scrambling to finalize many details

ahead of a planned rollout of the full policies next week.

"The president made clear these would be across-the-board tariffs with no exclusions," the White House official told reporters. "One problem with exclusions is that it's a slippery slope. Where do you stop?"

Fears of such a broad-based approach drew complaints and counterthreats from the European Commission—which said

Friday it had already crafted a detailed retaliation package—and from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who warned of "significant and serious" disruptions to the North American economy.

The White House official said he couldn't provide other crucial details of the still-emerging policy, such as whether the duties would apply to all steel products, or

products, as has been the case when broad steel-import limits have been imposed in the past.

By announcing a general policy goal without providing details, Mr. Trump has

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- ◆ Greg Ip: Trump's pro-business agenda takes a hit A6
- ◆ Economic adviser Cohn objected to tariff plan A6
- ◆ U.S. steel, aluminum makers welcome move A7

Winter Storm Lashes East Coast With Heavy Winds, Flooding



TOPPLED: Strong winds knocked over power lines in Watertown, Mass., as a severe storm struck a large portion of the East Coast on Friday. The storm brought floodwaters into Boston and disrupted travel across the region, leaving nearly two million without power. **A3**

Tone-Deaf: Facebook's Russia Bungle

Tech giant discounted impact of meddling, deepening a perception it is oblivious to its social impact

By DEEPA SEETHARAMAN, ROBERT McMILLAN AND GEORGIA WELLS

Weeks after Facebook Inc. disclosed it had been exploited by Russia-backed propagandists, the company was still underestimating its problems, with users and advertisers and, crucially, Washington.

At an October off-the-record conference of tech-industry elites in Hawaii, Facebook's head of advertising, Rob Goldman, defended Facebook's response and argued the Russians bought ads to exploit social divisions, not primarily to sway the 2016 U.S. presidential election,

say people who heard his remarks.

It struck some attendees as tone-deaf.

"There was not a lot of contrition there," said one attendee.

Last month, Mr. Goldman made a similar argument publicly, following an indictment by special counsel Robert Mueller of Russians allegedly involved in the influence campaign. On Twitter, he criticized the media, touted Facebook's steps to address Russian manipulation and suggested there were "easy" solutions to the problem that included a better-educated population. He said influencing the election wasn't the "main goal" of the

Russian ads, which some in Washington interpreted as contradicting the indictment.

Facebook users, advertisers and Democrats in Washington slammed the tweets as a sign the company's leaders still hadn't reckoned with its role in the Russian campaign. Facebook said Mr. Goldman was stating his own views. He later apologized to colleagues for the controversy.

It isn't clear whether the Russian activity on Facebook made a difference in the election, a position some Facebook

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BlackRock Pressures Gun Firms On Safety

By SARAH KROUSE

BlackRock Inc. went public with the questions that it is asking gun makers and sellers in the wake of the school shooting in Parkland, Fla., an unusual step by the world's largest money manager by assets.

The notice, posted to BlackRock's website Friday, is the latest sign that some money managers are ramping up pressure on companies that make and sell weapons. The questions range from litigation risks and gun safety to background checks and staff training.

"We cannot dictate what a company should do," BlackRock said, but warned it generally has the ability to vote against individual directors or in favor of shareholder proposals.

Blackstone Group LP last weekend asked outside fund managers to detail their ownership in companies that make or sell guns. State Street Global Advisors, another big money manager, has said it also plans to reach out to gun makers with questions.

A number of U.S. companies have reassessed their relationships with the gun industry and the National Rifle Association following last month's shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Major retailers, including Kroger Co., Walmart Inc. and Dick's Sporting Goods Inc., said this past week they would stop selling guns to anyone under 21 years old.

BlackRock is the largest

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- ◆ Trump backs away from broad gun overhaul A4
- ◆ Red-flag laws allow gun seizure A4

Nice Tattoo! I Didn't Know You Worked at Walmart

* * *

Devoted employees ink their company logos on arms, backs and legs

By RACHEL FEINTZEIG AND KELSEY GEE

Anytime Fitness has a tattoo room at its corporate headquarters in Woodbury, Minn., with a chair, a sink and a book illustrating ways that employees can show off the company's running man logo.

While job-hopping is rampant, a surprising number of American workers are expressing a bond with their employers in permanent ink. Employees at such companies as tech's Red Hat Inc. and sports-wear icon Nike Inc. have brand logos plastered on their

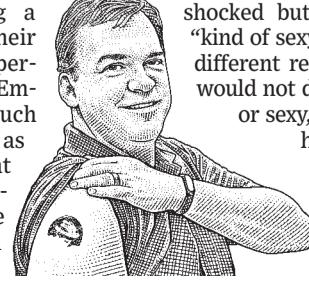
ankles, shoulders and arms.

Some who wear their heart on their sleeve this way at first feel sheepish outside the office. Mark Daly, Anytime Fitness's media director, said he was pressured into getting a company tattoo by co-workers chanting "Daly! Daly!" He hid the tattoo from his wife, Laura Daly, for three days before confessing at a hot tub party.

He recalled his wife was shocked but decided it was "kind of sexy." Ms. Daly has a different recollection. "No, I would not describe it as cool or sexy," she said, calling her husband a "knucklehead."

At age 40, tattoos weren't on the bucket list.

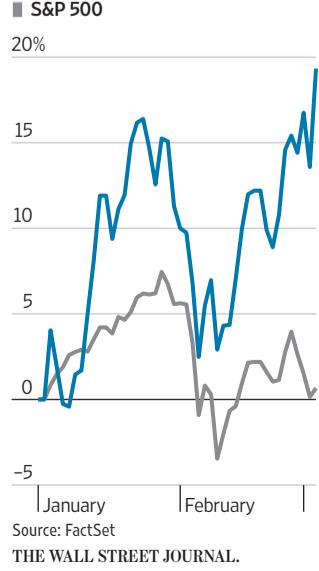
Please see TATTOO page A10



Unloved Retail Rings In a Rally

Shares of brick-and-mortar shops are beating the S&P 500, buoyed by rising consumer confidence and cost-cutting. **B12**

Index performance in 2018



Vietnam, U.S. Link Up With an Eye on China

By JAKE MAXWELL WATTS

ABOARD THE USS CARL VINSON—An American aircraft carrier will visit Vietnam, marking the highest point in the U.S.-Vietnam relationship in decades and a rare win for Washington as China boosts its rival economic and military sway elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

Communist Vietnam is set to host the largest U.S. military presence on its soil since the 1970s when the USS Carl Vinson arrives in the coming weeks, the first postwar visit by a U.S. aircraft carrier.

The visit, arranged after a meeting in Vietnam between Presidents Donald Trump and Tran Dai Quang in November, signals their concern about China's presence in the South China Sea, a sea lane where Beijing has built artificial islands with runways and missile shelters.

Attempts to resolve competing claims to the waterway

through diplomacy and international law have been eroded by China's warming relations with some countries. Most notable among those is the Philippines, which under President Rodrigo Duterte has set aside its dispute and befriended Beijing, winning billions of dollars in investment commitments and bruising its alliance with the U.S.

But Vietnam, which fought a war with China in 1979 and has a 2,000-mile coastline along the South China Sea, has sought to improve ties with Washington. The U.S. lifted a decades-old embargo on arms sales to Vietnam in late 2016 and last year donated a Coast Guard ship to Hanoi, which has asked for 18 of them.

Among other gestures of friendship, Washington has channeled funds into the removal of wartime toxins, while

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U.S. NEWS

THE NUMBERS | By Jo Craven McGinty

Getting Primed to Discover Something Big



What's so great about prime numbers?

That was my question after a Federal Express employee made headlines in January for discovering the largest known prime—a whopper with 23 million digits.

Not to dis Jonathan Pace, the Tennessean who made the discovery, but what can you do with a number that, if spelled out, would consume 77 reams of paper and, by one estimate, take nearly four years to read aloud?

The answer is not much. At least not yet.

But times change.

In the middle of the last century, when prime numbers with only a few hundred digits were discovered, they were also considered useless. Now, those modestly sized primes are vital for computer encryption, which ensures that sensitive information can be transmitted safely over the internet.

"If you're trying to buy something on Amazon, and you want to send your credit-card information, they use encryption algorithms, and those encryption algorithms use primes," said Curtis Cooper, a professor emeritus of computer science at the University of Central Missouri.

For encryption, two large primes are multiplied together

to produce a huge nonprime number, which can be used to encode a message, explained Seth Schoen, a senior staff technologist at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, which rewards the discovery of certain record-setting primes.

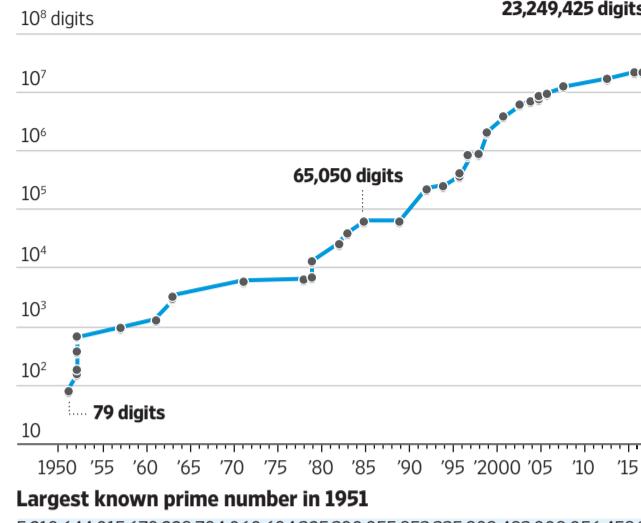
Anyone can see this so-called public key, but once encrypted, a message can be decoded only with the secret key—the two prime numbers. Cracking the code might be possible, but it would be too time-consuming to be practical.

Primes are different from other numbers because they can be divided evenly only by themselves and the number 1. Two is prime. Three is prime. So are 5, 7, 11 and 13.

Because primes follow no known pattern, they're impossible to predict. Each candidate must be tested. The simplest test involves methodically checking to see whether a potential prime can be evenly divided by smaller numbers, an approach that is impossible for gargantuan figures like the one Mr. Pace discovered.

"There's not enough computer power to do it," said George Woltman, who wrote the software Mr. Pace used to discover his prime. "You can test maybe 100 digits by trial division, but to look for a re-

With the aid of computing power, the record for largest prime number has continually been broken by unfathomably large numbers.



Largest known prime number in 1951

5,210,644,015,679,228,794,060,694,325,390,955,853,335,898,483,908,056,458,3
52,183,851,018,372,555,735,221

First 300 digits of the prime number discovered in 2017

4,673,331,833,592,310,999,883,355,855,611,155,212,513,211,028,177,144,957,985,
823,385,935,679,234,805,211,772,074,843,110,997,402,088,496,213,680,900,380
493,172,483,674,425,135,191,443,652,492,202,867,874,992,249,236,396,330,386,
193,059,511,707,705,228,503,560,117,796,386,440,509,541,282,741,095,485,197,
432,735,510,143,257,532,499,769,938,081,916,410,407,749,906,070,270,851,317,
808,544,314,827,19...

Source: University of Tennessee at Martin; Mersenne Research

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

ally big prime number, you have to have a special form."

The number Mr. Pace discovered, $2^{77,232,917} - 1$ is a Mersenne prime, a number that is two to a prime power minus one.

Although Mersenne primes may be huge, they can be verified easily using an algorithm called the Lucas-Lehmer test, which involves dividing a series of numbers by the potential prime. If the final quotient

has a remainder of zero, the number is prime.

In 1994, Mr. Woltman, a computer scientist with a lifelong fascination with prime numbers, and his then-business partner sold the software company they had co-founded eight years earlier for more than \$35 million.

With time on his hands and no need of a paycheck, Mr. Woltman started the Great Internet Mersenne Prime Search—GIMPS for short—to hunt for the world's largest prime numbers.

Mr. Woltman provides the software he has written to test for Mersenne primes free of charge to anyone who would like to participate. He estimates the project now has around 5,000 volunteers, including Mr. Pace, who has been looking for primes since 2003, and Dr. Cooper, who has been searching for more than two decades.

Mersenne primes, which are named for the French monk who studied them more than 350 years ago, are extremely rare. Mr. Pace's number was only the 50th Mersenne prime to be discovered. Dr. Cooper, who uses more than 700 computers to conduct his searches, discovered the 43rd, 44th, 48th and 49th.

Because colossal primes are essentially useless, the hunt for record-breakers is mostly about the thrill of

discovery—but there are also some cash incentives.

GIMPS offers \$3,000 for the discovery of each new Mersenne prime. The Electronic Frontier Foundation gave away \$50,000 in 2000 for the discovery of a prime with more than 1 million digits and \$100,000 in 2009 for the discovery of one with more than 10 million digits.

Both winners were GIMPS volunteers, and the group now has its sights set on the foundation's remaining awards: \$150,000 for the discovery of a prime with at least 100 million digits and \$250,000 for one with at least 1 billion digits.

Although prime numbers are a convenient device, the goal of the foundation's awards, which were funded by an anonymous donor, is grander than a high-tech treasure hunt.

"The donor wanted to encourage people to cooperate on significant computational problems," said Landon Curt Noll, a computer scientist who has bagged three primes.

By that measure, GIMPS, a model of distributed computing where participants work on a common goal, has been wildly successful: Its volunteers have found the last 16 record-setting primes.

For now, the giant numbers aren't needed. But that doesn't mean they never will be.

Student Allegedly Kills Parents at Michigan College



A student at Central Michigan University allegedly shot and killed his mother and police-officer father in a dormitory Friday.

The student, identified as 19-year-old James Eric Davis Jr., was at large late Friday afternoon.

The Central Michigan University

Police Department identified the victims as James Eric Davis Sr. and Diva Jeneen Davis, and confirmed they were the suspect's parents. An Illinois state representative, Emanuel Chris Welch, tweeted his condolences, noting that Mr. Davis Sr. was an

officer with the Bellwood, Ill., police department.

The shooting comes amid a nationwide conversation about gun control, including whether teenagers should have access to firearms after a school shooting in Parkland, Fla., that killed 17.

Central Michigan University police said the suspect fled on foot, and as of Friday afternoon, there were more than 100 officers looking for Mr. Davis.

Friday was the last day before spring break at the university.

—Melissa Korn

Kelly Regrets Handling of Aide's Exit

By MICHAEL C. BENDER



Chief of staff John Kelly

he told The Wall Street Journal that he wouldn't have handled Mr. Porter's situation any differently.

"It was all done right," Mr. Kelly said on Feb. 12, five days after Mr. Porter's resignation.

Mr. Kelly said Friday that at no point did he consider resigning over the episode. "I have absolutely nothing to even consider resigning over."

Mr. Porter, as the staff secretary, was a top aide to Mr. Kelly and acted as a gatekeeper on trade issues. Mr. Porter had

effectively isolated Peter Navarro, the head of the president's trade council who is known for his hawkish views.

With Mr. Porter gone, Mr. Navarro made a direct pitch for tariffs to Mr. Trump. The GOP president then told Mr. Kelly that he wanted Mr. Navarro restored to a central role in the administration's trade policy, a White House official said. Mr. Trump said Thursday he would seek new tariffs on aluminum and steel, after the White House reversed itself twice on whether it would make such an announcement.

In his comments on Friday, Mr. Kelly also said he had been aware of issues with the White House security-clearance process for months. He joined the White House as chief of staff on July 29 and he said that his "eyes were opened" to the large number of staff members with interim clearances after he was on the job for about six weeks.

His review turned up "a couple spreadsheets worth of people" at the White House operating with interim security clearance after the first nine months of Mr. Trump's

administration. He also found at least 35 officials who were inappropriately given top-secret clearance.

"Most of the people that are here at the White House have never worked in government before, so they wouldn't have come out of a culture like I did for clearances, security clearances, how to handle security clearances," Mr. Kelly said.

A former four-star Marine general who also spent several years at the Department of Defense, Mr. Kelly said he was surprised at the different culture around security clearances at the White House.

"Nothing illegal, but it wasn't quite up to the standards I was used to at DOD, administratively."

The chief of staff eventually issued a memo that overhauled the security-clearance process, which resulted in the removal of interim security clearance for staff members whose status had been pending since June 1. That included senior adviser Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law, who now no longer has access to top-secret information.

He also found at least 35 officials who were inappropriately given top-secret clearance.

The service began with the evangelist's family bringing in his casket, followed by some of Graham's favorite music. The congregation included President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and their wives.

Mr. Graham died on Feb. 21.

BILLY GRAHAM

Funeral Service Held

For 'America's Pastor'

The Rev. Billy Graham was remembered by his children at a North Carolina funeral service Friday for "America's Pastor" as someone so devoted to spreading the Gospel that he lived his life at home as he preached it in stadiums, with humility and an unwavering focus on the Bible.

The service began with the evangelist's family bringing in his casket, followed by some of Graham's favorite music. The congregation included President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and their wives.

Mr. Graham died on Feb. 21.

CORRECTIONS &

AMPLIFICATIONS

Martin Sorrell is chief executive of WPP PLC. A Page One article on Friday about ad-industry spending incorrectly said that he also is WPP's chairman.

The credit for a photo that accompanied a U.S. News article Friday about a large genealogical study is Nathaniel Pearson/Root Deep Insight. The photo credit incorrectly said Nathan Pearson/Columbia University.

Readers can alert The Wall Street Journal to any errors in news articles by emailing wsjcontact@wsj.com or by calling 888-410-2667.

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U.S. NEWS

Family Ties Are Probed At the Border

Immigrants seeking asylum surrender to agents, who decide if relationships are valid

HIDALGO, Texas—When 10 Central Americans illegally crossed the Rio Grande into Texas recently, they immediately went looking for the U.S. Border Patrol, hoping their tales of fleeing gang violence back home would earn them asylum.

*By Laura Meckler,
Alicia A. Caldwell
and Dudley Althaus*

"This is your daughter?" an agent asked José Alfaro, 42, a street vendor from El Salvador, who said he came to the U.S. with his 3-year-old girl after gang members tried to kill him for the third time.

"Yes," Mr. Alfaro murmured. "When was she born? What date?"

Mr. Alfaro hesitated.

"She's your daughter but you don't know when she was born?" the agent asked.

Since 2014, more than 260,000 immigrants traveling as families have been caught crossing the Mexican border illegally, though the numbers are lower today than they were at peak periods in 2014 and 2016.

Trump administration officials say U.S. law encourages people to come with children because families are often re-

leased into the U.S. while their immigration cases are being considered in courts. Advocates say these families only make the dangerous trip because of gang violence at home.

During recent congressional negotiations over immigration, the administration pushed lawmakers to make it harder to win asylum, and for the right to jail families while they await hearings. Those talks ended in stalemate.

But the Department of Homeland Security, at times, is now separating children from parents at the border so the adults can be jailed while the children are released, often to family living in the U.S. The American Civil Liberties Union this week filed suit in San Diego challenging the separation of a mother and daughter from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In the Lower Rio Grande Valley, the busiest border stretch for illegal crossings, agents are aggressively questioning migrants suspected of fraud.

Border Patrol officials say that in the Rio Grande Valley sector, agents have identified 376 cases of fraud among children and family migrants and prosecuted 54 cases this fiscal year. In some cases, people were using fraudulent birth certificates to say they are under age 18, said Manuel Padilla Jr., the sector chief. He said he has also seen "mix and match" families where people claim to be related but aren't.



U.S. Border Patrol agents questioned immigrant families seeking asylum near the Texas border with Mexico in January.

Laura Meckler/The Wall Street Journal

Advocates for migrants say there may be some fraud but that almost all the families are fleeing drug gang violence and presenting true stories. "The overwhelming majority are legitimate," said Enrique Morones, founder and director of Border Angels, a nonprofit that aids migrants.

Family units and children traveling alone, overwhelmingly from Central America, began arriving at the border in large waves beginning in 2014. The Obama administration responded with an aggressive campaign warning would-be crossers that there was no free pass into the U.S., dispatching senior officials including then-Vice President Joe Biden to Central America to deliver the message.

DHS also opened jails in

2014 to hold families while their requests for asylum or another path into the U.S. were decided. These efforts appeared to have an impact: The number of family units apprehended fell from nearly 69,000 in 2014 to about 40,000 the next year.

A federal judge in California ruled in 2015 that jailing children violated a decades-old settlement governing treatment of underage migrants. That forced the government to release most families caught at the border. After that, the number of migrants climbed. Then they fell dramatically after President Donald Trump took office, only to begin rising again last fall.

The migration flow today remains comparatively low, as illustrated by a recent visit

to the Sendero de Vida, or Path of Life, migrant shelter in the Mexican city of Reynosa, across the river from Hidalgo.

The shelter has scores of beds and in recent years was full of families and children traveling alone—more than 100 on any given day, said Hector Silva, 49, an evangelical pastor who founded the shelter 17 years ago. On this day, though, only three Central American women and two children were in the family bunkhouse.

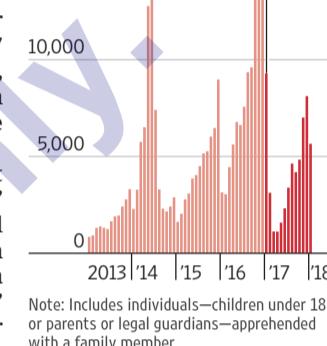
"When the president got elected, something happened," Mr. Silva said. "They started hearing about what's going on in the United States. They see a lot of people got kicked out."

Some days, he said, the shelter houses more U.S. deportees returning to Mexico than migrants looking to enter the U.S.

Up and Down

Monthly apprehensions of families at the U.S. southwest border

Donald Trump takes office



Note: Includes individuals—children under 18 or parents or legal guardians—apprehended with a family member.

Source: U.S. Border Patrol

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

New Head Of Pacific Command Expected

**BY GORDON LUBOLD
AND NANCY A. YOUSSEF**

WASHINGTON—The White House is poised to nominate an admiral considered a rising star in the Navy but who has scant recent experience in Asia to lead the U.S. Pacific Command and oversee military efforts to respond to the rise of China and the threat posed by North Korea.

Adm. Philip Davidson, now head of U.S. Fleet Forces Command, is expected to get the nod to lead Pacific Command in coming weeks, a number of U.S. officials said.

He would succeed Adm. Harry Harris, who will retire and, if confirmed, become the next U.S. ambassador to Australia.

Adm. Davidson is well known inside the Navy and officials say in his current job in Norfolk, Va., he has helped to shape the way naval forces are deployed world-wide, so would be intricately familiar as Pacific Command chief with the U.S. posture in Asia.

He also recently wrote a prominent study examining a series of tragic collisions that killed 17 sailors in the Pacific last year.

Some military experts and current and former officials have expressed concern about the nomination of someone lacking expertise in an area that presents so many military and political challenges.

"An effective combatant commander should have both recent operational experience and a rich understanding of the political geography of their area of responsibility," one former defense official said. "We are in a strategic competition with China and facing a potential conflict on the Korean Peninsula, so it's probably best that whoever is nominated as the new PACOM Commander has those attributes."

Previous Pacific Command chiefs had either recent operational or regional experience, or both.

Adm. Davidson's last assignment in Asia was in a staff job from 2010 to 2012, essentially serving as an aide at the Navy's Pacific Fleet command.

High Winds, Heavy Rain Slam East Coast

**BY JON KAMP
AND JOSEPH DE AVILA**

A severe, late-winter storm lashed a large portion of the East Coast Friday, downing power lines, sending floodwaters into Boston and disrupting travel across the densely populated region.

Amtrak suspended service between Boston and Washington, D.C., until Saturday. Airlines canceled about 3,300 flights in the U.S., with New York's LaGuardia Airport hit the hardest, according to FlightAware.com. LaGuardia suspended all arrivals and departures around mid-day Friday, citing heavy winds.

In the Baltimore area, a falling tree branch struck and killed a 77-year-old woman, officials said. The Putnam County Sheriff's office in New York reported that an 11-year-old boy



Firefighters rescued a mother and a child by boat in Quincy, Mass., after their home was flooded during Friday's late-winter storm.

JOHN TUMACK/The Boston Globe/AP

was killed Friday when a large tree crashed into a house, trapping the boy underneath.

At least three other deaths were also linked to the storm, including a man and boy in Virginia and a man in Rhode Island, according to the Associated Press.

By early Friday evening,

about 2.4 million power customers were offline between North Carolina and Maine. Virginia and the area around the nation's capital were particularly hard hit.

Steven Bellone, executive of New York's Suffolk County, warned residents on the eastern end of Long Island to be

on alert for floodwaters overnight into Saturday.

"Even as the rain starts to subside, those winds are going to keep pushing water up the coast on to our streets and the flooding will be there," Mr. Bellone said.

In Massachusetts, the National Weather Service said there could be "severe damage to vulnerable shoreline structures" on parts of the coast.

A potent mix of a high tide and storm-whipped waters was expected late Friday night and Saturday, creating the risk of significant erosion, according to the service.

Boston reached early Friday the third-highest tide since records began in 1928, according to the National Weather Service. Water levels were forecast to potentially set a record in Nantucket Harbor, exceeding

the levels reached during the "Perfect Storm" in 1991, according to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

In New York City, the National Weather Service projected tide waters could top nearly 4 feet above normal through Saturday. Strong winds with gusts up to 60 miles an hour were expected Friday night.

Thousands of Amtrak passengers were stranded at New York Penn Station on Friday.

Standing in the station's rotunda, Christine Porter said she was trying to get home to Windsor, Vt. Her train stopped in New York at 1 p.m., and everyone was told to get off, she said. Four hours later, she said, she was unsure if she should try to find a place to stay overnight.

"I don't know if I should be waiting here," she said. "There's just a lack of information."

Second Gymnast Sues Over Nassar Sex-Abuse Scandal

BY REBECCA DAVIS O'BRIEN

Olympic gold-medal-winning gymnast Aly Raisman filed a lawsuit Friday against the U.S. Olympic Committee, USA Gymnastics and others, seeking damages, among other things, for her alleged years-long sexual abuse by former national-team doctor Larry Nassar.

Ms. Raisman, now 23 years old, is the second former Olympian, after her former teammate McKayla Maroney, to sue the U.S. Olympic Committee over the organization's handling of the Nassar matter.

Ms. Raisman alleges that USOC and USA Gymnastics leadership failed to act on complaints of Dr. Nassar's inappropriate behavior and sexual misconduct, enabling him to continue to see and abuse patients.

A spokesman for the USOC didn't respond to a request to comment.

"We are very sorry that any athlete has been hurt by the despicable crimes of Larry Nassar," a spokeswoman for USA Gymnastics said. "USA Gymnastics is committed to doing everything we can to prevent this from happening again."

The statement continued:

"We need the gymnastics community to join with us to ac-



Aly Raisman is suing over abuse.

complish this for both the young men and women who are pursuing their gymnastics dreams today and to honor those who have gone before."

Ms. Raisman's lawsuit also names as defendants former USA Gymnastics President Steve Penny and the organization's former chairman, Paul Parilla, both of whom were forced out under pressure over their response to the Nassar allegations. Mr. Parilla and a lawyer for Mr. Penny didn't respond to requests to comment.

Dr. Nassar was arrested on state sexual-abuse charges in Michigan in November 2016, more than a year after U.S. national-team gymnasts, including Ms. Raisman and Ms. Ma-

roney, raised concerns about his medical treatment to USA Gymnastics in June 2015.

According to people familiar with the matter, the FBI learned of the allegations from USA Gymnastics in July 2015. The bureau this week launched an internal review into its handling of the allegations.

Dr. Nassar pleaded guilty last year to the state charges and to federal child-pornography counts, and is now serving a 60-year federal prison term.

In a statement, Ms. Raisman said she hoped her lawsuit would force the organizations to change. She has called for an outside investigation into the USOC and USA Gymnastics. Her lawsuit also seeks declaratory and injunctive relief, including possible court supervision of the USOC and USA Gymnastics.

"It has become painfully clear that these organizations have no intention of properly addressing the problem" of athlete safety, she said. "After all this time, they remain unwilling to conduct a full investigation."

The USOC recently launched an internal investigation into its handling of the Nassar matter.

Ms. Raisman and others,

though, have declined to participate in that review, saying they didn't trust the USOC to be impartial or thorough.

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U.S. NEWS

White House on Gun Changes: Not So Fast

Trump backs away from broad overhaul of firearms laws after meeting with NRA

WASHINGTON—The White House signaled Friday that President Donald Trump is backing away from a broad overhaul of U.S. gun policy and focusing on more modest changes, after his Thursday night meeting with the National Rifle Association.

By Natalie Andrews, Louise Radnofsky and Kristina Peterson

At a televised meeting earlier in the week with lawmakers, Mr. Trump had endorsed a Senate proposal to significantly expand background checks on gun sales and said he wanted to see sales of some firearms restricted to people who were 21 or older. He also suggested some guns be taken away from people without due process. All of these stances run counter to the positions of the NRA, the nation's largest gun-rights organization.

Since then, lawmakers have been looking for more guidance from Mr. Trump on his gun priorities, and whether he would continue to press lawmakers to embrace expanded gun laws. The new discussions about guns and school safety follow February's school shooting in Parkland, Fla., that killed 17 people.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters Friday morning Mr. Trump now considers a federal increase in the mini-



A licensed gun dealer at a gun show does a federal background check on a buyer. A Senate bill wants to expand checks.

only for sales by federally licensed dealers. If the bill were to pass the Senate, it is seen as having a very difficult time clearing the House, GOP aides said this week.

Mr. Trump's shifts on the issue come after a meeting late Thursday with Chris Cox, executive director of the NRA Institute for Legislative Action. Mr. Cox tweeted Thursday night it was a "great meeting" with Mr. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence.

The president's involvement is considered key in getting any gun legislation passed in Congress. Laws restricting gun usage would garner support from many Democrats, but would also need to win over more-conservative Democrats in red states, as well as some Republicans.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D., N.Y.) criticized the president for appearing to shift his position.

"President Trump should go with his instincts, not the clarion and destructive call of the NRA," Mr. Schumer said in a statement. "If he continues to bow to his right wing ringmasters, we will get nothing done on guns."

Democrats said they had entered Wednesday's gun meeting with expectations that Mr. Trump's position could rapidly shift, as they believed it had after a similar televised meeting on immigration in January. Mr. Trump expressed support then for broad changes to immigration law to help undocumented immigrants, but then he rejected a proposal a day later and blamed Democrats for the failure to reach a deal.

Scott's Shift Clouds Possible Senate Bid

BY SIOBHAN HUGHES AND ARIAN CAMPO-FLORES

control issues is a high-risk move and a rarity in politics that could have a direct impact on his political future.

"I would never vote for him for anything ever again after his public promotion of gun control," said Ryan Ramsey, a 41-year-old who helped found a gun-rights group called Florida Carry and is now running for a seat in the state legislature. "He is capitulating."

Republicans have long counted on Mr. Scott getting into the Senate race, as the former health-care executive is viewed as the best candidate with the personal wealth and name recognition to compete in Florida's expensive media markets against Democratic incumbent Sen. Bill Nelson. No other credible Republican has come forward to run.

In a state that Mr. Trump won by a single percentage point, Mr. Scott can't afford to turn off the Republican base during the general election that is expected to be very close.

"Scott is kind of threading the needle here," said Mac Stipanovich, a Republican consultant in Florida.

It is a tough assignment in a state where more than 1.6 million people—or about 10% of the population 18 and over—have permits to carry guns on a concealed basis, according to data from the state's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Marion Hammer, the NRA's Florida lobbyist, has sent messages to members urging them to email the governor and other GOP leaders "IMMEDIATELY and tell them NO GUN CONTROL."

Mr. Scott is trying to emphasize the areas where he and the gun groups have common ground. On Wednesday, he said he opposed a ban on semiautomatic arms described as assault weapons, using language common in gun-rights circles. "We shouldn't be banning specific weapons," Mr. Scott told reporters at an event with sheriffs in DeFuniak Springs, Fla. "We should be banning specific people from having any weapon." Some people applauded.

Still, the strains are showing. Mr. Scott is no longer a featured speaker at the NRA's convention. A spokeswoman for Mr. Scott said the governor hasn't decided whether he will attend. Mr. Scott said he hasn't talked to the NRA.

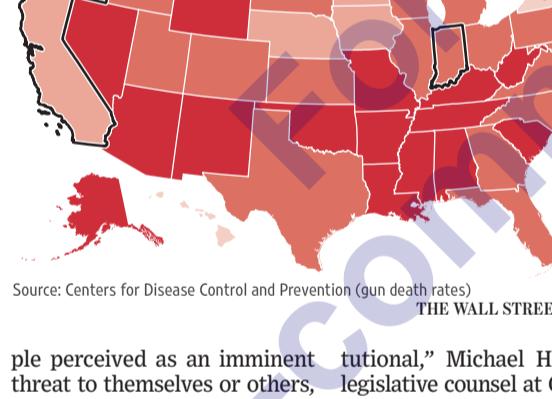
Bills to Allow Seizures Get Traction

Red-Flag States

Only five states currently have 'red-flag' laws, which allow authorities to temporarily take firearms from people deemed dangerous to themselves or others.

Gun-related deaths per 100,000 people, 2016

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----|----|
| States with 'red-flag' laws | 5 | 10 | 15 |
|-----------------------------|---|----|----|



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (gun death rates)

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

ple perceived as an imminent threat to themselves or others, but who haven't done anything illegal.

In Florida, people close to accused gunman Nikolas Cruz had called authorities several times before the attack to voice worries about his volatile behavior and fixation on weapons.

The red-flag laws have rankled some gun-rights supporters. The Gun Owners of America considers them unconstitutional, pointing to measures that allow concerned parties to seek temporary orders against gun owners without the owner having a chance to face their accusers in court and argue on their own behalf.

"We think they are insidious, and we think they're unconsti-

tutional," Michael Hammond, legislative counsel at Gun Owners of America, said of red-flag laws.

Supporters say the bills intend to protect due-process rights by requiring court approval. "These red-flag laws are a possible solution because they're an intermediate step between doing nothing and trying to involuntarily hospitalize an individual," said Christopher Slobogin, law professor at Vanderbilt University.

In some states, such bills existed before the Feb. 14 shooting and now are seeing renewed momentum. In New York, a red-flag bill that has been in the works for three years is due for a vote within weeks. An Illinois bill filed in January passed the state Sen-

ate on Wednesday, and is expected to land on the governor's desk within a week.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, a Republican, announced support for red-flag legislation on Wednesday. Rhode Island's Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo issued an executive order this week to pave the way for a red-flag bill she is urging lawmakers to pass.

Pushback against some measures isn't limited to gun owners. The American Civil Liberties Union objected to a proposal in California that would have expanded that state's law to allow employers, co-workers and mental-health workers to also petition judges directly; it was vetoed by Gov. Jerry Brown in 2016.

Lawmakers concerned with the current slate of bills worry about the potential for abuse.

"We should make sure the mentally unstable do not have access to guns," but without losing due process, said Jim Runestad, a Republican who chairs Michigan's House Judiciary Committee, which is considering a red-flag bill.

Experts say these laws are modeled after domestic-violence restraining orders that also authorize police to take away guns from people who pose threats to their partners.

"You can't just call up law enforcement and say this person that I'm mad at is a danger to me, it is not possible without judicial oversight," said April Zeoli, a professor who studies domestic violence at Michigan State University.

—Zusha Elinson

contributed to this article.

Rock asked what steps they take to make sure gun laws are followed such as "prohibiting felons or domestic abuse offenders from purchasing firearms; sales to minors of certain products; training provided to employees so they comply with applicable laws and regulations."

BlackRock previously said that it planned to meet with weapons-related companies but stopped short of publicly articulating what type of information it planned to seek from them. It and other managers of index-tracking funds typically keep the contents of their engagements with portfolio companies private.

"We are fundamentally looking to understand whether the company has the appropriate policies and controls in place and is sufficiently managing the risks associated with these issues," the new BlackRock notice said.

For gun distributors, Black-

Now, Mr. Scott is advocating for a proposal that includes banning the sale of firearms to anyone under the age of 21, with some exceptions, and a ban on the sale of bump stocks, which can make a semiautomatic rifle operate like a fully automatic one. Both provisions are opposed by the NRA.

He also has opposed arming schoolteachers, a proposal backed by the NRA and President Donald Trump, and has proposed a legal process that could result in taking away guns from people with mental-health issues, irritating some gun-rights activists who worry about depriving people of due-process rights.

"I'm the governor—I'm responsible to try to help keep everybody safe," Mr. Scott said.

He wants the legislature to act by March 9, the end of its 2018 legislative session. That coincides with the period when political observers expect Mr. Scott to announce whether he will seek the GOP nomination for Senate.

Mr. Scott's shift on gun-

FUND

Continued from Page One

shareholder in gun makers Sturm Ruger & Co. and American Outdoor Brands, formerly known as Smith & Wesson, as well as a large shareholder in firms such as Walmart and Dick's Sporting Goods. BlackRock said in the notice that it doesn't own any gun makers in its actively managed stock funds, and in its index-tracking funds, those companies account for 0.01% of assets under management.

The New York money manager has met with clients, including pension funds and other institutional investors, to discuss ways they can exclude gun stocks from their portfolios if they wish to and what BlackRock is asking of executives at companies that make or distribute guns, according to peo-

ple familiar with those efforts.

It held one such conference call for large customers as recently as Friday morning, with executives focused on corporate stewardship and client relationships.

BlackRock and other large money managers that control funds tied to market indexes say they prefer not to use their heft to make immediate demands such as putting an individual on the board or divesting business units, in contrast to more aggressive dictates from activist directors. Instead, they say they like to work behind the scenes and question their portfolio companies routinely about their policies and plans.

But it is rare for BlackRock to make those questions public.

Last year, BlackRock stopped short of detailing the types of questions it asked company boards and executives in a paper that broadly laid out how it

engaged with its portfolio companies on climate-change risk.

In the notice Friday, BlackRock called gun violence "an issue of tremendous urgency."

The questions the firm said were being posed to gun makers and distributors include broad inquiries such as how they measure the "financial, reputational and litigation risk" of those respective businesses and what actions they take to support gun safety and education.

But BlackRock is also posing specific queries of gun makers, such as if they monitor whether the distributors of their weapons "have a high volume of their guns identified as having been used in crimes," if they are spending money on research to improve gun safety, and if they require retailers to train their staff or certify that they conduct background checks.

For gun distributors, Black-

MONICA HERNDON/THE TAMPA BAY TIMES/AP

The Florida governor has made a risky move in backing some gun-control policies.

Now, Mr. Scott is advocating for a proposal that includes banning the sale of firearms to anyone under the age of 21, with some exceptions, and a ban on the sale of bump stocks, which can make a semiautomatic rifle operate like a fully automatic one. Both provisions are opposed by the NRA.

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Mr. Scott's shift on gun-

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WORLD NEWS

Trump's Pro-Business Agenda Takes a Hit

Protectionist shift fuels questions about White House priorities, global economy

By GREG IP

When a key economic input suddenly becomes scarce, it's called a supply shock: It pushes costs up and economic activity down.

This helps explain market declines after President Donald Trump's announcement of a 25% tariff on steel imports and 10% on aluminum. Like a geopolitical shock that reduces the oil supply, it's bad for both inflation and growth.

To be sure, the direct macroeconomic effect of Mr. Trump's tariffs look to be slim. Net imports of steel and aluminum are about 0.2% of gross domestic product, compared with 0.3% for oil. Barclays estimates the tariff will add 0.1 percentage point to inflation and subtract 0.1 to 0.2 percentage point from economic growth, for one year.

But those small direct impacts are exacerbated by what the tariffs symbolize for Mr. Trump's agenda and the broader global economy. By following his nationalist instincts Mr. Trump has broken with the pro-business factions in his administration and his party whose policy priorities have been critical to the upswing in



Workers at an Ohio steel-tube plant listen during a Trump campaign event in October 2016.

JOHN MINCHILLO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

business and investor sentiment since he was elected. By willfully hurting U.S. allies over a problem of overcapacity that is mainly China's doing, he's cast further uncertainty over the U.S. role as global leader.

Market action over Thursday and Friday neatly captures these cross currents.

Shares of steel and aluminum makers went up, while shares of companies that con-

sue their products, such as auto, aircraft and construction equipment makers fell. Because consumers are more important to the economy than producers, the overall market went down.

With investors already on edge about Federal Reserve interest-rate increases, the steel tariffs at the margin compound inflation pressure. That effect is so far too small to alter the Fed's calculus, but a tit-for-tat

retaliation cycle could lead to even more inflation and rate increases than anticipated.

Mr. Trump says the U.S. needs to produce more steel and aluminum at home to safeguard national security. If so, that comes at a price, just as Japan's longtime insistence on growing its own rice cost the Japanese in pricier food.

Firms can produce more at lower cost by serving a global

rather than just a domestic market. Protectionism shrinks markets, raises costs, and reduces how fast a country can grow without generating inflation.

U.S. steel and aluminum companies can meet the demand previously filled by imports, but with unemployment at a 17-year low that may require hiring workers from other industries, putting upward pressure on wages.

This is good in the short run

China Talks Fail to Ease Tensions

BY LINGLING WEI
AND BOB DAVIS

BELJING—A month of diplomatic efforts by China did little to deter President Donald Trump from escalating his trade offensive, an indication of the rocky road ahead for the world's two largest economies.

Mr. Trump's pledge on Thursday that the U.S. would slap tariffs on steel and aluminum imports was followed by a tweet on Friday morning in which he said, "Trade wars are good, and easy to win."

The U.S. trade move comes at an inopportune time for Beijing, just ahead of the annual session of the Chinese legislature and as President Xi Jinping's top economic adviser, Liu He, is in Washington to meet with U.S. officials.

Eager to ease trade tensions in the run-up to the legislative meeting, Beijing sent Mr. Liu to Washington on the heels of a visit by China's top diplomat in early February. Also last month, Mr. Xi met privately with the U.S. ambassador to Beijing, Terry Branstad, according to people familiar with the matter.

Liu He met with U.S. officials over two days but didn't make substantive progress.

Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, looking to find out what specifically the U.S. sought from China and to re-launch negotiations over opening the Chinese market.

According to those briefed on the talks, the U.S. officials spoke generally of the need to reduce the U.S.'s nearly \$375 billion trade deficit with China. But the U.S. didn't come forward with specifics and didn't pledge to

restart the U.S.-China Comprehensive Economic Dialogue.

"To balance the trade flows between the two countries, both sides have to show willingness to cooperate," a person with knowledge of the negotiations said.

China's Commerce Ministry said in a statement Friday that China would take measures to safeguard its interests.

The U.S. is waiting for the Chinese to make bold and sweeping changes to its economy, say those briefed on the talks. Mr. Trump has promised stricter measures to curb the U.S.'s chronic trade imbalance with China. In January, Washington imposed new tariffs on solar panels, aimed mainly at China. On Thursday, Mr. Trump said he would approve 25% duties on steel imports and 10% on aluminum next week.

The White House is also threatening China with prospects of tariffs and other penalties for allegedly infringing on U.S. intellectual property. A senior White House official said its investigation into those practices "is ongoing." The White House didn't comment further.

Adviser's Future Is Unclear

BY PETER NICHOLAS
AND MICHAEL C. BENDER

White House economic adviser Gary Cohn privately told colleagues Wednesday night that if President Donald Trump signed an order the next day slapping foreign countries with broad tariffs, he might have to quit.

But after an intense battle within the White House, Mr. Trump went ahead with his tariffs, announcing them in a meeting with steel and aluminum industry executives on Thursday morning. While Mr. Trump didn't formally impose new tariffs then and there, he said he would do it the following week, rejecting concerns that tariffs will lead to higher prices and lower economic growth.

"Gary Cohn fought the good fight," said onetime Trump campaign adviser Stephen Moore, who described the proposed tariffs as a disaster. "I still hold out hope that this can get fixed."

Mr. Cohn didn't respond to a request to comment.



Economic adviser Gary Cohn

the White House that was outflanked on the tariffs by an ascendant protectionist faction led by other economic advisers, Peter Navarro and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross.

Mr. Navarro, appearing on Fox News on Friday, said that the GOP president is making good on trade policies dating back to the campaign. "There should be no surprise today that the president wants to impose modest tariffs on steel and aluminum to protect these industries," Mr. Navarro said.

Mr. Cohn isn't opposed to certain targeted tariffs, but he worries about broad duties that could ignite trade wars and ultimately harm U.S. consumers, one person familiar with his thinking said.

For now, he plans to continue advising Mr. Trump on the issue, this person said. Mr. Cohn and other administration officials have asked a group of outside economists to come to the White House and make the case to Mr. Trump about the benefits of free trade and open markets, people familiar with the matter said.

are the most lucrative and biggest market in the world," Peter Navarro, a White House trade adviser who pushed hard for the policy, told Fox News.

Governments around the world blasted Mr. Trump's plans, and issued threats of retaliation.

Promising to "defend European jobs," European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said "we must...show that we also take measures." Mr. Juncker added: "I don't like to use the word trade war, but I can't say how this wouldn't be war-like behavior."

Europe has already put together a specific package of penalties that would hit a total of \$3.5 billion in U.S. exports, a European Commission official said, including Harley-Davidson motorcycles, bourbon and blue jeans.

Roberto Azevêdo, director-general of the World Trade Organization, issued a rare rebuke to a member country, branding the Trump tariffs a cause for concern, and saying "the potential for escalation is real, as we have seen from the initial responses of others." He added: "A trade war is in no one's interest."

In addition to stoking broad concern about the impacts of the tariffs, Mr. Trump has sown uncertainty by giving scant details about a far-reaching, complex economic policy.

The only public details that the president provided in his Thursday announcement were the top-line tariff figures, and that they would be imposed

"for a long period of time." As for when the formal policy will be crafted, he said he "will probably have everything completed by next week."

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders has declined to provide any further details or elaboration.

Asked Friday morning if even the main 25% steel and 10% aluminum tariffs were definitive, Ms. Sanders responded: "I wouldn't expect those to change, but some of the other details need to be finalized."

One person outside the administration who has discussed the policies extensively with the Trump team said: "Despite the two numbers he threw out, we still have all the same questions we've had about the scope, coverage, duration and design."

One of the most intense fights over the next week will be over whether to exempt Canada, the largest provider of foreign steel—16%—consumed in the U.S., according to the Commerce Department figures.

Even some of the biggest likely beneficiaries of the new tariffs are calling for Canada to be spared, as it was the last time the U.S. imposed broad steel tariffs in 2002.

Leo Gerard, president of the United Steelworkers union said, "Any solution must exempt Canadian production."

Pittsburgh-based Alcoa Corp., the largest producer of raw aluminum in the U.S., is also seeking an exception for Canada, where it has smelters.

—Andrea Thomas in Berlin contributed to this article.

TRADE

Continued from Page One
touched off an intense internal and external lobbying campaign to define the precise shape of the tariffs before the full proposals are completed.

"I think as much drama as there has been leading up to the official announcement of these tariffs, there will be an equal amount of drama on the other side, as they're implemented and exceptions are considered," said Scott Paul, president of the Alliance for American Manufacturing, a steel-industry group that supported the tariffs.

"One thing I fear is that this becomes the type of process you have all too often in the Washington swamp, of lobbyists coming in" looking for carve-outs, he said.

Indeed, several people familiar with the process suggested that, despite the declarative statements from Mr. Trump and the official conducting the briefing, the contours of the package, including the possibility of exempting certain countries, could still change.

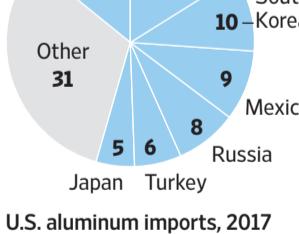
Some officials were less definitive in their public statements about what had already been decided.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross attended a private White House meeting on Thursday that Mr. Trump held with steel and aluminum executives, where he discussed options under consideration. Asked on

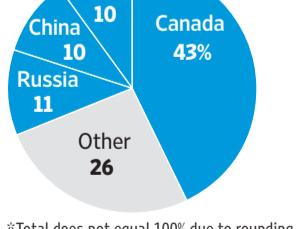
Top Suppliers

Countries providing steel and aluminum to the U.S.

U.S. steel imports, 2017*



U.S. aluminum imports, 2017



*Total does not equal 100% due to rounding

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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WORLD NEWS

Steelmakers Are Among the Few To Applaud Move

BY DOUG CAMERON
AND PATRICK MCGRARTY

Nucor Corp., U.S. Steel Corp. and Century Aluminum Co. lead a short list of companies that welcomed President Donald Trump's proposed tariffs on all imports of those metals.

Firms that make steel and aluminum in the U.S. had successfully lobbied in recent years for tariffs on specific kinds of metal from countries they argued were overproducing those metals. The levies of 25% on imports of steel and 10% on aluminum that President Trump said

Supporters of the tariffs said any inflationary effects would be small.

Thursday he would implement next week are far broader. The Trump administration hasn't said how exactly the tariffs might be applied.

"This is vital to the interests of the United States," U.S. Steel Chief Executive David Burritt said at the White House on Thursday.

The company is expected to restart a blast furnace in Granite City, Ill., to make steel at what are expected to be higher global prices that would likely result from the new tariffs.

Nucor, the biggest U.S. steel company by sales, also praised the blanket tariffs. "We believe very strongly that it's time for decisive and meaningful action to stem the flow of illegally traded imports into this country," Chief Executive John Ferriola said Thursday.

Their support set them apart from the leaders of many other big companies in the U.S. and

overseas. Makers of everything from airplanes to beer cans said that the tariffs would push up production costs and make their products more expensive for consumers.

Supporters of the tariffs said any inflationary effects would be small. Mr. Ferriola said in an interview on Thursday that steel isn't among the biggest costs for most manufacturers. "If our trade laws are allowed to be abused, manufacturers are going to lose customers anyway" to foreign competitors, he said.

Michael Bless, chief executive of Chicago-based Century Aluminum, echoed that support. "We face a flood of imports—and that will only accelerate without immediate relief," he said.

The United Steelworkers Union also has backed tariffs for years in response to shrinking workforces at struggling unionized companies like U.S. Steel. But the union also urged the Trump administration to exempt Canada from duties to protect unionized workers at Canadian mills.

Not all metal makers embraced the proposed tariffs. Century's larger rival, Alcoa Corp., said they could affect aluminum shipments from Canada, where it operates two smelters and is a partner in a third.

California Steel Industries Inc., which turns imported steel slabs into sheeting used in construction and pipes used by oil-and-gas companies, said the tariffs Mr. Trump proposed would be major blow to its business.

"To deliver what he wants, to protect U.S. companies and jobs," said Marcelo Botelho Rodrigues, California Steel's chief executive, "it has to be better applied than across the board. It has to be a more surgical approach."

—Bob Tita
contributed to this article.

U.S. Tariff Plan Riles Allies

President Donald Trump's pledge to slap stiff tariffs on imported steel and aluminum targets rivals China and Russia but could also hit close U.S. allies, risking disrupting Washington's geopolitical agenda.

By Julian E. Barnes
in Brussels, Kwanwoo
Jun in Seoul and
Zeke Turner in Berlin

Mr. Trump's invocation of national-security rules on Thursday to propose the controversial levies drew rebuke from fellow members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Japan and South Korea—nations cooperating with U.S. policies over threats from North Korea, Iran and Russia.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau warned Friday of "significant and serious" disruption to the North American economy should Mr. Trump proceed with the planned tariffs.

"It is entirely inappropriate to view any trade with Canada as a national security threat to the United States," said Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland.

It remains unclear which countries may be hit by the tariffs Mr. Trump said on Thursday would be set next week of 25% on steel imports and 10% on aluminum. The president said he would provide more details next week.

Allies urged the U.S. to treat them differently from adversaries but also attacked the logic of labeling friendly nations as national threats.

Japanese Trade Minister Hiroshige Seko said he saw "absolutely no impact on America's national security" from Japanese steel and aluminum imports. German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said NATO allies would find it "impossible to understand" the reasoning that protecting American steelmakers is a matter of national security.

If tariffs are imposed globally, as Mr. Trump suggested, they could hurt allies more

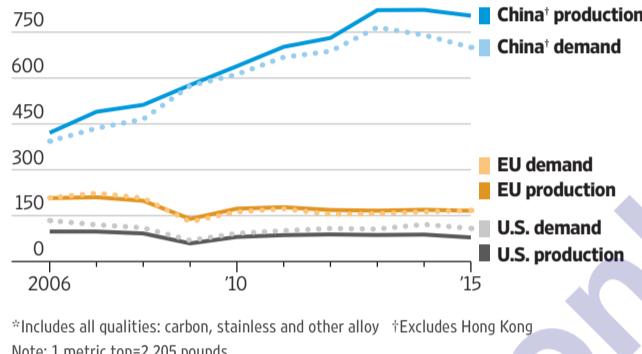


Steel coils in Duisburg, Germany. Planned U.S. steel tariffs risk setting back Washington's global agenda.

Soaring Supply

Chinese steel production has shot up since 2006 but the country's steel demand has declined in recent years.

Steel production* and demand by country/region



Note: 1 metric ton=2,205 pounds

Source: World Steel Association 2016 Statistical Yearbook THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

penetrate allied defenses.

Mr. Gabriel alluded to the strategic danger of a trade war among allies. "If two quarrel, the third will be happy," he said, a comment diplomats said was referring to Russia.

Mr. Trump, who has championed an "America First" trade policy that would turn the U.S. away from globalization, dismissed such warnings.

"When a country (USA) is losing many billions of dollars on trade with virtually every country it does business with, trade wars are good, and easy to win," he tweeted Friday.

Business groups also weighed in. "With this decision President Trump is disregarding the importance of key strategic allies of the U.S. like the EU," said Markus Beyer, director general of BusinessEurope, a trade group.

Tomas Valasek, the former Slovak ambassador to NATO and director of the Carnegie Europe think tank in Brussels, said American allies didn't believe national security was the true motivation for the tariffs.

"Everyone understands it to be an excuse, not an actual expression of mistrust," Mr. Valasek said.

non-commerce

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WORLD NEWS

China's Xi Comes To the Threshold Of Lifelong Rule

BY CHUN HAN WONG

BEIJING—President Xi Jinping is counting on a gathering of nearly 3,000 lawmakers to show unequivocal support for his bid to govern China indefinitely by setting aside a decades-old safeguard against despotic rule.

The annual legislative session, which starts Monday, is set to approve a proposal to scrap presidential term limits. But anything less than a near-unanimous vote at the National People's Congress could signal disquiet within the Chinese establishment and embolden critics of Mr. Xi in a country scarred by the disastrous policies of Mao Zedong.

Mr. Xi has steadily dismantled the model of collective leadership that started taking shape in the 1980s under Deng Xiaoping. Seeking to prevent a return to the Mao-era concentration of power, Deng's ad-

ministration set a constitutional cap of two presidential terms in 1982 and established clearer divisions of duties between party and state.

Since becoming party chief in late 2012, Mr. Xi has assumed control of the economy, traditionally the domain of China's premier. He pursued an anticorruption drive that has lasted far longer than previous campaigns, and expanded his targets to include officials deemed disloyal and inept.

He assumed personal oversight over high-level appointments, ending his predecessor's experiment with internal straw polls, and swiftly promoted his own allies into top ranks.

In October, the party proclaimed Mr. Xi as its greatest living theorist and gave him a second five-year term without naming a likely successor—a signal of his plans to stay in power for the long haul.

Repealing presidential term



After the one-man regime of Mao, upper left, Deng, lower left, installed a collective leadership model that Mr. Xi now seeks to dismantle.

limits is "the last nail in the coffin for the political system constructed by Deng Xiaoping," said Minxin Pei, a professor of government at Claremont McKenna College in California.

A main task of this month's congress is to fill an array of government jobs, with Xi allies likely to assume key portfolios.

Lawmakers are also expected to enshrine Communist Party rule as a constitutional principle, approve the creation



ANDY WONG/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE/GTY IMAGES; BETTMANN ARCHIVE/GTY IMAGES (2)

of a powerful anticorruption agency, and review plans for restructuring China's sprawling bureaucracy—key steps in Mr. Xi's efforts to install himself at the center of the party and government.

The stakes are high for Mr. Xi, whose name is closely linked with every major policy spanning the economy, development, the environment and foreign relations.

He must manage a long-term

slowdown in an economy weighed down by high debt loads and an aging population. His administration also faces the threat of a trade war with the U.S., and geopolitical tensions, particularly around North Korea's nuclear program.

"Xi is reaching the peak of his powers, and now the challenge is to maintain his authority and deliver results," Mr. Pei said.

Mr. Xi is widely popular

with China's rural and working classes, in large part due to his far-reaching crackdown on corruption and a carefully crafted image as an avuncular, down-to-earth leader.

Vocal discontent with his efforts to consolidate power appears largely limited to China's urban elite. Online criticism that followed the term-limit proposal's announcement on Sunday was swiftly scrubbed by censors.

come one of the greatest beneficiaries.

In a policy document published in December, the administration sketched a new national-security strategy that depicts the world as one of heightened rivalries and potentially dangerous competition, especially from China.

That stance has further put Asian partners who are reluctant to choose sides on edge. "I think more than in any region, the sense of great power rivalry is pronounced in Southeast Asia," said Huong Le Thu, senior analyst at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

For the past two weeks, the Carl Vinson has steamed through the South China Sea, making a port call in Manila and welcoming media and officials on board to demonstrate U.S. commitment.

VISIT

Continued from Page One

Vietnam has welcomed American warships to a refurbished naval base used by U.S. forces during the Vietnam War.

Economic ties are flourishing, with two-way trade doubling in five years to more than \$50 billion in 2017, according to data from both governments. The countries announced \$12 billion in commercial accords when Mr. Trump visited in November.

"The visit gives Vietnam a hedge against China at a time when Beijing is assertive in pressing its claims in the South China Sea," said Murray Hiebert, a Southeast Asia expert at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and Inter-



MC 2ND CLASS SEAN M. CASTELLANO/U.S. NAVY

Aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson is operating in the Pacific Ocean.

national Studies.

Vietnam and the U.S. aren't an obvious pairing. The ideology of the ruling Communist Party clashes with Washington's embrace of capitalism,

and Hanoi routinely imprisons its critics. In February, the State Department criticized the jailing of two political activists.

Vietnamese ties with China, meanwhile, have been

strained. Anti-China riots rocked Vietnam in 2014 after Beijing moved an oil rig into disputed waters.

Several Southeast Asian countries share maritime disputes with China, which claims virtually the entire South China Sea. In the past year, China built more infrastructure on artificial islands in the disputed waters, including tunnels and radar installations, adding to runway and missile installations it completed earlier.

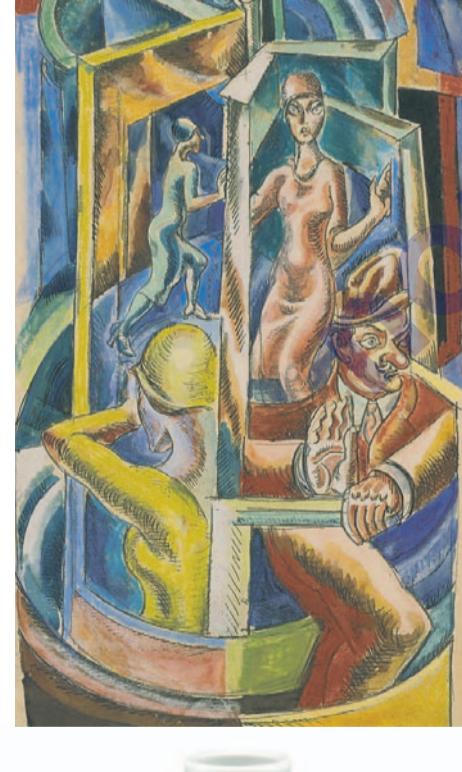
Vietnam has sought and failed to use regional forums like a semiannual gathering of Southeast Asian leaders to pressure Beijing, one reason it has worked to upgrade relations with the U.S., said Carlyle Thayer, emeritus professor at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra. Hanoi's Foreign Ministry

didn't respond to a request for comment. Tran Cong Truc, a former official who consults for the Vietnamese government on defense issues, said the Carl Vinson's visit is part of a broader policy in Vietnam to improve ties with all countries, especially large powers.

Washington's relationships in Southeast Asia, meanwhile, are being tested as China expands its economic ties with smaller states such as Cambodia, Myanmar and the Philippines—often through promises of infrastructure loans.

The Trump administration's "America First" approach has also shaken some U.S. relationships in Asia. On taking office, Mr. Trump took the U.S. out of a Pacific trade pact that was seen as a counter to China's economic presence, and in which Vietnam stood to be-

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Italy's former Prime Minister Matteo Renzi is expected to lead his Democratic Party to a defeat.

Europe's Fading Center-Left Braces for Weekend Balloting

Pivotal votes in Italy and Germany this weekend spotlight a fact central to the continent's political upheaval: the shriveling of the moderate left, which helped build modern Europe.

By Marcus Walker
in Rome and Bojan Pancevski in Berlin

Italy's center-left Democratic Party is expected to lose national elections there on Sunday, leaving no center-left governments in any of Europe's larger countries.

Meanwhile, the rank-and-file of Germany's Social Democrats will decide whether to join a conservative-led coalition or face snap polls that could further erode their weakened standing.

Each party has suffered from recent leadership problems. But more worryingly for both, sagging support for the center-left is a long-term trend in much of Europe, as politics has become more fragmented and populist movements have gained traction.

European voters are steadily turning against established political parties, especially in the aftermath of re-

cent economic and migration crises. But the center-left has seen deeper losses than mainstream conservatives.

In booming Germany and recession-scarred Italy, "the economic situations are diametrically different, but the political outcomes for the left are not," said Jan Rovny, a political scientist at the Sciences Po university in Paris. "Both parties are suffering from the structural changes in their electorates."

Organized labor, a traditional base for the center-left, has shrunk, as the traditional blue-collar "proletariat" has given way to a more diffuse "precariat" of people in low-paid or insecure jobs. And issues such as immigration have driven a wedge between two previous pillars of support: socially conservative working-class voters and educated progressives.

For decades after World War II, Europe's democracies were dominated by center-right parties, often based in churches, and center-left parties based in organized labor. Their quest for wide electorates encouraged ideological moderation. Conservatives accepted strong social safety nets; the center-left accepted capitalism.

The old parties' grip weakened as European societies became more complex. Smaller rivals grew, from environmentalists to nativists. A turning point came in 1990s, when the end of the Cold War and globalization pushed parts of the center-left to embrace freer markets and smaller government. That won them new middle-class supporters, but alienated voters who valued social protections against disruptions from trade and migration.

Italy's Democrats are expected to win only a little over 20% of the vote on Sunday, down from 25.4% in the last national elections in 2013. The largest party in Parliament is likely to be the populist 5 Star Movement, the largest alliance of the right-of-center bloc under media mogul Silvio Berlusconi.

Germany's Social Democrats, or SPD, won only 20.5% of the vote in September's elections, the party's worst national result since before World War II.

Angela Merkel has been a caretaker chancellor for the past five months. The SPD is set to announce on Sunday the result of a members' ballot on whether to enter another coalition under her conservatives.

OBITUARIES

DAVID W. MULLINS JR.
1946 – 2018

Hedge-Fund Flameout Dinged Fed Official

David W. Mullins Jr. had a soaring career as a finance professor at Harvard, a senior Treasury official under President George H.W. Bush and vice chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. He helped clean up after the widespread collapse of savings and loan institutions in the late 1980s and steered the Federal Reserve to lower interest rates in the early 1990s. He was seen as a possible future Fed chairman.

Then, in a surprise career shift in 1994, he jumped to a job as a partner at Long-Term Capital Management, which had what was considered one of the brainiest finance teams ever assembled. The hedge fund operator's mam-

moth losses four years later created a blot on his career, even though he wasn't charged with any wrongdoing.

Dr. Mullins then held lower-profile jobs, including chief economist at Vega Asset Management.

He died Monday after emergency heart surgery in Naples, Fla. He was 71.

In a rare comment on the Long-Term Capital debacle, he told the New York Times in 2000: "One of the big lessons is that the world changes. There will always be some event that you can't foresee." For Long-Term Capital, it was a default on Russian bonds that panicked traders around the world.

—James R. Hagerty

FRANK SANDER
1927 – 2018

Lawyer Paved Way For Mediation Boom

Frank Sander, who escaped Nazi Germany as an 11-year-old boy in 1938, became a professor at Harvard Law School and by the mid-1970s established himself as an authority on family and tax cases.

In 1975, he dashed off a memo to colleagues, musing about mediation and other alternatives to long and costly court battles. His note circulated. Soon, he received a telegram from U.S. Chief Justice Warren Burger, inviting him to present a paper on alternative dispute resolution at a conference in 1976.

"My first reaction was: I don't know anything about this," Prof. Sander recalled later. When Justice Burger persisted, the professor put himself through what he

called "a crash self-education course." His paper spurred courts and universities to explore alternative ways to settle cases. Resolving disputes outside courts became much more common.

Over the next four decades, Prof. Sander explored alternatives to litigation by creating courses, writing books and giving speeches worldwide. One of his priorities was helping people figure out which was the best way to solve a given dispute—"fitting the forum to the fuss," as he put it.

In the 1960s, he led a program at Harvard that encouraged African-Americans to study law.

Mr. Sander died on Feb. 25 in Concord, Mass. He was 90.

—James R. Hagerty

CHRIS J. RATCLIFFE/POOL/EPA-EFE/EPAP/SHUTTERSTOCK

WORLD

U.K.'s May Admits Brexit Costs

BY JENNY GROSS

LONDON—British Prime Minister Theresa May outlined in the greatest detail yet her proposals for Britain's future trading relationship with the European Union on Friday, explicitly acknowledging that leaving the bloc implied costs to the U.K. economy and would hit trade.

"Life is going to be different," she said in a long-awaited speech. "This is a negotiation—no one can have exactly what they want."

With just over a year to go until the U.K. leaves the EU, Mrs. May has come under pressure from EU officials to provide clarity about her plans. But with competing factions in her Conservative Party and her cabinet urging her toward conflicting negotiating stances since she lost her majority in an election in June, she has been keeping her cards close to her chest.

On Friday, Mrs. May said the U.K. wouldn't follow all EU rules once it leaves, but may choose to adhere to its regulations in certain sectors to ease trade access to the bloc's mar-



'Life is going to be different,' Prime Minister Theresa May said.

ket of 450 million people.

"Our default is that U.K. law may not necessarily be identical to EU law, but it should achieve the same outcomes," she said.

Britain would make binding commitments to align with the EU in some areas, the prime minister said, such as competition policy, state-aid rules limiting subsidies and tax breaks to companies.

Mrs. May said while the U.K. understood Britain-based banks would lose their rights

to provide services across the EU, the government would set out next week how it envisions financial services as part of a comprehensive trade agreement with the bloc.

The prime minister also conceded that Britain would still be affected by decisions of the European Court of Justice.

Michel Barnier, the EU's chief negotiator, said he welcomed Mrs. May's recognition of the trade-offs involved with leaving the EU.

WORLD WATCH

BURKINA FASO

Gunmen Launch Attack on Capital

Islamist militants launched coordinated attacks on the capital of Burkina Faso on Friday, with gunshots and explosions targeting the French Embassy and army headquarters, underscoring the growing threat of jihadist groups across West Africa.

Eight Burkina Faso soldiers and eight Islamic extremists were killed, Burkina Faso's government said, warning that the death toll for the soldiers could climb. While no group claimed responsibility, government and security officials said the attack was the work of Islamist extremists.

The assailants simultaneously hit two targets around a mile apart at around 10:30 a.m. local time: the French Embassy and an

army base in the city of Ouagadougou, where they were met by specialized units from security forces. No one in the French Embassy was hurt, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said in televised remarks. More than 50 people were wounded.

The incidents marked the third major attack in Ouagadougou in two years and extended an increasingly brazen pattern of attacks across the so-called Sahel region of West Africa, where al Qaeda and Islamic State affiliates have been gaining ground.

—Joe Parkinson

CUBA

U.S. Makes Embassy Staff Cuts Permanent

The U.S. will make staff reductions at its embassy in Havana permanent, the State De-

partment said, as officials have so far failed to determine the source of "health attacks" against personnel there.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had ordered most staff except for emergency personnel to leave the embassy in September.

The so-called attacks, which began in late 2016 and continued on and off into the summer of 2017, affected at least 24 U.S. Embassy officials or family members, with symptoms including dizziness, headaches, hearing loss and mild brain damage.

The State Department said Friday that the U.S. will initiate a plan that will keep in place reduced staffing levels that amounted to half of the personnel posted there after the embassy reopened in 2015. There now will be about two dozen staffers there.

—Felicia Schwartz

SONJA BATA
1926 – 2018

Shoe Heir's Wife Founded Museum of Footwear

BY JAMES R. HAGERTY

Sonja Bata had more shoes than Imelda Marcos—and found a more public-spirited use for them.

As a teenager in Zurich, Ms. Bata aspired to become one of the world's greatest architects. Then, in 1946, at age 19, she married the 31-year-old Thomas Bata, heir to a family shoemaking company founded in 1894 in what is now the Czech Republic.

Mr. Bata was reorganizing the company to escape the Communist grip on Eastern Europe. He and his new wife moved to Ontario to set up a new base for what became a global manufacturer and retailer of shoes. Ms. Bata helped design stores and footwear, including sandals for the African market. She never had a corporate title but worked in an office next to her husband's.

"She always had ideas on everything. Fortunately, our ideas were often in parallel, although sparks sometimes would fly," Mr. Bata said in a 1995 interview.

Ms. Bata collected shoes from around the world to better understand the needs and preferences of different cultures. Those became the basis for Toronto's Bata Shoe Museum, whose vast collection includes a pair made of silver tiles and worn by sacrificial victims in ancient Peru.

Ms. Bata died at age 91 on Feb. 20 at a hospital in Toronto. Her husband died in 2008.

"Shoes are the most exciting artifact," she told the Toronto Star in 1995, when the museum opened. "They tell you more about human beings, the way they lived, their climates and their history."

The museum houses a collection of 13,000 pairs of shoes and related artifacts. Displays have included shoes made of human hair



and emu feathers for an Australian aboriginal executioner, 4,500-year-old Egyptian sandals made of wood, Queen Victoria's black satin boots and size 22 basketball shoes worn by Shaquille O'Neal. There are also shoes formerly owned by Elvis Presley, Elton John and, yes, Imelda Marcos.

Ms. Bata chaired Canada's National Design Council and was active in the World Wildlife Fund, for which she helped produce materials to teach children about the conservation of nature. She was awarded the honorary title of Officer of the Order of Canada in 1983 for services to education, urbanism, ecology, design and health care.

"I am a very curious person," she told the Canadian Business Review in 1995. "This motivates me to poke my nose into certain things. And what happens? If you come out with a suggestion, before you know it you are landed with a [voluntary] job."

Sonja Ingrid Wettstein was born Nov. 8, 1926, in Zurich, where her father was a prominent lawyer. A

bout with tuberculosis forced her to drop out of architectural school. Romance intervened when she met Mr. Bata, whose family was one of her father's legal clients. In a memoir, the shoe heir recalled falling in love instantly upon seeing her in a ski chalet in 1946.

Her mother, worried about Sonja's lack of domestic skills, hustled her off to a cooking school before the wedding. Although she learned household arts, she was never a stay-at-home wife.

When she arrived in Toronto, she found it "a relatively simple town," as she recalled later. "The big activity was the ice hockey game on Saturday night. There was very little opera or music."

There was little time for such diversions anyway. The Batas were preoccupied with rebuilding their business outside of Eastern Europe. She learned the shoe business by studying shoe design, managing a Bata store and accompanying her husband on visits to factories and customers around the world.

She is survived by four children, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Bata is still owned by the family. Two grandsons work as executives, and three family members are on the international operating board.

Most Bata shoes today are made in Asia and Latin America. After the company closed a shoe factory in Quinte West, Ontario, in 1999, Ms. Bata purchased it and launched a redevelopment of the site into condominiums, due for completion in July. She insisted on high design standards for those condos. "I still have an image of architectural purity," she told the Globe and Mail in 2006. "Today, you go to the suburbs and you have that fake stone and fake brick. It's horrible."

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IN DEPTH

RUSSIA

Continued from Page One
executives still privately maintain, and no evidence has emerged that it tipped the result to President Donald Trump. What is clear, however, is that the social-media giant's months-long obliviousness to deepening public concern about its social impact has worsened a backlash against it and other Silicon Valley giants.

That misjudgment appears particularly to have fueled new tension between Facebook and Democrats, who had long been close to the company. "Facebook was very slow to recognize the scope of the problem," Virginia Democratic Sen. Mark Warner said in an email to The Wall Street Journal on Wednesday. "I think they have taken some important steps, but they still have a lot more work to do to eliminate opportunities for manipulation of their services."

Facebook, which generated \$40 billion in annual revenue from its ability to narrowly target advertisers' messages to receptive audiences, failed repeatedly to grasp what message its own actions were sending, especially in Washington. Last fall, it expected accolades for proactively disclosing information about the Russian ad buys—but instead faced complaints it wasn't sharing enough. Facebook responded with more data, but each disclosure fueled more questions about what else it knew but hadn't revealed.

First alert

Facebook's executive team was alerted to the potential Russian manipulation efforts in a Dec. 9, 2016, memo from the company's security team, say people familiar with the memo. But the company waited nine months before publicly saying that Russian manipulation had occurred.

That disclosure was followed by a cascade of further disclosures as public anger grew, with Facebook acknowledging in an October congressional hearing that the Russian efforts had reached 126 million people.

"They were in denial about the size of the problem and in denial about the effect it was having," says Clint Watts, a former Federal Bureau of Investigation counterterrorism agent now at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, a Philadelphia-based think tank. Mr. Watts added that Facebook has done more to address the Russian issue than other tech companies, but has borne the brunt of public criticism.

Asked to comment for this article, Facebook's vice president of global policy, Joel Kaplan, in a written statement said: "The issue of Russian election interference on our platform is something we continued to learn more about as we conducted our own internal reviews and provided information to law enforcement officials and legislators to inform their own inquiries."

"At each stage of the process, we have worked to share as much information as possible with the appropriate authorities and with the public," he said.

Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg has said he is "dead se-



DREW ANGERER/GETTY IMAGES

CEO Mark Zuckerberg says he is 'dead serious' about stopping foreign manipulation of Facebook.

rious" about stopping foreign manipulation of Facebook. In January, he devoted 2018 to "fixing" a litany of problems facing the company and has said publicly he was willing to forfeit some short-term profitability to do so. Facebook has shared the Russian ads, account names and other data with Mr. Mueller's team as well as with Congress.

Russia has denied trying to influence the election. A Russian Embassy spokesman in Washington referred inquiries to comments by Russia's foreign minister stating that the Mueller indictment lacked evidence. A spokesman for Mr. Mueller declined to comment and referred to a Justice Department news release saying it had received "exceptional cooperation" from Facebook.

Facebook executives say they were caught off-guard by the Russian activity. Many of them privately argue Facebook has been unfairly singled out because it has been more forthcoming with information than Alphabet Inc.'s Google and Twitter Inc., both of which were misused by the Russians, according to the Mueller indictment.

"It's a combination of the company coming to terms with the responsibility that comes with the power we have and then us realizing that there are a lot of people in the media who want to blame us for everything," says one Facebook employee.

The controversy over Russian manipulation has contributed to the biggest image crisis in Facebook's history. Since the 2016 election, it has been lambasted for allowing objectionable content, including violent live videos and fabricated news articles, to proliferate on its service.

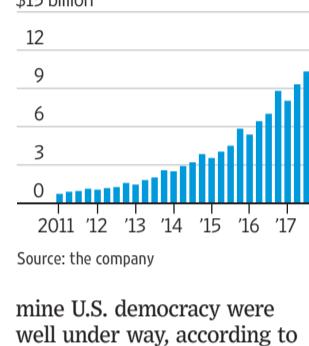
Mr. Zuckerberg has sought to shape Facebook's mission as transcending sales and profit. He said when the company went public in 2012 that it was "built to make the world more open and connected," a goal he enhanced in February 2017 to include building global "social infrastructure" to fight problems such as disease.

By the time of that statement, Russia's alleged efforts to use Facebook and other social-media platforms to under-

The Giant Grows

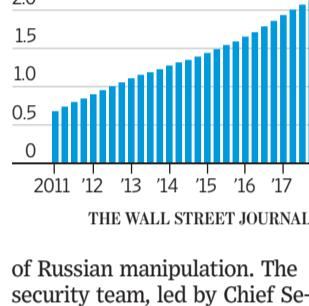
Facebook has been focused on expanding its user base in the last several years. It is now at a turning point, trying to mitigate the potential downsides of its product.

Facebook Quarterly Revenue



Source: the company

Average monthly active Facebook users



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

mine U.S. democracy were well under way, according to the Mueller indictment. A pro-Kremlin group, the Internet Research Agency, or IRA, started around July 2013 and later began its social-media offensive to interfere in the 2016 U.S. presidential race and "spread distrust towards the candidates and the political system in general," the indictment says.

In that era, Facebook's security efforts were focused on hackers, spam and other more-traditional threats, say people familiar with the company's efforts.

That started to change after the election. Facebook's security team sent a memo in December 2016 to Mr. Zuckerberg, Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg and other se-

'Facebook was very slow to recognize the scope of the problem,' says Sen. Warner.

nior officials outlining how Russian-backed actors tried to leak stolen information from the Democratic Party on Facebook, people familiar with the memo say. The memo warned that there could be other Russian activity on the platform that hadn't yet been detected.

The next month, the U.S. intelligence community said in a declassified report that the IRA interfered with the election. At that point, Facebook got more serious about weeding out Russian influence, say people familiar with Facebook's response.

Over the next several months, Facebook built special tools to gather more evidence

of Russian manipulation. The security team, led by Chief Security Officer Alex Stamos, began drafting a report detailing the extent of what they knew about the various "information operations" on the platform, some of the people say.

There was internal tension over how much to reveal. Facebook's security team was pushing to mention Russia's role in the report, the Journal reported in October. Policy and legal officials resisted, saying it was risky for a private company to call out a foreign state and Facebook needed to be sure, say people familiar with the episode.

On April 27, Facebook had released a report about information operations on its platform that didn't mention Russia. By June, Facebook had found pages it suspected were set up by Russians to spread misinformation and play different sides of divisive political issues to fuel disputes—but Facebook didn't publicly disclose the discovery—people familiar with the company's Russia probe say.

Facebook's lack of public disclosure was angering lawmakers. In late May, Sen. Warner and his staff flew to Facebook's Menlo Park, Calif., headquarters and repeatedly asked executives if Russian actors bought ads on the platform, a Warner aide says.

Facebook said it hadn't found evidence, say people familiar with the response, but the meeting prompted a deeper probe into the ad system.

A Facebook spokesman told the Journal on July 14 the company had no evidence of Russian entities buying ads on its platform related to the presidential election.

By late July, Facebook researchers were confident the IRA had bought Facebook ads.

November 2016

'Personally I think the idea that fake news on Facebook...influenced the election in any way is a pretty crazy idea.'

-CEO Mark Zuckerberg

September 2017

'After the election, I made a comment that I thought the idea misinformation on Facebook changed the outcome of the election was a crazy idea. Calling that crazy was dismissive and I regret it.'

-Mr. Zuckerberg

September 2017

'For the ways my work was used to divide people rather than bring us together, I ask forgiveness.'

-Mr. Zuckerberg

October 2017

'Things happened on our platform in this election that should not have happened, especially and very troubling, a foreign interference in a democratic election, and we know that we have a responsibility to do everything we can do to prevent this kind of abuse on this kind of platform.'

-COO Sheryl Sandberg

January 2018

'In 2016, we at Facebook were far too slow to recognize how bad actors were abusing our platform. We're working diligently to neutralize these risks now.'

-Samidh Chakrabarti, product manager, civic engagement

products such as a music service, although it didn't launch it, the person says.

Facebook ran into snags in Washington. Over the summer, it contacted Mr. Mueller's team about the ads and fake accounts. To complicate matters, the Mueller probe had legal powers that went beyond those available to Congress and had issued a gag order preventing Facebook from talking about its work with Mr. Mueller in much detail, say people familiar with the matter. So while Facebook was able to hand over complete data on the Russian ads to the special counsel, it wasn't able to seek public credit for that.

Also, its lawyers initially felt unable to provide the same level of information to Congress because of their interpretation of the company's privacy policies, these people say.

On Sept. 6, when Facebook disclosed that the IRA accounts bought \$100,000 in ads, lawmakers were angered when it wouldn't show them the full library of ads.

The blowback startled Facebook. Employees expected more credit for disclosing the information.

Facebook lawyers examined the company's policies, eventually finding a loophole that allowed them to share more information.

On Sept. 21, Mr. Zuckerberg's first day back from paternity leave, he broadcast live from Facebook and outlined nine changes it would make to prevent foreign meddling, including handing the IRA ads to Congress.

In October, Mr. Goldman, the Facebook ad chief, flew to Hawaii for the conference. During an impromptu discussion, he defended Facebook's handling of the Russia crisis and said it was taking aggressive steps to shore up its ad systems, say people familiar with his remarks. He argued that the Russian ads were primarily intended to sow division, the people say.

Many attendees pushed back. Someone asked Mr. Goldman about the fact that the Russians bought ads in rubles, drawing laughter from the crowd.

Some Facebook executives agree with Mr. Goldman's view that Russian Facebook ads weren't primarily intended to shape the election, say people familiar with the sentiments.

Within Facebook, Mr. Goldman's Feb. 16 tweets didn't initially cause much commotion, say people inside the company, until Mr. Trump retweeted one, triggering fury from Trump opponents and creating another political mess for Facebook.

Facebook's communications team spent a weekend debating a public response to the furor that would respect Mr. Mueller's probe without drawing Mr. Trump's ire, say people familiar with the debate. Employees asked in internal forums if Mr. Goldman's views reflected Facebook's latest position on the Russia probe, another person says, adding, "people kind of freaked out internally."

After Facebook distanced itself from Mr. Goldman's tweets, Mr. Zuckerberg did the same the following week during a companywide question-and-answer session, people familiar with his comments say.

Betsy Morris contributed to this article.

TATTOO

Continued from Page One

list of consultant Mahadeva Matt Mani, a suburban father who generally wears suits with a tie and a pocket handkerchief. But at a company retreat in New Orleans a few years ago, he was called upon to prove his loyalty. His firm, Booz & Co., was being purchased by PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP, and employees were worried.

To show his faith, Mr. Mani, a company principal, marched into a tattoo parlor to memorialize the new firm, Strategy&, with a 2.5-inch ampersand. "It felt right in the moment," he said.

On his skin, Mr. Mani added, it felt like "a lot of pin pricks."

The accolades of his younger employees didn't match the reception Mr. Mani got at home in Herndon, Va. "My son was like, 'You're an idiot,'" he said.

In 2014, the former New York Times executive editor Jill Abramson for her 60th birthday memorialized her nearly two-decade career at the newspaper

she grew up reading with her parents. It was the letter "T," rendered in the broadsheet's signature font and tattooed on her back.

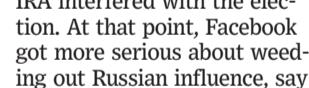
Ms. Abramson, who was fired two months later, said she had no regrets: "I love the Times more than I loved working there." She wouldn't get a tattoo to mark her 10 years at The Wall Street Journal, she said. "It just wasn't in my family's blood."

Tattoos have evolved over centuries from markers of tribe or social class to statements about an individual's life or aspirations, said Beverly Yuen Thompson, associate professor of sociology at Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y., and a researcher of tattoo subcultures.

"Even if it's not a job you plan to hold for your whole life, your work often becomes part of your story," she said. Still, "Most people don't have jobs they're passionate about and don't want reminders of that on their body."

That isn't true of Jeff Atkins,

24, who loves his Walmart job. He manages the produce department at a store in Myrtle



Former New York Times executive editor Jill Abramson got a 'T' tattoo on her back (below an 'H' for Harvard) two months before she was fired. Bombas CEO Dave Heath gets his first ink, right.



CORNELIA GRIGGS/BOMBAS

Ron Pevny, 43, said he was so thrilled to get a job offer from the U.S. Forest Service in 2001 that he got a tattoo before he even started. It was the agency's trademark fir tree—with added flames.

New hires enter a months-long training program before they're invited to become a permanent employee. Agency veterans weren't impressed with his new ink.

"They asked, 'What are you going to do if you don't pass rookie school?'" he recalled. "I hadn't contemplated that."

Mr. Pevny passed the training, but left for a new job with the U.S. National Park Service a few years later. He decided he didn't need a new tattoo. "They're really similar agencies," he said.

Red Hat worker Thomas Cameron got reimbursed for his \$100 tattoo by filing it as an office supply expense. "It's ink, right?" he said.

Mr. Cameron plans another trip to the tattoo shop soon. The company recently announced it was changing its logo.

"I already have a place on my arm picked out," he said.

Beach, S.C., and on his left arm has a 4-inch tattoo of Walmart's yellow-and-blue starburst logo.

"Twenty-five percent of my life I've been working for Walmart," he said. "I just wanted something that kind of showed where I had been and what I had done in my life."

Like pulling an all-nighter at the office, a company tattoo can signify devotion in a way that impresses colleagues and breeds trust with clients.

Dave Heath, co-founder of Bombas, a sock startup, said he

jokingly promised potential backers in 2013 that he would get the company's bumblebee logo inked after selling the millionth pair. He wasn't too worried about making good on it at the time, he said. "We hadn't sold a single pair."

Bombas' co-founder reminded Mr. Heath of the pledge 2½ years later.

"I guess this is what I have to do," he said about getting his first tattoo at age 33. A video of the inking went viral on Facebook, leading Bombas to sell an-

other six million pairs.

Paul Bosneag, a manager who works with franchise-holders of the Anytime Fitness gym chain, said he opted for the needle in 2010 as job security. At the time, he said, he recalled thinking, "What kind of a jerk would fire an employee that has the logo tattooed on him?"

It turns out Chuck Runyon, chief executive of Anytime Fitness, has fired around seven people who got company tattoos. Performance, he said, is more important than loyalty.

OPINION

THE WEEKEND INTERVIEW with Bruce Rauner | By James Taranto

Bruce Rauner vs. the Illinois 'Mafia'

Mike Madigan likes to take down names. Two weeks after the 2014 election, Mr. Madigan, speaker of the Illinois House, met Gov.-elect Bruce Rauner for breakfast at the elegant Chicago Club. The two men shook hands, Gov. Rauner recalls, whereupon Speaker Madigan "hands me a 3-by-5 card. It's got, I think it was seven names. I look at it and, 'Oh,' I said, 'some of those look familiar.' Any guess what the seven names were on the card? The seven governors he's outlasted and outmaneuvered."

Mr. Rauner got the message: "You're going to be No. 8."

That remains to be seen—the governor is now seeking a second term—but Mr. Rauner makes clear on a recent visit to the Journal editorial board that Speaker Madigan has proved a formidable opponent of his efforts to reform the state's government and restore its fiscal health. "If you're asking any really difficult question," Mr. Rauner says, "the answer is Madigan."

The outsider governor recounts his battles with the political machine and explains why he thinks a second term would be 'transformative.'

Mr. Madigan is a Democrat and Mr. Rauner a Republican, but they are opposites in a more arresting way. Mr. Rauner, 61, is a political neophyte, a reform-minded outsider. He amassed a nine-figure fortune during three decades as a venture capitalist, then got involved in educational philanthropy. "I was recruited to run by the business community in Illinois, because many of them were leaving and the rest of them didn't want to leave," he says. "They knew that I was passionate about job creation and free enterprise."

The 75-year-old Mr. Madigan is the epitome of a career politician. He was first elected to the House in 1970, so this his 48th year as a state representative. He became speaker in 1983 and has held that post ever since, except for the two-year term after Republicans won a majority in 1994. Since 1998 he has also been chairman of the Illinois Democratic Party. In 2012 Chicago magazine called him "the Real Governor of Illinois."

The actual governor is less complimentary, describing the speaker as "the Mafia kingpin of Illinois." But Mr. Rauner's war stories demonstrate that the magazine wasn't exaggerating Mr. Madigan's power—which extends well beyond the legislative chamber he leads—or his willingness to wield it.

Mr. Rauner's re-election campaign is one of the country's most important this year because it will test if it's possible to reform a state government dominated by entrenched lawmakers and public-sector unions. The governor's first

term has been an ordeal to overcome obstacles imposed in large part by Mr. Madigan and his nexus of union money and political power.

In 2015, Mr. Rauner says, public-employee unions complained to Mr. Madigan that the new governor was too stubborn a negotiator. The speaker pushed through a bill to strip the governor of his authority in contract negotiations in favor of a "labor arbitrator"—an attempt, Mr. Rauner says, to "take away my most fundamental right as governor to represent taxpayers."

Mr. Rauner vetoed the legislation. In Illinois it takes three-fifths of each legislative chamber to override a veto, and Democrats had the requisite supermajorities. Yet the House sustained Mr. Rauner's veto. "I got one Democrat," he says. "Boy, did we work our tails off. We got one Democrat to stay in New York at the U.S. Open during the vote override."

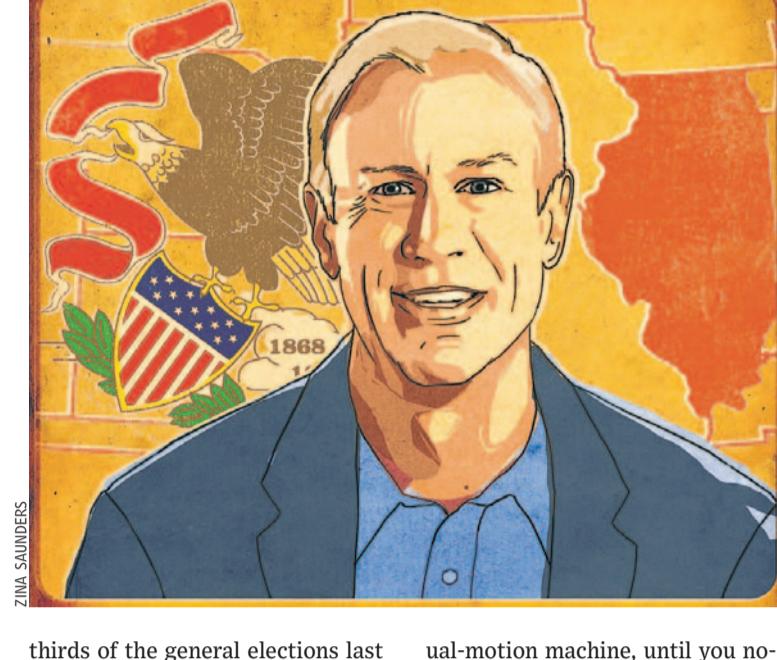
Tennis fan Ken Dunkin is now a former state representative. After the missed vote, Mr. Rauner says, "Madigan was apoplectic. This had never happened to him before, and for something that he really, really wanted." The speaker "went to war" against Mr. Dunkin in the 2016 primary. "He brought President Obama to campaign against an African-American from the South Side of Chicago, to take him out in his primary. . . . We tried like heck to save him, but we couldn't save him."

Another story suggests that the speaker controls both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly. As Mr. Rauner tells it, last June he and Senate President John Cullerton had reached a deal on public-employee pension reform—an urgent priority given that rating agencies were threatening to downgrade Illinois's bonds. "I was going to do his pension reform, which wasn't as good as mine, but it was a bipartisan compromise," the governor says.

But then Mr. Cullerton "gets a phone call from Madigan," Mr. Rauner continues. "I'm at the press conference, standing—the press is right here, and I'm going, 'Where's John?' He didn't show up. Mike told him not to come." (Mr. Cullerton disputed this account at the time, telling reporters that the governor's plan "goes beyond what we discussed and beyond what I support.") The Legislature saved the bond rating—for the moment—by raising taxes and delaying contributions to the pension fund, a bookkeeping gimmick. Mr. Rauner vetoed the bill, but this time the override succeeded with the support of some wobbly Republicans.

There's more. The speaker's reach extends to the judiciary: "Our judges are slated by Madigan, they're elected by Madigan, they're funded by Madigan," Mr. Rauner says, "and we don't have any restrictions on trial lawyers donating to the judges that they argue cases in front of—and they're all elected."

Redistricting keeps the speaker's legislative hold solid: "Our system's so rigged that two-



thirds of the general elections last cycle didn't have an opponent," the governor says. "Nobody would run, because they're so gerrymandered, like spaghetti noodles, to hold in whoever's there." The U.S. Supreme Court is considering two challenges to partisan gerrymandering—district maps drawn by Republicans in Wisconsin and Democrats in Maryland—and Mr. Rauner hopes the challengers prevail.

The governor has more than a rooting interest in another case before the high court, *Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees*. The justices heard oral arguments Monday in Mark Janus's First Amendment challenge to an Illinois law that requires public workers who haven't joined a union to pay "agency fees" to the union. The lawsuit was originally styled *Rauner v. Afscme*, but the trial judge held that the governor lacked standing since he wasn't personally injured by the fees.

The *Janus* back story illustrates the corrupting influence of public-sector unionism. It started with Rod Blagojevich, who in 2002 sought to become Illinois's first Democratic governor in 26 years. According to Mr. Rauner, then-Rep. Blagojevich asked Afscme for "\$3 million and a couple thousand of your taxpayer-funded people" to work for his campaign. He won the election. "Then he went to the state employees and he said, OK, if you're in my administration, if you're in a union, I'll give you 4% annual raises as long as I'm governor. And if you're not in a union, I will never give you a raise as long as I'm governor."

The incentive was so powerful that even some managers joined the union. "I'm fighting right now to try to get them out," Mr. Rauner says. Other managers "refused on principle to join the union. They're making less than all of the people who work for them. I mean, it's a totally broken—and then, the managers in the union manage the overtime and the work rules to maximize the pay, to maximize the pensions."

It looks like a political perpet-

ual-motion machine, until you notice the massive amounts of tax money it burns. The same can be said of another arrangement Mr. Rauner describes—one that shows Mr. Madigan's power over local government.

"He's become rich on high property taxes," Mr. Rauner says. The speaker's Chicago law firm, Madigan & Getzendanner, specializes in property-tax appeals. "What he does is arrange tax policy in Illinois so property taxes are high and rising, and then he charges a percentage to businesses in Chicago to get their property-tax bill down."

"It's a Mafia protection racket," Mr. Rauner says. The scandal is that it's perfectly legal: "It is the essence of corruption. Oh my goodness, this is the core of the problem, at its crux. It's the self-dealing, getting rich from the system, from political power." For homeowners of modest means, who can't afford the "services" of an appeal firm, it can be downright tyrannical: "I stood with families in [Chicago's] south suburbs two weeks ago—African-American families, just hardworking, blue-collar families," Mr. Rauner says. "The property-tax system is so broken, they're paying between 7% and 12% of their home value annually—in property taxes."

It's a dispiriting litany of waste, dysfunction and exploitation, and these are just the highlights. So why would anybody stay in Illinois? "I could move to Florida like most people, but this is home," Mr. Rauner says. "You fight for your home. Illinois's home. I was born in Chicago, near Wrigley Field. I've lived there my whole life, and we're going to make it good."

He is optimistic about his prospects for a "transformative" second term. A favorable ruling in *Janus* would dramatically curtail union power, allowing for a "much different compensation structure, much more flexibility, much more balance of power between the insiders and the outsiders." Whatever the justices decide about gerrymandering, a re-elected Gov. Rauner would have a say in redistricting after the 2020 census.

"I do need reformers in the General Assembly," he says. "They don't all have to be Republicans, but I need reform-minded Democrats and Republicans." To that end, he's asking legislative candidates of both parties to sign a two-part pledge: "I will vote to put term limits on the ballot," and "I will promise to vote for someone other than Mike Madigan to be speaker." He also hopes to elect Erika Harold, a Harvard Law grad who was Miss America 2003, as state attorney general. Incumbent Lisa Madigan, the speaker's adopted daughter, decided soon after Ms. Harold announced her candidacy that she would forgo a fifth four-year term. Mr. Rauner describes Ms. Harold as someone "who actually wants to help drive change, as opposed to defend her dad and defend corruption."

Mr. Rauner's aspiration is contingent on the voters, and his brawls with the Legislature have taken a political toll. A Morning Consult survey in the last quarter of 2017 ranked him the seventh least popular governor in the U.S., with a 31% approval rating and 55% disapproval. A poll released this week by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute found the Democratic front-runner, billionaire scion J.B. Pritzker, leading Mr. Rauner 50% to 35% among registered voters.

One irony is that some conservatives accuse Mr. Rauner of compromising too much with Mr. Madigan. Mr. Rauner faces a primary challenge March 20 from state Rep. Jeanne Ives, who faults him for signing a law expanding subsidies for abortion. He says he has never made a secret of backing "a woman's right to choose," and he leads Ms. Ives by 20 points in the Simon poll. Ms. Ives would have no chance in the general election.

Mr. Rauner sounds confident and plans to spend whatever it takes to make the election a referendum on reform versus the Madigan Mafia. "They don't really have a message," he says. "Let's raise taxes? That's not a message." Assuming Mr. Pritzker is the nominee—he too faces a contested primary—the governor plans to make hay of his connection to Mr. Madigan: "Pritzker is totally tied to him, and Pritzker is running [as] an insider," Mr. Rauner says. "I call him—his initials aren't J.B., they're M.M., Madigan's Moneybags."

Mr. Rauner says that if he succeeds in reforming state government, an economic renaissance is in the state's future. Companies "love Illinois," he says, "with our workforce, with our location in the center of the country, at the heart of manufacturing, our transportation network, our education system. . . . If we were more regulatory-friendly to businesses, we would boom."

Then there's the other possibility: "Pritzker gets in? Turn out the lights!"

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

The Governor and Louisiana Lawyers Plot an Energy Shakedown



CROSS
COUNTRY
By Allysia
Finley

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards was elected in 2015 with substantial support from trial lawyers,

and he's now repaying them in kind. The former minority leader of the state's House of Representatives is effectively extorting oil and gas companies to backfill the budget while engineering what could be a handsome payday for his friends at a politically connected law firm.

Mr. Edwards wasted no time shaking down Louisiana's energy industry. Shortly after taking office in January 2016, he met with oil and gas companies and issued an ultimatum: Fork over billions of dollars to help restore Louisiana's eroding coastline or brave a drawn-out legal battle.

But as Mr. Edwards, a Democrat,

has acknowledged, oil and gas exploration isn't solely to blame for coastal erosion. Natural causes—such as changes in the course of the Mississippi River—have contributed. As did levying of the river by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Dredging wetlands for fossil-fuel exploration played a secondary role.

The energy industry insisted that the governor initiate an administrative review to identify permit violations before taking legal action against individual companies. Since 1980, the state has issued about 60,000 coastal permits—many of which recognized the potential for

doubt that it is in the best interests of Louisiana and the industry to choose the former option."

Louisiana's coastline loses a football field worth of land to erosion every 48 minutes. This would put many of Louisiana's 20 coastal parishes without protective levees underwater by 2100. These areas have been incurring stronger storm surges as wetlands that once provided a protective barrier against approaching hurricanes have disappeared.

Their demand: Fork over billions to restore the eroding coastline or brave a drawn-out legal battle.

adverse environmental effects.

One permit accepted the "adverse impacts of dredging on water quality" and "erosion of wetland from laying pipeline across marsh area."

Another noted that "after careful consideration of the environmental and socio-economic issues, it is apparent that the environmental risk (loss of 1.5 acres of undisturbed wetlands), while significant enough to warrant serious attention, does not counterbalance the social and economic factors involved in this application."

The state simply determined the benefits of drilling outweighed the environmental risks and costs. The oil and gas industry employed about 5% of the state's workforce, contributed about 10% of its aggregate payroll and accounted for between 10% and 15% of tax revenues, according to a 2016 report by Louisiana State University's Center for Energy Studies.

The problem is that oil production has been steadily declining since 1980 as fields are exhausted and extraction becomes more expensive. Lower oil prices and production have damaged the state budget and economy. Facing a \$1 billion deficit that could impel tax hikes or cuts to public programs, the governor is desperate for extra revenue.

The oil and gas industry rejected

Mr. Edwards's ultimatum, so instead he sought to conscript coastal parishes into suing the industry by

threatening to cut non-joining parishes out of any future settlement cash.

Six parishes obliged. In September 2016, Mr. Edwards sent letters to the others that "we have been advised by counsel for the plaintiff Parishes that it is likely that similar damages exist in your Parish" and "encourage you to consult with your private counsel and file such a suit, in which [Natural Resources] Secretary [Thomas] Harris will then intervene. Should you not do so within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter, Secretary Harris will do so."

Ganging up with local governments puts more pressure on oil and gas companies and increases the size of the potential jackpot, of which trial lawyers will get a cut.

The law firm spearheading the coastal parish suits on a contingency basis happens to be Talbot, Carmouche & Marcello, which raised \$2 million for a super PAC to boost Mr. Edwards in 2015 and spent heavily in local races.

The law firm also spent \$10,500 to re-elect state district court judge Michael Clement, who will hear several cases in Plaquemines Parish that are set to go to trial in 2019—one year before the judge faces re-election. Such apparent political back-scratching isn't a crime unless an explicit quid pro quo occurs, but all of this smells worse than rotten crawfish.

Ms. Finley is a member of the Journal's editorial board.

Notable & Quotable: Media

Alex Tabarrok, writing Feb. 28 at MarginalRevolution.com:

School shootings are actually down since the 1990s (with a lot of variability). Fewer students are carrying weapons to school and fewer students report having easy access to guns. . . .

It's been said that we live in an increasingly divided media universe but on many issues I think we live in an increasingly uniform media universe. Social media is so ubiquitous and the same things sell so widely

that I suspect the collective consciousness is less fragmentary than in the past. Does anyone not know about Parkland? Contrary to common wisdom, mass shootings also occur in European countries. I suspect, however, that the Finnish media don't cover German shootings as frequently as shootings in Florida are covered in Nebraska—as a result the larger the media-market the greater the extent of availability bias. In other words, the larger the media market the greater the overestimation of rare but vivid events.

OPINION

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Political Sex-Trafficking Exploitation

Bipartisanship isn't always a force for good. See how plaintiff attorneys are trying to exploit political fury at Silicon Valley and online sex-trafficking to blow a hole in a law that has been crucial to internet freedom.

The House this week passed legislation that would create a carve-out to Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 for online sex trafficking. Senator Rob Portman (R., Ohio) has introduced a companion bill that has 66 co-sponsors. Section 230 says "no provider or user of an interactive computer service shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content provider."

In short, current law bars states and trial lawyers from suing websites for content created by their users—such as customer reviews, social-media posts and reader comments. But Section 230 doesn't shield websites from federal criminal prosecutions. Nor does it preclude state and private enforcement against websites found "responsible, in whole or in part, for the creation or development of information provided through the Internet."

Congress wrote Section 230 because Members understood that websites couldn't review every piece of content published by users for compliance with myriad state laws. The problem is that judges have sometimes interpreted the law too narrowly.

A California court and the First Circuit Court of Appeals have dismissed lawsuits against Backpage, the world's second biggest classified ad website that became a cover for sex traffickers. The courts ruled Backpage was legally immune under Section 230. But a report last year by the Senate Homeland Security Committee says Backpage was involved in 73% of child trafficking reports received by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Backpage "has maintained a practice of altering ads before publication by deleting words, phrases, and images indicative of criminality, including child sex trafficking" and concealed "its editing practices," the report notes. The company's CEO allegedly instructed employees to scrub local ads in South Carolina for "sex for money" language, though Backpage didn't reject the ads. (Backpage says that it doesn't exercise control over the sex ads.)

Yet neither the California nor federal judge was presented with the evidence in the Senate report that Backpage had edited ads to elude law enforcement. And in light of new evidence, a federal judge in Boston is considering allowing another case against Backpage to proceed.

Yet plaintiff attorneys are trying to capitalize

Fast-moving legislation could open the web to a lawsuit bonanza.

on public outrage against Backpage to jam through legislation that would erode Section 230. The House and Portman bills would let plaintiffs sue websites that allegedly assist, support or facilitate sex trafficking. The rub is that plaintiffs would merely need to argue that the website "should have known" that users were engaging in criminal activity.

Most website operators are aware that people use their platforms for nefarious purposes, but ferreting out criminal activity isn't always easy. While algorithms can help, human judgment is often necessary. Google plans to hire 10,000 employees to review YouTube videos for inappropriate content.

Revising Section 230 for sex-trafficking could open up a Pandora's box. Small websites might create overly restrictive screens that filter out non-objective content such as ads to help sex-trafficking victims. This could also make it harder to ask other countries to provide internet companies legal immunity for user content.

IBM's vice-president of government and regulatory affairs told U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer that "it seems clear that given the public's increasing concerns about online responsibility and accountability, there is no longer a consensus in the United States that internet media companies should enjoy blanket immunity from legal liability."

If Congress provides a carve-out for sex-trafficking, courts might conclude that Section 230 was intended to be applied narrowly for other crimes and make it harder to prosecute websites complicit in those. This could cause a gradual erosion in Section 230 as groups petition Congress to single out more crimes. Google and Facebook originally opposed the Senate bill for these reasons, but they caved after getting keelhauled by Senators amid the controversy over Russian interference in the 2016 election.

A Justice Department letter to House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte this week raised concerns about the "unintended consequences" of amending Section 230. Justice noted that while perhaps well-intended, some provisions of the House bill "may be broader than necessary" and its retroactive application could be unconstitutional.

Justice last year initiated a grand jury investigation into Backpage's sex-trafficking, and courts may correctly decide the case in due course. If lawmakers want to help sex-trafficking victims, they could pass legislation clarifying that Section 230 was never intended to shield websites that actively facilitate crime. The House and Senate bills would create more problems than they fix.

A Lovely Little Trade War

Donald Trump doubled down Friday on his plan for steel and aluminum tariffs, telling his advisers he won't exempt any countries from the new blunderbuss border taxes, and issuing on Twitter one of the greatest displays of economic nonsense in presidential history.

"When a country (USA) is losing many billions of dollars on trade with virtually every country it does business with, trade wars are good, and easy to win. Example, when we are down \$100 billion with a certain country and they get cute, don't trade anymore—we win big. It's easy!" Mr. Trump tweeted Friday morning.

Let's parse that one, to the extent it is humanly possible. Mr. Trump believes that trade is a zero-sum game, with winning defined as having a national trade surplus. But trade consists of millions of acts of buying and selling by individuals and companies that are presumably for mutual benefit. Otherwise why would they do it? No one forces anyone to buy or sell across borders. The entire point of trading goods or services is that someone wants to buy the car or pay for the engineering design.

Donald J. Trump explains his theory of comparative advantage.

Then there's Mr. Trump's remedy, which is "don't trade anymore—we win big." So if the U.S. has a \$100 billion deficit with Country X, simply stop trading with that country. Voila, problem solved.

But that \$100 billion deficit represents an enormous amount of commercial activity, which creates jobs for millions of Americans. Someone in the U.S. has to sell that car made in Japan, or create an ad campaign to sell it. Mr. Trump's trade-deficit remedy is to stop that trade cold and assume that somehow the production will magically arise in the U.S. Even if that were true, and it isn't, he's advocating what economists call autarky, or economic self-sufficiency that would result in a depression as commerce and investment crashed.

Some of our more sanguine friends see the tariffs and tweets as Mr. Trump's familiar negotiating bluster, but we wouldn't be too sure. Protectionism may be his only real policy conviction, and his tweet confirms he doesn't know what he's talking about. This is what the equity markets are saying as they discount trade-dependent companies.

Failure to Launch in Congress

Republicans campaign for more efficient government, so it's dispiriting that the GOP can't pass a bill to trim federal payrolls by some 35,000 employees. This week Republicans abandoned a sensible reform to air-traffic control, and the episode shows how parochial interests have corroded the political process.

House Transportation Chairman Bill Shuster announced that his bill to spin off the Federal Aviation Administration's air-traffic control operation into a nonprofit corporation lacked the support to move forward. A diverse board of industry and labor representatives would have run the outfit and levied user fees instead of taxes. Canada, New Zealand and many other countries have in some form divested air-traffic services from government, which can still regulate safety. Why can't the U.S. do the same?

The first answer is a dishonest campaign from those who benefit from the status quo, notably corporate jet operators that don't want to pay for air-traffic services they use. The National Business Aviation Association's Ed Bolen and his allies terrified Congress that the new board would impose exorbitant taxes or harm rural airports.

The misinformation continued even as Mr. Shuster tried to negotiate a compromise in

good faith. Some feared the airlines had too much influence on the board. An updated draft reduced the number of major airline representatives to one of 13 seats from four. The bill exempted general aviation from fees by law, and that included business jets. Rural airports had concerns about funding, but the bill continued the government's array of subsidies, including for routes hardly anyone flies.

The forces of inertia were even able to block a floor vote, though it would have been instructive to know which "small government Republicans" went along for the lobbying ride. Kansas Republican Jerry Moran managed to block serious consideration in the Senate. Also deserving failure-to-launch notice is President Trump, who endorsed reform last year at an East Room event but did nothing to help pass it. The White House didn't include the plan in its infrastructure proposal, dumping it into the fantasy document that is its 2019 budget.

Mr. Shuster says he continues to support the idea, and the contours of air-traffic reform have been around for decades. Good ideas tend to come back, but we wonder: If Republicans can't let private expertise manage a service that FAA has failed to modernize for decades, what chance do they have to shrink government?

The GOP bows to corporate jet owners on air-traffic control.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How Best to Effectively Stop Mass Shootings

Regarding your editorial "Parkland's Enforcement Failures" (Feb. 24): We struggle to understand the Parkland massacre but never ask who will be held accountable. Attorney General Jeff Sessions will conduct a review and FBI Director Christopher Wray is committed to get to the bottom of it. Who will be demoted? Will anyone be fired?

This is pure incompetence at many levels. With no accountability, abominations like the Parkland shooting will happen again.

LEN LINDENMEYER
Fayetteville, Pa.

The sense of urgency to do something about gun laws and mental-health issues is misplaced. If the Parkland tragedy has taught us anything, it's that our No. 1 priority must be securing our schools. It's easier to prevent someone from slipping into a building than slipping through the system.

SUZY FUCINI
West Bloomfield, Mich.

I wouldn't want to be in a school environment where I was forced to interact with deadly weapons daily, let alone send my children there. I suspect many teachers wouldn't want to work in such an environment either.

MICHAEL S. INLOW
Charlottesville, Va.

No legislative solution to mass shootings will be 100% effective, but banning assault weapons is a good place to start. What's wrong with pursuing an objective to at least minimize, if not eliminate, the killing of individuals by crazed shooters? There is no constitutional right to own an assault weapon according to the Supreme Court's 2008 *District of Columbia v. Heller* decision.

ROBERT SILVERBERG
Chevy Chase, Md.

The AR-15 is not an assault rifle. It is not an M16 or M4. It doesn't fire in fully automatic or "machine gun" mode, which is the essential characteristic of assault rifles.

ANTHONY ADOLPH
Austin, Texas

Regarding your editorial "Better Background Gun Checks" (Feb. 21): Background checks won't work if criminals have no visible criminal record. Nikolas Cruz should have had a criminal record but the Broward County police treated a series of his offenses as school-related issues instead of arresting him, which would have given him a criminal record.

Legislators can improve background checks, but as long as political correctness prevents reporting of criminal offenses, no background will be available when potential criminals buy guns.

DONNA ROOK
Colorado Springs, Colo.

A big piece missing from the National Instant Criminal Background Check System puzzle is the mental-health profession and its omertà philosophy. All mental-health professionals should be required to report patients who voice homicidal ideation or lose their licenses. Medical doctors, nurses and teachers already have to do this regarding signs of child abuse. It is past time to hold psychiatric practitioners to the same standard.

ELIZABETH MULGREW
Upper Darby, Pa.

John Carlson's proposals for curtailing gun violence are right on target ("Real Solutions for Curtailing Gun Violence," op-ed, Feb. 21).

DOMINIC MANCUSO
Chagrin Falls, Ohio

Did I miss the part of the story where all of the Parkland students vowed to never again play violent videogames in which people get killed by guns?

ERIC NAGLER
Commerce Township, Mich.

Jerusalem Move Is About Business and Not Religion

Regarding "Jerusalem Church Is Closed in Protest" (World News, Feb. 27): Churches' income from activities unrelated to their religious purposes are also subject to income tax in the U.S. There is no reason a church-owned hotel, for example, should have a competitive advantage over a privately owned one.

ARTHUR SIEGEL
New York

The law being debated in the Knesset doesn't prevent the church from selling property but attempts to protect people who may be affected by that sale (e.g., tenants who might face eviction or rent hikes following the sale).

TOBY F. BLOCK
Atlanta

Pepper ... And Salt

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



NORTON WHEELER
Chattanooga, Tenn.

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OPINION

A Moment for Movement on Guns

**DECLARATIONS**

By Peggy Noonan

It's two immovable forces that have to share the same country. Both sides are sincere and have reasons for where they stand.

But this is a promising moment. Some give looks possible.

What is needed to prepare the ground for progress? Squelch your own smugness. Stop needling, patronizing, misstating the other side's position. Lay down your rhetorical arms. Deweaponize your mouth. It's not enough to argue in good faith; you have to will yourself to see the good faith on the other side.

And don't be maximalist.

Donald Trump is making sense—jumbling categories as a 'right-winger' who favors tighter restrictions.

Something changed with Parkland. In part it is that the young survivors presented themselves not as victims but as warriors. Some flooded the airwaves. They were media-savvy, had no shyness, were full of themselves in the way closely raised children encouraged in a hearty self-esteem can be full of themselves.

But the boy who broke it open was not smooth. In the president's White House meeting with survivors he spoke with no assumption. He said, "My name is Justin Gruber, and I was at the school at the time of the massacre. I'm only 15 years old. I'm a sophomore. Nineteen years ago, the first school shooting, Columbine—at Columbine High School, happened. And I was born into a

world where I never got to experience safety and peace."

This was a powerfully reorienting statement. We are now in the second generation of public school terror.

And parents throughout the country are saying: *We cannot have this anymore.*

We can't have another generation of children who fear going to school, who jump whenever there's a loud noise in the hall. We can't have another generation of parents afraid when they drop the kids off in the morning. You can't ask the parents of a great nation to "get used to this." You can't tell them to accept that this is the way it is now. "I have my rights." Everybody has rights. Children have rights. And they are right to be afraid.

We don't need to rehearse why Americans have guns. Protection (my urban store, my rural home), hunting, sport. History—from the Pilgrims to the Wild West the gun was a tool of survival. Tradition—my grandfather gave me his Remington and it is, truly, a thing of beauty. Orderliness—when fancy people tell you you're not allowed to have something, you better get it.

And something else, an aspect in which gun-owning Americans are more imaginative, more alive to history and sensitive to its trends, than affluent city and suburban liberals. They know how precarious everything is, how complex and provisional, how if you lose this piece (the electrical grid), that piece (civilized behavior) will give way. The poet James Dickey captured this in his novel "Deliverance," published in 1970. The character Lewis: "I think the machines are going to fail, the political systems are going to fail, and a few men are going to take to the hills and start over." He kept his body fit and his weapons oiled.

Or, more recently, a masterpiece, Cormac McCarthy's Pulitzer Prize-winning 2006 novel, "The Road." A man and his young son are alone at the end of the world. There was a



President Trump shakes hands with Justin Gruber as his father, Cary, looks on.

terrible event—"a long shear of light and then a series of low concussions." They trek south through a ruined landscape—"everything dead to the root"—in hopes of seeing the sun. The man has a revolver with two bullets. He is surrounded by marauders, and worse than marauders, with guns.

"The frailty of everything revealed at last."

Those who own big guns often hope to survive—and help you survive—dark possibilities. Keep that in mind when you put them down. They may be grim, but only the grim saw 9/11 coming. The giddy censors who run around my beloved city were shocked.

Older gun owners fear the government, it's true. But those who are not old don't primarily fear it's too powerful. They fear it is incapable of protecting them.

I want to go to the promise of this moment. It is that our president is making sense. Donald Trump is jumbling categories as a "right-winger" for tighter gun laws. In meetings with the nation's governors and with congressional leaders, he said he isn't afraid of the National Rifle Association and they

shouldn't be either. He would harden the schools, raise to 21 the age limit to buy assault weapons. He would enhance and broaden background checks so "sickos" can't get guns. He is convincingly alive to the mental-health crisis and its part in the story. He wants cops to have the authority to confiscate temporarily the guns of the dangerous, such as those who go around threatening to shoot up schools.

Importantly, he treated the mass shootings like a crisis, not a tragedy. This country is tired of tragedy, of the weeping president and the high-toned speech. Mr. Trump doesn't do that because he can't, and doesn't know how to mourn. Just as well: We're all tired of moist and empty vows. *Do something.* President Obama had a sense of tragedy about the NRA and congressional blocs and those poor, sad Americans who cling to guns. In effect he gave his own party a pass when it stepped away from gun control after Sandy Hook.

Mr. Trump, God bless him, doesn't know enough about the facts to be fatalistic about them. But he got the big picture right—at least the larger context of voters frozen along battle lines.

His presentations were stream-of-consciousness—undisciplined, scatty. And as always the question is whether he meant any of it. His opinions rest on impulses. He likes to say words. You never know which you can believe, which makes deal-making hard.

But of all recent presidents he is the one who can give cover to congressional conservatives, work with Democrats, and get something done.

As for me, I am where Ralph Peters is. The retired military man wrote a stinging, striking piece in the New York Post last week. He fired his first gun as a child when he was handed an illegal sawed-off shotgun "kept handy for woodchucks and rattlesnakes." He served in the U.S. Army infantry, has fired automatic weapons, and owns guns: "As I write these lines, there's an 1858 Tower musket behind me and a Colt on my desk," he wrote.

"But I believe, on moral, practical and constitutional grounds, that no private citizen should own an automatic weapon or a semi-automatic weapon that can easily be modified for automatic effects. These are military weapons. Their purpose is to kill human beings. They're not used for hunting (unless you want to destroy the animal's meat). They're lousy for target shooting. But they're excellent tools for mass murder."

No one has the right to "a personal arsenal of weapons designed for mass murder."

We have an estimated 300 million guns in America. An estimated 50 million of our households keep them.

For now that is enough, even for whatever terrible day comes.

Stop selling military-style weapons now. Just stop. See what happens in America. Revisit the issue in five years. Don't be maximalist.

The parents are right. *We can't have this anymore.*

And we can't have the world, which is watching, saying, "They kill their own children in the schoolrooms. They have lost their souls."

If You Want Your Child to Succeed, Don't Sell Liberal Arts Short

By Michael Zimm

It's college admissions season, and every parent is mulling the perennial question: "What major will help my child get a good job?"

Standard answers today invariably center on science, technology, engineering and mathematics, often referred to as STEM. Given the skyrocketing costs of higher education, parents and students alike can be forgiven for viewing a college degree as a passport into the professional world, and STEM majors are seen as the best route to professional success.

But my advice is to let your child know that a liberal-arts degree can be a great launching pad for a career in just about any industry. Majoring in philosophy, history or English literature will not consign a graduate to a fate of perpetual unemployment. Far from it. I say this as a trained classicist—yes, you can still study ancient Greek and Latin—who studied musical composition and philosophy as undergraduates.

Throughout history it has been common for people to study subjects with no immediate relationship to their intended professions. In antiquity, education was intended to enrich students' lives. Pragmatic benefits such as rhetorical ability, logical reasoning and business skills were welcome byproducts of a good education. The phrase "liberal arts" comes from the Latin word *liberalis*,

meaning "worthy of a free person." A liberal-arts education gives someone the freedom to participate fully in civic life.

The liberal arts are lately associated with esoteric areas of study. It is true that there are professors teaching Homer, Shakespeare or Jane Austen using dense, impenetrable jargon. I cannot follow most of what those professors say. I doubt many can, even the students who obviously nod along. But professors who attempt to dress up or show off their learning by employing dense, turgid language do their fields—and their students—a great disservice.

The liberal arts are not the purview of a particular ideology or political interest group. Though the liberal arts have cultivated a reputation as a home for radical professors and "woke" students, rest assured that plenty of liberal-arts teachers and majors are anything but activists. The radicals get the headlines simply because their voices are the loudest.

I am far from alone. There are plenty of entrepreneurs, techies and private-equity managers with liberal-arts degrees. Damon Horowitz, a co-founder of the search engine Aardvark, holds a doctorate in philosophy. Slack founder Stewart Butterfield and LinkedIn founder Reid Hoffman both earned master's degrees in philosophy. The startup where I work employs computer programmers who studied musical composition and philosophy as undergraduates.

Throughout history it has been common for people to study subjects with no immediate relationship to their intended professions. In antiquity, education was intended to enrich students' lives. Pragmatic benefits such as rhetorical ability, logical reasoning and business skills were welcome byproducts of a good education. The phrase "liberal arts" comes from the Latin word *liberalis*,

I taught undergraduates while I was in graduate school. My students came in every ideological and political stripe imaginable. Some were left-wing organizers while others were staunch conservatives. I am happy to report that students of all political persuasions were able to offer sharp insights on Virgil's poetry.

Critical-thinking skills are useful in any profession, and not all classes are obscurantist or politicized.

Fields of study centered on philosophy, history, literature, art and music help us appreciate the ambiguity of the world, which in turn exercises our creative muscles. Liberal-arts courses don't offer clearly defined answers to questions. Rather, they nurture disagreement among students

and help them develop the ability to marshal cogent arguments in support of defensible positions. The ability to express a viewpoint verbally and then articulate it in writing is a skill that will serve graduates whether they are pitching a business plan to a venture-capital firm or writing a report to shareholders explaining why their portfolios took a hit last quarter.

We should update the liberal arts to take into consideration the realities of the modern world. Software permeates nearly everything. All students, no matter their major, should develop a basic familiarity with coding tool sets such as true-false statements, also called "Booleans," and if-then or conditional statements.

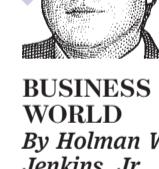
But coders gain, too, from studying the liberal arts. "The value of an education in a liberal arts college," said Albert Einstein, "is not the learning of many facts but the training of the mind to think something that cannot be learned from textbooks."

Constructing arguments based on historical evidence or studying rhetoric to improve one's ability to persuade an audience has obvious applications. Interdisciplinary approaches to solving problems are crucial to addressing modern challenges such as cultivating relationships in an increasingly digital world and creatively integrating new technologies into different sectors of the economy.

So when parents ask themselves "What course of study will help my child get a job?" they shouldn't think only about how the workforce operates today but how it will operate 10 or 20 years down the road. Though no one knows for sure exactly what the landscape will look like, we can be certain that critical thinking will still have value. And in that world, so will a liberal-arts degree.

Mr. Zimm is a creative strategist at Digital Surgeons, an experience design company.

Reagan Protectionism vs. Trump Protectionism

**BUSINESS WORLD**

By Holman W. Jenkins, Jr.

Ronald Reagan was the protectionist Donald Trump might want to be, yet didn't provoke market panic or a trade war.

Reagan slapped import quotas on cars, motorcycles, forklifts, memory chips, color TVs, machine tools, textiles, steel, Canadian lumber and mushrooms. There was no market meltdown. Donald Trump hit foreign steel and aluminum, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell more than 600 points on Thursday and Friday.

Reagan was no genius administrator (Herbert Hoover was), so that's

not the difference. Though he promised Michigan auto workers help with Japanese imports and was grateful when they voted for him, he never kidded himself that America's problems were somebody else's fault rather than homegrown.

Trade was less important in those days, before China's rise and the globalization of the world's assembly line, but that wasn't the reason either. The 1987 crash proved soon enough that investors were ready to panic if trade partners (Germany and the U.S.) got into a serious tiff.

The real difference is that Reagan's protectionist devices were *negotiated*. They were acts of cartel creation, not unlike the cartels that have been known to spring up illegally when industries under strain seek to preserve capacity while avoiding price wars. Mr. Reagan kept the peace by inviting America's trade partners to share in excess profits at the expense of American consumers. (Recall that one upshot was a nationwide bribery-and-kickback scandal when Honda Accords were in short supply.)

This was unattractive but it wasn't a disaster, and Reagan's protectionism quickly fell away when a global upswing began.

Mr. Trump, who had no experience in public office, seemed to strike a plausible bargain with his appointees. You advance a conventional pro-business agenda. Leave the show to me. That's actually worked, sort of. Mr. Trump is the worst president ever, except by the results. The economy is strong. Wages are finally up. Business and consumer confidence is high. The stock market boomed for his first 12 months in office. The GOP tax law represented real progress on a self-defeating problem recognized by

both parties, even by President Obama.

The U.S. auto sector is a microcosm, freer to make rational decisions about which cars to build and how to price them without extreme Obama fuel-economy targets hanging overhead. These cars, in turn, can be economically built in U.S. factories with U.S. labor. Witness Fiat Chrysler's decision to shift its super-size Ram pickups from Mexico to Michigan.

In every way, the Gipper saw a bigger picture even when he pursued unseemly trade policies.

Months after it became commonplace in the rest of the country, even the New York Times was obliged to note a resurgence of business confidence on its front page.

There are many ways to characterize what went wrong in America during the Obama years. We would highlight the phrase "last hired, first fired." The Obama recovery never gave us those successive quarters of booming growth that make employers desperate enough to hire the low-skilled and uncredentialed, and to train them or suffer while they learn on the job. The former factory worker who never managed a restaurant before wasn't put in charge of a bunch of teenagers and told to do the best he can.

A decade of that not happening is the difference between the Obama recovery and the recoveries that went before.

Alas, even a president who can't do much can still start a trade war, thanks to so-called delegated unilateral powers that since the 1970s have allowed presidents an ill-advised freedom to punish selected imports by claiming some overarching national interest.

Investors fear Thursday's tariffs are just the start, with Nafta and other trade deals to be ripped up next. Especially hard hit were share prices of U.S. auto makers, sandbagged by Mr. Trump after his efforts to lure them to shift production back to the U.S. Nor are his tweets filling anyone with confidence.

Yet the weeks ahead may show the markets overreacting. Mr. Trump wants a spectacle with himself at the center. He doesn't want consequences. A skeptic of the tariffs was reportedly White House trade guru Robert Lighthizer, one of Reagan's trade negotiators in the 1980s.

He knows how to re-close Pandora's box. Look for a quick paring back in one-on-one negotiations with countries that will leave the tariffs only applied to China.

Mr. Trump's presidency, from the point of view of history, is an experiment in outsider disruption, whether it can restore movement in our politics. That other countries see the president as a wild card is a feature, not a bug—for instance that his administration is full of anti-Putin hard-liners even as he craves rapprochement.

Yes, he has been talking about trade as a rip-off for 30 years. His confused and misguided ideas about trade are one of his few long and deeply held policy commitments. But all such adjectives must be qualified when talking about Mr. Trump.

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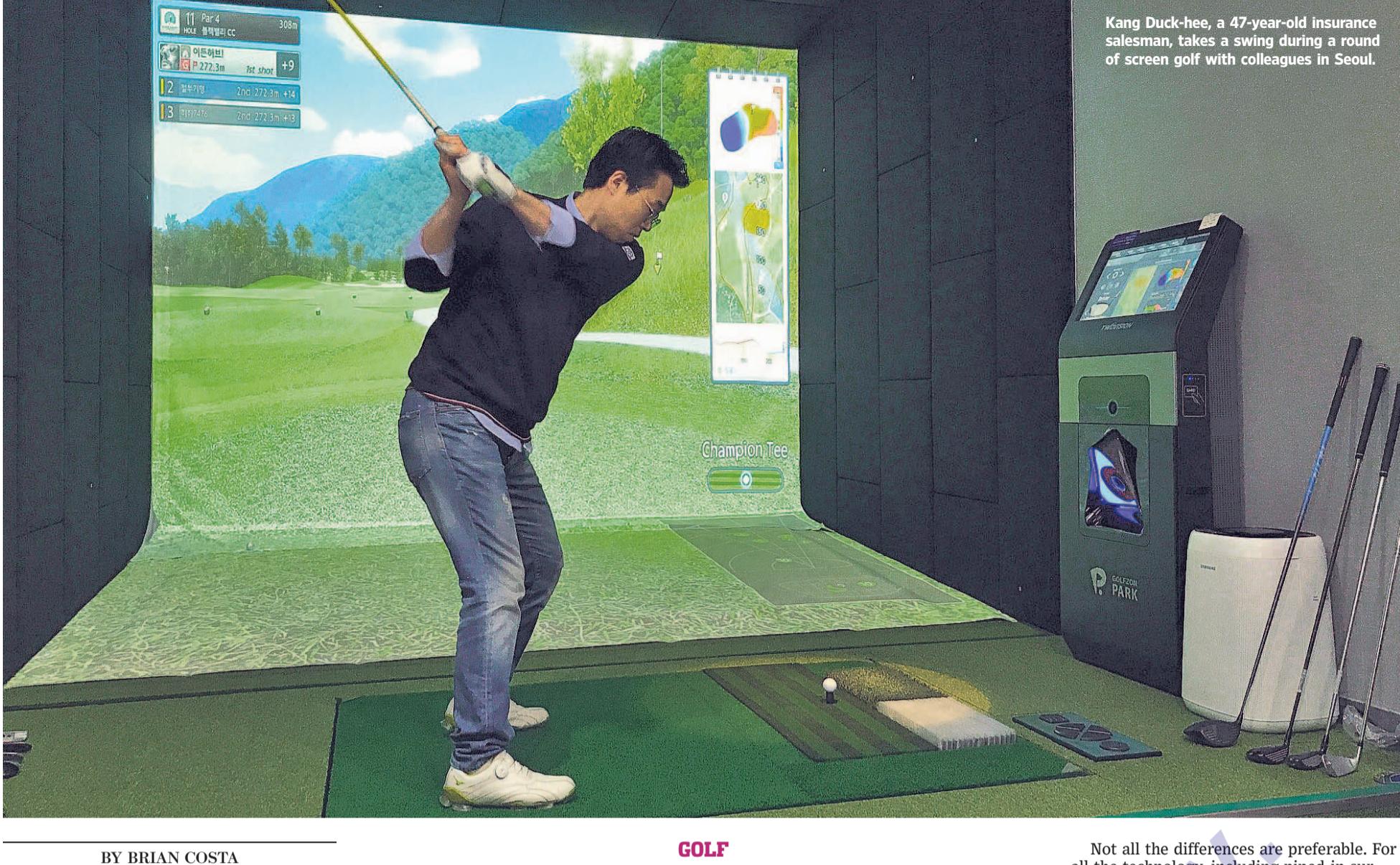
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SPORTS



Kang Duck-hee, a 47-year-old insurance salesman, takes a swing during a round of screen golf with colleagues in Seoul.

BY BRIAN COSTA

Seoul
THE SUN WAS SHINING on the 10th green at Black Valley Country Club as Kang Duck-hee lined up a birdie putt on a recent Saturday afternoon. Kang, a 47-year-old insurance salesman, could hear birds chirping in the background. When his putt stopped short of the hole, he could even hear a collective moan from the crowd.

Except he wasn't in the sun, he wasn't near any birds and the only crowd was his two colleagues sitting on a couch a few feet behind him. He was in the basement of an apartment building more than 100 miles from the course.

"It's much less stressful in here," Kang said.

This, more than the real-life version, is golf in Korea. It is indoors, simulated, cheap and accessible. And it could be the future of golf in the U.S.

Ten years ago, only the rich played the sport here. There weren't enough courses, greens fees were exorbitant and, in a country that is more than 80% urbanized, getting to one was a slog.

Then the simulator boom hit. Now, there are more rounds of golf played indoors than outdoors in Korea, and so-called "screen golf" cafes are as ubiquitous in Seoul as Starbucks is in most American cities.

They can be as small as a coffee shop, with players hitting balls off a mat into a soft projection screen showing the view on the course. Ball-tracking technology combines with detailed topographical measurements of courses around the world to create a virtual simulation of where the ball would land.

A nine-hole round costs as little as around \$15 and takes less than an hour.

"This is a public sport now. It's no different than a bowling alley," said Won Chul-lee, who opened a screen golf café in Seoul's

GOLF

Is the Future of Golf Underground?

Played on a simulator, 'screen golf' is indoors, accessible, and now more popular in South Korea than the real-life version

Yongsan district a little over a month ago. Golfzon, the company that makes the vast majority of simulators in Korea, says there are more than 5,500 locations in Korea that use its technology. It has opened 20 in the U.S. since early 2017 and is planning what one Golfzon official called "aggressive growth" in U.S. cities in the years ahead, without further detail.

The company took root in the 2000s as an antidote to pent-up demand. The rise of Korean pro golfers such as the LPGA star Pak Se-ri and PGA Tour regular K.J. Choi had fueled a wave of interest in the sport. But there were only a few hundred courses in the country, and the green fees for a mid-tier public track were around \$250.

In recent years, though, Golfzon has come to occupy a middle ground between traditional sports and esports, the videogame competitions that have become a Korean national pastime. Golfers in different locations can compete against each other on the same course in real time. There are monthly amateur tournaments sponsored by companies such as IBM and Mercedes-Benz. There is even a professional simulator golf tour, with

prize money totaling \$2.6 million and tournaments broadcast on national TV.

"This is how we got into golf," said Kang, who hadn't played outdoors before he took up screen golf two years ago. "Now when you talk to your friends, they're all talking about golf. They talk about Tiger Woods."

The extent of the simulation has also evolved considerably. There are tees for tee shots, short turf for tight lies, a long-turf patch to simulate the rough and a fluffy surface that simulates a sand trap. Higher-end Golfzon models even have hydraulics that raise and tilt the hitting area to match the slope of the course.

At the same time, the simulators can take away some of the harsher realities of the sport, and not just by speeding pace of play. There is a beginner setting that can make a slice or a hook appear less severe than it would on the course.

"There's a huge difference between this and real golf," said Kwong Yang-an, 53, between shots in a simulator in the basement of an office building. "Here, you can aim to the target much easier. On an actual course, there are so many distractions."

Not all the differences are preferable. For all the technology, including piped-in surround sound, it's hard to make small rooms feel like the great outdoors. "I can't feel the nature," said Kim Hae-sung, a 48-year-old housewife, in a simulator down the hall from Kwong. "There is no actual wind."

Still, given the increased concentration of people and wealth in congested American cities—not to mention winter weather in northern states—there is some belief that indoor golf will have to become a bigger part of the sport in the U.S.

Topgolf, the chain of driving-range style entertainment venues that has grown rapidly in recent years, has been adding simulators in cities such as Boston where real estate is pricey.

The PGA Tour Superstore also credits the addition of simulators for helping it transition into more of an experiential retail chain. Steve Cannon, chief executive of the store's parent company, said simulators are a key part of its growth plans, especially with younger customers.

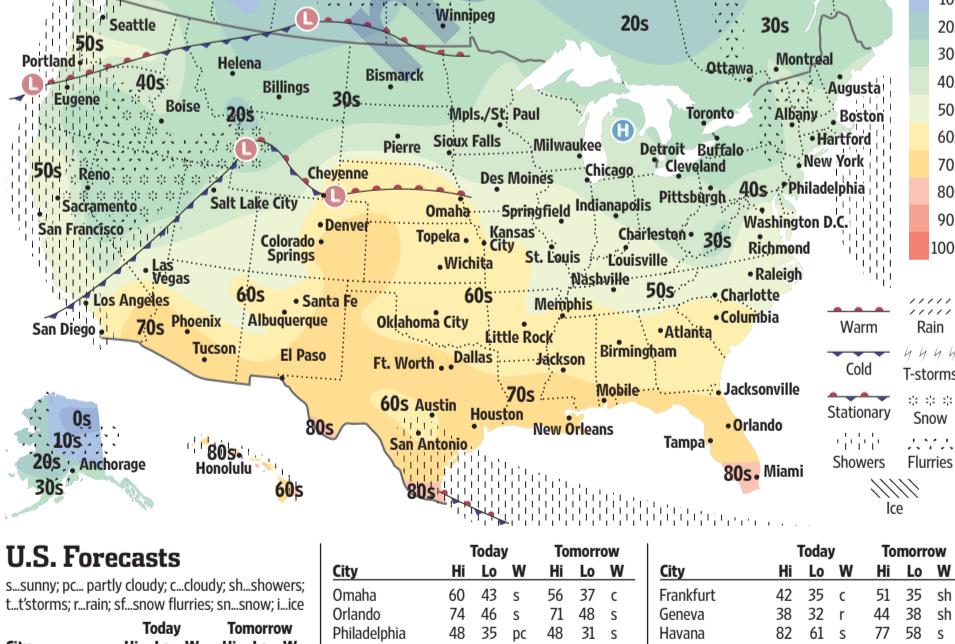
"One thing about the generation coming up now: They've been gamers and they've had access to screens their whole life," Cannon said. "The clarity and depth of what you're hitting into becomes richer and richer. That's going to intersect with a group that's more comfortable with that medium anyway."

Golfzon simulators can cost anywhere from around \$35,000 to \$70,000, depending on how many features are added. More than half of those sold in the U.S. have been installed by wealthy individuals in their homes. But in Korea, they have spawned a legion of franchisees.

Lee Jae-wook left the import-export business eight years ago to open a screen golf center in a former spa in Seoul. He started with 14 simulator rooms. He has since squeezed in one more to accommodate demand.

"I've made a fortune," he said.

Weather



U.S. Forecasts

s...sunny; pc...partly cloudy; c...cloudy; sh...showers; t...tstorms; r...rain; sf...snow flurries; sn...snow; l...ice

| City | Today | | | Tomorrow | | |
|---------------|-------|----|----|----------|----|----|
| | Hi | Lo | W | Hi | Lo | W |
| Anchorage | 32 | 16 | sn | 26 | 15 | pc |
| Atlanta | 62 | 38 | s | 67 | 41 | t |
| Austin | 67 | 58 | c | 78 | 61 | t |
| Baltimore | 49 | 32 | pc | 49 | 29 | s |
| Boise | 39 | 24 | s | 40 | 21 | c |
| Boston | 44 | 34 | c | 42 | 32 | pc |
| Burlington | 40 | 31 | c | 40 | 27 | c |
| Charlotte | 59 | 32 | s | 60 | 32 | s |
| Chicago | 48 | 30 | s | 50 | 37 | s |
| Cleveland | 38 | 24 | s | 36 | 24 | s |
| Dallas | 71 | 55 | pc | 71 | 58 | t |
| Denver | 65 | 34 | s | 57 | 22 | pc |
| Detroit | 43 | 24 | s | 43 | 27 | s |
| Honolulu | 82 | 71 | r | 82 | 71 | pc |
| Houston | 73 | 61 | pt | 77 | 64 | t |
| Indianapolis | 49 | 27 | s | 52 | 34 | s |
| Kansas City | 60 | 43 | s | 56 | 48 | c |
| Kansas City | 57 | 41 | pc | 59 | 39 | s |
| Little Rock | 60 | 38 | s | 57 | 45 | c |
| Los Angeles | 56 | 42 | sh | 62 | 45 | s |
| Miami | 80 | 56 | s | 76 | 58 | s |
| Milwaukee | 44 | 32 | s | 45 | 36 | s |
| Minneapolis | 47 | 35 | s | 46 | 35 | sh |
| Nashville | 57 | 32 | s | 62 | 39 | s |
| New Orleans | 71 | 54 | s | 76 | 60 | pc |
| New York City | 45 | 36 | pc | 47 | 33 | s |
| Oklahoma City | 62 | 47 | pc | 60 | 45 | c |

International

| City | Today | | | Tomorrow | | |
|--------------|-------|----|----|----------|----|----|
| | Hi | Lo | W | Hi | Lo | W |
| Amsterdam | 38 | 31 | c | 48 | 35 | sh |
| Athens | 69 | 54 | c | 69 | 52 | pc |
| Baghdad | 78 | 57 | pc | 81 | 61 | pc |
| Bangkok | 95 | 77 | s | 94 | 79 | s |
| Beijing | 63 | 41 | pt | 53 | 28 | c |
| Berlin | 29 | 18 | pc | 36 | 28 | c |
| Brussels | 45 | 35 | r | 50 | 35 | sh |
| Buenos Aires | 90 | 68 | pc | 89 | 64 | s |
| Dubai | 79 | 65 | s | 78 | 65 | s |
| Dublin | 38 | 34 | c | 40 | 33 | sn |
| Edinburgh | 36 | 30 | sf | 38 | 33 | s |

THE COUNT

THE BEST RUNNING BACK PROSPECT EVER?

Ten running backs have been selected with top-five picks in the NFL draft since 2000. None of them was as big, as fast, and as productive in college as this year's consensus top running back prospect, Saquon Barkley.

Barkley raised eyebrows at this week's NFL Scouting Combine when he weighed in at 233 pounds, about 10 to 15 pounds heavier than the average NFL back. Then he raised heart rates among NFL scouts by running the 40-yard dash in a blistering 4.40 seconds.

Barkley's electrifying displays at Penn State had marked him out as a rare talent. Now, his size and speed is prompting questions about where he ranks among all-time prospects.

Since Sports-Reference began re-



cording the data in 2000, no top-five running back has been as big and fast.

But Barkley is in a class by himself when it comes to on-field production, too. None of the other backs who were drafted as underclassmen had as many scrimmage yards as the 5,038 Barkley tallied during his Penn State career.

Barkley's performance in Indianapolis has raised the prospect that he could become the first running back drafted No. 1 overall since 1995, when the Bengals selected Ki-Jana Carter with the first pick. Before Carter, no running back had gone No. 1 since Bo Jackson, who opted to play baseball instead of joining the Buccaneers, and later gained two-sport fame with the Raiders.

—Michael Salfino

Runaway Leaders

Here is how Saquon Barkley compares with the running backs selected in the first five picks of the NFL draft since 2000.

| PLAYER/SCHOOL | PICK/YEAR | HEIGHT | WEIGHT | 40-TIME | NCAA YDS FROM SCRIMMAGE |
|--------------------------|------------|--------|--------|---------|-------------------------|
| Saquon Barkley Penn St. | ? (2018) | 6-0 | 233 | 4.40 | 5,038 |
| Leonard Fournette LSU | 4th (2017) | 6-0 | 240 | 4.51 | 4,356 |
| Ezekiel Elliott Ohio St. | 4th (2016) | 6-0 | 225 | 4.47 | 4,410 |
| Trent Richardson Alabama | 3rd (2012) | 5-9 | 228 | 4.48 | 3,860 |
| Darren McFadden Arkansas | 4th (2008) | 6-1 | 211 | 4.33 | 4,995 |
| Reggie Bush USC | 2nd (2006) | 5-11 | 201 | 4.37 | 4,470 |
| Ronnie Brown Auburn | 2nd (2005) | 6-0 | 233 | 4.43 | 3,375* |
| Cedric Benson Texas | 4th (2005) | 5-10 | 222 | 4.62 | 6,161* |
| Cadillac Williams Auburn | 5th (2005) | 5-11 | 217 | 4.43 | 4,173* |
| LaDainian Tomlinson TCU | 5th (2001) | 5-10 | 221 | 4.46 | 5,654* |
| Jamal Lewis Tennessee | 5th (2000) | 6-0 | 240 | 4.58 | 3,152 |

* Played a senior season

Source: Sports-Reference; WSJ



FASHION DESIGNER PANS INSTAGRAM B4

BUSINESS & FINANCE



METALS PRICES HEAT UP B10

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China Conglomerate Gets Lifeline
Government is helping HNA Group right itself after acquisition spree loaded it with debt

BY ANJANI TRIVEDI
AND JULIE STEINBERG

As Beijing takes on its heavily indebted private companies, China's HNA Group Co. is quietly getting a helping hand.

Last week, Chinese authorities seized Anbang Insurance Group Co., a conglomerate that had been buying assets around

the world. Yet behind the scenes the Chinese government has been aiding HNA, a similarly acquisitive giant with growing financial troubles. Some officials in Beijing, for instance, have encouraged state-owned banks to keep lending to HNA, people familiar with the matter say.

The delicate treatment spotlights HNA's close relationship with the Chinese government. Some analysts also say the conglomerate, which has a complex web of lending between subsidiaries, may pose significant risks to the fi-

nancial system.

In mid-February, two days before the Chinese New Year, HNA sent a memo to employees listing its past year's achievements and voicing its support for China's Communist Party and President Xi Jinping, a practice more common among state-owned Chinese companies.

"HNA Group is an enterprise that belongs to the people," the memo from the privately held group said. It noted its assets grew 24% to nearly 1.5 trillion yuan (\$237 billion) and revenue nearly doubled to \$110 billion, pushing the airlines-to-ho-

tels group up the ranks of the world's largest companies.

Since last summer, the conglomerate has found it increasingly difficult and costly to raise money and meet its financial obligations after amassing roughly \$100 billion in debt during an aggressive overseas acquisition spree. Some lenders tightened credit to HNA last year after the Chinese government began scrutinizing the debt levels of the country's most acquisitive companies.

More recently, Chinese banks have reopened the spigot. In early February, a

group of government officials met in Beijing with senior HNA executives to discuss the group's financial situation, according to a person who was briefed on the meeting. Also present were representatives of state-owned banks and the governor of Hainan province, where HNA is based, the person said.

In the meeting, government officials told banks to keep lending to HNA and to avoid actions that could cause the company or its units to default on their debts, according to the

Please see HNA page B2

Economic Threats Bruise Stocks

The possibility of trade disputes stirred financial markets as investors assessed a potential disruption to global growth.

By Corrie Driebusch, Riva Gold and Daniel Kruger

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed down 0.3% Friday, recovering most of morning losses that worsened after President Donald Trump doubled down with tweets on a pledge made a day earlier to impose stiff tariffs on steel and aluminum imports.

His plan sent overseas stocks tumbling and was met with warnings of retaliation across Asia, Europe and North America.

Japan's Nikkei Stock Average ended the day 2.5% lower as steelmakers and car manufacturers came under pressure, while London's FTSE 100 returned to levels last seen in 2016.

Despite staging a comeback, major U.S. indexes suffered their worst week since early February.

Although the market scare over the tariffs at least temporarily abated, a number of other fears linger as investors reassess the prospects for continued global growth, brace for the possibility of a broader trade war and await the outcome of an parliamentary election in Italy.

"Protectionism is not a good thing, and the ramifications for this could be significant," said Michael Farr, president of money-management firm Farr, Miller & Washington, adding that the strategy Mr. Trump is posturing could take a swipe at growth around the globe. "This is a big deal."

He added that the stock market's recovery in afternoon trading is encouraging, but there's reason to remain wary.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average ended Friday down 70.92 points at 24538.06, putting its weekly decline at 3%. Friday, the S&P 500 rose 0.5% and the Nasdaq Composite gained 1.1%, though the indexes posted weekly losses of 2% and 1.1%, respectively.

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Ride Sharing's Twists and Turns

No longer one-click experiences, trips with Uber and Lyft can come with aggravations in tow

BY KATHERINE BINDLEY

Remember the feeling of desperation when you'd try to hail a taxi in the pouring rain or on a street corner in the middle of the night? Remember when Uber solved everything? You pulled out your phone, tapped the screen and in a few minutes, *poof*, the car arrived.

Well, the honeymoon is over. Years later, Uber is under new leadership after months of scandal and upheaval. It has major U.S. competition now. (Hello, Lyft!) And the apps are no longer one-click experiences.

From choosing the type of ride—Lyft Line? UberXL?—to giving tips and driver feedback, things are more complicated. Then there are those ride-share mysteries: the crazy route that drivers keep taking, or the night you got canceled on by four different drivers.

Here are tips and explanations that should help improve your ride-sharing experiences.

Why drivers cancel

Drivers aren't supposed to reject a ride based on the destination. Yet anyone who has ever been stuck trying to go to or from an out-of-the-way suburb knows it still happens.

Uber and Lyft drivers can't see your destination until they've started the trip. (Shared rides are exceptions.) If drivers call to ask where you're headed, they're likely screening whether the ride is worth it.



They'd prefer a long trip, but not necessarily one that will take them away from the next fare—or from surge pricing.

Driver wages are primarily based on miles and minutes driven.

Uber doesn't compensate drivers for time and distance traveled after making an out-

of-the-way drop-off. Lyft compensates drivers for some cancellations, but not any extra driving.

If you think your driver canceled because of your destination, contact Support. If your driver asks you to cancel, don't agree. When drivers cancel themselves, their ratings can go down.

5 stars or bust

While the deactivation threshold varies by city, giving drivers a 4 or lower star rating suggests something went terribly wrong. Uber requires riders to explain ratings below 5. (Elements out of drivers' control, such as traffic, won't affect their

ratings.) Lyft explains its star ratings when it asks for them and requests feedback if a ride isn't perfect.

When a ride is especially good, leave kind words and, of course, a nice tip.

And guess what? You, too, are being rated. In the Uber app, tap the three lines in

Please see CARS page B2

THE INTELLIGENT INVESTOR | By Jason Zweig

A Wager That Appears Just Too Big to Buffett

Last weekend, Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Chairman Warren Buffett spent

roughly a fifth of his latest annual letter talking about what he calls "The Bet."

What he didn't talk about is even more interesting.

In the bet, made at the end of 2007, Mr. Buffett correctly wagered that several bundles of hedge funds selected by investor Ted Seides wouldn't be able to outperform the S&P 500 over the ensuing decade. What Mr. Buffett didn't mention directly in his letter is that Berkshire Hathaway didn't outperform the S&P 500 over that stretch, either.

Over the 10 years ended last year, Berkshire Hathaway returned an average of 7.7% annually. The S&P 500 returned 8.5%, including dividends.

For decades, Mr. Buffett has been warning that size is

the enemy of excellence for any investor and that Berkshire's future performance was bound to decline.

Could he finally be turning out to be right? Is Berkshire, at a total market value of \$500 billion, getting too big to beat the market?

Even asking such questions seems like heresy. Had you invested \$100 in the S&P 500 in 1965, you would have had roughly \$15,600 at the end of 2017. The same \$100 invested in Berkshire's shares in 1965 would have increased to about \$2.4 million, probably the longest and greatest margin of out-performance any investment manager has ever generated.

Mr. Buffett said in an email that he was traveling this week and wouldn't be able to comment.

Still, Berkshire's long-term results appear to be declining.

Over the 10 years through the end of 1985, Berkshire

Market Turbulence Resurfaces Anew

BY CELSEY DULANEY
AND BEN EISEN

A topsy-turvy week on Wall Street reaffirmed many traders' hunch that stock-market volatility is back for the long haul, following an extended absence.

Major U.S. share-price indexes closed mixed Friday, shaking off an early plunge that took the Dow Jones Industrial Average down as many as 391 points. The Dow ended lower by 71 points and the Nasdaq and S&P 500 both rose.

It was the capstone for another wild week for U.S. stocks, less than a month after the Dow posted its largest-ever point drop.

The market tumult reflects uncertainty over stock valuations at a time when U.S. interest rates finally are rising following years of somnolence, along with President Donald Trump's Thursday pledge to impose tariffs on foreign steel and aluminum. That move raised anxiety over the outlook for both markets and the global economy.

"A couple weeks ago when the market started to come back, I thought volatility was

heading right back down," said Robert Pavlik, chief investment strategist at SlateStone Wealth. "But this week tells me we're not completely done with this market drop."

Investors have cited a number of reasons for the volatility resurgence, including the unwind last month of a popular bet that market volatility would remain low.

The Cboe Volatility Index has posted an average daily swing of 4.4% over the past month, compared with an average 0.6% move over the past year.

Higher volatility isn't bad for everyone. Higher trading volumes are likely to be a welcome sign for banks, where trading revenue hit historic lows last year as market volatility disappeared and trading volumes dried up.

An average of 7.58 billion shares changed hands this past week, the most since early February, according to total composite volumes tracked by The Wall Street Journal's Market Data Group. Two of the most popular exchange-traded funds, the SPDR S&P 500 ETF and the MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, have

Big Moves

The S&P 500 had a gain or loss of at least 1% on more than half the trading sessions last month.



in the past month seen nearly twice as much daily trading compared with their average over the past year.

While trading is just one service offered by the largest financial institutions, periods of volatility can be a boon, at least temporarily, to bank financial results. Examples include the flurry of trading around the British vote to leave the European Union in

June 2016.

Banks typically make more money from their fixed-income trading businesses than their equity divisions. Industry data for January, the latest month available, show bond trading already was on the rise, particularly in corporate and U.S. government debt. Analysts say Treasury market trading was elevated in February, especially during the early part of the month as benchmark yields rose.

It is worth noting, then, that the KBW Nasdaq Bank Index outperformed over that stretch, ending February down 2.3%, less than the S&P 500's 3.9% fall. The S&P 500 financial sector's 3% drop made it the second-best performing of the benchmark's 11 sectors last month. Goldman Sachs Group was down 1.9%, JPMorgan Chase slipped 0.2%, and Bank of America rose 0.3%.

Trading firms such as Virtu Financial Inc. are also likely to benefit from the market turbulence. The high-speed trader's shares are up 64% this year.

But market volatility isn't always a good thing for banks.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE



The Beer Institute, a trade group, says President Trump's 10% aluminum tariff would amount to a \$347.7 million tax on brewers.

Beer Is About to Get Pricier

Makers of beer, soda warn of higher costs, lost jobs if aluminum imports face new tax

By NICK KOSTOV

President Donald Trump's planned 10% tariff on aluminum imports could hit America in its beer gut.

Beverage makers, including Heineken NV, Molson Coors Brewing Co. and Coca-Cola Co., who use aluminum cans had warned Mr. Trump last month of increases in production costs if the tax were imposed. Some of those costs are likely to be passed on to consumers, according to analysts. The Beer Institute, a trade group, said Thursday that the tariff would amount to a \$347.7 million tax on brewers and result in the loss of tens of thousands of jobs.

"Businesses don't assume cost increases, they pass them on to consumers," said Nico von Stackelberg, a consumer-goods analyst at Liberum.

More than half of the beer

produced annually in the U.S. is sold in aluminum containers and is traditionally marketed to cost-conscious consumers.

Cans are cheaper and easier to ship than bottles and they protect against ultraviolet rays, reducing the risk of beer going stale, or skunked.

The tariffs could also hurt craft beer. Part of the reason artisanal brew is increasingly sold in cans, producers say, is that aluminum offers a good surface for colorful, effective branding.

Industry watchers say the levies may exacerbate a shift by consumers away from beer toward spirits and wine, which are mainly sold in bottles.

Soda companies such as Coca-Cola and PepsiCo Inc. use more aluminum cans than makers of alcoholic beverages, though only about 29% of soda and other soft drinks are sold in cans, according to the American Beverage Association, an industry group. Coca-Cola and PepsiCo declined to comment.

Beer makers aren't taking the tariff sitting down. Miller-Coors, the U.S. division of

Molson Coors, tweeted that "American workers and American consumers will suffer as a result of this misguided tariff," adding that there isn't enough can sheet aluminum available in the U.S. to satisfy demand.

Food manufacturers that rely on steel and aluminum, to package everything from tuna fish to soup, asked the administration to exempt packaging containers from the tariffs. Mr. Trump plans a 25% tariff on steel imports.

"Such tariffs will act as a regressive tax on low-income consumers," said the Grocery Manufacturers Association, the trade group representing big food companies.

The Can Manufacturers Institute said the tariffs could cause closures to U.S.-based plants.

The industry employs 22,000 workers across 34 states in the U.S. The group also said the tariffs would trickle down into higher food costs for consumers, arguing that domestic metal supplies can't meet its needs.

The sector used 2.1 million tons of tin plate in 2016, with

companies buying only 58% of that domestically.

"When you make 115 billion steel and aluminum cans, if you multiply that by a penny, that's a lot of money," Robert Budway, the institute's president, said in an interview on Friday.

In unveiling his plans to impose the tariffs on aluminum and steel, the president cited what he described as a trade imbalance and national security concerns.

Studies conducted by the Commerce Department concluded that metal imports could weaken domestic production and thus affect U.S. production of weapons, tanks and aircraft as well as other critical infrastructure.

However, the Beer Institute said there is no reason for can sheet aluminum to be included in the new trade barriers.

"Imported aluminum used to make beer cans is not a threat to national security," said Jim McGreevy, the group's president.

—Cara Lombardo and Heather Haddon contributed to this article.

U.S. Emergence To Dominate Energy Meeting

By CHRISTOPHER M. MATTHEWS

An energy landscape being reshaped by new technologies and a revival of U.S. fossil-fuel production will dominate the agenda as corporate chiefs, government ministers and financiers gather in Houston.

Thousands of energy leaders, including the heads of Royal Dutch Shell PLC, BP PLC and Saudi Arabian Oil Co., will descend on Texas starting Monday for CERAWeek, the annual conference put on by IHS Markit Ltd. that has become a bellwether for the global energy industry.

They will be joined by many of the world's top energy policy makers, notably OPEC Secretary-General Mohammad Barkindo and, from the Trump administration, Energy Secretary Rick Perry and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

Leaders of many other energy-related industries are also set to speak, including the chief executives of General Motors Co. and Siemens AG.

This year's gathering takes place amid a continuing recovery for oil prices, which passed \$70 a barrel earlier this year for the first time since 2014. They have been over \$60 for most of the year.

But concerns linger about whether the oil market is truly overcoming a glut as U.S. production continues to surge, thanks to shale drilling. For the second year running, Mr. Barkindo and U.S. shale producers are set to meet privately for dinner to hear each other out.

"The exporters, OPEC and non-OPEC, are trying to understand how this different kind of U.S. oil industry works," said Daniel Yergin, vice chairman of energy research at IHS Markit. "They're there to learn, because it's changed the nature of the oil market."

If the U.S. surges past Saudi Arabia to become the world's second-biggest oil producer behind Russia, as some forecasters predict, it could signal a fundamental change in a

global pecking order that has been a basis for international energy policy for decades.

"The role of the U.S. in global energy markets has changed more dramatically than the public realizes," said Mr. Yergin, who serves as the event's master of ceremonies, co-hosting dozens of sessions on oil, natural gas, electric power and geopolitics. "It's a new form of influence for the United States in the world."

The conference will be packed with ministers from large oil and gas producers, including Norway, Kuwait, Nigeria, Canada, Mexico and the United Arab Emirates, as well as executives from Gazprom, Russia's largest gas company, and Saudi Aramco, which is in the middle of planning for an initial public offering.

U.S. shale-oil output, natural-gas exports to draw attention in Houston.

A likely topic of discussion: whether top U.S. shale companies will abide by investor demands that they instill capital discipline and emphasize returns, or opt to drill even more at current prices. The heads of many top U.S. producers are set to speak, including Occidental Petroleum Corp., XTO Energy Inc., Pioneer Natural Resources Co. and ConocoPhillips.

Another major topic: how huge reserves of U.S. natural gas are also upending energy markets. The U.S. became a net exporter of natural gas in 2017, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

A host of electric-power executives will be weighing in, as the utility industry experiences rapid changes, with coal and nuclear generation losing ground to gas, solar and wind.

—Bradley Olson contributed to this article.

SURGE

Continued from the prior page
Too much of it can prompt investors to sit out of the market while also hitting other parts of their businesses like advising on initial public offerings.

The full impact of President Trump's trade move has yet to be determined.

The U.S. tariffs are likely to hit only a small slice of the U.S. economy, but investors fear trade partners from Asia to Europe will retaliate with tariffs of their own. That could leave a broad swath of U.S. companies, from motorcycle company Harley-Davidson Inc. to Kentucky bourbon producers, vulnerable, analysts say.

"The overall impact of this on growth and inflation is likely to be fairly limited," said Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics. "The fear is that it escalates."

Economists have warned that tariffs could force companies to raise prices on a variety of items, adding to recent inflationary pressures that could force the Federal Reserve to pick up the rate of interest-rate increases. U.S. companies' profitability could also come under pressure as they face higher prices for materials.



HNA plans to sell some or all of its shares in a REIT that owns Hilton hotels and other properties.

HNA

Continued from the prior page
person. Several days later, HNA said it had gotten a new \$3.2 billion credit line from state-owned China Citic Bank Corp. Bank of China Ltd. also stepped in with a new credit facility, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Government officials also asked HNA to sell assets that fall outside Beijing's policy agenda, the person said, including overseas real estate.

Such asset sales by HNA are already under way.

A regulatory filing this past week said HNA is planning to sell some or all of its shares in Park Hotels & Resorts Inc., a U.S.-listed real-estate investment trust that owns Hilton hotels and other commercial properties. HNA's 25% stake in the company, acquired less than a year ago, is currently worth about \$1.4 billion. The group recently sold two land plots where Hong Kong's old airport used to sit and the Wildenstein mansion on Manhattan's Upper East Side after buying them less than 18 months ago.

In response to questions from The Wall Street Journal, Suren Rana, a senior HNA executive in New York, said HNA's

investment and asset-sale decisions are "not based on government directives." He said regulators in China have "discouraged all Chinese companies" from overseas real-estate investments, and HNA is selectively selling properties that have done well.

Ratings firm Standard & Poor's in mid-February lowered its assessment of HNA's creditworthiness by two notches to CCC+, a highly speculative grade, noting that the group "faces significant debt maturities amid deteriorating liquidity." HNA that day said its finances were "very healthy" and said some of its top executives had bought its bonds as a show of support.

Mr. Rana said multiple Chinese and Western banks have extended new credit to the company in the past couple of months. The degree of "liquidity challenges" has been vastly overstated, he added.

Some employees were recently told that HNA intends to cut as much as 10% of its staff in China, and some layoffs took place shortly before the Lunar New Year holiday commenced on Feb. 16, according to people familiar with the matter. HNA has more than 410,000 employees globally, around a quarter of whom are in China.

These jitters have rendered stock and bond markets more susceptible to big swings in recent weeks, as investors worry that a yearslong policy of low short-term interest rates and accommodative central banks could be upended more quickly than expected.

James Bianco, head of advisory firm Bianco Research, said expectations for an uninterrupted stream of stimulus by foreign central banks created an environment that allowed investors to discount potentially disruptive events.

"We talked about the exit for nine years, and no one thought it would happen until last month," said Mr. Bianco. "If [President Trump] made this announcement six weeks

ago, the markets would've rolled through it."

The Cboe Volatility Index, often referred to as Wall Street's fear gauge, jumped on Thursday to its highest reading since early February. Though it pared its gains on Friday, it still ended the week sharply higher.

Some U.S. companies such as metals producers may benefit from the new tariffs, but their customers, including car makers and construction companies, may be faced with higher purchase costs, which may be passed to consumers.

"We are one of the biggest exporters in the world," said Erik Davidson, chief investment officer at Wells Fargo Private Bank, noting that com-

panies in the U.S. that export a lot, or big technology companies with significant overseas revenue, could be hurt if this spills over into other areas.

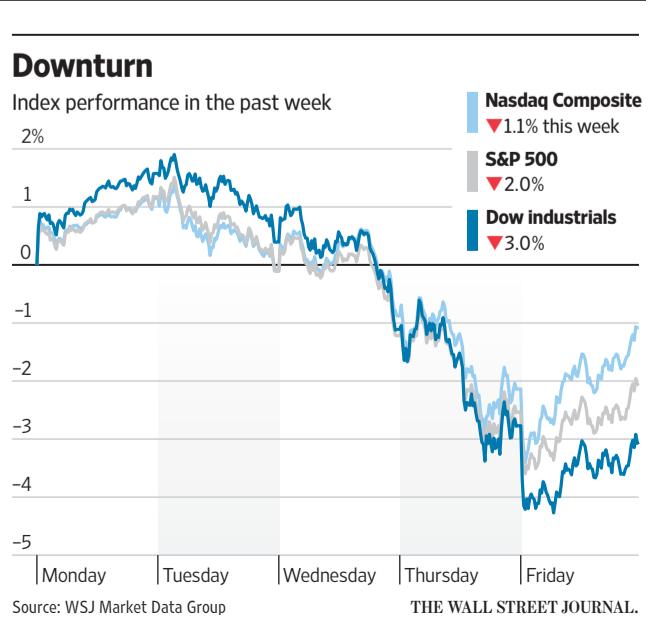
Some export-oriented U.S. companies also warned of the risks of retaliatory measures that could hurt their sales outlook. Among the worst decliners in recent days was Boeing, whose shares fell 1.4% Friday, ending the week down 3.4%.

U.S. Steel dropped more than 1% Friday, putting its weekly decline at 4.3%.

Global industrial giants and car makers were also among the biggest decliners Friday. General Motors fell 1%, while in Milan trading, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles sank 5.7% and Ferrari fell 3.7%.

Downturn

Index performance in the past week



STOCKS

Continued from the prior page

In a flight to relative safety, gold rose 1.4% to \$1,321.10 a troy ounce, shares of gold miners jumped and the yen strengthened 0.5% against the dollar. But U.S. government bonds found little support. Yields on 10-year Treasurys rose to 2.855% Friday from 2.802% Thursday. Yields rise as prices fall.

Mr. Trump's trade proposal, as well as comments from new Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell earlier in the week, added to an investment landscape already characterized by fears about inflation and tighter monetary policy.

BUSINESS NEWS

Lumber Prices Soar on Shortages

By BENJAMIN PARKIN

A lumber shortage has pushed prices to record highs as builders stock up for what is expected to be one of the busiest construction seasons in years.

Builders in the U.S. say the higher lumber costs are making homes more expensive. Lumber prices started rising last year after fires destroyed prime forests and a trade dispute between the U.S. and Canada restricted supplies. Now a shortage of railcars and trucks is forcing builders to pay even more.

"We are in a lumber supply crisis," said Stinson Dean, a broker in Kansas City, Mo., who ships wood from sawmills to lumber yards, in a note to clients. "None of us have experienced a market like this."

Marc Towne of Classic Homes, which builds midrange to high-end houses in Colorado Springs, Colo., said he is spending \$8,500 more on lumber for a typical home than a year ago, an increase of almost 40%. The company's passing on about half the cost to buyers for now while it waits to see if lumber prices fall.

"We hate to give large increases all at once because it can freeze your market," Mr. Towne said. High lumber costs added about \$3,000 to the price of a newly constructed home he purchased himself in Castle Rock, Colo., late last year.

Prices are rising as lumber yards prepare for what figures to be a busy building season this spring. A strong economy



A strong construction season this year is expected to worsen the supply situation for wood.

and tight supply of houses are heating up the home-building market. The number of new units under construction in the U.S. rose almost 10% in January, the Commerce Department said, as strong demand kept builders working through the winter. Permits for new homes, a sign of anticipated construction, also rose.

Material prices now rival labor shortages as builders' main concerns, a National Association of Home Builders survey showed in January. Prices for common building varieties of wood like spruce and southern pine are at or near records, according to price-tracking publication Random Lengths. March-dated lumber futures at

the Chicago Mercantile Exchange hit a record of \$532.60 per 1,000 board feet in late February after climbing more than 50% in 14 months.

That run-up began with a trade dispute between the U.S. and Canada, which provides about a third of U.S. timber, leaving many dealers hesitant to restock at elevated prices. The Trump administration eventually instituted tariffs of 20% or more on Canadian sawmills.

Problems mounted. The worst wildfires on record hit Canada's Pacific Coast. Hurricane Irma temporarily closed mills in the forests of Florida and Georgia. And then came a shortage of railcars and trucks

to transport timber from forests in regions like the Pacific Northwest. Rates for flatbed trucks rose 24% in January from a year earlier, according to DAT Solutions LLC.

Forestry company Canfor Corp. said lumber shipments fell almost 10% in the final quarter of 2017, partly due to bad weather in western Canada. The transportation bottlenecks have caused weeks of delays, frustrating customers already paying record prices.

"People are screaming for their wood," said Russell Taylor, managing director for Canada at analysis firm Forest Economic Advisors LLC.

Franklin Building Supply in Boise, Idaho, ran out of a type

Hard Knocks

Trade disputes, natural disasters and transportation bottlenecks have pushed lumber prices to record highs.

CME Random Length lumber futures

\$550 per 1,000 board feet



Source: CQG

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

of lumber used in walls, flooring and roofs one day in February for the first time in years.

Rick Lierz, who runs the supplier, said one shipment of wood he was awaiting was stuck on a rail car just 20 miles away.

His employees drove to local Home Depot Inc. stores to buy the lumber needed to fill orders for builders due that day. Home Depot recently told investors that rising lumber sales and prices contributed to higher earnings in the fourth quarter of 2017. "The cardinal rule when you're a supplier is you don't run out of what you need to supply," Mr. Lierz said.

—Bob Tita
contributed to this article.

MS Drug Is Pulled After Incidents

By PETER LOFTUS

Drugmakers Biogen Inc. and AbbVie Inc. said Friday they are pulling their new multiple-sclerosis treatment Zinbryta from all global markets after several European patients suffered serious inflammatory brain disorders.

The European Medicines Agency, which regulates drugs in the European Union, said Friday it started an "urgent review" of the drug because eight MS patients experienced encephalitis and other brain inflammations after taking the injected drug. Seven were in Germany and one was in Spain.

The EMA said doctors shouldn't start any patients on Zinbryta, and should find alternatives for patients currently taking the drug.

There are more than a dozen other MS drugs on the market that are considered "disease-modifying," meaning they can slow the natural progression of MS, including Biogen's Avonex, said Bruce Bebo, executive vice president of research programs at the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The companies said patients taking Zinbryta should contact their doctors with questions. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration will work with the companies to make sure there is an appropriate transition plan for patients taking the drug, an agency spokeswoman said.

More than 8,000 patients have been treated with Zinbryta world-wide since its introduction in 2016 as a treatment for adults with relapsing forms of MS, the EMA said.

In recent years, CEOs of Detroit companies have used the Las Vegas event to make major announcements, including General Motors Co.'s launch of the electric Chevrolet Bolt.

Most of the major exotic brands—including Volkswagen AG's Bentley and Ferrari NV—no longer have an official presence at the Detroit auto show, opting instead for shows in bigger markets where their brands have larger appeal, such as Los Angeles or New York.

"Given the nature and complexity of adverse events being reported, characterizing the evolving benefit/risk profile of Zinbryta will not be possible going forward given the limited number of patients being treated," the companies said.

"Therefore, Biogen and AbbVie believe it is in the best interest of patients to voluntarily withdraw world-wide marketing authorizations for Zinbryta."

AbbVie and Biogen co-promote the drug in the U.S., Canada and Europe. Its world-wide sales last year were \$107 million. Sales of Biogen's Avonex MS drug totaled \$2.15 billion in 2017.

Detroit Auto Show Warms to October Move

By JOHN D. STOLL

January of 2019 and likely go to its new October slot after that.

A Detroit auto-show spokesman confirmed a change is being considered, saying leaders are "exploring opportunities to better leverage the show and the region." October in Michigan is characterized by mild weather, which could be an ideal time for car companies to stage outdoor test drives of driverless cars or other tech demonstrations.

The potential switch comes as the balance of power in the U.S. auto industry shifts from Detroit toward Silicon Valley.

As car companies and tech firms race to develop driverless cars, companies ranging from Ford Motor Co. and Tesla Inc. to Alphabet Inc. and Intel Corp. are fighting for the spotlight in an effort to attract partners, talent and investor attention.

This has led to an identity crisis for Detroit's auto show and other international car salons, which seek to woo media



Show organizers are considering shifting from a January schedule.

attention for product launches and company executives.

Many of these conventional motor shows, including Detroit, have added so-called mobility conferences that focus on new ways to move people, such as ride-sharing apps or rolling autonomous pods.

The Motor City show al-

ready has taken some tough hits. In January, several big players, including Porsche AG and Volvo Car, didn't have displays in Motown. Daimler AG's Mercedes-Benz, the No. 1 luxury seller, won't be attending in 2019.

Auto makers instead are flocking to CES, which also

takes place in January, with top auto executives giving keynote speeches.

In recent years, CEOs of Detroit companies have used the Las Vegas event to make major announcements, including General Motors Co.'s launch of the electric Chevrolet Bolt.

Most of the major exotic brands—including Volkswagen AG's Bentley and Ferrari NV—no longer have an official presence at the Detroit auto show, opting instead for shows in bigger markets where their brands have larger appeal, such as Los Angeles or New York.

The Detroit auto show's January schedule is a throwback to the days when auto dealers needed to drum up demand during a slow selling period, Scott LaRiche, a Chevy dealer in Plymouth, Mich., said.

Because many of the new model-year launches taking place in the fall, an October event could make more sense, he said.

BUSINESS WATCH

SUBARU
Auto Maker Names New Top Executive

SUBARU

TOKYO—Subaru Corp.'s top executive, Yasuyuki Yoshihaga, is relinquishing the role following an inspection scandal in Japan, though he will continue at the auto maker in other capacities.

Mr. Yoshihaga will remain

chief executive and become chairman, while ceding the position of president, which he assumed in 2011. In Japan, a company president is the most senior executive officer.

Tomomi Nakamura, currently head of Subaru's North American operations, will become president

and chief operating officer after a shareholder meeting in June.

The inspection scandal added impetus to plans to overhaul the company's management, Mr. Yoshihaga said Friday. "Inappropriate actions took place while the company was thinking about making a generational change."

In October, Subaru said its factory workers had improperly conducted quality inspections on vehicles intended for sale in Japan, setting off the recall of 417,000 vehicles there.

Under Mr. Yoshihaga, the company turned around its U.S. operations as drivers embraced crossover sport-utility vehicles, one of its traditional strengths.

—Sean McLain

J.C. Penney Co. eliminated 360 jobs and shuffled its executive team as the department store reported disappointing sales on Friday.

The company said it was cutting roughly 130 jobs at its Plano, Texas, headquarters. An additional 230 positions were cut related to its group, regional, district and store support teams, in a move that shifted staffing into customer-facing positions.

The latest moves are part of the company's plan to trim costs and simplify operations as more people shop online and as mall traffic declines.

J.C. Penney said same-store sales in its year-end quarter rose 2.6%, less than analysts had expected. Total sales for the period grew 1.8% from a year earlier, to \$40.3 billion. Profit rose to \$254 million from \$192 million, aided by \$75 million in tax savings.

Chief Executive Marvin Ellison said the company was pushing various initiatives, including opening more Sephora shops in its department stores, remodeling its beauty salons and expanding its home-appliance offerings.

In home appliances, Mr. Ellison said J.C. Penney was gaining market share as its main competitor, Sears Holdings Corp., continues to falter.

—Cara Lombardo and Suzanne Kapner



RICHARD VOELZ/ASSOCIATED PRESS
J.C. Penney has working to trim costs and simplify operations as more people shop online and as mall traffic declines.

J.C. PENNEY
Retailer Cuts Jobs After Slow Quarter

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ADVERTISEMENT
Even The Price Suits You!

Every dedicated suit-wearer knows that Hong Kong's master tailors have an enviable reputation for quality, efficiency and price. The only not-inconsiderable snag is that they are ordinarily in Hong Kong whereas most of us ordinarily are not. Seekers after the finest Hong Kong tailoring need not worry any longer. Mr. Raja M Daswani, master craftsman and Hong Kong's finest and most respected bespoke tailor, **Raja Fashions** now travels to the United States every two months.

On each visit, Team Daswani takes over hotel suites in all of the United States' major cities, so any of us can make an appointment and get the full Hong Kong Monty practically without jet setting to the far-east. The measurements are done by Mr. Raja and his men here and mailed to Hong Kong along with a series of digital photos of you from every angle. Often, your suit will be started on by a tailor, 8,500 miles away before you've even left the hotel. You can then have it shipped by courier within four weeks if it is urgent—or wait for a second fitting when the Raja team hits your town again a few weeks later.

It is often said that American clothing chains have much to fear from Mr. Daswani! His dedication to bespoke suiting borders on the fanatical. And both his company's quality and pricing are truly shocking—in the pleasantest possible way for customers, if not for Mr. Daswani's competition over here.

We are talking \$59 for a custom made shirt, \$399 for a fully lined, made-to-measure suit in a lightweight wool or linen, to \$490 for 100 percent wool, entirely hand finished suit in a British cloth, with every refinement from hand-made buttonholes to knee lining and double thickness pockets.

Even the most expensive possible Raja Daswani suit, made in deluxe cashmere wool for \$2500 comes in at something like a third of the price of the 5th Avenue equivalent.

In other words, customers can now buy two bespoke suit, custom cut and hand-stitched suits, made from fine

ATLANTA, GA | Mar 9th-10th | Embassy Suites Atlanta Buckhead

BOSTON, MA | Mar 7th-8th | Hilton Boston Back Bay

CHARLOTTE, NC | Mar 13th-14th | Embassy Suites by Hilton Charlotte

CHICAGO, IL | Apr 5th-6th | Palmer House A Hilton Hotel

CINCINNATI, OH | Mar 23rd-24th | Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza

COLUMBUS, OH | Mar 21st-22nd | The Westin Columbus

DALLAS, TX | Mar 19th-20th | The Westin Park Central

DENVER, CO | Mar 26th-27th | Denver Marriott Tech Center

DETROIT, MI | Apr 3rd-4th | Westin Book Cadillac Hotel

HOUSTON, TX | Mar 23rd-25th | The Westin Galleria Houston

IRVINE, CA | Mar 26th-27th | Embassy Suites by Hilton Irvine Orange County Airport

LOS ANGELES, CA | Mar 23rd-25th | InterContinental Los Angeles Century City

LOUISVILLE, KY | Mar 11th-12th | Hyatt Regency Louisville

MIAMI, FL | Mar 15th-16th | InterContinental Miami

MINNEAPOLIS, MN | Apr 1st-2nd | Embassy Suites by Hilton Minneapolis Downtown

NY, NY | Mar 7th-9th | Courtyard New York Manhattan/Midtown East

NEW YORK, NY | Mar 25th-27th |

WEEKEND INVESTOR

TAX REPORT | By Laura Saunders

Check Withholding or Risk a Painful Shock



The tax overhaul has probably given your paycheck a welcome

bump. Now, it's important to check your withholding or risk a bad tax surprise in a year.

To help with this task, the Internal Revenue Service has just released a new tax withholding calculator. There is also a new W-4, the form workers provide to employers to determine paycheck withholding. Filling out this form isn't required, but doing so is a good idea.

Tax specialists say self-employed business owners, pension recipients, Social Security recipients and filers paying estimated tax may also find the new calculator useful.

The tax overhaul didn't shift rates as much as some lawmakers proposed, but it made landmark changes to individual provisions. So the

overhaul's effects will vary widely among filers depending on which changes apply.

For example, in 2018 many couples with children under 17 years old will get an expanded tax credit that reduces their bill by \$2,000 a child. But some residents of high-tax states such as New York or California could owe more because of the new \$10,000 cap on state and local tax deductions.

Treasury officials also recently revised the withholding tables used by employers. In January, they said these revisions would raise take-home pay for more than 90% of workers.

The varying effects of tax changes plus lower withholding will lead to unexpected results for some filers for 2018. Here's a hypothetical example for a higher-earning single taxpayer in a high-tax state provided by Gil Charney, director of the Tax Institute at H&R Block Inc.

Sarah is a New York resi-

dent. For 2017, she had \$200,000 of wages and other income and \$33,000 of itemized deductions, including \$28,000 for state and local taxes. She owes about \$41,400 of federal tax, and her withholding was set so that she'll receive a tax refund for 2017 of about \$100.

6%

Percentage of filers who will see a tax increase on 2018 returns

For 2018, Sarah has the same income and deductions, and she doesn't adjust her withholding to account for the loss of \$18,000 in state and local tax deductions. Her take-home pay rises by \$5,300, reflecting the lower withholding in the 2018 tables.

The overhaul lowers

Sarah's total federal income-tax bill by about \$520. But because her withholding went down so much, she'll owe the IRS about \$4,700 when she files in 2019.

Other taxpayers could get lower refunds for 2018 if they don't adjust withholding. This could come as a shock to those who expect large refunds and use them to make major purchases or pay down debt. In 2017, nearly three-quarters of filers received refunds averaging nearly \$2,900.

The new tax calculator nudges taxpayers to reduce refunds, although it leaves the decision up to the individual.

To be sure, not all of next year's surprises will be bad. Some filers will reap a tax windfall due to benefits from several changes. In other cases, lower taxes in one area could help offset higher ones in another, says Mr. Charney.

Overall, 65% of individual

filers will see a tax cut on their 2018 returns, while about 6% will see an increase, with no change for the rest, according to estimates by the Tax Policy Center. These results don't include indirect effects, such as from corporate tax cuts or increased federal borrowing.

Which filers most need to check their withholding? At a news conference this week, acting IRS Commissioner David Kautter urged two-earner couples and filers with large itemized deductions on Schedule A to be sure to use the new calculator.

Mary Hevener, a payroll-tax specialist with Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, also recommends that filers who claimed more than two personal allowances on a prior W-4 form check their withholding, even if they take the standard deduction.

If the personal allowances on a prior W-4 are for household members or other dependents age 17 or older,

she says, it's likely that a tax break is shrinking. Last year, these individuals would typically have qualified for a \$4,050 exemption each, but this year there is a \$500 tax credit for each.

Workers with income such as bonuses, commissions and certain stock options should be wary as well, says Ms. Hevener, as the withholding rate on this income has dropped to 22% from 25% for many.

While tax rates and withholding have changed, underpayment penalties haven't. Mr. Kautter said the IRS hasn't decided whether it will show leniency on underpayments for 2018. The basic rule is that to avoid the risk of a penalty, filers must pay in at least 90% of what they owe during the year or by the following mid-January if they're paying estimated taxes.

The penalty is based on an interest rate that currently is 4%.

INVEST

Continued from page B1 surpassed the S&P 500 by an astounding average of 36.5 percentage points annually. Over the next decade, Mr. Buffett beat the market by 14.4 percentage points. The next 10 years, through the end of 2005, he outperformed by "only" 1.6 points annually.

Berkshire is ahead of the market this year. It outperformed by a whisker in 2017 and beat the S&P by more than 11 points in 2016.

Mr. Buffett has said that 10 years can be too short a period to evaluate returns. However, Berkshire's margin of outperformance over the past 15, 20 and 25 years is also lower than it used to be and shows just how difficult beating the market has become.

Professional money managers like to cite four

sources of "edge," or potential for outperformance: information, through faster, better or more data; analysis, the ability to outthink other investors; behavior, or superior patience, independence and self-control; and structure, a business systematically organized to maximize all those edges.

It's unlikely any other investor has ever had so many great advantages over the competition. Above all, Mr. Buffett and his business partner, Charles Munger, have structural freedom.

"I've always played my own game," he told me in 2015. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, he invested in such corporate midgets as Dempster Mill Manufacturing, a farm-implement manufacturer, and Sanborn Map, a cartography company.

More recently, he has bought not just U.S. stocks but anything, anywhere: more than 45 million barrels

of oil and 100 million ounces of silver in the 1990s, for instance, and industrial companies in Israel and China.

Mr. Buffett charges no fees and answers to no investment committee. Investors don't throw money at him when the market is overpriced or yank it away when stocks are cheap.

He has bought dozens of private companies outright and often struck "sweetheart" deals for discounted stakes in public companies, such as Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Gillette Co. (now a part of Procter & Gamble Co.).

At last count, he commands \$116 billion in cash. "He's going to have fabulous opportunities to make outrageous returns with that at some point, but you can't predict when," says Thomas Russo of Gardner Russo & Gardner, an investment-advisory firm in Lancaster, Pa., that owns about \$1.9 billion

in Berkshire shares.

Yet Berkshire has become so large that even a \$10 billion deal that doubles in value would barely register in the company's returns.

Mr. Buffett himself has seen this coming longer than many investors have been alive. In early 1962, he pointed out that many leading mutual funds were struggling to match the market.

"My own record of investing such huge sums of money...would be no better, if as good," Mr. Buffett wrote.

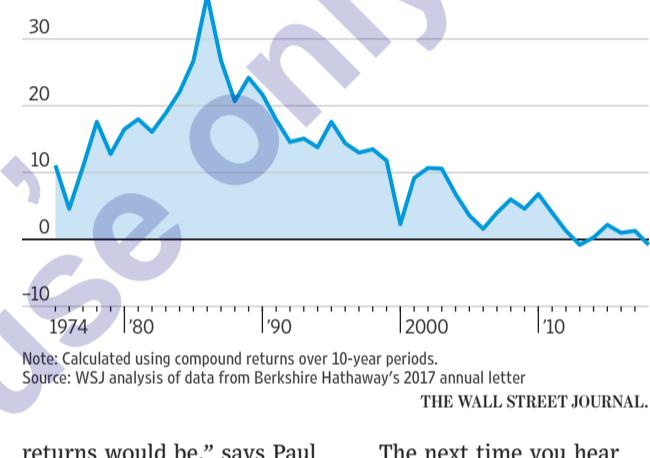
The smallest of the "huge" funds then held about \$350 million; Mr. Buffett noted, with wry precision, that he was managing a grand total of \$7,178,500.00.

At the end of 2017, he was overseeing more than \$170 billion in publicly traded stocks.

"If Warren was still running, say, \$2 billion in total, God only knows how high his

Dwindling Domination

Berkshire Hathaway's margin of outperformance relative to the S&P 500, 10-year rolling average



Note: Calculated using compound returns over 10-year periods.

Source: WSJ analysis of data from Berkshire Hathaway's 2017 annual letter

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

returns would be," says Paul Lountzis of Lountzis Asset Management in Wyomissing, Pa., who also owns the stock. "But there are very few opportunities on this scale. It's the anchor of size."

The next time you hear anyone boast about beating the market, ask this question: If it has gotten hard even for Warren Buffett, why should I believe it's easy for you?

TECHNOLOGY

Fashion Setter Labels Instagram Passé

By MATTHEW DALTON

PARIS—French designer Olivier Rousteing's revealing posts helped put Instagram at the center of the fashion world. Now he says the social network has become too buttoned-up.

Mr. Rousteing, creative director of French couture house Balmain, pioneered use of the photo-sharing platform as a tool to sell high fashion, assembling a "Balmain Army" of 4.7 million followers on Instagram.

When the 32-year-old Bordeaux native posts collections, droves of Instagram users whip out their wallets to buy. But Mr. Rousteing says the fashion industry's rush to monetize Instagram followings has tarnished a key part of the social network's appeal: the sense that users are getting an unfiltered peek into how the rich, famous and fashionable live and dress.

"Five years ago, there was an authenticity, where no one was paid to post a product. Everybody was posting what they believe in," Mr. Rousteing said in an interview. "Instagram is not what it used to be."

Mr. Rousteing's criticism of the social network, which is owned by U.S. tech giant Facebook Inc., underscores how quickly it has usurped glossy magazines as the fashion industry's dominant venue for reaching customers. Brands are now spending huge sums on producing photographs and videos designed to catch fire on Instagram. They are buying ads on the platform—something Balmain has yet to do. And they are paying social-media influencers to flaunt their products on Instagram—sometimes without disclosing that money has changed hands.

The arrival of luxury behemoths such as Louis Vuitton and Dior on the platform has made it harder for smaller labels like Balmain to stand out. Both brands have amassed huge followings on Instagram,



Olivier Rousteing, of French couture house Balmain, pioneered use of Instagram to sell high fashion.

Laura Stevens for THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

several times as large as Balmain's.

Eva Chen, Instagram's fashion director, says the social network isn't to blame for content that lacks authenticity. Fashion brands sometimes make the mistake of posting images that are too polished and commercial. Blurry photos that give users a behind-the-scenes look at the industry are often the best-performing posts, Ms. Chen said.

"The fashion industry has been invested in making hyper-produced content and controlling everything," she said. "What does well on Instagram are the outtakes."

Ms. Chen provides brands with tips on how to amplify their content on the social network, such as what kind of lighting to use for photos. Other times, she weighs in using her own Instagram account.

Bigger brands have an easier time getting that type of attention from Instagram, says Natalie Hughes, director at the

Fashion Digital, a social-media agency.

"If you're a smaller brand, it's hard to get that endorsement," Ms. Hughes said. "They handicap brands based on various factors."

Ms. Chen said that she isn't favoring bigger brands, adding that her small team has limited resources. "We try as hard as we can to help as many people as we can."

The desire to be seen on Instagram is so strong that many brands are hiring special staff to tailor looks that turn heads on the platform. Even groups that were slow to embrace social media, such as Prada SpA, now view Instagram as one of their most important marketing tools.

"It is one of the best channels to reach customers," said Stefano Cantino, strategic marketing director at Prada. "It's true that it is more commercial, but I think it is still very authentic."

When Mr. Rousteing joined

Instagram in 2012, he wanted to show a side of himself ignored by the French media.

Appointed creative director of Balmain a year earlier, Mr. Rousteing used Instagram to electrify the brand, a Parisian house previously known for its classic designs. His willingness to post about his personal life—including his friendships with celebrities such as Rihanna and Kim Kardashian—put Balmain on display to millions of people who wouldn't have otherwise encountered it.

Over time Balmain cut its spending on print advertising to only 15% of its communications budget.

"Next year, it will be zero," said Massimo Piombini, chief executive of Balmain. The strategy has paid off. Revenue last year was about €150 million (\$182.9 million), up from €64 million five years ago. In 2016, Mayhoola, the investment fund of the Qatari royal family, bought Balmain for about €500 million.

CARS

Continued from page B1

the top-left corner of the app; you'll see your rating under your name.

Lyft doesn't show you your rating, but you can request it from the company.

You might get less than five stars if you're late

or if you aren't near your pick-up location, or if you slam doors or act rude (including back-seat driving or leaving trash). A poor rider rating may mean longer waits, as fewer drivers want to pick you up.

Drivers rate passengers before they see their tip, so if you do have a low rating, it isn't likely because you're stiffing them.

Share with care

Lyft Lines and Uber Pools are rides you share with other passengers. During your ride, you might make stops that are near, but not necessarily on the way to, your destination.

Uber drivers, but not Lyft drivers, can stop accepting more passengers to a shared drive. But don't expect your Uber Pool rides to become standard rides very often—and don't complain when they do add people. If you don't want to share, don't book a shared ride.

If you're in a hurry, Lines and Pools aren't your best bet because those ETAs can fluctuate. Going a few blocks out of your way for another rider can quickly add more than a few minutes to your trip.

Cheaper fares

You can save money by price-comparing Uber and

Lyft. Just enter your destination to see rates and estimated arrival times.

If you want to find the best rates for well-traveled routes, keep in mind Uber Express Pool and Lyft Shuttle. These services are typically the cheapest but they are only in select cities so far.

For these shared rides, you have to be willing to walk a short distance and you might have to wait several minutes to meet your driver. But during my evening commute last week leaving San Francisco's financial district, the directness of a Lyft Shuttle route more than made up for the walk.

Routing explained

There are a few reasons you may end up taking a roundabout route, or worse, getting stuck in avoidable traffic.

If drivers are faced with two routes that take about the same time, they might pick the one that logs more miles with less traffic.

Other annoying routes can simply be the GPS's fault. Uber uses a combination of navigation tech from Tom-Tom, Google and its own team. Lyft's navigation system is built around Google Maps. However, drivers often use Waze, which tends to have better traffic awareness.

Many San Francisco riders, myself included, have discovered that drivers keep getting routed through the Broadway tunnel in the morning, despite ongoing construction. While routes through traffic can be fastest, tunnels and construction—and definitely their combination—are still problematic for even the best routing software.

If you're the only person in the car, it's fine to request a different route. In a shared ride, chances are the driver will stick to the app's

COMMODITIES

WSJ.com/commodities

Futures Contracts

Metal & Petroleum Futures

| | Contract | Open | High | Low | Settle | Chg | Open interest |
|--|----------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------------|
| | Open | High | lo | Low | Settle | Chg | interest |
| Copper-High (CMX) -25,000 lbs; \$ per lb. | | | | | | | |
| March | 3,1045 | 3,1185 | 3,0875 | 3,1010 | 0,0015 | 4,649 | |
| May | 3,1235 | 3,1455 | 3,1085 | 3,1245 | 0,0015 | 147,074 | |
| Gold (CMX) -100 troy oz; \$ per troy oz. | | | | | | | |
| March | 1314,30 | 1323,20 | 1314,30 | 1321,10 | 18,20 | 645 | |
| April | 1318,00 | 1326,60 | 1316,20 | 1323,40 | 18,20 | 322,227 | |
| June | 1323,90 | 1332,40 | 1321,90 | 1329,20 | 18,20 | 106,166 | |
| Aug | 1329,10 | 1337,90 | 1329,10 | 1335,20 | 18,40 | 27,031 | |
| Oct | 1340,30 | 1341,50 | 1338,10 | 1341,00 | 18,40 | 4,334 | |
| Dec | 1341,90 | 1349,80 | 1339,90 | 1347,10 | 18,40 | 38,788 | |
| Palladium (NYM) -50 troy oz; \$ per troy oz. | | | | | | | |
| March | 990,45 | 995,20 | 985,75 | 995,45 | 12,30 | 98 | |
| June | 981,95 | 992,50 | 971,35 | 986,65 | 13,45 | 26,079 | |
| Sept | 980,10 | 984,45 | 969,10 | 980,70 | 12,25 | 716 | |
| Platinum (NYM) -50 troy oz; \$ per troy oz. | | | | | | | |
| March | ... | ... | 963,60 | 7,30 | 17 | | |
| April | 968,05 | 971,30 | 961,50 | 965,10 | 7,30 | 71,352 | |
| Silver (CMX) -5,000 troy oz; \$ per troy oz. | | | | | | | |
| March | 16,390 | 16,495 | 16,360 | 16,392 | 0,192 | 1,257 | |
| May | 16,495 | 16,595 | 16,400 | 16,466 | 0,190 | 148,864 | |
| Crude Oil, Light Sweet (NYM) -1,000 bbls; \$ per bbl. | | | | | | | |
| April | 61,33 | 61,60 | 60,13 | 61,25 | 0,26 | 476,194 | |
| May | 61,17 | 61,41 | 59,99 | 61,09 | 0,29 | 268,216 | |
| June | 60,79 | 61,08 | 59,69 | 60,78 | 0,34 | 301,229 | |
| July | 60,31 | 60,65 | 59,29 | 60,36 | 0,38 | 141,514 | |
| Dec | 57,75 | 58,30 | 56,99 | 58,04 | 0,45 | 240,082 | |
| Dec'19 | 54,23 | 54,76 | 53,62 | 54,52 | 0,36 | 119,738 | |
| NY Harbor ULSD (NYM) -42,000 gal; \$ per gal. | | | | | | | |
| April | 1,8864 | 1,8900 | 1,8500 | 1,8796 | -0,059 | 125,135 | |
| May | 1,8840 | 1,8920 | 1,8518 | 1,8820 | -0,037 | 71,022 | |
| Gasoline-NY RBOB (NYM) -42,000 gal; \$ per gal. | | | | | | | |
| April | 1,8929 | 1,9135 | 1,8566 | 1,9014 | 0,005 | 134,804 | |
| May | 1,9075 | 1,9261 | 1,8719 | 1,9147 | 0,040 | 88,077 | |
| Natural Gas (NYM) -10,000 MMBtu; \$ per MMBtu. | | | | | | | |
| April | 2,697 | 2,728 | 2,686 | 2,695 | -0,003 | 314,474 | |
| May | 2,727 | 2,756 | 2,716 | 2,727 | -0,002 | 207,037 | |
| June | 2,767 | 2,793 | 2,758 | 2,767 | -0,001 | 82,570 | |
| July | 2,812 | 2,837 | 2,802 | 2,811 | -0,001 | 102,939 | |
| Sept | 2,800 | 2,824 | 2,793 | 2,800 | -0,003 | 73,451 | |
| Oct | 2,813 | 2,840 | 2,804 | 2,814 | -0,003 | 123,560 | |

Agriculture Futures

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| Corn (CBT) -5,000 bu; cents per bu. | | | | | | | |
| March | 377,75 | 380,25 | ▲ | 376,00 | 377,25 | -1,50 | 10,279 |
| May | 385,75 | 388,00 | ▲ | 383,50 | 385,25 | -1,00 | 751,120 |
| Oats (CBT) -5,000 bu; cents per bu. | | | | | | | |
| March | 268,75 | 269,50 | | 264,00 | 265,00 | -4,00 | 24 |
| May | 273,00 | 275,00 | | 265,25 | 268,50 | -5,00 | 4,838 |
| Soybeans (CBT) -5,000 bu; cents per bu. | | | | | | | |
| March | 1057,00 | 1071,00 | ▲ | 1053,50 | 1060,75 | 3,25 | 6,333 |
| May | 1067,75 | 1082,50 | ▲ | 1063,75 | 1071,00 | 3,00 | 394,186 |
| Soybean Meal (CBT) -100 tons; \$ per ton. | | | | | | | |
| March | 393,90 | 399,70 | ▲ | 388,50 | 390,20 | -3,80 | 2,764 |
| May | 396,50 | 404,00 | ▲ | 390,60 | 392,90 | -4,30 | 232,361 |
| Soybean Oil (CBT) -60,000 lbs; cents per lb. | | | | | | | |
| March | 32,09 | 32,63 | | 32,05 | 32,06 | -0,06 | 2,028 |
| May | 32,35 | 32,89 | | 32,25 | 32,30 | -0,09 | 252,659 |
| Rough Rice (CBT) -2,000 cwt; \$ per cwt. | | | | | | | |
| March | 1232,00 | 1232,00 | | 1225,00 | 1226,50 | -15,50 | 184 |
| May | 1248,00 | 1251,00 | | 1236,50 | 1246,50 | -3,50 | 6,462 |
| Wheat (CBT) -5,000 bu; cents per bu. | | | | | | | |
| March | 506,25 | 506,25 | ▲ | 489,00 | 492,00 | -13,50 | 1,561 |
| May | 514,25 | 518,50 | ▲ | 493,25 | 500,00 | -15,50 | 231,748 |
| Wheat (KC) -5,000 bu; cents per bu. | | | | | | | |
| March | 531,00 | 531,00 | ▲ | 517,50 | 522,00 | -9,00 | 248 |
| May | 543,00 | 548,50 | ▲ | 525,50 | 533,75 | -9,75 | 136,474 |
| Wheat (MPLS) -5,000 bu; cents per bu. | | | | | | | |
| March | 615,00 | 615,00 | | 606,50 | 606,50 | -13,50 | 36 |
| May | 632,50 | 634,00 | | 616,25 | 620,25 | -14,50 | 32,358 |
| Cattle-Feeder (CME) -50,000 lbs; cents per lb. | | | | | | | |
| March | 144,775 | 145,025 | | 143,025 | 143,675 | -1,375 | 11,574 |
| April | 146,500 | 146,725 | | 144,625 | 145,275 | -1,475 | 18,750 |
| Cattle-Live (CME) -40,000 lbs; cents per lb. | | | | | | | |
| April | 123,350 | 123,800 | | 121,900 | 122,175 | -1,150 | 131,787 |
| June | 115,375 | 115,850 | | 114,125 | 114,400 | -1,100 | 130,158 |
| Hogs-Lean (CME) -40,000 lbs; cents per lb. | | | | | | | |
| April | 67,450 | 68,800 | | 66,900 | 67,575 | -600 | 82,608 |
| June | 80,300 | 80,650 | | 79,425 | 79,750 | -325 | 53,180 |
| Lumber (CME) -110,000 bd. ft.; \$ per 1,000 bd. ft. | | | | | | | |
| March | 513,40 | 518,80 | | 512,50 | 515,50 | 2,50 | 1,233 |
| May | 485,00 | 488,40 | | 481,70 | 483,80 | -7,90 | 4,831 |
| Milk (CME) -200,000 lbs; cents per lb. | | | | | | | |
| March | 14,08 | 14,12 | | 14,05 | 14,12 | .08 | 4,343 |
| April | 13,96 | 14,10 | | 13,95 | 14,09 | .09 | 3,531 |
| Cocoa (ICE-US) -10 metric tons; \$ per ton. | | | | | | | |
| March | 2,246 | 2,250 | ▲ | 2,245 | 2,320 | 50 | 346 |
| May | 2,280 | 2,340 | ▲ | 2,251 | 2,313 | 63 | 130,688 |

Currency Futures

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| Japanese Yen (CME) -\$1,250,000; \$ per 100Y | | | | | | | |
| March | .9427 | .9510 | ▲ | .9415 | .9482 | .0062 | 264,132 |
| June | .9485 | .9569 | ▲</td | | | | |



DATA / NEWS / ANALYTICS



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MARKETS DIGEST

EQUITIES

Dow Jones Industrial Average

24538.06 ▼70.92, or 0.29%
High, low, open and close for each trading day of the past three months.

Trailing P/E ratio 25.68 21.45
P/E estimate * 16.52 17.94
Dividend yield 2.17 2.31
All-time high 26616.71, 01/26/18



Bars measure the point change from session's open

Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. 21500

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

S&P 500 Index

2691.25 ▲13.58, or 0.51%
High, low, open and close for each trading day of the past three months.

Trailing P/E ratio * 25.23 24.90
P/E estimate * 17.14 18.39
Dividend yield 1.90 1.98
All-time high 2872.87, 01/26/18



Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. 2450

Nasdaq Composite Index

7257.87 ▲77.31, or 1.08%
High, low, open and close for each trading day of the past three months.

Trailing P/E ratio * 26.31 25.78
P/E estimate * 20.34 20.13
Dividend yield 1.01 1.15
All-time high: 7505.77, 01/26/18



Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. 6300

Major U.S. Stock-Market Indexes

| Dow Jones | High | Low | Latest Close | Net chg | % chg | High | 52-Week Low | % chg | YTD % chg | 3-yr. ann. |
|---------------------|----------|----------|-----------------|---------|--------|----------|-------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| | 24592.46 | 24217.76 | 24538.06 | -70.92 | -0.29 | 26616.71 | 20404.49 | 16.8 | -0.7 | 10.3 |
| Industrial Average | 10363.43 | 10146.57 | 10332.98 | 2.26 | 0.02 | 11373.38 | 8783.74 | 8.9 | -2.6 | 4.3 |
| Transportation Avg | 674.74 | 660.07 | 665.85 | -2.90 | -0.43 | 774.47 | 647.90 | -4.7 | -8.0 | 4.5 |
| Utility Average | 27877.75 | 27344.94 | 27829.55 | 179.35 | 0.65 | 29630.47 | 24125.20 | 12.6 | 0.6 | 8.0 |
| Total Stock Market | 714.64 | 697.31 | 713.48 | 9.00 | 1.28 | 757.37 | 610.89 | 13.5 | 0.4 | 8.0 |
| Barron's 400 | 1881.18 | 1840.82 | 1878.61 | 20.52 | 1.10 | 1995.23 | 1681.04 | 8.0 | -1.2 | 7.4 |
| MidCap 400 | 934.30 | 909.88 | 932.68 | 15.54 | 1.69 | 979.57 | 815.62 | 9.8 | -0.4 | 9.3 |
| SmallCap 600 | 135.65 | 130.51 | 135.28 | 1.43 | 1.07 | 175.46 | 117.79 | -22.9 | -9.5 | 12.1 |
| PHLX® Gold/Silver | 79.80 | 78.65 | 78.75 | -0.18 | -0.23 | 93.26 | 76.42 | -4.1 | -7.6 | 1.5 |
| PHLX® Oil Service | 1365.66 | 1322.60 | 1363.78 | 23.64 | 1.76 | 1392.86 | 960.01 | 40.0 | 8.8 | 22.9 |
| PHLX® Semiconductor | 26.22 | 19.36 | 19.59 | -2.88 | -12.82 | 37.32 | 9.14 | 78.7 | 77.4 | 14.5 |

\$ Nasdaq PHLX

Late Trading

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

Most-active issues in late trading

| Company | Symbol | Volume (000) | Last | Net chg | After Hours % chg | High | Low |
|--------------------------|--------|--------------|--------|---------|-------------------|--------|--------|
| SPDR S&P 500 | SPY | 20,787.5 | 269.31 | 0.23 | 0.09 | 269.45 | 267.85 |
| Ford Motor | F | 9,352.5 | 10.40 | ... | unch. | 10.41 | 10.22 |
| PwrShrs QQQ Tr Series 1 | QQQ | 3,631.0 | 165.92 | -0.07 | -0.04 | 166.04 | 163.07 |
| FirstEnergy | FE | 3,500.1 | 32.28 | ... | unch. | 32.29 | 32.25 |
| Cnsmr Staples Sel Sector | XLP | 2,572.7 | 53.74 | ... | unch. | 53.74 | 53.69 |
| Finl Select Sector SPDR | XLF | 2,442.6 | 28.44 | ... | unch. | 28.48 | 28.43 |
| Oracle | ORCL | 2,044.6 | 50.42 | 0.10 | 0.20 | 50.43 | 49.83 |
| Industrial Select Sector | XLI | 2,044.1 | 75.20 | 0.07 | 0.09 | 75.20 | 75.08 |

Percentage gainers...

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Myomo | MYO | 34.0 | 5.12 | 0.21 | 4.28 | 5.13 | 4.89 |
| Finisar | FNSR | 82.4 | 18.92 | 0.77 | 4.24 | 19.06 | 17.97 |
| Clearside Biomedical | CLSD | 12.4 | 8.15 | 0.33 | 4.22 | 9.00 | 7.80 |
| Global Net Lease | GNL | 10.1 | 16.44 | 0.63 | 3.98 | 16.46 | 15.81 |
| InspireMD | NSPR | 9.7 | 2.45 | 0.09 | 3.81 | 2.45 | 2.35 |

...And losers

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| DepoMed | DEPO | 75.3 | 6.25 | -0.55 | -8.09 | 6.80 | 6.00 |
| QEP Resources | QEP | 1,062.4 | 8.94 | -0.69 | -7.20 | 9.63 | 8.94 |
| Lions Gate Ent Cl B | LGFB | 25.2 | 26.62 | -1.64 | -5.80 | 28.26 | 26.62 |
| NewLink Genetics | NLNK | 12.6 | 7.22 | -0.37 | -4.87 | 7.60 | 7.11 |
| Flex Ltd | FLEX | 69.2 | 17.54 | -0.72 | -3.92 | 18.26 | 17.54 |

Trading Diary

Volume, Advancers, Decliners
NYSE NYSE Amer.

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|------------|
| Total volume* | 918,622,776 | 10,595,115 |
| Adv. volume* | 632,821,460 | 5,939,569 |
| Decl. volume* | 273,247,207 | 4,172,708 |
| Issues traded | 3,061 | 325 |
| Advances | 1,854 | 188 |
| Declines | 1,086 | 111 |
| Unchanged | 121 | 26 |
| New highs | 27 | 0 |
| New lows | 165 | 14 |
| Closing tick | 461 | 87 |
| Closing Arms* | 0.78 | 1.25 |
| Block trades* | 6,854 | 108 |

Nasdaq NYSE Arca

Total volume* 2,260,040,398 331,168,551

Adv. volume* 1,637,098,006 216,154,091

Decl. volume* 599,824,826 101,759,853

Issues traded 3,047 1,365

Advances 2,198 856

Declines 734 484

Unchanged 115 25

New highs 64 6

New lows 72 46

Closing tick 707 42

Closing Arms* 1.10 0.85

Block trades* 8,179 1,496

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

Sources: SIX Financial Information; WSJ Market Data Group

International Stock Indexes

| Region/Country | Index | Close | Net chg | Latest % chg | YTD % chg |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| World | The Global Dow | 3065.64 | -15.11 | -0.49 | -0.7 |
| | | | | | |

BIGGEST 1,000 STOCKS

How to Read the Stock Tables

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

The list comprises the 1,000 largest companies based on market capitalization. Underlined quotations are those stocks with large changes in volume compared with the issue's average trading volume.

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

Footnotes:
I-New 52-week high.
L-New 52-week low.
dd-Indicates loss in the most recent four quarters.
FD-FIRST day of trading.

I-Does not meet continued listing standards.
I-Late filing.
q-Temporary exemption from Nasdaq requirements.
t-NYSE bankruptcy.

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

Friday, March 2, 2018

YTD 52-Week % Chg Hi Lo Stock Yld Sym % PE Last Net Chg

A B C

-10.48 28.67 22.04 ABB ABB 3.42 24.01 -0.01
0.28 12.05 9.87 AES AES 4.83 dd 10.86 -0.10
-0.31 91.73 60.46 Afriac AFL 2.4 87.51 -0.15
-10.02 22.34 17.44 AGNC Invit AGNC 11.9 18.17 -0.09
43.98 15.33 10.24 ANGI Homesvc ANGI 11.0 dd 15.06 0.16
10.19 16.95 10.45 Ansys ANSS 54.62 16.33 -0.04
11.38 20.85 11.89 ASML ASML 0.9 19.37 1.64
-6.51 42.70 32.57 AT&T T 5.5 8.36 35.35 -0.03
4.19 64.60 42.31 AbbottLabs ABBT 1.92 51.99 0.67
18.95 12.76 8.28 AbbVie ABIV 3.35 15.04 0.09
4.81 27.16 11.73 Abiomed ABMD ... 139.75 9.42
2.88 16.58 11.42 Accenture AFL 2.17 15.70 0.35
16.88 74.94 46.50 ActivisionBlz ATVI 0.51 68.74 0.01
-16.49 21.82 16.48 AlcatelBrands AYI 0.4 20.16 0.07
19.72 21.34 11.91 AdobeSystems ADOBE ... 62 20.99 0.37
-8.66 21.27 14.83 AffiliatedMtrs AMG 0.6 16.18 0.74
0.81 75 50.86 AgileTechs AOT 0.914 67.51 0.13
-17.45 18.51 37.37 AgnicoEagle AEM 1.2 33.18 0.53 -0.04
-2.63 17.17 13.63 AirProducts APP 2.8 34 159.77 -0.01
6.75 69.56 44.65 AkamaiTech AKAM 56.69 43.93 1.51
-13.70 99.22 35.25 AlaskaAir ALK 2.0 66.38 -0.27
-15.20 114.49 90.49 Albarmele ALB 14.2 59.02 -0.09
-15.46 57.50 29.55 Alcoa AA 40.45 54.54 0.47
-5.44 13.37 10.68 AlexandraRlEst ARI 2.9 73.12 0.49
-1.40 14.94 36.18 AlexionPharm ALXN 60.117 9.21 2.81
4.25 20.26 10.20 Alibaba BABA ... 47.79 6.26 -0.22
14.19 28.73 10.20 AlignTech ALGN ... 89.25 7.11 0.16
9.72 71.22 46.42 Alkermes ALKS ... dd 60.05 0.64
-0.35 64.71 52.10 Allegany ALY ... 111.93 59.99 0.13
3.38 89.81 72.45 Allegion ALLE 1.9 29.23 0.23 -0.16
-8.07 80.56 45.39 Altavista AABA ... 72.69 -1.05
-9.14 35.29 17.78 AlticeUSA AT&T ... 10.19 29.59 -0.06
-12.41 77.79 60.01 Altria MO 4.5 12.65 -0.12
-18.63 23.54 11.01 AlumofChina ACH ... 34.15 9.49 0.19
28.28 158.70 83.50 Amazon.com AMZN ... 244.150 5.60 -0.01
6.50 7.04 5.03 Ambev ABEV ... 39.68 0.88 -0.02
0.76 71.37 60.30 Amdocs ADT 13.2 65.98 0.77
-11.96 20.58 14.01 Allergan AGN 2.0 dd 144.02 -0.17
-8.19 27.33 20.9 Alliancedata ADS 1.0 16.23 2.72 -0.23
-10.30 45.55 36.84 AlliantEnergy LNT 3.5 58.82 -0.27
-12.51 105.36 79.01 Allstate ALL 2.0 91.11 0.61 -0.01
-5.01 31.29 18.11 AllyFinancial AYI 19.4 27.70 0.09
-4.64 147.63 46.40 AlynlamPhm ALNY ... dd 121.16 2.03
2.92 119.88 82.40 Alphabet GOOGL 60.1078 9.29 9.40
-1.05 22.07 19.45 Allegro ALLE 2.9 23.12 0.03
-8.19 27.33 18.28 Alteon ATO 2.1 51.10 0.07
-8.19 27.33 18.28 AmeriData ADS 1.0 16.23 2.72 -0.23
-10.30 45.55 36.84 Alliancedata ADS 1.0 16.23 2.72 -0.23
-12.51 105.36 79.01 Allstate ALL 2.0 91.11 0.61 -0.01
-5.01 31.29 18.11 AllyFinancial AYI 19.4 27.70 0.09
-4.64 147.63 46.40 AlynlamPhm ALNY ... dd 121.16 2.03
2.92 119.88 82.40 Alphabet GOOGL 60.1078 9.29 9.40
-1.05 22.07 19.45 Allegro ALLE 2.9 23.12 0.03
-8.19 27.33 18.28 Alteon ATO 2.1 51.10 0.07
-8.19 27.33 18.28 AmeriTowerREIT AMT 2.1 50.13 0.04
-13.78 92.37 74.63 AmerWaterWorks AWK 2.13 27.88 -0.02
-10.95 18.90 11.88 Ameriprise AMP 2.2 16.15 0.91
2.33 106.27 71.90 AmerisourceBrgn ABC 1.6 20 93.96 0.66
2.83 79.10 52.42 Ametek AME 0.8 25 74.52 0.34
-6.23 20.23 15.27 Amgen AMGN 2.5 24 178.05 0.01
-1.23 37.40 99.30 Amico UHAL 8.3317 47.40 -0.70
-8.41 64.89 51.89 Ameron AES 3.45 54.03 0.07
8.59 19.50 12.39 AmericaMovil AMX 1.74 44.82 -0.02
-7.91 19.37 12.18 AmericaMovil AMX 1.74 44.82 -0.02
-2.21 59.08 39.21 AmerAirlines AAL 0.8 14.53 0.30 -0.01
-11.48 78.07 63.32 AEP AEP 3.8 17 65.48 -0.04
-3.74 102.39 75.51 AmerExpress AXP 1.5 35 95.60 0.44
-2.05 121.69 92.45 AmericanFinc AFI 2.0 11 70.07 -0.01
-1.51 67.30 55.05 AIG AIG 2.3 dd 56.51 0.04
-6.08 15.85 28.12 AmeriTowerREIT AMT 2.1 50.13 0.04
-13.78 92.37 74.63 AmerWaterWorks AWK 2.13 27.88 -0.02
-10.95 18.90 11.88 Ameriprise AMP 2.2 16.15 0.91
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-7.91 19.37 12.18 AmericaMovil AMX 1.74 44.82 -0.02
-2.21 59.08 39.21 AmerAirlines AAL 0.8 14.53 0.30 -0.01
-11.48 78.07 63.32 AEP AEP 3.8 17 65.48 -0.04
-3.74 102.39 75.51 AmerExpress AXP 1.5 35 95.60 0.44
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-7.91 19.37 12.18 AmericaMovil AMX 1.74 44.82 -0.02
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-11.48 78.07 63.32 AEP AEP 3.8 17 65.48 -0.04
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-8.41 64.89 51.89 Ameron AES 3.45 54.03 0.07
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-7.91 19.37 12.18 AmericaMovil AMX 1.74 44.82 -0.02
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-3.74 102.39 75.51 AmerExpress AXP 1.5 35 95.60 0.44
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-7.91 19.37 12.18 AmericaMovil AMX 1.74 44.82 -0.02
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-11.48 78.07 63.32 AEP AEP 3.8 17 65.48 -0.04
-3.74 102.39 75.51 AmerExpress AXP 1.5 35 95.60 0.44
-2.05 121.69 92.45 AmericanFinc AFI 2.0 11 70.07 -0.01
-1.51 67.30 55.05 AIG AIG 2.3 dd 56.51 0.04
-6.08 15.85 28.12 AmeriTowerREIT AMT 2.1 50.13 0.04
-13.78 92.37 74.63 AmerWaterWorks AWK 2.13 27.88 -0.02
-10.95 18.90 11.88 Ameriprise AMP 2.2 16.15 0.91
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-8.41 64.89 51.89 Ameron AES 3.45 54.03 0.07
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-7.91 19.37 12.18 AmericaMovil AMX 1.74 44.82 -0.02
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-11.48 78.07 63.32 AEP AEP 3.8 17 65.48 -0.04
-3.74 102.39 75.51 AmerExpress AXP 1.5 35 95.60 0.44
-2.05 121.69 92.45 AmericanFinc AFI 2.0 11 70.07 -0.01
-1.51 67.30 55.05 AIG AIG 2.3 dd 56.51 0.04
-6.08 15.85 28.12 AmeriTowerREIT AMT 2.1 50.13 0.04
-13.78 92.37 74.63 AmerWaterWorks AWK 2.13 27.88 -0.02
-10.95 18.90 11.88 Ameriprise AMP 2.2 16.15 0.91
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-8.41 64.89 51.89 Ameron AES 3.45 54.03 0.07
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-7.91 19.37 12.18 AmericaMovil AMX 1.74 44.82 -0.02
-2.21 59.08 39.21 AmerAirlines AAL 0.8 14.53 0.30 -0.01
-11.48 78.07 63.32 AEP AEP 3.8 17 65.48 -0.04
-3.74 102.39 75.51 AmerExpress AXP 1.5 35 95.60 0.44
-2.05 121.69 92.45 AmericanFinc AFI 2.0 11 70.07 -0.01
-1.51 67.30 55.05 AIG AIG 2.3 dd 56.51 0.04
-6.08 15.85 28.12 AmeriTowerREIT AMT 2.1 50.13 0.04
-13.78 92.37 74.63 AmerWaterWorks AWK 2.13 27.88 -0.02
-10.95 18.90 11.88 Ameriprise AMP 2.2 16.15 0.91
-1.23 37.40 99.30 Amico UHAL 8.3317 47.40 -0.70
-8.41 64.89 51.89 Ameron AES 3.45 54.03 0.07
8.59 19.50 12.39 AmericaMovil AMX 1.74 44.82 -0.02
-7.91 19.37 12.18 AmericaMovil AMX 1.74 44.82 -0.02
-2.21 59.08 39.21 AmerAirlines AAL 0.8 14.53 0.30 -0.01
-11.48 78.07 63.32 AEP AEP 3.8 17 65.48 -0.04
-3.74 102.39 75.51 AmerExpress AXP 1.5 35 95.60 0.44
-2.05 121.69 92.45 AmericanFinc AFI 2.0 11 70.07 -0.01
-1.51 67.30 55.05 AIG AIG 2.3 dd 56.51 0.04
-6.08 15.85 28.12 AmeriTowerREIT AMT 2.1 50.13 0.04
-13.78 92.37 74.63 AmerWaterWorks AWK 2.13 27.88 -0.02
-10.95 18.90 11.88 Ameriprise AMP 2.2 16.15 0.91
-1.23 37.40 99.30 Amico UHAL 8.3317 47.40 -0.70
-8.41 64.89 51.89 Ameron AES 3.45 54.03 0.07
8.59 19.50 12.39 AmericaMovil AMX 1.74 44.82 -0.02
-7.91 19.37 12.18 AmericaMovil AMX 1.74 44.82 -0.02
-2.21 59.08 39.21 AmerAirlines AAL 0.8 14.53 0.30 -0.01
-11.48 78.07 63.32 AEP AEP 3.8 17 65.48 -0.04
-3.74 102.39 75.51 AmerExpress AXP 1.5 35 95.60 0.44
-2.05 121.69 92.45 AmericanFinc AFI 2.0 11 70.07 -0.01
-1.51 67.30 55.05 AIG AIG 2.3 dd 56.51 0.04
-6.08 15.85 28.12 AmeriTowerREIT AMT 2.1 50.13 0.04
-13.78 92.37 74.63 AmerWaterWorks AWK 2.13 27.88 -0.02
-10.95 18.90 11.88 Ameriprise AMP 2.2 16.15 0.91
-1.23 37.40 99.30 Amico UHAL 8.3317 47.40 -0.70<br

BANKING & FINANCE

New Levies Forge Hot Market for Metals

By BOB TITA

Blanket tariffs on steel and aluminum imported into the U.S. are likely to keep driving up domestic metal prices that have already been on a tear.

Rising prices globally and dozens of tariffs the U.S. has already applied to individual countries and products have discouraged foreign producers from selling cheap metal in the U.S. The strong U.S. economy and a rebounding oil-and-gas industry have also driven up domestic demand.

President Donald Trump said Thursday that he would enact next week tariffs of 25% on foreign steel and 10% on foreign aluminum. How exactly the tariffs will be implemented and additional details weren't disclosed at Thursday's meeting Mr. Trump held with steel and aluminum industry executives.

Metal-making executives and industry analysts expect aluminum and steel markets to react differently if the tariffs are implemented.

Sharply higher steel prices will encourage companies to fire up some idle blast furnaces in the U.S., said Curt Woodworth, of Credit Suisse Group AG. "We think prices could get dramatically higher in the short run," he said.

While aluminum prices are also likely to rise, the response from domestic producers of raw aluminum will likely be more measured. Pro-



Higher steel prices will encourage some companies in the U.S. to ramp up production.

duction of raw aluminum in the U.S. has been falling for decades as rising electricity prices drove up production costs. The handful of smelters still operating in the U.S. produced 741,000 metric tons last year, while 4.9 million metric tons of raw aluminum were imported.

"We don't think it's enough to justify a substan-

tial increase in domestic production," said Matt Aboud, head of the North American commercial business for Norway's **Norsk Hydro ASA**, which operates processing mills in the U.S. that use recycled scrap and raw aluminum from overseas smelters.

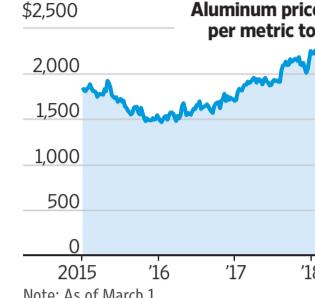
Aluminum traders have stockpiled aluminum in U.S. warehouses in anticipation of

the tariff. Consulting firm Harbor Aluminum Intelligence Unit estimates a record 2.3 million metric tons are in storage in the U.S.

Analysts expect the tariff mostly to be reflected in the delivery premium that U.S. aluminum consumers pay to producers on top of the price of the metal itself, which has been stable lately at about

Tensile Strength

Aluminum and steel prices have risen recently.



Note: As of March 1



Note: As of Feb. 28
Source: London Metal Exchange (aluminum); Platts (hot-rolled steel coil)

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at a Kentucky smelter to 250,000 tons annually because of higher prices it expects to charge after the tariff is implemented. The company said the \$100 million restart of idle smelting lines will double the plant's workforce to 600 people.

Century Chief Executive Michael Bless predicted as much as one million tons of U.S. aluminum smelting capacity industrywide could restart in coming months. "We think the tariff achieves what needs to be done," he said.

Meanwhile, steelmakers said they would increase production. U.S. steel imports have increased for years as a global glut of steel drove down prices, causing domestic producers to close mills. Imports accounted for more than a quarter of the U.S. steel supply last year.

John Ferriola, chief executive of **Nucor Corp.**, said the import share could fall to 12% as companies, including Nucor, expand or restart idle production capacity. "It will accelerate our growth plans," he said.

The benchmark price for hot-rolled, coiled steel is above \$770 a ton, up 32% from a recent low in October. Spot-market prices for that type of steel, widely used in manufacturing, are above \$800 a ton.

Aluminum prices on the London Metal Exchange were slightly higher for the second straight session Friday.

Leveraged Loans Surge in Europe

By ED BALLARD AND JOICE ALVES

perspective, I can see that that may cause some issues."

Investor protections continued to deteriorate in last year's fourth quarter and are close to the weakest on record in Europe, according to a Moody's Investors Service report.

"This market is so aggressive right now—much, much more aggressive, in my opinion, than it was in 2007," said Keith Read, president of **Cerberus Business Finance**, a provider of acquisition finance for sponsor-backed midmarket companies, while speaking at a conference in Berlin.

Before the financial crisis, the boom in leveraged loans was one of the signs of markets overheating. As the crisis intensified in 2008, investors in U.S. leveraged loans lost nearly 30%, according to the S&P/LSTA Leveraged Loan Index.

Mr. Read warned that lenders are accumulating greater risk by writing loans with ever-weaker covenants. While in the past, they may have offered borrowers more credit or cheaper loans to combat competition, lenders are now loosening covenants to secure deals, he said. "Our experience in 21 years is, we value covenants," Mr. Read said.

The trend toward weaker investor protections in leveraged finance has been fueled by the rise of nonbank lenders such as direct-lending firms, which have moved into the market as banks exited in the wake of the financial crisis. Yield-hungry investors have poured money into direct-lending funds, which are now competing for deals by offering more favorable terms.

However, Moody's said so far this year investors have been negotiating more favorable terms, for instance by seeking to limit additional debt that companies can take on.

—Simon Clark contributed to this article.

AIG Books Travel Gig on Expedia

By LESLIE SCISM

American International Group Inc. said it has been selected to sell travel insurance to customers of **Expedia Inc.**'s websites, part of AIG's larger effort to earn more revenue from consumers.

Expedia's Brand Expedia Group, one of the world's biggest travel-site operators by bookings, said the pact would make AIG's Travel Guard offerings available to people booking flights, hotels, cars, cruises and other travel on its sites. Those include Expedia.com, CheapTickets, Orbitz and Travelocity. Financial terms weren't disclosed.

Expedia said it would expand the AIG offerings to its global websites following the U.S. launch. In the U.S., AIG is replacing Transamerica, a unit of Dutch insurer Aegon NV. In-

ternationally, Expedia now uses German insurer Allianz SE, Expedia said.

A Transamerica spokeswoman said the insurer has stopped selling travel insurance "as part of a previously

The move is part of the insurer's efforts to expand and earn more consumer revenue.

announced strategic decision." Allianz couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

Aon PLC's Affinity Travel Practice will continue to provide advisory services to Expedia and handle claim services in the U.S., Expedia said. Aon has worked on the travel pro-

gram for 15 years.

AIG Chief Executive Brian Duperreault is seeking ways to expand the global insurance conglomerate rather than return excess cash to shareholders in the form of stock buybacks. The Expedia pact follows AIG's January agreement to acquire insurer **Validus Holdings Ltd.** for \$5.56 billion.

After that deal, Mr. Duperreault said he would continue to hunt for acquisitions because there is "white space" that can be filled in across the global operations. In particular, he has mentioned life insurance internationally and sales of policies to small and midsized U.S. businesses.

AIG and other insurers of businesses have been struggling to raise premium rates on many property and casualty policies sold to business

clients over the past several years.

The price squeeze has lessened somewhat in recent months in the wake of more than \$100 billion in insured damage industrywide from hurricanes and fires in 2017. But the resulting premium increases aren't broad-based, and they haven't been as strong as initially expected, analysts say.

AIG is hardly a newcomer in selling to consumers. It is one of the U.S.'s biggest providers of homeowners coverage to wealthy households and is prominent in sales of life insurance and annuities to individuals.

From 2009 through 2012, AIG divested tens of billions of dollars of businesses and assets to repay its nearly \$185 billion bailout during the financial crisis.

As Libor Rises, Borrowers Feel Sting

By CHERYL DULANEY

A benchmark used to set borrowing costs on trillions of dollars of loans is on the rise, stirring concerns about the effect of higher U.S. interest rates on consumers and businesses.

The three-month U.S. dollar London interbank offered rate, or Libor, surpassed 2% this week for the first time since 2008. That will lift rates on more than \$100 trillion in debt and derivative contracts that are linked to the U.S. benchmark, from business and student loans to home mortgages.

Libor has been rising for the past two years as the Federal Reserve has tightened interest rates. But gains have accelerated in recent months, according to RBC Capital Markets strategist Michael Cloherty, because of changes to the U.S. tax code that have encouraged companies to refinance their bondholdings.

One recent source of worry among strategists and investors has been the widening gap between Libor, which is set among banks, and the overnight index swap, or OIS, rate, which is determined by central bank rates.

That spread has widened sharply recently and this week was at its highest level since 2009.

Back then, the sudden widening in the Libor-OIS spread signaled mounting stress within the financial system, as a liquidity crunch made it more expensive for banks to lend to each other.

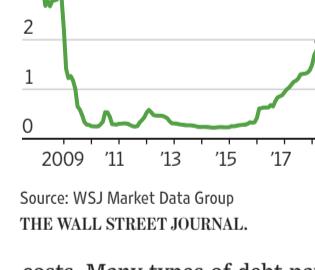
Many analysts are playing down the rise in Libor. The Libor-OIS spread remains modest in comparison to its financial-crisis levels, while overall borrowing costs remain historically low and debt levels don't appear troubling.

Still, some consumers and borrowers are likely to feel the sting of rising borrowing

Libor Climbing

A key rate for short-term lending is on the rise, stirring concerns about tightening financial conditions

Three-month U.S. dollar London Interbank Offered Rate, monthly



Source: WSJ Market Data Group

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monetary tightening, which could complicate the Fed's plans to raise rates this year without fueling market volatility or hampering economic growth and inflation.

"It does increase some people's borrowing costs, but the difference is that back in 2007, you had a lot of wildly overlevered consumers and businesses," said Mr. Cloherty. "At this point, we don't have the same overlevered problem. The increase we've seen in Libor isn't going to meaningfully change the economic outlook."

Rising rates can be particularly painful for heavily indebted companies. UBS Group AG this week estimated that there are more than \$2 trillion in junk-rated loans that are likely to be hurt by higher rates.

"We are primarily concerned with the estimated \$1.1 trillion of loans...extended to issuers rated below BB," UBS analysts wrote.

In Active vs. Passive, Pickers Gain Steam

By ASHLYN LODER

Stock pickers are staging a comeback after years of poor returns, according to a report by **Morningstar Inc.**

Last year, 43% of active money managers beat their index-tracking competitors, up from 26% in 2016, according to the report. Managers who invest in small companies saw the greatest gains, with 48% beating their passive peers compared with 29% in 2016. Active managers improved their performance in 11 out of

12 categories examined by Morningstar.

Despite the short-term up tick, Morningstar's report, released Thursday, noted that passive managers still outperform their active peers over longer periods.

"Though 2017 marked a clear near-term improvement in active managers' success rates, in general, actively managed funds have failed to survive and beat their benchmarks, especially over longer time horizons," Ben Johnson, Morningstar's global head of

ETF research, wrote in the report.

Active money managers have taken a beating in recent years because high fees and lackluster returns drove investors to cheaper index-tracking funds.

Passively managed mutual funds and ETFs took in \$726 billion in the year ended Jan. 31 compared with \$52.6 billion for active funds, Morningstar data show.

Bank of America Corp. analysts reported Friday that 63% of mutual funds have beat

their benchmarks this year, the highest rate at this point in the year since 2009. But higher correlations among stocks in the S&P 500 index may be a headwind for stock pickers, according to the Bank of America report.

In an interview, Mr. Johnson cautioned against seeing last year's comeback for active managers as a turning point.

"The long-term signal is clear," he said. "Selecting the least expensive funds in any given category boosts your odds."

Greater Exposure

Most leveraged loans issued in Europe are classified as covenant-lite, with reduced investor protections.

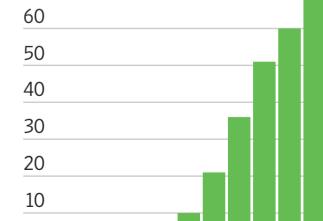
Cov-lite loan issuance in Europe

€80 billion



Note: €10 billion = \$12.18 billion

Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence



Note: €10 billion = \$12.18 billion

Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence

MARKETS



Soybeans, being sorted for export last year by Chinese workers, advanced 0.3% on Friday.

Commodities Assess Paths

By AMRITH RAMKUMAR

The proposed U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum announced Thursday are reverberating into corners of the commodities market that have nothing to do with metals.

Prices of soybeans and natural gas remained on solid footing Friday even as stocks and other com-

modities slid amid worries that U.S. tariffs could stoke a trade war or inflation. Analysts say those commodities are holding up better than the broader market because investors are assessing the potential for retaliatory policies from China and other trade partners.

China is one of the world's largest consumers of raw materials. That has led some in the market to expect lower soybean prices because if China were to stop buying commodities, U.S. producers would be left with excess supply.

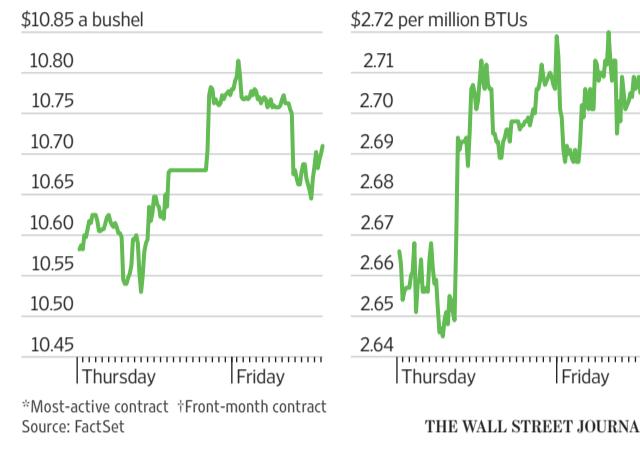
Instead, some think producers are trying to get ahead of China by limiting supply. Analysts say producers might make plans to lower supply ahead of key growing seasons, which would help prop up prices in the short-term if there is retaliation from China. Others said traders are trying to hedge bets that prices might fall, with exact details of the tariffs yet to be announced.

"People are narrowing back their positions so they don't get caught one way or another," said Mark Grant, managing director and chief global strategist at B. Riley FBR Inc.

Higher commodities prices could also be a sign that some investors don't think retaliation will have a negative impact, Mr. Grant said. The pros-

Ripple Effect

Soybean and natural-gas prices are holding up after the announcement of proposed U.S. tariffs.



*Most-active contract †Front-month contract

Source: FactSet

pect of weather-related supply disruptions and robust export data have supported prices recently.

The tariffs come as many materials and agricultural products are just starting to recover from a yearslong price slump. While the S&P 500 is down 6.3% from its all-time high in January and the Dow Jones Industrial Average is down 7.8%, soybean futures prices are up 9.5% and wheat has surged 13% during that span.

On Friday, the most actively traded soybean futures closed up 0.3% at \$10.71 a bushel, while the most-active wheat contract fell 3% to \$5 a bushel. Front-month natural-gas futures fell 0.3 cent, or 0.1%, to \$2.6950 a million British thermal units after rising a day earlier to its highest level since Feb. 7.

A number of industry groups, including the American Gas Association and Farmers for Free Trade, released statements Thursday about how the tariffs could lead to higher costs or trade retali-

ation. Steel is used in the pipelines that transport natural gas.

That is one reason why investors think commodities producers could crimp output as details about the tariffs are released. China recently raised the prospect of tariffs on sorghum, a grain used in livestock feed, and relies heavily on soybeans to feed its pigs.

"We do believe the farmers would make some decisions on this," said Darwei Kung, portfolio manager of the Deutsche Enhanced Commodity Strategy Fund. "If they can't sell, they're probably not going to plant it."

Still, some market participants cautioned against reading too much into moves in volatile commodities. They said traders covering short positions, or bets that prices will fall, can also contribute to exacerbated price movements.

"Tariffs do impact the move, but investors have to wait and see the ramifications to see if there's lasting power," said Adam Sarhan, Chief Executive of 50 Park Investments.

Treasury Prices Step Down

By GUNJAN BANERJI AND DANIEL KRUGER

Investors sold Treasurys as anxiety about an international trade war percolated through global markets.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.855% on Friday, from 2.802% on Thursday. Yields rise as bond prices fall.

CREDIT MARKETS Bond and stock prices remained volatile

Friday as investors grappled with uncertainty regarding trade policy. President Donald Trump's pledge to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum imports was met with threats and angry responses from U.S. allies around the world.

The threat of an international trade war could increase expectations for higher inflation, which erodes the purchasing power of the fixed payments of government bonds. New tariffs could cause companies to pass along costs to consumers through higher prices, analysts said. Foreign and domestic buyers may also hesitate to pile into Treasurys if the dollar continues to weaken, analysts said.

"Markets have to juggle inflation fears and possibly higher interest rates, a new Fed chair, and high equity valuations as compared to history," Nicholas Colas, co-founder at DataTrek Research, wrote in a note Friday.

The 10-year yield rose further Friday after data showed that Americans are still optimistic about the economy. The University of Michigan's consumer-sentiment index was 99.7 in February, up from Jan-

uary and the second-highest monthly reading since 2004.

Some analysts said bond dealers also sold Treasurys in order to hedge interest-rate risk as they prepared for large

corporate bond sales next week. Some analysts said CVS Health Corp. may sell bonds to help fund its \$69 billion purchase of health insurer Aetna Inc.

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Japan Stocks Are Hit Hard

Japan's stock market was Asia's worst performer on Friday, as President Donald Trump's pledge to impose stiff

By Saumya Vaishampayan, Steven Russolillo and Ese Erheriene

tariffs on steel and aluminum imports reverberated through global markets.

The export-heavy Nikkei Stock Average dropped 542.83 points, or 2.5%, to 21181.64.

Friday's declines were broad-based, with just

three of the index's 225 stocks rising.

Japan's declines stood out even as every major Asian market fell, with declines of more than 1% in Hong Kong and South Korea.

"Japan is bearing the brunt of the antitrade rhetoric," said Vasu Menon, senior investment strategist in wealth management at OCBC Bank in Singapore. He noted that foreign investors are more exposed to Japanese stocks than other Asian markets.

"If big institutional investors are going to react to this antitrade sentiment coming out of the U.S., the initial reaction is to reduce exposure to Japanese sectors that would be most impacted," he said.

They include Japanese steel and auto makers.

Nippon Steel & Sumitomo

Metal Corp. slid 3.8% Friday while shares of aluminum company **Nippon Light Metal Holdings** Co. fell 4.5%.

The proposed tariffs have resurfaced concerns about a trade war that could hinder the global economic recovery.

Strong trade has fueled economic growth around the world in recent months, underpinning stock-market rallies in many trade-reliant Asian nations.

That makes markets there especially vulnerable to any shift in sentiment on trade.

"We do believe the farmers would make some decisions on this," said Darwei Kung, portfolio manager of the Deutsche Enhanced Commodity Strategy Fund.

"If they can't sell, they're probably not going to plant it."

Still, some market participants cautioned against reading too much into moves in volatile commodities. They said traders covering short positions, or bets that prices will fall, can also contribute to exacerbated price movements.

"Tariffs do impact the move, but investors have to wait and see the ramifications to see if there's lasting power," said Adam Sarhan, Chief Executive of 50 Park Investments.

Going Under

A major Japanese stock index broke a key technical level.

26000

Nikkei Stock Average

24000

200-day moving average

22000

20000

18000

16000

14000

12000

10000

8000

6000

4000

2000

0

2017

2018

Source: FactSet

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month highs against the dollar and a six-month best against the euro.

The Nikkei was additionally hurt Friday by its exposure to the automobile sector, since car producers will likely have to absorb higher material costs associated with Mr. Trump's proposed tariffs, according to Woon Tian Yong, an analyst at Informa

MARKETS

Retailers' Stocks Begin to Turn Higher

BY AKANE OTANI

After one of their toughest years ever, beleaguered U.S. retailers are enjoying a pickup in quarterly sales, helping to boost the shares of many brick-and-mortar operators even as the stock market stumbles this year.

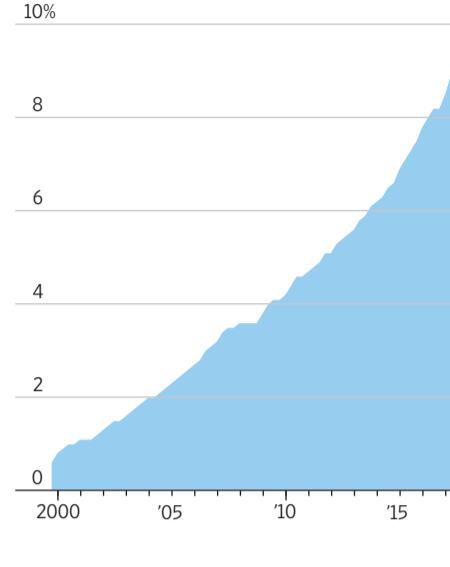
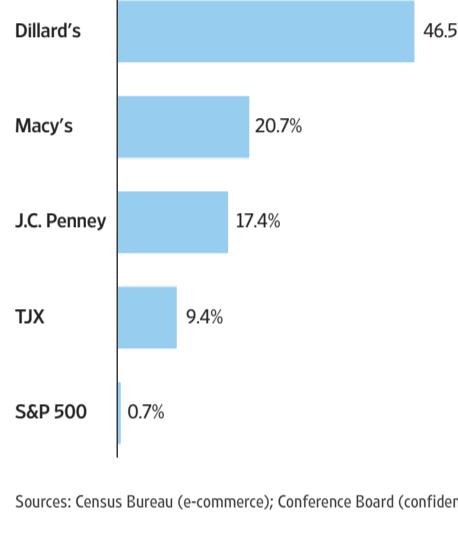
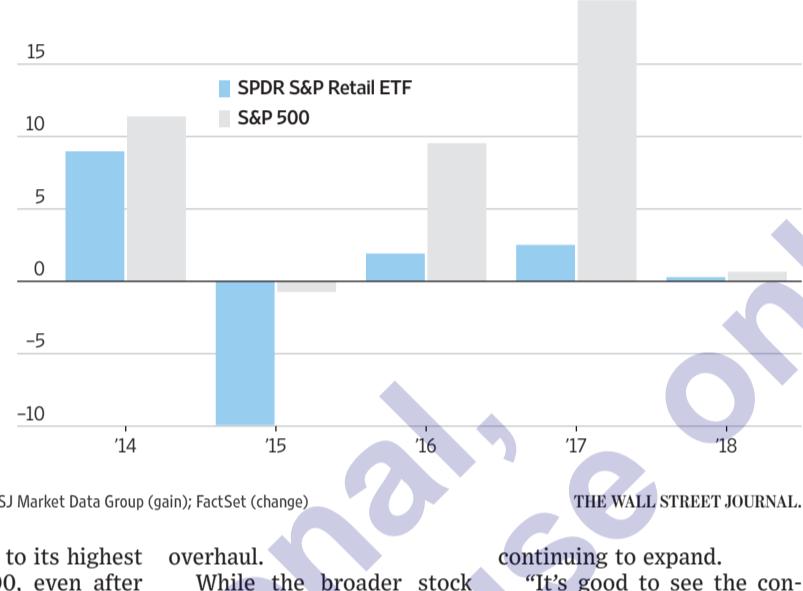
The moves mark a partial respite for retailers, which have reckoned with sliding sales, record store closures and bankruptcy filings as consumers have shifted to shopping online. The bleak outlook led many investors to sour on the sector last year, sending shares of several department stores, including Macy's Inc., J.C. Penney Co. and Sears Holdings Corp., down by double-digit percentages, while the S&P 500 knocked out a 19% gain.

But in recent weeks, a string of retailers has posted stronger-than-expected earnings, driven by a pop in holiday sales and further rounds of cost-cutting. That has helped spur a rally in shares of companies ranging from department stores and electronics chains to bargain outlets. The S&P 500 department-store subindustry index has climbed 19% this year, while an S&P 500 index tracking the performance of electronics retailers has risen 6.7% and the broad S&P 500 has gained 0.7%.

"Right now, we're seeing the perfect scenario for retailers: high consumer confidence, relatively low expectations [around their performance] and stronger-than-expected consumer spending. When you put all these things together, you have the retail earnings season in a nutshell," said Victor Jones, director of trading at TD Ameritrade.

To many, the retail sector's early gains are the latest indication that the consumer is on strong footing—something that bodes well for the broader economy. Investors and analysts closely monitor

Shares of brick-and-mortar retailers, which have lagged behind the S&P 500 as competition from e-commerce retailers has heated up, have begun to rebound thanks to strong earnings.

E-commerce's share of overall U.S. retail sales**Consumer-confidence index, monthly****Percentage gain for 2018****Annual percentage change over the past five years**

Sources: Census Bureau (e-commerce); Conference Board (confidence); WSJ Market Data Group (gain); FactSet (change)

measures including employment, household wealth and consumer confidence, as consumer spending accounts for about two-thirds of the U.S.'s total economic output.

Recent data have mostly been encouraging, showing U.S. consumer confidence ris-

ing in February to its highest level since 2000, even after the stock market tumbled. Retail sales slipped in January, but some economists say the figures could pick up, especially with many workers starting to take home larger paychecks after the U.S. tax

overhaul.

While the broader stock market has managed to rise for years even as many retailers lagged behind, investors and analysts say a pickup in shares of brick-and-mortar operators would be an encouraging sign that the economy is

continuing to expand.

"It's good to see the consumer-discretionary sector moving up, especially after it not being a leader for so long," said Lori Calvasina, head of U.S. equity strategy at RBC Capital Markets. He added that consumers are

looking fairly strong.

Macy's is among the beaten-down stocks that are seeing a bounce. Its shares jumped 3.5% Tuesday, bucking the S&P 500's 1.3% decline for the day, after the retailer posted stronger sales over the holiday quarter and said it had signed a deal to sell part of its Chicago store. The stock is now up 21% for the year.

"We know consumers are out there, and it's up to us to win with them," Macy's Chief Executive Jeff Gennette said on the company's earnings call.

Discount-apparel retailer TJX Cos. also rose higher, with its shares rising 7% to a 52-week high on Wednesday after strong holiday sales helped it beat analysts' estimates for fourth-quarter same-store sales. For the year, its stock is up 9.4%.

Dillard's Inc., the Little Rock, Ark.-based department store, surged 17% Tuesday after it reported earnings and revenue that topped analysts' expectations. Shares of **Best Buy** Co. jumped 4% Thursday, even as the S&P 500 dropped 1.3%, after the electronics retailer reported same-store sales surging in the holiday quarter as demand for video-games rose.

But not all retailers have shared in the recent gains. Within the S&P 500 consumer-discretionary sector, which includes dozens of retailers, as well as e-commerce giant Amazon.com Inc. and online streaming service Netflix Inc., nearly half of the stocks are posting losses for the year.

The disparate gains in the sector have led some to caution that, once again, it pays to be picky within the retail sector.

"Even though there's underlying strength in the data supporting the overall sector, you still have to be careful here," said TD Ameritrade's Mr. Jones.

HEARD ON THE STREET

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS & COMMENTARY

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VMware Is Under Wrong Kind of Cloud

VMware has vastly improved its prospects as a software business. Investors just have to wonder whether that is what they actually are buying into.

The company reported strong fiscal year-end results on Thursday. Revenue for the year ended Feb. 2 rose nearly 12%, to \$7.9 billion, with operating income jumping 17%, to \$1.7 billion.

But the results were overshadowed by a report from CNBC earlier in the day that Michael Dell is giving further consideration to a rather audacious idea to combine **Dell Technologies** with VMware through a reverse merger.

Dell, which already owns about 80% of VMware's shares, is looking at various ways to adjust its capital structure following President Donald Trump's tax overhaul.

VMware's shares have slumped 12% since The Wall Street Journal first reported the discussions in January.

The question will likely hang over the stock despite the company's improving business performance.

VMware has secured partnerships with the big cloud providers, which has helped the company cross-sell to businesses that use both public cloud services as well as their own internal networks. The company's recent results represent the first full year since a key deal was signed with Amazon.com's AWS in late 2016.

VMware projected another year of double-digit-percentage growth, which further bolsters its case for remaining competitive. But investors who signed up for a software company with a decent outlook now face the prospect of owning a very different kind of business.

—Dan Gallagher

Volatility Returns, Calm Ensues

Capital Decimation Lite, anyone?

Volatility is back in the stock market, but the investments that imploded spectacularly in February are gone bar one survivor. That fund is now a tamer version of its former self.

The market upheaval was a lesson in how quickly long-term compound returns can evaporate.

The wildly popular VelocityShares Daily Inverse VIX Short-Term ETN, ticker symbol XIV, was designed to return the opposite of a basket of futures contracts on the Cboe Volatility Index, known as the VIX.

As markets stayed calm, it had produced a blistering annualized gain of 46% from inception in 2010 through early 2018. Then it plunged 95% in a day and was liquidated soon after. An investor from day one would have lost half of his or her original investment.

The episode also was a lesson in reading fine print. The fund had survived many big

Long Climb Back

ProShares Short VIX Short-Term Futures ETF share price



declines. The difference this time was a spike severe enough for its sponsor to "accelerate" the note, returning investors' cash and leaving no possibility to recover those losses.

The survivor is the ProShares Short VIX Short-Term Futures ETF, ticker symbol SVXY, which escaped with a mere 92% loss over five sessions in early February.

On Thursday, when markets fell sharply, the fund retreated by less than 3% for what was just its 245th worst day ever.

That relatively tame move is because ProShares unexpectedly cut the fund's exposure on Tuesday to 0.5 times the index's return. ProShares wouldn't comment about whether the move was in response to or in anticipation of regulatory

pressure on the controversial products.

The bets on falling volatility futures prices may only be half as profitable, but the reduction in risk is far more than half, as long as one defines "risk" correctly, permanent loss of capital.

The sort of event that could force the fund to implode will be far rarer because big moves in markets are normally distributed. For example, a 1% daily decline in the Dow Jones Industrial Average since 1900 has been almost five times as frequent as a 2% decline and nearly 18 times as much as a 3% decline.

Can SVXY still blow up? Yes, because extreme events do occur.

Capital decimation, as one professor dubbed the strategy, is still possible, but the odds of ProShares being forced to engage in an embarrassing winding down of the fund are now much lower.

Chalk it up to smart career risk management.

—Spencer Jakab

OVERHEARD

A mistake that rebounds in your favor is still a mistake. At **MetLife**, the errors are stacking up.

The life insurer had already gotten grief for adding to reserves to account for pension benefits for retirees that it lost track of.

In the latest fumble, it didn't lose track of more people, but it figured out it owed some Japanese clients less because they had withdrawn cash from their policies.

The latest revision could be seen as a kind of offset to the \$510 million it earlier added to reserves to account for funds owed to the lost clients.

None of this inspires confidence in a giant insurance company that depends on complicated financial calculations to run its business.

The company's annual filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission uses the term "material weakness" 47 times. It makes you wonder what they will lose track of next.

U.S. Allies and Consumers Will Pay Bill From Steel Tariffs

President Donald Trump's pledge to impose stiff new tariffs on steel and aluminum imports is unlikely to cause the most pain where he expects.

The market reaction since Mr. Trump announced his planned new tariffs has been telling in this regard. American steel futures have climbed and share prices of big U.S. steelmakers like U.S. Steel have gained the past two days. Canadian and South Korean steelmakers have sold off sharply, with Canada's Stelco Holdings and Korea's Posco taking hits.

Chinese steelmakers have sold off, too, but not as much. Chinese steel futures have barely budged.

What does all of this tell you? First, it isn't China who will really pay the bill for higher U.S. steel tariffs: It will be American allies like Canada and South Korea. The U.S. used to import a lot of Chinese steel, but that has dropped sharply thanks to targeted tariffs already in place.

In 2008, China exported over \$2.7 billion of iron and steel to the U.S., according to the U.S. International Trade Commission. Almost a decade later in 2017, it exported only \$637 million. The top three steel exporters to the U.S. in the first nine months of 2017 were Canada, Brazil and South Korea.

Meanwhile, Chinese steelmakers are doing rather well

for reasons that have nothing to do with Mr. Trump. Forced closures of privately owned Chinese furnaces over the past 18 months, designed to shore up the finances of the ailing state-owned steel companies that compete with them, have worked smashingly.

China's two-year-long construction boom has also sucked steel back into China.

Net steel-product exports in January were just 3.5 million metric tons, the lowest since 2013. China's domestic policies and its own construction cycle, not Mr. Trump, will continue to dictate the fortunes of China's steel heavyweights.

The other noticeable los-

Flattened

China's net steel-product exports



Source: CEIC

ers from higher imported metal prices will be big U.S. equipment makers and U.S. consumers. Deere and Caterpillar sold off sharply on Thursday, both down over 2.5%. Average Americans

may find themselves ponying up in unexpected ways: Following Mr. Trump's announcement, a beer industry lobbying group called for can-sheet aluminum, used to make beer cans, to be exempt from any new tariffs.

The run-up to next week's actual tariff proclamation will doubtless be a frenzy of industry lobbying groups clamoring to be exempt from the new rules, which are supposedly needed to protect national security.

Certain firms and sectors are definitely getting new protection. Whether the U.S.'s geopolitical aims or its economy has been fortified is another matter.

—Nathaniel Taplin

Jason Gay on
rescuing Oscar:
The more
screw-ups on the
show, the better



C3

REVIEW



A new biography
looks at the inner
life and enduring
appeal of Agatha
Christie

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The AI Arms Race

China is making big investments in artificial intelligence and related technologies, looking for military advantage—while the Pentagon is determined to keep its edge.

BY JULIAN E. BARNES AND JOSH CHIN

Four years ago, planners at the Pentagon reviewed estimates of China's growing military investments with what one called a "palpable sense of alarm." China, the planners determined, was making advances that would erode America's military might—its ability to project power far from its shores. The search began for technologies that could give the U.S. a new warfighting edge against its rival.

The officials were particularly impressed by one artificial-intelligence project. The program could scan video from drones and find details that a human analyst would miss—identifying, for instance, a particular individual moving between previously undetected terrorist safe houses.

"That was the 'Aha' moment I had been looking for," said William Roper, then the head of the Pentagon's Strategic Capabilities Office. His superiors quickly latched onto the potential of America's world-leading efforts in artificial intelligence. The U.S. could maintain its advantage, they hoped, by exploiting the growing ability of computer systems to adapt rapidly to novel conditions, respond autonomously and even make certain decisions within rules set by programmers.

The problem, according to U.S. officials, is that China's People's Liberation Army was closely watching the Pentagon's technology search, and some of its officers soon had an "Aha!" moment of their own. The turning point was March 2016, said Elsa Kania, a specialist on Chinese military innovation at the Washington-based Center for a New American Security. That was when Google's DeepMind used AI to defeat a world champion in the ancient Chinese game of Go. The out-

come, she said, persuaded the Chinese military that AI could surpass the human mind and provide an advantage in warfare. Last July, China unveiled plans to become the world's dominant power in all aspects of artificial intelligence, military and otherwise, by 2030.

There should be no doubt that the Chinese military is chasing transformative AI technologies, said retired PLA Maj. Gen. Xu Guangyu, now a senior researcher at the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association, a government-supported think tank. "China will not ignore or let slip by any dual-use technology, or any technology at all, that might improve the ability of our military to fight, our awareness, or our ability to attack," he said.

U.S. universities and corporations remain the world's leaders in AI and related technologies, and American researchers continue to patent the most important technologies. Chinese experts say that their country is playing catch-up, citing the expertise in the U.S. and the Pentagon's long history of driving innovation through its Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or Darpa.

But the Chinese military has moved to copy the Pentagon's model. Two years ago, the PLA elevated and reorganized its science and technology branch, aiming to turn it into a "Darpa with Chinese characteristics," according to Tai Ming Cheung, an expert on the Chinese military at the University of California, San Diego. The Chinese government is also building national laboratories in the mold of America's famed Los Alamos, and because of its deep involve-

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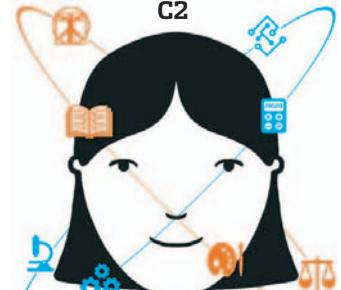
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MIND & MATTER

Why don't more women pick science and technology?

Susan Pinker on new research.

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BOOKS

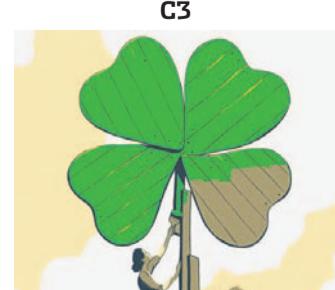
The legacy of the Kerner Commission, formed 50 years ago after bitter race riots.

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ESSAY

Good fortune isn't just random chance: There are ways to make your own luck.

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ESSAY

Corporations are people, too: Businesses won their rights in Supreme Court skirmishes.

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WEEKEND CONFIDENTIAL

Leo Melamed made Chicago's Merc a financial juggernaut. Now he's looking to Asia.

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REVIEW

**MIND & MATTER:**
SUSAN PINKER**Why Don't More Women Choose STEM Careers?**

A KEY TENET of modern feminism is that women will have achieved equity only when they fill at least 50% of the positions once filled by men. In some fields, women have already surpassed that target—now comprising, for example, 50.7% of new American medical students, up from just 9% in 1965, and 80% of veterinary students. But the needle has hardly moved in many STEM fields—such as the physical sciences, technology, engineering and math, in which barely 20% of the students are female.

A new study suggests some surprising reasons for this enduring gap. Published last month in the journal *Psychological Science*, the study looked at nearly a half million adolescents from 67 countries who participated in the Program for International Student Assessment, the world's largest educational survey. Every three years, PISA gauges the skills of 15-year-olds in science, reading and math reasoning. In each testing year, the survey focuses in depth on one of those categories.

In 2015 the focus was on science literacy, which gave the psychologists Gijsbert Stoet of Leeds Beckett University and David Geary of the University of Missouri a rich data set for examining not only national differences but also the range of academic strengths and weaknesses within each student.

Some fascinating gender differences surfaced. Girls were at least as strong in science and math as boys in 60% of the PISA countries, and they were capable of college-level STEM studies nearly everywhere the researchers looked. But when they examined individual students' strengths more closely, they found that the girls, though successful in STEM, had even higher scores in reading. The boys' strengths were more likely to be in STEM areas. The skills of the boys, in other words, were more lopsided—a finding that confirms several previous studies.

If boys chose careers based on their own strengths—the approach usually suggested by parents and guidance counselors—they would be most likely to land in a STEM discipline or another field drawing on the same sorts of skills. Girls could choose more widely, based on their own strengths. And both, of course, would pursue their particular interests, as best they could.

Which leads to the study's most thought-provoking finding. Based on how female students did in math and science in high school, the researchers predicted that at least 41% of girls would pursue a college STEM degree. This was indeed what they found, using Unesco education data—but only in countries with relatively weak legal protections for women, such as Algeria, Tunisia, Albania and the United Arab Emirates. So the nations with the least gender equality, as determined by the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report, had the highest representation of women in STEM.

Conversely, nations with the strongest protections for women and the most dependable social safety nets—such as Sweden, Switzerland, Norway and Finland—had the fewest female STEM graduates, about 20% overall. The study puts the American STEM graduation rate at 24%.

I asked Wendy Williams, founder and director of the Cornell Institute for Women in Science, what she makes of these findings. She wrote that if girls expect they can "live a good life" while working in the arts, health or sciences, then girls choose to pursue what they are best at—which could be STEM, or it could be law or psychology. She added, "However, if the environment offers limited options, and the best ones are in STEM, girls focus there...Stoet's and Geary's findings deservedly complicate the simplistic narrative that sex differences in STEM careers are the result of societal gender biases."

That conclusion should prompt a rethink. If women are most likely to choose STEM careers in societies that offer less equality and fewer personal freedoms, then that's a steep price to pay just to say we're 50/50.

Continued from the prior page

ment in industry at every level, Beijing can achieve more integration between military and civilian AI investments.

"The Chinese have done a good job of adopting the American strategy and using it against us," said Chris Taylor, chief executive of Govini, a big-data and analytics firm that has studied government investments in AI. "Not too many years ago we would say China steals information and that is how they innovate. That is not where they are anymore."

Fueling the AI race is processing power, an emerging area of strategic competition between China and the U.S. Chinese state media reported in January that researchers with the National University of Defense Technology and National Supercomputer Center in Tianjin had made a breakthrough in building a conventional supercomputer at exascale—10 times faster than today's supercomputers—scheduled for completion by 2020. "That's a revolutionary, generational leap up," said Dr. Cheung.

China is also advancing in quantum information sciences, a field that could give a big boost to AI and provide other military advantages. The complex research capitalizes on the ability of subatomic particles like photons to exist in multiple states simultaneously and to mirror each other across vast distances. Breakthroughs in the field could enable vast improvements in computing power and secure communication. Strategists see numerous military applications, including the supercharging of artificial intelligence.

In the city of Hefei in eastern China, work began last year on a \$1 billion national quantum-information-sciences laboratory. Slated to open in 2020, it will build on research already under way nearby in the lab of physicist Pan Jianwei, who led the team that launched the world's first quantum communications satellite. The project propelled China far ahead of others in transmitting information with essentially unbreakable quantum encryption.

"It's so fundamentally different, it changes the building blocks of force and power," cybersecurity expert John Costello said in an interview he gave last month before becoming a senior adviser at the Department of Homeland Security.

For its part, the U.S. military has struggled to establish a partnership with the private sector in developing AI—a serious problem since high-tech firms in the U.S. are conducting the world's most advanced research and development in the field. Last November, Eric Schmidt, the former executive chairman of Google and Alphabet and the chairman of the Pentagon's Defense Innovation Board, told an audience of Washington officials at a think-tank event that the obstacles to cooperation include cumbersome government bureaucracy and fear within the tech industry of "the military-industrial complex using their stuff to kill people incorrectly."

Aware of the problem, the Pentagon set up a tech-industry outreach office in 2015, which has awarded military contracts to AI-focused startups to help nurture technology in which the Defense Department is interested. An Air Force AI team also has been working to strengthen ties with companies and research universities.

The Air Force has embedded a member of its team, for instance, with IBM researchers working on chips for a neuromorphic computer. The new technology, pioneered by IBM and Darpa, is intended to process information much as the human brain does, performing massive calculations with a fraction of the energy needed by normal computer chips. IBM is due to deliver it to the Air Force this summer—and China has built a new national laboratory working on the same technology.

Some AI is already on the battlefield. The F-35, one of America's most advanced jet fighters, uses AI to evaluate and share radar and other sensor data among pilots, expanding their battlefield awareness. AI stitches together information and highlights what is likely most important to the pilot.

The more that AI advances, the more nimble these battlefield networks will become at combining machine and human intelligence, according to current and former defense officials. "The F-35 takes in infrared intelligence, radar intelligence, all sorts of stuff, and it fuses it right in front of the pilot's eyes," said Mr. Work. "The machine is doing all of that, and the pilot doesn't have to ask the machine to do it."

The Pentagon wants to equip soldiers on the ground with this technology. The U.S. Army is working on tactical augmented reality systems—sort of a Google Glass for war—using goggles or a visor that could display video from drones flying above, current position and enhanced night vision. AI-powered computing could add information about incoming threats, targets and areas that have to be protected.

AI used by the U.S. military in its Project Maven system—the initiative that gave the Pentagon its "Aha" moment—can already find potential enemies in a crowd faster than trained intelligence analysts. At Marine Corps Base Quantico, the U.S. is testing conventional "Huey" helicopters outfitted with AI systems meant to enable pilotless flight for supply runs. AI-controlled aircraft might someday jam enemy air defenses. "This is going to change the way

AI on the Battlefield

we fight wars," Mr. Work said.

AI also could vastly improve the effectiveness of airstrikes, current and former U.S. officials said. A commander, Mr. Work said, could order an airstrike on an air defense installation and launch a cluster of missiles at the target. Artificial intelligence could give each missile a distinct role: One flying at the ideal altitude to get the best radar picture of the target, another climbing higher to force the installation's radar to point skyward, and other missiles staying low and approaching from different directions, some serving as decoys others attempting a direct hit.

China is developing similar technology. In January, the country's military TV network broadcast footage of researchers testing such "swarm intelligence," which could eventually link dozens of armed drones into an automated attack force.

In its unclassified budget for 2017, the Pentagon spent roughly \$7.4 billion on AI and the fields that support it, such as big data and cloud computing, up from \$5.6 billion in 2012, according to a report by Govini. This reflects only the known piece of AI defense spending; the Pentagon has additional spending that is classified.

Defense officials say that the Pentagon is at work on a new AI strategy aimed at marshaling more resources. Chinese spending on AI is even more difficult to track. Estimates for overall investment vary widely, though analysts agree that the number is rising quickly.

Some officials and analysts see excessive exuberance over AI in both China and the U.S. A daunting task still lies ahead for any military hoping to deploy AI: Winning a complex board game like Go is far different from winning on the constantly shifting terrain of a modern battlefield. "What will be difficult about conflict and warfare is that the rules are not well defined," said Dr. Roper, who in late February became the Air Force's new head of acquisition and technology. "As soon as the fight starts, everything changes."

Though U.S. officials say that China, thanks to its strong economy and AI investments, presents the greatest competitive threat, Russia is investing in AI as well. Moscow has focused on creating autonomous weapons powered by AI and hopes in the coming decade to have 30% of its military robotized, which could transform how it fights. Russia's sophisticated drone development lags behind the U.S., but it has exceptional expertise in electronic warfare, and AI technologies could boost it further.

AI could speed up warfare to a point where unassisted humans can't keep up—a scenario that retired U.S. Marine Gen. John Allen calls "hyperwar." In a report released last year, he urged the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to step up its investments in AI, including creating a center to study hyperwar and a European Darpa, particularly to counter the Russian effort.

Mr. Work advocates competing with China and Russia by creating a new civilian agency akin to NASA for AI, as well as an AI reserve comparable to the military reserves, which would pay for young people to get degrees in computer science and related fields. In return, young scientists would regularly serve in military AI labs.

Once AI is sophisticated enough for either side to let it run military systems, the next problem could be deciding how much human authority to surrender. People still have an edge in handling changing conditions, assessing risks and making choices. Yet AI's biggest impact could ultimately be on decision-making. Winning at war requires a military to make better decisions than its enemy and to execute them quickly.

In a futuristic example, a military AI program would identify weak points in enemy infrastructure that humans couldn't detect and then devise attacks—conventional or cyber—against the targets. If a nation were willing to turn over all decision-making to machines, the strikes could be launched within nanoseconds of identifying the target. "In hyperwar, the side that will prevail will be the side that is able to respond more quickly," Gen. Allen said. "Artificial intelligence will collapse the decision-action loop in a very big and very real way."

A Pentagon directive from 2012 restricts autonomous weapons. AI may assist with targeting, but a human military commander must decide what a warhead strikes. Some current and former U.S. military officials believe that China will have fewer compunctions about autonomous AI. "We are not going to find the Chinese are going to feel particularly constrained," Gen. Allen said.

Gen. Xu, the retired PLA officer, said that questions such as whether to respond to a missile attack require political decisions, so China's military would never completely relinquish control to machines. Still, he said, the PLA can't ignore AI's potential agility. "The speed of perception, of attack, of action, whether you're talking technology or strategy, this will be the key issue in the battles of the future," he said.

Pentagon officials acknowledge that they may eventually need to hand machines greater responsibility. "We should fight to have people maximally involved," Dr. Roper said, "but the necessities of conflict will make us face hard choices."

—Gordon Lubold contributed to this article.



AMERICAN F-35 fighter jets use AI to evaluate and share radar and other data among pilots, expanding their battlefield awareness.

REVIEW



RYAN GARCIA

Make Your Own Luck

Luck is a combination of random chance, talent and hard work—and we can control some of that equation

BY JANICE KAPLAN AND BARNABY MARSH

WHEN SCOTT CRANE became president of the fast-casual restaurant chain Smashburger in 2007, he wanted “to put better burgers into people’s lives,” he told us. It was a smart concept, but according to Mr. Crane, there was another key factor: luck.

The recession of 2008 hit shortly after he took over, and Americans were looking for more value when they dined out. Also, real-estate prices had gone down, so Smashburger was able to expand in a way that wouldn’t have been affordable before. By the time Mr. Crane left the company in 2016, Smashburger had 330 restaurants in seven countries.

Such stories are common in the business

world. An executive humbly claims that he was simply in the right place at the right time, took advantage of circumstances and—bam!—became a huge success. But attributing success to random chance is misleading. If you believe that luck will just fall from the sky, you will probably never get lucky.

Luck occurs at the intersection of random chance, talent and hard work. There may not be much you can do about the first part of that equation, but there’s a lot you can do about the other two. People who have a talent for making luck for themselves grab the unexpected opportunities that come along.

The good news is that there’s plenty of luck to go around if you know how to look for it. Some simple rules can help.

Pay attention. Researchers who study at-

narrow focus (seeing specifics) and open focus (observing the wider scene). The most important talent anyone who seems lucky possesses is the ability to pay attention on many levels and to notice opportunities.

The psychiatrist, entrepreneur and philanthropist Henry Jarecki made his first fortune in the late 1960s when 25% of the currency in circulation in the U.S. was still backed by silver. The bills said right on them: “Silver payable to the bearer on demand.”

Dr. Jarecki realized that the silver could be worth more than the dollars—so he collected millions of certificates by paying people \$1.10 or more for their \$1 bills. Converting them to silver and then selling them as silver futures was a complicated, multistep process, but once he got bank financing behind him, he made more than \$100 million from the exchanges.

“I can’t figure out why I was one of the very few who figured out a method for transforming the certificates into real silver,” Dr. Jarecki said. “We all had the same bills in our pockets.”

Get off the standard path. Mathematicians who study game theory have concluded that, in highly competitive conditions, the best move is often to be unpredictable. Lucky people are often the outliers who find a path that others missed.

Key traits: attention, persistence, optimism.

When you’re in the midst of a difficult time, you may not immediately see that your bad luck can have a bright side. But a tough situation may shake you out of your complacency and inspire you to take risks that can lead to unexpected good luck.

Most of us act on only a fraction of the luck-making

possibilities around us. If you want to become lucky, look for the positive side of any situation. Choose the favorable future you want and then live as if it had already occurred. It’s not mystical—it’s just a way of putting together all the ingredients to make luck happen.

This essay is adapted from Ms. Kaplan and Mr. Marsh’s new book, “How Luck Happens: Using the Science of Luck to Transform Work, Love and Life,” which will be published next week by Dutton.

LET'S HOPE FOR MORE OSCAR SHOW SCREW-UPS

BY JASON GAY

I WANT TO BE CLEAR from the start: Every grumpy thing I say here about the Academy Awards, I take back if I’m ever nominated for an Academy Award. Over the next several hundred words, I may call the Oscars telecast “historically boring,” “doomed to fail” and “utterly skippable,” but listen—if I’m ever up for one of those little golden statues, I deny all of it. It’s just nonsense that the Journal has put me up to. I love you all, wise Academy voters, and by the way, you all look fantastic tonight.

Moving on....

There is only one true Oscars tradition in America, and it’s this: complaining about the Oscars. The movie industry’s annual self-swoon is widely watched but historically, you know, pretty boring—a lot of prizes, a lot of speeches, a few clunky musical numbers and maybe three or four good jokes. Most of all, it’s loooooooong. The ceremony begins at 8 p.m. Eastern Sunday and usually wraps up around 5:45 a.m. on Wednesday, shortly before dawn. At least it feels that way.

It’s an endurance contest, just making it to the finish. Part of the problem is that the Oscars are two shows in one: the show that’s in the

theater, with anxious stars under hot lights in uncomfortable clothes, and the show that’s in my living room, with an unimpressed me on the couch in my boxer shorts.

Even when the host does well—and Jimmy Kimmel did great last year, presiding with a Carson-like nonchalance—it’s a heavy lift. The producers have tried shaking up the format, but the Oscars are so beholden to tradition and so determined to

honor movies in scads of categories that it feels destined to fail. Or to put you into deep REM sleep. If you’re watching at home, I suggest a double espresso sometime around 10:30.



SURPRISE! Jimmy Kimmel and Warren Beatty last year.

the La-La-Landers who had to skulk off stage. But at home, I had a completely opposite reaction: Finally!

Finally, here was an Oscars moment truly worth staying up for. All those years, I’d sat in my boxers, waiting for something interesting to happen—and here it was, in full-color, HDTV, egg-faced brilliance. I replayed it again and again on the DVR, like a game-winning basket. *What was Warren Beatty thinking? Did he just sandbag Faye Dunaway?* Mr. Kimmel had been sailing all night. Now he looked as if he needed every drink in town.

Clyde the right envelope. PwC is back this year, remarkably, but assurances have been made that a screw-up of this magnitude will never, ever happen again.

Booooooooooooo!

I want more of that, folks! Last year’s Oscars screw-up was the most unforgettable moment in all my decades of awards show viewing. It’s worth repeating what happened: *They gave the Best Picture Oscar to the WRONG MOVIE.* It’s like inviting the wrong team to the Super Bowl and it turned an utterly skippable TV

event into something you’d wished you’d seen live.

Why not market the potential for more of this? The greatest sensation any form of entertainment can sell is: *You have no idea what’s coming next.* The Oscars should embrace ineptitude and declare all bets off. Winners may become losers. Losers may win.

I have my doubts this will happen. The Oscars, at its core, sees itself as a serious affair. This year’s show will

Finally, an Oscars moment worth staying up for.

likely have a sober atmosphere because of the ongoing reckoning over sexual harassment and sexism in Hollywood. That’s appropriate—and long overdue.

Still, if I were Jimmy Kimmel, I’d begin the show with last year’s accountants suspended above a dunk tank. I’d bring up the casts of “La-La Land” and “Moonlight” and give them all a bunch of tennis balls to throw. Start the Oscars with a splash, to thunderous applause, and comic relief. Those accountants aren’t villains. To me, they’re stars.

REVIEW



DEMONSTRATORS gathered outside the U.S. Supreme Court during arguments in Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission, Dec. 5, 2017.

What Rights Should Corporations Have?

The business world's 'artificial persons' have fought to win the same constitutional protections as citizens

BY ADAM WINKLER

THE SUPREME COURT will soon decide a controversial case involving a Colorado baker who refused to sell a wedding cake to a same-sex couple. That case was also brought, however, in the name of a corporation, Masterpiece Cakeshop, a business that is one of the "people" whose First Amendment rights are said to be burdened by the state's antidiscrimination law.

Corporations have been at the center of several controversial Supreme Court cases in recent years. In *Citizens United* (2010), the justices held that corporations had the same free-speech right as individuals to spend money on election ads. In *Hobby Lobby* (2014), the Court held that certain corporations had a right to religious liberty under a federal statute and were entitled to an exemption from Obamacare's mandate to cover birth control in employee health plans.

How did corporations come to possess some of the most fundamental rights of individuals? They never marched on Washington. Instead, they have fought to win their rights in the Supreme Court—and in the process have been unexpected innovators in constitutional law.

The first Supreme Court case on the rights of business corporations was decided in 1809—nearly a half-century before the first case on the rights of African-Americans. Far from an oppressed minority, the Bank of the United States, which brought the case, was among the richest and most powerful corporations in the new nation.

After opponents in Georgia imposed a tax on the Savannah branch, the bank claimed a constitutional right to challenge the tax in federal court. Article III of the Constitution, however, guaranteed the right to sue in federal court only to "citizens." In one of the neglected landmarks of American law, the legendary chief justice John Marshall held that the Constitution must be read expansively to include corporations. (A half-century later, in the infamous *Dred Scott* case, the Court would rule that blacks could not be citizens under this same provision of the Constitution.)

Thus empowered to use the courts, corporations became innovators in civil-rights litigation, setting the pattern for civil-rights movements to come. Chafing at a special tax on railroads, the Southern Pacific Railroad Company in the 1880s engaged in civil disobedience and refused to pay. The corporation then assembled a dream team of illustrious lawyers, led by Roscoe Conkling, to pursue a series of test cases, more than 60 in all, to expand the rights of corporations.

Conkling was a former leader of the Republican Party in Congress and had once been confirmed to the Supreme Court himself, only to decline the post. In the Southern Pacific case, Conkling told the Justices that the Fourteenth Amendment, which requires "equal protection of the laws," was adopted not just for the freed slaves but also to protect businesses. Conkling

was uniquely situated to make such an audacious argument, having served years before on the committee that drafted the amendment.

But there was a problem: Conkling's story wasn't true. None of the drafters ever mentioned corporations when the amendment was proposed. As historian Howard Jay Graham memorably concluded, Conkling had engaged in "a deliberate, brazen forgery."

For procedural reasons, the Supreme Court never ruled directly in Conkling's case, but another of the Southern Pacific's test cases came up a few years later. The Court again declined to rule on the constitutional issue, but the Reporter of Decisions, who publishes the official volumes of the Court's opinions, included a summary of the case saying that the Court had in fact ruled that corporations possessed Four-

teenth Amendment rights.

Corporate personhood simply means that a corporation has its own independent identity in the eyes of the law, wholly separate from the people who comprise it. Because of this legal separation, if you slip and fall in a Starbucks, you have to sue the company itself, not the individual shareholders.

Today's controversies have to do not with the basic idea of legal personhood for corporations but with the separate question of whether they also possess the individual rights of their members. Chief Justice Marshall held that the Bank of the United States had a right to sue in federal court because its members were citizens with that right. In the *Hobby Lobby* case, the Court said that the Obamacare birth-control mandate burdened the religious beliefs of the company's owners, David and Barbara Green and their children.

Public interest groups like Common Cause want to amend the Constitution to eliminate these and other rights for corporations that the Supreme Court has recognized. But if corporations had no constitutional rights, the government could seize their property to build a highway without paying compensation or declare them guilty of crimes without due process.

The real question is not whether corporations should have rights but which rights they should have. Here history provides a useful starting point.

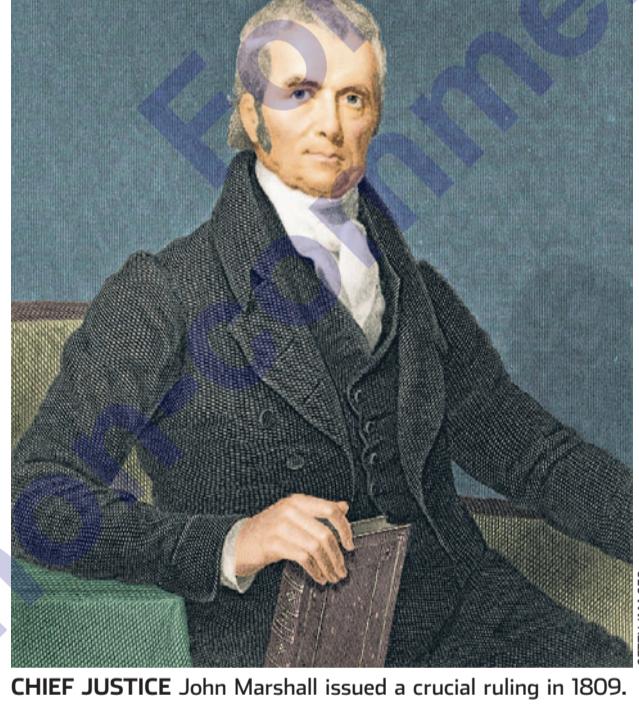
In the early 20th century, as the Supreme Court was issuing a range of business-friendly rulings, the justices also offered a refinement of the doctrine set out by Chief Justice Marshall. They held that corporations had *property* rights under the Constitution but not *liberty* rights, such as those associated with personal autonomy, conscience or political freedom. Corporations were legally separate entities, with their own rights and duties, but this didn't mean that they possessed the same constitutional protections as individuals.

In a case evocative of this term's same-sex wedding cake case, the Supreme Court in 1907 turned away a corporation that claimed a constitutional right to refuse service to certain customers. The corporation, which ran Tanforan racetrack, home of the legendary Seabiscuit, challenged a California law that required places of public amusement to serve anyone with a ticket. The corporation said that the law violated its right of freedom of association. Yet the Supreme Court ruled against the corporation and upheld the equal-access law.

In another instance of déjà vu, corporations in the 1910s fought to have courts overturn campaign finance laws restricting corporate spending on elections. The corporations were brewing companies that wanted to influence local elections in the run up to Prohibition. The courts ruled against the companies. As one court explained, the right to influence elections belonged to "natural and not artificial persons."

In recent years, American corporations have won more liberty rights, including rights to political speech and religious liberty. While novel in some ways, these cases are just the latest chapters in the much older story of how American corporations fought for a place in the constitutional order—and, along the way, became innovators in constitutional law.

Mr. Winkler is a professor of law at the University of California, Los Angeles. This essay is adapted from his new book, "We the Corporations: How American Businesses Won Their Civil Rights," published by Liveright.



CHIEF JUSTICE John Marshall issued a crucial ruling in 1809.

The Court has distinguished between liberty rights and property rights.

Businesses also have been first movers in establishing key constitutional rights. One of the earliest and most important freedom-of-the-press cases was brought in the 1930s by newspaper corporations battling Louisiana's demagogic governor, Huey Long. Railing against his critics in the press, Long pushed for a tax on the newspapers' advertising revenue. The Supreme Court issued a landmark ruling in favor of the newspapers and established broad new protections for press freedom. Corporations would also be involved in landmark free-press cases like *New York Times v. Sullivan* (1964), establishing the right to criticize public figures.

Critics of recent Supreme Court decisions on the rights of corporations often blame the idea of corporate personhood—that is, the legal conceit that corporations are people. But this legal doctrine is easily misunderstood.

Corporate personhood is a foundational principle of business law. In 1757, Blackstone in his influential "Commentaries on the Law of England" wrote that corporations were "artificial persons." Open any corporate law casebook

WORD ON THE STREET: BEN ZIMMER

Plots, Politics And 'Crisis Actors'

AFTER the Feb. 14 school shooting in Parkland, Fla., a sickeningly familiar conspiracy theory sprung up online. Across social media, a crackpot notion spread that the shooting was actually staged and that the teenage survivors from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School were nothing more than "crisis actors."

The same baseless charge has been levied against survivors of mass shootings going back to 2012. But where did the phrase "crisis actor" come from? Despite its current scaremongering usage, the origins of the expression are rather innocuous.

"Crisis," from a Greek word for a turning point or sudden shift, has long been used for traumatic or stressful events, or more broadly for unstable situations leading to drastic change. Combining the word with "actor" suggests all manner of performance at a critical juncture.

The two words were first brought together by political scientists. In 1977, Michael Brecher, a professor at McGill University in Montreal, used it in a report on how countries behave in times of crisis, calling the countries in conflict "crisis actors." Together with Jonathan Wilkenfeld of the University of Maryland, Mr. Brecher launched the International Crisis Behavior Project, which maintains an online database of 476 crises since 1918, each with their relevant actors. (For instance, the crisis actors in the Cuban Missile Crisis

The origins of the expression are rather innocuous.

were the U.S., the Soviet Union and Cuba.)

"Crisis actor" took a more theatrical turn in 2012 in the wake of a mass shooting at a movie theater in Aurora, Colo., that July. A few months later in nearby Denver, an actors' studio called Visionbox sought to help active shooter drills by providing realistic "crisis actors" as part of role-playing exercises. Visionbox promoted the group on the website crisisactors.org and cited backing from state authorities in a press release.

The term acquired more nefarious connotations after the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., in December 2012. A since-deleted article on the Washington Examiner news website questioned whether the school was participating in "an emergency response exercise using paid crisis actors funded by a grant from our federal government," linking to the Visionbox press release.

That tenuous chain of reasoning was enough for conspiracy theorists to begin imagining that Newtown was a staged event populated with "crisis actors." As Jason Koebler recently detailed for the website Motherboard, the theory was first propagated in a series of blogs, including one by James Tracy, who was a professor of communications at Florida Atlantic University but later lost his job there.

Since then, high-profile mass shootings have inevitably brought out groundless "crisis actor" theories. With the Parkland massacre pushing the phrase into even greater prominence, Facebook and YouTube have been cracking down on posts and videos using the term.

For their part, student activists from Parkland have shrugged off the "crisis actor" theory when asked about it by reporters. "You should have seen me in 'Fiddler on the Roof,'" Cameron Kasky told Time, referring to a school production of the musical. "Who the hell would pay me to act?"

Answers to the News Quiz on page C13

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

BOOKS

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Saturday/Sunday, March 3 - 4, 2018 | C5

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The Queen of the Cozy

The comforting, orderly world of Agatha Christie's fiction belies its creator's demons and passions.

Agatha Christie: A Mysterious Life

By Laura Thompson
Pegasus, 534 pages, \$35

BY ANNA MUNDOW

RAYMOND CHANDLER found her novels irritating. They "fake the clues, the timing, the play of coincidence," he complained, and "fake character, which hits me hardest of all, because I have a sense of character." Robert Graves declared that "her English was schoolgirlish, her situations for the most part artificial, and her detail faulty." And he was a friend. Bernard Levin "found not one of the books worth the time of an intelligent adult"; Francis Wyndham called them "animated algebra"; Julian Symons considered them "riddles rather than books." More recently, Ruth Rendell lamented, "When I read one of her books, I don't feel as though I have a piece of fiction worthy of the name in front of me," while Michael Dibdin deemed Agatha Christie "a killer [whose] victim was the British crime novel." Nevertheless, when Edmund Wilson, in a 1945 essay, famously asked, "Who cares who killed Roger Ackroyd?", the answer was—and still is—tens of millions of Agatha Christie readers: the "Low Brows," as Christie affectionately referred to them in 1956, by which time she had sold more than 50 million books worldwide.

When she died in 1976, aged 85, Christie left behind over a hundred works of fiction and drama, some poems, an autobiography . . . and a great deal of stuff. Stuff that made Laura Thompson, her new biographer, fairly swoon as she rummaged through it. "The notebooks with their agonised jottings. The fur coats that smell still of distant scent. The soft pools of christening lace. . . . The attaché case that contained Archie Christie's love letters, and the wedding ring he gave her. . . . So many things kept," and not in sterile archives but *in situ*, throughout her longtime home, Greenway House in Devon, "filling every cupboard, every attic, every secret drawer." In "Agatha Christie: A Mysterious Life," Ms. Thompson mines this trove for clues not only to the writer's inner life but also to her fiction's recurring themes and enduring appeal. She also unearths a vanished era—of villages and servants, tea and vicars—long regarded as quintessentially British.

Ms. Thompson's is not, of course, the first excavation. There have been



TOWERING ACHIEVEMENT 'Most successes are unhappy,' wrote Christie. 'That's why they are successes—they have to reassure themselves by achieving something that the world will notice.'

many previous portraits and studies of Christie, the most satisfying perhaps being Janet Morgan's measured, conscientious biography, published in 1984. Where Ms. Morgan is restrained, however, Ms. Thompson is ardent and opinionated. "It is a steep climb up Barton Road in Torquay," she begins, "and at the top there is nothing to be seen." Well, there are

bungalows. But Christie's birthplace is gone and Ms. Thompson revisiting the site could be Charles Ryder returning to Brideshead, so fierce is her nostalgia and dismay. "The 1851 town hall now a branch of Tesco," she wails, with "junkies and asylum-seekers lurching along Higher Union Street." It seems an odd introduction to a biography, this spasm of xenophobic

throat clearing. Then again, Ms. Thompson spent years embedded with the Mitford family—her previous book was "The Six: The Lives of the Mitford Sisters" (2015)—and some of that dunderhead glibness was bound to rub off. ("Place was full of Jews," old man Mitford reported of Munich in 1935, with nothing to fear "so long as they behaved themselves.") But Ms.

Thompson soon settles down, evoking with fond acuity Christie's childhood and early artistic awakening.

Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller was born, the last of three children, on Sept. 15, 1890, to the former Clarissa Boehmer (known as Clara), who was susceptible to fads and spiritualism, and Frederick Miller, a jolly idler whose death in 1901 left the family in reduced circumstances. This being an era when cutting back, for the middle-class Millers, meant renting out their Torquay house and decamping to Paris and Cairo. Childhood education was sporadic. Clara disapproved of formal schooling and of children learning to read before the age of 8, so her daughter taught herself. "I'm afraid Miss Agatha can read, ma'am," the nanny announced

A master-theme unifies all of Christie's works: human nature as revealed in the act of murder.

apologetically when the girl was just 4. In Paris, where her mother left her to live alone at the age of 15, Christie attended genteel establishments like Miss Dryden's School and, more assiduously, studied piano and singing. Becoming an accomplished musician, she only reluctantly surrendered ambitions of a professional career. "Writing, for her, was the thing she did because she had failed at music," Ms. Thompson explains, and this insight is key to the finer elements of Christie's style; the often pitch-perfect dialogue, the balanced rhythm of her sentences. ("The rattle of the curtain rings on the stairs as the housemaid drew them, the noises of the second housemaid's dustpan and brush in the passage outside. In the distance the heavy noise of the front-door bolt being drawn back.")

Before a literary career, however, came Archie, chronologically at least. Archie Christie, a hard man for a reader to like though Ms. Thompson's portrait is even-handed. To be fair, he adored Agatha Miller, the lissome beauty he dashingly pursued and finally married in 1914. By 1926, however, the soulfulness which "had been adorable in a young girl was now faintly repulsive." And physically, to Archie his wife "seemed a different person. Louder, larger, uglier." More substantial, certainly, for there was now a child, Rosalind,

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'Two Societies, One Black, One White'

Separate and Unequal

By Steven M. Gillon

Basic, 374 pages, \$32

BY EDWARD KOSNER

THE PATH FROM the incendiary "Black Power!" cry of the 1960s to the "Black Lives Matter!" chant today tracks race relations in America over the past half-century. So many things have changed—including the once unthinkable election and reelection of the nation's first African-American president—but the psychic and material gulf between the races endures.

These days, the flashpoints of black-white conflict are police aggression against African-American youths and insensitivity to minority representation and sensibilities in popular culture. The pivotal issues over the years have been deeper: slavery, serfdom, Jim Crow laws in the South, school segregation, housing, employment and voting discrimination—the consequences of white resistance, conscious or not, to black advancement.

This year is the 50th anniversary of one of America's most conscientious efforts to tease out its racial tangles and devise a program to resolve them. The deadly 1967 riots in Newark and Detroit and lesser flare-ups in dozens of other cities prompted President Lyndon John-

son to appoint the Kerner Commission. Launched with fanfare, it has been lost to memory. Now, in "Separate and Unequal," Steven M. Gillon, a history professor at the University of Oklahoma, tells the fraught story of the commission, its recommendations and American race relations in the five decades since. His book is sophisticated, fair-minded—and a bracing corrective to complacency about racial reconciliation in America.

A 1968 report on urban riots is a case study in the futility of leadership by blue-ribbon panel.

The experience of the Kerner Commission—formally, the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders—is a case study in the futility of leadership by blue-ribbon panel. In the midst of the Vietnam War, Johnson wanted to show concern and buy time to develop a response to the riots, a scary insurrection on the home front. He also wanted validation for his expensive and sputtering Great Society legislative program, half of his "guns and butter" strategy.

LBJ's aim was to have a group whose names would command respect but also one that would be submissive to his will. He picked a

reliable ally, Otto Kerner, the dapper Democratic governor of Illinois, as chairman. There were a couple of distinctly moderate African-Americans: Roy Wilkins, the head of the NAACP, and Edward Brooke of Massachusetts, a Republican who was the first black U.S. senator since Reconstruction. The vice chairman,

two other congressmen, a big-city police chief, a labor leader and a Senate candidate from Kentucky, the sole woman. The key appointment was that of David Ginsburg, a politically savvy Washington lawyer, as executive director. His job was to corral the cats and get LBJ the report he wanted.



BREAKDOWN A riot in Detroit, July 1967.

John Lindsay, the charismatic young liberal GOP mayor of New York, held down the opposite end of the ideological seesaw from Charles (Tex) Thornton, the head of the Litton Industries conglomerate, a business icon of the time. Fred Harris, a 37-year-old Democratic senator from Oklahoma, was a member, along with

Johnson charged the riot panel to answer three basic questions: "What happened? Why did it happen? What can be done to prevent it from happening again?" As Mr. Gillon skillfully shows, the answer to the first question was easy; the second had to be finessed; and the third guaranteed that the commission's report

would be disdained by the president who created it and buried in history's vault.

From the start, conflict between Lindsay and his ally Harris on one side and Tex Thornton on the other divided the panel. Lindsay, the WASPy sophisticate, argued that poverty and discrimination were the root causes of the rioting and that the commission's job was to propose ambitious programs to address these historical wrongs. Thornton, a crusty self-made Westerner, thought the rioters were lawbreakers, not victims of white power, and wanted the Kerner report to reflect that view. LBJ himself was certain that black-power agitators like Stokely Carmichael and H. Rap Brown were part of a conspiracy masterminding the outbreaks, even though J. Edgar Hoover couldn't confirm it.

The president wasn't shy about letting the commissioners know how he felt about their deliberations. At one point, Mr. Gillon reports, he warned the starchy Lindsay, "It's a darn sight easier to slip on bullshit than it is to slip on gravel." Another time he called Mr. Harris, who was something of a protégé, to remind him that he was "a Johnson man." "I won't forget," pledged Mr. Harris. "If you do," drawled the president, "I'll take out my pocketknife and cut your peter off."

The commission spent millions over seven months—hiring dozens of

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BOOKS

'To put yourself into a situation where a mistake cannot necessarily be recouped, where the life you lose may be your own, clears the head wonderfully.' —A. Alvarez

What Is Left to Be Conquered

Limits of the Known

By David Roberts

Norton, 306 pages, \$26.95

BY SARA WHEELER

IN 'LIMITS OF THE KNOWN,' writer and mountaineer David Roberts recounts stories of expeditions and climbing feats—his and other people's—and dives into the murky waters of motivation. What, he asks, is risk? And for the first time in a long career of adventuring and writing, he faces the inner journey, when sickness strikes and there are no choices left.

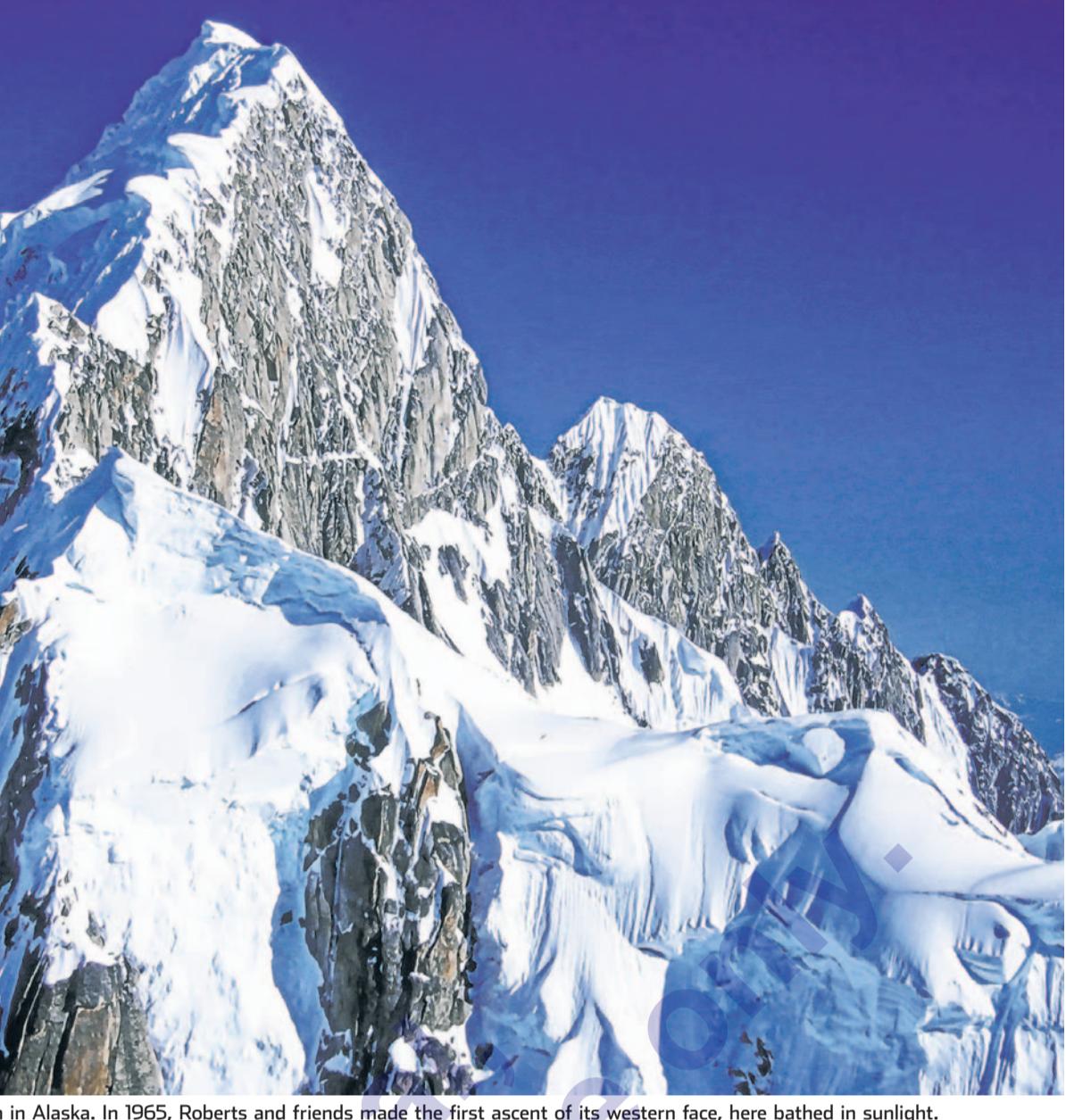
Even the familiar tales in this book are gripping—wooden ships in the pincers of an ice floe, flickering oil lamps, thin air. Seven chapters and an interlude are arranged thematically, from an account of Fridtjof Nansen's 1895 farthest-north record in the Arctic to a speculative disquisition on the future of adventure. The chapters are discrete, but themes recur, and throughout Mr. Roberts weaves his own anecdotes into the historical material.

His previous books, largely about mountaineering and exploration, include "Alone on the Ice" (2013), the unforgettable saga of the Australian Douglas Mawson's struggle to survive in the Antarctic in 1913. An accomplished climber himself, Mr. Roberts as a young man made the first ascent of the west face of Alaska's Mount Huntington in 1965, described here, and his account of that climb, "The Mountain of My Fear," is still in print 50 years later. He says in these pages that he made his first exploratory adventure when he was 4.

Three years ago, however, when he was 72, doctors diagnosed throat cancer, and he went through many debilitating cycles of treatment. "Cancer," he writes, "plunged me into a reassessment of life itself." This book explores the issues that arose, particularly, given Mr. Roberts's interests both professional and personal, those around risk and fear. "Why do we do it? Why do we care? Why does it matter?" He says that the purpose of the volume "is to grope toward an answer."

Mr. Roberts's subjects include the legendary Eric Shipton and H.W. (Bill) Tilman, the British climbers of the interwar years who trekked through the western reaches of the Karakoram (among other ranges) with an entourage of "Sherpas, Baltis, porters, ponies." Mr. Roberts skillfully analyzes the style of their separate books, revealing character differences, though both men were ahead of their time in their dry, whimsical wit and their note of what Mr. Roberts calls "happy vagabondage."

Discussing first contact with isolated peoples, or the Indian wars (Mr. Roberts researched the Apache for



PEAKING EARLY Mount Huntington in Alaska. In 1965, Roberts and friends made the first ascent of its western face, here bathed in sunlight.

years, even interviewing Geronimo's granddaughters), the author is sympathetic but not idealistic—there is no noble savagery here. In the French Ardèche, he studies "unfathomably old" cave paintings, concluding: "If any men and women who ever lived deserved to be called explorers, it was those barefoot mystics carrying their pine torches into an undiscovered world." Nicely put. In recounting the strange story of the Australian explorer and gold prospector Mick Leahy, who "discovered" the Highlands of Papua New Guinea in the early 1930s, Mr. Roberts concludes: "That his own incursion was destabilizing a culture and an economy that it had taken centuries to establish does not seem to have greatly troubled Leahy. Awing the natives with airplanes and a gramophone was a means to an end." These pages are disturbing.

One chapter concerns travels in the medieval period, and in it Mr. Roberts brings in his experiences of the canyons of southeast Utah. He marvels at the technical competence of the Anasazi, who climbed for prac-

tical reasons: to build cliff-top structures to store precious grain away from marauders. He also investigates the prehistoric, and vanished, Tellem people who built necropolises in what is now Mali.

Ill with cancer, a veteran writer and mountaineer reflects on the peaks and canyons of his life.

In a chapter on first descents of rivers, Mr. Roberts recounts how he faced, on a rafting expedition in New Guinea, a "bargain with the cinematic devil," made when a film crew was permitted to accompany the group. "I came home," he writes, "disillusioned by the ways in which modern technology had tamed and diluted the adventure." Of course, all travelers and explorers think that they were "born too late" and therefore missed out on some golden age before the pesky modern world

ruined the fun. Mr. Roberts uses the phrase several times himself. "Exploration and adventure," he concludes, "have been adulterated by the machinery of communication."

That said, in later chapters Mr. Roberts writes about the seabed, where nobody has ever set foot, as "a frontier as challenging as the polar regions loomed in the 1880s, or the Himalaya half a century before that." He reckons that the future of exploration lies in caving and cave diving, which, "almost uniquely, have been transformed virtually not at all by . . . modern inventions." He says, "If I could start life over as an explorer in 2017 rather than 1960, I think I might become a caver rather than a climber."

The narrative style of "Limits of the Known" is easy to read, switching as it does from the wide-angle to the close-up shot, and Mr. Roberts understands the importance of detail, revealing for example that on Christmas Eve 1895, when Fridtjof Nansen, while battling by sled to find rescue for his frozen-in shipmates and living off blubber, washed

himself in a quarter cup of water to celebrate the day. One forgives Mr. Roberts the odd cliché, such as "stunned" and "mind-blowing."

This an uplifting book, despite the fact that Mr. Roberts's cancer now means that he "can only dream of subterranean discovery." He concludes that there is no answer to the question "Why?" beyond the few tentative ones that float through "Limits of the Known." Aware that this is his last chance, he hymns the companions who shared it all with him. "The forging of friendships too deep for words is almost never the reason we set off into the wilderness to probe the unknown. But in the end, it is what glows in memory." He celebrates his marriage of 49 years—"that island of safety." In the end, that's what you envy him for—an achievement more fulfilling than any peak.

Ms. Wheeler's books include "The Magnetic North: Notes From the Arctic Circle" and "O My America! Six Women and Their Second Acts in a New World."

The Kerner Commission Revisited

Continued from page C5

social scientists and other experts and helpers, sending fact-finding teams to riot cities, holding hearings, crunching statistics, and endlessly drafting and redrafting elements of the report. Reconstructing the rioting was the easy part. But the portion dealing with the causes of the conflagrations crystallized the conflict between the Thornton law-and-order hawks and the Lindsay doves, proxies of a divided nation. Commissioners began threatening not to sign the final report or to issue a minority report—fatally undercutting the authority of the recommendations—unless their views prevailed. Finally, the crafty Washington lawyer Ginsburg came up with a phrase to break the impasse: The commission would simply label "white racism" the root problem. It was a facile solution, but it couldn't paper over the panel's deep divisions when it dug into the details.

Youngish social scientists drafted the section on the reasons for the rioting. They wrote mostly reasoned analyses, including one arguing that the riots were invariably touched off by the police shooting black youth and another establishing that many of the rioters weren't poor dropouts but ghetto dwellers with decent educations and good incomes. A firebrand wound up writing the concluding portion, a vehement attack on liberal pieties on race and a call to empower militant youths to solve the problems of the ghetto. He called the Great Society "tokenism" de-

signed to "get the Negroes out of our hair. . . . White moderation is the stuff out of which black rebellion is made." Cooler heads rewrote the offending pages, but the damage was done. Johnson got wind of what was going on and tried to kill the commission, which barely survived.

The panel finally agreed to a unanimous report only after a new top was

compendium that predictably inflamed the commission's conservatives. Even so, Lindsay kept arguing for a guaranteed national income and other progressive nostrums that went far beyond Downs's notions.

The panel finally agreed to a unanimous report only after a new top was

cause it hurt his feelings." But before the report was even published on Feb. 29, 1968, the North Vietnamese launched the Tet Offensive overrunning South Vietnam. The spectacle shook public support for LBJ's pursuit of the war. Then, less than two weeks after the report came out, Sen. Eugene McCarthy, the antiwar crusader from Minnesota, almost beat the sitting president in the New Hampshire Democratic primary. In a

wealth and visibility of black celebrities—increasing income inequality has disproportionately affected the poor. As Daniel Patrick Moynihan had predicted in 1965, more young black women were giving birth out of wedlock and more black youths were behind bars. Even the ascension of Barack Obama did not fundamentally change the picture and—it can be argued—prompted a backlash that elected Donald Trump.

The author gives the last word to Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, the black CCNY psychologist whose work the Supreme Court cited in its 1954 school desegregation decision. Clark testified to the Kerner Commission that he'd read reports of similar riot investigations drafted in 1919, 1935, 1943 and 1965 and warned: "It is a kind of Alice in Wonderland—with the same moving picture re-shown over and over again, the same analysis, the same recommendations, and the same inaction."

The Kerner Commission was a failure. Still, by many standards, the lives of African-Americans are better today than ever before, if still short of aspirations. The commission's description of "two societies . . . separate and unequal" remains valid as well. "The arc of the moral universe" may "bend toward justice," as King preached, but it does take its time.

Mr. Kosner, the former editor of Newsweek, New York, Esquire and the New York Daily News, wrote about the Kerner Commission for Newsweek in 1968.



DIVIDED From left, members of National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders John Lindsay, Otto Kerner, David Ginsburg and Victor Palmieri.

Worse was yet to come. The commission came to a standstill trying to agree on a program of social policy and legislation to ward off future riots. Finally, a Chicago urban expert named Anthony Downs was brought in. He came up with a grab bag of costly federal programs that were a sophisticated gloss on existing ideas, including a nondiscriminatory housing law. The staff rejected some and packaged the rest into a 70-page

grafted on. Its blunt summary sentence would be the only part of the report many people read and history remembered: "Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal."

In the end, none of it mattered. Johnson wanted to deep-six his commission's budget-busting prescriptions. And there was an ego problem: "To a great degree," Mr. Gillon writes, "LBJ rejected the report be-

cause it hurt his feelings." But before the report was even published on Feb. 29, 1968, the North Vietnamese launched the Tet Offensive overrunning South Vietnam. The spectacle shook public support for LBJ's pursuit of the war. Then, less than two weeks after the report came out, Sen. Eugene McCarthy, the antiwar crusader from Minnesota, almost beat the sitting president in the New Hampshire Democratic primary. In a

few days, Johnson's nemesis, Robert F. Kennedy, jumped into the race. By the end of March, LBJ announced that he would not run for re-election and the Kerner report was old news. A few days later, the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, Tenn., ignited the worst black riots in American history.

Mr. Gillon concludes his book by casting a fresh eye on race relations in America in the half-century since the Kerner report. He traces the evolution of white resentment successfully exploited by Richard Nixon and George Wallace in 1968 and by Ronald Reagan in 1980 and '84. Republicans ended Great Society-style social engineering. For all the growth of the black middle class—and the

BOOKS

'Beauty is a very tangible asset in these days of fluctuating values.' —1932 Elizabeth Arden advertisement

Opportunism Knocks

A Dangerous Woman

By Susan Ronald

St. Martin's, 388 pages, \$27.99

BY CAROLINE MOOREHEAD

'TO HOLD ON to your man,' Florence Gould told a friend, 'you need to occupy him. You make love together for, what? An hour? Maybe only half an hour? Then you have twenty-three other hours to fill.' From a very young age, Florence—social climber, businesswoman, *grande horizontale*, patron of the arts—perfected the art of filling the hours of her lovers. She was never without a man.

'A Dangerous Woman' introduces us to young Florence Lacaze, born in 1895 to a Frenchman who had immigrated to California and clawed his way up from poverty, first working as a typesetter but eventually flagging his way into San Francisco society through his role as a journalist. Florence quickly perceived that to acquire the wealth and social standing she instinctively craved—to join the magic circle of the rich and the famous—she needed to be imaginative, to be ruthless and to know exactly whom to cultivate.

When her ambitious mother went back to Paris in 1908, Florence went too, and learned to earn admiring listeners by telling fanciful, self-aggrandizing stories about her time in the American West—describing the terrors of the San Francisco earthquake of which she was a distant spectator. But she understood all too well the perils of poverty and not belonging, and she needed a rich husband. She found one in the shape of Henry Chittenden Heynemann, a lovesick wealthy young American architect, a 'squirming fish on the line,' as Ms. Ronald puts it, who was quickly and gainfully disposed of.

Florence was handsome, with cat-like eyes, a generous rosebud mouth, a languid, seductive manner and a pouting expression. She learned how to dress, and a spell as a singer with the Folies Bergère brought her to the attention of twice-married Frank Jay Gould, gambler, sportsman, womanizer and millionaire. Having extricated Gould from another affair and dried him out, Florence married him in 1923. Together, they set about building up his fortune, buying and designing hotels and casinos on the newly fashionable French Riviera, Art Deco palaces where sea horses and classical goddesses frolicked on marble facades. Florence partied with the Scott Fitzgeralds, persuaded Coco Chanel to design for her fetching beach pajamas and inspired Van Cleef and Arpels to invent the jeweled Minaudiére case, when Charles Arpels saw her stashing her makeup and cigarettes in a Lucky Strike tin.

By the late 1930s, according to Ms.



ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT Florence Gould aboard the SS Île de France in New York Harbor in 1934.

Ronald, Florence was also acting as the 'main administrator' for her husband's empire, as he became increasingly infirm. Though flirting with murky money-laundering schemes, and at war with casino-owners as avaricious as herself, she navigated the shoals of international finance with the skill expected of a Gould. At the same time, Ms. Ronald writes, she 'expanded her personal financial interests opportunistically wherever possible,' a habit that led to complications when the Nazis arrived in France.

The best part of Ms. Ronald's book is her account of Florence Gould's war. She had become friends, during the 1930s, with Paris's most notable anti-Semites, Charles Maurras and Robert Brasillach among them, and was a frequent visitor to the house of the German ambassador, Otto Abetz. When France fell, she took several well-placed German lovers, sucked up to the rat-like writer Louis-Ferdinand

Céline, befriended useful Nazis and ran a Thursday literary salon where she fed good food and fine wines to famished French aristocrats. Ms. Ronald takes the opportunity to create scenes full of intrigue, as when the exiled Italian antifascist Carlo Rosselli and his brother were assassinated in Normandy while staying at Gould's hotel. 'Had Florence whispered Rosselli's presence in Bagnoles-des-L'Orne—intentionally or not—into the wrong ears?' Ms. Ronald writes. 'She was reputedly known for lacking discretion in some circles, especially after an evening of swilling champagne.' But this speculation, like other instances in the book, is just that: speculative.

One of the problems with writing about compulsive liars and mythomaniacs is how to find out and be sure of the truth. Though Ms. Ronald is forced to fall back repeatedly on conjecture, she paints a lively picture of

the world in which Florence moved, with all its intricate financial shenanigans, rivalrous investors and glittering social occasions. But there are small errors: The Rosselli brothers, for instance, were not just 'gunned down'—Nello was also stabbed 17 times, and the bomb found in their car was not meant to be part of the assassination but part of the coverup. But if the author breezes over certain details, her narrative certainly moves at a brisk pace, even if her main characters besides Florence often remain shadowy.

A more serious error, perhaps, is Ms. Ronald's suggestion that the French, in 1943, had to be taught to become anti-Jewish: Long before being pressed to do so by the Germans, Vichy France already had put in place draconian anti-Semitic laws and begun handing over their Jewish citizens for deportation to the death camps. Their racist, xenophobic, anti-Semitic newspapers were infamous

well before 1940. To what degree did Florence, who had Jewish friends among her own class, join in these views? Ms. Ronald puts it this way: 'As for the Jews, in her own strange brand of 'evenhandedness,' they were deserving of rejection too, so long as they were not *her* Jews.'

Despite her deep implication in Paris's most shameful period, Florence Gould in her own lifetime was more or less always able to outrun her past. In the chaos of liberated France, where collaboration with the Germans and the Vichy government had come in many shapes and forms, Florence was predictably deft at portraying herself as victim rather than profiteer. Investigated by both the

To conquer Paris, this arriviste recognized, she needed to be imaginative, ruthless and seductive.

French and the Americans for treasonable banking activities, she and her now-ailing husband became two of the many people who managed to escape justice. Long before her treason file was finally shelved in 1959, she had set herself up as a patron of the arts, giving lavishly to museums on both sides of the Atlantic. She hung her own collection of Impressionists—though how many of them came originally from looted Jewish owners was never established—in an immense mansion in Cannes, and busied herself buying first editions and crystal. Curators toadied up to her, even if they later tore her to shreds in their memoirs. Thomas Hoving, the director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, described her as a 'mafia mistress,' her enormous lips 'slathered with ruby-red lipstick.'

For her generosity after the war Florence was made an officer of the Légion d'Honneur by a grateful France. New York and San Francisco named theaters after her, and her name remains one to conjure with in cultural circles even today. She died, in Cannes, in 1983 at the age of 87, surrounded by her Pekingese dogs.

No one comes out of this book well, not the ghastly, manipulative protagonist or the greedy, scheming people who surrounded her, for whom treason and profound immorality were no more than passing inconveniences. Florence's great talent—along with her business acumen, her single-mindedness and her refusal to be burdened by doubts or scruples—was to invent and reinvent herself to blend in with and exploit every place and every time.

Ms. Moorehead is the author of 'A Bold and Dangerous Family' and 'Village of Secrets: Defying the Nazis in Vichy France' among other books.

The Many Mysteries of Agatha Christie

Continued from page C5

and there was literary recognition. 'The Mysterious Affair at Styles' had been published in 1920, and in 1926, 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd,' 'the supreme, the ultimate detective novel,' brought Christie sudden acclaim. Of course 'Agatha had been writing all her life,' Ms. Thompson notes, citing the fiction of Poe and Conan Doyle as particular inspirations. While working in a pharmacy in 1917, Christie had also become fascinated by poisons: 'The beautiful look of the bottles, the exquisite precision of the calculations, the potential for mayhem contained within order.' And 'mayhem within order' sums up the novels that lay ahead, many featuring Hercule Poirot or Miss Marple and nearly all revolving around murder. The cozy kind of murder that readers apparently craved during two episodes of worldwide slaughter; a fictional escape too from the social upheaval caused by both world wars.

Stepping back more often to view Christie in this historical context would have been worthwhile. (It's always interesting to know, for instance, what a maid was paid.) But Ms. Thompson's is an avowedly intimate analysis. And of a subject who expertly deflected investigation. (Sally Phipps, in her recent biography of the writer Molly Keane, faced a similar challenge, as did Robert McCrum in his exemplary 2004 biography of P.G. Wodehouse.) Though Christie did partially reveal herself, particularly in the autobiographical novel 'Unfinished Portrait' (1934),

one of a series written as Mary Westmacott. 'I loved Dermot—and I didn't keep him,' the heroine mourns. 'I ought to have seen what he liked and wanted, and been that.' Oh, dear.

In 1926 Archie left Christie for another woman, and Christie's sudden disappearance following this

however, Christie stayed under a false name in a hotel in Harrogate for 10 days while search parties combed the land (the novelist Dorothy L. Sayers joined in) and the press went wild.

Following a tipoff, Archie came to collect her. But he didn't stay. 'You and beauty had gone, as had love

and on and on, so many of her creations perpetually reincarnated on stage and on movie screens. Here Ms. Thompson correctly observes that as Christie's popularity increased her powers declined. But the best of the novels still elegantly reveal what had 'always interested her: the distilled essence of human nature, contained within the act of murder.' An unintentional satirist, Christie also repeatedly skewered her own class. Consider the following gems from 'The Body in the Library' (1942):

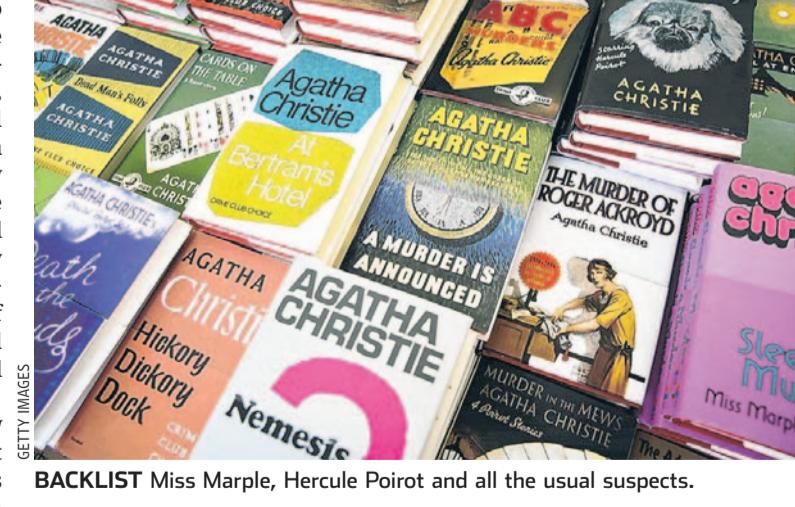
Christie's books offer her readers a retreat into a bygone world of moral certainties.

'The English, Sir Henry decided, had a distrust for any man who danced too well!'

'Miss Hartnell . . . visited the poor undefatigably, however hard they tried to avoid her ministrations.'

'Gentlemen,' she said, with her old maid's way of referring to the opposite sex as though it were a species of wild animal.'

Here we learn of the genteel sleuth Miss Marple, 'So well ordered was her prim spinster's life that unforeseen telephone calls were a source of vivid conjecture,' and a hundred or so pages later, hear her sigh, 'Really, I feel quite pleased to think of him being hanged.'



BACKLIST Miss Marple, Hercule Poirot and all the usual suspects.

rupture (afterward attributed to amnesia) is the fulcrum of Ms. Thompson's book. Again, this is well-trodden ground; much has already been written. But Ms. Thompson's evocative depiction reanimates Christie's flight. 'She was nothing anymore, no thoughts, no feelings. . . She found a rutted path. It led to a quarry, a round bowl of chalk, white and faceless beneath the moon.' Instead of killing herself,

and contentment,' Ms. Thompson notes. 'In their place came something else: the life of a writer.'

Christie was still a mother of course, albeit a distant one, and in 1930 she married Max Mallowan, an eminent archaeologist, but from the mid-1930s onward she was indeed a detective-fiction machine, producing books at an astonishing rate. 'Murder on the Orient Express,' 'Five Little Pigs,' 'The Moving Finger'

The novel ends absurdly—many Christie mysteries do—but we surrender to its flimsy reality. 'She has,' P.D. James observes, 'the ability to conjure a world without actually describing it,' and this airiness, consummately crafted, largely explains Christie's enduring popularity. There is also what Ms. Thompson, examining the Mitfords' allure, diagnosed as 'a variant strain of Downton Abbey Syndrome, in which people seek comfort by retreating to an age of hierarchies, prejudices and certainties.'

But the woman who emerges in this elegant biography—shrewd, elusive, practical, romantic—cannot be defined by the era she immortalized. And this is to Ms. Thompson's credit. Chronicling a tumultuous life (and flagging only when describing Christie's lengthy battle with the tax authorities), she conveys, ultimately, its fragility. The queen of the cozy may be, in Ms. Thompson's words, 'stuck for all eternity at a tea-party in a country vicarage, sticking a fork into her seedcake as the bank manager's wife chokes on a strychnine sandwich,' but the lasting image here is poignant and fittingly chimerical.

As Christie dies, her extraordinary brain fragmenting, Ms. Thompson returns us to the distant vision of a girl stepping through a sunlit doorway, 'young, happy, going to enjoy herself.'

Ms. Mundow writes the column 'Crime and Punishment' for the Barnes & Noble Review.

BOOKS

'The beginning of wisdom is found in doubting; by doubting we come to the question, and by seeking we may come upon the truth.' —Peter Abelard

Enclosed Encounters

The Cloister

By James Carroll

Nan A. Talese, 364 pages, \$27.95

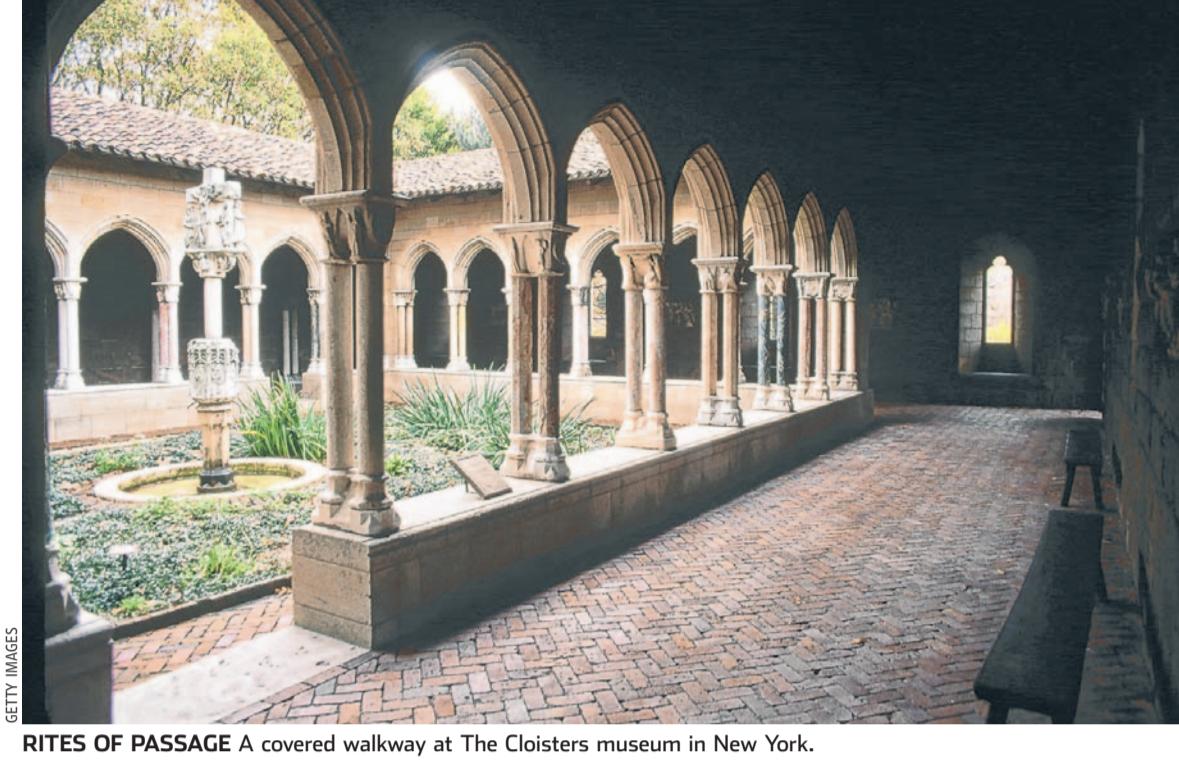
BY JOHN KAAG

IN THE HISTORY of Christianity, cloisters have frequently been regarded as a barrier, a series of wide arcades and covered walkways separating the sphere of worship from the affairs of everyday life. They are a strange sort of wall, defined and enclosed by openings and meant to be traversed.

About 14 miles north of Wall Street in New York, perched on a hill overlooking the Hudson River, is The Cloisters, a branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. As its name suggests, the branch's tapestries, stained glass and prayer books are secondary to the building itself, which was constructed from a series of medieval cloisters brought from Europe by John D. Rockefeller Jr. in the first half of the 20th century. In a city that is always noisy and cramped, The Cloisters serves as its own kind of barrier, where visitors can come for a moment of seclusion and space.

This is the setting of James Carroll's novel "The Cloister." One of the sections of the Met's Cloisters is originally from the monastery at Cluny, in central France. It was the onetime home of the 12th-century monk and scholar Peter Abelard, presented in Mr. Carroll's book by turns as a heretic, an admired scholastic philosopher, an embryonic Protestant, a hero of the Enlightenment and an admired humanist of the Romantic era. Abelard is most famous for his ill-fated love affair with the nun and abbess Héloïse. It is this tragic romance (Abelard was castrated as punishment) that forms one of the novel's two central strands. While Abelard and Héloïse are widely regarded as the "Romeo and Juliet... of *la France*," their relationship, as presented by Mr. Carroll, meant something more than star-crossed love.

Fast-forward nearly a millennium: Father Michael Kavanagh is a priest serving the working-class Catholics of Inwood, a neighborhood at the northern tip of Manhattan, next to The Cloisters. In 1950, in the midst of a rainstorm, Father Kavanagh seeks shelter in the museum, where he meets Rachel Vedette, a brilliant and beautiful docent. A French Jew, Rachel arrived in New York after narrowly escaping the Holocaust. Her father, Saul, a scholar of the Talmud who was in the process of writing a book on Abelard's radically inclusive

GETTY IMAGES
RITES OF PASSAGE A covered walkway at The Cloisters museum in New York.

theology, wasn't as fortunate. In the ensuing weeks, Father Kavanagh and Rachel find each other again in The Cloisters and together begin to uncover the secret that cost her father his career and, ultimately, his life.

In "The Cloister," Mr. Carroll, the author of "Warburg in Rome" (2014) and other novels, as well as "Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, a History" (2001), has produced a sweeping, beautifully crafted book—perhaps his best yet—that draws readers into the inner sanctum of Christianity, with its shameful contradictions but also its enduring possibilities. He conveys a vital lesson about religiously inspired violence and the prospect for peace but avoids being heavy-handed, instead toggling lightly between two fraught moments in history. He weaves together a complex story of spiritual traditions and their lasting political legacies. We witness the Vedettes' capture and internment in Nazi-occupied Paris. A sympathetic French policeman asks Rachel: "Why do [the Germans] hate the Jews?" A very good question—with a very long and complicated answer. For Rachel, the reason is theological and traces back to the time of Abelard: "Because they say we killed Christ."

The Holocaust was framed by long-standing Catholic anti-Semitism underpinned by this interpretation of the Crucifixion. Before his death, Saul had passed a crucial insight to his daughter: Abelard, who had become a Christian hero in modern France, stood fast against this misinterpretation of Judaism.

ism but also against the warring spirit that it spawned. Abelard represents the peaceful, capacious road less taken in Christianity. In Rachel's words to Father Kavanagh, Catholicism "follows from a fork in the road; a fork lit up by burning texts. There was another way to go at that fork, one the Church chose not to take."

A sweeping, beautifully crafted book about Christianity's shameful contradictions and enduring possibilities.

Abelard came of age during the Crusades, a series of wars in which Christians attempted to reclaim the Holy Land from infidels and supposed Christ-killers. At the age of 17, he refused to join their ranks, instead growing into a church leader and one of Europe's most vociferous antiwar protesters. "How do we," Mr. Carroll's Abelard asks his fellow Christians, "exiles in this vale of tears, know what the great and Almighty God, in His eternal wisdom, wants for Jerusalem?" This was a forbidden question for the Crusaders, who believed that in crucifying Jesus the Jews had turned their backs on God. Abelard disagreed: "If the Jews believe God wants them to kill Christ, then, however gravely mistaken, their intention saves them." This sentiment—so crucial to Jews like the

Vedettes—was anathema to crusading theologians like St. Bernard, but, in Héloïse, Abelard found a thinker, and a lover, who shared his views.

As their friendship deepens, Rachel teaches Father Kavanagh a lesson that was lost on the Crusaders and the Nazis: "For Abelard, everything follows from the first principle: The Creator loves what the Creator creates. Creation itself is God's act of love." This spiritual "expansiveness" could not be accommodated by tightly circumscribed doctrine or the narrow rigors of the priesthood. But Father Kavanagh slowly comes to see the wisdom of Abelard and Héloïse (and of the Vedettes), and to grasp the possibilities of living "out of bounds." This leads him to re-evaluate Christian hierarchies, priestly abuses, unspoken taboos and foundational hatreds. The death and rebirth of Jesus, he now sees, was never meant to be reduced to a decoration for the house of war, a red sign on a knight's tunic, the emblem of the Iron Cross. It was, and remains, an act of love.

Mr. Carroll—a former priest, an antiwar protester and the son of an Air Force general—has spent his writing life making this point. It is at the core of virtually every one of his more than 20 books. The divine, if it is anything, is love. It is an open and safe passage—much like a cloister.

Mr. Kaag, a philosophy professor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, is the author of "American Philosophy: A Love Story."

FICTION CHRONICLE: SAM SACKS

Under the Big, Sad Sky

THOMAS MCGUANE has lived most of his 78 years in Montana, yet on the evidence of his fiction you get the feeling he still hasn't totally settled into the place. Interlopers are recurring characters; a sense of estrangement is ubiquitous. Sure, you'll find horses and hunting and the infrequent Big Sky reverie, but Mr. McGuane has less in common with icons of Western machismo like Jim Harrison and Hemingway than with John Cheever, that meticulous observer of bridge-and-tunnel loneliness. "I have to apologize for replacing cowboys and Indians with generalized anxiety disorder," he once joked.

His shambling parade of middle-management bankers and developers, of eternal bachelors and henpecked husbands, are on show in "Cloudbursts" (Knopf, 556 pages, \$35), a meaty gathering of collected and new short stories. Mr. McGuane is best known for his slapstick druggie novels from the 1970s like "Ninety-Two in the Shade," but this collection demonstrates his rewarding second-act enthusiasm for short fiction, drawing from the books "To Skin a Cat" (1986), "Gallatin Canyon" (2006) and "Crow Fair" (2015). The comedy isn't as gonzo but the essence of McGuaneism is very much here: dry wit, wry confusion and prose as chiseled and striking as a Rocky Mountain butte.

That essence is superbly distilled in stories like "Aliens," about a Boston lawyer who retires to Montana but finds that the state "seemed like a place he had once read about in a dentist's office." In "Gallatin Canyon," a real estate agent drives to Idaho in

order to insult a businessman trying to buy his property so that the man will renege and he can accept a better offer—shenanigans perpetrated under the cold gaze of his no-nonsense girlfriend. ("I adored her when she was a noun and was alarmed when she was a verb," he says of her.) In "Old Friends," inertia alone explains the calamitous reunion of two middle-aged men—one a farmer, the other a banker wanted by the Feds for embezzlement: "Against these decades of loyalty, they seemed to search for an unforgivable trait in

McGuane's Montanans are less susceptible to High Plains reverie than to high anxiety.

each other that would relieve them of this abhorrent, possibly lifelong burden. But now they had years of continuity to contend with, and it was harder and harder to visualize a liberating offense."

Like all collections of this kind, repetition magnifies the author's limitations. Mr. McGuane's men are cut from the same sad sackloth and his women are either humorless martinetts or the type who start drinking at lunch. But even when the stories plow similar grooves, the brightness and humor of the writing never fails to delight. An awkward business dinner is described as "a less attractive form of nourishment... than an IV bottle." One eccentric character is "a bubble and a half off plumb." There are life lessons, too, for those

who aspire to the aimlessness of the McGuane hero. "Do you know why your father works so hard?" a narrator recalls his mother asking. He expects a "virtue speech," but the answer is instructive: "He works so hard because he's crazy."

Two terrific new story collections, Anjali Sachdeva's "All the Names They Used for God" (Spiegel &

plets faultily engineered by their geneticist parents.

There's an element of whimsy to this assortment, and sometimes Ms. Sachdeva is content with an easy laugh. (In "Manus," Earth has been taken over by aliens who look like giant boogers and inexplicably speak with a Long Island accent.) The range of her gifts is best seen in the title



Grau, 256 pages, \$26) and Vandana Singh's "Ambiguity Machines" (Small Beer, 320 pages, \$16), trade the perplexities of the known world for the mysteries of imagined landscapes. Ms. Sachdeva's book, a debut, is notable for its exuberant variety. "Glass-Lung" takes place at an Egyptian archeological dig during the age of Howard Carter; "The World by Night" recounts a 19th-century prairie woman's trek through the tunnels of an enormous underground cave; "Pleiades" is about the last surviving sibling of a brood of septu-

story, about two young women who

MYSTERIES: TOM NOLAN

A Bequest Of Numbers



ONE FINE fall morning in Los Angeles, beloved 79-year-old mathematician Isaac Severy dies in his backyard Jacuzzi by electrocution, an apparent suicide. Why? And, more to the point for several interested parties, what's become of the late genius's research? These questions propel the plot of Nova Jacobs's hugely entertaining "The Last Equation of Isaac Severy" (Touchstone, 337 pages, \$25).

Isaac, to prevent his work from falling into the hands of those who would misuse it, has bequeathed the research (in a privately delivered message) to his granddaughter, Hazel—"the family member they would least suspect." Hazel, the owner of a failing Seattle bookstore, is told to destroy Isaac's papers in their entirety but is given clues to the equation that serves as the capstone to Isaac's life's work. The chaos theorist also offers a posthumous warning: "Three will die. I am the first."

A brilliant mathematician dies in his Jacuzzi, leaving a final puzzle: 'Three will die. I am the first.'

Hazel stays in L.A. after Isaac's funeral, puzzling out the clues that her grandfather left behind. Others are also eager if not desperate to get their hands on Isaac's work, including the alluring secretary of a supposed government agent who claims that Isaac was about to sell his equation; and Isaac's son Philip, a physicist riding the coattails of his own early promise. When another family member takes a fatal fall at the Severy estate—confirming in part Isaac's cryptic warning—Hazel is tempted to share her grandfather's farewell message with her brother, Gregory, an LAPD detective, even though her grandfather's letter specifically warned: "Do not contact police, even those related to you." Is a serial killer decimating the Severy clan?

Despite its darker hues—including the fulfillment of Isaac's prediction—"The Last Equation of Isaac Severy" is full of delight. Though Ms. Jacobs's writing has echoes of Thomas Pynchon, Nathanael West and J.D. Salinger, her terrific book displays in abundance a magic all its own.

giant, from "A Handful of Rice," which imagines the great Mughal emperor Akbar as a deathless shaman possessed of supernatural abilities, to "Oblivion: A Journey," an interplanetary revenge tale pitting a traumatized exile against a rogue "bio-synthetic" genocidaire.

For all the book's diversity, though, a few signal traits stand out. Like Ursula K. Le Guin, Ms. Singh is drawn to scientists, and her speculative worlds are often fleshed out through field reports and research abstracts. In "Peripeteia," a physicist elaborates a chaos theory of the universe just as the "pattern and order" of her own life are upended by the disappearance of her partner. The search for meaning and moral truth is as great a concern as the search for knowledge. "Sailing the Antarsa" encapsulates the book's ethos: It follows a solitary space traveler's voyage to a newly discovered solar system on a mission of "kinship" with whatever life forms may be there.

The capstone to this hopeful, enriching collection is the small masterpiece "Requiem," set in Alaska in a future scarred by climate change and dominated by massive tech corporations. A university student named Varsha has gone to a polar outpost to collect the effects of her aunt Rima, a brilliant scientist and engineer who died while researching whales. There Varsha witnesses a whale migration herself, and it's this miraculous encounter amid the increasingly artificial world that reaffirms the "tenuous, temporal bridge between being and being." The more mechanized our future, Ms. Singh suggests, the more precious our connections with the living will be.

BOOKS

'I hope you see the thing as I do, and think that I have done well [in] doing my share for the side that I think right.' —Alan Seeger, to his mother

A Search That Ended at the Somme

War Poet

By Michael Hill

CreateSpace, 187 pages, \$14.95

BY ROGER LOWENSTEIN

THERE IS no more poignant war poem than "I Have a Rendezvous With Death," written by a soldier early in 1916, when the French and German armies were bogged down in a bloody stalemate along the Western Front. The poet envisions his end when "apple-blossoms fill the air" and "Spring brings back blue days and fair." The poem was written by Alan Seeger, an American who had been living in Paris and who had bravely enlisted in the French Foreign Legion to fight for his "second country."

Michael Hill, an independent researcher and the author of a previous book exploring the seam of Franco-American history, has brought Seeger to vivid life in a painfully touching biography, "War Poet: The Life of Alan Seeger and His Rendezvous With Death."

A century later, the Great War continues to haunt because so many died for (apparently) so little. From the perspective of today, never did nations seem so naive as those that, in 1914, condemned their young to die in pursuit of a supposedly lasting peace.

"War Poet" is a worthy addition to the canon of that war, one that emphasizes less its futility than its heartbreak in a worthy cause. Mr. Hill doesn't portray a conflagration of bumbling empires but, rather, a militaristic Germany purposefully resisted by Western democracy. And his subject, Seeger, didn't see the war as pointless; he perhaps didn't even see it as tragic—or, rather, he felt its tragedy to be redeeming. Given that he lived only to 28, and left behind only a small body of verse, the question arises whether he even warrants a biography. "War Poet" resoundingly answers in the affirmative.

Mr. Hill devotes not quite 70 of his 150 pages to his subject's prewar life, but they are enough to sear us with an image of Seeger as a sensitive and possibly troubled soul. He was born in New York City, in 1888, to parents who inculcated in Alan and his brother and sister a deep love of culture. Like many, Alan dreamed of an epic life; his one requirement was to transcend the ordinary. His frequent bouts of illness nurtured in him the habit of solitude. When he was 12, his father's formerly thriving import-export business failed, prompting the family to move to Mexico City. From then on, the expatriate's habit of detachment was second nature.

By the time Seeger entered Harvard in 1906, he was as aloof as he was artistic, locking himself away to scribble verse or plunge himself, monk-like, into his studies. He did



FRATERNITÉ! A memorial to American volunteers in World War I, erected in Paris in 1923. The bronze figure bears Alan Seeger's features, and on the base are excerpts from his 'Ode in Memory of the American Volunteers Fallen for France.'

make friends with, as it turned out, some remarkable members of his class—including Walter Lippmann and John Reed. In a fateful-seeming pairing, Seeger shared a Cambridge, Mass., apartment with a fellow student-poet, Thomas Stearns (T.S.) Eliot.

Yet the enduring impression he left at Harvard, Mr. Hill says, was that of a solitary bookworm with disheveled hair and rumpled clothes who preferred a haughty silence to the supposedly trite conversation of his peers. Disturbingly, he told an instructor that his only salvation would be to die young and leave some work "more beautiful" than life itself.

After graduation, Seeger returned to New York and rented an artist's lair overlooking Washington Square, where his nonconformity grew more extreme. He rejected job offers, preferring to go hungry rather than compromise his principles. He had a string of romances; women were smitten by his doe-like eyes and

charmed, as an acquaintance put it, by his "rapturous devotion to beauty." But purity didn't inspire poetry. He wrote little and prowled the streets at night wearing a black cape and toting a guitar, a romantic tortured by the prospect of failure.

From Mexico, his concerned parents sent a family friend to check in. The envoy was poorly chosen. He told Seeger that he should be ashamed to be leading such a wastrel life. "There's no shame in living as a free soul," Seeger said. "Free soul, indeed! A damned fool!" the friend replied. A more sympathetic friend would write: "For some . . . the everyday demands of life [are] not large nor heroic enough." He also recalled that Seeger was suffused with a "familiar fatalism." Seeger, it seems, was thinking of his rendezvous well before he got to the trenches.

His folks were sufficiently worried that they agreed to send him to Paris, and in 1912 he boarded a steamer for

France. In the City of Light, he thrived. He finished a volume of poetry; he thrilled to the beauty of the city and, as before, captured feminine hearts. Mr. Hill's thesis is that Paris changed him. He writes of his subject: "Happiness engulfed him." One wonders if the idyll could have lasted.

The assassination of the archduke in June 1914 put such questions on hold. The drama escalates when Mr. Hill recounts Seeger's nearly two years as a soldier, relying on his letters home, his diary and the accounts of comrades. Mr. Hill portrays a young man discovering the brutalities, and the discomforts, of war and yet never losing sight of his dream of immortality. He writes that Seeger spent the summer of 1915 "moving from one unknown destination to the next, at times marching through weeks of rain and mud." He quotes Seeger's diary to good effect on his "frightful nights in troop trains, where, packed together, one cannot stretch out in spite of

sleepiness." During the long stretches of inactivity, Seeger seethed with frustration. Yet the boredom, and the miserable conditions, were redeemed by the sense of living each day to the fullest. "This life agrees with me," he confided to his diary. During a lull in artillery fire, he went off alone to a field and observed: "I shall never forget the beauty of this winter landscape, . . . the little villages under their smoking roofs."

Mr. Hill quotes enough of Seeger's wartime poetry and prose to show his maturation as a writer. One night, Seeger was shocked by a blood-curdling yell from a German trench. He thoughtfully observed that "in that cry all the evolution of centuries was leveled."

The ambitious, troubled young man who kept a rendezvous with death.

This volume, which includes a selection of Seeger's poems in an appendix, was issued by CreateSpace, a platform for self-publishers, and edited by two of Mr. Hill's friends. On the whole, it is a professional presentation. It's a pity no one caught the sentence, describing an engagement in 1915, that reads: "Alan's jacket was pierced with a bullet, but, remarkably, was only slightly wounded." (No word on whether the jacket recovered.)

In the winter of 1916 Seeger fell ill and temporarily left the front. During that interlude he wrote his signature poem, in which he wistfully allowed, "twere better to be deep / Pillowed in silk and scented down," but foretells his destiny on some "battered hill" or "at midnight in some flaming town." Thanks to that poem, Seeger would be posthumously celebrated as a war hero. "Rendezvous" remains a staple of anthologies—John F. Kennedy called it his favorite poem—and six of its 24 lines are preserved in Bartlett's.

Once his health was restored, Seeger enjoyed a respite in Paris; he wrote to his presumably horrified parents that he had taken in the city's pleasures "as though I were saying good bye to life." Returning to his unit—it was indeed springtime—Seeger was impatient for the Allied offensive that everyone knew was coming. His fellow soldiers were terrified. But Seeger, a buddy recounted, longed for the sublime thrill of a bayonet charge. In June, his unit moved to the Somme. On July 4, they waited in a cornfield for the bugle to sound; Alan, a comrade recounted, was "beaming with joy." He had kept his rendezvous.

Mr. Lowenstein's most recent book is "America's Bank: The Epic Struggle to Create the Federal Reserve."

The Dangerous Passage to Manhood

Speak No Evil

By Uzodinma Iweala

Harper, 214 pages, \$26.99

BY GEOFF WISNER

IN 2005, the Nigerian-American writer Uzodinma Iweala published his first novel. He had just turned 23, having graduated from Harvard the year before.

"Beasts of No Nation" was a tale of suffering and violence told by a child soldier in an unnamed African country. The book was an enormous success, winning for its author a raft of awards and a spot on Granta's list of 20 best young American novelists. A movie version starred Idris Elba as the sinister Commandant.

More than a decade after "Beasts of No Nation" comes Mr. Iweala's second novel, "Speak No Evil," at first glance a much tamer affair. Niru Ikemadu is the son of successful Nigerian immigrants, his father a corporate CEO and his mother a physician. A senior at a private high school in Washington, D.C., Niru is a track star who has won early admission to Harvard. Nothing for him to do, it seems, but coast to the end of the school year, then enjoy the summer.

But Niru has a secret, on which much of the story hinges. A spoiler alert may be called for, although the secret is revealed on the jacket of the book, and on page 16 of the story.

Niru is gay. Or in any event, he strongly suspects that he is gay.

This wouldn't appear to be a problem in the sort of place where we first meet him, a Global Literatures class taught by one Ms. McConnell, who has traveled and taught in Kenya and India. Niru likes his teacher but finds her somewhat naive. Her classroom is decorated with what Niru suspects are the sort of "freshly made antiques" sold to tourists. "Sometimes Ms. McConnell burns incense and the room smells of sandalwood or cinnamon. It makes my nostrils tickle."

A young man's search for identity, complicated by love, duty and cultural misunderstandings.

Ms. McConnell would surely not be fazed if Niru came out to her, but Niru's father is another matter. A survivor of the war in Biafra, he does his best to control everything and everyone around him. "He is all power, all will," says Niru. "He's the one who reminds us constantly that if he could walk ten miles to get sardines and tinned tomatoes for his family during the war, dodging low-flying Nigerian fighter planes that made a sport of strafing hungry refugees, then there is nothing he or we can't do."

When Niru's father finds his son sending messages to a young man he

found through a gay dating service, he is angry and confused. He assaults Niru physically, takes him to be questioned by the family's minister, and then packs him off to Nigeria for some religious reprogramming.

Niru's mother is more accepting, but despite being a doctor in America, she finds it hard to stand up to

closed, and then her words coming out on the next breath before she can think again."

Niru himself, though raised in America and praised for his athletic and academic skills, also has trouble asserting himself. He loves and doesn't want to hurt his parents and his older brother, now off at college.

overstep boundaries. Having discovered that her attraction to Niru won't be reciprocated, she takes it upon herself to put him on the path to romantic bliss. It is she who downloads the dating app onto Niru's phone.

If Niru's struggle with family, friends and sexuality makes "Speak No Evil" sound like a YA novel, then perhaps it is. Certainly it tells its story through the voices of young adults: Niru for the first two-thirds of the book, and Meredith for the final third. The language is clean and direct enough to be read by young people, and the sexual scenes not overly explicit. But the author brings an adult sensibility to his subject.

"Beasts of No Nation" was an impressive achievement for a student writer, but part of that achievement was an artful blurring of the kind of detail that could only have been acquired with more experience, or at least more research. Though it takes place in seemingly safe D.C. rather than a war-torn African nation, "Speak No Evil" is a more ambitious and riskier novel, with a deeper understanding of its characters' conflicted hearts. Mr. Iweala's novel weaves together sexual, religious and political strands as it builds to a devastating climax.

Mr. Wisner is the author of "A Basket of Leaves: 99 Books That Capture the Spirit of Africa" and the editor of "African Lives: An Anthology of Memoirs and Autobiographies."



BRIDGING CULTURES Novelist Uzodinma Iweala.

her husband, and perhaps for that reason is deferential outside the home as well. "She holds her hands in her lap and breathes in deeply each time she wants to say something. She does this with contractors and delivery people, anyone she feels might not listen—a deep breath in, her eyes

He is not at all sure that the ministers are wrong when they see something unclean in his desires.

It doesn't help that the confrontation with his father was triggered by the actions of his friend Meredith, a young white woman whose sense of safety and entitlement causes her to

BOOKS

'In Scotland, when people congregate, they tend to argue and discuss and reason; in Orkney, they tell stories.' —George Mackay Brown

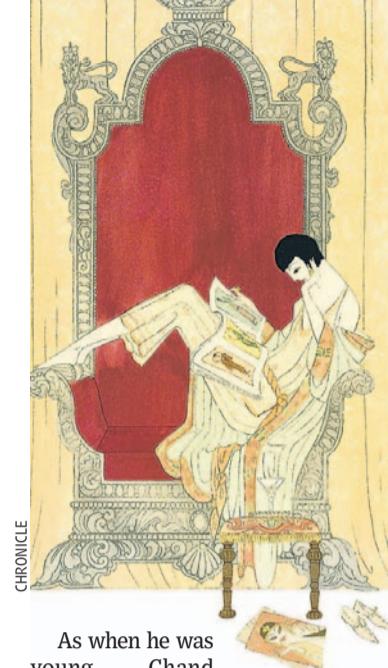
CHILDREN'S BOOKS: MEGHAN COX GURDON

India Before & After



AMID HORRIFIC sectarian killings, 14 million people crossed the border between India and the newly created state of Pakistan in the late summer and fall of 1947. This mass migration, prompted by what is known as Partition, followed the end of British rule and was a means of roughly sorting the population of the Asian subcontinent by religion. Veera Hiranandani draws on her own family's experience of this traumatic time in the nuanced pages of **"The Night Diary"** (Dial, 264 pages, \$16.99), a novel for readers ages 8-14.

Tongue-tied with almost everyone outside her immediate family, 12-year-old Nisha finds that words flow freely when she writes letters to her mother, who was Muslim and who died giving birth to Nisha and her twin brother. "Dear Mama," the girl begins each entry in this moving account that begins a month before India's division. Nisha is living in a soon-to-be-Pakistani town in a house surrounded by mango trees. Her father, who is Hindu, is a doctor, and they live well ("I didn't know we were so rich until we became poor," the girl writes later). As danger mounts, Nisha and her brother, along with her father and grandmother, must slip away at night to make their way to India, carrying what they can. In this sensitive and ultimately hopeful story of endurance and love, Ms. Hiranandani handles violence and the threat of it deftly, but, as Nisha reflects: "My childhood would always have a line drawn through it, the before and the after."



As when he was young, Chand (1924-2015) took solace in building. Claire A. Nivola's delicate watercolors show him collecting cast-off materials and then slowly, on disused scrubland, constructing a hidden world of sculptures, mosaics and flowering plants. Incredibly, we're told, "Nek built his kingdom over twelve acres and kept it secret for fifteen years," and in a jaw-dropping two-page fold-out of photographs at the end, we see his secret kingdom's stunning contours. It's an amazing, impossible creation—and it's real.

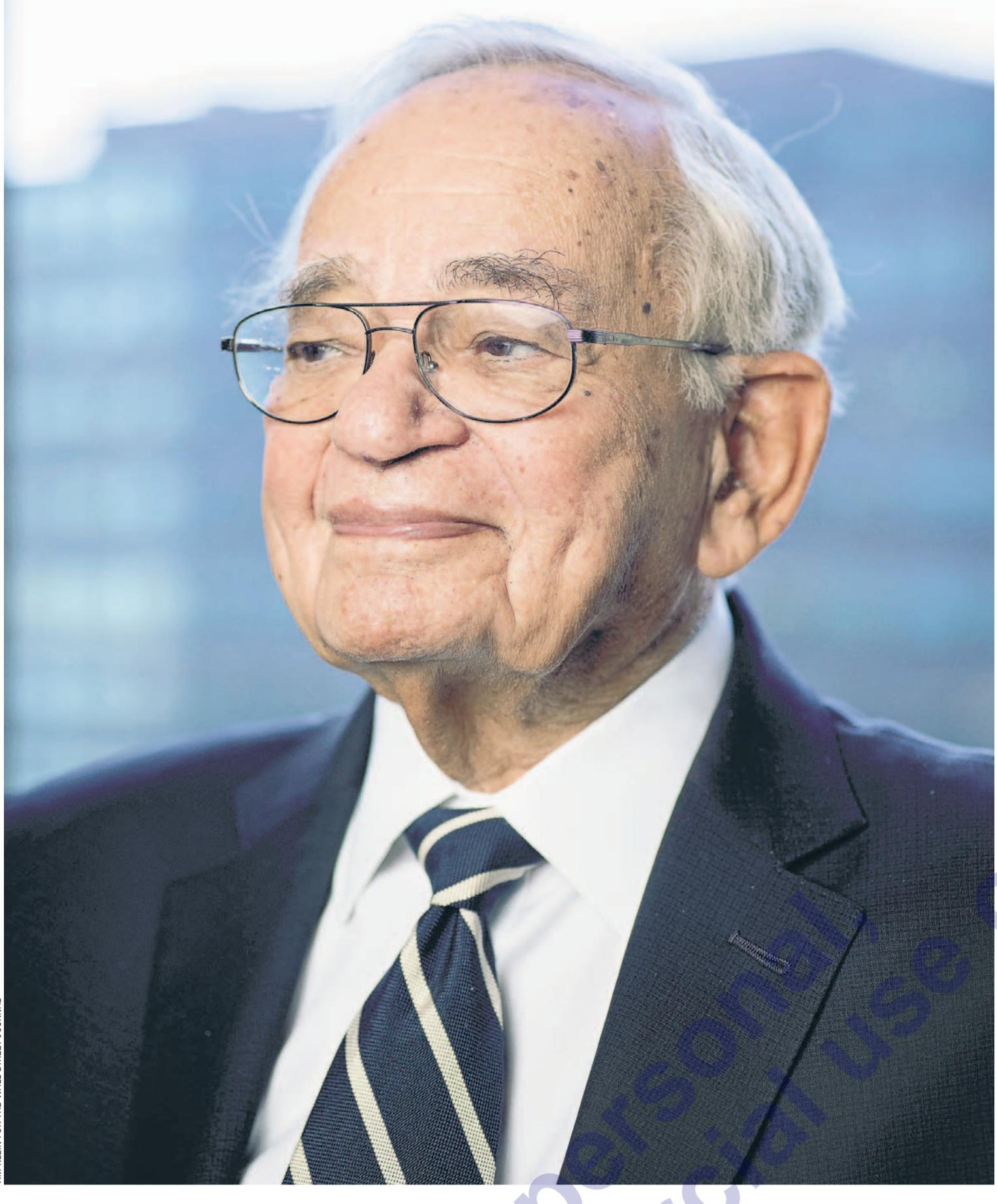
"In England, in the twenties of the twentieth century," we read in **"A Note of Explanation"** (Chronicle, 48 pages, \$19.95), a chic and vivacious time-traveling spirit arrived at Windsor Castle "to establish herself in the doll's house that had been built for the Queen of England."

These words, originally handwritten on tiny pages, come from an extraordinary story by Vita Sackville-West (1892-1962), who with other notables of her time was invited to contribute a miniature volume to the royal doll house's library. Sackville-West's only known work for children, now published in the U.S. for the first time (it came out last fall in Britain), this tale of a fashionable creature who flits in and out of fairy tales and historical epochs is made exquisite by Kate Baylay's art-deco-style illustrations (see above). "She had," Sackville-West writes of the slope-shouldered, bob-haired beauty, "that particular genius for being in the right place and in the right company at the right moment which under other circumstances would have made her a conspicuous social success." Like those other famous doll-house dwellers, Beatrix Potter's two bad mice, this glamour-puss is, however, rather inclined to leave a mess.

Two young people, severed from their roots by Partition, find solace in writing and in making art.

Like Nisha and her fictional family, a young man named Nek Chand, with the coming of Partition, had to flee his home. As a boy in the Punjab, he had loved listening to stories and building elaborate little cities with clay and pebbles. In the political uproar, Chand arrived in India after walking for nearly a month and eventually found work as a government road inspector in the bleak new concrete town of Chandigarh. "Nothing in this modern place tugged at Nek's village heart," Barb Rosenstock writes in **"The Secret Kingdom"** (Candlewick, 48 pages, \$16.99), a picture book for 7- to 12-year-olds that explores the astonishing lengths that this displaced man took to express his creativity.

REVIEW



TIM KLEIN FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WEEKEND CONFIDENTIAL

Leo Melamed

BY JACOB BUNGE

IN 1939, Leo Melamed learned about the power of financial markets in a bakery in Vilnius, Lithuania. He was 7 years old, trying to use Polish money to buy a loaf of bread. Though Lithuania's government had deemed the two countries' currencies equal in value, the baker informed Mr. Melamed that he'd need two Polish zlotys for a loaf that cost one Lithuanian litas.

"My father explained, to find real value, it's not the government—it's what the street tells you," said Mr. Melamed, now chairman emeritus of CME Group Inc., the world's largest manager of financial exchanges.

Mr. Melamed, 85, has spent the

past five decades with his ear to the street. He started his career in the Chicago Mercantile Exchange's frenetic trading pits while in law school, but soon began trading full time and eventually worked his way up to head its board.

Now on the cusp of retirement, Mr. Melamed still has one more goal: nurturing the development of financial markets in China and other Asian countries. He also plans to publish his memoirs and a long-delayed second science-fiction novel. As someone once told him, he related, "No wonder you wrote science fiction—it's what you've been doing your whole life."

The CME, or "Merc," now operates in a future that Mr. Melamed and his exchange cohorts could

only imagine in the 1980s. The Chicago-based company maintains markets on everything from corn and cattle to currencies and stock indexes. Its futures contracts let farmers, banks and hedge funds speculate on rising commodity prices and financial markets—or shield themselves from declines.

On an average day last year, more than 16 million contracts traded on the Chicago exchange group's markets, 89% of which passed through the CME's electronic "Globex" platform. The company collects fees for executing and processing trades, and its market capitalization has swelled to \$56 billion, more than doubling over the past five years and eclipsing the world's other financial ex-

changes. In December the CME opened a new market linked to the digital currency bitcoin.

The Merc's old trading pits have given way to a cavernous room filled with computers and giant screens, where exchange officials monitor trading activity around the world. Forty years ago, Mr. Melamed daydreamed about an electronic trading platform for the CME, which would become one of the early developments of computer-based trading. After completing a novel concerning a computer-governed alien civilization—"The Tenth Planet," published in 1987—such a project seemed comparatively simple to Mr. Melamed.

Exchange members backed the proposal, and the CME hired mar-

ket-communications company Reuters to design it. Constructing it and securing regulators' approval took five years; the first electronic trades were made in 1992. The project stoked fury among some futures traders, who worried that they'd be automated out of a job, and death threats led Mr. Melamed to hire an off-duty Chicago police officer to guard his office. As for the disgruntled traders? "They became millionaires when [the CME] went public" in 2002, Mr. Melamed said.

Tangling with irate traders was tame compared with what he had survived in his youth. The Melamed family landed in Chicago as Jewish refugees, propelled from their native Bialystok, Poland, in 1939 by Nazi Germany's invasion. His parents fled to Lithuania, across Russia and finally to Japan, where they secured passage to the U.S. just months before the Pearl Harbor attack.

While still in law school, Mr. Melamed got a \$25-a-week job at Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Beane, assuming that the lengthy name meant it was a law firm. The brokerage house soon dispatched

him to the Merc's floor, churning with barked orders, flashed hand signals and runners spiriting messages to and fro.

"It was clearly out of some other world," said Mr. Melamed. Transfixed by the energy and opportunity, he plunged into trading eggs and pork bellies with his own money, scouring price charts and government reports for an edge. He went bust three times in those early years, once cashing in a jar of pennies worth \$36 to cover the weekend's shopping.

Arm-twisting, cajoling and tireless promotion helped Mr. Melamed rise from the trading ranks to CME's board in the late 1960s, and he was elected chairman in 1969. Since then, he has spent all but a handful of years as a director or advising the board on everything from international tie-ups to government trading probes in years past.

He has presided over new currency and interest-rate markets, which by 1981 replaced agricultural markets as the exchange's main business. The CME's early move to go public eventually helped it to swallow its crosstown rival, the Chicago Board of Trade, and outgrow the New York stock markets that for decades gave the Second City's traders an inferiority complex.

After his planned May retirement, Mr. Melamed will continue as an emissary to Asian exchanges, including in China, where he advises China's Securities Regulatory Commission and has long encouraged regulators to open up the country's burgeoning financial markets. The commitment to free markets, creative thinking and occasional failures that Mr. Melamed found in the U.S. still offers a model for the rest of the world, he said.

"We are still the most looked-to nation for leadership," Mr. Melamed said. "You think there's another country where a guy from Bialystok, captured by the Nazis, can reach the level I did?"

Alexandra Wolfe is on vacation this week.

MOVING TARGETS: JOE QUEENAN**Sensitivity Training for Madison Avenue**

IN AN E*TRADE AD that aired during the Super Bowl, hapless octogenarians try to put out house fires, race down the beach as lifeguards and even work as DJs in a night-club. On the surface, the message was: If you didn't plan for your retirement, you could end up working until the day you die. You idiot.

But the maddening subplot of the commercial was: Does society really want a bunch of doddering old fools trying to douse a fire, save us from drowning or spin some platters?

It's easy to poke fun at the political incorrectness of TV commercials from days gone by. Only a few years ago Geico was running its famous series of commercials ridiculing the non-Geico-insured as Neanderthals. In other words, morons. Mercedes-Benz ran a spot ridiculing a beautiful blond-haired woman who was vainly trying to order a hamburger in a library. The tag line of the spot: Beauty is nothing without brains. It's not as if the ad industry has be-

come enlightened since then.

Moreover, society's values can change so abruptly that what is considered funny and harmless today will be seen as tasteless and abusive tomorrow. The Society for Very Deeply Respecting Boundaries in Advertising keeps extremely careful tabs on which recent ads might have a troubled future. I recently went to the society's headquarters to obtain from them this exclusive list:

Right off the bat, SVDRBA officials mentioned those DirecTV ads that routinely depict people who pay for cable TV as lummoxes who enjoy banging into attic beams or drinking spoiled milk or getting their arms stuck inside vending machines. Soon, officials predict, society will no longer deem it acceptable to make fun of people for being klutzy, because society will understand that klutzy people can't help

Why is it still OK for advertisers to make fun of babies?

themselves. Moreover, there is nothing wrong with being the kind of person who smashes his face against an overhead beam. As Lady Gaga might put it: I was born this way.

On the doubtful-ad list are also Capital One's ubiquitous medieval commercials that began some years back, the ones that poke fun at Visigoths, a tribe best known for sacking Rome in A.D. 410. In the fullness of time, society will decide that it is unspeakably cruel to make fun of people purely because of their ethnicity or low economic status. Visigoths, the best historians will tell you, only became bloodthirsty Rome-sackers because they were chased out of their rural homes, not because they liked it. They needed the work.

As society becomes less tolerant of classism, car manufacturers will surely get their comeuppance. Commercials that depict drivers of upscale automobiles who narrowly

avoid disastrous accidents imply that drivers of less expensive cars don't care about the safety of their children. This is elitist and unfair. It tries to make people feel guilty for not being rich. This is no better than making fun of people for being fat. Or short. Or ugly.

And while we're on the subject of the hopelessly hapless: Why is it still OK for advertisers to ridicule babies, making them take pratfalls or wind up with macaroni in their hair? Making fun of babies is no better than ridiculing senior citizens. Neonatalism is the flip side of the ageism coin.

The most offensive ads of all are beer ads that depict young men as dimwit slobs who don't care about anything but sports. Where anyone got the idea that there are young male dimwit slobs out there who don't care about anything but sports is beyond me. I've certainly never encountered this obviously mythical species.

REVIEW

EXHIBIT

See Worthy



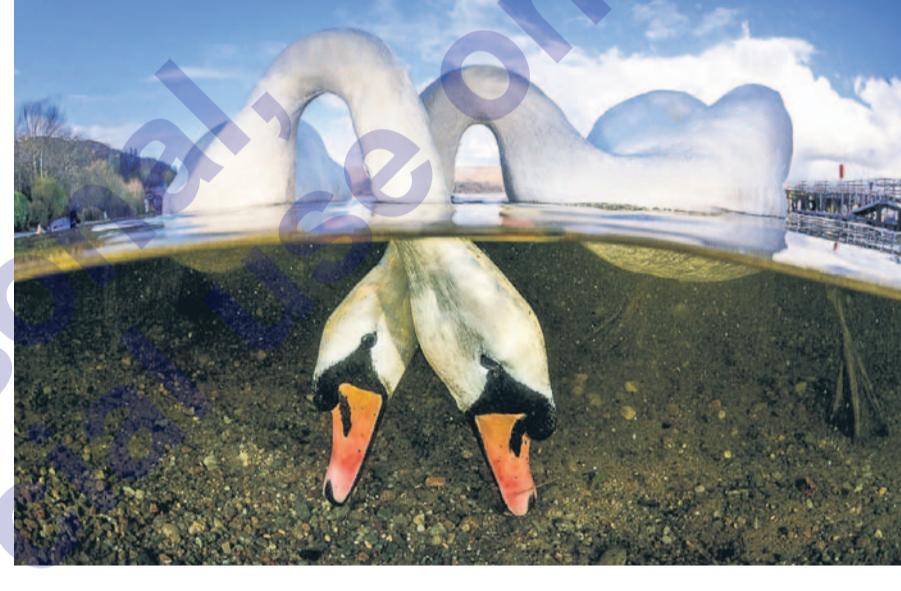
Above: To get this shot, Tanya Houppermans swam on her back underneath the shark, trying not to startle it. **Right:** These two swans happen to be looking for food at the same time.

The winners of the 2018 Underwater Photographer of the Year competition, announced last month, take us on a wild tour of the watery depths. Chosen from more than 5,000 images from around the world, the photographs show arresting scenes in oceans, lakes and even swimming pools. The guidelines set out by the three judges, all of them underwater photographers themselves, include showing respect for marine life and capturing encounters "on the creatures' terms, where the animal is clearly relaxed and choosing to interact." Above all, they emphasize, "we want to choose images that leap out and leave us astounded."

—Alexandra Wolfe



Top: The competition's winning image captures motorcycles on an underwater cargo deck of a shipwreck in the Red Sea. **Above left:** Tianhong Wang had to try a number of lighting methods to blur the background and highlight this Japanese pygmy seahorse. The judges liked how the creature's tiny eye pops out in the composition. **Above right:** Photographer Brian Eckstein took this shot of a flying fish from below, while he was on a dive near Palm Beach, Fla.



UPY 2018 (ALL); TOBIAS FRIEDRICH (WRECKS); BRIAN ECKSTEIN (HUMMINGFISH); GRANT THOMAS (SWANS); TANYA HOUPPERMAN (SHARK); TIANHONG WANG (SEA HORSE)

PLAYLIST: WHITNEY CUMMINGS



Think Again, Guys

A Mary Chapin Carpenter song becomes a pre-teen's wake-up call about female roles

Whitney Cummings, 35, is a comedian and actress who cocreated the CBS sitcom "2 Broke Girls." She is the director, co-writer and star of "The Female Brain" (IFC), a new comedy film in theaters and on demand. She spoke with Marc Myers.

For as long as I can remember, my mother had a full-time job.

This hardly seems like a big deal, but back in 1994, when I was 12, most of my friends' mothers stayed home and cooked and cleaned. I wondered why I didn't have one of those TV-sitcom moms who waited on me hand and foot.

We lived in Washington, D.C., and my mom was a public-relations executive at a major department store. When I came home from school each day, I had to let myself in. Since my older siblings often were out, I spent a lot of time alone.

In the summer of '94, I stayed with my Aunt Lisa in Roanoke, Va. When she was at work, I'd stay home and play her country music CDs. She was a big fan of Mary Chapin Carpenter.

One night, Aunt Lisa played Carpenter's "Come On Come On," an album released a couple of years earlier. When the second song came on, "**HE THINKS HE'LL KEEP HER,**" the lyrics initially confused me.

Carpenter sang about a woman who's tirelessly cooking and cleaning for a man. At

Not his maid—his wife.

first, I thought the song was about some guy and his maid.

Then I realized that it's his wife, and she's doing all of this stuff for free. It was the first time the concept of a woman being submissive sounded like a bad deal:

"Spit and polish till it shines, / he thinks he'll keep her / Ev'rything is so benign / The safest place you'll ever find /

God forbid you change your mind, / He thinks he'll keep her."

Even if you were perfect, you were a B-minus in that guy's eyes.

When I returned to Washington from my Aunt Lisa's house, I began to appreciate my mom more. She was carving out her own identity and making her own money. I vowed never to be the woman in that song.



MARY CHAPIN CARPENTER in 1995.

ASK ARIELY: DAN ARIELY



Go to 'Hamilton' or Cash In?

Dear Dan,

Early last year, I bought five tickets for \$200 apiece for the hit Broadway show "Hamilton." In the end, two members of my family couldn't attend, so I sold the two extra tickets—for \$800 each.

The three tickets that we used cost me \$600, but I could have made \$1,800

(over their face value) by selling them for \$800 each. We all really enjoyed the show, but I kept thinking about the other ways I could have used \$1,800, and that cut into my pleasure. What's the right way to think about the cost of our outing?

—Willy

If you had thought about this choice a few days in advance, when you could have changed your plans without too much disruption, you might have given serious consideration to the opportunity cost: the potential \$1,800 profit on the other three tickets. You might have thought about what else you could do with the money and whether you'd rather use it that way.

But once you decided to go to the show—and certainly once you were in the theater—you should have been thinking about how to maximize your enjoyment. After all, you'd made your decision, so why not enjoy the experience to its fullest? At that point, it's best to forget about the \$1,800 and just think about the \$600 cost of the three tickets you used.

But there's an even more favorable way to see your situation: The five tickets cost you \$1,000, but you got \$1,600 from the two tickets you sold. That's a profit of \$600 on the deal—and you got to see "Hamilton" with people you love! Now you can use that extra cash to take your family out for a nice dinner, all thanks to your wise decisions.

Hi, Dr. Ariely.

I'm a college freshman and am debating whether to major in computer science. Last semester, when I took a course in the subject, I felt challenged during the first couple of weeks, but by the end of the term I found the assignments tedious and difficult.

Should I keep studying computer science, hoping that I'll eventually enjoy it, or should I focus instead on engineering or business courses?

—Nathan

Since computer science remains a major with great career potential, I'd suggest that you explore it more deeply before giving up. When we are learning a new subject, from bird watching to social science, it often becomes more gratifying as we learn more and immerse ourselves in it. So maybe you should broaden the scope of your computer-science courses and explore things such as videogames, new programming languages and app design. They just might boot up your excitement about the field.

Dear Dan,

I'm a hard-core videogamer, but I'm trying to quit, since it all feels like a waste of time. Now I'm hearing about a new gaming platform, and I'm really tempted to buy it—even though I know I'd spend too much money and time on it. Any advice?

—Julian

Have a dilemma for Dan?
Email AskAriely @wsj.com

Buy the platform for your parents and set it up at their home. That way, you can play on it sometimes, but you'll also get to see your parents more. I imagine that they'll make sure you don't spend all your time with them just gaming.

SERGE BLOCH

REVIEW



THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART (2)

CLAUDE MONET'S depiction of 'The Parc Monceau' (1878), above. Paris's green spaces expanded from 47 to 4,500 acres between 1852 and 1870. Below, 'A Woman Seated Beside a Vase of Flowers' by Edgar Degas.

ICONS

French Art's Green Thumb

An exhibition traces the craze for parks, plants and nature in France—and how it shaped the country's art

BY BRENDA CRONIN

ONE SUMMER AFTERNOON in 1874, three French artists staged a paint-off. Édouard Manet and Auguste Renoir, visiting Claude Monet's garden in the Parisian suburb of Argenteuil, both painted Monet's family lounging on the grass. In turn, Monet depicted Manet at his easel beneath the trees.

Monet's picture has vanished, but Manet's "The Monet Family in Their Garden at Argenteuil" provides a key piece of evidence in a new exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. "Public Parks, Private Gardens: Paris to Provence," opening March 12, argues that France's obsession with gardens and greenery, which grew exponentially from the French Revolution to World War I, helped to shape the country's art.

In the 19th century, the formal gardens reserved for royalty gave way to public parks laid out in a natural, relaxed style, with winding paths and lawns for picnics. As the economy strengthened and leisure time increased, gardening became a national craze. Painters set up easels outdoors, trying to capture nature firsthand on canvas and developing one of impressionism's key themes. "This newfound appreciation for nature's gifts of light, air and greenery was very much a part of the age," says Susan Alyson Stein, who organized the show and is the museum's Engelhard curator of 19th-century European painting.

The Met exhibit is hung in rooms around the skylit atrium of the museum's Robert Lehman Wing, outfitted with plants, park benches and images of late-19th century lamp posts to evoke a period conservatory. The exhibition, with more than 150 works, begins with a gallery prominently featuring Joséphine, the first wife of Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. A connoisseur of exotic flowers, Joséphine "essentially put France on the map when it came to floriculture at the beginning of the 19th century," Ms. Stein says.

Other galleries trace how former palace gardens and hunting grounds near Paris, such as Versailles and Fontainebleau, opened to the public. The artist Théodore Rousseau helped to preserve some of Fontainebleau's woods, which were being

overrun by tourists and the logging industry. His "The Edge of the Woods at Monts-Girard, Fontainebleau Forest" shows a rocky landscape under a cloud-streaked sky.

Between 1852 and 1870, Paris became a city of "tree-lined boulevards, large parks and neighborhood squares," Ms. Stein says. Under Napoleon III, Georges-Eugène Haussmann's sweeping modernization efforts expanded the city's green spaces from 47 to 4,500 acres. The exhibit captures that transformation with paintings by Monet and Gustave Caillebotte, whose family wealth allowed him to support some of the impressionists. In the late 1870s, Caillebotte and Monet painted the inviting flower-lined paths in the Parc Monceau, their neighborhood park.

Meanwhile, suppliers sprang up to satisfy a public eager to grow flowers and shrubs. In addition to seed invoices and watering cans of the era, the exhibition includes witty lithographs by Honoré Daumier that poke fun at gardening mania.

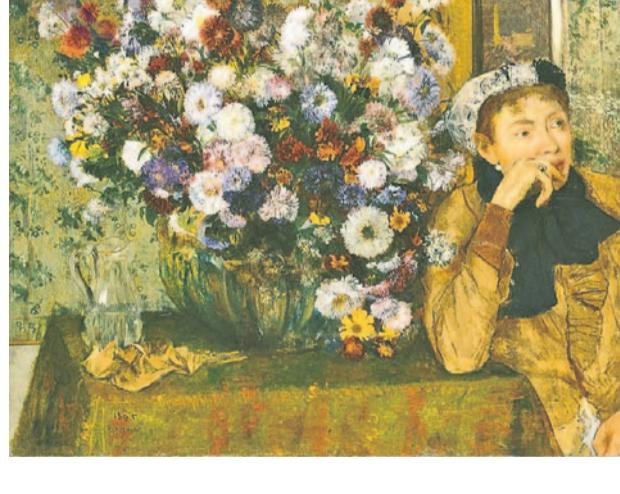
Artists found buyers for floral still lifes. Edgar Degas, who is said to have detested the fragrance of flowers, conquered his aversion and painted an extravagant array of dahlias, asters and other blossoms in his 1865 work "A Woman Seated Beside a Vase of Flowers." The arrangement outshines the

woman, who wears a dark scarf and muted coat. Cheek resting in her hand, she stares off to the side with a quizzical expression.

At the Met, a film clip shows a 74-year-old Monet painting in his garden at Giverny, about 45 miles northwest of Paris. The Japanese footbridge depicted in some of his works appears briefly in the background. The painter holds his palette in one hand and his brush in the other, a cigarette dangling above the white tangle of his beard. Monet said that his garden was more beautiful than his paintings. The exhibition has 13 of his works, including two views of the water lilies that Monet cultivated and painted hundreds of times.

The 1915 movie clip was made more than 40 years after the day when Monet, Manet and Renoir all painted in that garden. (Renoir's "Madame Monet and Her Son," which isn't in the show, is owned by the National Gallery of Art in Washington.) Despite the peaceful setting, the afternoon didn't pass without some carping. Renoir's arrival is said to have irritated Manet. According to art historian Marc Elder, Manet reportedly grumbled to his host: "He has no talent, that boy. Since he's your friend, you should tell him to give up painting!"

A new world of parks for the public.



MASTERPIECE: 'FAUST' (1859), BY CHARLES GOUNOD

AN OPERA WORTH YOUR SOUL

BY BARRYMORE LAURENCE SCHERER

AMONG THE MOST popular and influential 19th-century composers, Charles Gounod (1818-1893), whose bicentenary is June 17, was torn throughout his life between the lure of the priesthood and ambition for worldly fame. Religion inspired his numerous sacred works, most famously the Ave Maria, his homage to J.S. Bach. But he is best known to opera audiences for two of his dozen operas—"Faust" (1859), which will be performed seven times at the Lyric Opera of Chicago from March 3 through 21, and "Roméo et Juliette" (1867), which New York's Metropolitan Opera will stage six times from April 23 through May 12.

Gounod's father was a painter, and the composer himself was so gifted a draftsman that no less an expert than Ingres declared that Gounod could have won a Grand Prix de Rome for painting as well as music. Instead, Gounod became an exceptional instrumental colorist. The sumptuous glow of his orchestral writing has its visual counterpart in the suave, seductive figures and smooth unblemished surfaces that characterize the painting and sculpture of contemporaneous French academic artists like William-Adolphe Bouguereau and Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux (who sculpted a heroic bust of Gounod).

In "Faust," Gounod deploys a variegated palette of orchestral color and emotive harmony to underscore his distinctive brand of pliant, expressive melody.

After reading Goethe's drama "Faust," about a pact between the 16th-century scholar and the devil, Gounod's interest deepened in 1850 upon attending "Faust et Marguerite," an adaptation of Goethe by playwright Michel Carré. Once Gounod met poet Jules Barbier, the three joined forces, and after many delays Gounod's initial version of "Faust" premiered on March 19, 1859, at the Théâtre Lyrique, Paris, with spoken dialogue linking the musical numbers. Although the first audiences were cool, it was reviewed admiringly by Hector Berlioz, who had completed his own "Damnation de Faust" in 1846.

Expanded with sung recitatives and a ballet, Gounod's "Faust" became arguably the most popular musical treatment of Goethe's drama. In 1883, it was chosen to open New York's Metropolitan Opera House; Gaston Leroux used it to evoke the resplendent gala evening that starts his 1910 novel "The Phantom of the Opera." Even Hollywood recognized its perennial appeal—the classic 1936 film "San Francisco" features a fully staged montage of "Faust" scenes sung by Jeanette MacDonald.

In Gounod's opera, Faust, made young again by Méphistophélès, seduces innocent Marguerite. Ultimately, Marguerite, imprisoned for drowning their baby, rejects Faust's conscience-stricken plea to let him and the devil rescue her and is borne to paradise by a choir of angels.

Gounod's distinctive sense of musical characterization and atmosphere are exemplified in the scene in Marguerite's garden where Méphistophélès implements his stratagem for Faust to woo and ruin her. The scene opens with one of the most exquisite of all tenor arias, "Salut! demeure, chaste et pure," its vocal-orchestral texture gilded by a solo violin obligato.

After a long life of solitude, the rejuvenated Faust is infatuated not only with Marguerite but with love itself. He expresses his gradually emboldened passion in the extended love duet at the heart of the scene. Méphistophélès prepares the way for the lovers with a spacious incantation commanding "night's perfumed darkness to charm away all misgivings." The smooth bass voice intones the spell over an ethereal tissue of high, sustained string chords, delicate harp figures and a rising horn theme that circles the haunting sixth degree of the major scale.

In the ensuing duet, Gounod's tender melodies closely reflect the subtle shifts of mood in the libretto, as Faust's ardor and growing confidence as a lover gradually overcome Marguerite's girlish reserve. They softly pledge eternal love, through solemn woodwind chords that suggest the seriousness of their enraptured vows.

The true climax of the scene comes after Faust, obeying Marguerite's caution, has departed, promising to return at morning: Marguerite, alone at her window, sings to the luxuriant night in wonderment, "He loves me!" Musically, her soliloquy complements Méphistophélès' incantation: as Gounod fashions a magical interplay of voice and instruments, Marguerite's thoughts interweave with a brief rising theme in G-flat borne upward by the flute and clarinet over divided cellos. The harmony slides chromatically from key to key on trembling instrumental textures as Marguerite proclaims to the darkness her newfound passion—unaware that Méphistophélès and Faust listen in the shadows. "I wait for dawn," she cries, the music increasing in urgency, "Ah, hasten your return!" At that moment, Faust rushes from the shadows to enfold her in his embrace. Punctuated by Méphistophélès' sardonic laughter, Gounod's soaring theme returns in the full orchestra, now in F-major, moving heartbreakingly to B-flat minor led by a stabbing G-flat in the violins. Then all calms to a murmuring cadence ending with a bittersweet, transparent F-major chord of high strings, woodwinds, harp, and soft, pulsing timpani strokes, like a faint, spent exhalation.

It is the opulent melodic warmth and color of this music—together with extroverted numbers like the Kermesse waltz, the soldiers' chorus, and the impassioned final trio—that have enabled "Faust" to endure after a century and a half.

Mr. Scherer writes about music and the fine arts for the Journal.



CHRISTOPHER SERIA

The trend for
\$40 hand soap:
Should you
wash your
hands of it?
D3



OFF DUTY



Dan Neil drives
the 2018 Jeep
Wrangler the
way it's meant
to be driven
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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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Here's to Really Good Fat!

Fat is fashionable now,
prompting a deluge of ultra-
rich dairy products billed
as healthy *and* delicious. But
can you really have it all?

BY JANE BLACK

FAT-FREE YOGURT is disgusting, an abomination, and I am banning myself from eating it ever again," read a recent tweet from Roxane Gay, a writer who has spent years contemplating her relationship with food. Within hours, her missive had been liked 4,633 times. It also inspired hundreds of supportive replies, including one agreeing that fat-free yogurt tasted like "chalky paste mixed with sadness."

How times have changed. Once upon a time, Americans shunned fat, and the food industry answered their calls with fat-free versions of everything from yogurt and cookies to the oxymoronic fat-free cream. But substituting

carbs and sugar for fat was no magic bullet. Today, nearly 38% of Americans are obese, up from 11% in 1990. And sugar is the new dietary devil.

Fat meanwhile, if not entirely redeemed by nutritionists, is back in fashion. Spurred by the media—a 2016 Time Magazine cover urged readers to "Eat Butter"—and a rash of "good-fat" cookbooks, many Americans now trumpet their embrace of fat, in particular "good" fats found in grass-fed dairy, coconut, olive oil and avocados.

For food manufacturers, the extreme swing of the pendulum is an opportunity. They have capitalized with a flood of new products: The dairy case, once awash in sugar-laden low-fat cartons and cups, now features full-fat, double- and triple-cream yogurts and alternative milks, smoothies, even cheeses made with high-fat nut and coconut milks. The Forager Proj-

Please turn to page D8



GET ENTRENCHED

Establish your trench-coat style with
this obsessive guide **D4**



DO YOU KNOW THE WAY TO SANTA FE?

Where to eat, sleep and get therapeutically drenched once you're there **D6**



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12 designers on what they hated most about their parents' homes as kids **D10**



SWIFT SATISFACTION

Make this devilishly spicy chicken à la diable in only 35 minutes **D7**

[INSIDE]

STYLE & FASHION

THE WATCH MAN HOROLOGICAL EXPERT MICHAEL CLERIZO ANSWERS YOUR TIMELY QUESTIONS



When Watch Lovers Fall Head Over Wheels



RACE AGAINST TIME From top: Stradale Automatic Watch, \$875, autodromo.com; PS1-O2 Watch, \$1,495, recwatches.com; Mille Miglia Classic Chronograph Watch, \$5,050, chopard.com

Q Why are so many watch geeks also car enthusiasts?

A As you point out, the Venn diagram of mechanical watch collectors and car lovers reveals a sizable overlap. Tap a watch geek on the shoulder and, chances are, he also obsesses over his whip—or his dream whip. Paul Newman two-timed on his race car with his Rolex Daytona, smitten with both (the Daytona was named for a Florida racetrack). These days, men with more than a little cash to burn—and even those without—might find themselves scrolling nerdy car and watch sites long after everyone else has sensibly gone to bed.

These overlapping passions stoke many collaborations between car and watch companies, such as Hublot's official Ferrari collection. But what's behind the intersection of the enthusiasms? I tracked down two collectors of cars and watches to see what makes them tick/vroom.

California-based business strategy consultant Gary Getz, 62, collects watches from small, exclusive watch brands, and at various times has owned, he said, "an assortment of Ferraris and the cult favorite Land Rover Defender 90." Mr. Getz's fascination with both cars and watches, he said, is rooted in their functionality. Cars move and watches tell time thanks to two mechanical marvels: the internal combustion engine and the mechanical watch movement. Anyone who can become transfixed by the moving hands on a clock—the

precise unfolding of existence as recorded by a mere machine—may also enjoy reflecting on the elegance of a Porsche's engine. Mr. Getz described the attraction as "mechanical complexity that serves a practical purpose."

Entrepreneur and retired physician Jason Singer voiced similar feelings. An Arizona-based lover of vintage cars and watches, he started collecting both in the 1980s.



Watch companies are eager to exploit these intersecting passions.

Mr. Singer, 54, has owned many Swiss and American watches along with Mercedes-Benzes, BMWs, 10 air-cooled Porsches and a 1970s Ford Falcon convertible with red-and-white striped vinyl seats. He waxed on about the fact that the parts of both mechanical watches and car engines, when disassembled, are useless. Yet, when functioning, he said, both machines become something transcendent and enduring: elegant collectibles that

"change year after year by ever-acumulating patina."

These poets/collectors illustrate, rather effusively, that an obsession with mechanics can motivate someone to collect both cars and watches. I'd add that both are quintessentially "manly" hobbies for people interested in spending a lot of money on nice things.

In any case, watch brands eagerly capitalize on the connection between timepieces and cars; the market overflows with watches calculated to woo such multitasking geeks. The Breitling for Bentley Dark Sapphire, for example, costs \$9,965 and has a stopwatch function (known as a chronograph), handy for timing laps around the racetrack. Chopard's \$5,050 Mille Miglia was inspired by the Mille Miglia vintage car race in Italy; hence, its retro look. Danish brand REC Watches goes further, showily producing timepieces using recycled car parts; its "P-51" features a dial fashioned from metal that once clad a 1960s Ford Mustang. At \$1,495, it's cheaper than a restored vintage car. Headquartered in Brooklyn, Autodromo specializes in car-influenced watch designs, like the \$875 Stradale, which echoes the dashboard instruments of mid-1950 Italian sports cars.

Although everyone needs to get from point A to point B on time, possessing over one's car and watch—or one's car-inspired watch—is the very definition of a first-world problem. However, it can't hurt to enjoy the ride while we're here.

TIE IT YOURSELF. SERIOUSLY

Pre-tied bow ties are for lazy cheaters. And that's not you, right?

THERE IS SUCH a thing as being "too perfect." Exhibit A: the pre-tied bow tie, that standby of passive men in rental tuxes. It's too tidy and exact, like something a Ken doll would sport. "With a pre-tied, your options are more limited and formulaic," said Michael Hill, creative director of Drake's, which has made ties since 1977.

By knotting up a bow tie yourself, you're able to tweak its "wings" (or sides)—to fluff them out or rein them in—and to shape the size of the knot. In short, to give more life to an otherwise by-the-book black tie outfit. "With black tie on, there's only so much to

play with," said Mr. Hill. "A self-tied bow has nice personality to it." Would Dean Martin have looked as raffish in a stiff, pre-tied bow tie? No.

"But it's so easy to snap on a pre-tied bow tie," moan those of you who attend galas, weddings and events held in your honor—mourning the minutes you'll lose tying bow ties. No one would disagree, but mastering the craft pays off (visit WSJ.com/fashion for a step-by-step guide). "We've had many funny instances of people running into our store and learning to tie a bow tie in about one to four minutes," said Alexander Olch, a tie producer with a store on New

York's Lower East Side. "Then they have the pride of having tied it themselves."

Recent innovations have made it easier to join the league of dashing DIY-ers. Labels like Drake's and the Tie Bar offer self-tying bow ties that feature a handy, hidden hook. You loop the tie up once, finessing the bow just as you want it and then after you return home from your event, you unhook it in back just as you would a pre-tied bow tie. Next time, it's ready to wear. Voilà: all the personality of a self-tied bow, with the ease of a practical but too darn perfect pre-tied one.

—Jacob Gallagher



JESSIE KANELOS WEINER

Chloé

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STYLE & FASHION

THAT'S DEBATABLE

Should I Splurge on \$40 Hand Wash To Impress Guests?

YES It's easy to roll your eyes and mutter that you're not the sort of person who'd ever blow \$39 on hand wash, until you smell it. Aesop's Resurrection Aromatique, a current cult favorite among people who run ambitiously tasteful households and businesses, smells of rosemary, cedar and oranges. Its earthly minimalist dispenser and moisturizing plant oils can turn a mindless task, hand cleaning, into a minor joy (it might even persuade you to lather up more often). If you're the kind of host who greets guests with marcona almonds and fresh-cut flowers, why skimp on soap?

"It's a thoughtful touch to have a luxurious hand wash when inviting company over. The scent will be a positive experience that lasts past the powder room door," said Michael Johnston, an assistant buyer at New York design store ABC Carpet & Home, where Nuori's Enriched Hand Wash (\$29) and Astier de Villatte's Savon Suisse (\$21) are best-selling bathroom offerings. In December, spinning chain SoulCycle began providing visitors with Le Labo's luxe hand wash, and Barry's Boot Camp offers its guests Oribe soap in a scent called "Côte d'Azur." So widely embraced is prestige hand wash that it's become a "thing," signifying a specific brand of aspirational lifestyle.

Mr. Johnston argued, too, that you get what

Mr. Johnston argued, too, that you get what you pay for. Luxury wash, he said, tends to have fewer ingredients such as sulfates and parabens, which natural beauty enthusiasts consider harsh and unnecessary. And these wallet-depleting washes are often chock-full of the essential oils beloved by the Goop crowd: Ylang ylang and Siberian fir oil, among others, elevate Grown Alchemist's \$37 version, while "Anti-Fatigue" oils promise to ensure that Rent's \$23 Atlantic Kelp and Magnesium Hand Wash isn't sleeping on the job. We doubt any hand wash could make us more alert than our morning coffee, but these ingredients certainly smell better than your average dollop of Dial.

While a bottle of Mrs. Meyer's liquid soap—

While a bottle of Mrs. Meyer's liquid soap—a more affordably distinctive brand that comes in scents like rhubarb and radish—will only set you back \$4, Priya Malani, co-founder of Stash Wealth, financial planners who specialize in advising HENRYs ("High Earners, Not Rich Yet"), plays down the financial burden of routinely spending \$39 on hand wash. "You can buy Aesop soap, as long as you have your financial s---t together," she said. She preaches a strategy she calls being "responsibly reckless": Go ahead and splurge on soap as long as you're making healthy 401(k) contributions.



F. MARTIN RAMIN/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL; ILLUSTRATION BY CIARA PHELAN

NO Get real. "I was honestly not aware that hand soap could cost more than \$15," said Nick Getzendanner, 34, a Chicago school counselor with four-year-old twin sons. His family relies on Method's Sea Minerals gel (\$3), replenishing the dispenser with 34-ounce refill bags when they run out. His family are high-volume consumers, so it makes sense economically, and Mr. Getzendanner's preschoolers likely wouldn't rhapsodize over a soap whose scent is designed to gently evoke the south of France.

The expense of buying \$39 hand wash clearly argues against overthinking hygiene. And Mr. Getzendanner can't imagine trying to win friends or solidify business relationships with soap. "As a guest in someone else's place, I'm happy if there's readily available soap and a dry, approachable towel," he said. When entertaining others, he'll spring for good beer and lay on an impressive charcuterie board, but for Mr. Getzendanner, soap is soap. "Are guests really going to leave my place saying, 'I like hanging out with Nick—he has the best soap?' or, 'After seeing what excellent taste in soap Nick has, I can't see why we shouldn't promote him?'"

Although many luxury hand washes sell an air of hippie-ish simplicity (all-natural ingredients; packaging that conjures Shaker quietude), that image conflicts with their elitist price tags. Wouldn't a lumen but lovingly crafted bar of handmade soap better embody back-to-the-earth values? Marla Bosworth, a Wyoming-based self-described "authentic soul coach," is one of a growing number of at-home soapmakers; she leads how-to workshops in New York and Jackson Hole, Wyo. The number of empty plastic pump bottles that are headed for landfills troubles her: "At what cost are we making our bathrooms beautiful?" she asked.

Emily Post, the original master of manners, also advocated for the simple soap bar. Hosts should provide "a new cake of unscented bath soap in the bathtub soap rack, and a new cake of scented soap on the washstand," she recommended in the chapter "The Country House and Its Hospitality" from her 1922 book "Etiquette." Her great-great-granddaughter Lizzie Post, now co-president of the Emily Post Institute, still considers her ancestor's wisdom sound in 2018. If you're spending within your budget, and your guests are comfortable, all is well, she said. In her own bathroom, she has a bar of soap made on a family farm in Maryland. It cost \$6.



SOAP STARS

have no shortage of toys, from the traditional, powder-scented luxury of Santa Maria Novella's luxurious sapone to what is perhaps the ultimate guest-bathroom status symbol: Byredo's sleek pump bottle of Vetyver-scented suds.

From left: Lavender Rosemary & Honey Softening Hand Wash, \$38

dixiisqueparis.com; Officina Profumo Farmaceutica di Santa Maria Novella Liquid Soap, \$45, *smonovella.com*; Vetyver Hand Wash, \$60, *byredo.com*; Mediterranean Sea Liquid Marseille Soap, \$23, *compagniedeprovence.com*; Banho Natural Liquid Hand Soap, \$30 *clausporto.com*; Resurrection Aromatique Hand Wash, \$39, *aesop.com*; Jo Malone London Lime Basil & Mandarin Body and Hand Wash, \$40, *jomalone.com*



DEEP DIVE

The Trench

Classic meets cult.

A comprehensive guide to a coat everyone should own

BY CHRISTINE WHITNEY

FEMME FATALES, French women, spies, soldiers, old-time gangsters and even flashers may come to mind when you think of that ever-versatile garment, the trench coat. Despite its more vulgar connotations, the style is rooted in British aristocracy, having been originally developed as a sporting coat for the upper crust. It soared to broader popularity during World War I, when British officers adopted the weatherproofed, double-breasted, off-belted style (typically in khaki) for use on the front lines, according to Jane Tynan, leader in the M.A. in Fashion Critical Studies at Central Saint Martins in London.

Yet "somehow it was within civilian life that the trench coat developed," Ms. Tynan explained. At the time, she said, any marketing tied to the war effort made for a good business strategy, one adopted by brands like Burberry and Aquascutum. The coats have been a fashion mainstay ever since. Cultural touchstones include Humphrey Bogart's Burberry number in "Casablanca" and the versions immortalized by female role models like Marlene Dietrich, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Brigitte Bardot and Audrey Hepburn. Each made her own mark on the classic.

Easily dressed up or down, the trench has unwaveringly stayed in fashion—nearly every designer worth his salt has riffed on the theme, from the late Azzedine Alaïa's oversize 1980s variations to the pastel tweed takes Michael Kors showed for spring 2018. "I love taking wardrobe staples and twisting them in new ways," said Mr. Kors. "I wanted this season's trench coats to have the easy relaxed feel of a bathrobe or kimono blended with the classic polish of a city trench."

Serafina Sama, designer of the London-based label Isa Arfen, has also experimented extensively with the coats, introducing features like glitter buttons or puffed sleeves that have only the most tangential ties to the battlefield. Still their basic trenchness endures. "It's important to [pick] something you can wear season after season," said Ms. Sama. "At least that's the relationship I like to have with my trench coats."



BEYOND THE BEIGE // SIX CURRENT OPTIONS—FROM FAMILIAR TO NEWFANGLED—TO HANDLE SPRING'S CAPRICIOUS WEATHER

**The Artisanal One**

A classic becomes a conversation piece, thanks to Burberry's built-in knitted detailing in red. Piphurst Trench Coat, \$2,890, us.burberry.com

**The Wrappy One**

With a loose, almost floppy silhouette, this accessibly priced version will cloak even voluminous spring looks. Elizabeth and James Trench Coat, \$595, net-a-porter.com

**The Strappy One**

The revival of the Helmut Lang brand is proving a boon for outerwear options, like this edgy, militaristic mac. Utility Mackintosh Coat, \$895, helmutlang.com

**Our Favorite One**

This elegant, streamlined, navy coat is the version we most eagerly tried on. You may or may not agree. Khaite Trench Coat, \$1,690, modaoperandi.com

**The (Very) Floral One**

A burst of originality for anyone suffering from trench fatigue. Unsuitable for sleuthing. Hand Painted Trench Coat, \$2,365, simonerocha.com, 646-810-4785

**The Realistic One**

You're welcome, ladies: This piece is the holy grail of classic trenches: well-cut, simple and amazingly affordable. Trench Coat, \$80, uniqlo.com

WHAT MAKES A TRENCH A TRENCH?



DON'T SIGH OVER SIZING

Finding the right one for you needn't be stressful. A few tips

SO YOU'VE decided to invest in a trench—what next? Whether you're after the ladylike Audrey Hepburn "Breakfast at Tiffany's" effect or a seductive Catherine Deneuve, "Belle de Jour" moment, finding the right match for your needs is key. The good news? These wardrobe workhorses tend to be one-size-fits-most—tailoring is generally not necessary—and can look fine even on the loose side. Said designer Michael Kors, "Softer fabrics and less structure make oversize trenches more user-friendly for almost any

shape or height."

As for length, trenches range from fingertip-short to ankle-grazing long. While shorter women might try on longer styles with trepidation, designer Serafina Sama of Isa Arfen urges an open mind: "Personally I find longer hemlines to be most flattering, because I think they're more elongating," she said. "Generally there is this preconception that if somebody's short she should do a shorter hemline, but I think a longer hemline looks very chic on somebody shorter too." For other tastes, shorter

can look breezier, more playful, more youthful.

Ms. Sama recommends that fuller-hipped women seek out something with a strong shoulder and a straighter silhouette. "I personally prefer [one] without a waist, without a belt if you don't want to accentuate your hips further," she said.

Regarding color: Khaki, the classic hue, is a good investment. But feel free to branch out into chic navy, kid-proof black, summer white or something more irreverent: Plaid can easily be had.

Trenchant Remarks

A tense but revealing Q&A with the classic coat on the touchy subject of its military past

Q: So, about your stint in World War I: Did you ever—

A: I don't want to talk about those years. I'm a pacifist now.

Q: What's your favorite symbol of peace?

A: Me.

Q: Not perhaps a dove? Something less associated with mud, aggression and, well, trench warfare?

A: Doves don't have belts, which are obviously all about restraining hostility. Symbolically, that is.

Q: What about the olive branch? It's a pretty decent peace symbol.

A: Unlike olives, I do not have a pit of bitter hatred. I win!

Q: For a peace symbol, you seem awfully combative and competitive.

A: You're just jealous. —Dale Hrabik

TRENCH MASTERS
How Eight Greats Wore It

1941 On the set of her film "Manpower," **Marlene Dietrich** demonstrated a femme-fatale take on the trench, pairing it with pumps and an attitudinal beret.



1961 In "Breakfast at Tiffany's," **Audrey Hepburn** exuded elegance in this iconic version, even when ruthlessly abandoning her pet cat.



1964 **Catherine Deneuve** showcased classical rainy-day style in the aptly-themed "The Umbrellas of Cherbourg." Note uncinched belt.



1970 Walking in New York, **Jackie O.** accessorized with a head scarf and "don't mess with me" sunglasses that underlined the trench's toughness.



1974 Matching your dress exactly to your trench, as **Lauren Hutton** did here for an editorial photo shoot, is tricky. Beginners should vary the shades slightly.



1975 **Jane Birkin** put the trench's sensual side on full display by pairing it with patent leather knee-length boots in France and wearing little underneath.



1978 For a bohemian twist, take a cue from **Kate Bush**'s "Saturday Night Live" performance outfit: a long, cinched trench, slouchy boots and fedora.



2013 In costume as her beloved "Scandal" character Olivia Pope, **Kerry Washington** showed the world how to wear a buttoned-up trench like a boss.

ADVENTURE & TRAVEL

BY ALEXANDRA WEXLER

For most people planning a scuba-diving holiday, a landlocked body of water in southern Africa would be the last destination on their list. But when my fiancé, Jonathan, and I re-emerged after our first dive in the translucent 82-degree waters of Lake Malawi, and bobbed on the pancake-flat surface, we were converted.

Descending some 2,300 feet, Lake Malawi is one of the world's deepest lakes and among the largest by area. It makes up about 20% of the total footprint of the tiny, impoverished southern African nation of Malawi, a largely agriculture-based economy. The lake easily boasts the calmest diving conditions we'd ever experienced, ideal for beginners like me, yet interesting enough to hold the attention of more advanced divers like Jon, who has logged well over 100 dives.

More than 350 species of small, brightly colored fish known as cichlids (pronounced sick-lids) call the waters home; all but five are endemic to Lake Malawi, according to Unesco, which says the lake's cichlids are as scientifically important for the study of evolution as Charles Darwin's finches in the Galápagos Islands.

Convincing Jon, who is South African, to give Lake Malawi a try was surprisingly difficult. Like many of his countrymen, he refers to travel beyond nations contiguous to South Africa as "Going up to Africa," or "Going into Africa," as though the continent beyond is somehow detached from their more-familiar and comfortable surroundings.

After flying from Johannesburg to Malawi's capital of Lilongwe, we transferred to a six-seater prop plane for the one-hour flight to Likoma Island in the middle of the lake. As we flew over shimmering waters, I struggled to discern



KAYA MAWA (3)

where the pale blue lake ended and the light blue sky began.

Our diving base was Kaya Mawa, a luxury resort on Likoma's shores that curves around a white sandy beach dotted with giant baobab trees (think "The Lion King"). The rooms, set into the rocky headlands on either side of the strand, are completely open to the elements; at night, you can close your quarters off with wooden shutters. We didn't have to worry about locking our room or even leaving our belongings out on the beach chairs while we went for lunch—the island's crime rate is basically zero. A mosquito net hung around the bed, despite relatively little risk of malaria in this part of Lake Malawi.

We took our first dip in the lake after being briefed on the conditions. The pro-

prietors of Kaya Mawa say they regularly test for bilharzia, or schistosomiasis, an acute, chronic disease caused by parasitic freshwater worms that occur in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa: The tests, we were told, have always come back negative. The parasites are carried in certain types of freshwater snails that live in reeds, which most hotels on the lake remove from the shoreline, largely reducing the risk of the disease. As for other unseen dangers, we were heartened to learn that neither sharks, barracudas nor jellyfish inhabit the lake. Crocodiles and hippos mainly stick to the area's rivers and don't make their way anywhere near Likoma Island.

A footbridge just outside our room led to a wooden ladder that descended directly into the lake. Our brief swim proved efficiently refreshing after a day of traveling. And when we jumped out to devour the excellent homemade hummus and bread platter sent to our room to hold us over until dinner, our bodies were free of sticky salt residue.

The next morning after a nice breakfast of eggs Benedict, we met up with dive-master Geoff Cole at the little dive-center hut on the beach. Geoff checked our certifications, had us try on the equipment we'd be borrowing



WADING ON A CURVE From top: Kaya Mawa, an island resort in Lake Malawi, makes an unexpectedly posh crash pad for divers and snorkelers; exploring the bottom of Lake Malawi.

and—on a hand-painted map of the island—pointed out where we'd be diving over the next two days.

Then, amid the cries of fish eagles nesting on the far side of the beach, we pushed off in a small boat with our skipper and traveled about 10 minutes to nearby Masimbwe Island. We pulled on our wet suits, buckled into our equipment and flopped backward into fantastically clear water. I've never been so relaxed at the start of a dive. Descending couldn't have been easier: Waves were tiny, currents minimal and, because the lake is fresh water, we barely needed any extra weights in our weight belt.

Once fully immersed, we spent nearly an hour examin-

ing the seemingly endless procession of cichlids in myriad colors, darting among granite rock formations.

More popular dive spots lure you in with promises of spotting sea turtles, manta rays, hammerhead sharks—the celebrity sightings of the underwater world. You won't find any of those sea creatures in Lake Malawi. But we were just as content with glimpses of catfish and eels.

On the second day, we did a double dive; two tanks of compressed air per person were loaded onto the boat before we headed over to the other side of Likoma Island. In between dives, we pulled into a little cove, where Jon and I shed our heavy dive equipment, peeled off our wet

suits and jumped back in the water, feeling terrifically unencumbered. We grabbed our masks and checked out the fish from just below surface level. Splashing around on the surface, we watched turquoise kingfisher birds crooning from a nearby island.

We ended our visit much as we started it: slipping into the lake from the ladder outside our bungalow and lolling around in the warm waters. Then we scarfed down some eggs with bacon and rode in the roofless, doorless Land Cruiser back to the airstrip for one more flight across this great inland sea.

► For more details on scuba diving in Malawi, see wsj.com/travel.



SUNSET STRIP A lounge area at Kaya Mawa resort.

SITES & SIGHTINGS

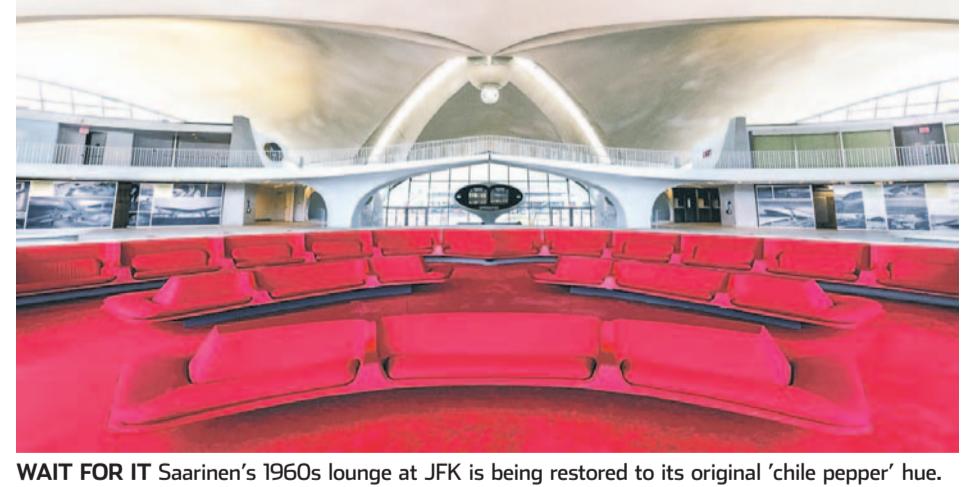
TERMINAL VALUE

New York's TWA Flight Center at JFK had its wings clipped long ago, but it's re-emerging next year as the strangest bird of all: an undreamt-of airport hotel

BY BARBARA PETERSON

FOR YEARS, passengers racing to catch a flight at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport have barely given a glance to Eero Saarinen's famed gull-winged TWA terminal, but in a few months, they'll be doing double-takes: Long fenced-off and shuttered, it's preparing for takeoff again as a glam airport hotel, scheduled to reopen by early 2019. That means hard-done-by fliers will be able to pop by the iconic structure for an aperitif in the restored Paris Cafe, have a nightcap in the Rat Pack-era Constellation Club or gaze out at the runway action from a pool and observation deck atop one of the newly built hotel wings flanking the terminal. The wings will house 505 soundproofed guest rooms.

What they won't be able to do: check a bag, board a flight or clear security. As an airline terminal, this midcentury gem has been defunct since 2001, when its epony-



WAIT FOR IT Saarinen's 1960s lounge at JFK is being restored to its original 'chile pepper' hue.

mous former tenant ceased operations. The goal is to repurpose the Saarinen building as a sort of time-travel theme park evoking "the ethos of 1962"—the year it opened—said Tyler Morse, CEO of MCR, the hotel developer. "It was Camelot, it was the Jetsons, it was John Glenn orbiting the earth," he enthused. The swinging '60s will be celebrated in an on-

site museum dedicated to the Jet Age and midcentury modern design.

Other nostalgic touches: a vintage Lockheed Constellation plane parked outside will house a restaurant and bar where guests can sip a martini in the cockpit, and inside, Saarinen's fixtures and stylistic touches will be restored to their original state—including the Solari

flip-panel departure board and the thousands of tiny ceramic floor tiles. When the landmark structure finally reopens, travelers can use it to get to the JetBlue terminal via the old tubelike walkways. Until then, impatient types can get a preview at the TWA Hotel lounge on the 86th floor of Manhattan's One World Trade Center. twahotel.com/lounge

GOODBYE SNOW.
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ADVENTURE & TRAVEL

1. Opuntia Café



JOURNAL CONCIERGE
An Insider's Guide

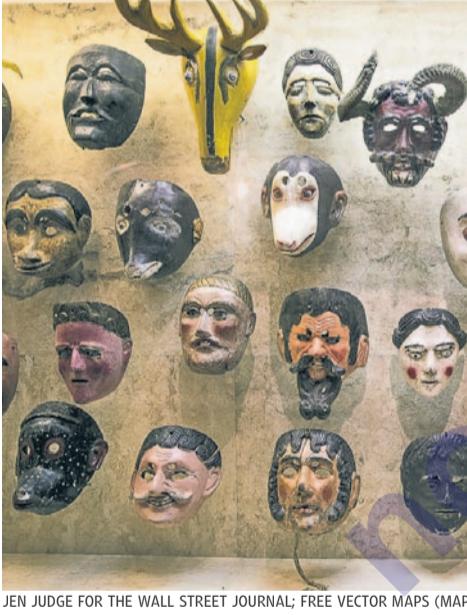
6. Ten Thousand Waves



2. Rosewood Inn of the Anasazi



5. Museum of International Folk Art



3. Shiprock Santa Fe



THE RESTAURATEUR

Nellie Tischler

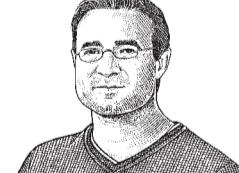
Co-owner, with husband/chef Paulraj Karuppasamy, of Paper Dosa



THE ENTREPRENEUR

Vince Kadlubek

CEO and co-founder of Meow Wolf, a collective of 200-plus artists



THE ARTIST

Tony Abeyta

Navajo contemporary painter



THE SHAMANIC HEALER

Robin Coale

Psychotherapist and counselor



CRAFT PROJECT // Palace of the Governors.

Artisans from the pueblos that surround Santa Fe sell their creations—jewelry, pottery and sand paintings—directly to the public. 105 W. Palace Ave., palaceofthegovernors.org

SING OUT // Tiny's Restaurant & Lounge.

You can't get more New Mexican than Tiny's. They play Doo-wop and country music and have karaoke on Saturday nights. They serve tacos and enchiladas and the waitresses have been there forever. 1005 St. Francis Dr., tinysantafe.com

COFFEE, TEA OR CACTUS // Opuntia Café.

[1] It's a really fun coffee and specialty tea shop and plants store. 922 Shoofly St., opuntia.cafe

FIGURED OUT // The Girard Wing at the Museum of International Folk Art.

[5] Alexander Girard was a designer [for Herman Miller]. He collected figurines and created scenes of what life might have looked like in the '50s. Everything is tiny and super cute and fun. 706 Camino Lejo, internationalfolkart.org

LEGO MY ENCHILADA // Cafe Castro.

This is my favorite Mexican spot. I usually get cheese enchiladas with an egg on top with Christmas (red and green chiles). People say the chalupas are the best in town. 2811 Cerrillos Rd., cafecastro.net

HIGH POINT // Cross of the Martyrs.

A cross on a hill overlooking downtown Santa Fe, it's a powerful historic spot with a beautiful view of the city. 617 Paseo de Peralta

ART CLASS // Form & Concept.

A contemporary gallery, it features local artists such as Heidi Brandow, who does incredible works of color, and Brian Fleetwood, a sculptor who creates playful science-fiction forms. 435 S Guadalupe St., formandconcept.center

ALL GEEK TO ME // Currents New Media Festival.

This festival shows the best new media work you'll find anywhere. It's light-based, interactive and digital and really grabs the imagination of kids and families. [Starts June 8] 555 Camino de la Familia., currentsnewmedia.org

PET SHOP // Look What the Cat Dragged In.

Santa Fe yard sales, thrift stores and estate sales turn up ethnographic material from all over the world. Thrift stores affiliated with animal shelters are especially good—people will donate a Queen Anne highboy or 1st edition of "On the Road" because they love animals. 2570 Camino Entrada, sfhumaneociety.org/shop

NAAN PARTISAN // Paper Dosa.

They serve healthy, hearty Indian food, really good salads, and vegetarian and gluten-free options in a social atmosphere. 551 W. Cordova Rd., paper-dosa.com

FIELD TRIP // Abiquiu Lake.

[4] It's Georgia O'Keeffe country, a magical tranquil place with a lake that reflects skies and thunderstorms. Stop at Bode's General Store for lunch. 21196 US 84, Abiquiu, bodes.com

TABLE MATTERS // Joseph's.

A great ambience with a very creative menu. If I'm going on a date and want to impress the girl, that's where I go. 428 Agua Fria St., josephofsantafe.com

THE WET LOOK // Ten Thousand Waves.

[6] At this Japanese spa in the woods, you can visit impromptu and use the women's or community hot tub, or make a reservation for a private hot tub. My favorite is the Waterfall Tub, which has its own sauna. There are spa treatments and an izakaya restaurant. The food is fantastic. 21 Ten Thousand Waves Way, tentousandwaves.com

ARIA AERIE // The Santa Fe Opera.

The opera house is architecturally significant and beautiful, with open sides. During the performance you can see the night sky, full of stars, from your seat. 301 Opera Dr., santafeopera.org

FLOUR POWER // Sage Bakehouse.

They make the most divine scones and great almond croissants. 535 Cerrillos Rd., sagebakehouse.com

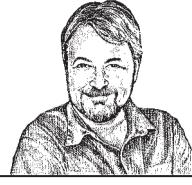
TREES, PLEASE // Aspen Vista Trail.

About 4 miles outside Santa Fe, in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, this is a particularly spectacular hike in autumn when the aspens are ablaze with reds, oranges and golds.

Plus, Don't Miss: Rosewood Inn of the Anasazi. [2] In the center of town, the hotel gilds its Native American and Spanish aesthetic with all the luxe you require. From \$195 a night, rosewoodhotels.com // Shiprock Santa Fe. [3] This gallery and shop stocks new and vintage Native American art, jewelry, rugs and furnishings. 53 Old Santa Fe Trail, shiprocksantafe.com // Eloisa. Tortillas pressed with flowers? Just the beginning. Acclaimed chef John Rivera Sedlar, whose aunt was Georgia O'Keeffe's personal chef, helms this creative Latin-inspired restaurant named for his grandmother. 228 E. Palace Ave., eloisasantafe.com. // MVW.Visvum. Japanese designer Hiroki Nakamura chose Santa Fe for his company's flagship U.S. store and added furnishings and art to its selection of way-cool clothing. 222 Shelby St., visvum.tv

EATING & DRINKING

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE LUIS ALBERTO URREA ON KOVAL SINGLE BARREL BOURBON



Amber Waves of Grain, Distilled and Bottled

I DON'T EVEN like bourbon. Holding the bottle of Koval Single Barrel Bourbon sent to me by my editor at The Wall Street Journal, I mourned breaking the seal. Until that moment, whiskey had been something I admired from afar but really didn't drink. I poured a small glass, sniffed, sipped, grinned. Didn't even cough when the mellow warmth lit up my core.

Imagine my surprise a few days later, when I talked to Dr. Robert Birnecker, the Koval Distillery's master distiller and co-founder, and he said he didn't appreciate bourbon either—at least not initially. "I don't like the taste of corn in whiskey," he said. "I wasn't even interested in making a bourbon." But in 2008 Dr. Birnecker and his wife, Sonat, both former academics, brought Chicago its first distillery since the mid-1800s. And what could be more American, more Chicago—home of Al Capone and the Untouchables—than corn-based bourbon?

It was a conundrum for Dr. Birnecker, who learned his skills from his brandy-making family in his native Austria. He found a creative solution in the fecund plains: millet. "We had made a 100% millet whiskey and everyone said it reminded them of bourbon," Dr. Birnecker said. "So we took the required 51% corn"—without that, legally, it's not bourbon—"and added 49% millet to our mash. Millet makes the flavor soft and mellow without the harshness of corn. People who don't like bourbon say, 'I can drink this.'"

I can drink this.

And Koval's Bourbon makes such a trenchant cultural statement: America's signature whiskey coming from America's most American metropolis at the threshold of America's Great Plains and Great Lakes. It's like a folk song. It's almost a Ronald Reagan campaign commercial, if you think about it.

I mentioned this to Dr. Birnecker, and he seemed amused. Phoning from Austria during his yearly visit home, he was enjoying his current status in Austrian publications, appearing in articles beside movie makers and celebrities, being lauded as an Austrian "living the American dream." Making the American hooch. An academic can appreciate the ironies in this turn of events. He can sip his own libations and parse the meta-messages of the Koval narrative.

The Koval Distillery on the North Side of Chicago smells as if pies with especially tart apples were being baked inside it. The scent of fermenting likker, "Koval is German for 'blacksmith,'" spokeswoman Joanna Miller ex-

YOU COULD ONLY
MAKE IT MORE
*All-American
harvested corn*
IF YOU
THE CORN FROM
KEVIN COSTNER'S
'Field of Dreams'
MOVIE SET.



ordinating provider of the grains is Clarkson Growers, based west of Chicago, out toward Iowa. All the farms are local, organic, small-scale; they don't partake in industrial farming. "I can sell corn," said Clarkson spokeswoman Haley Ferrill, "and I know exactly where it came from." She added, "It did not come from some silo beside the highway. It is all grown, harvested and cleaned by hand."

Most American corn is grown for by-products and for foreign markets. The model used by these growers is the reverse: 90% goes directly to food. The shape of the small-scale corn market in Illinois actually interests me deeply. I live in Chicago but come, originally, from Mexico. I was called "beamer" a lot growing up, but you should know that the real deal for us is corn, not beans.

Corn—maiz—is the flesh of the sun god. The holy grain of the Americas. Oh hell yeah, tortillas! My farmer friends at Clarkson supply Chicago with tortilla masa. And Frito with corn for chips. God bless 'em. And they experiment with ancient corns, too—white corn and blue corn. (Koval! Blue bourbon? Just sayin'. You could call it the Luis.)

A final thread I traced in the deeper narrative of this whiskey: The farmers work side by side with immigrant farm workers. Their spokeswoman made it clear that the respect and care each shows the other—human to human, boss to employees, culture to culture—extends to the love and care they have for their crops. They like to think this utopian reality, this American working paradigm, extends into the bottles in Chicago, too. And they can sip a glass later and know it all came together because of this black soil in the heart of America. Nice.

Once the fermenting and distilling is complete, Koval uses only the heart cut for its bourbon. That would be the middle 60% of the whiskey that comes out of the still. (The head cut, the first 10% to stream out, will "leave you blind and brain damaged," said Ms. Miller. The tail-cut, which "smells like wet dog," is recycled and re-distilled for Koval's liquors). So in the heart of the country, the heart cut fills bottles that are hand corked and labeled. The Austrian tradition makes the singular American liquor, from holy indigenous corn harvested by Americans and immigrants together. Cheers, amigos.

Mr. Urrea's latest novel, "The House of Broken Angels," will be published Mar. 6 by Little, Brown and Company.

SLOW FOOD FAST SATISFYING AND SEASONAL FOOD IN ABOUT 30 MINUTES

Chicken à la Diable With Paprika Breadcrumbs



The Chefs
Lee Hanson and
Riad Nasr

Their Restaurant
Frenchette,
in Manhattan

What They Are Known For
Working together for years in top New York kitchens, quietly raising the bar for classic French cooking in the city.

THERE'S A WHOLE genre of dishes ideally suited to these brisk, bright pre-springtime days. Take this chicken à la diable recipe from Lee Hanson and Riad Nasr, two chefs who have defined French cooking in Manhattan for two-plus decades. "The English have the deviled preparation. The Italians have the diavolo. And this is the French version," said Mr. Nasr. "You have these spicy, bold flavors in every culture, but this is a bit more elegant."

The dish draws its wonderful warming quality from mustard, chile flakes, garlic,

lemon juice, peppercorns and Sriracha, which come together in a gutsy, rust-colored sauce as the chicken cooks. Just be sure to fully crisp the chicken's exterior before adding liquid to the pan. "You don't want flabby skin," Mr. Nasr said. Paprika-laced breadcrumbs lend crunch and depth of flavor.

The chefs suggest completing the meal with a salad of escarole or another bitter chicory. "It should cut the richness of the chicken and be bracing," Mr. Nasr said, "like a cold shower." —Kitty Greenwald

TOTAL TIME: 35 minutes SERVES: 4

2 teaspoons peppercorns, coarsely smashed

1 teaspoon chile flakes

1 teaspoon coriander seeds, coarsely smashed

1 tablespoon Sriracha

1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

4 rosemary sprigs plus 1

teaspoon chopped rosemary

4 thyme sprigs plus 1 teaspoon fresh thyme

5 lemons

2 cloves minced garlic

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

4 whole, skin-on chicken legs

1/4 cup olive oil

1/2 cup breadcrumbs

1/2 teaspoon sweet paprika

1/4 cup dry white wine

4 tablespoons butter, cut into pieces

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. In a large bowl, toss together peppercorns, chile flakes, coriander, Sriracha, mustard, chopped rosemary, thyme leaves, zest and juice of 1 lemon, garlic and pinch salt. Season chicken with salt and toss in marinade to coat.

2. Halve remaining lemons. Add oil to a large, ovenproof pan and set over medium-high heat. Add lemon halves, cut-side down, and herb sprigs. Cook until lemons brown, 3 minutes. Remove lemons and sprigs and set aside. Shake excess marinade from chicken into bowl. Lay chicken, skin-side down, into

pan and sear until skin crisps, 3-4 minutes. Flip chicken and pour reserved marinade into pan along with wine. Dot pan with butter and transfer to oven. Mix breadcrumbs with paprika and a pinch each of salt and pepper.

3. After 10 minutes, baste chicken with pan sauce and sprinkle breadcrumbs over top. Return pan to oven and bake until breadcrumbs are golden and meat is just cooked through, about 10 minutes more.

4. Divide chicken and sauce among four plates. Serve with lemon halves and herb sprigs. Add a salad of bitter greens, if you like.



RYAN LIEE FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, FOOD STYLING BY JAMIE KIMM, PROP STYLING BY NIDIA CUEVA; ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL HOEWELER

EATING & DRINKING

FAT FEATS

Continued from page D1

ect, a plant-based food company in California, is even prominently advertising fat on the labels of its new line of smoothies and "fat coffee" released last month. It was, said CEO Stephen Williamson, a tough call: "People associated fat with being fat, even if that's wrong."

Sales are booming. Kite Hill, which makes artisanal nut-milk cheeses and yogurts, has seen compound annual revenue growth of 400% since 2015. Organic giant Stonyfield launched 12 new whole-milk products in 2017 and saw their whole-milk dollar sales grow by double digits over the last several years, while Strauss Creamery, California's first organic dairy, watched whole-milk Greek yogurt sales jump 20% in 2017. In contrast, sales of Strauss's non-fat and low-fat versions dipped by "low single digits" during the same period.

"Fat is back," said Gary Hirshberg, Stonyfield's co-founder. "And that's because taste is back."

Maybe. But however tasty, these products are also branded as good for us, and if the excesses of the low-fat craze left me with anything, it's skepticism of health fads. After eating my way through the crowded dairy section, I came up with a few rules by which to judge the wave of new offerings and a list of my new go-tos. (See "Creamy and Dreamy.")

RULE N° 1

Not all fat is good.

"Eat Butter" was a great headline. But most nutritionists would agree a more apt one would be "Don't Demonize Butter." (You can see why Time went with the former.) Recent science suggests that foods rich in healthful, unsaturated fats—salmon, nuts, olive oil—can help protect against cardiovascular disease. But the evidence is less certain about saturated fats from dairy and coconut, which are the foundation for so many of the new dairy and alt-dairy products.

Here's what we know: Grass-fed milk has higher levels of good-for-you Omega-3s than milk from dairy cows fed a diet of grain. Whole-fat dairy is also more satisfying than lower-fat products, which can lead one to consume fewer carbs and other calories. Coconut milk, meanwhile, has a health halo because it's high in lauric acid, a medium-chain saturated fatty acid—the kind of fat that's quickly metabolized—and said to have antimicrobial and other benefits. But it is important to remember that it contains a whopping 24 grams of saturated fat per half cup.

Franklin Becker, chef and author of "Good Fat Cooking," boils it down this way: "If you're dairy-free, choose the nut yogurt over the coconut one; it's a healthier fat. In dairy, choose grass-fed over the non-grass fed."

RULE N° 2

Even good fat should be eaten in moderation.

Whole milk, by definition, has 3.25% fat. That means you get about 4 grams of fat in a 4-ounce serving. But plant-based milks and yogurts can have much more. Kite Hill's almond milk yogurt has 7.5 grams in a half-cup serving, while COYO coconut yogurt has a mindblowing 29 grams. You have to read the fine print to discover more balanced options such as Forager Project's Cashewgurt, which has 4.5 grams of fat per half cup, or So Delicious Coconut yogurt with just 3 grams.

Fat, of course, does make food more satiating. But the bottom line is that fat comes with calories.

"Companies are adding fat to processed foods presumably to make them taste better and because they think they can get away with it now that the word is out that fat is OK," said Marion Nestle, a professor of nutrition at New York University. "The problem here, as in all such matters dealing with single nutrients, is taking the fat out of its caloric context. If there is more fat in yogurt, it will have more calories. And calories, alas, count."

RULE N° 3

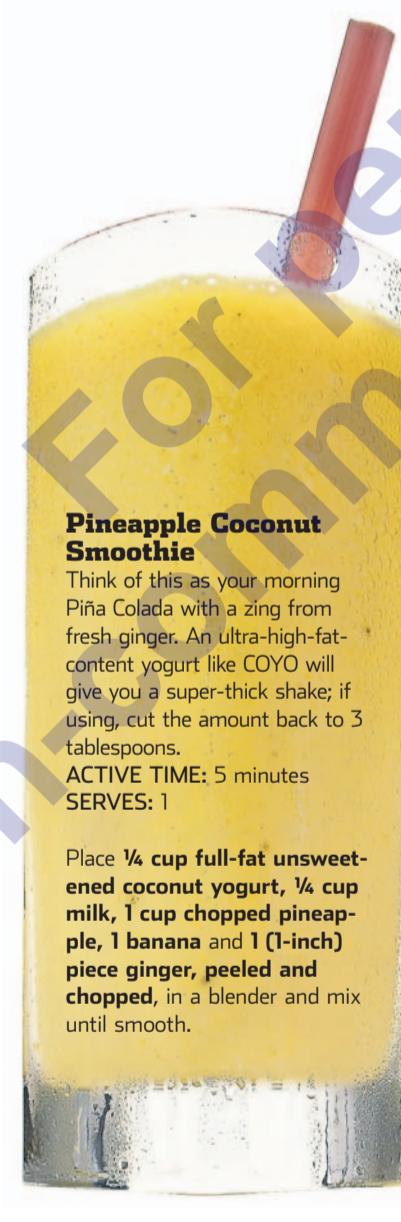
If you're choosing higher-fat, make sure you're not getting sugar too.

The new fat-full yogurts and smoothies don't necessarily keep sugar low. Noosa, an ultra-popular upstart that recorded \$170 million in sales last year, offers a line of 21 "classic" flavors, each with between 14 grams and 17.5 grams of sugar—as much as 4½ teaspoons per half cup. Likewise, many popular nut yogurts don't shy away from sugar. Kite Hill's pineapple and peach yogurts had nearly 13 grams and 11 respectively per half cup.

Many companies are reducing sugar. Stonyfield, for example, slashed sugar in all its classic yogurts by at least 25% last year. Most flavors now have around 4 grams of sugar per half cup.

After all my research, the brand I was most drawn to was Siggi's, famous for its Icelandic-style strained yogurts. Its whole-milk yogurts have a respectable 4 grams of fat (from grass-fed dairy) and just five grams of sugar in enticing flavors, like banana-cinnamon and peach-mango. Even its triple-cream offering, which is a dessert, keeps sugar low—8 grams for its raspberry flavor. I'll admit the first bite tasted strange; we're all accustomed to so much sugar. But before finishing my first tub, I appreciated being able to taste the real flavor and tang of yogurt itself.

Enjoy it while you can. You never know when fat will go out of fashion.



CREAMY AND DREAMY //

THE BEST OF THE BATCH



The Product Forager Project Fat Shake Cold Brew Coffee

The Claim A blend of coconut cream and cashew milk, mixed with cold-brew coffee that delivers 100 mg of caffeine, about what you'd find in an 8-ounce cup of joe.

The Verdict Not quite breakfast in a bottle, but it definitely delivers buzz and the healthy plant fats will keep you satisfied till lunch.

The Product Stonyfield 100% Grassfed Greek Vanilla Bean

The Claim Organic, grass-fed milk, which is higher in Omega-3s than conventional milk.

The Verdict An oldie but goodie with a classic toasty vanilla flavor and 5 grams of fat per tub.

The Product The Coconut Cult Mango Cream

The Claim Fermented yogurt with more than 25 billion strains of probiotics per serving plus plenty of healthy coconut fat.

The Verdict Something good is definitely brewing in this \$25 (per 16-ounce jar) coconut yogurt. It has a subtle fizz on the tongue, similar to kombucha, and a low-key mango flavor.

Note: Suggested serving size is only 2 tablespoons, so this yogurt isn't quite as expensive as it seems, providing 16 servings per jar. And those probiotics promote gut health.

The Product Siggi's Strained Whole-Milk Yogurt, No Added Sugar, Banana & Cinnamon

The Claim The label proudly proclaims that this is "not a low-calorie food." But it clocks in at just 120 calories, with 35 from fat and only 5 grams of sugar. Plus it's made from grass-fed milk and has no artificial anything.

The Verdict Ideal for those looking to explore higher-fat dairy without overdoing it. The texture is creamy and the surprising lack of sweetness lets the inventive flavors shine.

The Product Siggi's Triple Cream, Chocolate

The Claim At 9% milk fat—whole milk plus cream—this is marketed as an indulgence.

The Verdict Tastes like a creamy, tangy chocolate milkshake. That said, the restrained amount of sugar—just 8 grams—means you can make it a habit.



Sweet Potato and Collard Coconut Curry

The Forager Project's high-fat turmeric-coconut smoothie tasted to me like it belonged in a curry—and it did. It's a brilliant foundation (and time saver) for this fast, spicy vegetable stew.

ACTIVE TIME: 40 minutes **SERVES:** 2

Heat 1 tablespoon virgin coconut oil over medium heat in a large, shallow pan. Add 1 yellow onion, thinly sliced, and sauté until beginning to soften, 2–3 minutes. Add 2 cloves garlic, minced, 1 (2-inch) piece fresh ginger, peeled and chopped, ½ small jalapeño, minced, and 2½ teaspoons curry powder, and cook, stirring often, until soft and fragrant, about 3 minutes more. // Add 1 large sweet potato, peeled and diced into ½ inch cubes, 1 (12-ounce) bottle Forager Project Turmeric Golden Smoothie and 4 ounces vegetable stock or water. Bring to a simmer, uncovered. Do not let boil or nut milk will separate. Cover and simmer until potatoes begin to soften, 5–6 minutes. Add 4 cups roughly chopped collard greens and cook, uncovered, until greens and potatoes are cooked through, 5 minutes more. Season with salt. // Serve over basmati or brown rice. Garnish with a handful of chopped cilantro and a handful of chopped toasted cashews, if you like.

DESIGN & DECORATING

CRITICAL EYE

Practical Makes Perfect

This sideboard vignette suggests nuanced aesthetic deliberations, but the designer didn't overthink it. His one goal: livability

OUR DESIGN ASSESSMENT When we first saw this photo of a dining room sideboard in a Portland, Ore., home, what struck us was how thoughtfully orchestrated the décor scheme was. Local designer Max Humphrey, it seemed, had expertly played with (and against) symmetry. The Asian sideboard occupies center stage, with a Moroccan rug obediently framing it, while two matching mushroom table lamps and a near-identical duo of chairs spread out equidistantly. Even the painting consists of two pure squares. On the other hand, the cluster of Jonathan Adler pottery is defiantly asymmetric, the seats' colors diverge and the two halves of the painting are anything but mirror images. We were also impressed by the considered tension between straight and curvy lines. In the rigid former camp: the chair legs, the rug pattern, the geometric molding on the walls. More voluptuous: the sensual seats, the lamp shades, the rounds of hardware on the cabinet. One complaint: The stately sideboard makes the lamps and chairs look less than high-quality. And what's with the camo bag?

THE DESIGNER'S RESPONSE

Turns out he wasn't weighing these factors at all, at least not consciously. The house is a 1910 Geor-



FAMILY AFFAIR The contemporary canvas, by Yuko Tanaka, sister of the lady of the house, offsets the conservative architecture of a 1910 house

gian colonial, Mr. Humphrey explained, but the family of four who moved in "are not fancy people." Hence the casual pairing of the chest with the utilitarian fiberglass chairs and steel lamps, both from

local factory Schoolhouse Electric. Besides, with two 12-year-olds, every room gets used hard; such chairs made sense. Mr. Humphrey agreed with our reading of the nuanced formal relationships but in-

sisted, "I go with my gut, then explain it to myself later." As for the jarring camo satchel: "It's my work bag," said Mr. Humphrey, "and the photo needed a lifestyle touch."

—Catherine Romano

FLOWER SCHOOL

IKEBANA JOHNS

Floral designer Lindsey Taylor toys with a Japanese technique to riff on a Jasper Johns canvas created in Tokyo

**THE ARRANGEMENT**

Ranunculus, tulips and allium map out Jasper Johns's 'Watchman' (1964). Short ikebana stoneware vase (in front), \$275, mariteacosta.com; tall vase, artist's own (in rear).

AMERICAN ARTIST Jasper Johns (b. 1930) lived in Tokyo when he painted 1964's "Watchman," my jumping-off point for this month's arrangement. My goals: to reflect his palette, his exuberant brush strokes and the 3-D effects—and to nod to the Eastern provenance of the painting, on view until May 13 in the show "Something Resembling Truth," at Los Angeles's Broad museum. I chose two Japanese-inspired darkly glazed vessels and decided I would play with the ikebana style of arranging that's rooted in Japan.

I wanted a tall arrangement to reflect the painting's large scale (85 inches by 60½ inches) and needed a woody element to echo the partial chair in the canvas's top right. Seasonally appropriate Hamamelis virginiana fit the bill, and its strong yellow flowers

**THE INSPIRATION**

spoke to Mr. Johns's palette, as did flesh-colored Japanese-grown ranunculus, white daffodils, blue Allium caeruleum and blood-orange tulips feathered with red. Cutting flowers short, long and all lengths in between gives an arrangement energy and keeps the viewer's eye engaged. It also helped me follow the painting's composition. To reflect the white bands at the top and bottom of the canvas, I left one white daffodil tall and tucked it in the back vase, while clipping another short for the front vase. Shades of blue dance around the canvas, so I dotted my arrangement with alliums, cut to slightly different lengths, to get the same effect.

I stepped back, squinted at my effort, and decided the bouquet related to the painting but, as is always my aim, had its own spirit.

art on paper

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Artwork Images: Detail of Jacob Hashimoto, THE CALAMITOUS YET NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCE OF THE UNIVERSE, 2017. Woodblock, 38 ¾" x 36". Image courtesy of the artist and Duran Press.

DESIGN & DECORATING

When Parents' Taste Irks Kids

Twelve design pros recall the décor they admired least (and loved most) in their childhood homes

BY CATHERINE ROMANO

ADMITTEDLY, MANY DESIGNERS' objections to the interiors they grew up in were aesthetic: that teal blue a parent fixated on, those faux-brick walls. But equally important were comfort and accessibility. Polyester shag rugs, ubiquitous in the 1970s, still rankle not because they were ugly but because they left bare limbs itchy. And the demise of the formal living room might be rooted in the five words "That room is for company." Said New York architect Matt Berman, whose parents' Connecticut living room was off limits, "I've always been committed to making sure all the spaces I design get used." Here, 12 other designers reveal what plagued—and pleased—their parents.

Loathed "My parent's suburban Detroit house included the quintessential living room in a bag: a matching sofa, love seat and armchair," said interior designer **Mikel Welch**. "My mother opted for a curved arm, semi-attached-cushion leather set in teal, the epitome of 1980s style."

Loved "Our dining room étagère was of tinted-gold mirror, tempered glass and marble. Any more brass or gold and you'd have thought it was scored at a Liberace yard sale. I was in awe."

Loathed "When we moved to our house in Wilmington, N.C., in the 1980s, my parents, who didn't have a lot of money, kept the brown-and-tan speckled shag carpet from the previous owner in the family room," said designer **Michala Monroe**.

"So they thought it best to purchase the owner's brown chintz sofa with 50 shades of barf floral."

Loved "The owner also left behind a pink living room, with warm, medium-tone pink curtains made of a silky moire fabric, and wall-to-wall, thick, cut-pile carpet in the exact same shade of pink," said Ms. Monroe.

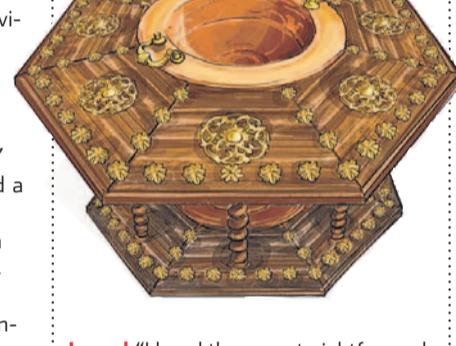
"It was the fanciest room my brother and I had ever seen. I remember draping the curtains around me and pretending it was a gown."

Loathed "In my bedroom was an acid-lime green shag carpet juxtaposed against powder pink walls," said textile designer **Lori Weitzner** of her 1960s Scarsdale, N.Y., home. "My mother insisted pink and green were the 'in' colors. I would always wake up in the morning feeling somehow that everything clashed in my room."

Loved ▼ "My mother inherited my grandmother's French Art Nouveau baby grand piano. When I was sad, I would lie under it. The wood was beautiful and I loved the smell. I re-

member at age 11 reading 'Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret,' by Judy Blume, under there because it felt like a protection from the scariness of growing up."

Loathed ▼ "I really detested an octagonal table plopped in front of the fireplace," said **Jamie Drake** of a reproduction Spanish piece with a beaten iron brazier in his folks' home in Woodbridge, Conn. "It was really ponderous and hideous. My mother at times added plastic pachysandras, I guess to liven it up."



Loved "I loved the very straightforward, boxy tuxedo sofa with a tailored skirt, covered in a rich, dark ivory linen velvet," said Mr. Drake. "Even as a young child I could envision it filled with dressed-up people sipping cocktails."

Loathed "My upbringing in Stockholm was the opposite of what we have come to associate with Scandinavian design," said **Martin Brudnizki**, an interior architect and designer. "My mother drew upon her central European heritage, decorating our home with design inspired by Josef Frank, Adolf Loos and the Vienna School of Architecture. At age 14 in the early '80s, I was the opposite, obsessed with whiteness and going through my 'minimalist phase.'"

Loved "Having grown up and started collecting antiques and art myself, I have [acquired] my mother's style and cringe when I think back to my attempt at minimalism."

Loathed "In Weston, Mass., we lived in a house designed by Maurice K. Smith, an apprentice of Frank Lloyd Wright," said designer **Tamara Eaton**. "My parents are aus-



COLD COMFORT For the TV room in her childhood home, designer Tamara Eaton's stylish parents chose Wassily chairs by Marcel Breuer, which Ms. Eaton recalls as tortuously uncozy.

tere and militant in their interior design approach, and we never had a picture frame or decorative pillow in sight. My parents chose, hands down, the closest thing to a torture device to put in front of the TV: the Wassily chair from Knoll (pictured). Needless to say, my sister and I didn't watch much TV as kids."

Loved "We had a custom dining table whose legs extended past the table top and were pillars that held candles. It felt like a '60s castle when we sat down to dinner with candlelight."

Loathed "The faux brick wall in the kitchen was super-obviously fake," said architect **Dan Scotti**. "It just didn't make sense. On an interior wall?"

Loved ▼ "We lived in a turn-of-the-century home in Pittsfield, Mass. I haven't seen even photos of it since I was 8. I loved its traditional symmetry and the black shutters against the white exterior. For this story I asked my mother for a picture. I've been subconsciously channeling my childhood home in the houses I've been designing!"



Loathed "I specifically recall in my childhood home in Colombia a large oil painting of Jesus that hung on the wall in the living room," said designer **Juan Montoya**. "When I stared into the eyes they would pierce right back at me. I felt I was constantly being watched and followed."

Loved "My parents had inherited from their great grandparents 18th- and

19th-century Chinese furniture—ornate carved chairs from the Ming Dynasty woodwork, porcelain Buddhas whose heads would move, porcelain floral vases. I can remember how detailed each piece was."

Loathed "Our New Rochelle, N.Y., home was thoroughly Danish Modern—a Saarinen womb chair our dog commandeered, a Wegner sofa, woods like teak, walnut and rosewood, colors from olive green to orange, ochre and brown," said architect **James Biber**. "I hated the furniture, the colors, the slightly African art. I hated the way nothing was simply normal."

Loved "I fell in love with every piece of furniture I once hated. My brother and I vied for each and every piece when the time came."

Loathed "My parents went through a 'let's buy nude paintings for the house' phase and put large naked ladies up, including in my bedroom," said designer **Jason Oliver Nixon** of life in his Tampa, Fla., home. "Granted, the artwork was by famed artist Philip Pearlstein, but come on. My 14-year-old self draped the naked vixens in Wham! and Duran Duran posters."

Loved "About 1979, my mother papered the den walls and ceiling in a rich brown basket-weave pattern. The upholstery was covered in the same. The trim was painted bright green, and my parents stenciled palm trees on the white lacquered floor. Even the blinds were green. It was all very heady and delicious."

Loathed "I did not like my parent's bedroom set," said designer **Cynthia Spence** of her folks' Los Gatos, Calif., choice. "It was Drexel fruitwood and matchy matchy. I think I was 6, and I already knew it showed lack of imagination."



Loved "We had an all-down 9-foot sofa. You just melted into it. I was the official cushion plumper. I thought it magical how you could achieve crowning and fullness, and that back impressions became a memory."

Loathed ▲ "There was a fish tank that looked like a vintage gas-station pump in my brother's room and it always scared me a bit," said designer **Melissa Warner Rothblum**, who grew up in Los Angeles. "My brother once didn't sleep there for weeks because of it."

Loved "My bedroom was a dream! I picked out the colors myself: hunter green and mauve of course. The carpet around my bed had vines and flowers. My parents let me help design it at about age 5, which was a very big moment."



FAST FIVE

Our five favorite highly adjustable lights...for reading contracts or sewing buttons



KNOHL, INC. (CHAIR); ILLUSTRATIONS BY THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

F. MARTIN RAMIN/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

GEAR & GADGETS

Ears to the Ground

Dubbed 'hearables,' AI-enabled headphones plot running routes, track fitness goals and coach you through tough workouts

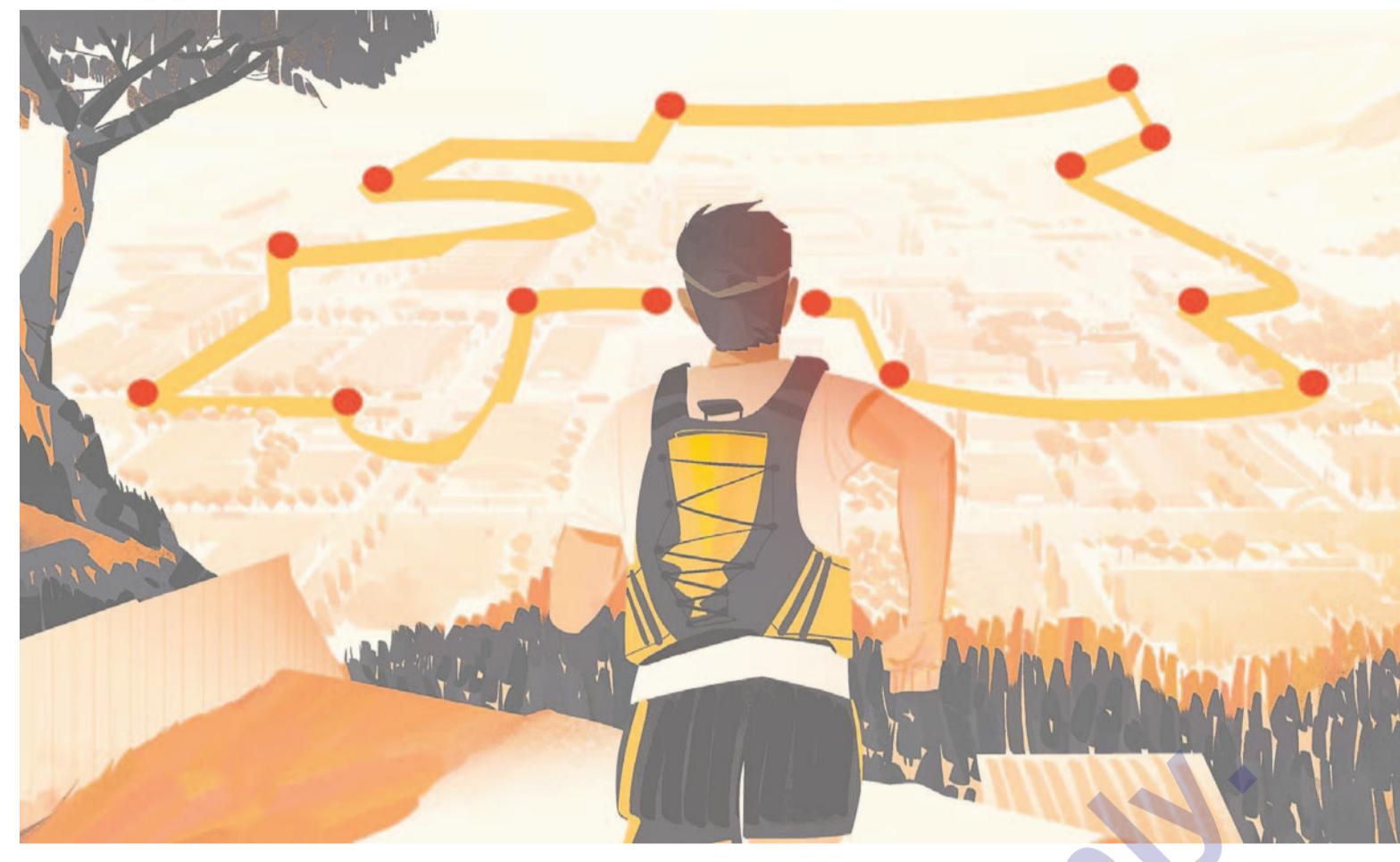
BY PAUL SCHRODT

FOR FITNESS geeks who think Apple Watches and FitBits are old school, or prefer not to have their wrists weighed down as they run, a clever solution has emerged. Smart, sweat-resistant earphones—called “hearables,” or wearable in-ear gadgets—not only deliver music from your smartphone without the fuss of wires. They can also track your pulse, count steps, measure distance and pace, tally the flights of stairs you climb, figure out running routes, and estimate how many calories you’ve burned—data that help quantify your performance and inspire you to push yourself harder toward your next fitness goal.

“Wireless earbuds that provide feedback can be invaluable to keep someone training right and remaining consistent,” Toronto-based strength coach and writer Lee Boyce said. He’s heard positive things about the devices from clients, and sees them as supplementing traditional one-on-one sessions. “It’s an easier way to set and reach goals and a way to hold yourself accountable to them.”

Some hearables go a leap further. LifeBEAM’s Vi, an “AI personal trainer” launched in 2016 through Kickstarter, is threatening to disrupt an entire industry of fitness expertise for the price of a month’s membership at a high-end gym (see “Have You Heard?”). Vi’s sleek neckband and attached earbuds fit comfortably as you run, though turning your head sharply to look for oncoming traffic pulls at the buds a bit, which can quickly get annoying. Vi’s sound, crafted by premium audio brand Harman Kardon, is clear and rich, balancing bass and treble so every instrument and instruction comes through distinctly. These would be great headphones, even without the fitness capabilities.

Vi (pronounced “VEE”) is also the name given to the virtual woman who talks to you when the buds are turned on. Her soothing tone falls somewhere between the curt professionalism of Apple’s Siri and the intimacy of Samantha, the disembodied AI girlfriend in the movie “Her” (voiced by Scarlett Johansson). Vi offers casual greetings like “Hey, what’s up?” and calls you by your first name. She also connects directly to your phone’s Spotify app or music library and will DJ her own hip-hop-heavy playlists for you.



GIOVANNI DA RE

After two hours of training, Vi gets to know you surprisingly well. She personalizes instructions, so if you’re a little older and a little slower, she’ll go easy. But if you sprint like Usain Bolt, she’ll keep up. Vi also advises you to avoid concrete for sake of your legs and asks you questions. You can request progress updates—which, if you’re in a crowded gym, makes you look only mildly ridiculous.

I tend to get listless after a half-hour of exercising. But Vi awakened whatever inner athlete has been lying dormant in me. As I

ran, she encouraged me to increase my pace when I might have normally slowed down. She chimed in with reminders to breathe steadily, keep proper posture and tighten my core. I obliged, wanting to impress her.

Vi is a remarkable feat of simulated personality. She even cracks jokes, at one point rattling off a smoothie recipe before deadpanning, “Just kidding. Any fruits and vegetables are fine.” One evening, when she observed, “It’s so nice to make time for the things that matter to us,” I instinctively re-

sponded, “Yeah, Vi, you’re right.”

Still, Vi can only do so much. The device’s biggest drawback is its limited set of workout options. Beyond outdoor running, users can only choose treadmill, walking or cycling, all still in beta. But Vi is the beginning of a potential fitness revolution. She makes days at the gym less lonely, more entertaining and more challenging.

Other wireless headphones have similar aims but fall short in their AI. The closest rival is the Jabra Elite Sport, whose British-voiced bot dryly spouts statistics. She’s

colder than Vi, but the Jabra includes fitness settings for cross-training, a more holistic form of exercise that utilizes strength and cardio—useful for anyone who gets tired of running in a loop.

The competing Bragi Dash Pro acts more or less as a standard fitness tracker, with one-size-fits-all feedback communicated via its accompanying app. There’s no unique AI personality included, just a generic robot voice that can read out heart rate and other stats when you request them. The Bragi can also be controlled using simple head tilts, or taps and swipes across the device, and features a four-gigabyte hard drive tucked in the right ear that lets you leave your phone at home during runs.

Mr. Boyce, for his part, isn’t worried for his job. “AI will never replace a traditional trainer,” he said. “It can’t give you a form check. A physically present trainer will be able to give you that one cue that makes or breaks an exercise and prevents a potential injury. He’ll be able to physically manipulate your body into learning movements the right way.”

And a warm-blooded trainer can chat with you about what happened on the most recent episode of “Atlanta,” something at which Vi is hopeless. At least for now. I wouldn’t underestimate her.

HAVE YOU HEARD? // WIRELESS WORKOUT HEADPHONES FIT FOR YOUR FAVORITE SPORT



LifeBEAM Vi
Best for Serious (and lonely) runners
Standout feature A chatty AI named Vi who seems impressively human, personalizes her audio coaching based on your history and cracks you up.
\$799, getvi.com



Jabra Elite Sport
Best for CrossFit regulars and data junkies
Standout feature Versatile tracking that adjusts to cardio or weightlifting depending on your needs, records your past achievements, tests your fitness level. \$220, jabra.com



Bragi Dash Pro
Best for Swimmers
Standout feature Waterproof casing and a 4GB hard drive and built-in MP3 player; you can disconnect from your phone and still listen to tunes at the bottom of the pool.
\$330, bragi.com



Samsung Gear IconX 2018
Best for Casual workouts
Standout feature Small, snugly fitting earbuds that don’t make you look too weird in public, though you’ll have to sacrifice a heart rate monitor.
\$199, samsung.com

MY TECH ESSENTIALS

RAPHAEL SAADIQ

The Oscar-nominated songwriter of ‘Mighty River’ from ‘Mudbound’ on his cherry Mustang and injury-free hoops

Right now I like to drive around in my **1966 Mustang convertible** (similar model shown). I’m from Oakland, a place where everybody drives Mustangs, Cruisers, Malibus, real muscle cars. I bought it three years ago from a guy whose wife was making him sell it. I had to get it. It’s a beautiful machine, probably one of the most beautiful you’ve ever seen. It’s cherry.



When I first got a record deal, I didn’t know what kind of microphone to sing on. My engineer Gerry Brown just kept tossing mics to me. That’s how I discovered the **Telfunken ELA M 251**, which I really like. It looks like an old mic that could have been used during war times. It keeps the edge off my voice and warms it up at the same time.

I’m always losing my iPhone X. So I use the **Tile app** that helps me track it down from my computer. Last time it was in my Tesla. The car and phone are both black, so when I drop the thing, it disappears.

I used to play basketball with friends. Now I just don’t want to get injured, so I play **NBA 2K18** on my phone. You have to use two hands for this game: to shoot, to dribble, to throw the ball, to do some tricks.

I’ve run my whole life. These days, I go to the park and run as far as I can—sometimes 10 miles. **ASICS** is my favorite running brand. You can pick a light shoe, a medium shoe or a heavy one. They put a lot into building their sneakers. —Edited from an interview by Chris Kornelis

Since I was a kid, if I see a guitar in a window I just be walkin’ into the store, even if it’s a pawn shop. You never know when you’ll find a gem. About 15 years ago I happened into Guitars R Us on Sunset and found a **1962 Fender Precision Bass**.

McIntosh MT10 Precision Turntable. It sounds like the band is playing right in front of you. In a great recording, you can hear the separation of instruments. When you have a great system, it’s the biggest reward.



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GEAR & GADGETS

RUMBLE SEAT DAN NEIL



2018 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon: Purposeless Power

SOME CARS spend their lives waiting to be a hero. The average Lamborghini can go 200 mph but most of the time it just sits there in the garage, reeking depreciation. But on that one special night when you have to get your pregnant wife, or girlfriend, or both, to the *ospedale* in a hurry, the Lambo stands up like a boss.

Those lift-kit pickups belching diesel smoke and whomping down the highway on 36-inch beadlocks? Useless. But when Houston flooded, hundreds of those explicitly stupid vehicles suddenly looked brilliant, wading filthy waters to rescue stranded residents.

These machines are like the Incredibles, superheroes forced to lead humdrum lives. And none more so than the Jeep Wrangler. Particularly in Rubicon trim, this thing will climb a tree: front and rear Dana 44 axles with electronic locking differentials; 33-inch mudgers on 17-inch alloys; push-button sway-bar disconnect (to improve front wheel articulation in uneven terrain); and all powered by a 3.6-liter, 285-hp V6 and eight-speed automatic. But as it is a \$50,000 vehicle, as tested, buyers would be understandably reluctant to bash it about in the big piney.

Then two weeks ago, on a dark, icy road in suburban Detroit, a Jeep Wrangler got a chance to show its mettle. As reported by C.J. Carnacchio of The Oxford Leader, God bless them: Early Sunday Fiat Chrysler Automobiles' head of design Ralph Gilles and his wife, Doris, were driving home in a new Wrangler when they came upon an accident scene, a head-on collision between a man in a Ford Edge and a couple in a Ford Fiesta.

The driver of the Edge was able to exit the car but the couple in the Fiesta were trapped in twisted wreckage (the woman passenger later died of her injuries). Then out of the dark a woman driving a Buick LeSabre plowed into the Fiesta, slamming it into the Edge, which began to burn.

Alarmed that the fire might spread to the car with the couple trapped inside, Mr. Gilles jumped in his Wrangler Sahara, slammed it into 4x4 High, and pushed the burning vehicle across the road.

"I still have no idea where that [thought] came from," Gilles told the Michigan paper. "The only thing I can remember thinking [is] I've got a Jeep, it's got a bumper on it, I think I can do this."

This story makes my heart sing. First, because Ralph and Doris Gilles are good people and we need those more than ever. I hope they are OK. Anyone who has ever been first on the scene of a fatal accident knows how upsetting it is.



SON OF A BEACH
Columnist Dan Neil tears up the sand while test driving the Wrangler Rubicon near Fort Bragg, N.C.

FROM TOP: EZRA DYER; FCA US LLC

Second, because finally, for once, a Jeep Wrangler was the right tool in the right place at the right time and actually did something useful, not just taking Biff and Molly to the prom.

I get it. The Wrangler is what's known in the industry as a lifestyle vehicle, in most cases reflecting the lifestyle the driver would like to have if he or she were not working. Does it even matter that the Wrangler is even more ridiculously able than before?

We tried to bury the Rubicon in a gravel pit. It was not impressed with our feeble efforts. It just kept churning.

The rundown: This the fourth generation of the Jeep's beloved rockhopper, built in the brand's ancestral home of Toledo, Ohio. The new Wrangler shares no body panels with the previous, but to say the styling has evolved would be wildly overstating it. The windshield angle is a bit less upright and the windshield frame itself folds down. The doors, hood and most of the body panels are now aluminum. Our Rubicon was bracketed by the optional heavy steel bumpers fit with tow hooks and removable end caps.

The U.S. engine options are three: a 2.0-liter turbocharged direct-injection four cylinder (270 hp/295 pound-feet); the 3.6-liter V6 (285/260); and, coming next year to four-door Wrangler models, a 3.0-liter turbodiesel (260/442). All engines are available with the eight-speed automatic; the 3.6-liter can be paired with a six-speed manual.

The top-spec Rubicon is a high-tech tractor underneath: Its Rock-Trac 4x4 system comprises a two-speed transfer case with a mighty 4:1 gear ratio; and front and rear locking diffs, engaged by a paddle switch in cabin. The vehicle's belly is up-armored with four skid plates and rock rails. With the eight-speed automatic, the crawl ratio is a slow motion-like 77:1.

My friend Ezra Dyer and I took Ruby to some pine barrens near Fort Bragg, N.C., where we tried to bury it in a gravel pit and then nearly rolled it down a hill. The Jeep was not impressed with our feeble efforts. It just kept churning.

For as strong as the Rubicon is off road, the fourth-gen redesign emphasized on-road refinement, particularly reducing noise levels in its historically loud cabin, beset with drumming from the knobby tires and the indignant howl of wind around the its boxy corners.

The cabin noise in our two-door Rubicon did seem more subdued than in the last example I drove. The V6 and eight-speed automatic are barely heard. But on the high-

way the drone of those mud-and-snow tires finds its way through the floorboards and right into the fillings in my back teeth. Our tester included a nine-speaker Alpine sound system, which was just loud enough to overtake the tires.

The engineers also did what they could to improve the Jeep's on-road ride and handling, tuning and fettling the five-link front and rear

suspension to better constrain the Jeep's sometimes unnerving body roll. The steering ratio of 17.41, or 3.6 turns lock-to-lock, makes it hard to do anything suddenly, of course. The body control is better, I suppose, but the Rubicon's bouncy and pneumatic tires are pretty hopeless. Pilates balls aren't this wobbly.

Oh well. You can't be a hero all the time.

**2018 JEEP WRANGLER RUBICON 4X4****Base Price** \$38,190**Price, as Tested** \$49,570**Powertrain** 3.6-liter direct-injection

DOHC V6; eight-speed automatic

transmission; full-time four-wheel

drive with two-speed transfer case;

front and rear locking differentials.

Power/Torque 285 hp at 6,400/

265 pound-feet at 4,800 rpm

Length/Width/Height/Wheelbase

166.8/73.8/73.6 /96.8

Curb Weight 4,175 pounds**0-60 mph** 8 seconds (estimate)**EPA Fuel Economy** 18/23/20 mpg, city/highway/combined**Max Cargo Capacity** 72.4 cu. feet

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